

USDA e-News Roundup

Nevada Edition

Vol. 1
July-Aug. 2011

A multi-agency newsletter providing Nevada's producers and other interested parties with current information from the following agencies:



[Farm Service Agency](#)

[Natural Resources Conservation Service](#)

[National Agricultural Statistics Services](#)

[Risk Management Agency](#)

[Rural Development](#)

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WELCOME

Hello and welcome to the launch of our new E-newsletter. We are pleased and proud of the hard work and cooperation between the participating agencies which include: USDA Rural Development, Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Risk Management Agency, and National Agricultural Statistics Service. Our goal is to provide you with the latest and most relevant information in an effort to make your ag business the best it can be.

On June 9, 2011, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced President Obama's Executive Order establishing the [White House Rural Council](#). In doing so, the Administration has clearly realized the importance the agriculture industry has to the ongoing health and well being of our great nation and worldwide.

So....please enjoy, learn, and share with other producers our featured collection of diverse articles and information we have published in our debut issue.

If you would like to continue receiving this newsletter electronically, please send an e-mail message to Liz Warner at liz.warner@nv.usda.gov. All e-mail addresses will be kept strictly confidential and will be used solely for the purpose of distributing this e-newsletter.

Featured Item



USDA SETTLEMENT CASES

The US Department of Agriculture is actively resolving issues of discrimination brought forward by Native American, Black, Hispanic and female farmers and ranchers. USDA has already settled class actions with Black and Native American farmers and ranchers and is in the process of informing Hispanic and women's organizations about an offer of compensation for those who assert they experienced discrimination in farm loans, loan servicing, or equal access to credit during the 1980's and 1990's.

Deadlines and requirements vary. Act immediately if you feel you or a family member may qualify. Visit the Web sites or call the numbers listed for complete details.

[Native American Farmers/Ranchers](#)

<u>REVENUE PROGRAMS</u>	<p style="text-align: center;">Keepseagle v. USDA</p> <p>Native American farmers and ranchers who were denied a farm loan, loan servicing, or equal access to credit in the USDA Farm Loan Program between Jan. 1, 1981 and Nov. 24, 1999. For complete details, call 1-888-233-5506 or go online to www.IndianFarmClass.com.</p>
<u>ENERGY CONSERVATION</u>	<p style="text-align: center;">Women Farmers/Ranchers Love v. USDA</p> <p>Women and farmers and ranchers who believe that the USDA improperly denied farm loan benefits between 1981 and 2000 may be eligible to apply for compensation. You may be eligible if: 1. you sought a farm loan or farm-loan servicing from USDA during that period; and 2. the loan was denied, provided late, approved for a lesser amount than requested, approved with restrictive conditions, or USDA failed to provide an appropriate loan service; and 3. you believe these actions occurred because you are female. For complete details, call 1-888-508-4429 or go online to www.farmerclaims.gov.</p>
<u>NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE</u>	<p style="text-align: center;">Hispanic Farmers/Ranchers Garcia v. USDA</p> <p>Hispanic farmers and ranchers who believe that the USDA improperly denied farm loan benefits between 1981 and 2000 may be eligible to apply for compensation. You may be eligible if: 1. you sought a farm loan or farm-loan servicing from USDA during that period; and 2. the loan was denied, provided late, approved for a lesser amount than requested, approved with restrictive conditions, or USDA failed to provide an appropriate loan service; and 3. you believe these actions occurred because you are Hispanic. For complete details, call 1-888-508-4429 or go online to www.farmerclaims.gov.</p>
<u>NATIONAL AGRICULTURE STATISTICS SERVICES</u>	<p style="text-align: center;">Black Farmers/Ranchers Pigford v. USDA</p> <p>African American farmers who believe that the USDA discriminated against them between 1981 and 1996 based on race, wrongfully denying them farm loans, loan servicing, and other benefits, or giving them loans with unfair terms, or who did not file timely claims. For complete details, call 877-810-8110 or go online to www.blackfarmercase.com.</p>
<u>CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE</u>	<p style="text-align: center;">Workshops, Trainings and Conferences</p>
<u>AGRICULTURE SURVEYS</u>	<p style="text-align: center;">Branded Seminar for Food and Agricultural Products</p> <p>The Nevada Commission on Economic Development is hosting a branding seminar to help Nevada agricultural producers market their products. The workshop will cover how to maximize your company's benefits by participating in Western US Ag Trade Assoc. (WUSATA) programs and services and how to apply for 2012 funds.</p>
<u>RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY</u>	<p>Seminar Date & Location: July 26, 2011 Registration Fee: \$50.00 per person</p>
<u>CROP INSURANCE</u>	<p>The main seminar will take place at the Nevada Commission on Economic Development in Carson City, NV and will be broadcast live to Las Vegas and Reno. Seminar details will be provided after registration is complete. For more information and registration, click here to download the flyer and registration form.</p>
<u>FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES</u>	<p style="text-align: center;">Summer Beef Quality Assurance Meetings Planned</p> <p>Nevada cattlemen have an opportunity to earn their certification or be recertified for the Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) program. A series of meetings will be held around the state August 23-August 26 to offer educational information for BQA. The program will be provided in both English and Spanish, assisting operations with both English and Spanish speaking employees. The meetings will also include details on products and services of</p>
<u>EDUCATION & OUTREACH</u>	
<u>USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT</u>	
<u>NEVADA OFFICES</u>	
<u>AFFORDABLE HOUSING</u>	
<u>COMMUNITY PROGRAMS</u>	
<u>BUSINESS & INDUSTRY</u>	

