



JUNE/JULY 2007

Yerington FSA Office

Serving Lyon/Mineral & Esmeralda Counties

USDA Service Center

Hours

Monday – Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Yerington FSA Office

215 W. Bridge St., Ste. 10A
Yerington, NV 89447
775 463-2855 Ext. 100
775 463-3780 (fax)

County Committee

Priscilla Carrera, Chair.
David Giorgi, Vice-Chair.
Joe Frade
Denise Hunewill
John Mauer

Staff

Linda Quinn, CED
Betty Hodik, PT in Charge



New County Executive Director

Congratulations and welcome to **Linda Quinn**. Linda has been selected as the new County Executive Director (CED) for the shared management of the Minden and Yerington FSA Offices. She will be filling the position of CED, vacated by the passing of John “Harvey” Neill, on March 21, 2007.

Linda, a Nevada native that received her CED training in the Fallon FSA Office, is scheduled to begin her appointment June 25th. She has been the CED in the Yuba City, California FSA Office for the past 5 years, and will bring extensive knowledge and expertise to the offices. Nevada Farm Service Agency welcomes her back to Nevada.

Reporting Crop Acreage

Remember to file your annual acreage report 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 (LDP).

Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental 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 Grains and **July 15th** for all other crops

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.

ECP (Emergency Conservation Program)

ECP provides emergency funding to farmers and ranchers who have suffered damage to their agricultural lands as a result of a natural disaster which includes drought. ECP is a permanently authorized program; however, each County Office must make application in order to implement the program.

If you have a need for assistance in conjunction with the damage caused by ongoing drought conditions, such as hauling water to livestock which had adequate livestock watering systems or facilities prior to the drought, please contact your local FSA office, so we can determine if there is a need for the program, as soon as possible.

NAP (Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program)

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available and is produced for food or fiber.



If you have NAP coverage for 2007 and have suffered a loss from a natural disaster which includes drought, excessive heat or insect infestation, you must file a **CCC-576 Notice of Loss within 15 days** of the natural disaster occurrence. Contact your FSA Office for additional information.

Agricultural Assistance Act of 2007

On May 25, 2007, President Bush signed into law the 2007 Act which provides approximately \$3 billion in agricultural disaster aid for America's farmers and ranchers.

Specifically, the 2007 Act provides funds for a Crop Disaster Program, Livestock Compensation Program, Livestock Indemnity Program, Emergency Conservation Program, and a Dairy Disaster Assistance Program.

The sign up period had not yet been announced for these Disaster Programs.

More information about the FSA disaster programs is available on the agency's Web site; <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> and click on Find FSA Fact sheets and search under the topic Disaster Assistance. Or you can contact your local FSA Office.

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 the COC election process.

COC Nominations

The County Office staff is accepting nominations for candidates to serve on the Lyon/Esmeralda/Mineral County Nevada FSA Committee. Nominees are needed for **LAA 1 (Lyon County)** and **LAA 5 (Esmeralda County)**.

The nomination period opened June 15th and closes **Wednesday, August 1st**. For more information, contact your local FSA Office.

COC election fact sheets and nomination forms (FSA-669A) can be found online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA> under the News and Events tab on the FSA home-page.

Farm Loan Program

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, 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.





GIS

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 guaranteed 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: 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.

WEB SITES:

www.fsa.usda.gov/nv
www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA





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

Selected Interest Rates for June	
90-Day Treasury Bill	5.000%
Farm Operating – Direct	5.125%
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	4.625%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	5.875%

Dates to Remember	
06-15-07	Acreage Report Deadline – Small Grains
07-04-07	Independence Day – Office Closed
07-09-07	Wool Pool – Douglas High School 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM
07-15-07	Acreage Report Deadline – All Other Crops
07-15-07	Deadline to Submit 2006 Production Information
09-30-07	Deadline – purchase NAP for annual seeded crops (small grains)
10-31-07	Deadline –purchase NAP for forage
12-01-07	Deadline –purchase NAP for grazing

NAP (Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program)

If you are interested in purchasing NAP coverage for 2008, remember that the coverage must be purchased by:

September 30th for annual seeded crops (small grains)

October 31st for perennial forage

December 1st for perennial grass for grazing.

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, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.