

December 2012



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## Churchill/NW Nye/Storey/Washoe Counties FSA Updates

DEAR PRODUCERS: Welcome to the new GovDelivery bulletins and updates service from your County FSA office. Note that you are welcome to request to receive bulletins from more than one county and can add or remove individual subscriptions at any time.

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### Fallon FSA Office

**Serving Churchill,  
NW Nye, Storey  
and Washoe  
Counties**

111 Sheckler Road

Fallon, NV 89406

Ph: (775) 423-5124

Fax: (775) 428-1335

[www.fsa.usda.gov/NV](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/NV)

Hours: 7:30 a.m. -  
4:00 p.m.

### County Office Staff

Imelda Andersen ext.  
105 County Executive  
Director

Jessi Fenner ext.  
102 Program

## FENCING DAMAGE SIGN-UP FOR FIRE RECOVERY

Farms and ranches in Washoe County with damage to fences due to the recent fires may be eligible for cost-share assistance under the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP). Administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA), the program applies to restoring or repairing fences damaged by natural disaster.

Fences must be used for agricultural purposes to permit grazing of range, pasture or forage by livestock. Fencing of public land is eligible only if it will directly benefit privately owned land, costs will be borne by the eligible participant and participant has written evidence of right to use the land and maintain the fencing. A producer qualifying for ECP assistance may receive from 60% to 100% of the cost for fencing replacement, depending on factors including the age of the fencing damaged.

Producers affected by the recent fires who need assistance have until close of business February 8, 2013 to contact the Fallon FSA Office to request assistance. Call the Fallon Office for an appointment at (775) 423-5124 extension 102. You can also visit the office at 111 Sheckler Road in Fallon.

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## NAP Coverage Deadlines

Noninsured Crop Disaster applications are due at different times according to the crop being insured. Producers should apply for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage using form CCC-471 (Application for Coverage). Related service fees are due when the application is filed. The application and service fee MUST be filed by the crop sales closing date. Contact the local FSA office for the filing dates for your crops.

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## 2012 Census of Agriculture To Begin Soon

Very soon, USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will be focused on

Technician encouraging all farmers and ranchers to respond to the [2012 Census of Agriculture](#). Ag Census forms will be mailed in December. NASS is an important census-taking agency within the US Department of Agriculture.

Carly Brown ext. 107,  
Farm Loan Officer

Sandy Smith, ext. 104  
Program Technician

**NRCS Staff**

The Census of Agriculture is conducted only once every five years to accurately collect demographic information about farmers, ranchers and their operations in our country's rural and agricultural communities. USDA and many other agencies, institutions and organizations use the results of the Census for education, research, planning and policy-making decisions within government, as well as business, industry and academia. The use of this valuable information impacts **everyone** across our nation.

Lex Riggle ext. 114

Allen Moody ext. 117

Gretchen Beausoleil  
ext. 113

While the Census is particularly vital for rural America, it's important to remember that well-informed policy decisions have a positive impact for everyone. Even for families in our largest cities, a strong rural America means an abundant food supply, cleaner water, extraordinary outdoor recreation and more. That's why it couldn't be more important to make sure that all of our nation's farmers and farmland are accurately accounted for.

**County Committee (COC):**

NASS mails the Census of Agriculture in mid December with a return deadline of February 4, 2013. If you receive an Ag Census form, please complete and return it by the deadline.

**Chairman:**

Producers can easily and securely respond online after receiving their census form at [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov). For questions or help completing the form producers can contact NASS at (888) 424-7828.

Micky Laca

**Vice-Chair:**

Valerie Christoph

**Members:**

Stan Ceresola

Ray E. Krestchmer

Robert L. James

**COC meets every third Thursday of the month.**

**Dates to Remember**

**December 15th, 2012:**

**ACREAGE REPORTS DUE For Fall Forage Seeding: Fall Barley, Fall**

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## Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Period

USDA has announced that Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades can file claims between Sept. 24, 2012 and March 25, 2013.

The process offers a voluntary alternative to litigation for each Hispanic or female farmer and rancher who can prove that USDA denied their applications for loan or loan servicing assistance for discriminatory reasons for certain time periods between 1981 and 2000.

As announced in February 2011, the voluntary claims process will make available at least \$1.33 billion for cash awards and tax relief payments, plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief, to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers. There are no filing fees to participate in the program.

USDA will continue reaching out to potential Hispanic and female claimants, around the country to get the word out to individuals who may be eligible for this program so they have the opportunity to participate.

Claimants can obtain a claims package in the mail by calling 1-888-509-4429 or visiting the website [www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov) . and the claims package will be mailed to claimants. Public meetings are also being held in many areas to share further information. Contact your nearest FSA office to get a schedule in your area.