allied industries and the latest on market outlooks -- and a free steak dinner and hosted bar! Details can be found at

<http://origin.library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1102268107724-26/DOC062311-06232011132755.pdf>.

Upcoming Meetings

- [Nevada Association of Counties](#): Sept. 20-22, 2011, Churchill County
- [Nevada Weed Management Association](#): Nov. 8-9, 2011, Sparks
- [Nevada Cattlemen's Association](#): Nov. 14-16, 2011, Minden
- [Nevada Farm Bureau](#): Nov. 17-19, 2011, Fallon
- [National Association of Conservation Districts](#): Jan. 29-Feb. 1, Las Vegas

Featured Programs and Initiatives

Help for Sage-Grouse and Rangeland

NRCS is looking for ranchers who want to help sage-grouse habitat and improve their bottom line. Financial assistance is available to help ranchers manage their rangeland, remove encroaching pinyon-juniper trees, improve or remove fences, and install watering devices. For more information, contact your [local NRCS office](#).

Funding Available for Organic Producers to Implement Conservation Practices

NRCS is offering funding for certified organic producers and those transitioning to organic production to implement resource conservation practices on their agricultural operations.

NRCS provides financial payments and technical assistance to help producers implement conservation measures in keeping with organic production. Beginning, limited resource, and socially disadvantaged producers may obtain additional assistance.

Interested producers must submit applications through their [local Nevada NRCS office](#).

[Know Your Farmer Know Your Food](#)

Learn more about the USDA-wide effort to create new economic opportunities by better connecting consumers with local producers by clicking on the link above.

[Rural Development's 7 Strategies for Economic Development](#)

Building 21st Century rural communities requires adoption of strategies that look not only within a community for defining its strengths and opportunities, but to regions where one community can compliment and draw upon the resources of another. Click on the link above to learn more.

Updates

Cooperative Extension Not Out of the Woods Yet

*from Sue Donaldson, Extension Specialist,
University of Nevada Cooperative Extension*

A huge thanks to all of you who wrote letters, made phone calls and/or showed up for the public comment session of the Board of Regents meeting on June 23. Although I understand some of you had to leave before they allowed public comment, your presence made a huge impression on them. I'm told that many of the Regents were heard to say they never expected the display of public support for Cooperative Extension that they saw that day. Apparently, they have NEVER had such a show of public support and comment for any issue in the past!

The next day, the Regents deliberated and made some decisions. UNR's President found an additional \$2 million in one-time bridge funding to reduce the overall 72% cut to 33%. However, he still plans to cut us 72% in the next biennium, unless other funding can be located. This gives us one more year to re-group, reorganize, find additional funding, and continue to work on the State Legislature to find more money to keep the structure of Cooperative Extension alive. So... we're not out of the woods, but at least we have time to think and act strategically. We expect that most area specialists will be employed through June 30, 2013, although, of course, that could still change.

