



NEWSLETTER



January 31, 2012

Yakima County Farm Service Agency

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Office Hours

Mon. – Fri. 8:00 a.m – 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

Mark Barrett
Brad Bonny
Nadeen Boyle
Steve Isaac, Advisor
Sergio Marquez, Advisor

Office Staff

Sandy Christensen, FLP PT
Maria De La Mora, PT
Jennifer DeWeese, PT
Crispin Garza, SCL
Kimberly Miller, PT
Lisa Ruff, FLM & Acting CED
Scott Smith, FLO
Chris Werner, FLO

Next COC Meeting

March 27, 2012

Dates to Remember

- March 15 – NAP application deadline
- June 1 – 2010 SURE application deadline
- June 1 – DCP/ACRE deadline
- June 30 – Acreage Reporting Deadline

FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

Brad Bonny was elected to serve on the County Committee for a 3-year term. Brad will serve with current members Mark Barrett and Nadeen Boyle on the Committee. Rick Nading was elected as first alternate, and Chad Castle 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.

NONINSURED CROP LOSS COVERAGE

Producers may now purchase catastrophic crop loss coverage for noninsurable 2012 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.

SURE PROGRAM SIGN-UP

SURE 2010 Signup Deadline

The deadline for producers to submit applications for 2010 crop year Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE) is **June 1, 2012**. The application and all required documentation must be on file and signed by close of business on that day.

The SURE program provides benefits for crop losses due to eligible weather related disaster conditions affecting crops grown from 2008 through 2011 crop years. 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. Producers who suffer eligible losses must have crop insurance or a Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program policy for all crops of economic significance to be eligible for SURE benefits. Socially disadvantaged, limited resource, or beginning farmers and ranchers are exempt from the insurance linkage requirement.

A fact sheet with more detailed information is available on the FSA website. Maps of disaster designations by county are on the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/wa. For more information, contact this office.

NEW AGI FORMS REQUIRED FOR 2012 PARTICIPANTS

FSA and NRCS program participants, including all members of participating entities, must meet certain Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) requirements to qualify for benefits. Starting for the 2012 crop year, a new AGI form has been developed that both reports whether an applicant or member meets the AGI requirements, and authorizes the IRS to confirm that information for FSA.

The new form also reflects an additional AGI limitation applicable only to 2012 direct payments. In addition to the \$500,000 average nonfarm AGI and the \$750,000 average farm AGI limitation, a \$1 million average AGI limitation will be applicable for 2012 direct payments.

New this year, most power-of-attorney authorizations will not work for this form. The form will have to be signed by the participant or entity member themselves. IRS will not accept FSA power-of-attorney forms. These new AGI forms are available today from your county office or on the FSA internet site.

2012 DCP/ACRE SIGN-UP

2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment begins Jan. 23, 2012 and ends June 1, 2012.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- All producers with a crop share interest on DCP base acres must have a share in direct and counter-cyclical payments.
- Changes on the farm before or after enrolling in DCP/ACRE must be immediately reported to the local FSA office. Examples: ownership changes, producer changes (individuals and entities, and change in crop shares arrangements.
- No changes are allowed after September 30, 2012.

REPORT OF PAYMENTS

All producers who received FSA program payments during calendar year 2011 should have received a form CCC-1099-G, in the latter part of January. This form indicates the amount of payments that you received during the calendar year 2011. 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 2011. 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 2011 should have received form 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 2011.

ACREAGE REPORTING DEADLINE

Producers who wish to maintain eligibility for the following programs need to file an acreage report with our office by June 30:

- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) participants
- Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP) & Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) participants
- Wheat, feed grain, honey & wool producers who wish to maintain eligibility for price support loans and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP's)
- Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) participants
- FSA disaster programs including the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program for **2011 crop losses**.

Planting dates are needed for the crops being reported. Please make note of your planting dates, and have them with you when you come in to file your acreage report. Late-file acreage reports require a fee for a farm visit.

WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE Registration Open

This winter women farmers in Washington State will have the unique opportunity to participate in an agricultural workshop offering inspirational stories, practical advice on how to improve their management skills and networking opportunities with other women entrepreneurs.

The Women in Agriculture conference will be held on Saturday, February 11 and will broadcast two engaging speakers to 16 different locations throughout the state. The new localized format of the conference is designed to let farm women benefit from a statewide conference while still meeting their on-farm duties.

"Women are uniquely tasked with the demands of both farm and family, which can make travel to one state location a challenge," said WSU Douglas County Extension Director and chair of the conference Margaret Viebrock. "This new approach allows us to offer our headline speakers at all locations, while also making the conference specific to each region."

Keynote speakers will be Lyn Garling, owner of Over the Moon Farm, and Rita Emmet, the author of "The Procrastinator's Handbook." Garling, a farmer who got started later in life, will share about being a "woman farmer" today and how her challenges, inspirations, and frustrations have contributed to her success. Emmet will be detailing how to "Blast Away

Procrastination" in order to be more successful at work, in relationships and in life. Emmet is a fun, persuasive speaker who argues that procrastination is not a character trait, but simply a habit.

Garling and Emmet will be joined by local presenters who will talk about their risks and challenges with farming, including how to stay focused, keep current on market trends, the latest production methods and financial management.

Registration for the conference is \$25 and includes a copy of "The Procrastinator's Handbook", an opportunity to be listed in the conference brochure to increase networking opportunities, and lunch during the event. The deadline to register for the event was January 25 by mail or online. The conference is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the WSU Extension Western Center for Risk Management Education.

Women farmers and producers, supporting spouses and aspiring farmers are encouraged to attend. Agriculture students and farm interns are also welcome to participate.

Website registration is now available online at www.womeninag.wsu.edu.

Persons with a disability requiring special accommodations while participating in this program may call WSU Extension 509-745-8531. If accommodation is not requested in advance, we cannot guarantee the availability of accommodation on site. To receive a print brochure in the mail, contact

Margaret Viebrock at 509-745-8531 or viebrock@wsu.edu

LOANS AVAILABLE BANK CHANGES?

FSA has direct and guaranteed loan programs available for family-sized farm businesses. FSA's loan programs are designed to help farmers who are temporarily unable to obtain private, commercial credit.

The loan limits for direct operating and farm ownership loans are \$300,000 each. The loan limit for guaranteed operating and farm ownership loans is a combined total of \$1,214,000. Funding is allocated for these programs after October 1 of each year.

Depending on the type of loan, funds can be used to purchase farms, livestock, and equipment, operate the farm, build or repair farm buildings, pay for water development for conservation practices and in some cases refinance debts. For additional information contact our office.

If you have a direct deposit request on file with our office, please remember to let us know if you change banks or account numbers. Sending funds to a closed account will delay your payments.

CED Vacancy

Tory Bye, who became the County Executive Director (CED) for Yakima County in April, 2011 has left to take a CED job in Whitman County. We wish Tory the best.