



May 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.

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Fallon Program PT
Terry Goldsworthy,
Lovelock Program PT

www.fsa.usda.gov/nv



Local Administrative Areas (LAA's) change for the Fallon County Committee

The Fallon County Committee (COC) recently reviewed the boundaries for each Local Administrative Area (LAA) for the Churchill, Washoe, Storey and NW Nye areas. The COC was concerned that the slate of nominees for LAA 2 would not be able to be filled if the boundaries were not changed slightly.

The COC proposed the following changes to the boundaries of LAA 1 and LAA 2:

- LAA 1 will be the Pyramid Lake Reservation boundary lines, making the Pyramid Lake Reservation its own LAA.
- The east corner of Washoe County would be put back into LAA2, with the rest of Washoe County and Storey County.

This change will affect four producers, but would make them eligible to run for a position in LAA 2. Producers may contact the Fallon County Office at 775-423-5124 Ext 2 for a map and further information.

Lease Agreements

Recently there has been increased interest in flexible or combination leases. These rental provisions are developed to protect landlords and tenants, and to make sure payment limitation rules apply.

The key factor is whether the landlord shares in the production risk of the crop. Cash leases have a guaranteed amount, certain cash payment or a fixed quantity of a crop. Leases which are based on a share of the crop or proceeds are considered share leases and must be reported as such by the producer when signing up for DCP payments.

If the lease bases the rent on the amount of crop produced or the income derived from that crop (whether or not the crop is actually grown), or any combination of the two, it is a share lease and the landlord must receive a share of the DCP contract payment. This is because the landlord now shares the risk in the crop. The more bushels produced or the higher price received for that crop creates a higher rent.

Signup for 2007 DCP continues at all county FSA offices and will be available through August 3, 2007. For more information on flexible and combination leases contact the FSA office.

Reporting Crop Acreage

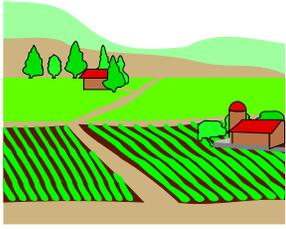
Remember to file your annual acreage reporting with FSA. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can help prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Marketing Assistance Loans and Loan Deficiency Payments.

Crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.

Crop reports, form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. Producers are required to file reports by June 15th for small grain crops. If you are interested in purchasing NAP coverage, remember that the following sales closing dates apply: October 31, 2007 for 2008.

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.



Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., we have a Power Of Attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information.

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment.

If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff directly or by phone.

Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained up to \$200,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$899,000.

Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration.

Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA.

For loan eligibility information, or more general information on our different loan programs, contact the county office staff for an appointment with a farm loan officer or visit our website: www.fsa.usda.gov.

2007 COC Election Information

One of FSA's responsibilities is to hold County Committee elections in an open manner that ensures accountability. County FSA Offices will provide local organizations representing socially disadvantaged groups with detailed information about the COC election process. FSA is reaching out to agricultural communities to get equitable representation on their county committees.

Groups representing socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, will be actively solicited for COC election candidates, and encouraged to fill out a nomination form (**FSA-669A**). Under represented farmers and ranchers are encouraged to step up and participate in their county's COC election process. Producers will notice posters and announcements displayed in businesses, churches, and other public

places. COC election fact sheets can be found online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA> under the News & Events tab on the FSA homepage.

GIS

(Geographic Information System)

The Farm Service Agency uses a Geographic Information System (GIS), a computer-based tool for capturing, storing, mapping and analyzing geographic farm data. FSA uses GIS to replace the old manual system of hard copy maps and aerial photographs. This digital technology is faster and more accurate than the old way, and saves taxpayers money over the long term.

Here's how GIS works. Up-to-date aerial photographs of the entire county are scanned so they can be stored in the computer. The photos become the base layer of the GIS. Technicians examine the photos and identify individual farms. They then outline each farm field, creating another layer of data called the Common Land Unit (CLU).

The software stores the shape of the field as a "polygon," and ties it to a specific location using latitude and longitude. The software can then automatically calculate the size of each field. The CLU layer will be connected to a database that contains information about the cropping history for each particular field.

GIS gives us the tools to provide quicker, more accurate information to producers and reduce the amount of time the producer must spend in the FSA office. As an added bonus, producers can review their farm's GIS files online from the comfort of their homes.

Outreach Program

The Farm Service Agency makes direct and guaranteed loans to socially disadvantaged applicants, enabling them to buy and operate family-size farms and ranches. Funds are reserved each year specifically for these loans, but regular loan funds can also be used. Direct loans may be made to qualified applicants by FSA for both farm operating and farm ownership purposes. Guaranteed farm loans also may be made for ownership or operating purposes, and may be made by any lending institution subject to Federal or state supervision (banks, savings and loans, and units of the Farm Credit System) and guaran-



teed by FSA. Some state governments also operate farm loan programs that are eligible for FSA guarantees. FSA typically guarantees 90 or 95 percent of a loan against any loss that might be incurred if the loan fails.

Persons who are primarily and directly engaged in farming and ranching on family-size operations may apply. A family-size farm is one that a family can operate and manage itself.

Socially disadvantaged loan applicants do not receive automatic approval. In addition to being members of a socially disadvantaged group, individual applicants under this program must meet all requirements for FSA's regular farm loan program assistance, including:

Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium, poppies and other drug producing plants.

- Have a satisfactory history of meeting credit obligations.
- Have sufficient education; training, or at least one-year's experience in managing or operating a farm or ranch within the last five years for a direct operating loan, or, for a direct farm ownership loan, have participated in the business operation of a farm or ranch for three years;
- Be a citizen of the United States (or a legal resident alien), including Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and certain former Pacific Island Trust Territories;
- Be unable to obtain credit elsewhere at reasonable rates and terms to meet actual needs; and
- Possess legal capacity to incur loan obligations.

A socially disadvantaged person is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities. For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Contact the FSA County Office Farm Loan Program staff for more details about this program, and other financial options.

Selected Interest Rates

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%

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 services completed on the farm.

Measurement service guarantees compliance with a program, if the planting is limited to the measured area.

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

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act 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 within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25% of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, Realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

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 or
 530-661-3319 or
 530-304-1550.

Trees for Sale –Cheap!

The Big Meadow Conservation District has approximately 150 Siouxland Poplar (aka Cottonless Cottonwood) trees for sale at \$2 each. First come, first served. Contact Terry at 775-273-2922 ext 100.



Dates to Remember

May 28 th	Memorial Day – Offices will be closed
June 15 th	Acreage Reports due for Grain Crops
July 15 th	Acreage Reports due for all Other Crops
July 15 th	Deadline to submit 2006 Production Information
August 3 rd	DCP sign-up deadline
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program

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

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