



October/November 2006

# Skagit-Island-San Juan County FSA News

## 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  
Wendell Carlson, V-Chair  
Todd Gordon, Member  
Wilbur Bishop, Member  
Don Burt, Jr., Member

### Office Staff

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

### Next COC Meeting

Monday, December 7, 2006  
8:30 AM in the USDA  
Conference Room.

### IMPORTANT DATES:

**November 10<sup>th</sup>**- Office closed in observance of Veteran's Day

**November 20<sup>th</sup>** – Deadline to purchase NAP coverage for perennial crops (berries, fruit trees, grapes, asparagus, honey, etc.)

**November 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Office closed for Thanksgiving Day

**December 4<sup>th</sup>** – Last day to return ballots to county office or postmarked ballots.

**December 7<sup>th</sup>** – Election ballots will be tabulated at 10 am in the USDA Conference Room.

### 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>



## 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.

**\*\*\*Note: November 20<sup>th</sup> - deadline to obtain coverage for perennial crops such as**

**berries, fruit trees, grapes, asparagus & honey\*\*\***

NAP covered crops 2006 production must be reported no later than the subsequent crop year's reporting date, which means that 2006 crop production must be certified by June 30, 2007.

## 2006 ELECTIONS

This is a reminder that Skagit-Island-San Juan Area Committee elections are in process for Local Administrative Area (LAA) # 1, northwest Skagit County, North of Hwy 20 and West of I-5 and LAA #4, San Juan County. Wendell Carlson is currently representing LAA#1 and Don Burt Jr. is representing LAA#4. The following nominees are on the ballot which will be mailed November 3, 2006 to all eligible voters in LAA#1 and LAA#4:

Local Administrative Area #1 (LAA#1):

**Kristi Gundersen**- Kristi is affiliated with Knutzen Farms LP. She has been involved in the family operation all her life. Their operation farms approximately 2000 acres, producing potatoes, wheat and green peas.

**Mark Wesen**- Mark is a member of Wesen Farms Inc. The corporation farms approximately 700 acres raising corn silage and grass and milks 525 cows. He has served as a board member of the Skagit County Dairy Herd Improvement Association (DHIA).

Local Administrative Area#4 (LAA#4):

**Milton R. (M.R.) Buffum, Jr.** – M.R. farms approximately 400 acres raising barley and grass hay. M. R. also has livestock including cows and pigs. M.R. has previously served as a member of the Area Committee.

**Katherine (Katie) Hover** – Katie and her husband operate Lacrover Farm, a 30 acre certified organic farm. They raise a variety of fruits and vegetables on 4 acres in addition to raising sheep, chickens for meat and eggs and hay. Katie is a member of the San Juan Island Grange as well as a member of the WA Tilth Association, a master gardener and a livestock advisor.

**Richard Cville**- Richard farms on 20 acres. He biointensively produces crops for farmers markets and other sales markets. He produces a variety of crops using double dug raised beds and has the capacity for winter crop production through green houses. Richard is involved with the local grange working with other farmers throughout the San Juan Islands.

**Final date to return completed ballots to the Skagit-Island-San Juan County FSA Office or postmarked is no later than Monday December 4, 2006.** Remember to sign your ballot. Ballots will be tabulated on Thursday, December 7, 2005 beginning at 10 a.m. at the USDA Service Center in Mount Vernon. The meeting is open to the public and anyone interested in observing the election process is invited to attend.

## e-AUTHENTICATION FOR USDA ONLINE

Complete your registration to conduct 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 the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP), apply for Loan Deficiency Payments (eLDP), fill out and submit many forms electronically. The e-authentication process is secure, safe and easy. For more information contact the office.



**FARM RECONSTITUTIONS**

Any land divisions or additions on your farm impacts your acreage bases. For program purposes, FSA adheres to a landowner designation of dividing bases in the manner agreed to by the parent farm owner and purchaser or transferee. This method of dividing the bases may be used when any part of a farm or tract is sold or ownership is transferred, an entire tract or farm is sold to two or more persons, or farm or tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. The land sold or transferred must have been owned for at least three years unless the County Committee approves a waiver of this requirement.

**PAYMENT LIMITATION AND ELIGIBILITY**

Producers participating in certain Farm Service Agency programs are subject to limitations on the total annual payments that can be received per "person." The maximum amounts a "person" can receive per year are:

Direct payments	\$40,000
Counter-Cyclical payments and Trade Adjustment Assistance payments (TAA)	\$65,000
Tree Assistance Program (TAP) payments, Loan Deficiency payments (LDP) and market loan gains, including wool, mohair, and honey	\$75,000
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)	\$50,000
Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) Cost shares	\$450,000 (for the life of the contract)
Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP)	\$100,000
Crop Disaster Program (CDP)	\$80,000

Under the 2002 Farm Bill, producers are ineligible for certain FSA program payments and benefits if their adjusted gross income (AGI) is in excess of \$2.5 million; unless, 75 percent of the AGI is from farming, ranching or forestry operations. This is based on an average of the 3 previous years' tax returns. AGI is effective through 2007. Entities and all ownership members must certify individually on form CCC-526 before payments can be issued.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR OWNERSHIP**

Please notify your local FSA office of all deaths, land ownership and address changes as soon as possible so your farm records can be updated timely. A copy of the applicable recorded deed should be provided to complete the land ownership changes.



**SIGNATURE AUTHORITY FOR SPOUSES**

Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) programs in which either has an interest unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office. A spouse may not, however, sign a Power of Attorney on behalf of the spouse, nor may they sign on behalf of the other as an authorized signatory for entities. Spouses must also have Powers of Attorney on file to sign for claim settlements such as promissory notes.

