



April 2007

## Combined Newsletter for Churchill, Nye, Pershing, Storey and Washoe Counties

### USDA Service Center

#### Business Hours

Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

#### Fallon FSA Office

111 Sheckler Rd., Ste. B  
Fallon, NV 89406-8951  
775-423-5124 (phone)  
775-428-1335 (fax)

#### Fallon COC Members:

Louie Damonte Jr.  
Eric Olsen  
Michael Laca  
Robert James  
Raymond Kretschmer

#### Lovelock FSA Office

110 American Blvd.  
Lovelock, NV 89419  
775-273-2922 (phone)  
775-273-3508 (fax)

#### Lovelock COC Members:

Karen Wesner  
Tim DeLong  
Mike Phillips

#### Staff:

Bob Baldwin, CED  
Katie Tipton, COT  
Linda King, Fallon  
Program PT  
Imelda Andersen,  
Fallon Program PT  
Jan Hronesh  
Fallon Program PT  
Terry Goldsworthy,  
Lovelock Program PT

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



### Acreage Reporting

Acreage reporting time is just around the corner. Please remember that filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acreage reports are required if you want to be eligible for Farm Service Agency programs. On crops other than NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program) crops, acreage reports are to be certified by June 15<sup>th</sup> for small grains and July 15<sup>th</sup> for all other crops.

Acreage reports on crops for which NAP assistance may be paid are due in the county office by the earlier of June 15<sup>th</sup> for small grains, July 15<sup>th</sup> for all other crops or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported.

### Banking Changes?

If you have changed banks and not notified FSA, your payment could be delayed. Payments are electronically transferred into your bank account, if we are not aware of changes to your account and routing numbers, there could be problems. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. It is important that any changes in producer's account such as type account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers, be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.

### DCP Deadline Changes

FSA has changed the deadline for the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) until **Aug. 3, 2007.**

This extension is a result of earlier problems with the Farm Service Agency's computer network. A late-file fee of \$100 will only be assessed for farms that are enrolled after Aug. 3, 2007, and before Sept. 30, 2007. Enrollment in DCP for the 2007 contract period began on October 1, 2006, and was scheduled to end on June 1, 2007. This extension applies **only** to the enrollment time frame, and does not extend the annual DCP contract period of Sept. 30, 2007. Applications signed after September 30, 2007 cannot be approved.

### Wool & Mohair Loans or LDPs

Wool and mohair producers will find applying for commodity loans and loan deficiency payments for the wool, mohair and unshorn pelts a little simpler this year thanks to the Farm Service Agency's new CCC-633 EZ form.

The EZ form will take the place of the older CCC-633 PELT and CCC-709 PELT forms. Page one of the EZ form takes the place of the 709 PELT form and indicates the producer's intention to receive LDP benefits later on. It's important to complete EZ page one before losing beneficial interest in the commodity.

Producers should complete page one of the EZ form as soon as possible for their current crop year wool, mohair and unshorn pelts. After page one is completed, producers can request benefits at any time during the period that loans or LDPs are available, before or after losing beneficial interest. Grain growers also use the CCC-633 EZ. Once page one is on file, grain producers can complete page two at a later date when they want to apply for an LDP.

The CCC-633 EZ simplifies requests for LDPs for wool, mohair and unshorn pelts. Page four of the revised EZ form is specifically for wool and mohair producers to request an LDP.

---

## Rural Youth Loans

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes operating loans to individual rural youths age 10 through 20 to establish and operate income producing projects.

These projects must be of modest size and be initiated, developed, carried out by rural youths participating in 4-H Clubs, FFA, or a similar organization or with a vocational teacher or county extension agent.



The project must be an organized and supervised program of work. It must be planned and operated with the assistance of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience.

Contact your local FSA office for more details.

---

## Welcome Jan Hronesh

The Fallon FSA office has a new employee. Jan will be concentrating on GIS maps to complete the certification process. Welcome aboard Jan!

---

### Beginning, Small and Limited Resource Farmers and Ranchers:

#### Do You Require Financial Assistance to Fund Conservation Program Initiatives?

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Farm Service Agency (FSA) have worked together to make conservation programs more available to beginning, small, and limited resource farmers. As producers move from initial contract development into the implementation stage under NRCS' Environmental Quality Incentives Program, many face the inability to acquire the initial capital investment of their cost-share portion needed for contract implementation.

To help producers implement conservation measures, FSA has several loan programs available to assist with up-front costs. FSA makes direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans to family-size farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit otherwise. A primary objective of FSA's farm loan programs is to assist small, beginning, and socially disadvantaged (minority and female) producers. In fact, a portion of FSA's loan funds are reserved for beginning and socially disadvantaged producers. These loan programs are not new and have been used successfully in conjunction with conservation programs throughout the United States.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center.

You may also visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) and [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov).



