



North Puget Sound Area's Farm Service Agency

Snohomish/N King - Clallam/Jefferson Counties
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November 2008

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Office Hours

Weekdays: 8:00 - 4:30

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Dates to Remember

11/11 Office Closed/Veteran's Day
11/20 Sales Closing Date/Perennial Crops, and Honey
11/27 Office Closed/Thanksgiving
12/1 Sales Closing- extended deadline for fall planted crops
12/8 COC meeting - 10:00 a.m.
12/8 COC Elections/Count Ballots
12/25 Office Closed/Christmas

2008 County Committee:

Meetings scheduled for 3rd Thurs 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



2008 FSA COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

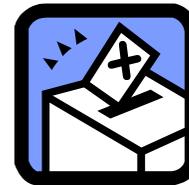
Official Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters in Local Administrative Area (LAA) **3, North King Co**, which includes all communities from the Snohomish County line, south to I-90, and **LAA 4, Clallam County**, all inclusive. Watch your mailbox. Please remember that the last day to **return your ballot** or have it postmarked is **December 1, 2008**. If you receive a ballot in error, or if you should have received one and did not please contact the County Office at your earliest convenience.

Candidates for North King County:

Fong Cha	Fong is a respected elder of the Hmong community. He and his family grow vegetables and flowers at "The Children's Garden" in Carnation.
Jason Roetcisoender	Jason is a fourth generation dairy farmer in Duvall, milking 300 cows for artisan cheese production at Beecher's Hand Crafted Cheese Co in Seattle.

Candidates for Clallam Co:

Jeff Brown	Jeff runs a small herd of Jersey cows in Sequim for raw milk and cheese production, which he sells directly from an on-farm store.
Troy Smith	Troy is a 4 th generation dairy farmer milking 400 cows three times daily, while also growing specialty crops including Cabbage and Cauliflower, and Bent and Fescue Grass, for seed.



CROP COVERAGE DEADLINE

The sales closing date for **perennial crops** (fruit trees, berries, grapes, asparagus) and **honey** is **November 20, 2008**. However, the **2009 deadline** for **all fall planted crops** has **been extended to December 1, 2008**. For producers planting these uninsurable crops, **NAP** coverage is available at the FSA office for **\$250** per crop to a maximum of **\$750** for all crops in one county; or for multi-county producers, up to a maximum of **\$1,875** for all crops grown in all counties.

Spring planted crops including spring planted **vegetable seed crops** and summer planted **buckwheat** have a final sales closing date of **March 15, 2009**. To be eligible for NAP benefits, loss of production must be attributable to adverse weather and exceed a 50% loss. Producers must notify the county office within 15 days of **each** weather event that could adversely affect the crop, or when the loss becomes apparent. Contact the county office for more information regarding this program.



NEW TERMINOLOGY FOR FARM PROGRAMS

The 2008 Farm Bill grants exceptions to certain program rules for beginning, socially disadvantaged, and limited resource farmers/ranchers. This statutory terminology is new for most farm programs, and may differ slightly from program to program.

A **beginning** farmer/rancher is an individual or entity who has operated a farm for 10 years or less and participates substantially in the operation. For loan purposes for the purchase of a farm, the farm must be no more than 30 percent of the median size farm in the county. All members of an entity must meet the definition for the entity to be considered as beginning farmers/ranchers.

A **socially disadvantaged** farmer/rancher is a member of a demographic group whose members have historically been subjected to racial, ethnic, or for some programs, gender prejudice. Groups include: Alaska Natives, American Indians, Asians, Blacks or African Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, and Pacific Islanders. For ACRE, DCP, and farm loans, women also meet the definition.

Limited resource farmer/rancher income is based on two criteria: 1) Gross Farm Sales for the last two years, and which for the North Puget Sound FSA Service Area is equal to or less than \$155,200 per year; and, 2) Total Household Income defined as the AGI for all members in the household entered on IRS Form 1040, AGI Section. (**Snohomish County**/less than \$30,193.35; **King County**/less than \$32,093.05; **Clallam County**/less than \$23,254.00; **Jefferson County**/less than \$23,324.40). The limited resource definition applies to ACRE, DCP, ECP, NAP, and farm loans.



