



WHATCOM COUNTY FSA NEWS

May 2007

Office Information

6975 Hannegan Rd.
Lynden, WA 98264-
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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

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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

May 23, 2007	9:00 AM
June 20, 2007 (Tentative)	9:00 AM

Important Dates

Office Closed May 28th for
Memorial Day

June 30th
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

Farm Record Changes

If you've not already done so, please contact our office to report farming changes from last year. That includes selling or purchasing land or any changes in land operations. Have you changed from a sole proprietor to a Corporation or LLC? We require documentation showing members and their shares.

Acreage Reporting

June 30th is the deadline for acreage reporting. We've begun to schedule appointments. For acreage reporting information, we will need the amount of acres and the date the crop was planted.

Appointments will take longer this year as we will be reviewing payment eligibility documents for necessary updates and enrolling DCP contracts.

If you do not receive an appointment letter in the mail by June 15th, please call our office to schedule an appointment.

Direct & Counter-Cyclical Program

The sign-up deadline for the 2007 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program has been extended until August 3, 2007. Owner/Operator signatures are required on contracts unless we have a cash lease or cash rent certification on file.

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.

Contracts can be issued at time of acreage reporting, may be mailed upon request or a separate appointment can be scheduled for enrollment.

Value-Added Producer Grant Program

If you are an agricultural producer or if you know of an agricultural producer(s) who could benefit from adding value to your/their product, please help us in sharing the news of funding available to assist with planning activities or working capital to enter into a new market or expand an existing value-added market for your/their product(s). The maximum grant award for planning activities this year is \$100,000 and for working capital it is \$300,000. Applications must be postmarked by May 16th to be eligible for this year's funding. \$19.3 million is available through the national competition. There is a 50% match requirement to be eligible for the funding.

The application guide and reference materials may be obtained at:

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/vadg.htm>

The actual NOSA can be read at:

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/E7-7110.htm>

If you are interested in making application for the program, please contact the USDA Rural Development office serving your area to discuss your project and for further assistance:

Northwest- Sharon Exley, Mount Vernon Area Office 360-428-4322, Ext. 159

Assigning Program Payments to Third-parties

When producers request such a service, FSA will issue all or portion of a producer's program payment to a third-party, such as a lender. This can save time and effort for a producer and any third-party with which the producer has an agreement. However, it is important that the producer and third-party communicate concerning any changes in operation that may affect the payment amount each receives. Privacy laws prevent FSA from reporting any changes to the third-party, or assignee.

FSA will make every attempt to pay the full amount designated by the producer on an assignment form. FSA will only pay the third-party to the extent the listed producer earns the payment. In situations where the assignee or the producer receives a portion of the other's payment, they are responsible for working together to resolve any differences.

If you would like to sign up for Assignment of Payment or would like more information on assigning program payments, contact the FSA office.

USDA 2007 Farm Bill Proposals Available

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently printed "America's Farm Bill 2007 – 2007 Farm Bill Proposals." The 183-page document provides in-depth details of 65 proposals put forth by the Administration for consideration by Congress. The proposals cover the ten titles of the Farm Bill: commodity operations, conservation, trade, nutrition programs, credit, rural development, research and related matters, forestry, energy and miscellaneous. If you would like a hardcopy of the proposals, you may contact the Farm Service Agency State Office at (509) 323-3000. The proposals and additional information may be found online at the Farm Bill link on the USDA website: <http://www.usda.gov>.

GIS Map Changes

Wetland delineations on maps have previously been identified by a blue dot on GIS maps. There's been much confusion over what the blue dot represents. A new wetland symbol and legend will be used to describe what the wetland determination is, whether it is prior converted, farmed wetland, wetland etc.

NAP Notice of Loss

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.