



North Puget Sound Area's Farm Service Agency

Snohomish/N King - Clallam/Jefferson Counties
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Office Staff

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Farm Loan Staff

Mark Turner (360) 354-5658 ext 2

Office Hours

Weekdays/ 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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Dates to Remember

- 3/17 NAP signup ends for spring planted crops
- 3/18 COC meeting, 10:00 am
- 4/16 COC mtg, Port Hadlock
- 5/26 Memorial Day/Office Closed

2008 County Committee:

Meetings scheduled for 3rd Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m.

Kirk Salvatore	Chair
Kjell Stangeland	V Chair
Troy Smith	Member
Jason Roetcisoender	Member
Andy Werkhoven	Member
Fong Cha	Advisor
Linda Neunzig	Advisor

Websites:

National USDA
<http://www.usda.gov>

National FSA
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA>

Washington State FSA
<http://www.usda.gov/wa>



2008 FSA COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

Elections for the North Puget Sound Area resulted in Andy Werkhoven, dairy farmer from Monroe, being elected to the South Snohomish area. Ed Stocker will serve as 1st alternate. Congratulations go to our newest member, Andy. We also have two returning advisors, Fong Cha, a produce and flower grower from Carnation, and Linda Neunzig from Arlington, a meat and produce grower specializing in direct marketing.



DISASTER PROGRAM SIGN-UP IS UNDERWAY

Sign-up for the **Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)**, **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)**, and **Crop Disaster Program (CDP)** are currently underway. Town Hall meetings were held in Monroe and Silvana last month to explain program parameters.

The **LCP** will compensate producers for feed losses due to eligible disaster conditions such as the November 2006 flood, severe winter storms in December 2006, or the severe storms occurring throughout 2007.

LIP covers livestock losses due to the same eligible weather conditions. Adult dairy animals will be paid at a rate of \$27.72/head, beef at \$10.66/head.

CDP is available to any producer covered by RMA crop insurance, FSA's NAP, or any similar program that experienced at least a 35% loss of expected production. Payment rates are equal to the market rate for a crop times 42%, times the percent of loss of production.

Producers are reminded that program eligibility states all supporting documentation **must** be submitted at the same time as the application.

Information will be forthcoming regarding the Dairy Disaster Assistance Program (DDAP III), which will compensate producers for production losses due to eligible disaster events.

Call (425) 334-3131 ext 2 for additional information, or an appointment.



CROP COVERAGE DEADLINE

The sales closing date for **Spring Planted Crops** including seed crops and cut flowers is **March 17, 2008**. For producers planting these uninsurable crops, **NAP** coverage is available at the FSA office for **\$100** per crop to a maximum of **\$300** for all crops in one county; or for multi-county producers, up to a maximum of **\$900** for all crops grown in all counties. **Spring planted crops** including spring planted **vegetable seed crops** and summer planted **buckwheat** have a final sales closing date of **March 17, 2008**.



EMERGENCY LOANS are available to commercial agriculture producers who cannot obtain credit from the private sector, at normal rates or terms. The current loan rate is 3.75% fixed, and can be used to restore or replace essential property, pay essential living expenses, reorganize the farming operation, or refinance certain existing debt. Emergency loans are considered temporary, and borrowers are reviewed periodically to determine eligibility for a return to commercial credit in the private sector.

FSA also offers direct operating loans, farm ownership loans, guaranteed loans, and youth loans for those children 10 to 20 years of age. Contact Mark Turner at (360) 354-5658 for additional loan information.



REMINDERS:

- **Direct deposit** information must be updated if you have recently changed banks or accounts
- **Contact this office (contact information on front side)** if you've recently changed your farming operation, or if you are no longer interested in receiving this newsletter.
- **Signup is ongoing for the following programs:**
 - ★ Conservation Reserve Enhancement
 - ★ Conservation Reserve-Continuous Signup
 - ★ Farm Storage Facility Loan



POWER OF ATTORNEY (POA)

A properly completed form FSA-211 provides permission for another person to sign on your behalf for most FSA programs. This form remains in effect until written revocation is provided to the county office. Separate forms must be on file when signing authority is granted for an individual and an entity such as a Corporation, LLC, or other legal entity.

FOREIGN INVESTORS

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (AFIDA) requires foreign investors who acquire, sell, or transfer title in any manner, to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the transaction. Form FSA-153 is available at any FSA office. Failure to timely report transactions may result in a fine of up to 25% of the property's fair market value.

PAYMENT LIMITATION

Payment eligibility and limitation provisions apply to all FSA producers. To be eligible for FSA benefits, a producer must be determined "Actively Engaged in Farming", and meet the definition of a "Person". Producers requesting program benefits must file all required forms before receiving payment. All filings are subject to spot check. Producers wishing to update payment limitation information must do so by April 1 of each year. Annual payment limitations for the following programs are:

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP/CREP)	\$ 50,000
Loan Deficiency Payments/Market Gains (LDP's)	75,000
Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)	100,000

SPOUSAL SIGNATURES

Most FSA programs provide that husbands and wives may sign for each other unless such authority has been denied in writing and the denial has been provided to the county office. Exceptions to this provision are Farm Loan Program documents, easements, and claim settlements.



SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS will be provided upon request for those persons with a physical handicap, vision or hearing impairment. Please contact David Unruh at 425-334-3131 ext 104 for assistance.

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or familial status. (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, Room 326-W Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Ave. SW, Washington D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.