



# North Puget Sound Area's Farm Service Agency

Snohomish/N King - Clallam/Jefferson Counties  
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#### Office Staff

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#### Farm Loan Staff

Mark Turner (360) 354-5658 ext 2

#### Office Hours

Weekdays/ 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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#### Dates to Remember

**8/31-** NAP signup ends for fall planted crops

**9/1-** Labor Day/Office Closed

**9/30-** Sales closing date for Wheat and Forage for grazing or production (including seed)

#### 2008 County Committee:

Meetings scheduled for 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m.

Kirk Salvatore	Chair
Kjell Stangeland	V Chair
Troy Smith	Member
Jason Roetcisoender	Member
Andy Werkhoven	Member
Fong Cha	Advisor
Linda Neunzig	Advisor

#### Websites:

National USDA

<http://www.usda.gov>

National FSA

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA>

Washington State FSA

<http://www.usda.gov/wa>



**The new Farm Bill is finally a reality! Programs are being rolled out as quickly as possible, so please stay tuned for information updates!**

#### **CROP CERTIFICATION**

Appointments are being taken for 2008 crop certification. The deadline to report crops this year is **August 15, 2008**. Producers participating in DCP, CRP/CREP and NAP must report crops annually. Those persons in the Loan or Loan Deficiency Program (LDP) must also report crops to maintain eligibility for program payments.

#### **2008 DIRECT AND COUNTER-CYCLICAL PROGRAM (DCP) SIGN-UP IS UNDERWAY**

Signup for the 2008 program began June 25 and will continue through **September 30, 2008**. There are no late filed provisions. Farms with 10.0 acres or less of base will no longer earn a payment unless wholly owned by Limited Resource or Socially Disadvantaged person(s).

A 22% advance on the direct payment is available upon contract approval, with the balance of the payment issued after October 1, 2008.

Call (425) 334-3131 ext 2 for additional information, or an appointment.

#### **NONINSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)**

This program has undergone significant changes for **2009 and subsequent years**. The new rates for enrollment are as follows:

**\$250 per crop** to a maximum of **\$750 per county**

**\$1875 maximum per producer** for all crops in all counties

Producers must also have coverage under NAP, RMA, or similar insurance to qualify for Disaster Program benefits.

**August 31 2008** is the application closing date for the following **2009 crops**:

Canola, Fall Planted Vegetable Seed Crops, all Value Loss Crops (includes aquaculture, Christmas trees, and ornamental nursery).

**September 30** is the application closing date for Wheat and forage crops for grazing and production.

Losses due to weather related conditions must be reported to the County Office **no later than 15 days** from the date the loss becomes apparent.

#### **COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS**

2008 elections this year will be held in Local Administrative Area's (LAA's) 3 & 4.

**LAA 3** encompasses **North King County**, from the Snohomish County line, south to I-90.

**LAA 4** is comprised of **Clallam County** in its entirety.

Nominees must:

- be participating or cooperating as a producer on a farm or ranch, even if not currently applying for or receiving benefits
- be of legal voting age, or supervise and conduct farming operations on an entire farm
- own property in the LAA for which they are running for office

Nominating Petitions will be accepted through **August 1, 2008**.

#### **CROP DISASTER PROGRAM (CDP)**

Applications are being accepted for the 2005 – 2007 Crop Disaster Program for low production and quality losses due to a natural disaster condition. **CDP** is available to any producer covered by RMA crop insurance, FSA's NAP, or any similar program that experienced at least a 35% loss of expected production. Payment rates are equal to the market rate for a crop times 42%, times the percent of loss of production.

## DISASTER PROGRAM CHANGES AND DEADLINES

The 2008 Farm Bill created new disaster assistance programs, made others permanent, and made changes to current programs. Most importantly, Congress tied all disaster assistance eligibility to producers obtaining a minimum CAT level of crop insurance or NAP coverage for uninsurable crops for all crops on all of a producer's farms. Producers will be able to apply for the new disaster programs to cover 2008 crops even though application for coverage dates have passed for crop insurance and NAP. **A one-time waiver allows you to purchase buy-in CAT or NAP by September 16.** This will only enable you to meet the requirement for the new disaster programs and will not provide you with crop insurance or NAP coverage if you did not meet the original application deadline.

New programs include: **Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), Tree Assistance Program (TAP), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm Raised Fish (ELAP).** A fifth new disaster program, the **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)** is exempt from the crop insurance/NAP requirement. All programs cover losses due to natural disasters only.

SURE covers crop losses on the whole farm when the county receives a disaster designation or losses exceed 50% of the farm's total production. Payments are made on 60% of the difference between the SURE guarantee and total farm revenue. LFP provides a payment to ranchers who suffer losses due to drought or fire. TAP provides compensation to orchardists and nursery producers to replant trees and vines. ELAP addresses unique disasters not covered by any other program. LIP provides payment for loss of livestock.

There is a buy-in fee for CAT level crop insurance and NAP coverage. The fee is \$100 per crop with a maximum of \$300 per administrative county and a \$900 maximum for multiple counties. CAT and NAP fees are treated separately and the maximums apply separately to each type of coverage. Producers are credited for any crop insurance or NAP coverage previously paid for 2008 crops. Fees are waived for limited resource, socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers. Let the FSA staff know if you think this applies to you when signing up for the programs.

FSA is handling the signup and application for both CAT and NAP for the 2008 crop buy-in waiver. For 2009 crops, standard crop insurance and NAP deadlines and purchase rules are in effect. Contact the office for more information.

**YOUTH LOANS** for up to \$5000 are available to students ten to twenty years of age, participating in 4-H or FFA programs. Contact Mark Turner at (360) 354-5658 ext 2 for more information.

**SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS** will be provided upon request for those persons with physical handicap, or vision or hearing impairment. Please contact David Unruh at 425-334-3131 ext 104 for assistance.