

June 2013



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## Whatcom County FSA Updates

- Darcy Maldonado has taken a position as a Farm Loan Officer Trainee (FLOT). She is currently training in Okanogan County. Darcy has been in Whatcom County for many years and will be sorely missed. But ... congratulations and best wishes for this new opportunity.
- 2013 Crop Reporting is underway. You should have received an appointment card. If you haven't and/or you need to change your appointment time call the office as soon as possible. The deadline for crop reporting is July 15, 2013.
- Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) sign up is also underway. The deadline to enroll is August 2.
- COC Election Nominees must be postmarked and/or turned into the Whatcom County FSA Office by August 1.
- July 4, 2013 - Office closed for Fourth of July
- Next County Committee meeting is tentatively set for Wednesday, July 24, 2013 @ 9:00 am.

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### Whatcom County FSA Office

6975 Hannegan Rd  
Mount Vernon, WA 98264

Phone: 360-354-5658  
Fax: 360-354-4678

**County Committee:**  
Theres Sygitowicz, Chair

Dan Noteboom, Vice-Chair

AJ Chauhan, Member

Satpaul Neger, Advisor

**County Executive Director:**  
Ellen Medeiros

**Program Technician:**

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### FSA Seeks Nominees for Whatcom County 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 Whatcom County 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

Betty Snell, Farm Programs

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.

**Farm Loan Manager:**

Mark Turner  
Phone: 360-354-5658

This year's election takes place in Local Administrative Area (LAA) #3, which is bounded to the North by the Canadian border, to the West by Trapline/Mission Road, southward to Mount Baker Highway (WA-542), to I-5, southward to the Whatcom -Skagit County Line, and to the East by the Whatcom-Okanogan County Line. A map of FSA county committee election areas can be found on the agency's website <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>.

**Program Technician:**

Marlene Garber, Farm Loans

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

The link above will take you to the site for Form FSA-669A, Nomination Form for County FSA Committee Election or stop by the office to pick up a form to submit your nominee for LAA#3.

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## 2013 Crop Reports Due By July 15

After spring planting, producers should certify their 2013 acreage. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Appointments have been scheduled and postcards have been mailed for your crop reporting and DCP sign up. If you have not received an appointment card and/or can not make the appointment scheduled please call the office to schedule or reschedule your appointment as soon as possible.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. For crops enrolled in programs other than NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program), follow the table below:

### **January 15**

Apples, Blueberries, Cherries, Cranberries, Fresh Apricots, Fresh Freestone Peaches, Fresh Nectarines, Grapes, Pears, Plums

### **May 15**

Cabbage (Planted 3/1-4/20)

### **July 15**

Spring Alfalfa Seed, Spring Barley, Cabbage (Planted 4/21-6/10), Spring Canola, Corn, Dry Beans, Dry Peas (Planted 3/9-5/25), Green Peas, Spring Mint, Mustard, Spring Oats, Onions (Planted 3/14-4/20), Potatoes, Processing Beans, Soybeans, Sugar Beets, Sweet Corn, Spring Wheat, and all other crops

### **August 15**

Buckwheat, Cabbage (Planted 6/11-8/10)

## **December 15**

Fall Alfalfa Seed, Fall Barley, Fall Canola, Dry Peas **1/**, Fall Mint, Onions (Planted 8/15-9/15), Fall Wheat, and all other Fall-Seeded Small Grains

Acreage reports on crops covered by NAP are due in the county office by the earlier of December 15 for small grains and July 15 for all other crops, or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported.

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## **Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program Sign Up Deadline Aug 2**

The sign-up period for DCP and ACRE are still open. Producers must sign up for DCP before the Aug. 2, 2013, deadline. Producers signing up for ACRE, have until June 3, 2013.

The 2013 DCP and ACRE program provisions are unchanged from 2012, except that all eligible participants in 2013 may choose to enroll in either DCP or ACRE for the 2013 crop year. This means that eligible producers who were enrolled in ACRE in 2012 may elect to enroll in DCP in 2013 or may re-enroll in ACRE in 2013. Likewise producers who were enrolled in DCP may opt for ACRE enrollment.

[Read more about DCP and ACRE](#) or contact the FSA county office for more information, or an appointment to enroll.

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## **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)**

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a voluntary program for agricultural landowners to install riparian buffers or hedgerows on salmon bearing streams. Grass filter strips and wetland enhancement practices are also available for waterways that drain into these streams. Through a unique state and federal partnership, producers can receive annual rental payments equal to 150-200 percent of normal CRP rates. Participants can also earn one-time \$100/acre signing incentives and cost-share assistance that usually covers 100% of installation costs. Maintenance payments are also available for the first few years of the contract.

CREP is intended to assist agricultural landowners in dealing with the presence of salmon in the streams on their property. Contact your local FSA office if you have any questions.

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## **Farm Storage Facility Loans**

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFLP) allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. New loan terms of seven, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the U.S. Treasury Department.

Funding is available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction begins. For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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