**Website:** [www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov)

**Phone:** 1-888-508-4429

**Forage  
Seeding, Fall  
Wheat, and all  
other Fall-  
seeded Small  
Grains,  
Perennial  
Forage,  
Alfalfa, and  
ALL  
GRAZING!  
NOTICE OF  
LOSS: Must be  
reported 15 days  
from date EACH  
covered loss  
becomes  
apparent.  
December 25th,  
2012:**

Christmas Day, Office  
Closed

**March 15th,  
2013:**

NAP application  
closing date for corn,  
pumpkins & squash.

**March 25th, 2013:**

Hispanic and Women  
Farmer and Rancher  
Claims Period ends.

**June 7th, 2013:**

SURE Applications  
Due

**Selected  
Interest Rates  
for December**

Farm Operating -  
Direct -1.125%

Farm Ownership -

**Claims Period: Sept. 24, 2012 - March 25, 2013.**

An independent third-party administrator will administer the claims process and adjudicate the claims. There are no filing fees to participate and a lawyer is not required to participate in the claims process, but claimants may retain an attorney or other legal services provider. The USDA news release provides more background:

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2012/09/0309.xml&contentidonly=true>

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## **IRS 1099 Changes**

Calendar year 2012 has brought changes to the way FSA reports farm program payments to the producer and to the IRS.

In past years, IRS Form 1099-G would be issued to show all program payments received from the Farm Service Agency, regardless of the amount.

Starting with calendar year 2012, producers whose total reportable payments from FSA are less than \$600 will not receive IRS Form 1099-G. Also, producers who receive payments from more than one county will only receive one Form 1099-G if the total of all payments from all counties is \$600 or more.

The same changes will apply to those who normally receive IRS Form 1099-MISC from FSA.

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## **Guaranteed Loan Limit**

The Farm Service Agency has announced that as of Oct. 1, 2012 the loan limit for the Guaranteed Loan Program is \$1,302,000. This limit is adjusted annually based on data compiled by the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

The FSA overall lending ceiling increases every year according to an inflation index. The maximum combined guaranteed and direct farm loan indebtedness is now \$1,602,000.

As a reminder, the one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans is 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan. Producers can contact the local FSA county offices with questions about farm loans.

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## **2011 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program Applications**

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will continue to accept SURE applications for 2011 crop losses through June 7, 2013. The SURE Program provides payments to producers when crop revenues are less than the crop guarantee. The SURE Program payment is equal to 60 percent of the difference between the SURE guarantee and total farm revenue.

To determine the guarantee and revenue for the SURE Program, all crops on all farms for a producer are included in the calculation. Payments under the SURE Program are limited to \$100,000.

Direct -3.125%	To be eligible for the 2011 SURE Program, producers must have crop insurance on all insurable crops. For crops that are not covered by crop insurance such as pumpkins, cucumbers and others, producers must have purchased Non Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage through FSA. The Crop Insurance and NAP purchase requirement is waived for crops that are not economically significant to the farming operation. In addition, producers must have at least one crop with a 10 percent production loss in the Secretarial Disaster Designation for the county or a 50% loss in actual crop production.
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher 1.500%	
Emergency -2.125%	
Farm Storage Facility – 7 year 1.125%	For more information concerning the 2011 SURE program or other Farm Service Agency programs, contact your local FSA office or visit the Farm Service Agency website at <a href="http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/">www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/</a> .

Farm Storage Facility  
– 10 year 1.750%

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## Emergency Farm Loans

Farm Storage Facility – 12 year 2.125% USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides emergency loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters, or quarantine.

Emergency loan funds may be used to:

- Restore or replace essential property;
- Pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year;
- Pay essential family living expenses;
- Reorganize the farming operation; and
- Refinance certain debts.

Further information and applications for the loan programs described are available at local FSA county offices.

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## Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the U.S. Treasury Department.

Payments are made in two parts: a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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## **LDPs for Unshorn Lamb Pelts**

Eligible producers have until Jan. 31, 2013, to apply for Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) for unshorn lamb pelts produced during the 2012 crop year.

Eligible producers must have beneficial interest in the pelts, owned the lamb for at least 30 calendar days before the date of slaughter and sell the unshorn lamb for immediate slaughter. Producers must also comply with wetland conservation and highly erodible land conservation provisions on all lands they operate or have interest in.

For an eligible producer to qualify for payment, pelts must have been produced from live unshorn lambs of domestic origin in the United States.

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## **Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged**

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of socially disadvantaged groups.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is a member of a group that has been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice without regard to his or her individual qualities.

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USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9450, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay).