

July 2012



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## Ely FSA Office Updates

**DEAR PRODUCERS:** Welcome to our Fourth GovDelivery Newsletter from the Ely FSA Office. Please remember that you are welcome to request receipt of our electronic email from more than one county and can add or remove individual subscriptions at any time. By now, we sincerely hope that you have found this method of distributing information to be of value to you, and that you feel at ease with GovDelivery.

### USDA - Ely Service Ctr

#### Ely FSA Office

744 E North Industrial Way

Ely, NV 89301-9402

**Phone:** 775 289

**4990**

**Fax:** 775 289

**6629**

**Hours:** 8:00 am - 4:30 pm  
Monday -

Thursday

- Filing for NAP Losses
- FSA COC Nomination Deadline
- Over the Counter Channel (OTCnet)
- Disaster Assistance
- Fence Post Updates
- Highly Erodible Lands and Wetland Compliance
- Notice -- Hispanic and/or Women Farmers or Ranchers
- NRCS -- Sage Grouse Initiative
- Historic Drought
- Reminders -- Interest Rates and Program Deadline

[www.fsa.usda.gov/NV](http://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

**Fax:** 775 289 6629

### NRCS Staff

Cory Lytle, DC

Ext 105

## Filing for NAP Losses

Form 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 Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, in the FSA County Office within fifteen (15) days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within fifteen (15) calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

## FSA COC Nomination Deadline

County Committees (COC) play a crucial role in helping county office staff implement Farm Bill programs. Producers can participate in the FSA County Committee election process by nominating an eligible candidate by the August 1st, 2012, deadline.

Reid Kelly, SC	Ext 109
Ed Sturges, SCT	Ext 112
Scott Scroggie	Ext 110

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To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign Form FSA-669A. The form and more information about FSA county committee elections is available at:

<http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/efcommon/eFileServices/eForms/FSA669a.PDF>.

During their three-year terms, FSA County Committee Members make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support programs, and more. Nationwide, more than 7,800 farmers and ranchers serve on FSA County Committees consisting of three to five members who are elected by eligible producer voters.

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## Over the Counter Channell (OTCnet)

**FSA/CCC** is moving toward OTCnet, an electronic method for processing customer check payments. When a check is submitted for payment either in person or through the mail, the check will be converted into an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). The funds will be debited from the producer's account, usually within twenty-four (24) hours of receipt. Please see the U.S. Department of Treasury legal notices posted in the Service Center or visit the following U.S. Department of Treasury Internet site for detailed information.

<http://fms.treas.gov/otcnet/legal.html>

### What is OTCnet?

OTCnet is a Web-based online application process for converting paper checks presented to FSA into electronic debits to the producer's bank account. It presents many benefits such as reducing lost/ misplaced checks and paper handling. This improves customer relations, speeds the check clearing process, as well as reduces the potential for human error.

### How will my check be handled?

The check will be scanned into the system and voided. The customer will not receive the check back from FSA. FSA will hold checks for up to 14 calendar days to ensure that the item was successfully processed, and then FSA will shred the check.

### How quickly will funds be transferred from my account?

The transfer of funds from your account should occur within twenty-four (24) hours. Therefore, you should be sure that you have sufficient funds in your account to process the transaction. If you **do not** have sufficient funds, we may initiate the transaction again.

### How will this transaction appear on my account statement?

The transfer of funds will be reflected on your account statements. The transaction may be recorded in a different place on your statement than where your checks normally appear, such as under "other with-drawals" or "other transactions".

### What are my rights if there is a problem with the transaction?

You have protections under Federal Law for an unauthorized electronic fund transfer from your account. You should contact your financial institution immediately if you believe that the transaction reported on your account statement was not properly authorized or is otherwise incorrect.

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## Disaster Assistance

The Farm Service Agency would like to remind crop and livestock producers that have recently experienced severe damage from natural disasters, that FSA programs are available to assist with recovery.

We encourage all who have suffered a disaster due to recent severe weather conditions to read the fact sheets and visit their local FSA Office to get a quick start in the recovery process.

Fact sheets for all of these programs can be found at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov); click on **Newsroom**, then **Fact Sheets**.

