



March 2007

Elko/ Eureka County News

Elko/ Eureka County USDA Service Center

Elko/Eureka County FSA
555 W Silver St. Ste 101
Elko, NV 89801
775-738-6445 ext 2
775-778-9712 (fax)

www.fsa.usda.gov/nv

Hours

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

County Committee

Steve Wines, Chair
Mark Damele, Vice Chair
Patsy Tomera, Member
Audrey Spratling, Member
Clayton Cota, Member
Vince Garcia, Advisor

County Committee usually meets on the second Monday of each month at 1:30 pm in the Conference Room at the Service Center

Staff

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

Acreage Reporting

Acreage reporting time will soon be here. Please remember that filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. For crops other than NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program) crops, acreage reports are to be certified by the June 15 deadline on small grains and a July 15 deadline on all other crops.

Acreage reports on crops for which NAP assistance may be paid are due in the county office by the earlier of June 15 for small grains and July 15 for all other crops, or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported.

Sodbuster, Swampbuster

Most Farm Service Agency programs require compliance with sodbuster and swampbuster provisions. These provisions require producers to follow an approved conservation system on all highly erodible land planted to an annual crop as determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Be sure to have determinations made on any new land you plan to plant to annual crops. If you plan to plant a different crop on your cur-

rent cropland, check with NRCS to assure the new crop will qualify under your conservation system.

Swampbuster provisions state that converting a wetland to make possible the planting of a crop will result in the loss of all USDA benefits. To avoid this possibility it is strongly recommended that producers check with NRCS before starting to work in the fields.

Toll-Free Number for Borrowers

Direct loan borrowers with USDA's Farm Service Agency can now check the status of their accounts around the clock using a new toll-free telephone number.

The toll-free number, 1-888-518-4983, is available in both English and Spanish. The system delivers information on active FSA loans 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

During the first call to the new system, borrowers will enter their tax identification number or the Social Security Number associated with the loan. They also will need to enter their ZIP code. Borrowers will create a personal identification number for security. Customers must enter their PIN every time they use the system and may change their PIN. The system menu helps users' access helpful information. The system may also direct borrowers to contact their local FSA servicing office if action is necessary on their accounts.

The EZ Makes It Easy

The Farm Service Agency now employs the CCC-633 EZ in place of the old CCC-709 and CCC-633-LDP. The EZ form has been created to make the application process more user-friendly.

The CCC-633 EZ is a two-part loan deficiency payment request that allows producers to (1) indicate their intentions to receive LDP benefits *before* losing beneficial interest in the eligible commodity, and (2) submit a request for an LDP at any time during the loan/LDP availability period before or after losing beneficial interest.

The EZ form was developed to cover field direct LDPs, basic LDPs and CCC-cotton AA, and revised to cover basic and field direct LDPs for wool, mohair and unshorn pelts.

By signing the first page of the EZ form, the producer indicates his or her intentions to receive LDP benefits. This one page covers all counties and all eligible harvested commodities for the entire crop year for the individual, joint operation or entity identified on the form.

Once the first page of the form has been signed and submitted, the producer can submit an LDP request by completing page 2 for all harvested commodities, except cotton; page 3 for cotton; or page 4 for wool, mohair and unshorn pelts. The LDP request can be submitted at any time during the loan availability period, before or after losing beneficial interest.

A key point to remember is that page 1 of the EZ form must be signed by the producer before beneficial interest in the commodity is lost. Once beneficial interest is lost the commodity is ineligible for an LDP even if beneficial interest is regained.

All producers are encouraged to submit page 1 of the EZ for each crop year whether or not they plan to subsequently request a loan or LDP.

Flexible or Cash Lease

Producers should be careful to differentiate between flexible leases and cash leases when reporting to the Farm Service Agency (FSA).

Flexible leases, in which the producer pays a base rent, and offers a bonus on yield and/or price increase to a landowner, are considered by the Farm Service Agency as share leases. Cash leases specifying a fixed amount, not subject to changes from yield or price are common and the norm across the country. Flexible or hybrid leases are now coming to the attention of FSA.

Each year FSA participants complete form CCC-502 Continuation Sheet for Leased or Owned Land which are subject to spot check. Paying more than what the original lease specifies may violate a producer's CCC-502, if not completed correctly. A violation could make an operator ineligible for Loan Deficiency Payments, commodity loans, Direct Counter-cyclical Payments, crop insurance etc.

Example: A lease that is for \$100 acre plus an additional \$40 per acre if the crop exceeds \$4/bushel or 170 bushels corn/acre or \$7/bushel or 40 bushels of soybeans per acre is by FSA procedure a share lease. FSA procedure states that, a lease is a share lease if the lease bases the amount of rent on the quantity of crop produced or the proceeds from the crop, or the interest a producer would have if the crop had been produced.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

For producer who purchased NAP coverage for 2007, you must make sure you stay in compliance with the program. In order to stay in compliance you must complete the following requirements.

1. You must complete a 2007 Acreage Report by June 15, 2007 if you are growing any type of grain crop or by July 15, 2007 for all other crops. **This must be done every year!**
2. You must provide the office with your 2006 hay production. You must keep a record of your hay production on a calendar or in your "red" book and this must be turned into the Office by July 15, 2007.
3. You must report a loss on your production within 15 days of the natural disaster.



Loans Available for Beginning Farmers and Socially Disadvantaged

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



- Has operated a farm/ranch for not more than 10 years.
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm/ranch.
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and a financial management program
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30% of the county's average size

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Socially disadvantaged groups are Hispanics, Native Americans, African Americans, Asians, Pacific Islanders, and women.

Direct and Guaranteed Loans Available

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 available now.

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.

Loan funds are available now — applying early is important so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner.

Most of our loan programs have special funding available for minority, female and beginning farmers.

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

Selected Interest Rates for March 2007	
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%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	5.0%

Information on Mormon Crickets

Nevada Department of Agriculture asks that you call them as soon as anyone sees a problem (generally, when the crickets are 1 to 2 miles from a ranch or farm). Early notice is the key. They expect crickets to begin emerging in late March. The ground will look like it's covered with fleas. Call: Jeff Knight 775-688-1182, ext. 245, Martin Larraneta, 775-623-6502 or Steve Marty, 775-688-1182 ext. 278

DO NOT FORGET TO COMPLETE YOUR ANNUAL ACREAGE REPORT BY JULY 15, 2007. THIS MUST BE DONE EVERY YEAR!

YOU MUST ALSO REPORT YOUR 2006 HAY PRODUCTION BY JULY 15, 2007

CALL THE OFFICE, 738-6445 EXT. 2 FOR AN APPOINTMENT TO COMPLETE THE ABOVE REQUIREMENTS



Dates to Remember	
May 28	Office closed for Memorial Day
June 15	Last day to complete 2007 Acreage reports for grain crops
July 15	Last day to complete 2007 Acreage Reports for all other crops
July 15	Last day to provide 2006 hay production.
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Visit our Web site http://www.fsa.usda.gov/nv	

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