



WHATCOM COUNTY FSA NEWS

MARCH - APRIL 2008

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National USDA Website

<http://www.usda.gov>

National FSA Website

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

State FSA Website

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

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DEADLINES AND DATES TO REMEMBER

May 5 – DDAP III Signup Deadline

June 30 – Deadline to submit 2007 NAP Crop Production

June 30 - Crop Reporting Deadline

July 15 – EQIP Contract ranking cut-off date

Office Closures

May 26 – Memorial Day

Employment opportunities for the USDA Farm Service Agency and Washington State FSA are listed on the FSA website.

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

Handicapped

Accommodations: Special accommodations will be arranged for those persons with a physical, vision, or hearing impaired disability. If special accommodations are needed, please contact our office.

SIGN UP NOW - DAIRY DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Signup began March 5, 2008 for the Dairy Disaster Assistance Program III (DDAP-III).

SIGNUP WILL END MAY 5, 2008

DDAP-III will provide \$1.6 million in financial assistance to dairy producers who **suffered production losses because of natural disasters** for milk marketed any time between January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2007 as long as a Secretarial Declaration is in effect.

Whatcom County has a Secretarial Declaration in effect for hail, lightning, severe storms, high winds, excessive heat, winter storms, and excessive moisture for the period April 1, 2006 through July 15, 2007.

Production losses will be based on a base period. Producers must provide cow inventory and third party verifiable production records for the base period 2003 and 2004 calendar years. Calculations will be based on proven production losses expressed in whole pounds multiplied by the payment rate. The payment rate in Washington for 2006 is .1215, the State's Annual Average Mailbox Price, for the marketing order as reported by the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service. Payment rates for 2007 have not yet been established.

Producers must have had a 20% production loss for the year to qualify. The value of production not lost (if any) and the DDAP-III payment cannot exceed 95% of what the production's value would have been if there had been no loss. Spoiled or dumped milk must be counted as production during the relevant claim period.

DISASTER SIGNUP CONTINUES

Currently, we have three disaster programs available for signup where a closing date has yet to be announced.

These programs are;

- Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)
- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
- Crop Disaster Program

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) compensates producers for the death of livestock due to natural disasters.

Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) compensates livestock producers for non-irrigated improved and native grasses and forage sorghum feed losses. Whatcom County is only approved for **2006** losses from April 1, 2006 through December 31, 2007.

Crop Disaster Program provides payments to producers who suffered approved yield losses of more than 35% or prevented plantings.

The disaster loss period has been extended from February 28, 2007 to December 31, 2007 to cover the December storms.

The program covers weather related losses that occurred in 2005, 2006, or 2007 crop years for all crops planted, or prevented from being planted, before **December 31, 2007.**

Producers may claim losses for multiple crops in multiple years. The producer may only be paid for the most beneficial eligible crop year.

There is an \$80,000 payment limitation per "person" per program.

Signup for **QUALITY** economic losses will be announced at a later date.

You must have in excess of a 25% economic loss to be eligible for benefits.

To be eligible, for quantity and quality losses producers must have obtained Commercial Crop Insurance or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year for which they claim benefits.

REPORTING CHANGES TO FARMING OPERATIONS

Producers are required to notify FSA of any changes in their farming operation or entity status throughout the year. Especially ownership and leased land changes. Changes that may affect a determination include, but are not limited to, a change in the size or structure of the producer's farming operation; a change in member's shares, and changes in contributions to farm inputs of capital, equipment, active personal labor, or active personal management. Also, any changes to bank account information. If you have questions, please review your Farm Operating Plan with us looking for any changes.



NAP PROGRAM

Producers enrolled in the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) are required to submit a Notice of Loss (CCC-576) within 15 days after the disaster occurrence or the date the damage is apparent to the producer for yield losses or the final planting date for prevented planting.

Reminder:

June 30 is the final date to report 2007 Crop Production for NAP.

ARE YOU OPERATING AS A DBA?

Program participation shall be limited to legally recognized participants, such as individuals, joint operations, and entities. Individuals cannot participate or receive payments through a DBA or a DBA tax identification number. Only the legally recognized participant, such as an individual, joint operation, or entity, may participate. Eligibility documents such as the AD-1026, CCC-502, and CCC-526 shall be completed for, and submitted by, the individual or other legally recognized participant.

EQIP DEADLINE

July 15 is the application contract cut-off date for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Producers can apply for this program at any time but to be considered for 2009 fiscal year funding applications must be complete by July 15.

This program is a voluntary, cost share assistance program that assists conservation practices to improve irrigation efficiency, manage nutrient run-off, animal waste, control erosion, and improve native plant communities.

This earlier date has the advantages of allowing sufficient time to develop a higher quality conservation plan and allow producers more time to consider the costs and benefits of their EQIP contract before making a final commitment.

Contact Alex Hall at the NRCS Office at extension 102.

FARM BILL

The 2008 Farm Bill is still under debate in Congress. It is unknown at this time when the bill will be implemented. Congress has agreed on legislation to extend current farm programs to April 18, 2008. Without a new Farm Bill in place we are unable to take sign-ups for the DCP Program. We will keep you informed through future newsletters of new program sign-ups.

ACREAGE REPORTING

June 30 is the final date to timely certify your crops. Beyond that date, fees will be assessed for late-filed acreage reporting. Crop reports continue to be required for CRP, NAP, and other applicable programs that require the reports under the 2002 Farm Bill to maintain eligibility.

CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP)

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a voluntary program for agricultural landowners to install riparian buffers on salmon-bearing streams. Through a unique state and federal partnership, the landowner can receive annual rental payments, cost-share assistance and maintenance payments to establish forested buffers on eligible land. Rental rates are double normal rates.

CREP is used to improve or restore habitat for salmon or other endangered fish habitat. The funding period has been extended to April 18. Contact your local FSA office if you have any questions.

