

October/November 2012



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Yerington FSA Updates

DEAR PRODUCERS: Welcome to the new GovDelivery bulletins and updates service from your Lyon, Mineral, Esmeralda, Douglas, Carson City, Alpine, Inyo and Mono 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.

Yerington FSA Office

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County Committee:

Louis Scatena, Chairperson

Dwain Chichester, Vice
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David Giorgi, Member

Randy Emm, Member

Matt Johnson, Member

NAP closing date Oct 31, 2012 for all crops for forage excluding grain

In order to meet eligibility requirements for NAP, crops must be noninsurable, commercially-produced agricultural commodity crops for which catastrophic risk protection level of crop insurance is not available. If the Risk Management Agency (RMA) offers coverage for a crop in the county, then NAP coverage is not available for that crop.

In the event of a natural disaster, NAP covers the amount of loss greater than fifty (50%) percent of the expected production based on the approved yield and reported acreage.

Eligible producers can apply for coverage using Form CCC-471, Application for Coverage. Producers must file the application and pay the service fee by the October 31st deadline. The service fee is the lesser of \$250 per crop or \$750 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of \$1,875 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties.

For more information on sales closing dates and NAP, contact the Yerington FSA Office at **775-463-2855, extension 102.**

2012 DCP Final Payments

DCP payments for 2012 were issued after Oct. 1, 2012. These payments were deposited directly into participating producers' bank accounts. If there are any unearned payments, Commodity Credit Corporation will automatically subtract those amounts from the October Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program payments.

2013 Reporting of Fall Seeded Crops

All producers are reminded that the acreage reporting date for fall seeded crops has changed, beginning with the crop planted for 2013 harvest. The

Denise Hunewill, Member

new acreage reporting date of December 15, 2012 applies to all fall seeded crops including all small grains and perennial forage.

Alonna Giacomini, Member

Linda White, Member

Todd Gansberg, Member

Ted Borda, Member

County Committee Elections

Watch your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot starting early next month. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters on Nov. 5, 2012. If for some reason you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify the county FSA office.

Completed and signed ballots must be returned to the county office by close of business or postmarked by Dec.3, 2012.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) 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 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.

The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas
- Hay
- Renewable biomass

- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities.

For more information about FSFL visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

NRCS Program Deadlines

Applications for most NRCS Financial Assistance Programs are accepted on a continuous basis, however "batch" deadlines are established to group eligible applications for ranking and funding. Batching Periods for some FY2013 NRCS Financial Assistance Programs have been announced. November 16, 2012 is the deadline for accepting first batch applications for Financial Assistance Programs including AMA – Agriculture Management Assistance Program, EQIP – Environmental Quality Incentives Program and WHIP - Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program. If money is available after funding first batch applications, a second batch deadline of January 18, 2013 has been established.

Owners of land in agricultural production or persons who are engaged in livestock, agricultural or forest production on eligible land, that have a natural resource concern (problem) on the land, may participate in AMA or EQIP. These programs provide financial assistance payments to eligible producers based on a portion of the average cost associated with practice implementation. Producer eligibility, land eligibility and program requirements apply. The application process is competitive and selection for contracting is subject to the availability of funding. Contracted practices must be "needed" for the improvement of resource conditions and must be implemented in accordance with NRCS technical standards.

Historically underserved producers (limited resource farmers/ranchers, beginning farmers/ranchers, socially disadvantaged producers, Tribes) may be eligible for a higher practice payment rate for the implementation for conservation practices and conservation plans. Historically underserved producers may also be eligible for advance payments up to 30 percent of the cost needed to purchase materials or contracting services to begin installation of approved conservation practices.

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program may be used for developing and improving wildlife habitat on agricultural land, nonindustrial private forest land, and Indian land.

Interested parties are encouraged to take a few minutes to browse NRCS Program information available at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial> or call Ed Biggs at the local NRCS office in Yerington, NV for more information. Ed Biggs may be reached at (775) 463-2265 X 108 or email at Ed.Biggs@nv.usda.gov

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 that 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 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

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.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

Stop by the county office for help preparing and processing the application forms.

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 Forms 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 producers and vendors who normally receive IRS Form 1099-MISC from FSA.

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 one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities. 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.

USDA Announces Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Period Now Open

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced that Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege

discrimination by the USDA in past decades can file claims between September 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. The Department 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. Call center representatives can be reached at 1-888-508-4429. Claimants must register for a claims package (by calling the number or visiting the website) and the claims package will be mailed to claimants. All those interested in learning more or receiving information about the claims process and claims packages are encouraged to attend meetings in your communities about the claims process and contact the website or claims telephone number.

Website: www.farmerclaims.gov

Phone: 1-888-508-4429

Claims Period: September 24, 2012 - March 25, 2013.

Independent legal services companies will administer the claims process and adjudicate the claims. Although there are no filing fees to participate and a lawyer is not required to participate in the claims process, persons seeking legal advice may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider.

Dates to Remember

Oct 8 - Columbus Day Federal Holiday

Oct 31 - Deadline for 2013 NAP coverage all crops excluding grain

Nov 5 - County Committee ballots mailed to eligible voters

Nov 12 - Veteran Day Federal Holiday

Nov 22 - Thanksgiving Day Federal Holiday

Dec 1 - Deadline for 2013 NAP coverage for native grass

Dec 10 - COC Meeting and ballot counting

Dec 15 - Acreage reporting deadline for perennial forage, fall seeded small grains including grazing

Dec 25 - Christmas Day Federal Holiday

Jan 1 - Newly elected COC members take office

Jan 1 - New Year's Day Federal Holiday

Selected Interest Rates for October 2012

90-Day Treasury Bill - .125%

Farm Operating - Direct - 1.125%

Farm Ownership - Direct - 3.125%

Limited Resource - 5%

Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher - 1.5%

Emergency - 2.125%

Farm Storage Facility – 7 year - 1.125%

Farm Storage Facility – 10 year - 1.750%

Farm Storage Facility – 12 year - 2.00%

Sugar Storage Facility - 2.125%

Commodity Loans 1996-Present - 1.125%

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).