Again, thanks to all of you. Cooperative Extension is especially appreciative of whatever you were able to do.

New Department in UNR College of Ag, Biotechnology and Natural Resources

At their meeting on Friday, June 17th, the Nevada Board of Regents approved the formation of the new department in the University of Nevada, Reno, College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources. This department will be named ***Agriculture, Nutrition and Veterinary Science***. The Regents also approved the new undergraduate major in Agricultural Science and the interdepartmental major in Range Ecology and Management. In addition, the Regents approved the name of Forest Management and Ecology for the remaining forestry program in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences.

Funding Opportunities

RMA Funding for Producer Education and Outreach

The Federal Register currently includes the following Announcement of Availability of Funds and Request for Application for Competitive Cooperative Partnership Agreements for Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC).

Risk Management Education and Outreach Partnerships Program announces its intent to award approximately \$3.5 million (subject to availability of funds) to fund the Risk Management Education and Outreach Partnerships Program. The 2011 announcement is a combination of the programs previously known as the *“Commodity Partnerships for Small Agricultural Risk Management Education Sessions”* and the *“Community Outreach and Assistance Partnerships Program.”*

In an effort to keep our past, present and future partners informed, RMA's National Risk Management Education Division has developed a list of [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (FAQs) for the 2011 Risk Management Education and Community Outreach Program.

Questions may be forwarded to USDA–RMA– RME, phone: 202–720–0779, e-mail: RMA.Risk-Ed@rma.usda.gov. You may also obtain information regarding this announcement from the RMA Web site at: <http://www.rma.usda.gov/aboutrma/agreements>. You can also contact the RMA Davis Regional Office via [email](#) or phone: 530-792-5870

All applications, which must be submitted electronically through [Grants.gov](#) and must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on July 14, 2011. Hard copy applications shall NOT be accepted.

RMA Funding for Targeted States Announced

USDA Risk Management Agency announces availability of approximately \$5 million to fund the 2011 [Risk Management Education in Targeted States Program](#). If you provide education, develop risk management tools, or create opportunities for farmers and ranchers, RMA may have funding available to help in your efforts. **Applications are due**

July 15, 2011. For more information please view the [Notice](#) or contact the RMA Davis Regional Office via [email](#) or call 530-792-5870.

Value Added Grant Applications Due August 29

USDA Rural Development has opened the application period for a grant that supports agricultural producers who wish to add value to an existing crop. The Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG) provides 50%-matching grants to farmers and ranchers, to plan or use working capital for value-added purposes, such as marketing or processing that add value to the commodities they produce.

The goal of the program is to help agricultural producers generate new products, expand market opportunities, and increase their income from the commodities they produce. Value-added products are created when a producer increases the consumer value of an agricultural commodity in the production or processing stage. For instance, a basil grower who processes basil into pesto or a berry producer who wants to produce jam may be eligible.

The application deadline is August 29, 2011. For further details about eligibility rules and application procedures, see the June 28, 2011, [Federal Register](#). [Value-Added Producer Grants](#) may be used for feasibility studies or business plans, working capital for marketing value-added agricultural products and for farm-based renewable energy projects. For more information on the Value Added Producer Grant in Nevada, contact [Michelle Kelly](#), USDA Rural Development, (775) 887-1222, Ext. 118, or visit the website at: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/vadg.htm>

Ag Producers Eligible for Rural Energy for America Program

The Nevada Office of USDA Rural Development recently closed its grant application window for the Rural Energy for America Grant. This grant provides funding for agricultural producers and rural small businesses to improve their energy efficiency or build renewable energy systems. Agricultural producers anywhere in the state and rural Nevada businesses in communities of 50,000 or less are eligible for the funds.

Under the Rural Energy for America Program, feasibility studies, energy audits, and renewable energy development assistance may also be funded. In Nevada, these grants and guaranteed loans have been used to develop hydropower systems for ranch irrigation, to build wind turbines to offset energy costs, and to install high efficiency heating and air conditioning systems to reduce energy usage and costs.

