



January-February, 2008

Skagit-Island-San Juan County FSA News

Skagit-Island-San Juan County FSA

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday
8:00 A M – 4:30 PM

AREA COMMITTEE

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

OFFICE STAFF

June Freet, PT
Marlene Garber, PT

NEXT COC MEETING

February 21, 2008
8:30 a. m. in the USDA
Conference Room.

IMPORTANT DATES:

March 15 – Final day for Nap sign-up for Spring seeded crops.

OFFICE CLOSURES:

Febriaru 18 – Office closed for Presidents Day

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>

FARM LOAN STAFF

Mark Turner, FLM
Arlene Noteboom, FLPT
Call: (360) 354-5658
FAX: (360) 354-4678
6975 Hannegan Road
Lynden, WA 98264-9620

Please keep us informed of any changes in your farming operation.

AREA COUNTY COMMITTEE RESULTS

Ballots for the FSA Area County Committee LAA #3 have been counted and the results tallied. Kristen Hansen has been elected for a third term and Kris will serve again as the Chairperson for the Area Committee. Oscar Lagerlund will serve as first alternate. Congratulations to Kris and Oscar and thank you to the voters in LAA #3 for participating in the election.

LIVESTOCK PROGRAMS

The U.S. Dept of Agriculture announced sign-up dates for the new Livestock Compensation Program, Livestock Indemnity Program and Dairy Disaster Assistance Payment Program. The three disaster programs provide benefits to farmers and ranchers who suffered losses caused by natural disasters in recent years.

Dairy Disaster Assistance Payment Program - Since January 2005 dairy production in many U.S. counties has been severely impacted by widespread and significant destruction caused by various natural disasters. As a result, many dairy producers incurred decreases in production. The DDAP-III program may provide benefits to eligible dairy producers who suffered dairy production losses as a result of natural disasters occurring during the period between January 1, 2005, and December 30, 2007. Producers can receive direct payments for eligible losses to help relieve economic loss. The sign-up period for this program is presently on hold but watch the newsletter for the dates sign-ups can be taken for DDAP-III.

Livestock Compensation Program - This program compensates livestock producers for feed losses occurring from January 1, 2005, to December 30, 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 program requires pasture losses to qualify for a payment and a disaster designation for the year the payments are made.

Livestock Indemnity Program – LIP may compensate producers for the physical loss of livestock due to natural disasters that occurred during the January 1, 2005, to December 30, 2007 time period. To qualify, the animal had to have been maintained for commercial use on the day the animal died in an eligible county. No deadline for the program signups has been set at this time.

CROP DISASTER PROGRAM

CDP covers losses occurring during crop years 2005, 2006 and 2007. Payments will be made on crops with yield reductions of over 35%, based on a county average yield. If a loss was experienced in each of the listed years, only the year with the greatest loss will be paid. **Producers must have obtained Federal Crop Insurance Coverage (FCIC) or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year they file for benefits.** Crops covered under other insurance policies, such as Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR), AGR-Lite and Written Agreements are also eligible to apply for CDP. County offices have received listings from the Risk Management Agency (RMA) as to which producers had crop coverage in 2005, 2006 and 2007.

If an indemnity payment on an insured crop was received, additional production records for production losses will not be required by the FSA



office. If production did not qualify for indemnity yet a producer believes their loss was greater than 35% of the county established average, production records must be provided to the FSA office for review. Any producer that had a loss for crops covered under NAP, and has not provided the FSA office with production records will need to do so. If you feel you have suffered a qualifying loss under the Crop Disaster Program, please contact the office and we will make an appointment with you.

If you would like any additional information about the Disaster Programs check the Farm Service Agency website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

REMEMBER: DON'T BE CAUGHT NAPPING

March 15, 2008 is the deadline for 2008 crop year sign-up for spring planted crops, small grain forages, mustard, and summer planted buckwheat. The NAP fee is \$100 per crop per producer up to a maximum of \$300.00 per county. Once the maximum amount is paid no fee will be charged for additional crops. Any eligible crop may be selected for coverage at your initial visit as long as the applicable deadline has not passed. Come in to the office to apply for coverage or give us a call if you have questions.

Producers that obtained NAP coverage in 2007 have until **June 30, 2008 to certify all production** of the crops covered by 2007 NAP.

HAVE YOU LOOKED AT THE USDA WEBSITE?

Do you have questions on the status of the Farm Bill or would you like more information about renewable energy? Perhaps you have received a 2007 Census of Agriculture form in the mail and you have questions. Would you like to register for eAuthentication and use online access for information about FSA programs and applications? USDA's eGovernment Initiative brings to the farmer and rancher valuable online access to their business activities with USDA, 24 hours a day, and 7 days a week. These issues and much more can be obtained from the United States Department of Agriculture website. Access the National USDA website at www.usda.gov.

IT IS TAX TIME AGAIN

Form CCC-1099, *Report of Producer Payments*, are mailed in January to FSA program participants who earned payments in 2007. Information on the report should be verified since the data is reported to the Internal Revenue Service. If a discrepancy is found or report is not received please contact the FSA Office.



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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