



September 2010

FSA News for Churchill, NW Nye, Pershing, Storey and Washoe counties

September 30 Deadline for SURE Applications

The deadline to submit USDA Farm Service Agency 2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) program payment applications is close of business on September 30, 2010. Applications not filed by September 30, 2010, will not receive a payment.

SURE provides crop disaster assistance payments to eligible producers on farms that have incurred crop production or crop quality losses. The program takes into consideration crop losses on all crops grown by a producer nationwide. SURE provides assistance in an amount equal to 60 percent of the difference between the SURE farm guarantee and total farm revenue. The farm guarantee is based on the amount of crop insurance and Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on the farm. Total farm revenue takes into account the actual value of production on the farm as well as insurance indemnities and certain farm program payments.

To be eligible for SURE, producers must have suffered at least a 10 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance. In addition, producers must meet the risk management purchase requirement by either obtaining a policy or plan of insurance, under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or NAP coverage, for all economically significant crops. For 2008 crops, producers had the opportunity to obtain a waiver of the risk management purchase requirement through a buy-in provision. Producers considered socially disadvantaged, a beginning farmer or rancher, or a limited resource farmer may be eligible for SURE without a policy or plan of insurance or NAP coverage.

HELP!! Assistance from LOVELOCK producers requested!

Producers are requested to turn in their 2010 yields as soon as possible.

Pershing County is holding a County Emergency Board meeting on October 13, 2010 at 1:30 pm at the FSA Office.

The more data we have, the better!

Please report irrigated and non-irrigated yields to the county office at your first available convenience. The average yield for each will have to be determined to set the loss for the 2010 crop year.

WASHOE COUNTY ECP SIGNUP PERIOD SEPT 13 – OCT 8

Washoe County producers can sign up for Emergency Conservation Practices:

EC6 Drought Emergency Measures - provides water conservation and enhancement measures to permit grazing of range, pasture or forage by livestock; supply emergency water for existing irrigation systems serving orchards and vineyards; provide emergency water for confined livestock operations.

EC7 Other Emergency Conservation Measures – replacing/restoring a conservation or pollution abatement practice; restoring the land to its normal production capacity; returning land to productive agriculture use as a result of damage directly related to a natural disaster; conserving or enhancing water resources; solution of conservation or environmental problems existing before the disaster.

Contact the Fallon FSA office to sign up or for further information on eligibility and cost share policies.

USDA FSA

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

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Fallon COC Members
Michael "Mickey" Laca, Chairman
Raymond Kretschmer, Vice-chairman
Valerie Christoph, Member
Steve Damonte, Member
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Mike Phillips, Vice-Chair
Colby Burke, Member

Staff:
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Imelda Andersen (ext. 102)
Sandy Smith (ext. 104)
Terry Goldsworthy
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ELAP Assistance Available

Aid from the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) is available to those producers who suffered losses in 2010 because of disease, adverse weather or other conditions.

For 2010 and subsequent year losses, sign-up will end no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the loss occurred.

See program details for other Notice of Loss deadlines. Under ELAP, producers will be compensated for losses that are not covered under other Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance Payment programs established by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.

Kids & Farm Safety

The need for farm safety awareness for children does not diminish after they return to school. Fall harvest and work with livestock still exposes kids to risks on evenings and weekends. Farm Safety 4 Just Kids recommends the following protection when dealing with grain, ATVs and livestock:

- Always lock access doors to grain storage structures.
- Lock out power to all types of grain-handling equipment.
- Always use the buddy system when you are unloading or loading grain, notifying a second person where you are.
- Never permit children to ride in grain wagons or enter grain storage areas.
- Always know where ALL family members are (especially children) at all times when grain is being loaded, unloaded, moved or otherwise handled.

ATV drivers: No matter what function the ATV performs, remember that it is only as capable as the operator.

Chores involving livestock care and handling are often one of the first responsibilities given to children, increasing their exposure to the dangers at an early age.

When working around animals encourage your children to:

- Be calm, move slowly, and avoid loud noises
- Wear steel toed shoes
- Avoid the hind legs of the animal
- Approach large animals at the shoulder
- Children should avoid animals with newborns
- Children should avoid stallions, bulls, rams, and boars
- Always have an escape route when working with animals in close quarters
- Wear helmets when riding horses.

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.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

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

For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

NAP Coverage

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. NAP provides coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statutes limit NAP coverage to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

Application deadlines for 2011 NAP coverage for a variety of crops are coming up in the next few months. Contact your nearest FSA office for specific deadlines.

Producers who already have coverage on 2010 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2011, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops.

Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee.

Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required.
- File a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail and other natural causes.

For more information and specific NAP crop deadlines, contact your nearest Farm Service Agency office.

Rural Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5,000. Loan requirements are:

- US citizenship or legal resident alien status
- 10 to 20 years of age
- Compliance with FSA general eligibility requirements
- Reside in a rural area, city or town (population 50,000 or less)
- Inability to obtain a loan from other sources
- Ability to conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work.
- Demonstrate a capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

Stop by the county office for help preparing and processing the application forms. The FSA staff can help answer questions about eligibility for projects you may propose and about general program requirements.

USDA Begins Conservation Loan Program

WASHINGTON, Sept. 2, 2010 - Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced the launch of a Conservation Loan (CL) program that will provide farm owners and farm-related business operators access to credit to implement conservation techniques that will conserve natural resources. "This will give farmers who want to implement conservation measures on their lands a chance to do so by providing assistance with their up-front costs," said Vilsack. "In return, these producers will help to reduce soil erosion, improve water quality and promote sustainable and organic agricultural practices." CL funds can be used to implement conservation practices approved the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), such as the installation of conservation structures; installation of water conservation measures; establishment or improvement of permanent pastures; implementation of manure management; and the adaptation of other emerging or existing conservation practices, techniques or technologies. Direct CLs can be obtained through local FSA offices with loan limits up to \$300,000. Guaranteed CLs up to \$1,112,000 are available from lenders working with FSA. For more information on the Conservation Loan program, contact a local FSA office or visit the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov

Succession in Interest

If you have made any changes that affect your interest in base acres since you signed your last Direct and Counter-cyclical Program contract, you must report these *successions-in-interest* to the county committee by **Sept. 30**, so that a final determination can be made on who is eligible for the program on the farm.

Changes that qualify as a succession-in-interest include:

- A sale of land
- A change of operator or producer, including a an increase or decrease in the number of partners
- A foreclosure, bankruptcy or involuntary loss of the farm.
- A change in producer shares to reflect changes in the producer's share of the crop(s) that were originally approved on the contract.

If a succession-in-interest has taken place, you, as the “predecessor,” are required to refund any advance DCP payments you received for the affected base acres before a payment can be made to the “successor.”

Not reporting a succession-in-interest can result in contract termination and a loss of program benefits for all producers involved.

Selected Interest Rates for September 2010	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating - Direct	2.375%
Farm Ownership - Direct	4.375%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Emergency – Actual Loss	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility	2.250%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.250%

Dates to Remember	
Sept. 30	SURE Application Deadline for 2008 (see Pg. 1)
Sept. 30	NAP deadline for SMALL GRAIN crops for All intended uses (see Pg. 3)
Sept. 30	Succession in Interest Report to County Committee
Sept 13 – Oct. 8	WASHOE County ECP signup period (see Pg. 1)
Oct. 11	Columbus Day – Offices will be closed
Oct. 13	PERSHING County CEB Meeting (see Pg. 1)
Oct. 31	NAP Deadline for 2011 forage crops (see Pg. 3)
Dec. 1	NAP Deadline for 2011 grazing crops (see Pg. 3)

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