

April 2013



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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 Churchill/NW Nye/Storey/Washoe Counties FSA office. Note that you are welcome to request to receive bulletins from more than one state and/or 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. - 4:30 p.m.

### County Office Staff

**Imelda Andersen ext. 105**  
County Executive Director  
**Jessi Fenner ext. 102**  
Program Technician  
**Carly Brown ext. 107**  
Farm Loan Officer  
**Sandy Smith, ext. 104**  
Program Technician

### NRCS Staff

Lex Riggle ext. 114  
Allen Moody ext. 117  
Gretchen Beausoleil ext. 113

### County Committee

### DCP/ACRE Sign-Up Continues

The sign-up period for DCP and ACRE are still open. Producers must sign up for DCP before the **Aug. 2, 2013**, deadline. Producers signing up for ACRE, have until June 3, 2013.

The 2013 DCP and ACRE program provisions are unchanged from 2012, except that all eligible participants in 2013 may choose to enroll in either DCP or ACRE for the 2013 crop year. This means that eligible producers who were enrolled in ACRE in 2012 may elect to enroll in DCP in 2013 or may re-enroll in ACRE in 2013. Likewise producers who were enrolled in DCP may opt for ACRE enrollment.

[Read more about DCP and ACRE](#) or contact the FSA county office for more information, or an appointment to enroll.

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### Hispanic and Women Farmers and Ranchers Claims Process Extended

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced the extension of the voluntary claims process for Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades. All claims must now be filed by **May 1, 2013**.

The process offers a voluntary alternative to litigation for each Hispanic or female farmer and rancher who can prove that USDA denied his or her application 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

## **(COC):**

for cash awards and tax relief payments, plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief. There are no filing fees to participate in the program.

### **Chairman:**

Mickey Laca

### **Vice Chairman:**

Robert L. James

### **Members:**

Stan Ceresola

Ray E. Krestchmer

Michael Olsen

Claimants may register for a claims package by calling the telephone number below Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern Time or by downloading the forms from the website.

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

Phone: 1-888-508-4429

**COC meets every second Thursday of the month at 9:00 AM (subject to change).**

Fax: (855) 626-8343

Email: [claims@hwfr.org](mailto:claims@hwfr.org)

## **Dates to Remember**

Claims Period: September 24, 2012 – May 1, 2013.

**May 1, 2013:** HWFR claims deadline

**May 27, 2013:** Memorial Day Holiday, Office Closed

**June 1, 2013:** Farm record change deadline

**August 2, 2013:** DCP 2013 deadline

Claim packages and other documentation may be mailed to Hispanic and Women Farmers and Ranchers Claims Administrator, PO Box 4540, Portland, OR 97208-4540. Claim packages and other documentation may also be emailed to [claims@hwfr.org](mailto:claims@hwfr.org). Claimants may also fax claims packages and other documentation to (855) 626-8343. Completed forms and documentation must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. PDT on May 1, 2013.

## **ACREAGE REPORTS DUE For Fall Forage Seeding: Fall Barley, Fall Wheat, and all other Fall-seeded Small Grains, Perennial Forage, Alfalfa, and ALL GRAZING!**

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## **Acreege Certification**

**After SPRING PLANTING, producers should certify their 2013 acreage.** Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

**Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.**

If you have any perennial crops and have not filed your acreage reports, the deadline was December 15, 2012! Please call us as soon as possible to make an appointment or stop in to file

Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. Due dates are:

**June 15th: Spring Barley, Teff, Triticale, Spring Forage seeding, & Spring Wheat.**

**July 15th: Spring Alfalfa for Seed, Spring Oats, Corn, & all other crops.**

## **Selected Interest Rates for April 2013**

- Farm Operating Direct - 1.375%
- Farm Ownership Direct - 3.5%

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## **Microloans Are Cultivating Big Dreams on a Small Scale**

Microloans are helping small, niche and beginning farmers and ranchers

- Farm Ownership Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher - 1.5%
- Emergency - 2.375%
- Farm Storage Facility – 7 year 1.375%
- Farm Storage Facility – 10 year 2.000%
- Farm Storage Facility – 12 year 2.250%

meet their goals. The less burdensome and more simplified loan process allows producers to apply for a maximum of \$35,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses, essential tools, irrigation, delivery vehicles and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing and distribution expenses. Producers interested in applying for a microloan should contact their local FSA office to make an appointment with a Farm Loan Officer or Manager.

Read two stories showing how microloans are helping producers across the U.S. expand their operations.

1) [Thanks, Mr. President: Niche Farmers Send Obama Appreciation Letter for Boosting Their Business](#), 2) [Small Farmer Finds Success With FSA Microloan Program](#)

## Farm Safety

Flowing grain in a storage bin or gravity-flow wagon can be fatal. It takes less than five seconds for a person caught in flowing grain to be trapped.

The mechanical aspects of grain handling equipment, also present very real dangers. Augers, power take offs, and other moving parts can grab people or clothing.

These hazards, along with pinch points and missing shields, are dangerous enough for both adults and children. It is always advisable to keep children a safe distance from operating farm equipment. Always use extra caution when backing up or maneuvering farm machinery. Ensure everyone is visibly clear and accounted for before machinery is engaged. Remember to always put safety first.

## Farm Storage Facility Loans

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFLP) 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 seven, 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.

Funding is available in the form of 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).

## Guaranteed Loan Program

The Farm Service Agency loan limit for the Guaranteed Loan Program has increased to \$1,302,000. The limit is adjusted annually based on data compiled by the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

The lending limit increases every year according to an inflation index. The maximum combined guaranteed and direct farm loan indebtedness has increased to \$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 should contact their local FSA County Offices with questions about farm loans.

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## Rural Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H Clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5,000.

For more information you can stop by your FSA county office. Our staff can help with preparing and processing the application forms.

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## Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers

FSA assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's median farm size.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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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 applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one who is a member of a group that has been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice. For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

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## Land Contract (LC) Guarantees

The Land Contract (LC) Guarantee Program is a valuable tool to transfer farm real estate to the next generation of farmers and ranchers. Guarantees will be offered to the owner of a farm who wishes to sell real estate through a land contract to a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher. The guarantee reduces the financial risk to the seller.

FSA offers two types of guarantees:

- **Prompt Payment Guarantee** - A guarantee up to the amount of three amortized annual installments plus the cost of any related real estate taxes and insurance.
- **Standard Guarantee** - A guarantee of 90 percent of the outstanding principal balance under the land contract.

The guarantee period is 10 years and the contract payments must be amortized for a minimum of 20 years. The purchase price of the farm cannot exceed the lesser of \$500,000 or the market value of the property.

For additional information you can read the [Land Contract Guarantee Program Fact Sheet](#).

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## Farm Record Changes

June 1, 2013 is the deadline to provide changes to your farm records at the local FSA office for the current crop year. If you are changing your operation entity type, adding or dropping cropland or farms, or adding entities to your operation, contact the FSA county office by June 1.

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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).