



August 2009

Churchill, NW Nye, Pershing, Storey and Washoe Counties Farm Service News

NV Farm Service Agency
www.fsa.usda.gov/nv

Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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New Nevada State Executive Director Appointed

President Obama has appointed Nevada's new State Executive Director, **Clinton Koble**, who most recently served as the Executive Director of the Nevada Rural Development Council in Carson City, Nevada where he specialized in community strategic planning and leadership. He also served in Carson City as the Western Region Representative for the Rural Nevada Development Corporation in Ely, Nevada providing small business assistance and housing pro-grams for Nevada's rural communities. While serving in that capacity, Mr. Koble performed small business counseling services for the Nevada Small Business Development Center. Working with and for the rural communities took Mr. Koble back to his rural roots. Mr. Koble grew up on a farm in North Dakota that remains in his family today. He received his B.A. degree in Political Science and History from the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, N.D. Mr. Koble will start his appointment on August 10, 2009.

COC Nominating Closed, Voting Starts Nov. 6

By now you should be aware that the deadline for FSA county committee nominations has already passed on August 3, 2009.

Voting Begins Nov. 6

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters beginning Nov. 6, and must be returned to the county office by the close of business on Dec. 7, or postmarked by midnight Dec. 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 Jan. 1, 2008, and before Oct. 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.

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

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

Delay in Producer Payments

Farm Service Agency (FSA)/Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) payments made by direct deposit are currently transmitted by Kansas City directly to the Federal Reserve Bank. Beginning August 3, 2009, 2009, FSA/CCC payments made by direct deposit will be transmitted by Kansas City to the Department of Treasury. This allows FSA to be compliant with the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996, (DCIA), which requires Federal payments be processed through the Treasury Offset Program (TOP), so that any delinquent Federal debt can be withheld.

Farm Program (FP) direct deposit recipients shall experience a one day delay in funds being credited to their bank accounts. The one day delay is required for the Department of Treasury's processing of delinquent debt through the TOP.

Currently, the description on the payee's bank statement reads, "USDA-FSAKCMOCDSP".

After August 3, 2009, the description on the bank statement will read, "FSA TREAS 310" for all payments that are disbursed by Treasury.

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

The application deadline date for the 2010 NAP coverage for grain crops for hay or grazing is August 30, 2009; Oct. 31, 2009 for all other forage crops and Dec. 1, 2009 for all other grazing crops.

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.
- 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.

Preventing Fraud

The Farm Service Agency supports the Risk Management Agency in the prevention of fraud, waste and abuse of the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. FSA will continue to refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse directly to RMA.

Producers can report suspected cases to the county office staff, the RMA office, or the Office of the Inspector General.

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.

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.

NRCS News *Bruce Petersen (Cont.)*

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, or in the phone book under US Government. I can be reached at (775) 857-8500. Call me if you want to talk.

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.

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.

Marketing Assistance Loans

A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available for producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the earlier of the date the loan is repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if the producer regains beneficial interest.

Commodity loan eligibility also requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, acreage reporting and ensuring that the commodity meets Commodity Credit Corporation minimum grade and quality standards. For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan.

Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical and/or ACRE Programs to be eligible for commodity loans.

Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans.

The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification.

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.

Dates to Remember	
April 27 to August 14, 2009	ACRE program signup runs
Aug 14, 2009	DCP/ACRE Signup Deadline
Aug. 14, 2009	Acreage Reporting Deadline for forage crops
Aug. 30, 2009	NAP 2010 Application Deadline for grain crops for hay/grazing
Sept. 15-17 th	FSA offices closed for training
Oct. 31, 2009	NAP 2010 Application Deadline for all other forage crops
Dec. 1, 2009	NAP 2010 Application Deadline for all other grazing crops
Continuous	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program
Selected Interest Rates for August 2009	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	3.125%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	5.000%
Farm Ownership Loans — Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	3.125%

CREP & Continuous CRP Available

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) allows farmers and ranchers to voluntarily enroll environmentally sensitive land into a program that decreases erosion, restores wildlife habitat and safeguards ground and surface water. CREP is a partnership with federal and state government and is limited to specific geographic areas.

USDA has indicated there will not be general signups scheduled for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in 2009. The budget has no available funding for CRP general signups, and instead advocates enrollment in either CREP or Continuous CRP.

Environmentally sensitive acreage qualifying for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) or Continuous CRP will be eligible for annual rental payments and cost-share of up to 50 percent on approved practices. These targeted programs will remain funded, and continue to provide heightened environmental benefits on select areas.

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