



November 2007

## ELY FSA Office News

### Ely USDA - FSA Service Center

**Ely FSA Office**  
HC 33, Box 33453  
Ely, NV 89301-9402

**Phone (775) 289-4990**  
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**Hours**  
Monday - Friday  
7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

### County Committee

Gordon Eldridge, Chairman  
Max Reid, Jr., Vice-Chair  
Cleo K. Connell, Member  
Annette George, Advisor

### Staff

Tyler Seal, CED Ext 100  
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### NRCS Office

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Ely, NV 89301-9402

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### NAP DEADLINE APPROACHING

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) deadline for fall seeded crops is approaching. NAP is designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production for an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. **The final deadline to purchase 2008 NAP for grazing is December 1<sup>st</sup>.**

Producers who had NAP coverage may choose to continue coverage on the same crops for next year, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new form CCC-471, Application for Coverage, is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crops.

Producers who choose to add or delete a crop from the previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471, with signatures, and pay the applicable service fee.

Producers with NAP coverage are required to 1) file a Notice of Loss within 15 days of when a loss is apparent; 2) timely file acreage reports; and 3) keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods.

### 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.

### COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

Just a reminder: Be watching your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot starting early this month. **Ballots were mailed to all eligible voters starting November 2, 2007.** If for some reason you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify the county FSA office. **Completed and signed ballots are due back in the county office by the close of business on December 3, 2007. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight, December 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

### CHANGING BANKS

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. This has cut down on the number of missing and late payments and reduced the time required



to move funds. 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.

### **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.

### **CENSUS GIVES FARMERS A VOICE IN THEIR FUTURE**

America's farmers and ranchers will soon be able to participate in shaping the future of agriculture. The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will begin distribution of the 2007 Census of Agriculture next month.

According to NASS, the Census of Agriculture provides information that is not available anywhere else – information that benefits agricultural producers and their communities in many ways. Policy-makers use the data for decisions concerning agricultural and rural programs. Community planners use the information to target delivery of local services. Companies rely on the data when determining where to locate their operations. And farmers themselves look at it when deciding to make changes in their production strategies.

Conducted every five years by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Census is a complete count of the nation's farms and ranches and the people who operate them. The Census looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures and other topics. It provides the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every county in the nation.

NASS will mail out Census forms on December 28, 2007 to collect data for the 2007 calendar year. Completed forms are due by February 4, 2008. Producers can return their forms by mail or, for the first time, they have the convenient option of filling out the Census online via a secure web site at <http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/>.

### **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.

### 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.

### NRCS Filter Your Irrigation Water

Producers have been replacing old surface irrigation systems with pipe and pivots. To run these systems they have been diverting from water sources at higher elevations to capitalize on the pressure created by gravity which is much more cost effective compared to pumping. The down side to this is that the water

sources are usually ponds or streams from where trash and debris can plug new sprinkler systems. Filtering this debris becomes necessary.

To solve this problem producers have been installing turbulent fountain screens or “bubblers” to effectively filter trash and debris out of the irrigation system. Turbulent fountain screens have been in use in southwest Idaho for many years and were first introduced there to remove noxious weeds from open ditch surface irrigation systems thereby preventing the spread of noxious weeds.

Properly designed screens can cost anywhere from \$1300 to \$2500 depending on the amount of water they must carry. The screen will usually be positioned at the very beginning of the irrigation mainline. The NRCS will design and cost share turbulent fountain screens as a component of your irrigation system. If you are interested call the NRCS nearest you or in Ely call 775-289-4065.



A turbulent fountain screen such as this one can effectively filter out trash and debris before it gets into your irrigation system.

Selected Interest Rates November 2007	
90-Day Treasury Bill	4.625%
Farm Operating - Direct	5.125%
Farm Ownership - Direct	5.500%
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	5.250%

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PRESORTED STANDARD  
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
 DAVIS, CA  
 PERMIT #22



Dates to Remember	
Nov 2	COC Ballots Mailed to Voters
Nov 12	Office Closed – Veterans' Day
Nov 23	Thanksgiving – Office Closed
Dec 1	Deadline – Purchase NAP for Grazing
Dec 3	Last Day to Return COC Ballots
Dec 10	Final Day to Count COC Ballots
Dec 25	Office Closed – Christmas Holiday
Jan 1	Office Closed – New Year Day Holiday

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audio-tape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.