

June 2013



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South Puget Sound 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.

Pierce County FSA Office **Acreage Reporting Date**

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County Executive Director:
George R. Jaquish

Program Technicians:
Kathy Modin

Farm Loan Manager:
Mark Tuner, FLM
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Jeff Peterson, SFLP
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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 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 15th** 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 15th, 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.

Deadline to Submit Production for NAP Covered Crops

Producers who obtain Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage are required to report annually all production for NAP covered crops. This maintains your compliance with NAP program requirements. Production information can be provided to the county office either by submitting actual production evidence, or certified production supplied verbally. Regardless of how you choose to provide your production information, it must include a signed CCC-452 form.

The deadline to submit a signed CCC-452 is close of business on Monday **July 15, 2013**. Failure to timely report production may negatively affect future year approved yield calculations for your NAP covered crops.

FSA Seeks Nominees for South Puget Sound FSA Committee

The Farm Service Agency is looking for candidates for the upcoming grower-elected county committee election. FSA is accepting nominations through August 1, 2013.

FSA county committees make decisions which impact program payments. They bring local knowledge of farming practices, prices and conditions to program implementation. Also, producers can appeal most agency determinations to the local county committee.

FSA encourages all interested agricultural producers, including women and minority growers, to seek nomination. Eligible candidates must participate or cooperate in any Farm Service Agency program and be of legal voting age. Even if you are not currently participating in FSA programs, you may be considered eligible under the cooperation criteria if you have farm records on file with FSA.

The Pierce County Committee draws its members from local administrative areas. Nominated by local farmers and ranchers, candidates must live in the local administrative area they will represent and must be eligible to vote in the county election. Members serve on staggered three-year terms so that one-third of the seats are up for re-election each year.

This year's election takes place in LAA # 1, which is that portion of Pierce County, south of SR 512 and southeast of I-5 (Lakewood, Fort Lewis). West of SR 161, south of 224th St. E., and that portion of King County east of HWY 167, south of Holm Rd. extending east to county line. A map of FSA county committee election areas can be found on the agency's website <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>.

Elected county committee members receive an hourly wage for their attendance and representation at county committee meetings.

Elections will take place in the fall and newly elected committee members begin their terms January 1, 2014. FSA will mail ballots to all eligible voters. Anyone not receiving a ballot by November 4 can contact the office to request one.

Additional information and nomination forms may be requested from the FSA office. Nomination forms may also be obtained online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>

Financing for Beginning Farmers and Socially Disadvantaged Applicants

FSA's loan programs are designed to help family farmers who are temporarily unable to obtain commercial credit. In many cases, these are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for commercial credit.

The law also requires FSA to reserve or target loan funds for exclusive use by beginning farmers. Funds remain targeted for beginning farmers in the guaranteed programs until April 1 of each year. In the direct programs, funds are targeted for beginning farmers until September 1 of each year.

A beginning farmer or rancher is an individual or entity who:

- has not operated a farm or ranch for more than 10 years
- substantially participates in the operation
- for Farm Ownership loan purposes, does not own a farm greater than 30 percent of the average size farm in the county
- for Farm Ownership loan purposes, must have participated in the business operation of a farm for at

least 3 years.

Maximum amounts of indebtedness are \$300,000 for direct loans and \$1,214,000 (amount varies annually based on inflation) for guaranteed loans.

FSA has a down payment program to assist beginning farmers and socially disadvantaged applicants to purchase a farm or ranch. This program also provides a means for retiring farmers and ranchers to transfer their land to a future generation.

Eligible beginning farmers and socially disadvantaged applicants are given first priority to purchase FSA acquired properties. For more information about FSA loan programs, contact George R. Jaquish, CED at (253) 845 9272.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).