2008 DCP ENROLLMENT FOR FARMS WITH 10.0 OR LESS BASE ACRES

According to Notice DCP-201 and Publication L. 110-398, an extension of the **2008 DCP enrollment** deadline has been provided to those producers with **10.0 or less base acres on a farm**. The provision allows those producers meeting all other eligibility requirements to enroll farms in 2008 DCP by close of business **November 26, 2008**. Additionally, the **late-filed crop reporting deadline has been extended to December 1, 2008**, and **fees associated** with the enrollment of these farms has been **waived**. Requirements that the farm be wholly owned by socially disadvantaged or limited resource producers to be eligible for payment have been lifted for **2008** DCP.

NEW DISASTER PROGRAMS

The 2008 Farm Bill enacted on June 18, 2008, includes several new permanent disaster programs for FSA participants. Major changes to eligibility for disaster programs include the following:

Producers **must purchase** at minimum, CAT level insurance for all insurable crops and/or FSA's NAP coverage for all noninsurable crops grown on the farm, including hay ground but excluding grazed acres, to be eligible for SURE, TAP or ELAP. To be eligible for LFP only, producers must purchase crop insurance or NAP coverage on grazing lands. The closing sales date for all fall planted crops covered under NAP has been **extended to December 1, 2008, for 2009 enrollment only**.

All programs require an annual **"total farm crop acreage report"**. This means that even if a crop is not considered a "crop of economic significance" (expected to contribute **10% or more of farm income**) or for which NAP or crop insurance is not available, crops must be reported for all farms in all counties.

Disaster programs subject to the Risk Management Purchase Requirement are ELAP, LFP, SURE and TAP. LIP is exempt from the crop insurance and/or NAP requirements.

Emergency Assistance for Livestock Program (ELAP) (includes Honey Bees, Livestock, and Farm-Raised Fish).

ELAP will provide emergency relief to producers of livestock because of losses from adverse weather or other conditions as determined by the Secretary, and that are not adequately covered by any other disaster program.

Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) LFP will be available to eligible livestock producers who suffer grazing losses for eligible livestock due to:

- drought, on land that is either native or improved pasture land with permanent vegetative cover, or planted to a crop specifically for providing grazing
- fire, on rangeland managed by a Federal agency if the eligible livestock producer is prohibited from grazing the normal permitted livestock on the managed rangeland.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payment Program (SURE) SURE will pay up to \$100,000 annually, including payments from ELAP, LFP, and LIP, and be available to eligible producers on:

- farms in disaster counties, including contiguous counties, that incur crop production losses and/or crop quality losses during the crop year,
- farms which during the calendar year, incur loss of production of the farm because of weather, is greater than 50% of the normal production of the farm.
 - Disaster counties are included in a geographic area covered by a qualifying natural disaster declaration declared by the Secretary. (A county must have a 30% or greater loss, **or**, a county farmer with a 30% or greater loss must be unable to obtain commercial credit, **or**, there must be a request from the Governor or an Indian Tribal Leader to the Secretary of Agriculture)
 - In general, **"farm"** means the sum of **all** crop acreage in **all** counties that is planted or intended to be planted for harvest by the eligible producer

Tree Assistance Program (TAP) TAP is reauthorized, subject to funds being appropriated, to provide assistance to orchardists and eligible growers who produce nursery, ornamental, fruit, nut, or Christmas trees for commercial sale that lose trees because of a natural disaster as determined by the Secretary.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) LIP will be available to eligible livestock producers on farms that have incurred livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality because of adverse weather as determined by the Secretary, including losses due to hurricanes, floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires, and extreme heat or cold.

NEW PAYMENT LIMITATION RULES

The 2008 Farm Bill provides a statute that in part, beginning with 2009, repeals the 3-entity rule and implements a **direct attribution** method for payments. This means any individual or entity, whether directly or indirectly, that shares in a program payment will be limited to specific payment limits by program, to the 4th level. Limits include: DCP direct/\$40,000; DCP CC/\$65,000; Disaster Programs (all inclusive except TAP)/\$100,000. Additional limits apply; contact the county office for details.

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