

April 2013



## Pierce County FSA Updates

DEAR PRODUCERS: Welcome to the new GovDelivery bulletins and updates service from the South Puget Sound FSA office. Note that you are welcome to request to receive bulletins from more than one state and/or county and can add or remove individual subscriptions at any time.

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### South Puget Sound FSA Office

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**Office Hours:**  
Mon.-Fri. 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

**County Committee:**  
Lucy Cerqui, Chair  
Joy Garitone, Vice-Chair  
Eric Johnson, Member  
Paddy Lewis Irwin, Member

### Acreage Reporting Date

Acreage reports are required to maintain eligibility for many USDA Programs such as CRP, NAP, DCP and on any farm in which production will be used for a commodity loan or loan deficiency payment. **July 15<sup>th</sup>** is the final date to timely certify. Remember crops which will be harvested or grazed before the established reporting date must be reported before harvest or grazing begins. Beyond July 15<sup>th</sup>, fees will be assessed for late-filed acreage reporting.

As in the past please call your local FSA office to make an appointment to complete your acreage report.

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### 2011 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program Applications

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will continue to accept SURE applications for 2011 crop losses through June 7, 2013. The SURE Program provides payments to producers when crop revenues are less than the crop guarantee. The SURE Program payments are equal to 60 percent of the difference between the crop guarantee and revenue. To be eligible, the producer must have at least one crop with a 10 percent production loss. To determine the guarantee and revenue for the SURE Program, all crops on all farms for a producer are included in the calculation. Payments under the SURE Program are limited to \$100,000. To be eligible for the 2011 SURE Program, producers must have crop insurance on all insurable crops. For crops that are not covered by crop insurance such as hay or fresh vegetables, producers must have purchased Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage from FSA. The Crop Insurance and NAP purchase requirements are waived for crops that are not economically significant to the farming operation. For more information visit the Farm Service Agency website at [www.fsa.usda.gov/ps/](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ps/).

## Farm Record Changes Delayed by Software Transition

The Farm Service Agency is currently moving all farm records to a new computer software environment called MIDAS. FSA employees will be unable to process any changes to producers' farm records until sometime after mid-April. Examples of changes include adding or dropping leases, buying or selling land or changing field boundaries.

The transition will not impact program payments but could affect program signups. Producers who do have farm changes are encouraged to schedule Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) and Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program signup appointments after mid-April. Those who do not have farm changes and would like to signup for DCP or ACRE can do so prior to mid-April and reduce the demand on staff after the transition.

In recent years when serving its customers, FSA has relied on aging technology and equipment to do its work. This outdated infrastructure created inefficiencies and threatened the delivery of farm program benefits. Currently, FSA is making great strides in modernizing the information technology (IT) platform and systems needed to support program delivery.

## Marketing Assistance Loans

Marketing Assistance Loans, also referred to as commodity loans, are available to producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, you must maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the time of application. Commodity loans are a marketing tool which can provide an influx of cash for operating expenses, using the crop as collateral. This allows you to delay sale of the crop until more favorable market conditions emerge, rather than selling the crop soon after harvest, when market prices are typically at their lowest. Eligible crops for loan are barley, corn, honey, oats, oilseeds (canola, crambe, flaxseed, mustard, rapeseed, safflower seed, soybeans, sunflower seeds), pulse crops (chickpeas, dry peas, lentils), wheat, and wool located in approved farm or warehouse storage. Maintaining the Quality Crop - Producers who take out marketing assistance loans and use the farm-stored crop as collateral should remember that you are responsible for maintaining the quality of the crop through the term of the loan. **Unauthorized Disposition of Loan Commodity** - If the crop under loan has been disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization from the county office staff, it is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties for unauthorized dispositions are severe. A violating producer's name will be placed on a loan violation list for a two-year period. Always call before you move or dispose of any crop under loan.

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USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9450, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay).