

APRIL 2012



ELY FSA Office Updates

DEAR PRODUCERS: Welcome to the new GovDelivery bulletins and updates service from your Ely FSA Office. Note that you are welcome to request to receive bulletins from more than one county and can add or remove individual subscriptions at any time. Producers can subscribe to receive free e-mail updates by visiting www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe. Give it a try right now!

USDA - Ely FSA Service Ctr
744 E North Industrial Way
Ely, NV 89301-9402

Phone: 775 289 4990
Fax: 775 289 6629

Hours: 7:30 am to 4:30 pm
Monday - Thursday

www.fsa.usda.gov/NV

County Committee

Max Reid, Jr	Chairperson
Kelly Miller	Vice-Chair
Lee Mathews	Member
Annette Harris	Member

FSA Staff

Claire Kehoe, CED	Ext 100
Elko 738 6445	Ext 106
Vi Braden, PT	Ext 101
Micki Wines, FLO	
Elko 738 6445	Ext 105

NRCS Office

HC 33 Box 33451
Ely, NV 89301-9402
Phone: 775 289 4065
Fax: 775 289 6629

NRCS Staff

Cory Lytle, DC	Ext 105
Clint Anderson, RMS	Ext 106
Reid Kelly, SC	Ext 109
Ed Sturges, SCT	Ext 112

IN THIS ISSUE

- DCP / ACRE Signup
- NRCS Innovative Landowner Partnership
- Acreage Certification
- Continuous CRP Initiative
- Disaster Declaration - Primary Natural Disaster
- Compensation for Claims of Discrimination
- Adjusted Gross Income
- Farm Record Changes
- Minority Farm Register
- Tables -- Interest Rates and Dates to Remember

2012 DCP/ACRE Program Sign-Up

The 2012 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment runs from January 23, 2012 through June 1, 2012. Here are some IMPORTANT REMINDERS;

All producers planting on DCP base acres must be identified on the DCP/ACRE contract and receive a proportionate share of DCP/ACRE payment for the farm.

Changes on the farm after June 1, 2012 enrollment in DCP/ACRE must be reported to your local FSA office.

Changes may include: (a) Ownership changes, (b) Producer changes (Individuals and Entities), (c) Change in crop shares arrangements. No changes can be made after September 30, 2012.

NRCS Announces Innovative Landowner Partnership



**Southwestern Willow
Flycatcher**



Sage Grouse

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and Interior Secretary Ken Salazar announced a new \$33 million partnership with agricultural producers and Tribes to use innovative approaches to restore and protect wildlife habitat for two at-risk species found in Nevada.

The endangered southwestern willow flycatcher is a small bird that resides along riparian areas on rivers and streams in the southern Nevada. Flooding, development and invasive species have reduced the number of native willows that the bird relies on for its habitat and food supply.

The greater sage-grouse, a large chicken-like bird that depends on sagebrush to survive, is declining from loss of habitat caused by wildfire, predation and other factors. It is found throughout northern Nevada.

Landowners will receive incentive payments of 75 to 90 percent of the estimated cost for installing practices identified in a conservation plan developed with the landowner.

There are numerous conservation practices that will make a significant difference toward recovery of these species and assist in protecting riparian habitats, restoring native plant communities, preventing catastrophic fires and applying appropriate range management techniques. These practices also have other benefits including reducing risk of wildfire, helping with flood control and improving water quality.

Producers and landowners can enroll in the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program on a continuous basis at their local NRCS field office. Applications received before April 30 will be considered in the first ranking period. Applications within priority habitat areas will receive highest consideration. Maps are available on the Nevada NRCS Web site. For more information, visit the Nevada NRCS Web site at www.nv.nrcs.usda.gov, or contact your local NRCS Ely office at 775/289-4065 Cory @ 105, Clint @ 106, Reid

@ 109 or Scott @ 110.

Acreage Certification

Time is nearing for Producers to certify their 2012 acreage. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of program benefits.

