



NEWSLETTER



January 2011

YERINGTON AND MINDEN FSA OFFICES

Yerington FSA Office

215 W. Bridge St, Suite 10A
Yerington, NV 89447
775-463-2855 ext. 100
775-463-3780 (fax)

Hours

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

County Committee

Louis Scatena, Chairperson
John Maurer, Vice-Chair
David Giorgi, Member
Denise Hunewill, Member
Charles Quartz, Advisor

Minden FSA Office

1702 County Rd, St
Suite A1
Minden, NV 89423
775-782-3661 ext. 100
775-782-3547 (fax)

Hours

Monday & Wednesday
8:30am-3:30pm
Or by appointment

County Committee

Dwain Chichester,
Chairperson
Todd Gansberg, Vice-Chair
Ted Borda, Member
Alonna Giacomini, Member
Linda White, Member

Staff:

Betty Hodik, CED
Jan Hronesh, LPT
Staci Merkt, PT
Julie Thompson, PT

Farm Loan

Carolyn Persinger
Farm Loan Chief
(775) 784-5411 ext. 110

SURE Signup

Signup for the 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) began Jan. 10, 2011. SURE provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters. For SURE, all crops must be covered by crop insurance, NAP or eligible for waivers.

A farm enrolled in SURE is eligible when either:

- a portion of the farm is located in a county covered by a qualifying natural disaster declaration (USDA Secretarial Declarations only) or a contiguous county; or,
- the actual production is less than 50% of the normal production.

Make -up Election for LAA 4, Walker River Paiute Reservation

The make-up election ballots for the Walker River Paiute Tribe will be mailed on January 1, 2011. Please return your voted ballots on or before January 31, 2011.

VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

County Committee Election Results For:

Yerington FSA Office

Congratulations to Louie Scatena! Louie was re-elected to represent farmers from Lyon County (LAA-1) on the county committee.

Congratulations to Matthew Johnson! Matthew was elected to represent farmers from Esmeralda County (LAA-5) on the county committee.

Minden FSA Office

Congratulations to Ted Borda! Ted was re-elected to represent farmers from Carson City (LAA-2) on the county committee.

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

The committee members will hold their organizational meeting in January to determine who will serve as the county committee chairperson and vice-chairperson.

Hoop House Workshop

Western Nevada College's Specialty Crop Institute is offering a Hoop House Construction workshop on Friday, January 14, 2011 from 9am to 5 pm hosted by the Yerington Paiute Tribe at the Yerington Paiute Indian Reservation, 171 Campbell Lane, Yerington. There is a \$35 charge if registered before Jan. 7, 2011 and after Jan. 7, the charge is \$45. Lunch is included. Call (775)445-3224 for additional information or registration.

Farming Operation Changes

If you have bought or sold land, or if you have added or dropped rented land from your operation, make sure you report the changes to the office as soon as possible. You need to provide a copy of your deed or recorded land contract for purchased property. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. Making the record changes now will save you time in the spring. Update signature authorization when changes in the operation occur. Producers are reminded to contact the office of a change in operations on a farm so that records can be kept current and accurate.

Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Compliance



Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions are required. Farmers with HEL determined soils are reminded of tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified per their conservation plan.

Producers are to notify the USDA Farm Service Agency prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in the loss of eligibility and all Federal payments.

Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact our office or any FSA office near you for more information.

Bank Account Changes

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA county office if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff directly or by phone.

FSA Signature Policy

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, where spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities.

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

For more clarification on spousal signature authority, feel free to contact your local FSA office.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

The noninsured crop disaster assistance program (NAP) is a federally funded program that helps producers reduce their risk when growing food and fiber crops, specialty crops and crops for livestock feed. These benefits are only available for crops for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available. Application for coverage must be filed by the applicable crop's application closing date.

Production records for all crops must be reported to FSA no later than the acreage reporting date for the crop for the following year. FSA requires that any production reported in a loss year be verifiable according to Agency specifications. *NAP Losses must be reported within 15 days of loss.*

Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium, poppies and other drug producing plants.