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## FSA Fence Post Updates

The Farm Agency "Fence Post" is an online newsletter that is updated on an almost daily basis. It contains articles of interest on the agency's programs and departments, as well as success stories from the field. To access Fence Post visit: <http://fsa.blogs.govdelivery.com/>. Producers can sign up for weekly Fence Post Updates by putting an email address in the box that says "Get Email Updates".

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## Highly Erodible Lands and Wetland Compliance

Producers participating in most programs administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are required to abide by certain stipulations on any land owned or farmed that is highly erodible or that is considered a wetland.

To be in compliance with the highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation provisions, producers must agree that they **will not**:

- Produce an agricultural commodity on highly erodible land without a conservation system
- Plant an agricultural commodity on a converted wetland
- Convert a wetland to make possible the production of an agricultural commodity

Producers must notify FSA and update Form AD-1026 if they plan to remove fence rows, convert woodlots to cropland, combine crop fields, divide a crop field into two or more fields, install new drainage, or improve or modify existing drainage. FSA will notify NRCS who will then provide highly erodible land or wetland determinations.

To get additional information on highly erodible land and wetland conservation compliance, contact the FSA

Office or NRCS Office at your local USDA Service Center. Additional information about conservation programs offered by FSA can be found online at [www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation). Information on NRCS programs can be found at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>.

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## 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](http://www.farmerclaims.gov). The claims package will contain detailed information about the eligibility process.

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## NRCS -- Sage Grouse Initiative

NRCS has a new initiative that you may be eligible for! The Sage Grouse Initiative was launched in 2010 and aims to keep sage grouse from being listed on the endangered species list. This effort is focusing on 11 western states on rangelands that Sage Grouse are currently known to occupy. Private landowners are eligible for financial incentives to help working ranches improve their rangelands and remain productive while addressing the Sage Grouse habitat. The overarching goal is to ensure that ranching and livestock grazing continues to be a primary land use across the region of Sage Grouse occupancy on our Nevada rangeland.

NRCS offers many conservation programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP), various easement programs and much more, that producers can apply for throughout the year. NRCS Offices that are included within the Sage Grouse range of Nevada include: Caliente, Ely, Elko, Fallon, and Winnemucca.

Producers can contact any field office for more information and may apply at any time. Producers begin working with NRCS field staff to discuss operation goals, resource concerns, and feasibility. Most importantly all of our programs are entirely **VOLUNTARY** which means **YOU** create and implement your plans and we are simply here to provide you with technical assistance and recommendations. Please feel free to give us a call or stop by at your convenience. 775-289-4065 Ely Field office Click to edit this placeholder text.

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).

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## Historic Drought

As all Producers are well aware of, we are in the midst of an historic drought which is currently impacting much of this country. This drought remains unpredictable, as are all weather events. All of Nevada is under Disaster Declarations. USDA has reduced the interest rate for FSA Emergency loans to 2.25 percent from 3.75.

Payment reduction for Conservation Reserve Programs (CRP) has been lowered from 25 to 10 percent for lands that qualify for emergency haying and grazing in 2012, thus creating a smaller burden on livestock operators who desperately need land to graze. This has been done in an effort to alleviate the burden on farmers and ranchers. Our authority to take further action is limited because the disaster programs in the 2008 Farm Bill expired last year.

As we continue in our efforts to help producers and families impacted by this drought, USDA has set up a special web page to deliver the most up-to-date information possible. You are encouraged to visit USDA's Drought Page ([www.usda.gov/drought](http://www.usda.gov/drought)), which in addition to the news, contains fact sheets and information that may be helpful to you of this country.

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INTEREST RATES JULY 2012	
Farm Operating - Direct	1.250%
Farm Ownership - Direct	3.375%
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	
<b>OFFICE CLOSED EVERY FRIDAY</b>	
COC Nomination Period Open	June 15
Office Closed – Prog Tech on Vacation	July 2 - 6
CED Claire Kehoe in Ely Office	July 16-20
COC Nomination Period Closing	Aug 1
Deadline – NAP for forage	Oct 31
Deadline – Nap for grazing	Dec 1
<b>COC meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed of month on an “as needed basis”</b>	

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For more information on newsletter subjects or details regarding your GovDelivery subscription with the Ely FSA Office, you may contact Claire Kehoe at [claire.kehoe@usda.gov](mailto:claire.kehoe@usda.gov) or call **775 738 6445 Ext 106**.

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