



August 2007

Skagit-Island-San Juan County FSA News

LATE-FILED ACREAGE REPORTS

While the June 30 crop reporting deadline has passed, late filed acreage reports can still be accepted if all the following conditions are met: 1) late-filed fees are paid; 2) evidence of the crop is available; and 3) disposition/use of the crop can be determined. Crop reports are mandatory for DCP, NAP, CRP/CREP, AND LDP participation, as well as establishing cropping history for future program eligibility.

NONINSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) is designed to provide disaster coverage for crops adversely affected by weather conditions. This coverage is at a level similar to catastrophic (CAT) insurance on crops where Federal Crop Insurance is not available.

Participants with NAP coverage are reminded that a written notice of loss (CCC-576) for any crop loss must be reported to our office within the earlier of either 15 days after the disaster event, or 15 days after the damage to the crop is evident. Please be aware that failure to timely report disaster occurrences could make a crop ineligible for any NAP benefits.

The final dates to obtain NAP coverage for non-insurable crops are:

CROP	FINAL DATE TO OBTAIN COVERAGE
Canola and rapeseed; onions, radish, carrots and all cabbage varieties (for seed or fresh); all value loss crops (aquaculture, Christmas trees, ornamental nursery, turf grass sod, floriculture, mushrooms); artichokes and <u>any fall planted crops</u> not mentioned below	August 31
Perennial grazing crops; perennial forage crops; forage seed crops; mint	September 30
All perennial crops not listed in the 9/30 category (berries, fruit trees, grapes, asparagus); honey	November 20
Spring planted crops; small grain forages (wheat, barley, oats including annual pea forage); mustard, summer planted buckwheat	March 15

2007 DIRECT AND COUNTER-CYCLICAL PROGRAM (DCP) SIGN UP EXTENDED

The deadline to enroll in DCP for 2007 and return all signatures without an administrative fee of \$100 has been extended to August 3, 2007. Contracts enrolled after August 3, 2007 but no later than September 30, 2007, will be eligible for enrollment with a required \$100 administrative fee per farm. Advance payments are available starting December 2006 or any month thereafter once the signatures are returned and the contract is approved. Advance payments will be issued at 22% of the final direct payment rate for the covered commodity. Access the eDCP link at the FSA web site: www.fsa.usda.gov and begin the enrollment process.

EXPECTING PAYMENTS FROM FSA??? IS YOUR BANK ACCOUNT INFO CORRECT???

Payments from FSA are required by law to be directly deposited into your savings or checking account. Any person may request a waiver of the electronic funds transfer if it poses a personal or financial hardship. It is important that any changes in your accounts, such as bank mergers, changes

to your routing number or account numbers, or account closures be reported to our office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.

Skagit-Island-San Juan County FSA

2021 E. College Way, Ste 212
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
Office Phone: (360) 428-7758
Office Fax: (360) 424-6172

Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Area Committee

Kris Hansen, Chair
Wilbur Bishop, Vice-Chair
Todd Gordon, Member
Mark Wesen, Member
M R Buffum, Jr., Member

Office Staff

Ellen Medeiros, CED
June Freet, PT
Marlene Garber, PT

Farm Loan Staff

Mark Turner, FLM
Arlene Noteboom, FLPT

Next COC Meeting

Wednesday, August 24, 2007
8:30 AM in the USDA
Conference Room.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Aug 3 – Deadline to enroll in 2007 DCP without an administrative fee of \$100

Aug 31 - Deadline for fall seeded NAP Coverage sign up

Sept 3 – Office closed in observance of Labor Day

Sept 30 – Deadline for fall perennial grazing NAP crop sign up

Sept 30 – Deadline to enroll in 2007 DCP program with a \$100 administrative fee.

Oct 8 – Office closed in observance of Columbus Day

ALL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS MUST BE MET PRIOR TO THE ISSUANCE OF ANY PROGRAM PAYMENTS.

WEBSITES

National USDA website:
<http://www.usda.gov>
National FSA website:
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>
Washington State FSA website:
<http://www.usda.gov/wa>



PROGRAM COMPLIANCE CHANGES

Beginning in 2007, Farm Service Agency 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 review, 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 LDP;s 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.

e-AUTHENTICATION FOR USDA ONLINE

Complete your registration to conduct your FSA/USDA business online, by accessing <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov> and following the instructions. After your registration is completed, you will be able to access your personal payment information, enroll online in DCP, apply for Loan Deficiency Payments, fill out and submit many forms electronically, and other programs which are continually under development. The e-authentication process is secure, safe, and easy. For more information contact the office.

ASSIGNING PROGRAM PAYMENTS TO THIRD-PARTIES

When producers request such a service, FSA will issue all or portion of a producer's program payment to a third-party, such as a lender. This can save time and effort for a producer and any third-party with which the producer has an agreement. However, it is important that the producer and third-party communicate concerning any changes in operation that may affect the payment amount each receives. Privacy laws prevent FSA from reporting any changes to the third-party, or assignee.

FSA will make every attempt to pay the full amount designated by the producer on an assignment form. FSA will only pay the third-party to the extent the listed producer earns the payment. In situations where the assignee or the producer receives a portion of the other's payment, they are responsible for working together to resolve any differences.

If you would like to sign up for Assignment of Payment or would like more information on assigning program payments, contact the office at (360) 428-7758, ext. 2.

ACCESSIBILITY: Person with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in any meeting, event or function should contact the county office. FSA is committed to making programs accessible to all customers.

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