



NEWSLETTER



October 2012

SERVICE CENTER MOVING

Lassen/Plumas/
Sierra County
FSA Office

2950 Riverside Dr
Susanville, CA
96130-4710

530-257-4127 phone
530-257-5252 fax
www.fsa.usda.gov

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

Program Technician
Debi Michaels

County Director
Chris Lauppe

Farm Loan Officer
Sandra Davidson

Farm Loan Officer
Katherine Lewis

**WE ARE MOVING OCT 15
to the BLM office building at
2950 Riverside Drive
Susanville, CA 96130-4710 !!!**

**NRCS and the Honey Lake
Valley RCD are moving with us.
Our phone numbers and fax
number will not change. Stop
by and check out our new
home with the BLM people.**

Hispanic and Women Discrimination Claims

The process to resolve claims of discrimination by USDA asserted by some Hispanic and women farmers is nearing the phase when a claims packet will be made available for potential claimants. A court supervised third-party administrative process is available for claimants to submit claims for independent adjudication and potentially receive compensation for losses they may have incurred as a result of discrimination in loan making and loan services. If you believe you have been discriminated against by USDA between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic or female, call the toll-free number or visit the website to receive a claims packet or get further information. You can call **1- 888-508-4429** or visit www.farmerclaims.gov.

The Claim Period is September 24, 2012 through March 25, 2013. There are no fees to file. A list of informational meeting to be held in California can be found at: www.fsa.usda.gov/ca.

FSA Farm Loans

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available. Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans have a maximum limit of \$1,214,000. The one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans is 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact our Farm Loan Officer, Sandra Davidson in Redding at 530-226-2568.

Emergency Farm Loans

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides emergency loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters or quarantine. Emergency loan funds may be used to:

- Restore or replace essential property
- Pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year
- Pay essential family living expense
- Reorganize the farming operation
- Refinance certain debts

Youth Loans

FSA offers loans up to \$5,000 for 4-H and FFA students 10-20 years of age. These can be for project animals or building a herd.

NAP Loss Filing

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely submission of a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses. For losses on crops covered by the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576 in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas
 - Hay
 - Renewable biomass
 - Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities

Two New Heads?

Eric Peitz (think pie) is the new District Conservationist for the Susanville NRCS office. He started August 27 and moved down from the Tulelake NRCS office. He has had NRCS experience in several other states. Cece, the prior DC, took a job at the NRCS state office.

Chris Lauppe (say loopy) is the new County Director for the FSA office in a shared management position with the Alturas FSA office where he has been for almost 24 of his 36 service years. He will be coming down weekly to Susanville. Joe, the prior CED, took an early retirement option from FSA.

NAP Deadline Approaches

The deadline to purchase crop insurance from FSA for all hay types and grass grazing is December 1. The cost is \$250 per crop up to \$750 per county. Producers who insured last year have received a continuous coverage notice. For all others, this is your notice! Payments received after Dec 1 will be returned.

NRCS Signup Deadline

Producers wishing to participate in NRCS cost share programs for FY2013, which began Oct 1, have until November 16 to get signed up. Signing up for conservation cost share programs is not a 5 minute job. You need to be working with an NRCS staff member prior to the deadline to have the best shot at success. What programs? EQIP, Sage Grouse Initiative, Organic Initiative, Water Quality Initiative, Seasonal High Tunnel (green house type tunnel), and AWEP. Call 530-257-4127 ext. 1 for more information.

Things We Don't Have

We do not have a new farm bill yet so we cannot tell you about programs that may be offered for 2013 and beyond.

For 2012 we do not have the Livestock Forage Program, the Livestock Indemnity Program, or the SURE program as these were taken out of the current Farm Bill before it was approved.

We do not have an approved budget for 2012 yet so administrative funds including postage are tight. Newsletter will not be coming out on a regular basis.

Email Addresses Requested

Please provide us with your email address so we can serve you more efficiently. We have news bulletins and newsletters that go out through email. We can also exchange documents needing signatures with you quickly. Email addresses are entered in our computer and are accessed only by FSA and NRCS.

AFIDA – Foreign Investor Disclosure

Any foreign person who acquires, transfers or holds any interest, other than a security interest, in agricultural land in the United States is required by law to report the transaction no later than 90 days after the date of the transaction. They must file Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) reports with the FSA county office that maintains reports for the county where the land is located.

For AFIDA purposes, agricultural land is defined as any land used for farming, ranching or timber production, if the tracts total 10 acres or more. For more information regarding AFIDA and FSA programs, contact the FSA office near you or visit the USDA Web site at <http://www.usda.gov>.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS COMING

Three FSA elections are being held this year for this office. LAA-1 in Lassen County. The one nominee is William Buckman from McArthur. LAA-4 is Plumas County and the nominees are Kathy Roberti and Jim Roberti from Loyalton. LAA-5 is Sierra County and the nominee is David L. Goicoechea from Loyalton. Election ballots will be mailed Nov 5 and must be postmarked by Dec 3. Write-ins can also be made if the person is an eligible farmer or rancher in the election area.

Dates to Remember

Oct 15	Susanville Service Center move date
Nov 16	NRCS programs signup deadline for FY13
Dec 1	FSA NAP deadline for forage crops for hay or graze for 2013
Dec 15	Acreage Reports to FSA for fall seeded Wheat for 2013 harvest
Jan 2	Acreage Reports for Honey
March 15	Acreage Reports to FSA for fall seeded Barley and Oats
July 15	Acreage Reports to FSA for spring seeded wheat, barley, oats, potatoes, wild rice, onions, dry beans, & all other crops.

Debi Michaels

Debi has been serving the farmers and ranchers of Lassen, Plumas, and Sierra Counties for 22 years as a Program Technician for FSA. She has seen managers come and go. She has seen programs come and go. She is the only one representing FSA in the office most of the time. And she has always been there for you.

Don't forget... we are moving

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Sierra County
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Susanville, CA 96130



PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Davis, CA 95616
PERMIT #22

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BLM OFFICE ON RIVERSIDE DRIVE
IN SUSANVILLE. SEE YOU THERE.**