



May 2010

ELY FSA News

USDA – FSA

Service Center

Ely FSA Office

HC 33, Box 33453

Ely, NV 89301-9402

Phone (775) 289-4990

FAX (775) 289-6629

www.fsa.usda.gov

Hours

Monday – Friday

8:00 am – 4:30 pm

County Committee

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

HC 33, Box 33451

Ely, NV 89301-9402

Phone (775) 289-4065

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Staff

Cory Lytle, DC	Ext 105
Clint Anderson, RMS	Ext 106



2010 FSA 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.

County Committee (COC) members are a critical component of FSA operations. The intent is to have the COC reflect the makeup of the producers and to represent all constituents. This means wherever possible, minorities, women or lower income producers need to be on the committee to speak for these underrepresented groups.

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.

Election Period

June 15, 2010 – The nomination period begins. Request nomination forms from the local USDA Service Center or obtain online at:

http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/sa0669a_commiteelectform.pdf

Aug. 2, 2010 - Last day to file nomination forms (FSA-669A) at the local USDA Service Center.

Nov. 5, 2010 - Ballots mailed to eligible voters.

Dec. 6, 2010 - Last day to return voted ballots to the USDA Service Center.

Jan. 1, 2011 - Newly elected county committee members take office.

Who Can Hold Office

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria as follows:

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

Causes for ineligibility:

- Removed or disqualified from the office 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

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign nomination form FSA-669A. The form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. This form is available at USDA Service Centers and online at:

http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/sa0669a_commiteelectform.pdf

Nomination forms for the 2010 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 2, 2010.

Continue on Page 2: COC Election



Continued from Page 1: COC Election

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated 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 in the office that administers the producer's farm records.

Who Can Vote

Agricultural producers of legal voting age may be eligible to 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 of an entire farm may also be eligible to vote. More information about voting eligibility requirements can be found in the FSA fact sheet titled "FSA County Committee Election - Eligibility to Vote and Hold Office as a County Committee Member." Producers may contact their local USDA Service Center for more information.

NOTICE: All NAP Producers

Producers who purchased 2010 NAP must complete a 2010 acreage report on all acreage by the acreage reporting date. If you have **grain crops** you must complete a 2010 **acreage report by June 15, 2010**. All other crops this includes **grazing land** must be reported **by July 15, 2010**. The reports must be done in the Ely Office and signed and dated by the producer. If the producer has BLM and/or FS permits, you are required to provide a copy of all the current permits when you complete the acreage report.

If you had grass hay coverage in 2009 and have not provided the Ely Office with a production report on your hay crop for 2009, you must do so by the date you complete a 2010 acreage report.

Please call the office for an appointment to complete your 2010 acreage report, 775-289-4990 ext 101.

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
- Hay (Alfalfa &/or Grass)
- Renewable biomass

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

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.

Contact the nearest FSA office for more information.

Farm Reconstitutions

At FSA, 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. Another reason is when an owner and operator cannot agree about program participation (for example - ACRE participation).

The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by August 2, 2010 for farms enrolled in specific programs.

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, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

Ask your current commercial 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.

FSA employees can help you complete the necessary application and other forms, and help you understand what information is required and where to find it. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

WREP – Wetlands Program

The Wetlands Reserve Enhancement Program (WREP) gives landowners an opportunity to maximize wildlife habitat values, improve water quality, reduce flooding, recharge groundwater, and improve the environment. WREP is administered under the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP).

Under WREP, NRCS works through partnership agreements to establish wetland restoration cost-share agreements or acquire permanent or 30-year easements on eligible lands. Landowners in the individual project, watershed-wide or large geographic area will receive financial and technical assistance, and benefit by enrolling land that is difficult to farm and by being able to address environmental problems.

For more information, eligible partners should contact the Nevada NRCS State Office or visit the WREP Web site at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>.

SURE Program

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters incurred in the crop years 2008 through September 30, 2011. To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to 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 conditions 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
- Crop is in a county declared a disaster county by the Secretary of Agriculture, or in contiguous counties, or producer shows proof of an individual loss of at least 50%.

SURE payments can apply to crop production or crop quality losses. 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:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=diap&topic=sure>. The calculator is not official, but is intended for educational use. A fact sheet and backgrounder are also available online.

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

Measurement Service

Farmers who would like a guarantee on their crop plantings and land use acreages can make it official by using the FSA measurement service. Producers must file a request with the county office staff and pay the cost of a field visit for GPS referencing of the farm. Measurement service is available using digital imagery. If data already exists in a certified database and an on-site visit is not required, there is no charge.

Incorrect acreage self-certification can result in reduced program payments, penalty, or loss of eligibility.

Producers can request ortho-imagery and CLU (common land unit) coordinates for their land (commonly referred to as a clip) at no charge. This service provides you with both acreages and field boundaries.

Selected Interest Rates for May 2010		Dates to Remember	
Farm Operating - Direct	2.875%	May 10-17, 2010	Ely Office Closed
Farm Ownership - Direct	5.00%	May 31, 2010	Memorial Day-Office Closed
Farm Ownership - Direct , Joint Financing	5.00%	1 June	DCP Sign-up Closes
Emergency	3.75%	1 June	Recons Should be filed
Farm Storage Facility Loan – 7 year term	3.250%	<u>June 15, 2010</u>	<u>Last Day to file Acreage Reports For grain crops</u>
Farm Storage Facility Loan – 10 year term	3.875%	June 23, 2010	Tentative COC meeting
Farm Storage Facility Loan – 12 year term	4.125%	July 5, 2010	July 4 th Holiday-Office Closed
		<u>July 15, 2010</u>	<u>Last Day to file Acreage Reports for all crops includes grazing</u>

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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."