



March 2007

ELY FSA Office News

Ely – FSA - USDA

Ely FSA Office

HC 33 Box 33453
Ely, NV 89301-9402

Phone (775) 289-4990
Fax (775) 289-6629

www.fsa.usda.gov/nv

Hours

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

County Committee

Gordon Eldridge	Chairman
Max Reid, Jr.	Vice Chair
Cleo K Connell	Member
Annette George	Advisor

Staff

Tyler Seal, CED	Ext 100
Vi Braden, PT	Ext 101
Cathy Yardley, FLO	
(775) 738-6445	Ext 106

NRCS Staff

Tim Stack, DC	Ext 105
Clint Anderson, RMS	Ext 106

Phone (775) 289-4065
Fax (775) 289-6629



Congratulations to Paul Mathews on his appointment to the Board of Lincoln County Commissioners. He was a great asset to the COC. FSA is sorry to lose him as a member, but Lincoln County has gained an excellent representative.

NAP Reporting

For those producers that filed for NAP coverage, please remember that you need to **file a Notice of Loss within 15 days of the date the loss was first noticed.**

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.

Update MILCX Contracts

Dairy operations are reminded to inform the county office of any entity or operation changes that may affect your Milk Income Loss Contract (MILCX). The change from an individual to a corporation or partnership, etc. would require an update to your MILCX and other applicable eligibility forms.

If you have changed creameries or dairy plants and have had your production information sent directly from them in the past, an updated authorization would need to be completed. Contact your local FSA office for additional information.

In the event of a crop failure caused by natural disaster, the producer needs to notify the local FSA office by completing a "Notice of Loss" (form CCC-576). The notice of loss must be executed within 15 days of the date the damage became apparent.

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.

Sodbuster, Swampbuster

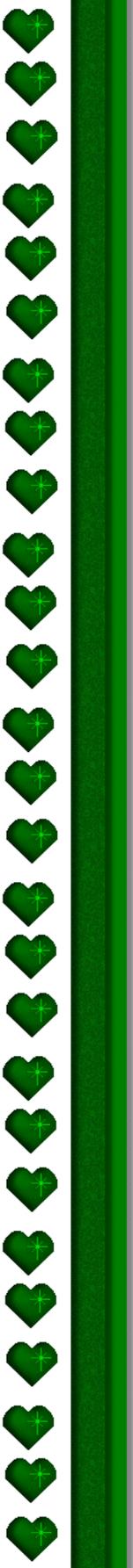
Most Farm Service Agency programs require compliance with sodbuster and swampbuster provisions. These provisions require producers to follow an approved conservation system on all highly erodible land planted to an annual crop as determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

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 current 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.

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.

Selected Interest Rates for March 2007	
Farm Operating Loans -- Direct	5.125%
Farm Ownership Loans -- Direct	5.375%
Limited Resource Loans	5.000%
Farm Ownership Loans -- Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	4.000%
Emergency Loans	3.750 %
Farm Storage Facility Loans	4.725%
Commodity Loans 1996--Present	6.125%

NRCS Looking Forward to Very Busy Summer

NRCS is the place to go for your conservation dollars on private ground. Many local farmers and ranchers have taken advantage of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) in 2007. By signing up they will have conservation practices such as irrigation systems, fences, pipelines, troughs, range plantings cost-shared by the USDA/NRCS at 50 to 75 percent. These practices

benefit hayland, pasture, and wildlife habitat. The NRCS also provides expertise in planning your land and will help you come up with the right alternative.

Providing good irrigation to your hay ground is going to be even more important this year because our snow pack is only 60% of normal as of March 1, 2007 and it doesn't look like it is going to improve much by April 1. The Ely NRCS office will do the snow survey on April 1 and keep you updated.

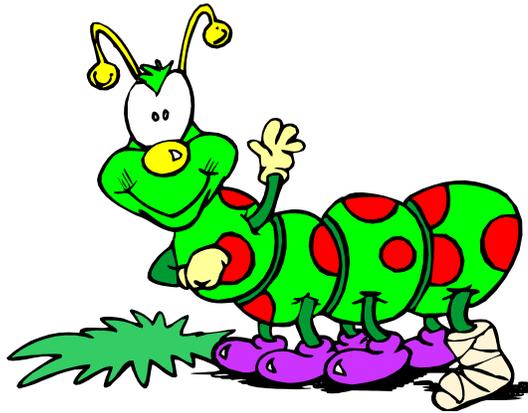
NRCS will be busy not only with technical and financial assistance programs, but they are featuring a soil survey crew to gather valuable information which can be used for a variety of land uses. This extensive survey is used by farmers, ranchers and federal land managers to make decisions about irrigation, grazing, hay production. The Soil Survey crew is updating the Meadow Valley Soil Survey. In addition, the Humboldt National Forest Service and Great Basin National Park are funding the NRCS to perform soil surveys on lands they manage.

You may contact our local NRCS Office by calling (775) 289-4065 or stopping in at 744 E. North Industrial Way, Ely, Nevada, regarding your conservation needs.

In Lincoln County, you may contact the NRCS Office in Caliente by calling (775) 726-3101, or stopping in at 360 Lincoln Street. Cory or Jim will be happy to assist you with solutions to your conservation questions.

Just a Thought: As you slide down the banister of life, may the splinters never point in the wrong direction!

**PRESORTED STANDARD
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Dates to Remember	
May 28	Memorial Day – Office Closed
Jun 15	2007 Acreage Report Deadline for Grain Crops
Jul 04	Independence Day - Office Closed
Jul 15	2007 Acreage Report Deadline for all Other Crops
Jul 15	Deadline to submit 2006 Production Information
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans

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