

December 2012



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Humboldt/Lander 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.

Winnemucca FSA Office **Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Period**

Address:

1200 E.
Winnemucca
Blvd.

Winnemucca,
NV 89445

Phone: 775-623-
5025

Fax: 775-623-
1386

Hours: 7:30 AM
- 4:30 PM

**State/County
Staff**

**Katie Nuffer
ext. 104**

CED

State Program
Specialist

**Daniel Ferraro
ext. 107**

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 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

Phone: 1-888-508-4429

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

Farm Loan
Officer

news release provides more background:

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

Denise Cerri
ext. 121

Marilyn Jones
ext. 100

Program
Technicians

NRCS Staff

Leah Mori
ext.102

Bryan Shupe
ext.105

Nicole
Pennington ext.
109

**County
Committee
(COC):**

Chairman:

Fred Wilkinson

Vice-Chair:

Debbie Hummel

Members:

Susan Kern

Theresa Marvel

Tom Reichert

Meetings are
held the

second
Tuesday of the

month at 10:00
a.m.

(subject to

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.

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

2013 Ag Census Coming

USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service will mail the 2013 Census of Agriculture in mid-December. If you receive an Ag Census form, please complete and return it by the February 4, 2013 deadline.

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

The Census of Agriculture is conducted only once every five years to accurately collect demographic information about farmers, ranchers and their operations. USDA agencies and many other 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.

Emergency Farm Loans

change)

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.

Dates to Remember

Emergency loan funds may be used to:

December 6th:

- 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.

COC Ballot Count and COC Meeting

December 15th, 2012:

ACREAGE REPORTS DUE

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

For Fall Forage Seeding:

Fall Barley, Fall Forage Seeding, Fall Wheat, and all other Fall-seeded Small Grains, Perennial Forage, Alfalfa, and ALL GRAZING!

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 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.

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.

NOTICE OF LOSS: Must be reported 15 days from date EACH covered loss becomes apparent.

**December
25th, 2012:**

**Christmas
Day, Office
Closed**

**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 -
Direct 3.125%

Farm
Ownership -
Direct Down
Payment,
Beginning
Farmer or
Rancher
1.500%

Emergency
2.125%

Farm Storage
Facility – 7 year
1.125%

Farm Storage
Facility – 10
year 1.750%

Farm Storage
Facility – 12
year 2.125%

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.

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).