



June 2007

Skagit-Island-San Juan County FSA News

Skagit-Island-San Juan County FSA

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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, July 19, 2007
9:00 AM in the USDA
Conference Room.

IMPORTANT DATES:

June 15 – Aug 1 – County Office is accepting Nominating Petition for Committee Elections in LAA#3.

June 30 – Deadline to report crop acres for current year crops and production for previous year's crops for NAP.

July 4 – Office closed in observance of Independence Day

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

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>



PUBLIC NOTICE OF ELECTIONS

Nominations for the Area FSA Committee are now being accepted. Only one valid nomination is required. If no petitions are received, the Area FSA Committee must complete a slate of three candidates. The election will be held by mail ballot. All ballots must be returned or postmarked by December 3, 2007. All farm owners, operators, and their spouses in the applicable Local Administrative Area (LAA) are eligible to vote in the election. Any farm producer who is not listed on FSA records should contact their local FSA office so the records may be updated. FSA encourages the nomination of under-represented group candidates including minorities and women. Nomination forms are being sent to all eligible producers in a separate mailing and are also available upon request from the County FSA Office. In Skagit County, Local Administrative Area (LAA)#3, East of I-5 in Skagit County, will hold the election this year. Kris Hansen is currently representing East Skagit County (LAA#3) and is eligible for re-election.

Committee members make decisions related to commodity price support, conservation and disaster assistance programs. Committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions affecting farmers. They receive an hourly wage and mileage for their attendance and representation at County Committee meetings.

Persons eligible to run for office must:

1. participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA;
2. be eligible to vote in a county committee election; and
3. reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate.
(NOTE: In special cases, this requirement may be waived. Check with the local county office.)
4. A person must not have been:
 - Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate, or employee;
 - Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement, or any other felony; or
 - Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

FSA encourages all interested producers, including women and growers of different ethnic backgrounds, to seek nominations. Contact the county office for a nomination form or obtain one online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections/Default.asp>.

Producers are encouraged to get involved by nominating candidates of their choice to represent them on the FSA Committee. The deadline to submit a nominating petition is August 1, 2007.

CROP ACREAGE REPORTS

The acreage reporting deadline is June 30th. Acreage reports are a mandatory requirement for the following programs:

- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
- Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP)
- Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP)
- Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

Growers with crops covered under NAP provisions must report prior year's production by June 30th. County office staff will try to arrange appointments to include sign up for DCP and acreage reporting at the same time to alleviate multiple trips into the office. Please be aware that you need to have locations of where the crops are planted, accurate planted acreage and planting dates to complete the acreage reporting process.

Notice: Marlene Garber, Program Technician in Skagit is now a permanent fulltime employee with 15 years of experience. We are very happy to have her permanently. Way to go Marlene!!!

ANY FARM CHANGES THIS YEAR?

It is the producer's responsibility to notify the Farm Service Agency of any changes in the farming operation. Changes that may affect a determination include: contract shares; land additions or deletions; changes in member's shares or contributions of farm inputs such as capital, equipment, labor or management. Other important changes to report are bank accounts changes and address changes. Our accurate record keeping depends on your efforts to keep us informed of any of these changes. Please contact the office if any of these changes apply to your operation so that updates and enrollment in programs can be made timely.

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 crop losses 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 noninsurable crops are:

CROP	FINAL DATE TO OBTAIN COVERAGE
Canola & rapeseed; onions, radishes, carrots, all cabbage crops (including spring planted varieties); all value loss crops (aquaculture, Christmas trees, ornamental nursery, turf grass sod, floriculture, mushrooms); artichokes and any fall planted crops 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 to include spring planted vegetable seed crops; summer planted buckwheat; mustard	March 15

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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