



North Puget Sound Area's Farm Service Agency

Snohomish/N King - Clallam/Jefferson Counties
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January 2010

Office Staff

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Office Hours

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

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Dates to Remember

1/4- SURE sign-up began/ongoing
1/18- MLK Jr Day/Office Closed
1/26- COC meeting 10:00 a.m.
1/29- Travis' last day
2/1- LIP sign-up deadline 7/19-12/31
2/15- President's Day/Office Closed
3/15- NAP spring crop sign-up deadline

2010 County Committee:

Meetings scheduled for 3rd Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m.

Troy Smith
Jason Roetcisoender
Andy Werkhoven
Rick Williams
John Gunning
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>



accepted the CED position in **Walla Walla WA**. This promotion takes Travis closer to his roots near Pendleton Oregon, and more familiar crops and weather than he's dealt with in the last year. Travis will serve as a shared-management CED for Walla Walla and Columbia Counties, with an office in each county. We bid farewell to Travis on January 29, 2010 and extend best wishes to him in his new position!

LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM (LIP)

The 2008 Farm Bill authorized a number of permanent disaster programs. The Livestock Indemnity Program may pay when natural disaster results in loss of livestock life. Livestock must be maintained for commercial use as a part of a farming operation. Eligible livestock under LIP includes:



- ◆ Dairy and Beef cattle
- ◆ Equine
- ◆ Sheep
- ◆ Emus
- ◆ Goats
- ◆ Buffalo and Beefalo
- ◆ Deer, Elk, Reindeer
- ◆ Alpacas, Llamas
- ◆ Swine
- ◆ Poultry

Other criteria states: a disaster designation is not required; LIP payments will be based on individual producers' eligible losses due to adverse weather conditions; losses must exceed normal mortality rates (WA State mortality rates available at the CO); notices of loss are calendar year specific.

2009 FSA COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

Election results for the North Puget Sound Area Committee are as follows:

Rick Williams, Stanwood was elected to represent the North Snohomish County area. **Mary Morcam**, Arlington is the 1st Alternate.

John Gunning, Chimacum was elected to represent Jefferson County. Representatives serve a 3 year term.



WELCOME GENTLEMEN!

Rick and John will fill positions vacated by Kjell Stangeland and Kirk Salvatore due to term limits. **We SINCERELY thank Kjell (9 years) and Kirk (27 years) for their dedicated service to the producers in their respective areas.**

SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS PROGRAM

SURE sign-up started on **January 4, 2010 for 2008 crops** and is ongoing until an end date for sign-up is announced. **SURE** is available to eligible producers on farms in counties: with Secretarial disaster designations, including contiguous counties with at least a 10% loss on one eligible crop, or; who incurred crop production losses of at least 50% beginning with the 2008 crop year and incurred on or before September 30, 2011.

Eligibility requirements for SURE state a producer must have obtained a policy or plan of insurance for all crops (except grazing) through the Federal Crop Insurance Act (FCIC) or FSA's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). Snohomish and N King County farmers who meet eligibility requirements can call the county office for additional information or to make an appointment.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE STATISTICS SERVICE SURVEY

The NASS will contact 1600 Washington producers to participate in the Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS) between January and April. This survey will give farmers and ranchers the opportunity to provide accurate, real-world data that will help shape the policies and programs that affect them. ARMS is USDA's primary source of information on the production practices, resource use and economic well-being of America's farm operations.

Producers will either receive a form in the mail or be contacted by a NASS representative. Requests for data will include information on operating costs, capital improvements, assets & debts for ag production, farm-related income, off-farm income, and operator and household characteristics for previous year. Additionally, organic wheat growers will be asked about marketing, sales, and prices.

This New Year will bring more changes to the face of the North Puget Sound Area Office in Lake Stevens. Our County Executive Director, **Travis Martin**, has



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For those producers who **lost eligible livestock prior to July 13, 2009** and **filed a notice of loss by Sept 13, 2009**, an **application for payment** must be on file in the county office **not later than January 30, 2010**. Losses which occurred **July 13, 2009 thru December 31, 2009** for which a **notice of loss was filed by September 13, 2009** must also **apply for payment by January 30, 2010**. For losses occurring in 2010 and 2011, a notice of loss must be filed within 30 days of when the loss occurred or became apparent; and application for payment must be filed within 30 days after the end of the calendar year in which the loss occurred. Additional program information is available at the county office.

CROP COVERAGE DEADLINE

The sales closing date for **2010 Spring Planted Crops** including some seed crops is **March 15, 2010**. 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** (beets, spinach) and summer planted **buckwheat** have a final sales closing date of **March 15, 2010**.

Also be reminded that eligibility for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (**SURE**) requires **“whole farm” coverage** by FSA’s NAP, or RMA crop insurance (all crops on all farms in all states), (except for di minimus crops). Additionally, for those producers who receive an RMA indemnity or payment for NAP losses for 2010 and subsequent years, a linkage requirement applies, i.e.: coverage must be obtained for the following year on the crop for which a payment was issued.



DIRECT and COUNTER CYCLICAL and AVERAGE CROP REVENUE ELECTION PROGRAMS

It’s that time of year again, to think about enrollment in the DCP or ACRE programs. **Deadline for enrollment is June 1, 2010**, with the **Crop Reporting deadline** following shortly thereafter on **June 30**.

DCP **direct payment rates** remain unchanged from last year: **\$.52/bu wheat, \$.28/corn, \$.24/bu barley, \$.024/oats**. **Advance payments are available at 22% of the total direct payment** rate for the year. Payments are earned on 83.3% of the farm’s established base acreage times the farm’s established yield times the producer’s share. Producers can **plant any crop** on their base acreage **with the exception of fruits & vegetables (including seed crops) and wild rice**.

The new Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program provides **revenue protection against low market prices** or low state and farm yields. Like the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP), a farm must have base acres of a covered commodity in order to be enrolled in ACRE.

Briefly, ACRE “trades” the counter-cyclical portion of your DCP payments, 20% of your direct payments, and a 30% reduction in marketing assistance loan rates on the enrolled farm in exchange for potential ACRE payments that are based on your current year’s actual plantings and 12-month national average market prices. In general, **ACRE payments** for a crop **are triggered when actual state prices and/or yields are below normal and the individual farm’s actual yields and national prices are also below normal**.

Producers may **elect to enroll, on a farm by farm basis**, in either DCP or ACRE, but not both. Once the election is made to participate in ACRE, **it is irrevocable** for the duration of the Farm Bill through 2012. Participants must initially report five years of production in order to be eligible for the first year of the program and will need to report annual production each year thereafter. Call the county office for more information or an appointment.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

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

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