



NEWSLETTER



January 2011

Happy New Year and Welcome 2011!

**Pershing County,
Nevada
FSA Office**

www.fsa.usda.gov/nv

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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 Vance Vesco! Vance was re-elected to represent farmers from LAA-3, all of Pershing County that lies outside the Pershing County Water Conservation District, on the county committee. Vance was elected to his 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.

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.*

Baldwin retires, Goldsworthy appointed Acting CED

After 20 years of service with the Farm Service Agency, Bob Baldwin has officially retired as of December 31, 2010. We wish him all the best!

Other changes to your FSA offices effective January 3, 2011 include the discontinuation of shared management between the Lovelock and Fallon offices. The Fallon COC has hired Michele Wisnefski as their CED; and Terry Goldsworthy has been appointed Acting CED by the Pershing County COC until a CED can be hired.



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.

IRS Form 1099-G

Producers annually receive CCC-1099-Gs detailing payments producers have received from the Commodity Credit Corporation. The annual report of program payments on CCC-1099-Gs is a service intended to help our customers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the producers' responsibilities to report income to IRS.

FSA staff cannot interpret IRS regulations or advise producers about which payments to report on their income tax returns. However, county office staff can review payments for accuracy.

Farm Loan Officer Trainees

Welcome to Carly Brown and Daniel Ferraro! They have been hired by FSA as Farm Loan Officer Trainees. They are being trained by our own Gus Wegren, District Director. Upon completion of the training, Carly will remain in the Fallon FSA office and Daniel will be located in the Winnemucca FSA Office.

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 with 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.

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.

Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Compliance

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions are required. Farmers with HEL determined soils are reminded of tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified per their conservation plan.

Producers are to notify the USDA Farm Service Agency prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in the loss of eligibility and all Federal payments.

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 FSA office near you for more information.

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.

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.

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.

Deadline for 2011 CSP applications: January 21, 2011 CSP might be right for you if you...

1. Are ready to apply new conservation activities on your agricultural or nonindustrial private forestland.
2. Are willing to commit time to inventory and document your conservation activities.
3. Have current records and will maintain records to document conservation activities.

The NEW CSP is not just a rewards program. It's about helping you address additional resource concerns you may have on your farm, ranch, or private forestland.

Access the CSP producer self-screening checklist at www.nrcs.usda.gov/new_csp/ to find out if the new CSP is a good fit for you.

Contact Christie Scilacci at 775-273-2134 x 101

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.

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.

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.

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>

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 Loans – 7 year	2.500%

Dates to Remember	
Jan. 10	2009 SURE sign up begins
Jan. 12	COC Meeting @ 1:30 pm
Jan. 17	Martin Luther King's Birthday – Office closed
Jan. 21	CSP 2011 Deadline
Feb. 21	George Washington's Birthday – Office closed
March 15	NAP deadline for 2011 Corn
June 1	DCP deadline for 2011 contracts
August 29	Deadline for 2010 Emergency Loans

Pershing County 2010 Disaster Declaration S3081

Pershing County has been declared a primary natural disaster area for 2010, beginning January 1, 2010 and continuing. Contiguous disaster counties are Churchill, Humboldt, Lander and Washoe.

A Secretarial disaster designation makes farm operators in both primary and contiguous counties eligible to be considered for assistance from the FSA, provided eligibility requirements are met. This assistance includes FSA emergency loans and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program. Farmers have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for emergency loan assistance. SURE applications will be accepted in 2011, when the 2010 farm revenue data required by statute becomes available.