

September 2006

## PIERCE COUNTY FSA NEWS

### FSA County Committee Election

#### Pierce County FSA

1011 E. Main #406  
Puyallup, WA. 98372-6798  
(253) 845 9272  
Fax (253) 445 9934

#### Office Hours

Monday – Friday  
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

#### County Committee

Rob Cerqui, Chair  
Marlene Hampton, V-Chair  
John Albert, Member  
John Kingsbury, Member  
Faith Sasaki, Advisor

#### Office Staff

George Jaquish, CED  
Kathy Modin, PT

#### Farm Loan Staff

Mark Turner, FLO  
Jeff Peterson, FLO

#### COC Meeting Schedule

Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>, 2006 10:00 AM

#### Important Dates:

November 15<sup>th</sup>, last day to  
apply for 2006 EQIP

South Sound Farm Forestry  
Association (360) 705-1888



FSA announces candidates for County Committee:

Local Administrative Area (LAA) #3, *all of Thurston County:*

- Harry Petersen – Attended public schools in Tacoma and Yelm, college degree in Business Administration & Chemistry; Navy veteran, married, four grown children; active in farming 250 acres along the Nisqually River, cattle & timber at the present time.
- Ross Reichel – Cattle and timber farmer from Rainer, WA.

Local Administrative Area #4, *King County south of I-90 to Lake Holm Rd then east to County line, also, that portion of Pierce County north of SR 512, east of I-5 at Lakewood and north of HWY 16 and then east of HWY 161 (South Hill) to 224<sup>th</sup> St E., and west of HWY 162 south to Orting:*

- Faith Sasaki – 3<sup>rd</sup> generation family vegetable farmer in Orting, WA.; during harvest season manage the produce stand where corn, leaf lettuce and other locally grown items are sold; 5+ years as advisor on the FSA Committee where she says, I've gained insight and understanding of the many facets of farming and problems of today's farming operations.
- Lucy Cerqui – Long time vegetable farmer in Fife, WA; past President of the King/Pierce Farm Bureau.
- Douglas Bruce Elliott – Raised on a dairy operation in Renton and for the past 18 years has owned and operated a small diversified crop and cattle farming the Green River Valley with his wife; graduate of Washington State University with a B.S. in Animal Science and deals frequently with other farmers, primarily livestock and dairy in the Enumclaw area.

Ballots will be sent out on November 3<sup>rd</sup> to eligible voters in LAA#3 & 4. If you don't get one and you think you should have please contact us and we will check the eligible voters list for you.

Who is eligible to vote? A person who meets the following requirements:

1. Be of legal voting age and has an interest in a farm or ranch as either of the following:
  - a. An owner, operator, tenant, or sharecropper, or
  - b. A partner in a general partnership or member of a joint venture that has an interest in a farm as an owner, operator, tenant, or sharecropper.
2. Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm.
3. Eligible to participate in any FSA program that is provided for by law, regardless of the status of funding.
4. Lives, farms or is an owner of a farm within the LAA boundaries.

To have your vote count all instructions on the ballot must be followed exactly as prescribed. Do not send two or more ballots back in one envelope. And, don't forget to sign your ballot. All ballots must be received in the Pierce County Office by December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

## **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program provides a financial incentive for installing projects that benefit the management of the land and environment. EQIP typically pays 50% to 75% of the cost of the project. The natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) is currently taking applications for the program. Apply before November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at your local NRCS office if you would like to be considered.

## **Federal Funds Available for Agricultural Disaster Relief**

Agricultural producer who suffered 30 percent or more crop loss due to adverse weather conditions since April 1, 2006 now may be eligible for federal financial assistance. The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently designated several counties in eastern Washington primary agricultural disaster areas making low-interest emergency loans available in these counties and contiguous counties Pierce and King.

Under the Emergency Loan program, affected producers are eligible for emergency loans at 3.75 percent interest to repair or rebuild farm buildings or machinery, clear debris from fields so they can be replanted, or replace harvested crops that were lost. Loan amounts are for actual losses. Payment terms are up to 40 years with real estate security. FSA is accepting loan applications in county offices through May 1, 2007.

## **NAP Forage Crop Coverage Clarification**

A recent amendment to the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) handbook provided a policy change that NAP coverage is NOT available for first year forage seedlings as published in the final rule for NAP in 7 CFR Part 1437 on March 17, 2006. This includes grass and alfalfa seed crops. The crop year is defined as the year the crop is intended for harvest regardless when the crop is seeded.

Eligible forage is defined as vegetation consisting of annual, biennial, and perennial grasses, legumes, small grains, etc. produced in a commercial operation for animal consumption or for seed for the propagation of forage for animal consumption. Alfalfa, alfalfa mixtures, and other hay are further defined for service fee and production purposes based on the intended method of harvest, mechanically or grazed. Acreage intended to be mechanically harvested includes acreage intended for forage or seed production.

## **NAP assistance available for Raspberry/Blackberry**

The Farm Service Agency has been informed by the Risk Management Agency (RMA) that effective for the 2007 crop year the Raspberry/Blackberry Pilot Crop Insurance program has been terminated. As a result, NAP is now available for Raspberry/Blackberry coverage. Please see your local FSA office for further details.



County Executive Director