



JUNE/JULY 2007

# Minden FSA News

Douglas/Carson/Inyo  
Alpine/Mono  
Counties  
USDA Service Center

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

**Minden FSA Office**  
1702 County Rd. Ste A1  
Minden, NV 89423  
775 782-3661 (phone)  
775 782-3547 (fax)

**County Committee**  
Michael Andersen, Chair.  
Bruce Bruns, Vice-Chair.  
Alonna Giacomini  
Michael Sarman  
Tom Summers

**Staff**  
Betty Hodik, Acting CED  
Susie Pruis, PT

## **New County Executive Director**

*Congratulations and welcome to **Linda Quinn**.* Linda has been selected as the new County Executive Director (CED) for the shared management of the Minden and Yerington FSA Offices. She will be filling the position of CED, vacated by the passing of John “Harvey” Neill, on March 21, 2007. He is greatly missed by all.

Linda, a Nevada native that received her CED training in the Fallon FSA Office, is scheduled to begin her appointment June 25<sup>th</sup>. She has been the CED in the Yuba City, California FSA Office for the past 5 years, and will bring extensive knowledge and expertise to the offices. Nevada Farm Service Agency welcomes her back to Nevada.

We would like to thank **Betty Hodik** as Acting CED for both county offices during this interim period. Not only has she been maintaining her office in Yerington as CED and PT, but also performing the duties of CED in the Minden office as well. She has taken the bull by the horns and done an amazing job.

## **Reporting Crop Acreage**

Remember to file your annual acreage report with FSA. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can help prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Marketing Assistance Loans and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP).

Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. Crop acreage for Non-insured

Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.

Crop reports, form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. Producers are required to file reports by **June 15<sup>th</sup>** for Small Grains and **July 15<sup>th</sup>** for all other crops

## **Failed Acreage:**

Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.

## **Agricultural Assistance Act of 2007**

On May 25, 2007, President Bush signed into law the 2007 Act which provides approximately \$3 billion in agricultural disaster aid for America’s farmers and ranchers.

Specifically, the 2007 Act provides funds for a Crop Disaster Program, Livestock Compensation Program, Livestock Indemnity Program, Emergency Conservation Program, and a Dairy Disaster Assistance Program.

The sign up period had not yet been announced for these Disaster Programs.

More information about the FSA disaster programs is available on the agency’s Web site; <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> and click on Find FSA Fact sheets and search under the topic Disaster Assistance. Or you can contact your local FSA Office.





## **2007 COC Election Information**

One of FSA's responsibilities is to hold County Committee elections in an open manner that ensures accountability. County FSA Offices will provide local organizations representing socially disadvantaged groups with detailed information about the COC election process. FSA is reaching out to agricultural communities to get equitable representation on their county committees.

Groups representing socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, will be actively solicited for COC election candidates, and encouraged to fill out a nomination form (**FSA-669A**). Under represented farmers and ranchers are encouraged to step up and participate in the COC election process.

COC election fact sheets can be found online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA> under the News and Events tab on the FSA homepage.

## **COC Nominations**

The County Office staff is accepting nominations for candidates to serve on the Douglas County Nevada Area FSA Committee. Nominees are needed for **LAA 2 (Carson City)**. The nomination period opened June 15<sup>th</sup> and closes **Wednesday, August 1<sup>st</sup>**.

## **ECP (Emergency Conservation Program)**

ECP provides emergency funding to farmers and ranchers who have suffered damage to their agricultural lands as a result of a natural disaster which includes drought. ECP is a permanently authorized program; however, each County Office must make application in order to implement the program.

If you have a need for assistance in conjunction with the damage caused by ongoing drought conditions, such as hauling water to livestock which had adequate livestock watering systems or facilities prior to the drought, please contact your local FSA office, so that we can determine if there is a need for the program, as soon as possible.



## **Farm Loan Program**

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 up to \$200,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$899,000.

Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who 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 loan eligibility information, or more general information on our different loan programs, contact the county office staff for an appointment with a farm loan officer or visit our website: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

## **GIS**

The Farm Service Agency uses a Geographic Information System (GIS), a computer-based tool for capturing, storing, mapping and analyzing geographic farm data. FSA uses GIS to replace the old manual system of hard copy maps and aerial photographs. This digital technology is faster and more accurate than the old way, and saves taxpayers money over the long term.

Here's how GIS works. Up-to-date aerial photographs of the entire county are scanned so they can be stored in the computer. The photos become the base

## **NAP (Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program)**

If you are interested in purchasing NAP coverage for 2008, remember that the coverage must be purchased by:

**October 31<sup>st</sup> for forage**

**December 1<sup>st</sup> for grazing.**



layer of the GIS. Technicians examine the photos and identify individual farms. They then outline each farm field, creating another layer of data called the Common Land Unit (CLU).

The software stores the shape of the field as a “polygon,” and ties it to a specific location using latitude and longitude. The software can then automatically calculate the size of each field. The CLU layer will be connected to a database that contains information about the cropping history for each particular field.

GIS gives us the tools to provide quicker, more accurate information to producers and reduce the amount of time the producer must spend in the FSA office. As an added bonus, producers can review their farm’s GIS files online from the comfort of their homes.

### **Outreach Program**

The Farm Service Agency makes direct and guaranteed loans to socially disadvantaged applicants, enabling them to buy and operate family-size farms and ranches. Funds are reserved each year specifically for these loans, but regular loan funds can also be used.

Direct loans may be made to qualified applicants by FSA for both farm operating and farm ownership purposes. Guaranteed farm loans also may be made for ownership or operating purposes, and may be made by any lending institution subject to Federal or state supervision (banks, savings and loans, and units of the Farm Credit System) and guaranteed by FSA. Some state governments also operate farm loan programs that are eligible for FSA guarantees. FSA typically guarantees 90 or 95 percent of a loan against any loss that might be incurred if the loan fails.

Persons who are primarily and directly engaged in farming and ranching on family-size operations may apply. A family-size farm is one that a family can operate and manage itself.

Socially disadvantaged loan applicants do not receive automatic approval. In addition to being members of a socially disad-

vantaged group, individual applicants under this program must meet all requirements for FSA’s regular farm loan program assistance, including: have a satisfactory history of meeting credit obligations; have sufficient education; training, or at least one-year’s experience in managing or operating a farm or ranch within the last five years for a direct operating loan, or, for a direct farm ownership loan, have participated in the business operation of a farm or ranch for three years; be a citizen of the United States (or a legal resident alien), including Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and certain former Pacific Island Trust Territories; be unable to obtain credit elsewhere at reasonable rates and terms to meet actual needs; and possess legal capacity to incur loan obligations.

A socially disadvantaged person 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.

Contact the FSA County Office Farm Loan Program staff for more details about this program, and other financial options.

### WEB SITES:

[www.fsa.usda.gov/nv](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/nv)  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA)



<b>Selected Interest Rates for June</b>	
90-Day Treasury Bill	5.000%
Farm Operating – Direct	5.125%
Farm Ownership – Direct	5.375%
Limited Resource	5.000%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	4.000%
Emergency	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility	4.625%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	5.875%

Minden FSA Office  
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 Minden, NV 89423



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Visit our Web site: <http://www.fsa.usda/nv>



Dates to Remember	
06-15-07	Acreage Report <b>Deadline</b> – Small Grains
07-04-07	Independence Day – Office Closed
07-09-07	Wool Pool – Douglas High School 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM
07-15-07	Acreage Report <b>Deadline</b> – All Other Crops
07-15-07	<b>Deadline</b> to Submit 2006 Production Information
10-31-07	<b>Deadline</b> –purchase NAP for forage
12-01-07	<b>Deadline</b> –purchase NAP for grazing

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