

August/September 2007

PIERCE COUNTY FSA NEWS

County Committee Candidates

There are two candidates on this year's ballot for the seat on the FSA County Committee in LAA #1. The candidates are:

Ruth Nelson

Ruth is a long time (30+ years) Pierce County resident living and farming near Eatonville and has been involved in raising beef cattle. Ruth has served on the FSA County Committee for a number of years. Ruth is active in her local community and President of Ohop Grange, a member of the Farm Bureau, a member of the Pierce County Sheriff's Citizen's Advisory Committee, volunteer at schools and a member of Bethany Lutheran Church.

Cindy Stolz

Cindy moved to Enumclaw in her junior year and graduated from Enumclaw High. After High School Cindy worked as a veterinary assistant at Evergreen Vet. Cindy married John Stolz in 1980 and together raised three beautiful girls. Cindy and her husband purchased the family farm in 1983 and ran a bull calf operation before starting their dairy venture in 1991. Cindy is an active member of dairy wives.

Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance

To have Non-Insured Crop disaster Assistance (NAP) coverage for Fall planted onions, Fall planted vegetable seed crops and all **Value Loss Crops** (floricultural, ornamental nursery, Christmas tree crops, Turfgrass sod, Aquaculture, including ornamental fish, Ginseng root and Mushrooms) producers need to pay their administrative fee by **08/31/07**. Please make an appointment with your local FSA office to pay the administrative fees.

Compliance Spot Checks

Program Compliance Spot Checks

FSA policy for conducting compliance reviews to ensure program compliance has been enhanced. The new policy means FSA will do fewer but more comprehensive reviews. Previously, reviews were done for a random sample of 15 percent of the acreage reported to the FSA office. The reviews were completed using high altitude photography to ensure acreage reports were filed correctly.

Producers will still be selected randomly for reviews; however the selection will be made at the national level. The selection will be made from participants in CRP, DCP, NAP, Marketing Assistance Loans and LDPs, and HEL/wetland compliance. FSA will look at acreage compliance, production records and compliance with program rules. Reviews may involve field visits. Depending on crops grown, multiple visits may be required.

Program compliance reviews are necessary to ensure the integrity of the farm programs, which is vital for continued public support. Your cooperation, if you are selected, is appreciated.

MILCX Program Benefits Extended

On May 25th, 2007 the President signed the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriation Act of 2007 into law. The 2007 Act authorizes the continuation of MILCX program benefits through September 30, 2007.

The change does not require another signup. Provided there is a payment rate in effect during the month of September 2007, MILCX payments to program participants with an approved CCC-580X will continue from the designated production start month selected by the dairy operation through September 30, 2007.

If you have any question please contact your local FSA office.

Pierce County FSA

1011 E. Main #107
Puyallup, WA. 98372-6738
(253) 845 9272
Fax (253) 445 9934

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

September 20th, 2007
October 18th, 2007

Holiday Closures:

Labor Day, Sept. 3rd
Columbus Day, Oct. 8th
Veterans Day Nov. 12th
Thanksgiving, Nov 22nd

Web Sites

www.fsa.usda.gov – FSA National

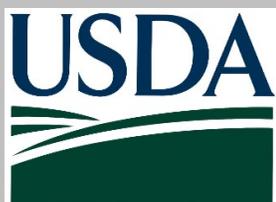
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa/> - WA State FSA

<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



Rural Youth Loan Program

Low-interest rate loans up to \$5,000 are available to rural youth from 10 to 20 – years old. Youth loans can be used to finance most any income-producing project. Youth need a sponsor such as a 4-H or FFA project leader. The sponsor is not held accountable for the loan. FSA will help young borrowers put together a budget. Marketing, budgeting, paying bills, and repaying a loan are important life lessons that this program helps teach.

The loan from FSA is repaid when the project generates income. It carries the same low interest rate as regular FSA borrowers. Parents usually don't have to co-sign, which makes the loan unique. They're available to youth in rural areas and towns of less than 10,000 people.

Most projects are eligible, as long as they generate enough money to repay the loans. Past loans have been made for raising livestock and growing crops. However, loans are not limited to projects involved solely with production agriculture.

Parents and others can contact the local FSA office to learn how to apply or obtain the application form.

USDA Announces Disaster Program Signup

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced sign-up dates for the Livestock Compensation Program, Livestock Indemnity Program and Crop Disaster Program. The three ad hoc disaster programs provide financial relief to farmers and ranchers who suffered losses caused by natural disasters in recent years. The programs will be implemented in all Washington counties according to the USDA Farm Service Agency, which administers the programs.

Program signup for the livestock programs begins September 10, 2007. The Crop Disaster program signup begins October 15, 2007 for agricultural producers who suffered yield losses. A later signup will be announced for crop losses related to crop quality. End dates for the program signups have yet to be announced.

The Livestock Compensation program compensates livestock producers for feed losses occurring between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007 due to a natural disaster. Drought caused much of the feed loss in Washington State during that time but loss from other disasters may also be eligible.

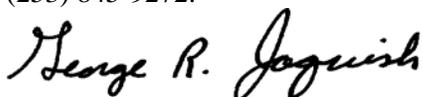
The livestock Indemnity program pays producers for the physical loss of livestock due to natural disasters that occurred during the same January 1, 2005 to February 28, 2007 timeframe. Producers who suffered losses in multiple years must choose one year for which to receive payments for both livestock programs.

Counties had to receive a Secretarial or Presidential Disaster Declaration, or be in a contiguous county, before producers could be eligible for the livestock programs. All counties in Washington either received such a designation or were a contiguous county.

The Crop Disaster Program provides payments to producers who suffered damage to their crops. Damage includes decreased yields or prevented plantings. It also includes lower prices received due to impaired crop quality. The program covers losses that occurred in 2005, 2006, or 2007 if the crop was planted, or prevented from being planted, before February 28, 2007. Producers may claim losses from multiple crops but must choose one crop year if losses occurred in multiple years.

Producers must also have obtained crop insurance or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance program (NAP) for the year for which they claim benefits. Yield loss must exceed 35 percent to be eligible for the Crop Disaster Program. Producers suffering losses in any county may apply for the Crop Disaster Program.

For additional information about the Livestock Compensation Program, the Livestock Indemnity Program or the Crop Disaster Program check the Farm Service website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> or call your local Farm Service Agency office at (253) 845-9272.



County Executive Director