



November 2007

## Elko-Eureka County News

### Elko/Eureka County USDA Service Center

Elko/Eureka County FSA  
555 W Silver St. Ste 101  
Elko NV 89801  
(775)738-6445 ext. 2  
(774)778-9712 (fax)

[www.fsa.usda.gov/nv](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/nv)

### Hours

Monday - Friday  
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

### County Committee

Steve Wines, Chair  
Mark Damele, Vice Chair  
Patsy Tomera, Member  
Audrey Spratling, Member  
Clayton Cota, Member  
Vince Garcia, Advisor

County Committee usually meets on the second Monday of each month at 1:30 pm in the Conference Room at the Service Center

### Staff

Clayre Moiola, CED  
Cathy Yardley, FLO  
Micki Wines, FLOT  
Maria Murillo, PT  
Kaye Sigman, PT

## CDP Signup Starts – LIP and LCP Continue

The Crop Disaster Program (CDP) provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops. **CDP signup** for quantity loss began **October 15, 2007**.

Losses from natural disasters may qualify for financial assistance if the crop was planted before Feb. 28, 2007, or, in the case of prevented plantings, for crops that would have been planted before Feb. 28, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose **only one year** to apply for benefits. Participants may apply for loss benefits on multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year.

Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits. Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP.

Ranchers and other livestock producers can also apply to receive benefits under the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). LCP compensates livestock producers for feed losses occurring between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007, due to a natural disaster. LIP compensates livestock producers for livestock losses during that same time period. For more information on these and other programs simply contact the nearest USDA Farm Service Agency office.

## Voting for County Committee Begins

Ballots for this year's county committee election were mailed to eligible voters on November 2, 2007. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on December 3, 2007. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight December 3rd.

The candidates in this year's election are:

**Steven Wines** is nominated in LAA 3, Elko/Eureka County, to serve as a committee member. Steve ranches in Ruby Valley and raises cattle and grass hay. He has been an active member of the Elko/Eureka County Committee for 3 years and currently serves as Chairperson.

**Michael Morrison** is also nominated for LAA 3, Michael ranches South of Wells at the Warm Springs Ranch.

**Patsy Tomera** is nominated in LAA 4, Elko/Eureka County, to serve as a committee member. Tomera ranches with her husband, Tom, in Eureka County on the Tomera Stonehouse Ranch.

Eligible voters in a local administrative area LAA 3 and LAA4 who have not received a ballot should contact the FSA county office staff.

**Voter Requirements** Persons meeting requirements in **1 or 2, plus 3**, below, is eligible to vote:

**1.** Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as either of the following:

an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper,  
*or*

a partner in a general partnership or member of a joint venture that has an interest in a farm as an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper; *or*

**2.** Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm; *and*

3. Eligible to participate in any FSA program that is provided by law, regardless of the status of funding.

**Discrimination Prohibited** No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

Ballots will be counted Dec. 10, 2007 at the Elko Service Center at 1:30 pm.

### **EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM (ECP)**

#### ***EC3 – Fencing: To Help Restore or Rebuild privately owned fences destroyed by wildfires***

The Elko FSA Office has been notified that we can establish an ECP signup period for EC3-Fencing. This is a cost share program to help repair and/or rebuild privately owned fences damaged or destroyed by wildfires during the summer of 2007. This program also covers Drought ECP for water hauling and emergency conservation for livestock wells. This has been approved in both Elko and Eureka County.

**Note: At this time there are no funds available for this program and we are not sure when or if we will get funds.**

However, if you lost fences and need help in restoring them you **must** sign up for the program in order to receive cost share money if funds are allocated to the program.

**The signup period is for 20 days only.**

**Signup period starts November 1, 2007 and ends November 20, 2007.**

Please call for appointment to signup for the program and for us to explain other criteria for the program.

### **Youth Loan Projects**

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 \$5000.

#### **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
- Live in the open country or in a town of less than 10,000 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. The FSA staff can help you with questions you may have about a particular program.

### **Selling Land**

If you're planning to sell farmland, there may be some program consequences you should be aware of. For example, if you're planning to sell land that's enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, the buyer must agree to continue the enrollment. If the buyer doesn't want to continue the CRP contract, you might have to refund all of the payments you've received to date.

Reviewing program implications with your local Farm Service Agency staff before completing a sale of farmland is always a prudent precaution.

### **Farm Reconstitutions**

In program terminology, farms are *constituted* to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm *reconstitution* is necessary. The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by Aug. 1 for farms enrolled in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program.



**Estate Method** — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;

**Designation of Landowner Method** — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;

**DCP Cropland Method** — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;

**Default Method** — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

If DCP direct payments have already been issued on a particular farm, the reconstitution will be effective for the next year, unless the payments are refunded.

## Changing Banks

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. This innovation has cut down on the number of missing and late payments and reduced the time required to move funds. It has been determined that the chance of having a problem with a payment is 20 times greater with checks than with Direct Deposit. Another benefit is that Direct Deposit to your account can be made within 48 hours.

To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions.

If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

## Reasonable Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

## e-Forms Available

Producers with Internet access can fill out and print a variety of FSA paper forms at home.

Producers are encouraged to register for secure electronic access that will allow you to e-file (electronically sign and transmit) some forms directly to the county office staff.

To sign and transmit forms electronically, you must sign up and get a user name and password. To sign up in person, visit the county office and complete form AD-2016. The staff will verify your identity and enter your information into the system. You will receive a letter with your temporary ID. You will be sent a second letter with your temporary password and instructions on how to activate your account. You then go to the Activation Web site and select a permanent ID and password.

Submitting an e-Form is convenient. You can access information anytime day or night seven days a week. It's also faster. Forms and applications can be submitted and received in the county office in a matter of minutes, not days or weeks.

### Selected Interest Rates

Selected Interest Rates	
Farm Operating - Direct	4.750%
Farm Ownership - Direct	5.375%
Limited Resource	5.000%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	4.000%
Emergency	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility	4.375%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	5.125%





Dates to Remember	
Nov. 12	Veterans Day Holiday-Office closed
Nov. 22	Thanksgiving Day Holiday – Office Closed
Dec. 1	Deadline to purchase NAP coverage for 2008 for grazing land
Dec. 3	Last day to return county committee election ballots
Dec. 25	Christmas Day Holiday

Visit our Web site: <http://www.fsa.usda/nv>

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