REAP applications are accepted year round and Nevada received seven applications for funding this year. For more information contact USDA Rural Development Energy Coordinator [Mark Williams](#), (775) 887-1222, Ext. 116, or learn more at http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/BCP_ReapEaReda.html.

Reports and Publications

Acreage Estimates Available from NASS

The first estimates of planted and harvested area of principal field crops by State, based on NASS's June Acreage Survey, is now available. <http://www.nass.usda.gov/>

CropScape Provides Variety of Ag Data

To provide easier access to geospatial satellite products, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) launched *CropScape*, a new cropland exploring service. *CropScape* provides data users access to a variety of new resources and information, including the 2010 cropland data layer (CDL). This new service offers advanced tools such as interactive visualization, web-based data dissemination,

and geospatial queries and automated data delivery to systems such as Google Earth. “I encourage data users to explore this powerful new product” said Martin Owens, Director of the NASS Nevada Field Office. CropScape can be accessed by clicking on this link: <http://nassgeodata.gmu.edu/CropScape>.

Agricultural Statistics 2010

This comprehensive report (approximately 500 pages) containing current and historical agricultural data is available on CD from the NASS Nevada Field Office. Supply is limited. Request your CD by calling (775) 972-6001 or e-mailing nass-nv@nass.usda.gov.

USDA Rural Development - *Committed to the future of rural communities in Nevada*

During fiscal years 2009 and 2010, Nevada’s USDA Rural Development invested more than \$258 million in rural Nevada. [Read about it in their annual report.](#)

Other Activities & Events

USDA Helps Feed Families

Nevada’s USDA Offices are actively supporting this year’s “Feds Feed Families” Food Drive. The food drive is running through August 31 at USDA offices across Nevada. USDA offices will be accepting donations of dry and canned goods, which will be donated to local food banks and pantries. If you would like to donate, look for the food barrel at your local USDA Service Center, or contact Tammy Dial at (775) 784-5411 or tammy.dial@usda.nv.gov.

White House Launches Native American Web Site

Mervin Wright, vice chair of the Pyramid Lake Tribe, is shown sitting opposite President Obama on the White House’s new Web site, *Winning the Future: President Obama and the Native American Community*. The webpage contains a Resources Tab designed to be a toolkit for tribal leaders that brings together over 25 different agencies and departments into one, navigable location. You can also sign up for [email updates](#).

SEND US YOUR NEWS AND INFORMATION

If you would like to receive a copy of future newsletters or have relevant information for Nevada producers that you want to include in this newsletter, please email one of the contacts listed below. We will print as much partner news as we can. Contact Liz Warner, NRCS, liz.warner@nv.usda.gov, (775) 857-8500 x 105.

FSA	NRCS	NASS	RMA	RD
Clint Koble, State Executive Director Clinton.koble@nv.usda.gov 775-784-5411	Bruce Petersen, State Conservationist bruce.petersen@nv.usda.gov 775-857-8500	Marty Owens, Nevada State Director Martin_Owens@nass.usda.gov 775- 972-6001	Zandra Pendarvis Deputy Director zandra.pendarvis@rma.usda.gov 530-792-5870	Sarah Adler, State Director sarah.adler@nv.usda.gov
USDA Farm Service Agency 1755 E. Plumb Ln. Reno, NV 89502	Liz Warner, Public Affairs Officer liz.warner@nv.usda.gov 775-857-8500 x 105	USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service PO Box 8880 Reno, NV 89507	Sandy Sanchez Outreach Coordinator Sandy.Sanchez@rma.usda.gov 530-792-5870	Kelly Clark Public Affairs/ Special Projects Coordinator kelly.clark2@nv.usda.gov
	USDA Natural Resources		USDA Risk Management Agency	USDA Rural Development 1390 S. Curry St.

		Conservation Service 1365 Corporate Blvd. Reno, NV 89502 www.nv.nrcs.usda.gov		430 G St. #4168 Davis, CA 95616 www.rma.usda.gov	Carson City, NV 89703
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