



May 2007

Skagit-Island-San Juan County FSA News

SIGNATURE AUTHORITY REQUIREMENT

County Offices must verify that a signature authority is on file in the County Office before accepting a signature on any program or related documents on behalf of another. When signing in a representative capacity for a husband or wife, DBA, corporation, LLC, Trust, estate or partnership an indicator such as "by" or "for" should precede the signature.

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

It is that time of year and we are taking sign ups for the 2007 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP). Please remember this is an annual sign up that must be done each year. If your farming operation has not changed please call for an appointment and we will get you signed up. If your farming operation has changed since 2006 please let us know what changes have occurred and we will correct the records so that you can sign up. **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 administration 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. Call the office for an appointment or if you have no changes to your farming operation you can sign up on-line with your "e-Authentication" authorization. Access the eDCP link at the FSA web site: www.fsa.usda.gov and begin the enrollment process. **In May, office staff will begin sending scheduled appointments for previously participating farms to come in and enroll farms in DCP.**

CASH LEASE CLARIFICATION

Program participation will require documentation of share or cash lease verification. Examples of documentation may include: a written lease agreement, owner's signature on the contract or operator cash lease certification. The operator of the farm is responsible for submitting a written statement certifying the terms of the cash lease for land enrolled in the various programs administered by FSA. The enrollment of a farm in a program will not be considered complete until all documentation is provided.

DCP FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROVISIONS

Farmers are reminded that any fruit or vegetable harvested on DCP contract acreage will result in a payment reduction if there is history of growing fruits and vegetables from 1998 through 2001. Harvesting fruits or vegetables grown on contract acres on a farm without the necessary harvesting history is considered a contract violation. A fruit and vegetable planting violation can result in a zero DCP payment depending on the value of the crop and the number of acres in violation. If you have any questions on how many acres of fruits and/or vegetables that can be planted on your farm, please contact the county office before planting the crop.

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.

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

Next COC Meeting

Wednesday, May 23, 2007
10:00 AM in the USDA
Conference Room.

IMPORTANT DATES:

May 28 – Office closed for Memorial Day

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>



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.

ASSIGNING PROGRAM PAYMENTS TO THIRD-PARTIES

When producers request such a service, FSA will issue all or a 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.

CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP)

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a joint Federal and State Land retirement conservation program that was designed to assist in the restoration of salmon habitat. Participants will receive an annual rental payment for the land that is enrolled in CREP. Additionally, incentive payments are:

- An up-front signing bonus of \$10 per acre for every year the contract covers. This amounts to \$100 to \$150 per acre at the start of the contract to help defray up-front installation costs for riparian buffers.
- A payment equal to 40% of the practice installation cost, in addition to the 50% cost-share paid by USDA for establishing certain approved practices.

The continuous sign-up program allows producers to enroll eligible highly environmentally sensitive land at anytime, without waiting for a sign-up period or competing against other offers. Conservation practices protect streams and rivers by keeping sediment and nutrients from entering water, providing cleaner drinking water, enhancing recreation, and improving wildlife habitat. Please contact your local FSA Office or the Conservation District for more information.

e-AUTHENTICATION ENROLLMENT

Complete your online program registration by accessing <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov>. This will allow you to access program participation information, enroll in 2007 DCP, apply for loan deficiency payments and review your program payment history, all from your home computer. It's quick and easy. Call the office for more information regarding "on-line" program availability or visit FSA's web site at: www.fsa.usda.gov.

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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