



FARM SERVICE AGENCY

USDA Service Center

# Minden FSA Office

Douglas, Carson, Alpine, Inyo, & Mono Counties

### Minden FSA Office

1702 County Rd,  
Suite A1  
Minden, NV 89423  
775-782-3661  
775-782-3547 (fax)

### Hours

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

### County Committee

Ted Borda-Chairperson  
Thomas Summers -  
Vice-Chairperson  
Bruce Bruns-Member  
Alonna Giacomini-Member  
Linda White- Member

COC meetings are  
scheduled for the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Wednesday of each month,  
but are subject to change.

### Staff

Betty Hodik, Acting CED  
Rosemary Season, PT

Please call ahead if you plan  
on coming into the office,  
as we are presently short  
staffed.

### **Biomass Crop Assistance Program**

See page 2 for details.

**NEW NEVADA STATE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR-  
CLINTON KOBLE (see  
page 3)**



### Farm Storage Facility Loan Program Changes

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. 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.

Early 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 oil-seeds 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
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables
- Hay
- Renewable biomass
- Cold storage facilities

For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

### NAP Coverage - Deadlines & Details

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.

### 2010 NAP coverage application deadlines are:

Small grain crops for hay or grazing-9/30/09

All other hay crops-10/31/09

All other grazing crop -12/1/09

Producers who already have coverage on 2009 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2010, 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 by the applicable deadline.

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 the disaster occurrence or when loss becomes apparent.

### **NAP Notice of Loss**



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 filing 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) you must file a CCC-576 (notice of loss) in the FSA County Office **within 15 days** of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

### **New Grazing Allotment Policy**

All grazing allotments that cross state and/or county lines will be divided into separate farms and additional fees will apply.

For more information on NAP coverage please contact your nearest Farm Service Agency office



### **Biomass Crop Assistance Program**

The new Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) is of interest to biomass conversion facilities and those who own, chip and transport biomass material to these facilities.

Chippers and producers with conversion facilities contracts to prepare and deliver materials can apply for matching payments under the collection, harvest, storage and transportation (CHST) component of BCAP. Once an agreement is signed between FSA and a biomass conversion facility and funding is provided, the facilities can begin accepting materials under this program.

The matching CHST payments are paid at a rate of \$1 for \$1 per dry-ton equivalent received by a qualified biomass conversion facility, not to exceed \$45 per dry-ton equivalent. A biomass owner is eligible to receive payments for two years. The purpose of the matching payments is to assist biomass handlers with the CHST cost of delivering biomass to a qualified biomass conversion facility. Once a facility becomes qualified, eligible material owners or producers who deliver biomass to that facility may be eligible to receive CHST payments.

Eligible material owners or producers, who market eligible material to a qualified bio-

mass conversion facility, may apply for the matching CHST payment at their FSA county office. An application must be submitted and approved before the eligible material is sold or delivered to a qualified biomass conversion facility. After the product is delivered, a material handler must provide FSA with documentation of product quantity, quality and payment rate. County offices will validate payment requests with information in the county office and information provided under the terms of MOUs with the qualified biomass conversion facilities. CHST payments will not be authorized until appropriate environmental analysis is completed. Contact your FSA state office or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) for more information.

### **Natural Resources Conservation**

*by NRCS State Conservationist Bruce Petersen*  
In January, I became the state conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Nevada. These first few months have flown by. I've had a chance to meet many of you as I've worked my way around the state, and I look forward to meeting many more of you.

One of the things I'm hearing consistently is that you don't understand NRCS and Farm Bill programs. I'd like to help change that by writing monthly messages to help explain our agency, Farm Bill programs, our partnerships, and many more topics that I hope will give you a better understanding of what we do.

