



# NEWSLETTER



June 2011

## Yerington FSA Office

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

## Hours

Monday - Friday  
7:30 AM – 4:30 PM

## County Committee

Louis Scatena, Chairman  
Matt Johnson, Vice Chair  
David Giorgi, Member  
Denise Hunewill, Member  
Randy Emm, Member

## Minden FSA Office

1702 County Rd, Suite A1  
Minden, NV 89423  
775-782-3661 ext.104  
775-782-3547 (fax)

## Hours

Monday & Wednesday  
8:30 AM – 3:30 PM

## County Committee

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

## Staff

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

## Farm Loan

Carolyn Persinger  
775-784-5411 ext. 110  
Dan Ferrero, FLOT  
775-423-5124 ext. 106  
Carly Brown, FLOT  
775-423-5124 ext. 107

## **COC Election Nominations**

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committee starts with the nomination of eligible candidates.

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign nomination form FSA-669A. The form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. This form is available at USDA Service Centers and online at:

[http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA\\_File/fsa0669a\\_committeeselectform.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa0669a_committeeselectform.pdf)

Nomination forms for the 2011 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 1, 2011.

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy for the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Additionally, organizations representing minority and women farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates. Nomination forms are filed for the county committee of the office that administers a producer's farm records.

## **Disaster Assistance**

The Farm Service Agency would like to remind crop and livestock producers throughout states that have recently experienced severe damage from flooding, wildfires and tornadoes that FSA programs are available to assist with recovery.

FSA administers several important programs that help producers recover from disaster damage and livestock deaths. Among the key programs available to address impacts from disasters are the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Emergency Assistance for Livestock,

Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP), the Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program.

Fact sheets for all of these programs can be found at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov); click on Newsroom, then Fact Sheets.

We encourage all who have suffered a disaster due to the recent severe weather conditions to read the fact sheets and visit the local FSA county office so they get a quick start in the recovery process.

## **Online Services**

Producers, if you have Internet access you can electronically log on, fill out and print a variety of FSA paper forms in the comfort of your home as your schedule allows. You can also register for secure electronic access that will allow you to electronically sign and transmit some forms directly to the county office staff. If you are new to the website, first you will want to obtain a Level 2 USDA Service Center Customer ID and password at: <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/> and then click on "Create an Account Page" link.

## **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.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,119,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner.

FSA employees will assist 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. Continued on page 2 Farm Loan.

To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff for an appointment with a farm loan officer.

## Payment Limitations

Anyone that plans to participate in 2011 programs is required to submit a completed CCC-902, CCC-926, and CCC-901, if applicable, for payment eligibility and payment limitation purposes. The form used previously was called a CCC-502.



### Contributions

All partners, stockholders, or members with an ownership interest in the legal entity must make a contribution, whether compensated or **not** compensated, for active--\*

- personal labor,
- active personal management,
- or a combination of active personal

labor and active personal management to the farming operation;

\*Note: there are exceptions for spouses.

Additional information on payment limitations is available at FSA county offices or on line at: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

## Crop Reporting

The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA office can be referred to as crop reporting, acreage reporting, or crop certification. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can 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.



The certification form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. The producer certification deadline for is July 15<sup>th</sup>.

### CRP & NAP Certification

Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. And, crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.

### Prevented Planting:

Prevented planting is to be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date. Failure to report prevented

planting acreage could result in loss of benefits for the SURE program or possibly other disaster assistance programs.

### 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.

## Sodbusting

Farmers and ranchers should be aware that if they use highly erodible land for crop production without proper conservation measures, they risk losing eligibility to participate in Farm Service Agency programs.

Before producers clear, plow or otherwise prepare areas not presently under crop production for planting, they are required to file an AD-1026, indicating the area to be brought into production.

If Natural Resources Conservation Service indicates that the area will be highly erodible land, the producer will be required to develop and implement a conservation plan on the affected acreage, before bringing land into production.

