



# NEWSLETTER



**January 2, 2012**

## **Pierce County Farm Service Agency**

1011 E Main #107  
Puyallup, WA. 98372-6768  
Phone- (253) 845-9272  
Fax- (253) 445-9934

## **Office Hours**

Mon. – Fri. 8:00 a.m – 4:30 p.m.

## **County Committee**

Lucy Cerqui, Chair  
Joy Garitone, Vice-Chair  
Harry Petersen, Member  
Paddy Lewis Irwin, Member

## **Office Staff**

George R. Jaquish, CED  
Kathy Modin, PT

## **Next COC Meeting**

April 25, 2012

## **Farm Loan Staff**

Mark Tuner, FLM  
(360) 354-5658  
Jeff Peterson, SFLO  
(360) 748-0084

## **Dates to Remember**

- January 16 office closed
- February 20 office closed

**More Information may be found  
at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>.**

## **County Committee Election**

Congratulations to Joy Garitone!  
Joy was elected to represent farmers  
in Local Administrative Area number  
two (LAA#2) on the County  
Committee.

LAA #2 boundaries are as follows:  
*All of Mason and Kitsap Counties and  
that portion of Pierce County west of  
the narrows (known as Key  
Peninsula), northwest of I-5 and south  
of HWY 16 to the narrows.*

FSA appreciates all of the voters for  
taking the time to complete the  
election ballot. The county committee  
system works only because of your  
participation.

## **Tax Reporting – Check Your Statement**

During the last week of January,  
producers who have received  
payments from FSA should receive a  
CCC-1099-G from the Kansas City  
office.

A CCC-1099-G is a report for the  
Internal Revenue Service about FSA  
payments made to you during the  
previous calendar year. The CCC-  
1099-G is a service to help  
participating producers report taxable  
income. It is not intended to replace  
the program participant's responsibility  
to report income to the IRS.

If you received a CCC-1099-G, we  
recommend that you check the  
amounts shown with those in your

records to see that the amounts are  
correct. Refunds will no longer be  
reported on the 1099-G, but will be  
available online from the FSA  
Financial Inquiries (FSA-FI) web-  
based database. Program participants  
with eAuthentication user ID's and  
passwords can access their refund  
information at FSA-FI and select  
'Inquiry Type 1099-/Refund Reports".  
Refund amounts are displayed on the  
Producer's Year-to-Date Activity web  
page.

If you have a question concerning the  
1099-G refund information, you may  
contact your local FSA office for  
assistance locating the correct  
payment data. If you choose to visit  
the office, bring your CCC-0199-G with  
you.

## **Reporting Weather Damage**

Prompt weather-related disaster  
reporting is crucial for FSA to  
determine the need for disaster  
declarations. Disaster declarations  
trigger availability of emergency loans  
and in some instances, additional  
disaster assistance programs.

Damage reports aren't just limited to  
crops. They can include damage to  
structures, eroded farmland or  
livestock mortality. Helpful  
documentation includes the specific  
location of the farm damage, date and  
time of the disaster event, the type of  
damage (hail, wind, etc), what was  
affected and the estimated percent of  
loss. Photographic evidence of

significant damage will also be helpful as both FSA and insurance agents use them in support of future program applications and cumulative damage reports.

Disaster designation triggers availability of low-interest loans and direct payments under the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payment Program (SURE) for farmers and ranchers in the county. SURE benefits help offset the loss of farm revenue associated with the disaster year. Emergency loans may be used to replace essential property or pay production costs associated with the disaster year. They may also be used to pay essential living expenses, reorganize a farming operation or refinance certain debts.

## Women Farms & Food

### Women in agriculture conference Saturday, February 11, 2012

Women face unique challenges in growing viable businesses in farming and ranching. They also learn differently than men and like to connect with other women farmers in sharing experiences, knowledge and resources. Keynote speakers will be broadcast across the state to a site in the counties listed above; and local presenters will reflect the needs of those regions.

Save the date of February 11, 2012, for this wonderful opportunity to learn and grow. If you are interested in attending one of these workshops, please send your contact information to Debra Hansen Kollock at [dkollock@wsu.edu](mailto:dkollock@wsu.edu) and you will be notified of all upcoming news and details. Please type "Women in Ag" in the subject line. Or call (509) 684-2588.

When: Saturday, February 11, 2012

Where: At sixteen locations throughout the state of Washington

More Info: Visit the website for more information: [WomenInAg.wsu.edu](http://WomenInAg.wsu.edu)

Cost: Only \$25.00

Even though the name indicates Women in Agriculture, all agricultural producers are welcome to attend.

## Farm Loan Program

### Beginning Farmer and Socially Disadvantaged Applicants Financing

FSA's loan programs are designed to help family farmers who are temporarily unable to obtain commercial credit. In many cases, these are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for commercial credit.

The law also requires FSA to reserve or target loan funds for exclusive use by beginning farmers. Funds remain targeted for beginning farmers in the guaranteed programs until April 1 of each year. In the direct programs, funds are targeted for beginning farmers until September 1 of each year.

A beginning farmer or rancher is an individual or entity who:

- has not operated a farm or ranch for more than 10 years
- substantially participates in the operation
- for Farm Ownership loan purposes, does not own a farm greater than 30 percent of the average size farm in the county
- for Farm Ownership loan purposes, must have participated in the business operation of a farm for at least 3 years.

Maximum amounts of indebtedness are \$300,000 for Direct Loans and

\$1,119,000 (amount varies annually based on inflation) for Guaranteed Loans.

FSA has a down payment program to assist beginning farmers and socially disadvantaged applicants to purchase a farm or ranch. This program also provides a means for retiring farmers and ranchers to transfer their land to a future generation.

Eligible beginning farmers and socially disadvantaged applicants are given first priority to purchase FSA acquired properties. For more information about FSA loan programs, contact Jeff Peterson at (360) 748-0084.

## Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

The signup for 2010 losses in the SURE program runs through June 1, 2012.

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that occurred in the crop year 2010. SURE is available to eligible producers with qualifying losses on:

- farms with at least a 10% revenue loss on one crop in counties affected by a Secretarial disaster declaration. All counties in the South Puget Sound are eligible.
- any farm which had a 50 percent or more production loss due to disaster-related conditions, for the crop year.

## GovDelivery

The Farm Service Agency is moving toward a paperless operation. Producers are asked to enroll in the new GovDelivery system which will provide notices, newsletters and electronic reminders instead of a hard copy through the mail. Please contact us for instructions and information.

USDA is an equal opportunity employer.