



November/December 2010

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
Dan Noteboom, Member
Satpaul Neger, Advisor

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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

December 13th

DATES TO REMEMBER

NAP Sign up November 20th



County FSA Committee Elections



Ballots have been mailed for the 2010 FSA Committee elections. This year the election will be held 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.

Candidates running for election are Matthew Eldridge (dairy farmer), Ralph Minaker (raspberry grower) and Teresa Sygitowicz (landowner/hay producer). Write-ins are accepted.

The deadline for returning your ballot or to have it postmarked is December 6, 2010. If you receive a ballot in error or if you should have received one and didn't, be sure to call our office.



Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) Deadline

November 20, 2010, is the deadline to purchase NAP coverage on perennial crops, including berries, fruit trees, asparagus and honey. Since November 20 falls on a Saturday, you will have until November 22nd. The application fee is \$250 per crop, up to a \$750 cap per county. The maximum for multiple crops in more than one county is \$1,875 per crop year. In return, the crop is covered from catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting due to natural disaster conditions.

To be eligible for NAP benefits, production loss must be attributed to adverse weather conditions. You may receive a payment if all eligibility requirements have been met and the crop suffers greater than a 50% production loss for weather related damages. Some of the basic eligibility requirements include annual reporting of crop acreages, providing actual production evidence on a yearly basis, obtaining a loss adjustor appraisal if the damaged crop will be destroyed or left unharvested.

Contact the county office if you would like more information or are interested in applying for NAP coverage.

Changes to Notice of Loss Reporting

Any time there is a weather condition that you believe could adversely affect your crops, you need to file a notice of loss. You should file a notice of loss for EACH weather related condition as applicable throughout the growing season for that crop.

A Notice of Loss must be filed by the EARLIER of the following:

- * 15 calendar days after the damaging weather or disaster occurrence or date damage to the specific crop acreage is apparent to the producer for low yield claims
- * 15 calendar days after the normal harvest date.

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 Disaster Programs.

To maintain eligibility for most FSA 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 on all crops of significance. For those crops that are non-insurable, coverage under the NAP program must also be obtained. For more information call your local FSA office or an RMA agent listed on the web.

A 2011 Multi-Peril Crop Availability Listing by county is posted on RMA website, 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/>).

View your FSA participation Online

USDA offers an online customer statement that shows a summary of the following:

- FSA Benefits
- Farm Loan Program (Direct Loan Status)
- USDA Service Center Farm Records
- NRCS payment activity
- Conservation Program Contract Summary

In order to obtain online access that allows you to view your customer statement, from your internet browser go to the eAuthentication site at: <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/eauthCreateAccount.html> Follow the steps described to request a Level 2 account by filling out the online registration form, creating a User ID and password and visiting the FSA office where a Local Registration Authority will help you finalize your request.

NRCS extends sign-up period for Conservation Stewardship Program

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has announced the ranking period cut-off date for producer applications in the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) has been extended to January 7, 2011. CSP offers payments to producers who maintain a high level of conservation on their land and who agree to adopt higher levels of stewardship. Eligible lands include cropland, pastureland, rangeland and non-industrial forestland. A CSP self-screening checklist is available to help producers determine if CSP is suitable for their operation. The checklist highlights basic information about CSP eligibility requirements, contract obligations and potential payments. It is available from local NRCS offices or online at: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/new_csp/csp.html. To learn more, interested applicants should contact the NRCS field office in Lynden at 354 2035 ext.102.

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.



MILC

October 1st starts the 2011 year for the MILC program. Producers need to insure that they select the correct start month for the year. In order to change the month selected producer's need to modify their MILC contract by the 14th prior to their selected start month or before payment is known. Production will not count until there is a payment month. Prior to receiving 2011 MILC payments a current year Adjusted Gross Income CCC-926 form must be submitted.

IRS Forms

Some of you have received letters to inform you that the IRS has not received your consent forms CCC-927 (individual) and CCC-928 (entity). These consent forms are for the purpose of verifying that the Adjusted Gross Income reported does not exceed the program limitations for payment eligibility. These forms can be obtained online or at the FSA office.