



Ely FSA Office News

October 2009

**Ely USDA – FSA Service Center
Ely FSA Office**

HC 33, Box 33453
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Phone (775) 289-4990
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Hours
Monday – Friday
7:30 am – 4:30 pm

County Committee

Max Reid, Jr. Chairman
Lee Mathews Vice-Chair
Gordon Eldridge Member
Annette Harris Member
Kelly Miller Member

Staff

Clayre Moiola, CED Ext 100
Elko 738-6445 Ext 108
Vi Braden, PT Ext 101
Micki Wines, FLO
(775) 738-6445 Ext 105

NRCS Office

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Staff

Cory Lytle, DC Ext 105
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Livestock Forage Disaster Program

The Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who suffer grazing losses for covered livestock due to: drought conditions or fire on federally managed land.

Eligible livestock producers may receive assistance for eligible livestock grazing losses that occur due to drought or fire on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011, during the calendar year in which the loss occurs.

County committees can only accept applications after being notified by the National Office of a qualifying drought as signified by a Drought Monitor level of D2 or higher, or if a Federal agency prohibits producers from grazing normally permitted livestock on Federal managed lands due to a qualifying fire. FSA began accepting 2008 calendar year applications September 14, 2009. The applications must be filed by December 10, 2009. Late filed applications for LFP cannot be approved. White Pine and Nye Counties have been approved for 2008 grazing year. Producers who had 2008 NAP grazing coverage may be eligible to apply.

For 2009 and subsequent years, signup applications must be filed no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the grazing losses occurred. Losses must occur in the calendar year the application is being filed.

The monthly payment rate will be an amount equal to 60 percent of the lesser of:

- the monthly feed cost for all covered livestock, using a feed grain equivalent (for example, the feed grain equivalent for an adult beef cow is 15.7 pounds of corn per day)
- the monthly feed cost calculated using the normal carrying capacity for the grazing land.

Drought eligibility criteria require that the drought must have occurred on:

- native or improved permanent vegetative cover
- small grains or forage sorghum planted specifically for grazing

Losses due to drought must occur during the normal grazing period for the specific type of grazing land.

Additional Information about LFP including eligible livestock and fire criteria is available at county FSA offices or on line at: www.fsa.usda.gov.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program Changes

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department.

Early partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.



The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas
- Hay (Alfalfa &/or Grass)
- Renewable biomass
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities

For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.



USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT URGES FARMERS AND BUSINESS OWNERS TO APPLY FOR VALUE-ADDED PRODUCER GRANTS (VAPG)

Sarah Adler, State Director, USDA Rural Development, reminds agricultural producers of the opportunity to apply for a grant to assist in the development or promotion of their products to wider markets. Known as the Value Added Producer Grants (VAPG) program, its purpose is to help producers add profit to their operations by adding value to their products. The deadline for the grant application is November 30, 2009. Value-Added Producer Grants are designed to assist producers with planning activities, such as feasibility studies, to determine ways to increase the processing of their products and/or broaden the markets to which their products are sold. Alternatively, the grant application can be for working capital to pursue value-added plans that have already been determined to be feasible. Eligible applicants include independent producers, agriculture producer groups, farmer or rancher cooperatives, or majority-controlled producer-based business ventures. Applicants must provide matching funds equal to the amount of the grant requested. For more information on how to apply, producers should visit www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/vadg.htm, or call Herb Shedd at USDA Rural Development, (775) 887-1222, Ext. 19.

County Committee Elections

Be watching your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot starting early next month. Ballots will be mailed to all

eligible voters starting on November 6, 2009. If you don't receive a ballot, notify the county FSA office. Completed and signed ballots are due back in the county office by the close of business on December 7, 2009.

Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. FSA also offers Guaranteed Loans in partnership with commercial lenders up to \$1,112,000. Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA.

For details just contact the county office staff for an appointment with a farm loan officer.

NAP Deadlines and Program Changes for 2010

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) deadlines for various crops are coming up -- **Oct. 31, 2009 for forage** and **Dec. 1, 2009 for grazing**. Contact your local office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov for deadlines and details for your crops. When low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occurs due to natural disaster, NAP can provide financial assistance. NAP coverage may be continued for each subsequent year for the same crop or crops, if the producer pays the applicable service fee by the next year's application closing date.

Eligible producers must apply for coverage of non-insurable crops and pay the applicable ser-





vice fees at their local FSA office. The service fee is \$250 per crop or up to \$750 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of \$1,875 per producer with farming interests in multiple counties. Limited resource producers are not subject to annual fees.

NAP coverage may be continued for each subsequent year for the same crop or crops, if the producer pays the applicable service fee by the next year's application closing date.

Selected Interest Rates for October 2009	
Farm Operating - Direct	3.125%
Farm Ownership - Direct	5.000%
Limited Resource	5.000%
Farm Ownership - Down Pmt	1.500%
Emergency	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility - 7 year term	3.00%
Farm Storage Facility - 10 year term	3.375%
Farm Storage Facility - 12 year term	3.750%
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%



NRCS Program Available

A new program has rolled out from NRCS called the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). This is not the same as the previous Conservation Security Program (although both have the same initials). Sign up for this program started August 10th, and closed on September 30th. For those who couldn't make the deadline this time, another sign up will start later this fall (November or December). The new CSP is for those agricultural producers that have already implemented a variety of conservation practices to address various resource concerns (such as erosion, grazing lands health/forage production, water quantity issues with irrigation or livestock watering systems, etc.) on their farm or ranch, and are ready to take the next step in further improving their existing management through enhancements. For more information, please call your local NRCS field office, or go online to http://www.nv.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp_2010.html for fact sheets, application, producer self-screening checklist, and a list of the various enhancements available.



NRCS is also starting a new fiscal year in October, and will be offering a variety of other cost share programs, such as Wildlife Habitat

Incentive Program (WHIP), Agricultural Management Assistance Program (AMA), and the ever popular Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). Applications may be received at the local NRCS office throughout the year. With the new fiscal year almost here, please contact an NRCS field office for information or application assistance, and/or go online: http://www.nv.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farm_bill_2008.html for more information on the various cost share and easement programs available. Any application received previously in 2009 that had not been funded will be automatically included in FY2010 funding, unless the applicant has cancelled. Contact the local NRCS office to verify status of your previous application(s).

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.



Dates to Remember	
Oct. 1 - 2	Closed – Medical Appt
Oct. 12	Closed for Columbus Day
Oct 13 – 16	Closed – PT Out of State
Oct. 31	Deadline to purchase 2010 NAP coverage for forage
Nov. 26	Closed – Thanksgiving
Dec. 1	Deadline to purchase 2010 NAP coverage for grazing
Dec. 7	Deadline to Return of COC Ballot
Dec. 10	Last day to signup for 2008 Live-stock Forage Program (LFP)

Visit our Web site at
www.fsa.usda.gov/nv

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