



March 3, 2011

Yakima County FSA

1606 Perry Street, Suite A
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Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee

Nadeen Boyle, Chair
Mark Barrett, Vice Chair
Wes Underwood, Member
Steve Isaac, Advisor
Sergio Marquez, Advisor

Office Staff

Sandy Christensen, PT
Maria De La Mora, PT
Jennifer DeWeese, PT
Crispin Garza, SCL
Kim Miller, PT
Lisa Ruff, FLM & Acting CED
Scott Smith, FLO
Chris Werner, FLOT
Clint, Wilson, FA

Next COC Meeting

March 29, 2011
9:00 AM

Dates to Remember

- March 15- NAP application deadline
- March 24- SED Producer Meeting
- April 8- ALAP program signup deadline
- April 15- CRP signup deadline

FSA Web Sites

State- <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>
National- <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>
USDA- <http://www.usda.gov>



United States
Department of
Agriculture

FSA STATE DIRECTOR TO MEET WITH PRODUCERS

Producers wanting to know more about FSA programs or comment on FSA programs and services will have an opportunity for dialogue with the agency's State Executive Director Judy Olson. Ms. Olson will participate in a producer meeting and listening session on **Thursday, March 24, 2011**. The meeting starts at 1 p.m. and will be at the Buena Grange Hall, 170 Highland Dr., Buena, WA. The meeting is one of four that Ms. Olson will attend in the state. Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in the meeting, or anyone who have questions about the meeting should contact the Yakima County FSA office at (509) 454-5746 ext. 2 or: lisa.ruff@wa.usda.gov. FSA is committed to making programs accessible to all customers.

FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

Nadeen Boyle was elected to serve on the County Committee for a 3-year term. *Nadeen* will serve with current members *Mark Barrett* and *Wes Underwood* on the Committee. *Carol Hull* was elected as first alternate, and *Sergio Marquez* was elected as second alternate to the Committee. We would like to thank the candidates in this year's election for their willingness to run, and also everyone who took time to vote. The County Committee is your link to USDA, making local control possible in implementing FSA programs.

COMMITTEE ADVISOR UPDATE

Steve Isaac and Sergio Marquez have been appointed by the Washington State FSA Committee to serve as County Committee Advisors for a one-year term. We look forward to the advisors' continued contributions to the Committee during the coming year. We would also like to thank retiring Committee Advisor Carol Hull for her nine years of dedicated service.

NONINSURED CROP LOSS COVERAGE

Producers may now purchase catastrophic crop loss coverage for non-

insurable 2011 spring planted crops under the *Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)*. The cost of the coverage will be \$250 per crop, not to exceed \$750 per producer, per County. **The application closing date is March 15** for most spring planted crops. Producers interested in this program should call our office for an appointment to apply.

EMERGENCY LOANS

Producers in Yakima County may be eligible for emergency loans under the following disaster declaration. The declaration covers damages and losses caused by the following conditions:

- Excessive rain, frosts, freezes, unseasonably cold weather, and high winds which occurred April 1, 2010 and continuing; (*September 10, 2011 application deadline*).

For more information on emergency loans please contact our office.

CRP SIGN-UP PERIOD

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general signup starts Monday, March 14, 2011 and ends Thursday, April 15, 2011.

CRP allows producers to enroll land in ten year contracts that help preserve environmentally sensitive land. In exchange for idling the land, producers receive annual rental payments and 50 percent of the cost to establish the cover. Rental rates are tied to county average rental rates and the productivity of the soils in the offered acreage. In general, no other income can be derived from the land while under contract.

Eligibility and ranking scores are based on several factors. Eligible land must have been planted to an annual crop or conserving use in at least four years between 2002 and 2007. In addition, the land must have an erodibility index of 8 or greater, be in the state air quality or wildlife Conservation Priority Area or be CRP expiring in 2011.

Offers will be ranked using the Environment Benefits Index. Points will be awarded based on the environmental and habitat benefits of the proposed cover planted. More points are awarded for native covers. Existing



CRP covers may need to be replanted to maximize the score. Extra points will be awarded for the most erosive land and bids that include pollinator habitat on 10% of the acreage.

ASPARAGUS MARKET LOSS PROGRAM

Asparagus growers who were adversely affected by asparagus imports could be eligible for financial compensation through the Asparagus Revenue Market Loss Assistance Payment (ALAP) Program.

To be eligible for the program, growers must have produced and marketed asparagus in commercial quantities in the U.S. during both crop years 2003 and 2007. Asparagus production must be producer-certified as either fresh or processed for 2003.

The program has \$15 million available nationwide, split evenly between the fresh and processed varieties. The maximum payment rate is \$1.06 per pound for fresh asparagus, and \$1.08 per pound for processed. For more information, or to apply for the ALAP program please contact our office. Applications must be filed in our office or postmarked on or before **Friday, April 8, 2011**. No late applications will be accepted.

SURE PROGRAM SIGN-UP

Currently SURE Program applications are being taken for 2009 crop losses. The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disaster. To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer must have obtained crop insurance on all crops of economic significance, on all farms, in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to obtain Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for crops excluding grazed acreage.

Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher are exempt from the risk management purchase requirement.

At least one crop of economic significance must have suffered a 10% production loss due to an eligible disaster condition to qualify the operation for SURE benefits.

Losses are measured with consideration to the whole-farm revenue, which includes crop insurance

indemnities and commodity program payments, so that producers are not paid more than once for the same loss.

Producers who feel that they have a qualifying 2009 crop loss, and who do not already have an appointment to apply for SURE, should contact our office. The application deadline is July 29, 2011.

REPORT OF PAYMENTS

All producers who received FSA program payments during calendar year 2010 should have received a CCC-1099-G in the latter part of January. This form indicates the amount of payments that you received during the calendar year 2010. The amounts listed on this form have been reported to the Internal Revenue Service. It is very important this year that you closely review this document to ensure it accurately reflects the payments you received in 2010. If it does not, or if you have any question about the data, please contact our office.

In addition, producers who had a farm credit loan with the Farm Service Agency in 2010 should have received FSA-2065 at the end of January. This is an Annual Statement of Loan Account and provides useful income tax information such as interest paid in calendar year 2010.

14TH ANNUAL TREE & SHRUB SALE

Need a windbreak? Would you like to stabilize a stream bank, or maybe you want to add a little wildlife habitat to your property? The North Yakima Conservation District (NYCD) is having the **14th Annual Tree & Shrub Sale**. Plants are reserved on a first come first serve basis, and will be ready for pickup on March 25 and 26. More information is available at the NYCD web site: <http://nycd.scc.wa.gov>. To obtain a brochure and order form you can also contact Brian Schmidt with the North Yakima Conservation District, at 454-5736, ext. #5. The last day to preorder plants is March 11. Plant supplies are limited so contact the conservation district today!!

Se habla español en esta oficina de FSA. Si quiere información tocante a los programas de crédito, conservación y otros programas que suministra esta oficina, por favor visite o llame la oficina de FSA. El número de teléfono es (509) 454-5746. La dirección se encontra encima.