



North Puget Sound Area's Farm Service Agency

Snohomish/N King - Clallam/Jefferson Counties
528 91st Ave NE Ste B Lake Stevens WA 98258-2538
Ph (425) 334-3131 ext 2 Fax (425) 335-5024
May, 2007

Office Staff

David A Unruh, CED
Holly Hedblom, PT
Naomi Devlin, PT

Farm Loan Staff

Mark Turner (360) 354-5658 ext 2

Office Hours

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

E-mail us at:

david.unruh@wa.usda.gov
holly.hedblom@wa.usda.gov
naomi.devlin@wa.usda.gov

Dates to Remember

5/28- Memorial Day/Office Closed
6/12- COC meeting
6/30- Acreage Reporting deadline
7/4- Independence Day/Office Closed

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.usda.gov/fsa>



annual payment of at least 2 times the soil rental rate for those enrolled areas adjacent to eligible streams. Cost share to a level of 50% 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 are 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.



SEEKING NOMINATIONS

The County Committee holds elections annually, in at least one service area on a rotating basis. This years' election will be held for **Local Administrative Area (LAA) 2, South Snohomish County**, which includes Everett, Edmonds, Mukilteo, Lynnwood, Snohomish, Maltby, Monroe, and Sultan. **Nominations close August 1, 2007.** Contact the county office to obtain a nomination form. To hold office as a COC member or alternate, a person must:

- Be eligible to vote as an individual in the LAA in which (s)he is a candidate
- Be of legal voting age

If a person does not reside in the LAA in which they are a COC candidate, both of the following must apply:

- The person running for office resides in the county
- The person has farming interests in the LAA in which (s)he is a candidate

ACREAGE REPORTS

The acreage reporting deadline is **June 30 of each year**, however those producers who do not grow fruits and vegetables (FAV's) and only have grass for hay, idle ground, wheat, corn silage, etc, are encouraged to report early.

Acreage reports are a mandatory requirement for the following programs, and producers who fail to timely file, could incur late filed penalty fees and possibly jeopardize receipt of an annual payment:

- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program & Continuous CRP
- Direct and Counter-cyclical Program
- Loan Deficiency Payment Program
- Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program

2007 DCP SIGNUP CONTINUES

Signup for the 2007 program has been extended through **August 3rd, 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.

NON-INSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE COVERAGE DEADLINE

The sales closing date for **Fall Planted Crops** including Fall Planted Seed Crops, Value Loss Crops, Aquaculture, Christmas Trees, Ornamental Nursery, Turfgrass Sod, and Floriculture is **August 31, 2007**. Producers planting these uninsurable crops can obtain **NAP** coverage 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. Payment rates are based on 55% of the average market price for the crop, after receiving a qualifying loss exceeding 50% of the average yield.



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. Cost share to a level of 50% 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 are 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.

The other LAA's administered from the North Puget Sound Area office are North Snohomish County (includes Stanwood, Silvana, Arlington, Darrington, Marysville, Tulalip, Granite Falls, and Lake Stevens), North King County (includes everything north of I-90), Clallam County (all inclusive), and Jefferson County (all inclusive).

EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM (ECP)

The Emergency Conservation Program due to **November 2006 flooding** was approved for Snohomish and North King Counties. The application closing period ended April 20th. Currently the FSA Committee is reviewing the submitted applications for funding. Eligible practices include debris removal; grading, shaping, or similar measures; restoration of permanent fencing; and, restoration of conservation structures. All applications received will be prioritized by the County Committee and those applicants approved will receive a letter stating their approved level of assistance.

Producers who are approved for funding are required to submit detailed receipts, accounts of time spent, and all associated documents to the county office as soon as the work is completed.

PLASTICS RECYCLING EVENTS

Bring your dry, relatively clean materials to one of these events:

June 9	9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Livestock Auction Barn	15714 Smokey Point Blvd, Marysville
June 9	3:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Skagit Farmers Supply	8815 272 nd St NW, Stanwood
June 10	9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Evergreen St Fairgrounds	14405 179 th Ave SE, Monroe

Baling twine – remove loose dirt and straw, pack loosely in large bag, store in dry location

Nursery pots & trays – brush off loose dirt, sort by number on bottom, sort unnumbered pots separately

Hay bale covers – shake off dirt, fold in dense bundles of @ 25lbs or less, tie with a strip of plastic cut from bale cover itself (don't mix plastics), keep plastic dry

Events are sponsored by Snohomish County, Snohomish Conservation District, RE Sources for Sustainable Communities, Silverdale Recycling Ltd and WSU Cooperative Extension.

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.

DESIGNATION BY LANDOWNER METHOD

There are several options available to landowners and operators when a farm reconstitution must take place. One option available states that 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.

ONLINE PROGRAM AVAILABILITY

USDA is committed to making program information easily accessible to the general farming community and has a website available. Go to www.fsa.usda.gov to find out how to register for an e-authentication account. Once signed up, you can access program participation information, payment history, and retrieve necessary forms. Contact your local FSA for additional information.



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.



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, thru Aug 3, 2007

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.