



NEWSLETTER



February 2011

ELKO/Eureka FSA Office

Elko/Eureka County
Committee:
Patsy Tomera-
Chairperson
Mitch Heguy-
Vice Chairperson
Mark Damele-
Member
Clayton Cota-
Member
Ira J Wines-
Member

Clayre Moiola
County Executive Director
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Elko, NV 89801

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Hours

Monday - Friday
7:30a.m. - 4:30p.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 – 2009 and Later

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters. **SURE sign up for crop year 2009 losses runs from Jan. 10 to July 29, 2011. Deadlines for 2010 and 2011 crop years will be announced later.**

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. This requirement does not apply for crops that are not of economic significance or where the administrative fee required to buy NAP coverage exceeds 10% of the value of the crop 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 are required to 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
- producers in counties declared disaster counties by the Secretary of Agriculture, or in contiguous counties, or those who show proof of an individual loss of at least 50% are eligible to receive SURE payments for crop producer 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.

Note that due to the need to wait for end of year market price data to make SURE final calculations, SURE assistance payments lag the crop year's end by one full year.

If you would like additional clarification call or stop by your local FSA office.

COC Organizational Meeting

Congratulations to Patsy Tomera as she was elected Chairperson and to Mitch Heguy elected Vice-Chairperson. It was then decided by the COC; they would now meet on the Second Tuesday of each month.

2011 DCP Signup

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through June 1, 2011. 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 2011 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 2011, eligible producers may request partial direct payments as an advance on the total amount.

USDA Rural Development Offers

Renewable Energy Workshop

Guaranteed Loans & Grants Available to Make Energy Efficiency Improvements

Agricultural producers and rural small business owners interested in purchasing renewable energy systems or making energy efficiency improvements to their operations may be interested in a USDA Rural Development workshop scheduled for Feb. 10 at the Great



Basin College in Elko, Nevada. The Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) offered through the State Office of USDA Rural Development provides guaranteed loans and grants to assist with these energy system improvements.

The workshop will be held at the college in Elko from 5 p. m. to 7 p. m. on February 10 in Health Science Room 107. The free workshop will provide information about REAP and how to apply for funding. REAP funding through USDA Rural Development is authorized by the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008. For more information, contact Rural Energy Coordinator, Mark Williams, at 775-887-1222, ext. 116 or mark.williams@nv.usda.gov.

Sorghum Checkoff Referendum Scheduled

USDA will conduct a referendum on the Sorghum Checkoff Program Feb. 1-28, 2011, at local Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices. Ballots may be obtained in person, by mail or facsimile at county FSA offices, or via the Internet at www.ams.usda.gov/sorghumpage.

Any eligible person engaged in the production or importation of sorghum from July 1, 2008, to December 31, 2010, is eligible to participate. Individuals are required to provide documentation such as a sales receipt or remittance form that shows they engaged in the production or importation of sorghum.

Sorghum Checkoff is a national, coordinated, self-help marketing program designed to strengthen the position of sorghum in the market place, maintain and expand existing domestic and foreign markets and uses for sorghum, and develop new markets and uses for sorghum.

1099-G is in the Mail

Producers who have received payments from FSA are also receiving a CCC-1099-G in the mail. A CCC-1099-G is a report to the

Internal Revenue Service regarding FSA payments made to producers during the previous calendar year. The CCC-1099-G is a service to help participating producers report taxable income.

When the CCC-1099-G is received, it should be checked with your records to see that the amounts are correct. It is not intended to replace the program participant's responsibility to report income to the IRS.

ATTENTION: Refunds are no longer reported on the 1099-G, but will be available online from the FSA Financial Inquiries (FSA-FI) web-based database.

Program participants with an eAuthentication user ID and password may access their refund information at FSA-FI and select "Inquiry Type 1099/Refund Reports". Refund amounts are displayed on the Producer's Year-to-Date Activity web page.

If you have a question concerning the 1099-G refund information, you may contact your local FSA office for assistance locating the correct payment data.

Conservation Loan Program

The Conservation Loan (CL) Program provides farmers with the funding necessary to implement NRCS approved conservation measures on their land. The available limit for a direct CL is \$300,000, and the limit for a guaranteed CL is \$1,119,000.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will work with applicants to develop a conservation plan containing approved conservation practices. Examples of some conservation practices are: water conservation structures, forest cover, permanent pastures, manure digesters and other installations.

For more information on a potential Conservation Loan, call the local FSA office and make an appointment with your farm loan officer Micki Wines

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 from the IRS to verify AGI compliance will be required from each producer or payment recipient. 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 nonfarm 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. These forms may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices or online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/main servlet>.

Livestock Indemnity Payments (LIP) Program

Producers in Nevada should know that the LIP Program provides benefits for livestock death losses due to adverse weather. Losses must be in excess of normal mortality and must have occurred after Jan. 1, 2008, and before Oct. 1, 2011. The livestock death losses must have also occurred in the calendar year for which benefits are being requested. Losses to cattle, poultry, swine, goats, sheep, alpaca, elk, deer, emus, llamas and reindeer are included for weather-related losses such as hurricanes, floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires, extreme heat and extreme cold. Payments for losses are 75% of the national average market value of the

livestock. Producer must notify their local FSA office within 30 days of livestock loss. For details, consult your nearest FSA office.

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 ranch, 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 \$1,119,000. 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.

Marginal Pastureland Programs

The purpose of this practice is to remove nutrients, sediment, organic matter, pesticides, and other pollutants from surface runoff and subsurface flow by deposition, absorption, plant uptake, denitrification, and other processes, and thereby reduce pollution and protect surface water and subsurface water quality while enhancing the ecosystem of the water body. There are two programs available: Wetland Buffer or Wildlife Habitat Buffer. These programs are offered for 10-20 years with an annual and incentive payments. Further information please contact FSA.

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



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USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Selected Interest Rates for February 2011	
Farm Operating - Direct	2.250%
Farm Ownership – Direct	4.750%
Conservation Loan	4.70%
Farm Storage Facility-7YR	2.750%
Farm Storage Facility-10YR	3.375%
Farm Storage Facility-12YR	3.625%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.250%

Dates to Remember	
Feb. 21	Presidents' Day – office closed
June 1	DCP/ACRE Filing Deadline
	Acreage reporting deadline
June 15	Small Grain Crops
July 15	Forage Crops(plus corn)& grazing acres

NRCS Snowpack Report

Good weather and the disappearance of snow around Elko has created concern about our current snowpack, but not to worry says the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Snow surveyors – NRCS has just recently completed the February 1st Snow measurements. The water content contained in the snow is above average for this time of year, for example at Lamoille Canyon # 1 snow course, at an elevation of 7100 feet is currently 137% above average, and measuring 26 inches of snow. Lamoille Canyon #5 snow course with an elevation of 8700 feet is at 148% above average with 66 inches of snow. Tremewan Ranch located north of Elko is our lowest snow course at 5700 feet and is right on at 100% of average with only 4 inches of measurable snow. Most drainage basins are average or above average, and the reason is because the snow contains a considerable amount of water.

