

April 2007

PIERCE COUNTY FSA NEWS

Pierce County FSA

1011 E. Main #107
Puyallup, WA. 98372-6738
(253) 845 9272
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Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee

Lucy Cerqui, Chair
Harry Petersen, V-Chair
John Albert, Member
John Kingsbury, Member
Faith Sasaki, Advisor

Office Staff

George Jaquish, CED
Kathy Modin, PT

Farm Loan Staff

Mark Turner, FLM
(360) 354-5658
Jeff Peterson, FLO
(360) 748-0084

COC Meeting Schedule

April 19th, 2007 @ 10:00 AM
May 17th, 2007 @ 10:00 AM

Important Dates:

June 30 – Acreage reporting deadline
Aug 3 – DCP sign up deadline

Web Sites

www.fsa.usda.gov – FSA National

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa/> - WA State FSA

<http://www.usda.gov> - USDA

South Sound Farm Forestry Association (360) 705-1888

Handicapped

Accommodations: Special accommodations will be arranged for those persons with a physical, vision, or hearing impaired disability. If special accommodations are needed, please contact our office



Deadline Extended For Farm Program Enrollment

The Farm Service Agency announced today that the sign-up deadline for the 2007 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program has been extended until August 3, 2007.

The decision to extend the deadline was made as a result of workload issues impacting DCP enrollments. Enrollment in DCP for the 2007 contract period began on October 1, 2006 and was scheduled to end on June 1, 2007.

Please note that the extension applies only to the enrollment time frame, and does not extend the annual DCP contract period beyond September 30, 2007. A late-files fee of \$100 will only be assessed for farms that are enrolled after August 3, 2007, and before September 30, 2007. Applications signed after September 30, 2007 cannot be approved.

Direct payments are made to producers of staple commodity crops as authorized in the 2002 Farm Bill. The Farm Service Agency makes counter-cyclical payments when the effective price for eligible commodities is less than the target price. This program helps to improve and promote the economic stability of agriculture communities and ensures equitable delivery of program benefits and services.

USDA Rural Development is Accepting Applications

(Olympia, WA), April 2nd, 2007 – USDA Rural Development is accepting applications for fiscal year 2007 funding for the Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements Program. The program is for agriculture producers and rural small businesses to purchase renewable energy systems or make energy efficiency improvements. The funding is available in the form of grants, guaranteed loans and loan and grant combinations. There is a 75% match requirement for the grants and a 50% match requirement for loans or loan/grant combinations.

Renewable Energy Grants:	Minimum Grant	Maximum Grant	Application Deadline
	\$2,500	\$500,000	May 18, 2007

Energy Efficiency Grants:	Minimum Grant	Maximum Grant	Application Deadline
	\$1,500	\$250,000	May 18, 2007

Guaranteed Loans:	Minimum Loan	Guarantee Fee	Application Deadline
	\$10 million	1%	July 2, 2007

Applications are to be submitted to the Washington State Rural Development Office at:

Attn: Business Programs Division
USDA Rural Development
1835 Black Lake Blvd SW, Suite B
Olympia, WA. 98512

Please direct your questions regarding the program to: State Office Renewable Energy Coordinator, Mary Traxler @ 360-704-7762 or on the web at www.rurdev.usda.gov/wa.

USDA 2007 Farm Bill Proposals Available

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently printed “America’s Farm bill 2007 – 2007 Farm Bill Proposals.” The 183-page document in-depth details of 65 proposals put forth by the Administration for consideration by Congress. The proposals cover the ten titles of the Farm Bill: commodity operations, conservation, trade, nutrition programs, credit, rural development, research and related matters, forestry, energy and miscellaneous. If you would like a hardcopy of the proposals, you may contact the FSA State Office at (509) 323-3000. The proposals and additional information may be found online at the Farm bill link on the USDA website: <http://www.usda.gov>.

Acreage Reports

Now through June 29th, 2007 the FSA office will be accepting producer's acreage reports (by appointment). The 2002 Farm bill requires that all cropland on a farm be reported and certified as a condition of eligibility for producers participating in the Direct and County-Cyclical Program (DCP), Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) and Marketing Assistance Loans, including Wool, Mohair and Honey loans.

Producers participating in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) & Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) or the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) are also required to file an acreage report as a condition of eligibility.

Producers are reminded that information reported to FSA on the acreage report should be accurate and the same information reported to other Federal Agencies, such as crop insurance.

Non-insured Assistance Program

For coverage of crops under the Non-insured Assistance Program producers must pay an administrative fee. The service fee amounts to \$100 per crop, per producer to a maximum \$300 cap per county or \$900 per producer for all crops in all counties, and will be payable at the county office at time of application. This payment is non-refundable.

The following dates have been established as application closing dates for NAP:

- 5/31 – Artichokes
- 8/31 – Value loss crops (nursery & aquaculture)
- 11/20 – honey

Please contact your local FSA office for further information.

Fruit and Vegetable Planting Restrictions

Under the Direct and Counter Cyclical program (DCP), producers are allowed the flexibility to plant any crop of their choice without acreage restrictions except for fruits and vegetables, or wild rice. If a history of planting FAV's has been recorded, then only an acre for acre payment reduction would apply on the fruits and vegetable planted on DCP base acres. However, a contract violation would occur if fruits and/or vegetables (FAV's) are planted on a DCP farm that has no history of growing fruits and vegetables, or if a producer sharing in the crop has no history of planting the specific fruit or vegetable. FAV's may be planted on non-base acres. It is recommended that producers who want to plant fruits and/or vegetables or wild rice contact our office before planting them if they are unsure how the FAV restrictions apply to your particular situation.



County Executive Director

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotapes, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-5964 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.