



January 2010

Humboldt/Lander

FSA News

Humboldt/Lander County
USDA Service Center
1200 E. Wmca. Blvd.
Winnemucca, NV 89445
Phone: (775) 623-5025
Fax: (775) 623-1386
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 McDermott

Program Specialist:

Katie Nuffer

Program Technicians:

Donna Harrer

Denise Cerri

Farm Loan Manager:

Carolyn Persinger
(775) 423-5124 x 106

Farm Loan Officer:

Micki Wines
(775) 738-6445 x 105
Phyllis Dowd
(775) 423-5124 x 107

County Committee

Meetings held second
Tuesday of the month at
10:00 a.m. (subject to
change)

Members:

Fred Wilkinson
Debbie Hummel
Theresa Marvel
Christina Wohle
Susan Kern

Minority Advisor:

Arlo Crutcher



SURE Signup

Signup for the 2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments program (SURE) began on January 4, 2010. SURE 2008 is for those who suffered crop production losses during crop year 2008.

SURE provides crop disaster assistance payments to eligible producers on farms that have incurred crop production or crop quality losses. The program takes into consideration crop losses on all crops grown by a producer nationwide. SURE provides assistance in an amount equal to 60 percent of the difference between the SURE farm guarantee and total farm revenue. The farm guarantee is based on the amount of crop insurance and Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on the farm. Total farm revenue takes into account the actual value of production on the farm as well as insurance indemnities and certain farm program payments.

Producers with a farming interest physically located in a county that was declared a primary disaster county or contiguous county by the Agriculture Secretary must have suffered at least a 10 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance. Producers must meet the risk management purchase requirement by either obtaining a policy or plan of insurance, under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or NAP coverage, for all economically significant crops. For 2008 crops, producers had the opportunity to obtain a waiver of the risk management purchase requirement through a buy-in provision. Producers considered socially disadvantaged, a beginning farmer or rancher, or a limited resource farmer may be eligible for SURE without a policy or plan of insurance or NAP coverage.

If there is no Secretarial Disaster Designation, individual producers may also be eligible for SURE if the actual production on the farm is less than 50 percent of the normal production on the farm due to a natural disaster. For SURE, a farm is defined as all crops in which a producer had an interest nationwide.

For more information on the new SURE program, please visit the county office or <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

ATTENTION PRODUCERS:

USDA has finalized a Memorandum of Understanding with the Internal Revenue Service to establish an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the AGI provisions for programs administered by USDA's Farm Service Agency and Natural Resource Conservation Service. All producers that received a payment from USDA's FSA or NRCS in 2009 or wish to participate in programs and receive payments for 2010 will be required to file a form CCC-928 and/or CCC-927 with the IRS. **It is important to note that USDA county office personnel will not view producer's tax return information at any time during this process.** Failure to submit these forms will result in the producer having to refund to USDA any payments received (FSA or NRCS) in 2009 and no program payments (FSA or NRCS) will be issued for 2010.

Our office is in the process of sending these forms and information out to producers. Please watch your mail for this important information.

County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Susan Kern and Christina Wohle! Susan was elected to represent farmers from the Paradise Valley/Winnemucca/Golconda area on the county committee. Christina was re-elected to her first full term as the Southern Lander/Austin area representative.

The election results for Local Administrative Area 3 are:

Susan Kern was elected to the county committee (COC) with 35 votes

Local Administrative Area 5:

Christina Wohle was elected to the county committee (COC) with 14 votes

Due to a tie vote, the following alternate positions for LAA5 were determined with a coin toss:

Rob Wohle — 1st alternate to COC

Thomas Reichert — 2nd alternate to COC

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.

Continued on Page 2 – COC Election Results

Continued from Page 1—COC Election Results

The committee members will hold their organizational meeting on January 12, 2010 to determine who will serve as the county committee chairman and vice-chairman.

DCP Signup Continues

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 to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment. USDA will issue advance direct payments beginning Dec. 1, 2009. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices. Counter-cyclical payments are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price. The effective price is the higher of the national average market price received during the 12-month marketing year for each covered commodity and the national average loan rate for a marketing assistance loan for the covered commodity.

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.

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 Farm Service Agency office near you for more information.

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.

From the State Executive Director:

It's hard to imagine that another year has passed so quickly. In preparation for the New Year, we have set several goals for our staff and office teams.

First, we are taking it upon ourselves to be better trained to serve you. To accomplish that, we are scheduling more program training. We are also working to improve technology skills in critical areas such as general computer use, word processing, data management and so forth.

In addition we are planning more Outreach activities to visit with more producers and let them know about our programs, loans and services. Our State and County Office team members will be getting out there to meet more of you at local and state events.

