



May 2010

ELKO/EUREKA COUNTY

FSA News

2010 FSA County Committee Elections

The election of agricultural 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. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

County Committee (COC) members are a critical component of FSA operations. The intent is to have the COC reflect the makeup of the producers and to represent all constituents. This means wherever possible, minorities, women or lower income producers need to be on the committee to speak for these underrepresented groups.

County committees provide local input on:

- Commodity price support loans and payments
- Conservation programs
- Incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities
- Emergency programs
- Payment eligibility

FSA county committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

Election Period

June 15, 2010 – The nomination period begins. Request nomination forms from the local USDA Service Center or obtain online at:

http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa0669a_commiteelectform.pdf

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

Nov. 5, 2010 - Ballots mailed to eligible voters.

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

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

Who Can Hold Office

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

- 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.

Causes for ineligibility:

- 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.

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/Internet/FSA_File/fsa0669a_commiteelectform.pdf

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

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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



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Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for the county committee. 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 in the office that administers the producer's farm records.

Who Can Vote

Agricultural producers of legal voting age may be eligible to 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 of an entire farm may also be eligible to vote. More information about voting eligibility requirements can be found in the FSA fact sheet titled "FSA County Committee Election - Eligibility to Vote and Hold Office as a County Committee Member." Producers may contact their local USDA Service Center for more information.

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.

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.

DCP Signup

Enrollment for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) 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.

Contact the nearest FSA office for more information.

SURE Program

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters incurred in the crop years 2008 through September 30, 2011. To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to participate in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) except for grazed acreage. However, crop insurance or NAP coverage is no longer required for crops that are not of economic significance or those where the administrative fee required to buy NAP coverage exceeds 10% of the value of the coverage.

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 conditions trigger SURE payments:

- At least one crop of economic significance must suffer a 10% production loss due to an eligible disaster condition
- Crop of economic significance is 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
- Crop is in a county declared a disaster county by the Secretary of Agriculture, or in contiguous counties, or producer shows proof of an individual loss of at least 50%.

SURE payments can apply to crop production



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/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=diap&topic=sure>. The calculator is not official, but is intended for educational use. A fact sheet and background are also available online.



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 indebtedness 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.

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 oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Hay (Alfalfa &/or Grass)
- Renewable biomass

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

WREP – Wetlands Program

The Wetlands Reserve Enhancement Program (WREP) gives landowners an opportunity to maximize wildlife habitat values, improve water quality, reduce flooding, recharge groundwater, and improve the environment. WREP is administered under the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP).

Under WREP, NRCS works through partnership agreements to establish wetland restoration cost-share agreements or acquire permanent or 30-year easements on eligible lands. Landowners in the individual project, watershed-wide or large geographic area will receive financial and technical assistance, and benefit by enrolling land that is difficult to farm and by being able to address environmental problems.

For more information, eligible partners should contact the Nevada NRCS State Office or visit the WREP Web site at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>.

Measurement Service

Farmers who would like a guarantee on their crop plantings and land use acreages can make it official by using the FSA measurement service. Producers must file a request with the county office staff and pay the cost of a field visit for GPS referencing of the farm. Measurement service is available using digital imagery. If data already exists in a certified database and an on-site visit is not required, there is no charge.

Incorrect acreage self-certification can result in reduced program payments, penalty, or loss of eligibility.

Producers can request ortho-imagery and CLU (common land unit) coordinates for their land (commonly referred to as a clip) at no charge. This service provides you with both acreages and field boundaries.



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

Dates to Remember	
Jan. 4, 2010	SURE Signup opens
May 31 st	Memorial Day – Office Closed
June 1, 2010	Last Day to sign up for DCP
June 1, 2010	Last day for reconstitution requests
June 15, 2010	All grain crops must be reported
June 15, 2010	Accepting COC Nominations
July 15, 2010	All other crops must be reported – this includes grazing
Aug 2, 2010	Last day to file COC nominations
Oct. 31, 2010	Last day to buy NAP forage coverage for 2011
Dec. 1, 2010	Last day to buy NAP grazing coverage for 2011
Dec. 6, 2010	COC election ballots due

Selected Interest Rates for May 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	3.250%
Farm Storage Facility Loans – 10 year term	3.875%
Farm Storage Facility Loans – 12 year term	4.125%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.500%

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