

JUNE 2012



Ely FSA Office Updates

Dear Producers: Welcome to the third GovDelivery bulletin and update service from your Ely 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. We hope this method of delivery makes it more convenient to keep up with the agricultural programs and activities in our area.

USDA - Ely Service Center

744 E North Industrial Way
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Phone: 775 289 4990

Fax: 775 289 6629

Hours: 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Monday - Thursday

www.fsa.usda.gov/NV

County Committee:

Max Reid, Jr. Chairperson
Kelly Miller Vice-Chair
Lee Mathews Member
Annette Harris Member

FSA Staff:

Claire Kehoe, CED Ext 100
Elko 738 6445 Ext 106
Vi Braden, PT Ext 101
Micki Wines, FLO
Elko 738 6445 Ext 105

NRCS Office

HC 33 Box 33451

Ely, NV 89301-9402

Phone: 775 289 4065

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NRCS Staff:

Cory Lytle, DC Ext 105
Clint Anderson, RMS Ext 106
Reid Kelly, SC Ext 109
Ed Sturges, SCT Ext 112
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County Committee Nominations

County committee nominations are open from June 15, 2012 through August 1, 2012. The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency County Committees is important to **ALL** farmers and ranchers. Every eligible producer should participate in these elections to strengthen the link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

County Committee members are a critical component in the delivery of FSA services and programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on County Committees help with key decisions on programs in their counties and work to ensure FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

Operating within official regulations designed to carry out federal

laws, FSA County Committees apply their local knowledge to make key program administration decisions.

For more information just contact your local FSA office.

Crop Reporting - Reminders

The annual requirement to report to the FSA office can be referred to as “crop reporting”, “acreage reporting” or “crop certification.” Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments programs.

The final date to report crop acreage is as follows:

- April 15 Small grains in SE Nye County
- May 31 Small grains in Southern Lincoln County
- June 15 Small grains in Northern Lincoln, Northern Nye & White Pine Counties
- July 15 All other crops types

Payment Limitations

Producers planning to participate in 2012 programs are required to complete and submit **Form CCC-931**. If changes have been made in farming operations from the prior year, the following forms may also need to be filed for payment eligibility and payment limitation purposes: **CCC-901** and **CCC-902**.

Contributions

All partners, stockholders or members with an ownership interest in the legal entity must make a contribution*, whether compensated or **not** compensated, for active--

- * personal labor,
- * personal management,
- * or a combination of active personal labor and active personal management to the farming operation;

***NOTE:** There are exceptions for spouses.

Additional information on payment limitation is available online at: www.fsa.usda.gov

Sodbusting

Farmers and ranchers should be aware that if they use highly erodible land for crop production without proper conservation measures, they risk losing eligibility to participate in Farm Service Agency programs.

Before producers clear, plow or otherwise prepare areas not presently under crop production for planting, they are required to file an **AD-1026** indicating the area to be brought into production.

If Natural Resources Conservation Service indicates that the area will be highly erodible land, the producer will be required to develop and implement a conservation plan on the affected acreage before bringing their land into production.

Notice to Hispanic and/or Women Farmers or Ranchers

Compensation for Claims of Discrimination -- 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

The claims package will contain detailed information about the eligibility process.

Compliance Check Methods

Compliance reviews and spot checks will again be performed during the 2012 crop year. This year, farms, contracts, deficiency loans and more will be selected for various reviews from a nationwide database of producers to achieve a valid statistical sampling of participating producers. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer's participation in the Conservation Reserve Program, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Loan Deficiency Program and other programs.

State and county offices will view and print their producer spot check lists as posted on a designated website. If an entity is selected from the national database and is no longer farming or participating in programs during the 2012 crop year, a notation shall be made on the spot check list. For more information about the new spot check selection procedure, feel free to contact your local office for additional information.

Big Changes in NRCS

The NRCS side of the Ely Office will see a few changes in the month of June. First, Soil Scientist Curt Leet, after 35+ years of mapping soils, hung up his shovel and retired. The Ely NRCS Soils Office is closing in September, so Curt decided to call it quits now. He purchased a new pickup and overhead camper and will be heading to Pennsylvania for a couple of weeks; then off to see his son in Healy, Alaska for three months. He plans to visit his daughters in Oregon on the way to Alaska. Curt's last day was June 1st. We wish Curt Good Luck and a Happy Retirement! As an old Irish saying goes, "May you have warm words on a cold evening, a full moon on a dark night and a smooth road all the way to your door".

Second, Clint Anderson, Rangeland Management Specialist, is leaving the Ely Field Offices after 10

years with Nevada NRCS. He has been selected as the new District Conservationist in Lusk, Niobrara County, Wyoming. Clint's starting date in Wyoming is July 2nd and his last day in the Ely Field Office will likely be June 22nd. Clint will be missed by the Ely Field Office as well as the State of Nevada. He has been a valued employee, and working with him has been great and enjoyable. His knowledge will be missed in Ely but will be an added plus for Wyoming. This also means that the Ely BLM will be losing a terrific employee as well -- Amanda has been a great asset to the BLM Office in all respects. So at this time we say Good Luck to Clint and Amanda Anderson as they embark on a new chapter in their lives. So long and Happy Trails until we meet again somewhere down the road of life!

Banking Changes?

. **Let FSA Know to Prevent Payment Delays** -- If you changed banks and failed to notify FSA, your payment could be delayed. Because payments are electronically transferred into your bank account, changes to your bank account and routing numbers need to be shared immediately with FSA. Also on FSA loans, to continue to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchased your bank. It is important to remember that changes in a producer's account be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible delays. Changes can include the type of account, bank mergers, new routing number or account numbers. Your county FSA Office can help you avoid these problems if you contact them in advance of any banking changes.

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Beginning and Limited Resource Loans

. FSA has a program to assist beginning farmers and 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:

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- Has operated a farm for less than ten 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

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed.

Additional program information, loan applications and other material are available online at: www.fsa.usda.gov and www.nrcs.usda.gov

Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

. FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to start, continue and expand agricultural production. Loans are available for operational needs or to help purchase or improve farms and ranches.

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While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for socially disadvantaged applicants.

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A socially disadvantaged applicant is an individual who has been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as a member of one of the groups described.

FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

FSA Signature Policy

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

There are exceptions to the rule where spouse may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities.

Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

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%, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85% 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 Treasury Department.

Payments are provided in the early 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% of the projected and approved total loan amount.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA County Office that maintains the farm records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

INTEREST RATES JUNE 2012	
Farm Operating - Direct	1.500%
Farm Ownership - Direct	3.625%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Farm Ownership - Direct, Joint Financing	5.000%
Farm Storage Facility—7 yrs	1.250%
Farm Storage Facility — 10 yrs	1.875%
Conservation Loan	3.500%
Commodity Loans – 1966 to present	1.125%
90 – Day Treasury Bill	0.125%

DATES TO REMEMBER	
OFFICE CLOSED EVERY FRIDAY	
Deadline – DCP Filing	June 1
Deadline – Farm Record Changes	June 1
COC Nomination Period Opens	June 15
Deadline – AGI Form CCC-931 due	June 15
Office Closed – Prog Tech on Vacation	July 2 - 6
Deadline – NAP for forage	Oct 31
Deadline – Nap for grazing	Dec 1
COC meets 3rd Wed of month on an “as needed basis”	

For more information on bulletin subjects or details regarding your GovDelivery subscription with the Ely FSA Office, contact Vi Braden, Program Technician at vi.braden@nv.usda.gov or call the office at 775 289 4990 x 101.

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).