



# NEWSLETTER



**December, 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  
Paddy Lewis Irwin, Member  
Eric Johnson, 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**

April 11, 2013

**Dates to Remember**

Office closed:

- Dec. 25 Christmas
- Jan. 1 New Years Day
- Jan. 21 MLK Day
- Feb. 15 Presidents' Day

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

## Election Results

Congratulations to Eric Johnson and Lucy Cerqui! Eric was elected to represent farmers in Local Administrative Area #3 (Thurston County) and Lucy was re-elected to represent farmers in Local Administrative Area #4 (S. King and N. Pierce Counties) on the County Committee. Harry Petersen was elected 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate for LAA #3.

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The County Committee (COC) system works only because of your participation.

## Disaster Debt Set-Aside Program

When Farm Service Agency (FSA) direct loan borrowers are located in a designated disaster area or contiguous county, and are unable to make their scheduled payments on any debt, FSA is authorized to consider set-aside of some payments to allow the operation to continue.

Borrowers have eight months from the date of designation to apply for the program. A complete application includes a written request from all liable parties, actual production, income and expense records for the period in which disaster occurred, and other items as required. Production, income and expense records are not required in instances where the agency already has the information.

Borrowers are eligible to receive the disaster set-aside based on the following: (1) The borrower is unable to pay all family living and farm operating expenses, payments to other creditors and payments to FSA (2) The borrower must have operated the farm or ranch at the time of the disaster. (3) Each loan considered for disaster set-aside must have been outstanding at the time of the disaster. (4) The borrower must be current or not more than one installment behind on any FSA loan. (5) The loan considered for disaster set-aside must have at least a term of 2 years remaining on the payments. (6) After the disaster set-aside is completed, the borrower must be current with FSA payments. (7) The amount set aside cannot exceed one year's FSA payment. (8) Each loan can only receive one disaster set-aside. (9) The borrower must be able to develop a positive cash-flow projection for the coming year.

Each payment set-aside must be repaid prior to the final maturity of the note. Any principal set-aside will continue to accrue interest until it is repaid.

## **USDA Reminds Producers of Upcoming Sales Closing Date for Noninsurable Crops**

Producers are reminded they have until Friday, March 15, 2013, to purchase coverage through the Noninsurable Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). NAP provides financial assistance to producers of noninsurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occur due to normal disasters.

In order to meet eligibility requirements for NAP, crops must be noninsurable, commercially produced agricultural commodity crops for which the catastrophic risk protection level of crop insurance is not available. If the Risk Management Agency (RMA) offers coverage for a crop in the county, then NAP coverage is not available for that crop.

In the event of a natural disaster, NAP covers the amount of loss greater than 50 percent of the expected production based on the approved yield and reported acreage.

Eligible producers can apply for coverage using form CCC-471, Application for Coverage. Producers must file the application and service fee by the sales closing deadline. The service fee is the lesser of \$250 per crop or \$750 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of \$1,875 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties.

For more information on sales closing dates and NAP, contact your local FSA county office.

### **Timely Notice of Loss Filing**

When to file a notice of loss? Historically producers don't file a notice of loss until weeks or months after completion of harvest, because that is when the loss of yield becomes apparent. FSA procedure specifies that a notice of loss must be filed by the earlier of the following:

- 15 calendar days after the damaging weather or disaster occurrence or date damage to the specific crop acreage is apparent to the producer for low yield claims
- 15 calendar days after the normal harvest date.

It is important for producers to recognize that during the growing season, if there is a weather condition that could adversely affect their crop; they need to file a notice of loss. Also, producers should file a notice of loss for each weather related condition as applicable throughout the growing season for that crop. If a producer waits to file a notice of loss a month after harvest, the notice of loss will be considered late filed.

If you have any questions about when to file a notice of loss please contact our office.

### **Foreign Investors 90-Day Reporting Rule**

Foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land are required by law to report their sale of land holdings, acquisitions or leases of 10 or more years within 90 days of these transactions. Report these changes to your local FSA office. Failure to report these changes can result in a civil penalty of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of your interest in agricultural land.