Effective communication is a two-way street and we need to get to know each other better. Would you do us a favor and let us know how we are doing? Feel free to call your County Office or the State Office at (775) 784-5411. You can also email me at any time: clinton.koble@nv.usda.gov

Have a safe, healthy, and prosperous New Year.

Bank and 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.

Spousal Signatures

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

There are exceptions to the rule, where spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, joint

Continued on Page 3—Spousal Signatures



Continued from Page 2—Spousal Signatures ventures, corporations or other similar entities. Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents. For more clarification on spousal signature authority, feel free to contact your local FSA office.

Food Safety: A Tool for Managing Risk and Expanding Direct Marketing Opportunities

Reminder!

Nevada farmers and ranchers can attend one of several presentations around the state on **Feb. 19** to learn to manage the legal, marketing and financial risks of direct marketing food and ag products. The day-long program will be presented in person in Fallon with simultaneous compressed videocasts to another six locations in Gardnerville, Caliente, Yerington, Logandale, Reno, and Ely.

The program is sponsored by University of Nevada Cooperative Extension and the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources, with funding provided by the Western Center for Risk Management Education. For more information, contact Maggie Cowee, (775) 784-6499, mcowee@cabnr.unr.edu.

Customer Statement

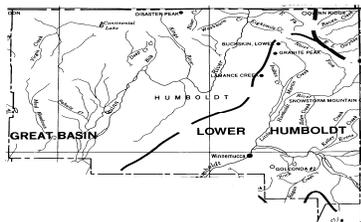
January signals the beginning of a new year, and a time to starting thinking about filing taxes. Producers who have signed up for a USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account will be able to access their farm data via their Customer Statement.

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.

NRCS NEWS

Humboldt County SNOTEL Sites



The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) installs, operates, and maintains an extensive automated system to collect snowpack and related climatic data in the Western United States called SNOTEL (for SNOWpackTElemetry). The system evolved from NRCS's Congressional mandate in the mid-1930's "to measure snowpack in the mountains of the West and forecast the water supply." The programs began with manual measurements of snow courses; since 1980, SNOTEL has reliably and efficiently collected the data needed to produce water supply forecasts and to support the resource management activities of NRCS and others.

Climate studies, air and water quality investigations, and resource management concerns are all served by the modern SNOTEL network. The high elevation watershed locations and the broad coverage of the network provide important data collection opportunities to researchers, water managers, and emergency managers for natural disasters such as floods.

There are four SNOTEL sites in Humboldt County. The Disaster Peak SNOTEL, located north of Kings River along the Nevada-Oregon border, is at an elevation of 6,500-ft. This SNOTEL site provides data for predicting water supplies for the Northern Great Basin. The other three SNOTEL sites are located on the east side of the Santa Rosa Range. Buckskin (lower) is located at an elevation of 6,700-ft., Granite Peak is located at an elevation of 7,800-ft., and Lamance Creek is located at an elevation of 6,000-ft. These SNOTEL sites provide data for predicting water supplies for the Lower Humboldt Basin.

SNOW – PRECIPITATION UPDATE FOR NORTH CENTRAL AND NORTH EASTERN NEVADA

Basin Name	% of Average	
	Total Precipitation	
	1/6/2010	1/6/2009
Northern Great Basin	70	105
Upper Humboldt River Basin	76	126
Lower Humboldt River Basin	71	97
SNOTEL Data Site Name		
Disaster Peak	75	144
Granite Peak	70	88
Lower Buckskin	80	109
Lamance Creek	69	94

The public can access this data at <http://www.nv.nrcs.usda.gov/>. Select Snow **Survey** (under Information About) on the right hand side of the page. Then select **Precipitation** (under Programs) on the left hand side of the page. Then select a report under Daily SNOTEL Data Reports.

Please contact Craig Plummer, NRCS Designated Conservationist, at (775) 623-5025 ext. 101 if you have any questions or need additional information.

Humboldt/Lander County FSA Office
 1200 E. Winnemucca Blvd.
 Winnemucca, NV 89445



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

Selected Interest Rates for January 2010	
Farm Operating - Direct	2.875%
Farm Ownership - Direct	4.75%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility (7-year term)	2.875%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.375%

Dates to Remember	
Jan. 4, 2010	SURE Signup opens
Jan. 12, 2010	County Committee Meeting
Jan. 18, 2010	Martin Luther King Day—Office Closed
Jan 29, 2010	LDP on Unshorn Lamb Pelts Closes
Feb. 9, 2010	County Committee Meeting (Tentative)
Feb. 15, 2010	President’s Day—Office Closed

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."