## CoCoRaHS Welcomes the Silver State

*Submitted by Laura Edwards, Nevada Co-CoRaHS State Co-Coordinator*

Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow (CoCoRaHS) Network is proud to announce Nevada as one of its newest members. This volunteer, non-profit, precipitation measuring network kicked off on March 1 in our great state. Any and all who are interested in watching and reporting the rain, hail and snow in their backyard, farm or ranch, are encouraged to register. Any age citizen can participate, and with any level of commitment, from one season to a lifetime. The burgeoning network started small after a deadly 1997 flood in Fort Collins, CO, that resulted after heavy rain went unreported by storm spotters. CoCoRaHS has now grown to 17 states nationwide, with nearly 3,000 volunteers. The National Weather Service, emergency managers, hydrologists, researchers and many others are using CoCoRaHS for many purposes, plus it's just fun to see your data on the Web! All you need to participate are: an interest and willingness to watch your weather each day, have internet access to report your observations online, participate in a live or online training session, and own or acquire a 4" rain gauge. The first live northern Nevada training session will be on April 7 at Spanish Springs Library in Sparks, 10:30-12:30. For more information, visit the CoCoRaHS website at [www.cocorahs.org](http://www.cocorahs.org), or contact Laura, Jim or Michelle, the Nevada State Coordinators, at 775-674-7010 or [cocorahs@dri.edu](mailto:cocorahs@dri.edu).

## Toll-Free Number for Borrowers

Direct loan borrowers with USDA's Farm Service Agency can now check the status of their accounts around the clock using a new toll-free telephone number.

The toll-free number, 1-888-518-4983, is available in both English and Spanish. The system delivers information on active FSA loans 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

During the first call to the new system, borrowers will enter their tax identification number or the Social Security Number associated with the loan. They also will need to enter their ZIP code. Borrowers will create a personal identification number for security. Customers must enter their PIN every time they use the system and may change their PIN. The system menu helps the producer access helpful information. The system may also direct borrowers to contact their local FSA servicing office if action is necessary on their accounts.



## Conservation Compliance

Federal regulations discourage the production of crops on highly erodible cropland unless the land is protected from erosion by an approved conservation system. Status reviews are conducted to ensure producers follow a conservation plan on highly erodible land.

In addition to the highly erodible land, a person may not plant an agricultural commodity on wetland converted after Dec. 23, 1985, or convert a wetland to make agricultural production possible after Nov. 28, 1990.

Failure to comply with these provisions will cause a person to be ineligible for USDA benefits. County Committees may review noncompliance situations for good faith and provide relief in approved cases.

## Payment Limits

USDA payments and benefits are subject to producer eligibility and limitation provisions as defined by law. It is the producer's responsibility to report changes in the farming operation which may affect payment eligibility and payment limitation. Failure to do so can result ineligibility for payments for all years affected.

The following payments apply to DCP for each contract year through both direct and counter-cyclical payments. For all covered commodities, except peanuts: \$40,000 for direct payments and \$65,000 for counter-cyclical payments. For Peanuts: \$40,000 for direct payments and \$65,000 for counter-cyclical payments. The Environmental Quality Incentive Program has a \$450,000 payment limitation total for fiscal years 2002 – 2007. The Conservation Reserve Programs annual limit is \$50,000 per person. Marketing loan gains payment limit of \$75,000 per person.

Entities such as corporations, limited partnerships, trusts and estates are required to provide names, addresses, and ID numbers of their members.



## Farm Storage Facility Loans

Low cost loans for storage facilities are available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including wheat, rice, soybeans and corn.

The seven-year Farm Storage Facility Loans are available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities. Eligible facilities include new conventional-type cribs or bins and new and remanufactured oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures.

All Farm Storage Facility Loans are secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85 percent of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to \$100,000 for each borrower. A minimum down payment is also required. For details, contact the county office staff.

## Removing CCC Loan Collateral

Producers are reminded, if you have grain under Commodity Credit Corporation loan it cannot be removed or disposed of without prior county office staff authorization or repayment. The county office staff may issue release authorizations based on a telephone or in person request when you are ready to move the grain. A loan violation is subject to monetary and administrative penalties, such as repaying the loan at principal plus interest, liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans and loan deficiency payments.

All commodity loans are subject to spot check. Locking in a market loan repayment rate is not a marketing authorization. If you are planning to move CCC loan grain, contact the county office staff for additional information.

### Boneyard Cleanup

Stan Levers of B.V. Nevada Corp. stopped by the Lovelock office.

“We plan to be in the Lovelock area for the next few months and are on the lookout for more scrap. We can take steel, aluminum, brass, copper, stainless as well as undrained batteries, appliances and cars (subject to DMV regulations).” Any farmers/ranchers in the area that would like to get their old equipment boneyards cleaned up can call Stan at 775-221-3798.

| Selected Interest Rates for<br>April 2007                                     |       |
|---|-------|
| Farm Operating Loans — Direct   | 5.25% |
| Farm Ownership Loans — Direct   | 5.50% |
| Farm Ownership Loans — Direct<br>Down Payment, Beginning<br>Farmer or Rancher | 4.00% |
| Emergency Loans   | 3.75% |
| Farm Storage Facility Loans   | 4.50% |
| Commodity Loans 1996-Present  | 6.00% |

### NAP Reporting

For those producers that filed for NAP coverage, please remember that you need to **file a Notice of Loss within 15 days of the date the loss was first noticed.**

| Dates to Remember                    |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| May 1 <sup>st</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> | Office Closed – State Training                   |
| May 28 <sup>th</sup>                 | Office Closed - Memorial Day                     |
| June 15 <sup>th</sup>                | 2007 Acreage Report Deadline for Grain Crops     |
| July 15 <sup>th</sup>                | 2007 Acreage Report Deadline for all Other Crops |
| July 15 <sup>th</sup>                | Dedline to submit 2006 Production Information    |
| August 3 <sup>rd</sup>               | DCP sign-up Deadline                             |
| Continues                            | Continuous Conservation Reserve program          |

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

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information ( Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of Discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.