

August 2012



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Ely FSA Office Updates

DEAR PRODUCERS: Welcome to our GovDelivery bulletins and updates service from the Ely FSA Office. Please remember that you are welcome to request receipt of bulletins from more than one county, and can add or remove individual subscriptions whenever you wish. Also, we would appreciate any ideas or suggestions you may have to help make these bulletins and updates more helpful to you.

USDA - Ely Service Center Ely FSA Office

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Hours: 8:00 am - 4:30 am
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

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NAP Losses and Deadlines

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 of 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, 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.

NAP 2013 Crop Year Deadlines:

- **Hay:** October 31, 2012
- **Grazing:** December 1, 2012

Drought Disaster Assistance

USDA has streamlined the disaster designation process, lowered emergency loan rates and created greater CRP flexibility to help farmers and ranchers in drought-stricken areas across the country.

FSA's low-interest emergency loans will help Producers recover from losses due to drought, and other natural disasters. The interest rate has been reduced to 2.25 percent, providing a much-needed resource for Producers hoping to recover from production and physical losses associated with natural disasters.

New guidelines were announced for emergency haying and grazing on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land. Annual rental payments for farmers enrolled in CRP, who use those lands for emergency grazing and hay production, will be reduced by ten (10%) instead of twenty-five (25) percent. Also, because of the current severe drought, all counties with a drought level of **D 0** or higher, as measured by the US Drought Monitor, are approved for emergency haying and grazing outside of the primary nesting season (**PNS**).

USDA encourages all farmers and ranchers to contact their crop insurance companies and local USDA Farm Service Agency Service Centers, as applicable, to report crop damage or livestock loss. In addition, USDA reminds livestock producers to keep thorough records of losses, including additional expenses for such things as food purchased due to lost supplies. More information about Federal Crop Insurance may be found at www.rma.usda.gov. Additional resources to help farmers and ranchers deal with disaster losses may be found at www.usda.gov/disaster.

FSA Farm Loans

The Farm Service agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, contact your nearest FSA Office for details about direct and guaranteed loans.

Ask your current lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your current lender is reluctant to extend or renew your 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.

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.

To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county staff to schedule an appointment.

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 process ensures that the 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 payment and; \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs.

Highly Erodible Land Sign-Up

The Highly Erodible Land Initiative sign-up under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) began on July 23, 2012. The purpose of this initiative is to protect up to 750,000 acres of the nation's most highly erodible croplands. Producers may enroll at their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Office. Enrollment will continue until the 750,000 acre limit has been reached.

CRP is a voluntary program designed to help farmers, ranchers and other agricultural producers protect their environmentally sensitive land. Through this Highly Erodible Land Initiative, eligible landowners receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource conserving covers on eligible cropland and maintain it for a period of ten (10) years. Croplands with an erodible index of 20 or greater are eligible for enrollment.

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 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.

Actively Engaged

FSA wants to remind Producers about the eligibility rules that require program applicants to be 'actively engaged' in farming. These eligibility rules apply to payments under the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) or Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program administered by FSA.

To be eligible, the stockholder or a member of a legal entity **must** normally make contributions of active personal labor and/or active personal management of the farming operation. The contributions are to be performed on a regular basis, and must be identifiable and separate from the contributions of others.

The exception to this rule occurs only if both of the following apply:

- At least half of the interest in the legal entity is held by stockholders or members who are providing active personal labor or active personal management and;
- The total direct payments received both directly and indirectly, by the legal entity and each of the members does not exceed \$40,000

AGI Reconciliation Reminder

In the 2008 Farm Bill, Congress directed the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to institute average AGI limitations for participants who enrolled in certain farm programs. If you received a letter stating you had not submitted Form CCC-931, "Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information", please submit the form as soon as possible. If you fail to submit the AGI limitations set in the 2008 Farm Bill, you will be ineligible for 2009, 2010, and 2011 program benefits for not submitting Form CCC-931. Therefore, a refund will be required of all 2009, 2010 and/or 2011 program payment benefits received. You and and/or legal entity will be notified by separate letter of the required refund amounts. Please contact our office if you have questions about your eligibility under AGI regulations.

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 programs, FSA can provide financing through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for ten (10) years or less
- 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 thirty (30%) percent of the County's median size

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements and loan approval is not guaranteed. Additional program information and loan applications are available at local FSA offices or visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

Farm Safety

Flowing grain in a storage bin or gravity-flow wagon is like quicksand -- it can kill quickly. It takes less than five (5) seconds for a person caught in flowing grain to be trapped.

The mechanical aspects of grain handling equipment, also presents a real danger. Augers, power take offs (PTO's) and other moving parts can grab people or clothing.

These hazards, along with pinch points and missing shields, are dangerous and lethal for both adults and children alike. It is always advisable to keep children a safe distance from farm equipment in operation. Always use extra caution when backing or maneuvering farm equipment. Ensure everyone is visibly clear and accounted for before machine is engaged.

FSA wants all farmers to have a productive and safe crop year, and that begins with putting safety first.

Preventing Fraud

The Farm Service Agency supports the Risk Management Agency in the prevention of fraud, waste and abuse of the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop insurance conditions throughout the growing season. FSA will continue to refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse directly to RMA.

Producers can report suspected cases to the FSA Office, RMA, or the Office of the Inspector General.

Electronic Services Available

With Internet access, program participants can access many services from home 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and receive both approvals and direct deposit payments within 48 hours.

To participate in these electronic services, you must meet all program eligibility requirements. Online services have stringent security measures to protect your private information.

To utilize electronic services, a producer needs an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires email addresses and filing out an online registration form at www.eauth.usda.gov/ followed by a visit to the County Office for identity verification.

If you have more questions or would like assistance establishing your account, please contact your local FSA Office.

NRCS \$5 Million in Conservation Innovation Grants

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced the availability of up to \$5 Million in grants to evaluate and demonstrate agricultural practices that help farmers and ranchers adapt to drought. NRCS is taking applications for Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) to help producers build resiliency into their production systems so they can adapt to climatic extremes such as the historic drought impacting the nation.

Grant applications are due **October 15, 2012**. Private individuals, Tribes, local and state governments and non-governmental organizations can apply.

Funds will be awarded through a competitive grants process for projects lasting for one to three years. Apply electronically at www.grants.gov or contact the NRCS CIG Office at 703 235 8065.

[Learn more about the \\$5 Million Conservation Innovation Grant](#)

INTEREST RATES AUGUST 2012		DATES TO REMEMBER	
Farm Operating - Direct	1.250%	OFFICE CLOSED EVERY FRIDAY	
Farm Ownership - Direct	3.000%	Labor Day Holiday – Office Closed	Sept 3
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%	Office Closed (Tentative) – Staff at State Office for Training	Sep 18-20
Farm Ownership - Direct, Joint Financing	5.000%	Deadline – 2013 NAP Forage	Oct 31
Farm Storage Facility—7 yrs	1.000%	Ballots Mailed to Eligible Voters	Dec 1
Farm Storage Facility — 10 yrs	1.625%	Deadline – 2013 NAP for grazing	Dec 1
		Last Day to Return COC Ballots to FSA	Dec 3
Commodity Loans – 1966 to present	1.125%		
90 – Day Treasury Bill	0.125%	COC meets 3rd Wed of month on an “as needed basis”	

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).