



April 2010

# Humboldt/Lander County FSA News



## Acreage Reporting

The acreage reporting deadline is fast approaching. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acreage reports are required for many FSA programs. For crops other than NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program) crops, acreage reports are to be certified by the **June 15<sup>th</sup>** deadline on small grains and a **July 15<sup>th</sup>** deadline on all other crops including grazing.

Acreage reports on crops for which NAP assistance may be paid are due in the county office by the earlier of these two options: 1) June 15<sup>th</sup> for small grains and July 15<sup>th</sup> for all other crops including grazing, or 2) 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported.

All NAP producers are urged to file a 2010 acreage report as soon as possible.

Counting everyone is critical to the security of rural communities. It ensures that more than \$400 billion in yearly federal funding is allocated to communities for schools, broadband initiatives, hospitals, emergency services and public works. The census also determines the state's number of seats in the House of Representatives and will affect a state's gain or loss in house seats.

Completing the census is not only the law, but a tool to improve your voice on rural issues. Make sure you are counted.

## Direct and Guaranteed Loans

FSA 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 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. 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 following county office staff:

Humboldt County producers contact Micki Wines at (775) 738-6445 ext. 105 or [micki.wines@nv.usda.gov](mailto:micki.wines@nv.usda.gov).

Lander County producers contact Phyllis Dowd at (775) 423-5124 ext. 107 or [phyllis.dowd@nv.usda.gov](mailto:phyllis.dowd@nv.usda.gov).

## Reminder

**Participants in FSA and NRCS 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, 2010 to avoid interruption of program benefits. These forms may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices or online at:**

<http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainservlet>.

**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](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.

### Staff

#### County Executive Director:

MaryAnn McDermott

#### State Program Specialist:

Katie Nuffer

#### Program Technicians:

Donna Harrer

Denise Cerri

#### Farm Loan Officers:

Micki Wines

(775) 738-6445 x 105

Phyllis Dowd

(775) 423-5124 x 107

#### County Committee

Fred Wilkinson—Chairman

Debbie Hummel—Vice  
Chairman

Susan Kern—Member

Theresa Marvel—Member

Christina Wohle—Member

Arlo Crutcher—Minority  
Advisor

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

## 2010 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.

For more information on this or other programs, simply contact the nearest FSA office.

## Census Counts Rural America

The USDA Farm Service Agency and the U.S. Census Bureau encourage all farmers and ranchers to complete the 2010 census. Census forms mailed in March to all residents in the U.S. and Puerto Rico contain only 10 questions. The census takes only 10 minutes to complete and mail back, postage-paid.



## 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.

## Farm Reconstitutions

In program terminology, farms are *constituted* to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm *reconstitution* is necessary. The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon:

- **Estate Method** — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;
- **Designation of Landowner Method** — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;
- **DCP Cropland Method** — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;
- **Default Method** — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

If payments have already been issued on a particular farm, the reconstitution will be effective for the next year, unless the payments are refunded. Request for recons should be filed by June 1.

## SURE

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that were incurred in the crop years 2008 through September 30, 2011. To be eligible for SURE payments, producers are required to obtain crop insurance on all crops in all counties or, for crops for which insurance is not available, producers must 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 are the conditions that 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 production or crop quality losses. Note also that 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:

[www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA\\_File/sure\\_calculator\\_2008.xls](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/sure_calculator_2008.xls). The calculator is not official, but is intended for educational use. A fact sheet and background are also available online.

## Farm Safety

Flowing grain in a storage bin or gravity-flow wagon is like quicksand; it can kill quickly. It takes less than five seconds for a person caught in flowing grain to be trapped.

The mechanical aspects of grain handling equipment also present a real danger. Augers, power take offs, and other moving parts can grab you or the clothing you might be wearing.

These hazards, along with pinch points and missing shields, are dangerous enough for adults; not to mention children. It is always advisable to keep children a safe distance from operating farm



equipment. Always use extra caution when backing or maneuvering farm machinery. Insure everyone is visibly clear and accounted for before machinery is engaged.

Your friends at FSA want all farmers to have a productive crop year, and that begins with putting safety first.

## 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 (USDA).

County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

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.

### *Eligibility to Hold Office*

Seat LAA 1 in Humboldt County, currently held by Debbie Hummel, is up for election this year.

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet each of the basic eligibility requirements described below:

1. Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
2. Be eligible to vote in a county committee election
3. Reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate

NOTE: In special cases, this requirement may be waived. Check with the local FSA office.

4. A person must not have been:
  - Removed or disqualified from the of-

fice 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*

The nomination period begins on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Any interested persons may request nomination forms from the FSA office or at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>. Nominations must be received in the FSA office or postmarked by August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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

### *Prospective Voter Requirements*

A person who meets the requirements in No. 1 or No. 2 below, as well as No. 3 is eligible to vote.

1. Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as either:
  - An individual
  - The authorized representative of an entity.
2. Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm.
3. Participates or cooperates in any U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) program that is provided for by law.

A person may only vote in one LAA in which he or she participates or cooperates in FSA programs or programs administered by FSA. People uncertain about their eligibility to vote in the county committee election should contact their local FSA office. Affirmation of eligibility to vote must be determined in order for a vote to count in an election.

For more information about FSA county committees, visit your local FSA office or USDA Service center or the Web site at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>.



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



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

## NAP Records

Production records for individual crops need to be filed with your FSA office to establish an approved NAP yield. If this is the first year you participated in NAP, you can provide production and acreage information from prior years to establish your yield. If you participated in NAP in previous years, you must report your production and acreage on a yearly basis to keep your yield up-to-date. Records submitted must be reliable or verifiable and need to show crop disposition. We recommend producers submit 2009 production records as soon as harvest is complete. **All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date.**

Selected Interest Rates for April 2010	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating - Direct	2.875%
Farm Ownership - Direct	5.00%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment	1.50%
Emergency	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility (7 year)	3.125%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.375%

Dates to Remember	
April 13	COC Meeting
May 20	Final planting date for spring grains
June 1	DCP /Sign-ups Closes
June 1	Recons Should be filed
June 15	Final date to submit CCC-927/928 to IRS
June 15	Acreage reporting deadline for all grain crops
July 15	Acreage reporting deadline for all other crops including grazing

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."