



Elko-Eureka County News

Elko/Eureka County USDA Service Center

Elko/Eureka County FSA

555 W Silver St. Ste 101
Elko NV 89801
(775)738-6445 ext. 2
(774)778-9712 (fax)

www.fsa.usda.gov/nv

Hours

Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

Steve Wines, Chair
Mark Damele, Vice Chair
Patsy Tomera, Member
Mitch Heguy, Member
Clayton Cota, Member
Vince Garcia, Advisor

County Committee usually meet on the second Monday of each month at 1:30 pm in the Conference Room at the Service Center

Staff

Clayre Moiola, CED
Cathy Yardley, FLO
Micki Wines, FLO
Maria Murillo, PT
Kaye Sigman, PT

Ely Staff

Vi Braden, PT

County Committee Elections “FSA Counts on You”

Since COC elections happen only once a year, here is an election refresher. For election purposes, counties are divided into *local administrative areas*, or LAAs. Each LAA selects one producer to serve a three-year term on the Farm Service Agency county committee.

Each year, an election is held in an LAA to replace the committee member whose three-year term is expiring. In counties with three LAAs, one seat is up for election. In combined counties in some years, two seats may be up for election.

Nominations

Candidate nominations for the FSA county committee election will be accepted June 15 through Aug. 3, 2009.

Producers who are residents in the LAA holding the election and who participate or cooperate in an FSA program and are of legal voting age may be nominated to serve on the county committee.

Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers or ranchers may also nominate candidates.

The nomination form, FSA-669A, is available at the county office or may be downloaded from

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=cce>.

To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated, indicating agreement to serve if elected. The completed nomination form must be returned to

the county office by the close of business on Aug. 3, or postmarked by midnight Aug. 3, 2009.

Voting

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters beginning Nov. 6, and must be returned to the county office by the close of business on Dec. 7, or postmarked by midnight Dec. 7, 2009.

Agricultural producers of legal voting age can vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm can also vote.

No one can be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

Candidate Eligibility

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria:

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
- Be eligible to vote in a county committee election
- Reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate
- Not have been:
 - Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee
 - Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony
 - Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

For additional clarification about county committee elections, contact your local county office staff.

DCP & ACRE Signup Deadline

Signup for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program has been extended until August 14, 2009. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications. Signup in the ACRE option is also available through August 14, 2009.

FSA computes DCP Program payments using



base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2009, you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when prices fall below a threshold level.

The electronic DCP (or eDCP) service will save you time, reduce paperwork and speed up contract processing at FSA offices. It is available to anyone eligible to participate in the DCP Program. To access this on-line service, you must have an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires filling out an online registration form at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov> followed by a visit to the local USDA Service Center for identity verification.

Crop Reporting

The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA office can be referred to as crop reporting, acreage reporting, or crop certification. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can 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 Load Deficiency Payments.

The certification form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. The producer certification deadline for small grains is June 15, 2009 and grazing and forage crops are July 15, 2009.

Changes in Payment Limitations

The payment limitation provisions over the last 39 years have been expanded to more programs. Some of the changes in this area are listed below.

New forms for 2009 and subsequent years

Anyone that plans to participate in 2009 programs is required to submit a completed CCC-902, CCC-926, and CCC-901, if applicable, for payment eligibility and payment limitation purposes. The form used prior to 2009 was

named CCC-502.

Another change for 2009, all must make a contribution in an entity

All partners, stockholders, or members with an ownership interest in the legal entity must make a contribution, whether compensated or **not** compensated, for active--*

- personal labor,
- active personal management,
- or a combination of active personal labor and active personal management to the farming operation;

*Note: there are exceptions for spouses.

Person or Legal Entity Payment Limitations	Limitation (in Dollars)
Program Payment Type	2009/ 2010/ 2011/20012
Commodity Programs	
Counter-cyclical and Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE), except peanuts	65,000 <u>1/</u>
Counter-cyclical and Average ACRE payments on peanuts	65,000 <u>1/</u>
Direct payments on covered commodities except peanuts	40,000 <u>2/</u>
Direct payments on peanuts	40,000 <u>2/</u>
Conservation Programs	
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) annual rental payment.	50,000
Cost Conservation Stewardship Program (CSTP) for FY 2009-2012	200,000
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) FY 2009-2012	300,000
Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)	50,000
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)	50,000
Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)	50,000
Disaster Assistance Programs	
Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP); Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP); Livestock Indemnity Pro-	100,000





Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)	100,000
Tree Assistance Program (TAP)	100,000
Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP); Marketing Assistance Loans; Marketing loan gain (MLG)	No limits

USDA agencies to enable customers to obtain accounts that will allow them to access USDA Web applications and services via the Internet. This includes things such as submitting forms electronically, filing eLDPs, completing DCP contracts, filling out surveys online, and checking the status of your USDA accounts.

1/ Under ACRE, this amount will be a combined limitation for counter-cyclical and ACRE payments. If a person or legal entity has a direct or indirect interest in payments earned on a farm participating in ACRE, this limitation will reflect an increase for the amount that direct payments are reduced.

2/ If the person or legal entity has a direct or indirect interest in payments earned on a farm that is in ACRE, this limitation will reflect a 20 percent reduction in direct payments on each far that is participating in ACRE.

Additional information on payment limitations is available at FSA county offices or on line at: www.fsa.usda.gov



Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information. If you want a crop loan, a power of attorney form will need to be completed for husband and wife, if both do not come into the office to sign the forms on the day the loan is disbursed.

Online Services

Producers, if you have Internet access you can electronically log on, fill out and print a variety of FSA paper forms in the comfort of your home as your schedule allows. You can also register for secure electronic access that will allow you to electronically sign and transmit some forms directly to the county office staff. If you are new to the website, first you will want to obtain a Level 2 USDA Service Center Customer ID and password at: <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/> and then click on "Create an Account Page" link. USDA eAuthentication is the system used by

If you already have a Customer ID and password, then click on the following eForms website at:

<http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainserver/vlet> and then click on the "Sign In" button. A disclaimer window will open and after you read the "Warning message", click on the "Continue" button.

Then the USDA Web services page will open to the eAuthentication login page. Enter your login User ID and password and then click on the "Login" button. To sign and transmit forms electronically, you must sign-up and get a User ID and password.

Submitting an e-Form is convenient. You can access information anytime day or night seven days a week. It's faster and forms along with applications can be submitted and received in the county office in a matter of minutes, not days or weeks.

Banking Changes?

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. This innovation has cut down on the number of missing and late payments and reduced the time required to move funds. It has been calculated that having a problem with a payment is 20 times greater with checks than with Direct Deposit. Another benefit is that Direct Deposit to your account can be made within 48 hours.

To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions.

If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.



Selected Interest Rates for February 2009	
Farm Operating - Direct	2.375%
Farm Ownership - Direct	4.250%
Limited Resource - Farm Operating	5.00%
Limited Resource - Farm Ownership	5.00%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility	2.625%
90-Day Treasury Bill	.125%

Dates to Remember	
June 15	Final date to report acreage for all annually seeded (small grain) crops
July 3	July 4 Holiday – Office Closed
July 15	Final date to report acreage for all other crops including grazing.
Aug. 14	DCP – Sign-up deadline
Aug. 14	ACRE – Sign-up deadline
July 15	Last Day to complete 2009 Acreage Report for all other crops. This includes grazing.

Visit our Web site at
http://www.fsa.usda.gov/**

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.