Elko/Eureka FSA Office News

November 2009

USDA - FSA
Elko/Eureka County
USDA Service Center
555 W. Silver St., Ste 101
Elko, NV 89801

Phone (775) 738-6445
FAX (775) 778-9712
www.fsa.usda.gov

Hours
Monday – Friday
7:30 am – 4:30 pm

County Committee

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

Elko FSA Staff

Clayre Moiola, CED	Ext 108
Micki Wines, FLO	Ext 105
Maria Murillo, PT	Ext 104
Kaye Sigman, PT	Ext 100

Ely FSA Staff
Vi Braden, PT

NRCS Office Staff

Paulette Balliette, DC
Ext 125
Kory Kulinsky, Ext 116
Brian Taylor, Ext. 119

Livestock Forage Program

FSA's Livestock Forage Program (LFP) compensates eligible livestock producers for grazing losses suffered because of drought conditions that occurred from January 1, 2008, to October 1, 2011.

This program provides financial assistance to producers who suffered grazing losses due to drought or fire on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011, during the calendar year in which the loss occurs. Fire losses must have occurred on federally managed lands. **December 10, 2009, is the deadline for filing an application for 2008 grazing year.**

Elko and Eureka County have been determined to meet the D2 Drought level for 2008 grazing year. Therefore, producer's who had NAP coverage or purchased the Buy-In coverage for grazing in 2008 may qualify for this program.
Maps and forage types can now be found on FSA's internet Web site at: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=diap&topic=LFP.

The four most current county level LFP maps will be:

- posted in the Disaster Assistance Program section on the FSA Internet web site
- updated on a weekly basis
- provided for each year and each eligible grazing type.

2010 DCP Signup

Enrollment for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through June 1, 2010. USDA urges producers to make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up. Producers can visit any USDA Service Center in lieu of the website to complete their 2010 DCP contract. USDA 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 2010, eligible producers may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment. USDA will issue advance direct payments beginning Dec. 1, 2009. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices. Payments are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price. The effective price is the higher of the national average market price received during the 12-month marketing year for each covered commodity and the national average loan rate for a marketing assistance loan for the covered commodity.

County Committee Elections

Ballots for this year's county committee election will be mailed to eligible voters on November 6, 2009. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office **by the close of business on December 7, 2009. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight December 7, 2009.**

The candidate in this year's election is **Clayton Cota, LAA-1**

Eligible voters in a local administrative area 1 who have not received a ballot should contact the FSA county office staff.

Voter Requirements Persons meeting requirements in **1** *or* **2**, *plus* **3**, below, is eligible to vote:

1. Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as either of the following:
an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper, *or*
a partner in a general partnership or member of a joint venture that has an interest in a farm as an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper; or

2. Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm; *and*

3. Eligible to participate in any FSA program that is provided by law, regardless of the status of funding.

Discrimination Prohibited No person shall 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.

Supplemental Disaster Assistance Programs

The 2008 Farm Bill amended the Trade Act of 1974 to create five new disaster programs, collectively referred to as Supplemental Agriculture Disaster Assistance programs. These programs include:

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)
Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)
Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program
Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

To be eligible for these programs, producers must purchase at least catastrophic risk protection (CAT) level of crop insurance for all insurable crops and/or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for non-insurable crops under SURE, TAP, and ELAP.

In the 2008 Farm Bill; in general, the term "farm" means the sum of all crop acreage in all counties that is planted or intended to be planted for harvest by the eligible producer. In the case of aquaculture, the term "farm" means all fish being produced in all counties that are intended to be harvested for sale by the eligible producer. In the case of honey, the term "farm" means all bees and beehives in all counties that are intended to be harvested for a honey crop by the eligible producer.

Producers, who meet the definition of a Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource Producer, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher, do not have to meet this risk management purchase requirement.

Farm Loan Year End Reviews

Producers who have a farm loan with FSA are reminded they must provide data for their Year-End Analysis (YEA) to their loan officer each year. Borrowers are urged to provide this information timely so that their files can be maintained. The office will contact you for the data you will need to provide us.

