



July 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  
**Carolyn Persinger**, FLM

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



### Congratulations and welcome Carolyn Persinger!

Carolyn has been selected as the new Farm Loan Manager (FLM) in Nevada. She was the Farm Loan Officer in Tiffin, Ohio and will bring her extensive 15 years farm loan experience and knowledge to the county offices. She's stationed in Fallon and scheduled to begin her appointment on July 16th.

### Acreage Reporting

The timely filing of an acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a number of programs, including Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program, Conservation Reserve Program, Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, as well as marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments. To be timely, you must file an FSA-578 by June 15 for small grains and July 15 for all other crops.

To be considered timely, acreage reports for:

- prevented planted acreage must be filed no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date for the applicable crop
- failed acreage must be filed before the disposition of the crop.

FSA will accept crop certifications from farm operators, farm owners, persons authorized by power of attorney and tenants and sharecroppers, for which they have a share. Crop acreage reports from producers are accepted for multiple future applications.

### New Disaster Programs

As part of new legislation passed by Congress last month, a multi-program package to help farmers in Nevada who have suffered losses over the past three years will soon be available.

Specific details are not yet available. As more information becomes available we will provide updates and information will soon be available online at: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov). We anticipate that sign up will occur later this fall.

A few program specifics are:

#### Crop Disaster Program:

All crops are eligible. However, producers must have purchased crop insurance or coverage under the agency's Non-insured Assistance Program in order to qualify. Eligible losses are those that exceeded 35 percent and occurred in 2005, 2006 or 2007 (2007 crops must have been planted before Feb. 28, 2007) as a result of a natural disaster. The producer will choose one year for benefits. Quality loss assistance will be available for some crops as well.

#### Emergency Conservation Program:

Nationwide, \$16 million has been made available for the cleanup and restoration of farm and agricultural production lands.

#### Livestock Programs:

Producers choose for each livestock program one of three years for which they would receive benefits. Eligible counties will be announced at a later date.

*The Livestock Compensation Program* provides benefits for producers in designated disaster counties for their added costs of procuring livestock feed in 2005, 2006 or 2007 (up to Feb. 28, 2007). Eligible livestock

## Foreign Landowner Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property.

County government offices, real estate agents, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

## Beginning Farmers, Ranchers

Are you a farmer or rancher who has substantially participated in the farming operation for at least three years but no more than 10 years? If so, you may qualify for beginning farmer targeted loan funds with the FSA.

The program is designed to assist these farmers by providing direct and guaranteed loans when they are unable to obtain financing from commercial credit sources. If you believe this program could be of benefit to you, contact the county office for more information. FSA loan officials will be happy to arrange an appointment to meet with you and discuss your options.

## New Disaster Programs (Cont.)

under are: dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, equine, poultry, elk, reindeer, sheep, goats, swine, deer, and catfish.

**The Livestock Indemnity Program** makes payment available to producers that have incurred more than normal livestock losses between Jan. 1, 2005 and Feb. 28, 2007, due to a disaster. A producer will select the losses in one year for benefits.

### Dairy Programs:

**The Dairy Assistance Program** compensates producers for reduced milk production due to a natural disaster in a declared disaster county. Nationwide, \$16 million is available.

### Milk Income Loss Contract Program

This program extends the MILC program for one additional month, through Sept. 30, 2007.



## COC Election Nominations

From June 15 through Aug. 1, farmers and ranchers can nominate eligible peers as candidates for election to the County Farm Service Agency County Committee.

This is an important time for Local Administrative Area communities, because county committee members make decisions that have significant effects on you and the area's agricultural sector as a whole.

For example, committee members make decisions on applications for federal farm program and disaster payments. Committee members play a vital role by helping local farmers and ranchers manage tough financial times and natural disasters.

County committee members make many other important decisions that affect local farmers and ranchers, such as whether haying and grazing should be allowed on Conservation

Reserve Program land. Talk to a county committee member or the County Executive Director for details on the types of decisions county committee members make.

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet basic eligibility requirements. Contact the county office staff or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections> for details about candidate eligibility. Nomination forms can be obtained at the county office or online at the above address. Committee members are reimbursed for travel expenses and are paid at the rate of a GS-6, step 1, currently \$14.72 per hour.

Remember, the nomination period runs June 15 through Aug. 1. Voting takes place in the fall. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by Nov. 2. Dec. 3 is the last day to return voted ballots to the county office. Newly elected committee members and alternates take office Jan. 1, 2008.

