



August 2009

# Humboldt/Lander FSA News

Humboldt/Lander County  
USDA Service Center

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[www.fsa.usda.gov/nv](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/nv)

## Hours

Monday - Thursday  
7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Friday  
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## County Staff

### County Executive Director:

MaryAnn McDermett  
**Program Specialist:**

Katie Nuffer  
**Program Technicians:**  
Donna Harrer  
Denise Cerri

### Farm Loan Manager:

Carolyn Persinger  
(775) 423-5124 x 106

### Farm Loan Officer:

Cathy Yardley  
(775) 738-6445 x 106

## County Committee

### Chairman:

Fred Wilkinson

### Vice-Chairman:

Debbie Hummel

### Members:

Bob Buckingham  
Theresa Marvel  
Christina Wohle

### Minority Advisor:

Arlo Crutcher



## COC Nominating Closed, Voting Starts Nov. 6

By now you should be aware that the deadline for FSA County Committee nominations has already passed as of August 3, 2009.

### Voting Begins Nov. 6

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters beginning November 6, and must be returned to the county office by the close of business on December 7, or postmarked by midnight December 7, 2009.

Agricultural producers of legal voting age can 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 on an entire farm can also vote.

No one can 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.

For additional clarification about county committee elections, contact your local county office staff.

## Livestock Indemnity Program

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to producers for livestock deaths that result from disaster. Using funds from the Agricultural Disaster Relief Trust Fund established under section 902 of the Trade Act of 1974, the program is administered by the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA). LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather, including losses due to hurricanes, floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires, extreme heat and extreme cold. Eligible losses must have occurred on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011.

The following table provides the final dates to file a notice of loss and/or application for payment for either 2008 or 2009 livestock losses.

Livestock Death	Final Date to File a Notice of Loss	Final Date to Submit an Application
Calendar Year 2008	Sept. 13, 2009	Sept. 13, 2009
Jan. 1, 2009 to July 12, 2009	Sept. 13, 2009	Jan. 30, 2010
July 13, 2009 to Dec. 31, 2009	30 days after death is apparent	Jan. 30, 2010

**Proof of Death:** To be eligible for assistance under LIP, each livestock producer **must** provide verifiable documentation of livestock deaths. Adequate

documentation **must** be provided that proves the death of eligible livestock occurred as a direct result of an eligible adverse weather event in the calendar year for which benefits are being requested. The quantity and kind of livestock that died as a direct result of the eligible adverse weather event may be documented by, but is **not** limited to:

- o Bank or other loan documents
- o Records assembled for tax purposes
- o Private insurance documents
- o Production or purchase records
- o Property tax records
- o Veterinarian records
- o Written records

**Producer Records:** If adequate verifiable proof of death records documentation is **not** available, the livestock producer may provide reliable records along with verifiable beginning and ending inventory as proof of death. For example:

- o Brand inspection records
- o Contemporaneous producer records existing at the time of the event
- o Pictures
- o Vaccination records

### Certification of Livestock Deaths by Third Parties:

Certifications of livestock deaths by third parties may be accepted **only** if verifiable proof of death records or reliable proof of death records along with verifiable beginning and ending inventory records are **not** available and **all** of the following conditions are met:

- o The livestock owner or livestock contract grower certifies in writing that there is **no** other verifiable or reliable documentation of death available
- o The number of livestock, by category, determined by FSA, were in inventory at the time the applicable adverse weather event occurred
- o The physical location of livestock, by category, in inventory when the deaths occurred
- o Other details required for FSA to determine the certification acceptable
- o The third party is an independent source who is **not** affiliated with the farming operation, such as a hired hand, and is **not** a "family member"; that is defined as a person whom a member in the farming operation is related as lineal ancestor, lineal descendant, sibling, spouse, or otherwise by marriage, and provides a written certification that provides **all** of the following:

- 1) name, telephone number and address
- 2) specific details about their knowledge of the livestock deaths
- 3) their affiliation with the livestock owner or contract grower

- 4) the accuracy of the deaths claimed by the livestock owner or contract grower, such as, but not limited to, the number and kind/type of the participant's livestock that died because of the adverse weather event
- 5) other details required by FSA to determine the certification acceptable

**Verifiable Inventory Documentation:** Documents that may provide verifiable evidence of livestock inventory include, but are not limited to, any or a combination of the following:

- o Cancelled check documentation
- o Balance Sheets
- o Inventory records used for tax purposes
- o Loan records
- o Private insurance documents
- o Property tax records
- o Sales and purchase receipts
- o Veterinary records
- o Brand inspection receipts
- o Chattel inspections

For more information on available supplemental disaster assistance programs, please visit your FSA county office or <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

## DCP & ACRE Enrollment Deadline

Signup for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program has been extended until August 14, 2009. **FSA will not accept any late-filed applications.** Signup in the ACRE option is also available through August 14, 2009.

FSA 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 2009, you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price.

The electronic DCP (or eDCP) service will save you time, reduce paperwork and speed up contract processing at FSA offices. It is available to anyone eligible to participate in the DCP Program. To access this on-line service, you must have an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires filling out an online registration form at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov> followed by a visit to the local USDA Service Center for identity verification.

## NAP Coverage

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commod-

ity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

The application deadline date for the 2010 NAP coverage for all grain crops, either for hay or grazing, is August 30, 2009. The closing date for all other hay crops is October 31, 2009 and all other grazing crops is December 1, 2009.

Producers who already have coverage on 2009 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2010, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops.

Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee.

Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required. As a reminder, please be sure and turn in 2009 production records as soon as possible.
- File a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail, etc.

For more information on NAP coverage please contact your nearest Farm Service Agency office.