Applications for FSA Farm Loan Assistance

Farmers and ranchers who intend to apply to the Farm Service Agency for loan assistance for the upcoming crop year are encouraged to file their applications as early as possible. Filing early will help ensure that your loan is processed and approved as early as possible so planting decisions can be made. Failure to apply early can result in a delay in processing loans due to the volume of applications that must be processed in date order. Contact your local FSA Farm Loan Manager or Officer for more details and assistance in applying.

Operating Loan Applications Needed Now

Farmers who plan to apply to the Farm Service Agency for annual operating loan assistance this year are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. The earlier an application for loan assistance is filed, the sooner the FSA staff can process your request. In addition, due to budget constraints, farmers who wait until later in the year to apply, often run the risk of finding out that our funding allocations have been utilized already. Farmers should also contact their FSA Farm Loan Manager or Officer for information as to what is required in order to have a complete loan application on file. Decisions on loans cannot be made until a complete application is received.

NAP Deadlines and Program Changes for 2010

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) deadlines for various crops are coming up -- **Oct. 31, 2009 for forage** has passed. **Dec. 1, 2009 for grazing,** is still in effect. Contact your local office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov for deadlines and details for your crops. When low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occurs due to natural disaster, NAP can provide financial assistance. NAP coverage may be continued for each sub-

sequent year for the same crop or crops, if the producer pays the applicable service fee by the next year's application closing date.

Eligible producers must apply for coverage of non-insurable crops and pay the applicable service fees at their local FSA office. The service fee is $250 per crop or up to $750 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of $1,875 per producer with farming interests in multiple counties. Limited resource producers are not subject to annual fees.

NAP coverage may be continued for each subsequent year for the same crop or crops, if the producer pays the applicable service fee by the next year's application closing date. **December 1, 2009 is the deadline to purchase grazing land coverage for 2010.**

Selected Interest Rates for November 2009	
Farm Operating - Direct	2.875%
Farm Ownership - Direct	4.750%
Limited Resource	5.000%
Farm Ownership - Down Pmt	1.500%
Emergency	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility - 7 year	3.00%
Commodity Loans	1.375%
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%

NRCS Program Available

Nevada Agricultural landowners and operators are encouraged to submit 2010 applications by November 27 to USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service for participation in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program. EQIP is offered through a continuous signup, but NRCS periodically makes funding selections as program dollars permit.

EQIP was originally established under the 1996 Farm Bill and is reauthorized in the 2008 Farm Bill. It provides technical and financial assistance to landowners to voluntarily address soil, water and related natural resource concerns on agricultural lands. Congress included new provisions in the 2008 Farm Bill setting aside 5 percent of EQIP financial assistance dollars to assist beginning farmers and another 5 percent to assist socially disadvantaged farmers.

Nevada's payment rates for all conservation practices in this year's signup have increased from 50 to 75 percent of the average cost of the practice. Historically underserved Producers such as a member of a Socially Disadvantaged Group (American Indians, Blacks, Asians, Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders, and Hispanics), Beginning or Limited Resource Farmers, and Indian tribes may be eligible for up to 90 percent of the average cost of practices.

For more information about EQIP, please call your local NRCS field office, or go online to http://www.nv.nrcs.usda.gov.

NRCS provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain and improve our natural resources and environment.

Changing Banks

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.

Elko Eureka FSA Office
555 W. Silver St Suite 101
Elko, NV 89801

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

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

Dates to Remember	
Nov 11	Office Closed – Veterans Day
Nov. 26	Closed – Thanksgiving
Dec. 1	**Deadline to purchase 2010 NAP coverage for grazing**
Dec. 7	Deadline to Return of COC Ballot
Dec. 14	COC Ballots Counted
Dec. 10	**Last day to signup for 2008 Livestock Forage Program (LFP)**
Dec. 25	Office Closed - Christmas
Jan. 1	Office Closed – New Year's Day

Visit our Web site at
www.fsa.usda.gov/nv

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.