



News Release

Farm Service Agency
1606 Perry Street, Suite A
Yakima, WA 98902-5795
www.fsa.usda.gov/wa

Contact: Nathan D. Boguslawski
County Executive Director (CED)
Nathan.boguslawski@wa.usda.gov
(509) 454-5746 ext. 101

Farm Service Agency State Director Encourages Appointments for ARC/PLC Enrollment

Yakima, June 22, 2015 — Farmers who elected either the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) still have another step to complete participation in these new Farm Bill programs according to Farm Service Agency State Executive Director Judy Olson. Program enrollment runs through September 30, 2015 at county Farm Service Agency offices.

"These complex programs involved a number of steps: updating bases and yields, then electing a program. Enrollment is yet another step and some producers may think that once they elected the program they are done," said Olson. "They may soon be focused on harvest and not complete this necessary step before the deadline. September 30 is also the end of the government's fiscal year so missing the deadline could cause complications for producers who might be expecting a payment."

Olson encouraged farmers to make appointments to visit FSA offices before getting engrossed with harvest, or to make appointments now for when harvest is complete. "FSA county staff will be extremely busy all summer, helping producers enroll in the programs. Appointments will be necessary. If producers have had farm or lease changes, since election – the office visit could be lengthy."

Producers can expect to receive letters which will confirm program choices and base and yields. The Farm Service Agency has started the process of generating and sending the letter nationwide.

The new programs, established by the 2014 Farm Bill, trigger financial protections for agricultural producers when market forces cause substantial drops in crop prices or revenues. More than 10,000 producers in Washington elected ARC or PLC.

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Farmer and Rancher Representation Needed for Agricultural Committees

(Yakima, WA) June 24, 2015 – Farmers and ranchers in Yakima County have the chance to influence federal farm programs at the local level. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is seeking candidates for an upcoming farmer and rancher-elected county committee election. The Yakima FSA office will be accepting nominations through August 3, 2015.

“FSA county committee members supply the local voice of farmers and ranchers to the federal farm programs,” said Farm Service Agency County Executive Director Nathan D. Boguslawski. “They bring local knowledge of farming practices, prices and conditions to program implementation. The decisions they make can affect payments made to the area's farmers and ranchers.”

FSA encourages all interested agricultural producers, including women and minority growers, to seek nomination. Eligible candidates must participate or cooperate in any Farm Service Agency program and be of legal voting age. Boguslawski explained that even if farmers and ranchers are not currently participating in FSA programs, they are considered eligible to vote if they have farm records on file with the agency.

The Yakima County Committee draws its members from Local Administrative Areas (LAA). Nominated by local farmers and ranchers, candidates must live in the local administrative area they will represent and must be eligible to vote in the county election. Members serve on staggered three-year terms so that one-third of the seats is up for re-election each year.

This year's election takes place in LAA #1, which consists of farms located in the upper valley (north of the Rattlesnake Ridge), minus the land situated south of Ahtanum Creek. A map of FSA county committee election areas can be found on the agency's website <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>.

Elected county committee members receive an hourly wage for their attendance and representation at county committee meetings.

Boguslawski explained that the agency's elections will take place in the fall and newly elected committee members begin their terms January 1, 2016. FSA will send ballots to all eligible voters.

Additional information and nomination forms may be requested from the Yakima County Farm Service Agency office. Nomination forms may also be obtained online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>.

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