

August 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 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

1011 E Main #107  
Puyallup, WA. 98372-6768

Phone: 253-845-9272  
Fax: 253-445-9934

**County Executive Director:**  
George R. Jaquish

**Program Technician:**  
Kathy Modin

**Farm Loan Staff:**  
Mark Turner, FLM  
(360) 354-5658  
Jeff Peterson, SFLO  
(360) 748-0084

**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

### 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.

A producers from Enumclaw has been nominated for a seat on the FSA Area Committee representing Local Administrative Area (LAA) # 1 [*Pierce county, south of SR 512 and southeast of I-5 (Lakewood, Fort Lewis), West of SR 161, south of 224<sup>th</sup> St. E., and that portion of King County east of HWY 167, south of Holm Rd. extending east to county line*] and certified by the FSA Area Committee to be on the election ballot this coming November.

The candidate is Paddy Lewis Irwin a lifelong resident of the Enumclaw Plateau, who manages a fifty acre beef and hay operation. Paddy is an active member of Washington Cattlemen's Association and Farm Bureau, as well as the Washington Hereford Association, and has held multiple positions on the various agricultural issue boards over the past twenty years.

2013 FSA county committee elections will begin on Monday, Nov. 4, with the mailing of ballots to eligible voters. The deadline to return the ballots to local FSA offices is Dec. 2, 2013. Newly elected committee members and their alternates will take office Jan. 1, 2014.

Eligible voters who do not receive ballots around the first of November can obtain ballots from their local USDA Service Center.

To be an eligible voter, farmers and ranchers must participate or cooperate in an FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm also may be eligible to vote.

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## **NAP APPLICATION CLOSING DATES FOR THE 2014 CROP YEAR**

**8/31/2013** – Artichokes; aquaculture; beets (for stecklings); cabbage (for seed or fresh); canola; carrots (for seed, fresh or processing); cauliflower (for seed or fresh); Christmas trees; floriculture; mushrooms; onions (for seed, fresh or processing); rapeseed; rutabaga (for seed or fresh); turf grass sod; turnips (for seed and fresh); and any other fall planted crops not mentioned in other closing dates.

**9/30/2013** – Garlic, mint; perennial grazing, forage, mixed forage, and forage seed crops; wheat.

**11/20/2013** – Perennial crops not listed in the 9/30 category; asparagus; berries; grapes; honey; hops; tree fruits and nuts.

**3/15/2014** – Beets (for seed or fresh); buckwheat; camelina; mustard; radish (for seed or fresh); small grain forages (wheat, barley, oats, peas); and any other spring planted crops not mentioned in other closing dates.

NAP coverage should be purchased at least 30 days before the crop is planted, but no later than the application closing date.

NAP coverage cannot be offered on any crop for which Federal Crop Insurance is available in the county. If you have any questions regarding NAP availability or NAP application closing dates, please contact the Pierce County office for more information

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## **Use of FSA Loan Funds**

If the cost-share requirement on a conservation practice is preventing you from adopting the practice or a new tractor is needed on the farm, FSA may be able to help with the financing. FSA provides low interest, long-term loans to producers who have difficulty obtaining commercial credit.

Direct Farm Ownership Loans may be used to purchase land, construct buildings or other improvements and apply soil and water conservation practices. FSA also has a Beginning Farmer Down Payment program to help purchase a farm or ranch.

Producers may use Direct Operating Loans to purchase livestock, poultry, equipment, feed, seed, farm chemicals, and supplies; to apply soils and water conservation practices and to refinance indebtedness with certain limitations.

When a county or contiguous county receives a disaster designation, FSA makes Direct Emergency Loans available. These loans may be used to restore or replace essential property, pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year, pay essential family living expenses, reorganize the farming operation or refinance indebtedness with certain limitations.

FSA also makes available Guaranteed Loans through commercial lenders. Guaranteed Farm Ownership and Guaranteed Operating loans can be used for the same purposes as the corresponding Direct Loans but they may also be used to refinance debt. For more information about FSA loan programs, contact your local FSA Office.

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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).