



# WHATCOM COUNTY FSA NEWS

April 2007

## Direct & Counter-Cyclical Program

The sign-up deadline for the 2007 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program has been extended until August 3, 2007.

The decision to extend the deadline was made as a result of workload issues impacting DCP enrollments. Enrollment in DCP for the 2007 contract period began on October 1, 2006 and was scheduled to end on June 1, 2007.

The extension applies only to the enrollment time frame, and does not extend the annual DCP contract period beyond September 30, 2007. A late-file fee of \$100 will only be assessed for farms that are enrolled after August 3, 2007 and before September 30, 2007. Applications signed after September 30, 2007 cannot be approved.

Advance payments have been reduced to 22%; all other program details remain unchanged from previous years.

Erosion and weeds are required to be controlled on DCP acreage. Wild rice, fruits and vegetables (FAV), with certain exceptions, are restricted from DCP acreage. For additional details about payments and planting limitations, contact the county office. **Please call to set up an appointment for signup.**

## Signature Authority

Signature authority is required to be on file in the County Office before accepting a signature on any program on behalf of another. When signing in a representative capacity for a husband or wife, DBA, Corporation, LLC, Trust or Estate an indicator such as “**by**” or “**for**” should precede the signature.

## Acreage Reporting

June 30<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for acreage reporting. However, we encourage producer's of perennial crops to report acreage as early as possible before the signup deadline. Please call to set up an appointment.

Farms participating in NAP, CREP, DCP and those requesting LDPs' are required to report all cropland on the farm to be eligible for benefits.

Prevented planted acreage is required to be submitted no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date for the applicable crop.

## Farm Record Changes

If you've not already done so, this is the time of year to report any farming changes. Updated information will help to eliminate potential errors at time of DCP signup and Acreage Reporting. Completing record changes in our office is a process, and the sooner we are able to make the changes, the sooner we can expedite the sign up process.

## Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP)

Remember to report any crop losses or damage during the 2007 crop year to FSA within 15 calendar days after the disaster or date damage to the crop becomes apparent.

### Office Information

6975 Hannegan Rd.  
Lynden, WA 98264-  
Phone (360) 354-5658  
Fax (360) 354-4678

### Office Hours

Monday – Friday  
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

### County Committee

Ed Strachila, Chair  
Debbie Smit, Member  
Dan Noteboom, Member  
Satpaul Neger, Advisor

### Farm Program Staff

Betty Snell, Acting CED  
Darcy Maldonado, PT

Email:

betty.snell@wa.usda.gov  
darcy.maldonado@  
wa.usda.gov

### Farm Loan Staff

Mark Turner, FLM  
Arlene Noteboom, FL Tech

Email:

mark.turner@wa.usda.gov  
arlene.noteboom@  
wa.usda.gov

### USDA Website

<http://www.usda.gov>

### FSA Website

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

### State FSA Website

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa/>

### Next FSA Committee Meetings

April 18, 2007	9:00 AM
May 23, 2007	9:00 AM

### Important Dates

Office Closed May 28<sup>th</sup> for  
Memorial Day

June 30<sup>th</sup>  
Acreage reporting deadline

August 3rd DCP sign up  
deadline

### Handicapped

**Accommodations:** Special accommodations will be arranged for those persons with a physical, vision, or hearing impaired disability. If special accommodations are needed, please contact our office.

## Emergency Loans

A Presidential disaster designation for 19 counties in Washington has made low-interest emergency loans possible for agricultural producers in the state.

The designation was due to damage and losses caused by severe winter storms, landslides and mudslides which occurred on December 14 and 15, 2006.

Family farmers who suffered 30 percent or more losses in the designated areas may qualify for Farm Service Agency emergency loans with 3.75% interest and payment terms up to 40 years with real estate security. Loans based on losses to foundation livestock or chattels can have up to 20-year terms. FSA is accepting loan applications in county offices through October 15, 2007.

The federal government does not intend to compete with private business, so applicants must be unable to obtain credit elsewhere to finance their needs at reasonable rates and terms. Applicants must be United States citizens or aliens legally admitted for permanent residence, must be established farmers and must have suffered an agricultural loss in a designated or a contiguous county. An applicant's farm must be family-sized. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. FSA has a variety of programs available, in addition to the emergency loan program, to help eligible farmers recover from adversity. For more loan information call Mark Turner @ 354-5658 ext 106.

## Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)

To be eligible for benefits in the DCP, CREP, LDP and CDP programs producers are required to have an approved AGI form on file for entities and individuals. An individual or entity shall not be eligible to receive certain benefits during a crop, program, or fiscal year if both of the following apply:

- The average AGI of the individual or entity exceeds 2.5 million
- Less than 75 percent of the average AGI is derived from farming, ranching or forestry operations.