



North Puget Sound Area's Farm Service Agency

Snohomish/N King - Clallam/Jefferson Counties
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March, 2007

Office Staff

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Farm Loan Staff

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Office Hours

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

E-mail us at:

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Dates to Remember

- 3/15- NAP signup ends for spring planted crops
- 3/20- COC meeting, 10:00 am
- 4/17- COC mtg, Port Hadlock
- 5/28- Memorial Day/Office Closed
- 6/1- DCP signup ends

2007 County Committee:

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

Andy Hofstra-	Chair
Kirk Salvatore-	V Chair
Kjell Stangeland-	Member
Troy Smith-	Member
Jason Roetcisoender-	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.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/stateoffapp?mystate=wa&area=home&subject=landing&topic=landing>



2007 FSA COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

Elections for the North Puget Sound Area resulted in both incumbents being re-elected for 3 year terms: Kjell Stangeland for LAA 1, North Snohomish County, is a dairy farmer in Stanwood, Alternate is Wayne Ottem. Kirk Salvatore for LAA 5, Jefferson County, is a beef rancher, Alternate, Patrick Yarr. Congratulations go to both candidates! We also have two new advisors', and welcome Fong Cha, a produce and flower grower from Carnation, and Linda Neunzig, a meat and produce grower & vendor from Arlington, to the organization.



2007 DCP SIGNUP CONTINUES

Signup for the 2007 program is ongoing through June 1, 2007. A 22% advance of the annual payment is available at signup, with the balance to be paid in October 2007.

Direct payments are issued regardless of market prices at the following rates:
Wheat \$0.52/bu Barley \$0.24/bu Oats \$0.024/bu Corn \$0.28/bu

Those producers operating farms with any of these bases established under the program should call for an appointment.

Please contact the office immediately if your farming operation has changed, such as land bought or sold, lease expired or new lease so records can be updated in a timely manner.



CROP COVERAGE DEADLINE

The sales closing date for **Spring Planted Crops** including seed crops and flowers is **March 15, 2007**. 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 15, 2007**.



Improper Payment Reviews are ongoing at this time. Each producer earning a program benefit must meet all criteria prior to having a payment issued. Although you might have completed these forms in the last year or two, if new ones are sent to you they must be completed correctly and returned to the county office before any payment can be issued. Call the phone number listed above with any questions.

EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM (ECP) SIGN-UP BEGINS APRIL 2, 2007

The Emergency Conservation Program due to **November 2006 flooding** has been approved for Snohomish and North King Counties. Farms and ranches suffering severe damage may be eligible for assistance under the ECP. Eligible land must have damage that 1) is so costly to rehabilitate that Federal assistance is or will be needed to return the land to productive agriculture use; 2) affected the productive capacity of the land, or; 3) will impair or endanger the land; 4) is unusual and is not the type that would recur frequently in the same area. A producer qualifying for assistance may receive cost-share to a level of 75% of eligible costs of restoration measures. No producer is eligible for more than \$200,000 cost-share per natural disaster occurrence. Eligible practices include debris removal; grading, shaping, or similar measures; restoration of permanent fencing; and, restoration of conservation structures. Producers who have suffered a loss due to flooding may contact the local FSA office and request assistance from **April 2 – April 20, 2007**. Currently, funding is not available; however, it has been requested. All applications received will be prioritized by the County Committee and if funding is received, it will be allocated in the order of priority. **Please note:** Practices must not be started until an application for assistance has been filed **and** a COC representative has conducted an on-site inspection. Producers who have already filed an application need not take additional action.

CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP)

CREP is an ongoing program designed to establish and/or improve salmon and wildlife habitat, by providing landowners an annual payment of at least 2 times the soil rental rate for those enrolled areas adjacent to eligible streams. 50% cost share is available for site prep and planting. A signing bonus is equal to \$10 per acre for every full year up to 10 years covered under the contract. Once the site is planted, a payment equal to 40% of eligible installation costs is paid by USDA.

The **Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP)** is a program that can be used in conjunction with CREP to enhance an area adjacent to the CREP site, but not physically located on the stream. Contact your local FSA or Conservation District for more information about these programs.



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
 - ★ Direct and Counter-cyclical Program through June 1, 2007

2007 THIRD ANNUAL WOMEN & AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE

The 3rd Annual Statewide Women & Agriculture Conference, Cultivating Our Reality, will be held on **March 23 - 24** in East Wenatchee, Washington. The conference is being conducted by Washington State University Extension to give women the tools and information they need to help their family farm operations and agribusinesses succeed. The conference begins with a social and networking event on Friday evening followed by a full-day of featured speakers and workshop sessions on Saturday. For conference program and registration information, visit the web site <http://www.ncw.wsu.edu/> and click on Women & Agriculture Conference. The cost is \$20.00.

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.

DESIGNATION BY LANDOWNER - METHOD OF DIVISION FOR FARM RECONSTITUTION'S

When land is sold or transferred, it must have been owned for at least 3 years in order for the contract acreage on the farm to be split using the "designation by landowner" method for reconstitution purposes. The owner must sign a written memorandum of understanding designating the division of contract acres. In some cases, the county office can waive the 3-year ownership requirement. Contact the local FSA office for more information regarding this provision.

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 physical handicap, or 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.