



NEWSLETTER



September, 2012

**Pierce County
Farm Service Agency**

1011 E Main # 107
Puyallup, WA 98373-6768
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

Farm Loan Staff

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

Next COC Meeting

October 24, 2012

Dates to Remember

Office closed September 3 - Labor Day

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

County Committee Slate of Candidates

FSA County Committees are a unique arrangement that allow local guidance for Federal farm programs. These committees are a direct link between the farm community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Committee members are a critical component of ensuring FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

Two producers from Thurston County have been nominated for a seat on the FSA Area Committee representing Local Administrative Area (LAA) # 3 (all of Thurston County) and certified by the FSA Area Committee to be on the election ballot this coming November. The candidates are:

- Harry Petersen, Yelm, WA.
- Eric Johnson, Rochester, WA

In addition one producer from Pierce County was nominated for a seat on the FSA Area Committee representing Local Administrative Area # 4 (S. King County and parts of Pierce County) and certified by the FSA Area Committee to be on the election ballot this coming November. The candidate is:

- Lucy Cerqui, Edgewood, WA

Fall Crop Sales Closing Dates

USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) reminds Idaho, Oregon and Washington producers of the important **2013 crop year sales closing deadlines for Multi-Peril Crop Insurance (MPCI) programs:**

- * **Forage (Alfalfa) Seed Pilot** – October 1
- * **Wheat** – October 1

“We are pleased to offer coverage for the 2013 crop year on the **Forage (Alfalfa) Seed Pilot (MPCI)** program to all qualifying producers in Idaho, Oregon and Washington,” said RMA Spokane Regional Office Director Dave Paul.

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Before the 2012 crop year the pilot program only allowed for coverage to producers in limited areas (e.g., **Idaho:** Canyon and Owyhee counties; **Oregon:** Malheur County and **Washington:** Grant and Walla Walla counties). With the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation Board's approved conversion of the pilot to a permanent regulatory program, extended coverage was made available through the written agreement process.

"If there is no coverage filed in a county for a specific crop under the traditional MPCCI program, I encourage producers to ask a crop insurance agent whether they are eligible for coverage under a written agreement," Paul added.

Current policyholders and uninsured growers must make all of their decisions on crop insurance coverage, especially which crops to insure and what level and type of coverage to get before the sales closing date.

RMA also reminds producers of the important link between Federal crop insurance and Farm Service Agency (FSA) disaster programs. For non-insurable crops, a producer may buy coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program by the sales closing date. Producers should contact their local FSA County Office for more information about timetables.

Producers are encouraged to visit their crop insurance agent soon to learn specific details for the 2013 crop year. Federal crop insurance program policies are sold and delivered solely through private crop insurance companies and agents. A list of crop insurance agents is available at all USDA Service Centers throughout the United States or on the RMA Web site at <http://www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents>

How FSA Funds Loans

Each year Congress appropriates money for FSA farm loans as part of the USDA budget. The funds are appropriated for the fiscal year beginning October 1 until September 30 of the following year. Each state is allocated a portion of the funds. When funds run low, the national office may pool money from the states and redistribute it based on need. If FSA runs out of loan funds before the end of the fiscal year, Congress may pass a supplemental appropriations bill to make additional money available. If Congress does not do so, loan applications wait until the next fiscal year to be funded.

IRS Reporting Changes

Beginning with calendar year 2012 IRS reporting, FSA will not generate and mail IRS Form 1099-G and/or IRS Form 1099-MISC to producers if the total of reportable payments for each tax identification number is **less than \$600**. However, if voluntary withholding or backup (involuntary) withholding was withheld from a payment and total payments are less than \$600, then the appropriate IRS 1099 form will be issued.

In addition multi-county producers will receive only one IRS Form 1099-G or one IRS Form 1099-MISC if combined payments total \$600 or **more**. Then again, if voluntary withholding or backup (involuntary) withholding was withheld from a payment and total payments are less than \$600, then the appropriate IRS 1099 form will be issued.

Please be advised producers receiving less than \$600 in combined payments need to consult a tax advisor to determine if these payments must be reported on their tax return.

For more information regarding IRS reporting changes, please contact the Pierce County FSA office at 253.845.9272 ext 2.