The Yerington and Minden FSA Offices would like to welcome Staci Merkt, the new Program Technician to the Team. Staci will be helping the offices with administrative duties and provide help implementing the various farm programs to our producers.



Appeal Process

After an FSA official makes a decision on your request for USDA services or application, you will be sent a letter informing you of the decision and options you can pursue if you disagree.

Generally, program participants have three choices — an informal review with the original agency decision-maker, an opportunity for mediation and finally an appeal to the next level of authority within the agency.



Customer Statement

January signals the beginning of a new year, and a time to starting thinking about filing taxes. Producers who have signed up for a USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account will be able to access their farm data via their Customer Statement.

The Customer Statement puts a range of USDA services and programs into a single report that's at your fingertips and available online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

It allows USDA customers to view their participation, application and payment status in various commodity and conservation programs; information on farm loans; and conservation plan and land unit information.

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, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

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.

IRS Form 1099-G

Producers annually receive CCC-1099-Gs detailing payments producers have received from the Commodity Credit Corporation. The annual report of program payments on CCC-1099-Gs is a service intended to help our customers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the producers' responsibilities to report income to IRS.

FSA staff cannot interpret IRS regulations or advise producers about which payments to report on their income tax returns. However, county office staff can review payments for accuracy.

Farming As A Lifestyle

Most farms in the U.S. are small with 60 percent reporting less than \$10,000 in sales of agricultural products. Of the 2.2

million farms nationwide, only 1 million show positive net cash income from the farm operation. The remaining 1.2 million farms depend on non-farm income to cover farm expenses.

Of the nation's 2.2 million principal farm operators, 1.2 million report something other than farming as their primary occupation. Almost 900,000 principal operators report working off the farm more than 200 days a year. Farmers working off-farm grew from 55 percent in 2002 to 65 percent in 2007.

The demographic characteristics of operators on larger farms, with sales over \$250,000, differ from those of small farms. Operators of larger farms tend to be younger, are more likely to report farming as their primary occupation, and are less likely to work off the farm.

Source: www.nass.usda.gov

Attention Inyo and Mono County Producers!!!

The Staff is planning a visit to your area soon and will make appointments for acreage reports, and eligibility updates for the 2011 year, etc. Please bring the following with you to these appointments, so we may expedite any program participation in 2011:

- Renewed or new grazing permits on federal land.
- Crop yields for new and existing producers with crops. Please include separate records for each farm and crop, so that we can build your history of annual yields. This is important when applying for payments, without actual yields from you, we would use county averages, which may affect the payment.
- Any changes in Los Angeles Department of Water and Power leases, State Lands Leases or National Park Leases. This would include any changes in AUM's allowed or increases or reductions in acreage.
- Any changes in your operation such as new trusts or entities.
- Any other changes not addressed here.

We will be sending out written notification of appointments and follow up with a phone call. If you get a scheduled day or time you cannot attend, please call our office so we can work with you on a better time.

Yerington/Minden FSA Office
 215 W. Bridge Street
 Suite 10A
 Yerington, Nevada 89447



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

Interest Rates January 2011	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating - Direct	1.750%
Farm Ownership - Direct	4.500%
Conservation Loan	4.500%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Emergency – Actual Loss	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loan	2.5 for 7 year term 3.125 for 10 year term 3.375 for 12 year term
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.250%

Dates to Remember	
Jan 3	LAA 4 make-up election ballots mailed
Jan 10	2009 SURE signup begins
Jan 11	Regular COC meeting in Yerington
Jan. 17	Martin Luther King’s Birthday-Office closed
Jan 24	Regular COC meeting in Minden
Jan. 31	Last day to mail make-up election ballots
Feb 7	LAA 4 ballots counted at the Yerington office
Feb. 21	George Washington’s Birthday-Office Closed
Mar. 6-8	CA Small Farm Conf. San Jose