Since this is my first message, I'd like to start off by giving you a general overview of our agency. The NRCS is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Our primary responsibility is helping private landowners protect and conserve natural resources. Here in Nevada, we have 9 field offices located throughout the state in addition to our State Office that is located in Reno. We have about 70 full time employees and, during this summer, about 12 student employees. I have a strong commitment to helping students apply their studies in the real world. We also have 3 coordinators who assist local resource and conservation development councils. I will cover their accomplishments in a future article. Each of our field offices is run by a district conservationist. Some offices have





additional staff, such as range conservationists, soil scientists, and engineering technicians, who help land-owners solve natural resource problems. Conservation technical assistance is the mainframe of our agency. We work with landowners to identify resource issues and solve them on a voluntary basis.

For example, if your irrigation system needs improvement, you can call your NRCS field office and invite the district conservationist out to your property. He or she will evaluate your system and make suggestions on how it can be improved. They will also look at your crop productivity, potential for erosion, and other factors that may be affecting your bottom line and causing resource problems, and help identify ways to correct them. This assistance is free and totally voluntary.

However, if problems are identified and you'd like financial assistance to help cover the costs of installing the conservation practice, that's where Farm Bill programs come in. I'll cover that in the next edition.

Please feel free to contact your local NRCS office at any time with a request for assistance, resource concern or question. We can be found on the Web at

[www.nv.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nv.nrcs.usda.gov), or in the phone book under US Government. I can be reached at (775) 857-8500. Call me if you want to talk

### **New Nevada State Executive Director**

President Obama has appointed Nevada's new State Executive Director, **Clinton Koble**, who most recently served as the Executive Director of the Nevada Rural Development Council in Carson City, Nevada where he specialized in community strategic planning and leadership. He also served in Carson City as the Western Region Representative for the Rural Nevada Development Corporation in Ely, Nevada providing small business assistance and housing programs for Nevada's rural communities. While serving in that capacity, Mr. Koble performed small business counseling services for the Nevada Small Business Development Center. Working with and for the rural communities took Mr. Koble back to his rural roots. Mr. Koble grew up on a farm in North Dakota that remains in his family today. He received

his B.A. degree in Political Science and History from the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, N.D. Mr. Koble will start his appointment on August 10, 2009.

### **Changes in Federal Law Concerning FSA Payments**

All payments by USDA Farm Service Agency by direct deposit will be transmitted first from Kansas City to the Treasury Department to comply with the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996. That allows federal payments to be compared to any delinquent federal debt the recipient might owe.

The treasury will notify the recipient of any money deducted for debts due other agencies. FSA will not receive notice of those deductions.

If there are questions about a deduction, the recipient may call the Treasury Offset Program (TOP) at (800) 304-3107.

Another change will be in the description of the source of a direct deposit payment on bank statements. After Monday, the bank statement will read "FSA TREAS310" for all payments disbursed by the Treasury Department.

### **Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers**

FSA assists eligible beginning farmers and members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

### **COC Elections** **Your Vote Counts!**

Have a voice in your county. Vote for the person that will represent your best interests and be a voice for you on the FSA County Office Committee.

### **COC Deadlines**

**Nov. 6, 2009** –

Ballots mailed to eligible voters

**Dec. 7, 2009** –

Last day to return COC election ballots to the USDA Service Center

**Jan. 1, 2010** –

Newly elected county committee members take office

Minden County FSA Office  
 1702 County Rd., Ste A1  
 Minden, NV 89423



PRESORTED STANDARD  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
 DAVIS, CA  
 PERMIT #22

Dates to Remember	
09/15/09-9/17/09	Office Closed for statewide training
09/30/2009	NAP Application for Coverage Deadline—All Grain Crops (HY or GZ)
10/12/2009	Office Closed – Federal Holiday
10/31/2009	Nap Application for Coverage Deadline—All other Hay Crops (HY)
11/06/2009	COC Ballots mailed to eligible voters
11/11/2009	Office Closed – Federal Holiday
12/01/2009	NAP Application for Coverage Deadline for Perennial (grass) Grazing crops
12/07/2009	Last day to return voted ballots to USDA Service Center
Selected Interest Rates for September 2009	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.250%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	3.000%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.875%
Farm Ownership Loans — Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	3.125%



The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs 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 programs. (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 USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202)-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."