



NEWSLETTER



June 2012

Stevens County Farm Service Agency

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Office Hours

Mon. – Fri. 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

Doug Falstad, Chair
Ryan Esvelt, Vice-Chair
Bruce Stumpf, Regular Member
Gayla McCanna, Advisor

Office Staff

Martin Cunningham, CED
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Farm Loan Manager

Houston Bruck, Spokane WA

Dates to Remember

April 1- July 1 – Primary nesting period

June 30 – Acreage reporting deadline

August 1 – Last day to submit nominations for Stevens County Committee.

FSA Web sites:

WA State: www.fsa.usda.gov/wa

National: www.fsa.usda.gov

2012 Crop Acreage Reporting Deadline

Acreage reporting is in full swing for Stevens County. When you have finished planting your 2012 crops, it is time to get an appointment to report your planted acres. The deadline for timely reporting your crops is **June 30**. Since June 30 falls on a Saturday you have until Monday, July 2, to report your planted acres. After this date your report will be considered late-filed and you will be required to pay a fee for a field visit to verify your seeded acreage. The following producers are required to report cropland on the farm in order to receive program benefits:

1. Participants in the 2012 DCP or ACRE program.
2. Producers enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).
3. Producers wishing to receive a Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) or Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP).
4. Producers who have purchased 2012 Non-insured crop Assistance Program Insurance (NAP).
5. Producers wishing to participate in the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)
6. Producers wishing to participate in the Livestock Forage Program (LFP).

When you arrive at the county office to report, please have with you the crops planted, the planting dates, and crop share percentages. Any of the following can certify the acreage for a farm: the operator, land owner, tenants and share-croppers who share in

the reporting acreages, or a person who has a power of attorney (POA) for an individual or entity.

FSA Seeks Candidates for County Committee

Stevens County local farmers and ranchers have an opportunity to influence the administration of the federal farm programs. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is accepting nominations for the Stevens County Committee (COC) between **June 15 and August 1, 2012**.

The FSA county committee system provides a unique federal government experience. Farmers and ranchers are elected by their peers to help the agency administer farm programs, provide appeal rights, and provide an important informational link between agricultural producers and the FSA. The three person committee is the place producers can appeal most agency determinations and program administration. The committee also makes decisions which can impact program payments. The committee meets approximately six times a year.

To be eligible for involvement, producers must participate or cooperate in at least one FSA program and be of legal voting age. The nomination forms must be submitted to the local FSA office by **August 1, 2012**. The committee draws its members from

Local Administrative Areas (LAAs). Stevens County is broken up into administrative areas for the purposes of representation and voting. This year's election is for LAA 1, which covers the northern part of the county, includes Kettle Falls, Colville, Arden, Addy, and the Northport farming communities.

Prospective candidates must live within the local administrative area they will be representing and must be eligible to vote in the county election. COC members serve on staggered three-year terms so that one area is up for re-election each year. Committee members are compensated hourly and for travel while conducting official duties as a member of the committee.

Stevens County FSA encourages all producers to consider being a candidate. Local producers benefit from a diverse committee representing all of agriculture in Stevens County. More information about the elections and the nomination form may be obtained from the local FSA office or the Farm Service Agency website - <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=cce>.

The candidate nomination form can be requested by the following methods: downloaded from the above website, picked up at the local FSA office, or requested over the phone to be emailed, faxed, or mailed to an individual. Once the form has been completed, return it to the Stevens County FSA office.

CRP Signup 43 Results Announced

The results of General Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Signup 43, which was taken this spring, have been announced. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that 3.9 million acres

were accepted during the signup. Nationally nearly 48,000 offers on more than 4.5 million acres were submitted, of the acres offered only 3.9 million acres were accepted.

All acres offered for CRP in Stevens County were accepted by the National Office.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Reminders

Producers participating in CRP are reminded that they must annually report their CRP acreage to receive their rental payment. The primary nesting season begins on **April 1** and ends **July 1** each year. If you need to control weeds on your CRP during this period you must request permission from the County Committee. The nesting season requirements do not apply to those CRP contracts that have not been certified as established covers by Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) or a Technical Service Provider (TSP).

CRP participants with established cover are reminded that haying or grazing on some acres will be eligible every fourth year. This haying or grazing must be requested and approved prior to starting. Grazing can begin **June 1** or haying can begin **July 1** after COC approval. Participants are assessed a payment reduction of 25% of the annual rental payment for the acres hayed or grazed.

Producers wishing to participate in the CRP program should be aware that if you gain an interest (inherit, purchase, or etc.) in farmland which has an active CRP contract on it, you have a limited time to sign a revised contract showing the adjustments in shareholders. Modifications to a CRP contract are required to be signed and submitted to the FSA within 60 days of those changes becoming

apparent to the FSA. Those changes may include but are not limited to; owners and operator, acreage, and revision to the shares. New shareholders or producers on a CRP contract may need to complete other documentation to establish their eligibility to receive any annual rental payment.

Farm Reconstitution Deadline

Resulting farms of reconstitutions requested before **June 1**, may enroll in DCP or ACRE by the later of **June 1**, or 30 calendar days following completion of the reconstitution. **August 1**, is the final date to accept a reconstitution request on form FSA-155 for FY 2012 farm combinations and/or farm divisions for a farm. Landowners are encouraged to notify our office as soon as changes take place so that we can update the records and have them ready for your appointment.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

Producers interested in additional grain, hay, or certain cold storage structures are reminded of the availability of the Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL) to help construct these facilities. Loan terms can be up to \$500,000, on 7-12 year repayment terms, and requires 15% down. FSA is required to take a security interest on real estate to which FSFL structures are affixed. FSFL funding has been appropriated and is available for Fiscal Year 2012 applications. For additional program details, please call our office.