



NEWSLETTER



January 2011

Happy New Year and Welcome 2011!

Humboldt/Lander County FSA Office

MaryAnn McDermett
County Executive Director
1200 E. Wmca. Blvd.
Winnemucca, NV 89445
(775) 623-5025
Fax: (775) 623-1386
www.fsa.usda.gov/nv

Hours

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

State/County Staff

Carolyn Persinger
Farm Loan Chief
(775) 784-5411 ext. 110
Katie Nuffer
State Program Specialist
Denise Cerri
Donna Harrer
Program Technicians
Micki Wines
Farm Loan Officer
(775) 738-6445 ext. 105

County Committee

Members:

Fred Wilkinson
Debbie Hummel
Susan Kern
Theresa Marvel
Christina Wohle

Minority Advisor:

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

SURE Signup

Signup for the 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) begins 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 Debbie Hummel! Debbie was re-elected to represent farmers that reside west of Highway 95 and south of the Kings River Highway, including Kings River and that portion of Winnemucca, on the county committee. Debbie was elected to her second 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 in January to determine who will serve as the county committee chairman and vice-chairman.

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.

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.**

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.



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.



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 within 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.

FSA Signature Policy

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 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.

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 hail, winter storm, blizzards, wildfires, extreme heat and extreme cold. Eligible losses must have occurred on or after Jan. 1, 2008, and before Oct. 1, 2011.

For 2010 and subsequent years losses, livestock owners and contract growers that suffer a loss of livestock shall file:

- A notice of loss the earlier of the following dates:
 - 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock is apparent to the participant
 - 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the loss of livestock occurred

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

Emergency Loans Available

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) has designated Pershing County as a primary natural disaster area due to drought, thus making Churchill, Humboldt, Lander and Washoe Counties declared as contiguous disaster counties. A Secretarial disaster designation makes farm operators in both primary and contiguous counties eligible to be considered for emergency loan assistance from the FSA, provided eligibility requirements are met. This assistance includes FSA emergency loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought. These loans carry an interest rate of 3.75%.

Emergency loan funds may be used to:

- Restore or replace essential property, clean debris or prepare land for replanting or to replace livestock that was lost;
- Pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year;
- Cover all or part of production losses to native pasture, rangeland and grazing permit lands if the average per head cost of feed in the disaster year exceeds the average per head cost of feed purchased for the three years before the disaster by 30% or more;
- Pay essential family living expenses;
- Reorganize the farming operation; and
- Refinance certain debts.

For more information about emergency loans please contact the local FSA county 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 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.

NRCS NEWS

Humboldt and Lander Counties See a Slight Increase in Total Precipitation Since Last Month But Significant Increases Compared to Last Year

Total precipitation has increased slightly compared to last month and significantly since last year according to NRCS SNOTEL data sites in Humboldt and Lander Counties. Compared to last month (12/3) there has been a 10 percent increase in total precipitation in the Lower Humboldt River Basin and no increase in the Upper Humboldt River Basin.

Total precipitation at the Disaster Peak SNOTEL site decreased by 12 percent and there was no change at the Lamance Creek SNOTEL site (still 173 percent). SNOTEL sites that increased in total precipitation include Big Creek Summit (south of Austin) up 34 percent, Granite Peak up 4 percent, and Buckskin (lower) up 13 percent.

The following table compares SNOTEL total precipitation data for January 3, 2011 to January 3, 2010. It also includes current snow depth data. Snow depths have more than tripled at some sites. Compared to last month the snow depth at Disaster Peak increased from 7 inches to 26 inches, Big Creek Summit increased from 27 inches to 53 inches, Granite Peak increased from 25 inches to 57 inches, and Buckskin (lower) increased from 12 inches to 31 inches.



Snow - Precipitation Update Humboldt & Lander Counties

Total Precipitation

	1/3/2011	1/3/2010	1/3/2011
	% of	% of	Snow
Site Name	Average	Average	Depth (in.)
Big Creek Summit (Lander)	239	69	53
Buckskin Lower	152	82	31
Disaster Peak	221	76	26
Granite Peak	178	72	57
Lamance Creek	173	70	25
Lower Humboldt River Basin	182	73	
Upper Humboldt River Basin	204	78	



Welcome Leah!

New Soil Conservation Technician Joins the NRCS Winnemucca Field Office

Leah Mori started her career as soil conservation technician on December 6, 2010. Leah is familiar with north Central and eastern Nevada where she has lived and worked on ranches for more than 30 years. Leah graduated from Albert Lowry High School in Winnemucca and was a member of the National Honor Society and FFA. Later on she attended Eastern Oregon University where she majored in Agricultural Business. Leah will be assisting the field office staff to deliver Farm Bill conservation programs to agricultural producers in Humboldt and Lander Counties. Her major duties will be farm and ranch inventory, basic surveying and engineering and conservation planning.

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Farming As A Lifestyle

Most farms in the U.S. are small with 60 percent reporting less than \$10,000 in sales of agricultural products. Of the 2.2 million farms nationwide, only 1 million show positive net cash income from the farm operation. The remaining 1.2 million farms depend on non-farm income to cover farm expenses.

Of the nation’s 2.2 million principal farm operators, 1.2 million report something other than farming as their primary occupation. Almost 900,000 principal operators report working off the farm more than 200 days a year. Farmers working off-farm grew from 55 percent in 2002 to 65 percent in 2007.

The demographic characteristics of operators on larger farms, with sales over \$250,000, differ from those of small farms. Operators of larger farms tend to be younger, are more likely to report farming as their primary occupation, and are less likely to work off the farm.

Source: www.nass.usda.gov

Interest Rates January 2011	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating - Direct	1.750%
Farm Ownership - Direct	4.500%
Conservation Loan	4.500%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Emergency – Actual Loss	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility (7 yr.)	2.500%
Farm Storage Facility (10 yr.)	3.125%

Dates to Remember	
Jan. 10	SURE Signup Begins
Jan. 17	Martin Luther King’s Birthday Off ices Closed
Feb. 21	George Washington’s Birthday Off ices Closed
June 1	DCP/ACRE Filing Deadline