

June 2012

Elko/Eureka FSA Updates

DEAR PRODUCERS: This is our second GovDelivery Newsletter and we hope you welcome the changes the Agency is making in its delivery of information to you. Please note that you are welcome to request to receive bulletins from more than one county, and you can add or remove individual subscriptions at any time.

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Elko, NV 89801

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Hours: 7:30 am - 4:30 pm
www.fsa.usda.gov/NV

County Committee:

Patsy Tomera Chairperson
Mitch Heguy Vice-Chair
Ira Wines Member
Clayton Cota Member

FSA Staff:

CED
Claire Kehoe

Program Tech's

Maria Murillo
Jacque Fender
Myrna Fischer

Farm Loan Officer

Micki Wines

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County Committee Nominations

The County Committee nomination period runs from June 15, 2012 through August 1, 2012. For detailed information contact your local FSA office.

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to ensure FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

FSA county committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

NAP Records

Production records for individual crops need to be filed at the FSA Office to establish an approved NAP yield. If this is the first year of participation in NAP, Producer can provide production and acreage information from prior years to establish their yield. If Producer participated in NAP in previous years, Producer must report production and acreage on a yearly basis to keep yields up-to-date. Records submitted must be reliable or verifiable and must also show crop disposition. It is highly recommended that production records be submitted as soon as harvest is complete. **All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date.**

NAP Loss Filing

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses. For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, a CCC-576 (Notice of Loss) must be filed in the FSA County Office within fifteen (15) calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

Adjusted Gross Income

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

This 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-931 to their local FSA Office to avoid interruption of program benefits. This form may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices.

Farm Reconstitutions

At FSA, farms are "constituted" to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. If an owner or operator cannot agree about program participation, then Producers should inquire about a reconstitution of the farm at the local FSA Office.

The reconstitution -- or recon -- is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based

on the farming operation. In order to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **August 1st, 2012**, for farms enrolled in specific programs.

NOTICE TO HISPANIC AND/OR WOMEN FARMERS OR RANCHERS

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

To register your name to receive a claims packet, **call the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1--888-508-4429** or visit: www.farmerclaims.gov.

This package will have detailed information about the eligibility and claims process.

Measurement Service

Farmers who would like a guarantee on their crop plantings and land use acreages can make it official by using the FSA measurement service. Producers must file a request with the county office staff and pay the cost of a field visit to have stake and referencing done on the farm. Measurement service is available using digital imagery. If an on-site visit is not required, producers are charged a reduced rate.

Incorrect acreage self-certification can result in reduced program payments, penalty or loss of eligibility.

Producers may request ortho-imagery and CLU covering their land (commonly referred to as a clip) at no charge. This would provide the acreage of an entire field.

Conservation Compliance (HEL and Wetland)

Producers intending to remove fence rows, convert woodlots to cropland, install new drainage, or improve or modify existing drainage, must notify the FSA and update Form AD-1026. FSA will notify NRCS and NRCS will make HEL and wetland technical determinations. Farmers with HEL determined soils are reminded of tillage, crop residue and rotation requirements per their conservation plan. Failure to obtain **ADVANCE APPROVAL** for any of these situations can result in the loss of eligibility and all federal payments.

Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. Those producers who are having trouble getting credit for their farm or who regularly

borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

Ask a lender about an FSA loan guarantee to help with a setback or if a lender has been reluctant to extend or renew a loan.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans have a maximum limit of \$1,214,000. This makes the maximum combination of direct and guaranteed loan indebtedness of \$1,514,000.

The one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans has increased from 1% to 1.5% of the guaranteed portion of the loan, for loans obligated after October 1st, 2011.

To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

GovDelivery -- Free Reminders

The USDA Farm Service Agency offices are moving into paperless operation in an effort to save tax payer dollars. Producers can now enroll in the new **GovDelivery** system to receive instant electronic deadline reminders, bulletins and newsletters direct to your email address. Now you do not have to wait for a printed newsletter

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For more information on bulletin subjects or details regarding your GovDelivery subscription with the Ely FSA Office, contact Claire Kehoe, County Executive Director at claire.kehoe@usda.gov or 775 289 4990.

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 20250-9410, 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).
