



# North Puget Sound Area's Farm Service Agency

Snohomish/N King - Clallam/Jefferson Counties  
528 91<sup>st</sup> Ave NE Ste B Everett WA 98205  
Ph (425) 334-3131 ext 2 Fax (425) 335-5024  
November, 2006

### Office Staff

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

### Office Hours

Weekdays/ 8:00 - 4:30

### E-mail us at:

[david.unruh@wa.usda.gov](mailto:david.unruh@wa.usda.gov)  
[holly.hedblom@wa.usda.gov](mailto:holly.hedblom@wa.usda.gov)  
[naomi.devlin@wa.usda.gov](mailto:naomi.devlin@wa.usda.gov)

### Dates to Remember

11/10- Office Closed/Veteran's Day  
11/20- Sales Closing Date/Perennial Crops  
11/23- Office Closed/ Thanksgiving  
12/11- COC Elections/Count Ballots  
12/25- Office Closed/Christmas

### 2006 County Committee:

Meetings scheduled for 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed of each month at 10:00 a.m.

Andy Hofstra- Chair  
Kirk Salvatore- V Chair  
Kjell Stangeland- Member  
Troy Smith- Member  
Jason Roetcisoender- Member  
Joan McIntyre- 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/stateofwapp?mystate=wa&area=home&subject=landing&topic=landing>



### 2006 FSA COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

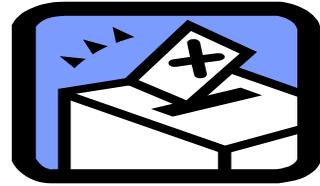
Official Ballots were recently mailed to eligible voters in Local Administrative Area's (LAA's) **1-(North Snohomish Co)** and **5-(Jefferson Co)**. Watch your mailbox. Please remember that the last day to return your ballot or have it postmarked is **December 4, 2006**.

If you receive a ballot in error, or if you should have received one and did not please contact the County Office at your earliest convenience.

Candidates are:

**LAA 1 – North Snohomish County**  
**Kjell Stangeland**

**LAA 5 – Jefferson County**  
**Kirk Salvatore**



### 2007 DIRECT AND COUNTER-CYCLICAL PROGRAM

Signup for the 2007 program began on October 2, 2006 and will continue 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.

### MILK INCOME LOSS CONTRACT (MILCX)

Program participants are reminded that all changes to production start month must be in the county office by the **14<sup>th</sup> of the month** prior to the month they wish to receive a payment. I.e.: If Joe Farmer previously received payments in March, and now wants to change the start date to January, the request must be received in writing by December 14<sup>th</sup> to be effective for the current year.

If the start date changes from March to April, the request must be received by February 14<sup>th</sup>. The start date for Fiscal 2007 will also remain the same as 2006 unless a change is submitted to the county office by the 14<sup>th</sup> of the applicable month.



### CROP COVERAGE DEADLINE

The sales closing date for **perennial crops** (berries) and **honey** is **November 20, 2006**. 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**.



### DIRECT DEPOSIT

Don't let your payments get lost! Have you changed banks and/or account information recently? Remember that most payments are issued electronically. If we are not notified that your bank information has changed, your payment will be rejected by the bank and delayed until we receive the correct information! Also, if you receive payments by paper check and your address has changed, we must be notified.

*Happy*



*Thanksgiving*

### CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP)

CREP is an ongoing program designed to establish and/or improve salmon and other 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.



### 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" or "Entity". 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 are as follows:

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP/CREP)	\$	50,000
Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP)		
Direct Payments		40,000
Counter-cyclical Payments		65,000
Loan Deficiency Payments/Market Gains (LDP's)		75,000
Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)		100,000

### GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS) and COMPLIANCE

The Farm Service Agency has entered the 21<sup>st</sup> century with a new GIS. In the past, compliance spot checks were completed with aerial slides. Starting with the 2006 crop year, our GIS will be utilized to check reported acres. This new system will also give us a nearly 'real time' snapshot of how you actually plant your crops. Throughout the next few months we will be scheduling appointments with farmers to come to the office and update farm records. This will include looking at our old (1990) aerial photographs and the new GIS photos to determine whether we have correct field, tract, and farm boundaries.



### 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](http://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.

