



**March 2010**

# ***ELKO/EUREKA COUNTY***

## ***FSA News***

### **SURE**

Currently SURE Program sign ups are being taken for the 2008 Crop Year. The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disaster that incurred starting in the crop year 2008 through September 30, 2011. To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops of economic significance in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to participate in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) except for grazed acreage.

Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher are exempt from the risk management purchase requirement.

The following are the conditions that trigger SURE payments:

- At least one crop of economic significance must suffer a 10% production loss due to an eligible disaster condition
- The crop of economic significance must be a crop that has contributed or would have contributed at least 5% or more of the total expected revenue from all crops on the farm
- The farm experiencing the loss must be in a county declared a disaster county by the Secretary of Agriculture, or in contiguous counties. Those who show proof of an individual loss of at least 50% are also eligible to receive SURE payments for production losses or crop quality losses.

Losses are measured with consideration to the whole-farm revenue, which includes crop insurance indemnities and commodity program payments, so that producers are not paid more than once for the same loss.

A SURE calculator is available at:

[http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA\\_File/sure\\_calculator\\_2008.xls](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/sure_calculator_2008.xls). The calculator is not official, but is intended for educational use. A fact sheet and Q & A are also available online at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

### **2010 DCP Signup**

Enrollment for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through **June 1, 2010**. USDA urges producers to make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up, or producers can visit any USDA Service Center to complete their 2010 DCP contract.

USDA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2010, eligible producers may request advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment.

### **Adjusted Gross Income**

USDA has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Internal Revenue Service to establish an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent will be required from each producer or payment recipient for the IRS review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to USDA.

The agreement ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits.

The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs.

Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-927 (Individual) and/or CCC-928 (Legal Entity) to the Internal Revenue Service by June 15 to avoid interruption of program benefits. These forms may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices or online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainser>

### **USDA**

**Elko/Eureka County  
USDA Service Center**

### **Elko/Eureka County FSA**

555 W Silver St. Ste 101  
Elko NV 89801  
(775)738-6445 ext. 2  
(774)778-9712 (fax)

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

### **Hours**

Monday - Friday  
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

### **County Committee**

Steve Wines, Chair  
Mark Damele, Vice Chair  
Patsy Tomera, Member  
Mitch Heguy, Member  
Clayton Cota, Member

**Elko Eureka County  
Committee has changed  
their meeting date!**

**Elko Eureka County  
Committee will now meet  
on the second Wednesday  
of each month. On an  
as needed basis.**

### **Staff**

Clayre Moiola, CED  
Micki Wines, FLO  
Maria Murillo, PT  
Claire Neumann, COT  
Andrea Sestanovich, FS

### **Ely Staff**

Vi Braden, PT

## Actively Engaged

USDA has amended the rules that govern the requirements to be 'actively engaged' in farming. These rules apply to eligibility for payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) or Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program administered by the FSA.

Every stockholder or member of a legal entity, such as a corporation, does not have to contribute labor or management if both of the following apply:

- At least half of the interest in the legal entity is held by stockholders or members who are providing active personal labor or active personal management that altogether qualifies as a significant contribution to the farming operation;
- The total direct payments received, both directly and indirectly, by the legal entity and each of the members can not exceed \$40,000.



## Farm Loan Programs

The FSA offers loans for eligible farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,112,000. Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available.

For details please contact the county office staff for an appointment with a farm loan officer.

## Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP)-WOOL

Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) program for crop year 2010 is now available to producers who share in the risk of producing the wool. To be eligible, you must maintain beneficial interest in the wool through the time of application. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and title to the commodity.

LDP eligibility also requires you comply with conser-

vation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, report how you use cropland acreage on the farm and ensure that the commodity meets Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) minimum grade and quality standards.

Wool producers must complete form CCC-633EZ before the wool is shorn and beneficial interest is lost. If Wool producers wish to participate in the LDP program please contact the Office and request that a CCC-633EZ, Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) Agreement and Request, page 1 be completed. This must be completed and in the Office prior to the producer shearing the sheep and losing beneficial interest in the 2010 wool crop. If you have questions please call the Office, 775-738-6445 ext. 2.

## Notice to all NAP producers

Producers who have purchased 2010 NAP must complete a 2010 acreage report on all acreage by the acreage reporting date. If you have **grain crops you must complete a 2010 acreage report by June 15, 2010.** All other crops this **includes grazing land must be reported by July 15, 2010.** The reports must be done in the Elko Office and signed and dated by the producer. If the producer has BLM and/or FS permits, you are required to provide a copy of all the current permits when you complete the acreage report.

If you had grass hay coverage in 2009 and have not provided the Elko Office with a production report on your hay crop for 2009, you must do so by the date you complete a 2010 acreage report.

Please call the Office for an appointment to complete your 2010 acreage report, 775-738-6445 ext 2.

## NAP Enrollment

Producers must apply for coverage before a disaster strikes. Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) applications for coverage must be filed using Form CCC-471 and pay the applicable service fees by the closing date. Application closing dates vary by crop. Elko/Eureka County producers can contact the FSA Office for specific crop application sales closing dates at (775) 738-6445.