## Selected Interest Rates For July 2007

90-Day Treasury Bill	5.125%
Farm Operating - Direct	5.000%
Farm Ownership - Direct	5.250%
Limited Resource	5.000%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	4.000%
Emergency	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility	4.625%
Sugar Storage Facility	4.875%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	5.875%

## CCC-633-EZ Reminder

The Farm Service Agency currently uses the CCC-633-EZ form. It's a one size fits all form you can fill out to indicate your intention to receive loan deficiency payments for all your crops at the beginning of the crop year, long before you've lost beneficial interest.

The same form is then used to submit a request for an LDP any time during the loan/LDP availability period before or after losing beneficial interest.

For the 2006 crop year, the CCC-633 EZ and eLDP online requests are the only methods available to request LDPs.

## Measurement Service

Farmers who would like a guarantee on their crop plantings and land use acreages can make it official by using the FSA measurement service. Producers must file a request with the county office staff and pay the cost of a field visit to have stake and referencing done on the farm.

Incorrect acreage self-certification can result in reduced program payments, penalty, or loss of eligibility.

## Farm Reconstitutions

In Farm Service Agency terms, 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. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **August 1** for farms enrolled in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program. If 2007 DCP direct payments have already been issued on the farm, the reconstitution will be effective for 2008 unless the payments are refunded.

## Preventing Fraud & Waste

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

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

## Sodbuster Regulations

The term “sodbusting” is used to identify the plowing up of erosion-prone grasslands for use as cropland. Sodbuster violations are unauthorized tillage practices on highly erodible lands that converted native vegetation such as rangeland or woodland, to crop production after Dec. 23, 1985.

Farmers and ranchers should be aware that if they use highly erodible land for crop production without proper conservation measures, they risk losing eligibility to participate in Farm Service Agency programs.

Before producers clear, plow or otherwise prepare areas not presently under crop production for planting, they are required to file an AD-1026, indicating the area to be brought into production.

If Natural Resources Conservation Service indicates on a CPA-026 that the area will be highly erodible land, the producer will be required to develop and implement a conservation plan on the affected acreage, before bringing land into production.

In addition, producers and the producer’s affiliates have to file an AD-1026 with the staff in the administrative or control county office before any farm program payments can be made. The AD-1026 is the producer’s signed certification that HELC, as well as wetland conservation, provisions will not be violated.

## Crop Certification

The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA office can be referred to as crop reporting, acreage reporting, or crop certification. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments.

The certification form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. The producer certification deadline for small grains was June 15 and July 15 for all other crops.

### CRP & NAP Certification

Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. And, crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.

### Prevented Planting:

Prevented planting needs be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

### Failed Acreage:

Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.

## FSA Farm Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes both direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans to family-size farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit from a bank, Farm Credit System institution or other lender. FSA loans can be used to purchase land, livestock, equipment, feed, seed and supplies. The loans can also be used to construct buildings or make farm improvements.

If you're having trouble getting commercial credit, check with the FSA county office staff about loan eligibility, as well as maximum loan amounts, rates, term and use of proceeds.

### DCP Deadline

The deadline to sign up for the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program – known as DCP-- **has been extended to August 3, 2007.** Those producers who have eligible crop acreage base farms and have not yet enrolled in the program have been given additional time to sign up their farms. This is an annual program that requires a new signed contract every year. Call today to make an appointment to enroll your farm.

### 2007 Compliance Process

Starting this year a new compliance and spot check selection process will be implemented for the 2007 crop year. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, deficiency loans, etc. for spot check and review, a nationwide selection of producers will be made using a statistical sampling method. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer's participation in Conservation Reserve Program, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Loan Deficiency Program, etc.

State and County Offices shall view and print their producer spot check lists as posted on the designated web site. If an entity is selected from the national database that is no longer farming or participating in the 2007 crop year, a notation shall be made on the spot check list. For more information about the new spot check selection procedure, feel free to contact your local Farm Service Agency office for additional clarification.

Dates to Remember	
July 15 <sup>th</sup>	Acreage Reports due for all Other Crops
July 15 <sup>th</sup>	2006 Hay Crop Production Due
August 3 <sup>rd</sup>	DCP sign-up deadline
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program
Sept. 3	Offices closed for Labor Day

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

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