

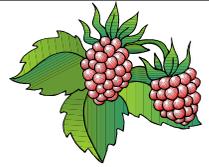


July and August 2010

# WHATCOM COUNTY FSA NEWS



## REPORT CROP DAMAGE



To be eligible for crop loss assistance, producers who purchased Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP) coverage are required to **report weather related crop damage within 15 calendar days after the disaster occurrence or date damage to the specific crop acreage is apparent for yield losses.** Additionally, if the intention is to not harvest the crop, the County FSA office must be contacted so that a loss adjuster can verify the crop damage prior to its abandonment or destruction. Failure to meet these requirements can compromise NAP coverage, or make claims ineligible for assistance. The loss must be reported on FSA's CCC-576 Notice of Loss form.

## MAINTAINING ELIGIBILITY for DISASTER ASSISTANCE

USDA's Spokane Risk Management Agency (RMA) Office reminds producers of the important link between Federal crop insurance and FSA's Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance programs including the new SURE program.

*To maintain eligibility for most supplemental disaster programs producers must obtain a policy or plan of insurance of at least the catastrophic level (CAT) of insurance for the crop year 2011. Note:* the more crop insurance coverage a producer has, the more the SURE guarantee will be. For those crops that are non-insurable, coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be timely obtained.

**Therefore, producers with fall planted commodities need to be making important crop insurance decisions for the 2011 crop year.** Producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office and visit with a crop insurance agent (a list of agents is available at all USDA Service Centers) to fully understand what crop insurance programs are available in the county and to ensure they are obtaining adequate coverage for eligibility. The next round of sales closing dates for Federal crop insurance is:

***September 30: barley with winter coverage, wheat and grass.***

***November 20: berries, fruit trees, grapes, honey.***

**Note:** The Adjusted Gross Revenue-Pilot and Adjusted Gross Revenue-Lite programs do meet the linkage requirements for SURE. Also, if there is no crop insurance coverage in a county for a specific crop, and that crop is insurable in another county under the traditional Federal crop insurance program, a producer may seek coverage by asking an agent whether they would be eligible for crop insurance coverage under a written agreement.

**A 2011 Multi-Peril Crop Availability Listing by county is posted on RMA website, [http://www.rma.usda.gov/aboutrma/fields/wa\\_rso/](http://www.rma.usda.gov/aboutrma/fields/wa_rso/).** Producers are encouraged to contact their local agent for additional details. In addition to USDA Service Centers, a listing of crop/livestock agents is also available at (<http://www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents>).

## SURE SIGN-UP REMINDER

FSA is anticipating the sign-up period for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE) for crop losses in 2008 will close soon. Eligible producers should apply for benefits as soon as possible to ensure payment eligibility.

The SURE program provides benefits for farm losses accrued in 2008 through 2011 due to natural disasters. A farmer or rancher is eligible for the program when a disaster designation has been made for their county or when actual production is less than half of the normal established production. Commodities are eligible for payment when covered with crop insurance or a non-insured crop disaster assistance program policy.

A fact sheet with more detailed information and a potential payment calculator are available on the FSA website. For more information, contact this office.

### Whatcom County FSA

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### Office Hours

Monday – Friday  
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

### County Committee

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Debbie Smit, V-Chair  
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### National USDA Website

<http://www.usda.gov>

### National FSA Website

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

### State FSA Website

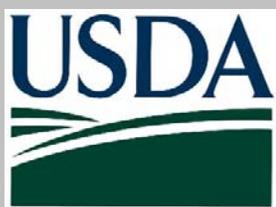
<http://www.usda.gov/wa>

### Next COC Meeting

August 18<sup>th</sup>

### DATES TO REMEMBER

September 14<sup>th</sup> to change  
from October MILC start  
month.



### **FSA COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS SOUGHT**

Washington's agricultural producers who would like to guide federal farm programs at the local level have a chance to do so. The USDA Farm Service Agency is seeking candidates for the upcoming grower-elected county committee elections. Nominations are due to FSA county offices by **August 2, 2010**.

This year, nominations are for a committee member to represent producers in Local Administrative Area (LAA) #3. LAA#3 is bounded to the North by the Canadian border, to the West by Trapline/Mission Rd. southward to Mount Baker Hwy to I-5 southward to the Whatcom-Skagit Line, to the South by the Whatcom-Skagit County Line, and to the East by the Whatcom-Okanogan County Line.

The FSA county office committee is the most direct link between USDA farm programs and local growers. The county committee system helps shape nation-wide programs into programs that work at the local level by making decisions related to commodity price support loans and payments, establishing allotments, yields and marketing quotas for some crops. FSA committees also make eligibility determinations for conservation programs, as well as disaster assistance.

Persons interested in holding office as a county committee member are encouraged to check eligibility requirements or request a nomination form with their local county FSA office. Additional information and nomination forms may also be obtained online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>.

### **FSA Farm Loan Program-Lender of First Opportunity**

FSA offers direct operating and farm ownership loan programs, as well as administrating a guaranteed loan portfolio. 4H and FFA project youth loans are available to applicants with ages between 10 – 20 years old. All applicants are required to meet certain loan eligibility criteria specific to the applicable loan program. Direct loan funding is limited to \$300,000 and guaranteed funding is \$1,112,000. Call the office for more details.

### **REMINDERS**

#### **MILC**

October 1<sup>st</sup> starts the 2011 year for the MILC program. Producers need to insure that they select the correct start month for the year. Those who selected October as the start month will need to notify us by September 14<sup>th</sup> if they want to change to a later month. Production will not count until there is a payment month.

**Bank Accounts** Every year we issue several payments to bank accounts that have been terminated or changed. This often occurs when banks restructure, causing account numbers or routing numbers to change. Please keep us posted on these changes so your payment goes to the correct account.

**Foreign Investors** Foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land are required by law to report your land holdings, acquisitions, leases of 10 years or more, and land use changes within 90 days of these transactions. Report these changes to the local FSA office. Failure to report these changes can result in a civil penalty of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of your interest in agricultural land.

**Selling CREP Land** If you're planning on selling land that's enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, the buyer must agree to assume the terms of the CREP contract. If the buyer does not want to succeed to the CREP contract, you will be required to refund all of the payments you've received to date, plus interest. It is in your best interest to review program implications with your local Farm Service Agency staff, before completing a sale of farmland.

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