



September 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, Vice-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

Tuesday October 24, 2006  
8:30 AM in the USDA  
Conference Room.

### IMPORTANT DATES:

**MILCX** – Changes to start month for 2007 MILCX contracts must be submitted by the 14<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the month you wish to start.

**Sept 30**–Deadline to obtain NAP coverage for perennial grazing & forage crops and mint.

**Sept 30** – Final date to enroll in 2006 DCP.

**October 9** – Office closed in observance of Columbus 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>



### STATE FSA DIRECTOR GOES TO WASHINGTON DC

Former State Executive Director of the Farm Service Agency, James Fitzgerald has accepted a position as chief of staff with the Rural Development Agency (RD) in Washington DC. District Director Robert Nordstrom, from Yakima has been appointed as Acting State Director and will serve in that position until a replacement for Mr. Fitzgerald has been announced.

### COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The nomination period for the 2007 County Committee Elections closed on August 1. The candidates for these elections for the Skagit-Island-San Juan Area Committee are:

Local Administrative Area #1 (LAA#1) – Skagit County west of I-5 and north of Hwy 20:

**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) – San Juan County:

**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 Civile**- 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.

The election will take place by mail-in ballot from November 18<sup>th</sup> through December 4<sup>th</sup>. The ballots will be counted at 2021 E. College Way, Suite 212, Mount Vernon, WA 98273 at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 7, 2006. Thank you to those who have been nominated and have stated their willingness to serve on the County Committee.

### SECRETARIAL DESIGNATION FOR DROUGHT

Agricultural producers who suffered 30 percent or more crop loss due to adverse weather conditions since April 1, 2006 now may be eligible for federal financial assistance. The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently designated Adams, Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Franklin, Grant, Lincoln, Okanogan, Spokane, Walla Walla, Whitman and Yakima counties as primary agricultural disaster areas making low interest emergency loans available in these counties and surrounding counties. Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Garfield, King, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lewis, Pend Oreille, Pierce, Skagit, Skamania, Snohomish, Stevens and Whatcom counties were named as contiguous counties, allowing producers in those counties to participate in the disaster relief program.

Under the Emergency Loan program, affected producers are eligible for emergency loans at 3.75 percent interest to repair or rebuild farm buildings or machinery, clear debris from fields so they can be replanted, or replace harvested crops that were lost. Loan amounts are for actual losses. Payment terms are up to 40 years with real estate security. The following requirements must be met to receive assistance:

- Unable to obtain credit elsewhere to finance needs at reasonable rates and terms
- A US citizen or aliens legally admitted for permanent residence
- An established farmer
- The farm must be family-sized.
- Suffered an agricultural loss in a designated or a contiguous county

FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of loss, security available and repayment ability. FSA is accepting loan applications in county offices through May 1, 2007. Interested farmers may contact the Whatcom County FSA Office at (360) 354-5658 for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for Emergency Loans and other programs. Additional information is also available online at: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov/fsa.asp>.

### DIRECT AND COUNTER-CYCLICAL PROGRAM (DCP) ENROLLMENT

Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment continues. Farms with DCP base may continue to enroll for crop year 2006 through September 30<sup>th</sup> with an administrative fee of \$100 per farm. If you missed the initial enrollment deadline date of June 1<sup>st</sup> or you've obtained additional leased land with DCP base you have the opportunity to enroll the farm in the DCP program. Contact the office for more information.

### MILK INCOME LOSS CONTRACT PROGRAM-EXTENDED (MILCX)

**\*\*DAIRY PRODUCER REMINDER\*\*:** Dairy producers are reminded that if a start month has not been selected for crop year 2007, the month elected for crop year 2006 will be automatically updated for 2007. In order to change the start month for crop year 2007, producers will need to come into the office prior to the 14<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the elected start month. (Example: A producer wants to start in November. He will need to come into the office by October 14 to complete the election.) Contact the office for more information.

### THE 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
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

### 2006 GRAIN LOANS AND LOAN DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS (LDP'S)

All wheat, corn, barley, oats and grain sorghum are eligible for price support benefits for 2006.

**LOANS** –Regular 9 month loans on warehouse or farm stored grain at a reasonable interest rate can provide an excellent marketing tool for producers who wish to hold their grain for sale at a later date. The loan can be repaid at any time, and the repayment will be the lesser of the Posted County Price (PCP) or principal plus interest. The grain may be “forfeited” to FSA at loan maturity instead of repaying the loan principal and interest.

2006 Price Support Rates are as follows:

County	Wheat (SWW)/bu.	Corn/bu., grain	Barley/bu.	Oats/bu.	Mustard	Wool/lb
Skagit	3.05	2.42	2.09	1.28	7.93	.38
Island	3.00	2.42	2.10	1.28	7.88	.38
San Juan	3.00	2.36	2.09	1.28	1.83	.38

**LDP'S** – A Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) is not a loan. It is a price support payment. LDP's can be made when the Posted County Price (PCP) falls below the county loan rate. There is a \$75,000 per person LDP payment limitation. Producers can check the LDP rates daily on the internet at the following address: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/psd/ldp/>

Producers must make an application for LDP's on form CCC-633EZ. The CCC-633EZ is a two-part form. By signing page 1 of the form before losing beneficial interest in the crop you maintain your eligibility for LDP benefits. Page 1 of the form only needs to be signed one time each crop year and covers all crops eligible for an LDP. Page 2 of the CCC-633EZ form is filed when you are making your request for an LDP. Page 2 must be submitted before the crop is sold to “lock-in” an LDP rate for a specific date. If page 2 is submitted after the grain is sold the LDP rate will be the rate in effect in the “administrative county” on the date title to the crop passed.

**eLDP's**- Producers also have the ability to complete their LDP's online on the internet with an eLDP. eLDP's are available to producers who have established a “Level 2” internet user account with USDA. In addition, the County FSA Office must establish an LDP “customer profile” before the online eLDP application is made. To start the process, complete your online program registration by accessing <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov>. This will allow you to access your personal payment information, enroll in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP), apply for LDP payments and other programs. Call the office for more information regarding “on-line” program availability or visit FSA's Website at: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

### ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP)

Farmers are now encouraged to sign up for the 2007 Environmental Quality Incentive Program. The program provides funding for resource protection activities on private farms and forestland. To be considered for the 2007 program year, applications must be received by November 15th, 2006. Application can be made at your local Natural Resources Conservation Service 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.

“The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotapes, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”