



December 2006

Elko/Eureka County News

Elko County
USDA Service Center

Elko/Eureka County FSA
555 W. Silver St., Suite 101
Elko, NV 89801
775-738-6445 (phone)
775-778-9712 (fax)

www.fsa.usda.gov/nv

Hours
Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
Audrey Spratling, Chair
Mark Damele, Vice Chair
Cristi Walker, Member
Patsy Tomera, Member
Steve Wines, Member
Vince Garcia, Advisor

County Committee normally meets
Second Monday of each month

Staff
Clayre Moiola, CED
Cathy Yardley, FLO
Micki Wines, PT
Maria Murillo, PT

Annual DCP Enrollment

To participate in DCP, producers are required to **designate shares and sign the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program Contract (CCC-509) on a yearly basis.** The annual DCP sign-up period runs from October 1 to June 1 of the applicable program year. To be considered enrolled timely; the CCC-509 must be submitted by June 1 of the applicable program year. In cases where a farm is reconstituted, all resulting farms will need to enroll (signatures obtained) if the producers intend to participate. CCC-509s with signatures obtained after June 1, but by September 30, will be accepted, but the farm will be assessed a late-filed sign-up fee of \$100. All supporting documentation, such as CCC-502, AD-1026, and CCC-526, must be submitted before payments can be issued. Annual acreage reports indicating uses of all cropland on a farm must be filed by the applicable established reporting dates. Acreage reports filed after the applicable final reporting date may be accepted if all requirements are met and a late-filed fee is paid.

DCP payments are calculated by taking 85 percent of the base acres, multiplied by the farm yield, times the applicable payment rate, times the producer share. Producers may receive an advance of the direct payment, beginning on December 1 of the program year. Final direct payments will be made on or after October 1 following the contract period. Counter-cyclical payments may also be authorized for one or more covered commodities, depending on the projected and actual market prices. Producers may elect to receive up to two counter-cyclical payments per year: (1) the first partial payment, if any, is available after the first six months of the marketing year, and (2) final payment, if any, is made af-

ter the end of the marketing year for each eligible crop. Producers who do not elect to take the first advance payments will receive the entire counter-cyclical payment at the end of the marketing year. The amount of a counter-cyclical payment is dependent upon the average of the actual prices received by farmers during the marketing year.

FY 2007 UPDATE PRODUCER RECORDS

Because of a nationwide review this past year every County Office will be required to have all participating producers update their payment eligibility records. This will involve quite a bit of paperwork for the County Office as well as participating producers.

If you have not completed or updated your producer payment limitation eligibility records with this office since 2002 you will be required to do so before any payments can be issued or signing up for new programs.

The Office will be sending out letters to producers that participate on a regular basis requesting that you update your records. Producers will have to complete new CCC-502's, Payment Eligibility, CCC-526's, Adjusted Gross Income, AD-1026's and other forms appropriate for your operation. Along with this all producers will be required to provide current legal descriptions showing ownership of the land and/or current leases on the land they farm or ranch. If you operate as a Corporation, LLC, Trust, General Partnership or Joint Venture you must provide

copies of all legal documents with the updated forms. You must also provide proper signature authority for the business.

Online Services

If you are among the growing number of producers have access to the Internet at home, you might be interested in USDA's online services that are available to you. Here's a quick run down of available services.



- The USDA Customer Statement. This provides the producer online access 24/7 to the farm's USDA business transactions in a single report accessed with one login and password. It includes participation, application and payment status in various commodity and conservation programs, farm loans, maps, and land unit information.
- eLDP is the Farm Service Agency's electronic Loan Deficiency Payment Service. This allows producers to request LDPs online and, in most cases, receive approval and payment by direct deposit within 48 hours.
- eDCP is the FSA's electronic Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program. This allows producers to enroll in DCP online, choose DCP payment options, assign crop shares, and sign and submit contracts, view and print them out at any time.
- My USDA is an online portal the producer can create. It can be customized so that the news, reports, links, and USDA business data most important to the producer will immediately be viewable.



Stop by the county office for assistance in obtaining a USDA eAuthentication Service Level 2 Customer Account. This provides a single user ID and password that grants access to the

Customer Statement, and many other USDA e-Services, including submitting forms online through USDA e-File, such as eLDP and eDCP.

Maintaining the Quality of Loaned Grain

This year's large grain crop has its obvious upside, but there is a downside too. Many producers are hard pressed to find adequate storage for every bushel harvested. Overfilled grain storage bins can lead to grain quality problems.

Bins are ideally designed to hold a level volume of grain. When bins are overfilled and grain is heaped up, airflow is hindered and the chance of spoilage increases.

Producers who take out marketing assistance loans and use the farm-stored grain as collateral should remember that they are responsible for maintaining the quality of the commodity through the term of the loan.

For information about grain storage options visit <http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/cropsystems/M1080-FS.pdf> or contact your local extension office.

Continuous CRP

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program is a private lands environmental improvement program that allows participants the opportunity to enroll acreages in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality and provide wildlife habitat and food sources.

The Continuous CRP program is a voluntary enrollment program. Eligible landowners enter into contracts that range from 10 to 15 years in length. In return, the landowners will receive annual rental and maintenance payments, incentive payments for certain activities, and cost share for establishment.

To be eligible for enrollment in the Continuous CRP, participants and acreage must meet certain requirements. Provided the eligibility requirements are met, FSA will automatically accept enrollments of acreage into Continuous CRP. Landowners may enroll in the program at any time during the year.

For more information on Continuous CRP enrollments or local Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) availability, please contact your local FSA office or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/crpecont03.htm>.

Spousal Signatures

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. Spouses may not sign FSA-211s on behalf of each other or sign on behalf of the other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities. Spouses must have a power of attorney on file or sign personally for claim settlements, such as promissory notes, and on security documents for price support loans.

Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.

A spouse's authority to sign documents on behalf of the other spouse does not entitle the spouse to review or receive agency records of the other spouse.

Loans for Beginning Farmers, Socially Disadvantaged

FSA is authorized to assist beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person whom:

- Has operated a farm for not more that 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial manage-

ment program sponsored by FSA

- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed. Socially disadvantaged groups are Hispanics, American Indians, African Americans, Asians, Pacific Islanders and women.

Selected Interest Rates for December 2006	
90-Day Treasury Bill	5.00%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	5.125%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	5.375%
Limited Resource Loans	5.00%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	4.00%
Emergency Loans	3.75 %
Farm Storage Facility Loans	4.625%
Sugar Storage Facility Loans	4.875%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	6.00%



Merry Christmas
 and a
 Happy New Year



Dates to Remember	
Dec. 4	Last day to return county committee election ballots
Dec. 25	Christmas Day Holiday – Office closed
Jan. 1, 2007	New Year Holiday – Office closed
Jan. 15, 2007	Martin Luther King Holiday – Office closed
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans

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