## Compliance

Compliance and spot checks will once again be utilized during the 2011 crop year. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, deficiency loans, etc. for spot check and review, a nationwide selection of producers is used to achieve a statistical sampling of participating producers. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer's participation in the Conservation Reserve Program, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Loan Deficiency Program, etc.

State and county offices shall view and print their producer spot check lists as posted on the designated web site. If an entity is selected from the national database that is no longer farming or participating in the 2011 crop year, a notation shall be made on the spot check list.

## Special Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you need assistance, please call your county office.

## Banking Changes?

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. This innovation has cut down on the number of missing and late payments and reduced the time required to move funds. It has been calculated that having a problem with a payment is 20 times greater with checks than with Direct Deposit.

Another benefit is that Direct Deposit to your account can be made within 48 hours. To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions.

If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

## GIS

As part of a program to digitally map the nation's farms and fields, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has established the Common Land Unit (CLU) as a standardized GIS (Geographic Information Systems) data layer that has allowed mapping to be integrated easily on a nationwide basis. The Farm Service Agency manages this CLU data layer through a distributed database environment for all field service centers throughout the country.

Using GIS provides for more consistent and more accurate land measurements, such as field acreage and acreage boundaries of conservation practices, such as riparian buffers. With high quality digital imagery, new land use changes (farm transfers and land subdivisions) can be easily updated. Maps can be created in either paper or digital format for FSA customers or the public.

More information about the Common Land Unit and NAIP imagery can be found by visiting on-line, APFO (Aerial Photography Field Office) at [www.apfo.usda.gov](http://www.apfo.usda.gov).

## Controlled Substances

Program participants convicted under federal or state law of any planting, cultivating, growing, producing, harvesting or storing a controlled substance are ineligible for program payments and benefits.

If convicted of one of these offenses, the program participant shall be ineligible during that crop year and the four succeeding crop years for direct and counter-cyclical payments, price support loans, loan deficiency payments, market loan gains, storage payments, farm facility loans, Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program payments or disaster payments.

Program participants convicted of any federal or state offense consisting of the distribution (trafficking) of a controlled substance shall, at the discretion of the court, be ineligible for any or all program payments and benefits:

- for up to 5 years after the first conviction
- for up to 10 years after the second conviction

▪ permanently for a third or subsequent conviction.

Program participants convicted of federal or state offense for the possession of a controlled substance shall be ineligible, at the discretion of the court, for any or all program benefits, as follows:

- up to 1 year upon the first conviction
- up to 5 years after a second or subsequent conviction.

## Farm Reconstitutions

For FSA program purposes, tracts having the same owner and the same operator are grouped under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary.

The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **Aug. 1** for farms enrolled in specific programs.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon:

**Estate Method** — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;

**Designation of Landowner Method** — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;

**DCP Cropland Method** — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;

## ATTENTION NONINSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP) PRODUCERS WITH 2011 COVERAGE!!!!

With above average rainfall and snowpack this year, naturally occurring flooding is a possibility. If you have grazing land or cropland that is insured under the NAP program, please contact our office as soon as you notice any naturally occurring flooding.

Yerington FSA Office  
 215 W. Bridge St, Suite 10A  
 Yerington, NV 89447

Minden FSA Office  
 1702 County Rd, Suite A1  
 Minden, NV 89423



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### 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 where the staff can provide you with the proper procedures and documentation.

Selected Interest Rates for June 2011	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating - Direct	2.750%
Farm Ownership - Direct	5.000%
Emergency	3.750%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Farm Storage Facility – 7 year	2.625%
Farm Storage Facility – 10 year	3.250%
Farm Storage Facility – 12 year	3.500%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.250%

Dates to Remember	
July 4	Office closed for Fourth of July Holiday
July 15	Deadline for signed Acreage Reports
Aug 1	COC Nominations due in County Office
Aug 1	Reconstitutions Request Deadline
Sept 1	2010 ACRE Certification Deadline
Sept 5	Office closed for the Labor Day Holiday
Dec 1	NAP sign-up ends

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.