## New Payment Limitations

The 2008 Farm Bill provisions stipulate that for the 2009 crop year and later, **Direct Attribution** will be used to limit the total payments to individuals and entities. In other words, all program payments made to individuals or entities will be attributed to the individual **and** to the entity. That means if the individual is a member of a farming entity (corporation, trust, etc.) that payment will now be attributed to the individual partners or members **in addition** to the entity.

Another change for 2009 is that all participants must make an **active contribution in an entity**. All partners, stockholders, or members with an ownership interest in the legal entity must make a contribution, whether compensated or **not** compensated, in the form of the following:

- 1) active personal labor, or
- 2) active personal management, or
- 3) a combination of active personal labor and active personal management to the farming operation.

Note that there are exceptions for spouses. For more detailed information on this and other programs please contact your local FSA office.

## Electronic Services Available

If a producer has Internet access, program participants can access many services from home 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and receive approval and payment by direct deposit within 48 hours.

To participate in these services, you must meet all program eligibility requirements. Online services have stringent security measures to protect your private information.

To utilize electronic services a producer needs an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires an e-mail address and filling out an online registration form at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/> followed by a visit to the county office for identity verification.

If you have more questions, or would like assistance establishing your account, just contact your local USDA Service Center and talk with our trained FSA personnel.

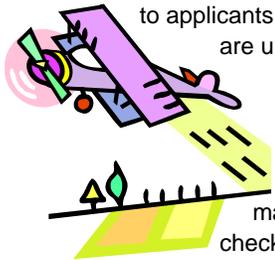
## Loans for Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of Socially Disadvantaged Applicants. A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders.

If producers or their spouses believe they would qualify as socially disadvantaged, they should contact their local FSA office for details. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.



## Wetland Compliance

Producers renting or purchasing land that may have a converted wetland status need to check with the county office to learn if there are restrictions. The last thing FSA wants to do is to deny a producer benefits due to wetland noncompliance. The Farm Bill provides that, **unless exempt**, persons are **ineligible** for benefits under certain programs administered by USDA if they:

- plant an agricultural commodity on wetland that was converted after December 23, 1985
- convert a wetland after November 28, 1990

**FSA may not approve any loan or loan guarantee to drain, dredge, fill, level or otherwise manipulate a wetland, or to engage in any activity that results in impairing or reducing the flow, circulation or reach of water except in the case of activity related to the maintenance of previously converted wetlands.**

There are some permitted uses for wetlands. Contact your local office to learn what permitted uses and restrictions and Wetland compliance provisions impact your land.

## NRCS News

### Natural Resources Conservation Service Provides Free, Voluntary Assistance to Agricultural Producers

by NRCS State Conservationist Bruce Petersen

In January, I became the state conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Nevada. These first few months have flown by. I've had a chance to meet many of you as I've worked my way around the state, and I look forward to meeting many more of you.

One of the things I'm hearing consistently is that you don't understand NRCS and Farm Bill programs. I'd like to help change that by writing monthly messages to help explain our agency, Farm Bill programs, our partnerships, and many more topics that I hope will give you a better understanding of what we do.

Since this is my first message, I'd like to start off by giving you a general overview of our agency. The NRCS is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Our primary responsibility is helping private landowners protect and conserve natural resources. Here in Nevada, we have 9 field offices located throughout the state in addition to our State Office that is located in Reno. We have about 70 full time employees and, during this summer, about 12 student employees. I have a strong commitment to helping students apply their studies in the real world. We also have 3 coordinators who assist local resource and conservation development councils. I will cover their accomplishments in a future article.

Each of our field offices is run by a district conservationist. Some offices have additional staff, such as range conservationists, soil scientists, and engineering technicians, who help landowners solve natural resource problems. Conservation technical assistance is the mainframe of our agency. We work with landowners to identify resource issues and solve them on a voluntary basis. For example, if your irrigation system needs improvement, you can call your NRCS field office and invite the district conservationist out to your property. He or she will evaluate your system and make suggestions on how it can be improved. They will also look at your crop productivity, potential for erosion, and other factors that may be affecting your bottom line and causing resource problems, and help identify ways to correct them. This assistance is free and totally voluntary.

However, if problems are identified and you'd like financial assistance to help cover the costs of installing the conservation practice, that's where Farm Bill programs come in. I'll cover that in the next edition.

Please feel free to contact your local NRCS office at any time with a request for assistance, resource concern or question. We can be found on the Web at [www.nv.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nv.nrcs.usda.gov), or in the phone book under US Government. I can be reached at (775) 857-8500. Call me if you want to talk.

Dates to Remember	
Aug. 3, 2009	Last day to file COC election nomination forms
Aug. 14, 2009	DCP Signup Deadline
Aug. 30, 2009	Closing date for NAP Application for Coverage for all grain crops, either for hay or grazing
Sept. 7, 2009	Office Closed for Labor Day Holiday
Selected Interest Rates for August 2009	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	3.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Limited Resource	5.00%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	5.00%
Farm Ownership Loans — Down Payment	1.50%
Farm Ownership Loans—Limited Resource	5.00%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	3.25%

Important Dates	
Final Planting Dates	
Spring Grains	20-May
Fall Grains	31-Oct
Corn	15-Jun
Crop Reporting	
All Grain Crops for Hay, Grain or Grazing	15-Jun
All Other Crops	15-Jul
Production Records	
Grain Hay	15-Jun
All Other Hay	15-Jul
DCP (Grain Program)	
NAP Application for Coverage	
Grain Crops Hay or Grazing	30-Aug
All Other Hay Crops	31-Oct
All Other Grazing Crops	1-Dec
Notice of Loss for NAP	
Within 15 Days of When Disaster is Apparent	
Request for Payment for NAP	
Following Year of Disaster	
Grain Crops for Hay or Grazing	15-Jun
All Other Crops for Hay or Grazing	15-Jul

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