



# NEWSLETTER



January 2011

## Happy New Year and Welcome 2011!

### Elko/Eureka FSA Office

Elko/Eureka County  
Committee  
Mark Damele  
Patsy Tomera  
Ira J Wines  
Clayton Cota  
Mitch Heguy

Clayre Moiola  
County Executive Director  
555 W Silver St., Suite 101  
Elko, NV 89801

775-738-6445 phone  
775-778-9712 fax  
www.fsa.usda.gov/ST

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

### Elko/Eureka Staff

Micki Wines  
Farm Loan Officer

Maria Murillo  
Program Technician  
Farm Loan/Program

Jacque Fender  
Program Technician  
Farm Program

Claire Neumann  
County Office Trainee

### **SURE Signup**

Signup for the 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) began Jan. 10, 2011. SURE provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters. For SURE, all crops must be covered by crop insurance, NAP or eligible for waivers.

A farm enrolled in SURE is eligible when either:

- a portion of the farm is located in a county covered by a qualifying natural disaster declaration (USDA Secretarial Declarations only) or a contiguous county; or,
- the actual production is less than 50% of the normal production.

### **County Committee Election Results**

Congratulations to Ira J Wines. Ira was elected to represent rancher/farmers from Ruby & Clover Valley and Jackpot Area on the county committee. Ira was elected to his first term.

Congratulations to Patsy Tomera. Patsy was re-elected to represent ranchers/farmers from Northern Eureka on the county committee. Patsy was elected to her third consecutive term.

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

The committee members will hold their organizational meeting on January 26<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 P.M. to determine who will serve as the county committee chairman and vice-chairman.

### **Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)**

The noninsured crop disaster assistance program (NAP) is a federally funded program that helps producers reduce their risk when growing food and fiber crops, specialty crops and crops for livestock feed. These benefits are only available for crops for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available. Application for coverage must be filed by the applicable crop's application closing date.

Production records for all crops must be reported to FSA no later than the acreage reporting date for the crop for the following year. FSA requires that any production reported in a loss year be verifiable according to Agency specifications. NAP Losses must be reported within 15 days of loss.

### **Controlled Substance**

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium, poppies and other drug producing plants.



### ***Foreign Buyers Notification***

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. FSA administers this program for USDA.

All individuals who are not U.S. citizens, and have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form (FSA-153) could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, Realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

### ***Farming Operation Changes***

If you have bought or sold land, or if you have added or dropped rented land from your operation, make sure you report the changes to the office as soon as possible. You need to provide a copy of your deed or recorded land contract for purchased property. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. Making the record changes now will save you time in the spring. Update signature authorization when changes in the operation occur. Producers are reminded to contact the office of a change in operations on a farm so that records can be kept current and accurate.

### ***Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Compliance***

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions are required. Farmers with HEL determined soils are reminded of tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified per their conservation plan.



Producers are to notify the USDA Farm Service Agency prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in the loss of eligibility and all Federal payments.

### ***Special Accommodations***

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff directly or by phone.

### ***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 FSA office near you for more information.

### ***Bank Account Changes***

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA county office if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.

### ***Appeal Process***

After an FSA official makes a decision on your request for USDA services or application, you will be sent a letter informing you of the decision and options you can pursue if you disagree.

Generally, program participants have three choices — an informal review with the original agency decision-maker, an opportunity for mediation and finally an appeal to the next level of authority within the agency.

## ***NRCS's Sage-Grouse Initiative***

This is the second year NRCS is offering special funding through the Sage-Grouse Initiative. Through this initiative NRCS strives to assist private landowners sustain working ranches and conserve greater sage-grouse populations. In many instances, what is good for livestock production is good for grouse. NRCS is using its most popular conservations programs, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), to simultaneously improve habitat for sage-grouse and improve sustainability and productivity of their native rangelands. Available practices under the initiative include but are not limited to; removal of encroached pinyon and juniper trees, implementation of a prescribed grazing system, repairing degraded wet meadow or riparian systems, removal of unnecessary fences, and marking existing fences to avoid collisions by grouse. For more information on this initiative please visit our web site at [http://www.nv.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/sage\\_grouse\\_2010.html](http://www.nv.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/sage_grouse_2010.html) or give the Elko NRCS Office a call at 775-738-8431.

### ***Customer Statement***

January signals the beginning of a new year, and a time to starting thinking about filing taxes. Producers who have signed up for a USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account will be able to access their farm data via their Customer Statement.

The Customer Statement puts a range of USDA services and programs into a single report that's at your fingertips and available online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

It allows USDA customers to view their participation, application and payment status in various commodity and conservation programs; information on farm loans; and conservation plan and land unit information.



## ***Farm Loan Programs***

The Farm Service Agency 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 Service Agency makes loans to **rural youths** to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

## ***Snow/Precipitation Report***

Basin Site Name	Elev (ft)	Year-to-Date Precipitation		
		Cur. (in)	Ave (in)	% Avg
BEAR CREEK	8040	16.0	9.7	165
POLE CREEK R.S.	8330	8.4	5.1	165
SEVENTYSIX CREEK	7100	10.3	6.7	154
BIG BEND	6700	8.3	5.2	160
FAWN CREEK	7000	14.1	10.1	140
JACK CREEK UPPER	7250	13.0	9.0	144
JACKS PEAK	8420	17.4	11.0	158
LAUREL DRAW	6697	12.1	8.3	146
TAYLOR CANYON	6200	7.4	3.7	200
CORRAL CANYON	8500	15.6	7.7	203
DORSEY BASIN	8100	13.7	8.8	156
DRAW CREEK	7200	13.0	6.2	210
GREEN MOUNTAIN	8000	14.5	8.7	167
LAMOILLE #3	7700	18.3	8.4	218
HOLE-IN-MOUNTAIN	7900	19.4	10.3	188

### **Site Location:**

[www.nv.nrcs.usda.gov/snow/snotel.html](http://www.nv.nrcs.usda.gov/snow/snotel.html)

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



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

***IRS Form 1099-G***

Producers annually receive CCC-1099-Gs detailing payments producers have received from the Commodity Credit Corporation. The annual report of program payments on CCC-1099-Gs is a service intended to help our customers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the producers' responsibilities to report income to IRS.

FSA staff cannot interpret IRS regulations or advise producers about which payments to report on their income tax returns. However, county office staff can review payments for accuracy.

<b>Interest Rates January 2011</b>	
Farm Operating - Direct	1.75%
Farm Ownership - Direct	4.5%
Conservation Loan	4.5%
Farm Storage Facility-7YR	2.500%
Farm Storage Facility-10YR	3.125%
Farm Storage Facility-12YR	3.375%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.250%

<b>Dates to Remember</b>	
Jan. 17	Martin Luther King's Birthday-Office Closed
Feb. 21	George Washington's Birthday-Office Closed
June 1	DCP/ACRE Filing Deadline
	ACREAGE REPORTING
	DEALINES:
June 15	Small Grain Crops
July 15	Forage crops(plus corn) grazing ac.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.