Note that insurance coverage on all crops is required to remain eligible for the agency's Disaster Assistance Programs such as SURE, LFP, TAP, and ELAP. Producers must purchase at least catastrophic (CAT) level of insurance for all insurable crops.

NAP is a federally funded program that provides coverage to producers for non-insurable crops



when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occurs due to natural disasters. Crops eligible for NAP coverage are those for which crop insurance is not available, including fruits and vegetables, aquaculture, pecans, turf grass and forage crops just to name a few.

More information about NAP may be found on the FSA web site located at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

## NRCS News

Snow Surveyors just completed the March 1<sup>st</sup> data collection, and found the Northeastern Nevada snowpack at 75% of average and the Eastern Nevada snowpack at about 114% of average.

“The Elko County Snow Pack stands at about 75% of average,” says Gerald Miller, of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, “The sampling site with the most snow was Lamoille #5, which had 60 inches of snow; the Robinson Lake Aerial Marker indicated 65 inches of snow. What is really interesting is how the lower elevations are holding the snow, even though the south facing slopes are bare in many locations. This low elevation snow in many places is above average for this time of year; and it’s a pattern that we are seeing throughout northern Nevada. This year, particularly throughout the month of March will be crucial in terms of snow accumulation in the mountains, because at this point, I’m inclined to suggest that we are looking at short season water for irrigation purposes.”

For further information contact:  
Gerry Miller at 775-738-8431 ext 114  
Dan Greenlee at 775-857-8500 ext 152

SNOW COURSE (by Basin)	Snow Depth	Water Content	% of Average
<b>UPPER HUMBOLDT RIVER</b>			
American Beauty	36	10.8	<b>117%</b>
Corral Canyon	41	8.2	<b>62%</b>
Dorsey Basin	34	9.2	<b>71%</b>
Draw Creek #2	30	7.4	<b>65%</b>
Dry Creek	14	4.4	<b>98%</b>
Fry Canyon	30	8	<b>110%</b>
Green Mountain	38	9.7	<b>70%</b>
Harrison Pass #1	18	3.8	<b>86%</b>
Lamoille #1	28	6.2	<b>71%</b>
Lamoille #3	30	8	<b>63%</b>
Lamoille #5	60	18.1	<b>77%</b>
Smith Creek	36	9.1	<b>80%</b>
Tent Mountain, Lower	18	4	<b>53%</b>

Tent Mountain, Upper	43	12.9	<b>71%</b>
Tremewan Ranch	12	3.1	<b>163%</b>
Trout Creek, Low- er	15	3.7	<b>80%</b>
Trout Creek, Up- per	27	8.1	<b>58%</b>

**Basin Water Content % of average = 75%**

### **LOWER HUMBOLDT RIVER**

Big Creek Summit	45	11	<b>76%</b>
Buckskin Lower	30	7.6	<b>89%</b>
Golconda #2	23	6.5	<b>100%</b>
Granite Peak	42	10.7	<b>54%</b>
Lamance Creek	29	8.5	<b>67%</b>
Lewis Peak	21	5.1	-
Midas	18	4.9	<b>132%</b>
Snowstorm	25	6.8	<b>59%</b>
Toe Jam	24	6.5	<b>69%</b>

**Basin Water content % of average = 78%**

### **CLOVER VALLEY & FRANKLIN RIVER**

Hole-In-Mountain	33	8.1	<b>46%</b>
Pole Canyon #2	42	12.7	<b>93%</b>
Robinson Lake	65	19.5	<b>71%</b>

**Basin Water Content % of average = 69%**

### **OWYHEE RIVER**

Big Bend	27	7.2	<b>84%</b>
Columbia Basin	39	10.6	<b>120%</b>
Fawn Creek #2	46	11.6	<b>81%</b>
Gold Creek	23	6.4	<b>114%</b>
Jack Creek, Upper	42	10.7	<b>68%</b>
Jack's Peak		-	-
Laurel Draw	34	8.9	<b>97%</b>
Merritt Mountain	39	10.5	<b>159%</b>
Taylor Canyon	12	4.1	<b>77%</b>

**Basin Water Content % of average = 94%**

### **SNAKE RIVER**

Bear Creek	34	8.3	<b>49%</b>
Jakes Creek	18	4.9	<b>88%</b>
Pole Creek R.S.	40	10.3	<b>61%</b>
Seventysix Creek	30	7.0	<b>64%</b>
Stag Mountain	11	3.0	<b>57%</b>

**Basin Water Content % of average = 60%**

<b>Dates to Remember</b>	
Jan. 4, 2010	SURE Signup opens
June 1, 2010	Last Day to sign up for DCP
June 15, 2010	All grain crops must be reported
July 15, 2010	All other crops must be reported – this includes grazing
Oct. 31, 2010	Last day to buy NAP forage coverage for 2011
Dec. 1, 2010	Last day to buy NAP grazing coverage for 2011

<b>Selected Interest Rates for January 2010</b>	
90-Day Treasury Bill	.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	3.000%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	5.125%
Farm Ownership – Direct, Joint Financing	5.000%
Farm Ownership Loans — Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans – 7 year term	3.125%
Farm Storage Facility Loans – 10 year term	3.625%
Farm Storage Facility Loans – 12 year term	4.000%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.375%

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