



April 2010

ELKO/EUREKA COUNTY

FSA News

SURE

Currently SURE Program sign ups are being taken for the 2008 Crop Year. The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disaster that incurred starting in the crop year 2008 through September 30, 2011. To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops of economic significance in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to participate in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) except for grazed acreage.

Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher are exempt from the risk management purchase requirement.

The following are the conditions that trigger SURE payments:

- At least one crop of economic significance must suffer a 10% production loss due to an eligible disaster condition
- The crop of economic significance must be a crop that has contributed or would have contributed at least 5% or more of the total expected revenue from all crops on the farm
- The farm experiencing the loss must be in a county declared a disaster county by the Secretary of Agriculture, or in contiguous counties. Those who show proof of an individual loss of at least 50% are also eligible to receive SURE payments for production losses or crop quality losses.

Losses are measured with consideration to the whole-farm revenue, which includes crop insurance indemnities and commodity program payments, so that producers are not paid more than once for the same loss.

A SURE calculator is available at: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/sure_calculator_2008.xls. The calculator is not official, but is intended for educational use. A fact sheet and Q & A are also available online at www.fsa.usda.gov.

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, or producers can visit any USDA Service Center 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 advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment.



Notice to all NAP producers Acreage reporting deadline is fast approaching!

Producers who have purchased 2010 NAP must complete a 2010 acreage report on all acreage by the acreage reporting date. If you have **grain crops you must complete a 2010 acreage report by June 15, 2010**. All other crops this **includes grazing land** must be reported **by July 15, 2010**. The reports must be done in the Elko Office and signed and dated by the producer. If the producer has BLM and/or FS permits, you are required to provide a copy of all the current permits when you complete the acreage report.

If you had grass hay coverage in 2009 and have not provided the Elko Office with a production report on your hay crop for 2009, you must do so by the date you complete a 2010 acreage report.

Please call the Office for an appointment to complete your 2010 acreage report, 775-738-6445 ext 2.

USDA 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

**Elko Eureka County
Committee has changed
their meeting date!**

**Elko Eureka County
Committee will now meet
on the second Wednesday
of each month. On an
as needed basis.**

Staff
Clayre Moiola, CED
Micki Wines, FLO
Maria Murillo, PT
Claire Neumann, COT
Andrea Sestanovich, FS

Ely Staff
Vi Braden, PT



NAP Loss Filing

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. The timely filing of 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) and crop insurance, 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.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

Adjusted Gross Income

USDA has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Internal Revenue Service to establish an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent will be required from each producer or payment recipient for the IRS review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to USDA.

The agreement ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 non-farm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs.

Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-927 (Individual) and/or CCC-928 (Legal Entity) to the Internal Revenue Service by June 15 to avoid interruption of program benefits. These forms may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices or online at:

<http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainervlet>

Farm Loan Programs

The FSA offers loans for eligible farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indeb-

tedness of \$1,112,000. Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available.

For details please contact the county office staff for an appointment with a farm loan officer.

Direct and Guaranteed Loans

FSA is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,112,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner.

FSA employees will help you complete the necessary application and other forms, and help you understand what information is required, where to find it or who to contact to get it. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.



Funds Available to Help Land-owners Protect Sage-Grouse

Apply by April 16

A new funding initiative to protect greater sage-grouse habitat has been launched by the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Nevada and other western states.

Bruce Petersen, Nevada NRCS State Conservationist said, "Sage-grouse have been a species of concern for the past several years due to loss of habitat. We are providing financial as well as technical assistance to landowners on private and public land to improve sage-grouse habitat."



NRCS offers a variety of conservation practices that will improve greater sage-grouse habitat, such as removing encroached pinyon and juniper trees, planting native species, removing or retrofitting fences to make them more visible and wildlife-friendly, and installing wildlife escape ramps in existing watering facilities.



Landowners will receive cost-share payments for implementing conservation measures to improve greater sage-grouse habitat. For example, payment rates for removing pinyon and juniper trees in 2010 will be from \$200-\$600 per acre, depending on the method of removal. NRCS reimburses participants once the conservation practice has been successfully implemented. Program participants may choose to do the work themselves or hire it out.

Priority will be given to removing encroached pinyon and juniper trees within sage-grouse habitat, especially within 3 miles of active lek sites, and for range seeding within sage-grouse habitat affected by wildfire. Removing or retrofitting fences and installing wildlife escape ramps are also high priorities.

“We hope to create healthy, self-sustaining sage-grouse populations with this initiative,” said Petersen.

Census Counts Rural America

The USDA Farm Service Agency and the U.S. Census Bureau encourage all farmers and ranchers to complete the 2010 census. Census forms mailed in March to all residents in the U.S. and Puerto Rico contain only 10 questions. The census takes only 10 minutes to complete and mail back, postage-paid.

Counting everyone is critical to the security of rural communities. It ensures that more than \$400 billion in yearly federal funding is allocated to communities for schools, broadband initiatives, hospitals, emergency services and public works. The census also determines the state’s number of seats in the House of Representatives and will affect a state’s gain or loss in house seats.

Completing the census is not only the law, but a tool to improve your voice on rural issues. Make sure you are counted.

Farm Safety

Flowing grain in a storage bin or gravity-flow wagon is like quicksand; it can kill quickly. It takes less than five seconds for a person caught in flowing grain to be trapped.

The mechanical aspects of grain handling equipment, also presents a real danger. Augers, power take offs, and other moving parts can grab you or the clothing

you might be wearing.

These hazards, along with pinch points and missing shields, are dangerous enough for adults; not to mention children. It is always advisable to keep children a safe distance from operating farm equipment. Always use extra caution when backing or maneuvering farm machinery. Insure everyone is visibly clear and accounted for before machinery is engaged.

Your friends at FSA want all farmers to have a productive crop year, and that begins with putting safety first.

2010 FSA County Committee Elections

The election of Ag producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers, whether beginning or long-established, with large or small operations. County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA in that they help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties as well as help serve the needs of local producers.

Nominations

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign nomination form FSA-669A. The form includes a statement that the nominee

agrees to serve if elected. This form is available at USDA Service Centers and online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA> under News and Events/County Committee Elections.

Nomination forms must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on **Aug. 2, 2010.**

Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Additionally, organizations representing minority and women farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates. Nomination forms are filed for the county committee of the office that administers a producer’s farm records.

Election Period

June 15, 2010 – Nomination period begins

Aug. 2, 2010 - Last day to file nomination forms FSA-669A) at local USDA Service Ctr

Nov. 5, 2010 - Ballots mailed to eligible voters

Dec. 6, 2010 - Last day to return voted ballots to USDA Service Center

Jan. 1, 2011 - Newly elected county committee members take office



**PRESORTED STANDARD
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 Davis CA
 PERMIT # 22**

Dates to Remember	
Jan. 4, 2010	SURE Signup opens
May 12, 2010	Elko/Eureka County Committee Mtg
May 31 st	Memorial Day – Office Closed
June 1, 2010	Last Day to sign up for DCP
June 15, 2010	All grain crops must be reported
July 15, 2010	All other crops must be reported – this includes grazing
Oct. 31, 2010	Last day to buy NAP forage coverage for 2011
Dec. 1, 2010	Last day to buy NAP grazing coverage for 2011

Selected Interest Rates for April 2010	
90-Day Treasury Bill	.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.875%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	5.000%
Farm Ownership – Direct, Joint Financing	5.000%
Farm Ownership Loans — Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans – 7 year term	3.125%
Farm Storage Facility Loans – 10 year term	3.625%
Farm Storage Facility Loans – 12 year term	4.000%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.375%

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."