



# WHATCOM COUNTY FSA NEWS

June 2007

## 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

Rupert Butler, CED  
Darcy Maldonado, PT  
Betty Snell, PT  
Beatrice Cochran, PT

Email:

rupert.butler@wa.usda.gov  
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

July 18, 2007 9:00 AM

## Important Dates

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

Office Closed July 4th for  
Independence Day

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.

## County Executive Director

We're pleased to announce Rupert Butler as the newly hired CED for Whatcom County. Rupert will be leaving his position as CED in Butte County, California. He and his wife are looking forward to moving to the Lynden area. Rupert will be reporting to work June 25<sup>th</sup>.

## Temporary Program Technician

Beatrice Cochran, a Lynden resident, has been hired to provide our office with some much needed temporary office help. Her start date was June 11<sup>th</sup>. We're looking forward to working with both Beatrice and Rupert and hope to bring better service to our producers as a result of their contribution to the Agency.

## County Committee Election

Nominations are currently being accepted for producers who wish to serve on the Whatcom County FSA Committee for a three year term. This year's elected committee member would represent producers in Local Administrative Area (LAA) #3. Ed Strachila is currently serving as the representative for this area. LAA #3 is the area lying east of the Trapline/Mission Rd. to Mt. Baker Hwy, from Mt. Baker Hwy East and southwest to Hwy I-5. Please feel free to call the County Office for a more detailed description or a copy of the LAA map.

The deadline for nominations is **August 1, 2007**. Completed nomination forms are to be submitted to the county FSA office and should be returned, delivered, or postmarked no later than August 1, 2007.

## Crop Acreage Reporting

June 30<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for crop acreage reporting. Appointment letters have been sent out; if you have missed your appointment or if you did not receive an appointment letter by June 15<sup>th</sup>, please call our office to schedule an appointment. Acreage reports after the June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline will be assessed late fees to cover added administrative costs and field visits.

## Direct & Counter-Cyclical Program

Direct and Counter-cyclical Program contracts need to be submitted by the August 3, 2007 deadline. Late filed contracts will be accepted through September 30, 2007 and will be subject to \$100 late fee per contract.

Owner signatures are not required if a written cash lease or cash rent certification statement are provided. This year we are providing producers with a new form (CCC-510) for cash rent certification. You may use this form if you cash leased the same farm in the previous fiscal year and were designated to receive payment. The ownership must be the same as the previous year. Choosing this option will delay any requested advance payments until July 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Signature Authority

Signature authority is required for all signatures on FSA forms. 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.

## **NON INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)**

Producers enrolled in 2006 NAP must provide production evidence by the June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline. The majority of enrollees have already submitted production records, but there is still a small percentage that have not. Failure to provide production evidence could result in a 0 yield which would lower the average production history and could have a negative affect on potential payments.

Producers with NAP coverage are reminded that a written notice of loss for NAP crops must be filed within 15 calendar days after the weather related disaster occurrence, or the date damage to the specific crop becomes apparent to you. If you plan to abandon or destroy the crop, or change your harvest intentions, you must first contact our office to request an appraisal to assure your benefits are not jeopardized.

## **AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE ACT of 2007**

On May 25, 2007, President Bush signed into law the "U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007" (2007 Act).

The 2007 Act provides approximately \$3 billion in agricultural disaster aid for America's farmers and ranchers. The aid will cover crop losses, livestock and feed losses, emergency conservation practices and dairy losses. The Act also extends the Emergency Forestry Conservation Reserve Program (EFCRP) and the Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program.

### **You are eligible for this new disaster aid if:**

- Your county was declared a disaster area by the President or Secretary of Agriculture for disasters occurring between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007 (livestock).
- You experienced a loss of 35 percent or greater. (crops)
- You had crop insurance or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). (crops)

**\*There is no sign up at this time\***. Our office will notify you when enrollment for Disaster Aid begins. For more information, a fact sheet is available on the FSA website or may be picked up at our office.