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 FSA programs. The deadlines to report acreage for the counties administered by this office are:

White Pine

Small Grains - June 15, 2012

All other crops - July 15, 2012

Southeastern Nye

Small grains in SE Nye - April 15

All other crops - July 15, 2012

Small grains in NE Nye - June 15, 2012

Lincoln County

Small grains in South Lincoln - May 31

All other crops - July 15, 2012

Small grains in North Lincoln - June 15, 2012

Acreage reports on crops covered by NAP are due in the county office by the earlier of the established acreage reporting dates listed above, or 15 days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific acreage being reported. Please call and schedule an appointment in advance of coming in to report your acreage.

New Continuous CRP Initiative

FSA has announced a new conservation initiative to protect up to 750,000 acres of the nation's most highly erodible croplands by enabling them to plant wildlife-friendly, long-term cover. The initiative will assist producers in targeting their most highly erodible cropland with an erodibility index of 20 or greater.

Producers can enroll land on a continuous basis beginning this summer. With the use of soil survey and geographic information system data, local FSA staff can determine a producer's eligibility for the initiative.

Producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office or visit FSA's website at www.fsa.usda.gov/crp for additional CRP information.

USDA Designates Elko and Humboldt Counties in Nevada as Primary Natural Disaster Areas

Washington, March 5, 2012 -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has designated Elko and Humboldt counties in Nevada as natural disaster areas due to losses caused by wildfires that occurred from September 30, 2011, through October 5, 2011.

"President Obama and I understand these conditions caused severe damage to pasture and forage, and we want to help," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "This action will provide help to hundreds of farmers who suffered significant production losses."

Farmers and Ranchers in Eureka, Lander, Pershing, Washoe and White Pine counties in Nevada also qualify for natural disaster assistance because their counties are contiguous.

All counties listed above were designated natural disaster areas March 2, 2012, making all qualified farm operators in the designated areas eligible for low interest emergency (EM) loans from USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), provided eligibility requirements are met. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for loans to help cover part of their actual losses. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. FSA has a variety of programs, in addition to the EM loan program, to help eligible farmers recover from adversity.

USDA has also made other programs available to assist farmers and ranchers, including the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE), which was approved as part of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008; the Emergency Conservation Program; Federal Crop Insurance; and the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program. Interested farmers may contact their local USDA Service Centers for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for these and other programs. Additional information is also available online at <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov/>.

Secretary Vilsack also reminds producers that the department's authority to operate the five disaster assistance programs authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill expired on September 30, 2011. This includes SURE; the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP); the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP); the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP); and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP). Production losses in the counties listed above are covered because the event triggering the loss occurred prior to the expiration of these programs; however, production losses due to disasters occurring after September 30, 2011, are not eligible for disaster program coverage.

FSA news releases are available on FSA's website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/> via the "News and Events" link.

NOTICE: Hispanic and/or Women Farmers or Ranchers -- Compensation for Claims of Discrimination

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

To register your name to receive a claims packet, call the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429 or visit: www.farmerclaims.gov.

The claims package will have detailed information about the eligibility and claims process.

Adjusted Gross Income

USDA and the Internal Revenue Service have established an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent is required from each producer or payment recipient to initiate the tax review process. No actual data will be included in the report that IRS sends to FSA.

This ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs.

Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-931 to their local County Office by June 15 to avoid interruption of program benefits. This form may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices or online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainservlet>.

Farm Record Changes

June 1, 2012, is the deadline to provide changes to your farm records at the local FSA office for the 2011 crop year. If you are changing your operation entity type, adding or dropping cropland or farms, or adding entities to your operation, contact your FSA office by June 1.

Minority Farm Register Open for Minority Farmers/Ranchers

Farm Service Agency (FSSA) encourages minority farmers and ranchers in Nevada to voluntarily join the USDA Minority Farm Register to receive information and opportunities from USDA agencies. The new Minority Farm register is an outreach tool designed to reach underserved farmers and ranchers who are not currently enrolled in USDA loan, farm or conservation programs.

By joining the Register, minority producers may receive outreach materials, newsletters and program announcements from USDA agencies. They may also receive information and assistance from other USDA-approved outreach partners such as community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, and minority-serving educational institutions. USDA will carefully control access to and use of the register.

Registration forms are available in Spanish (AD-2035SP) and English (AD-2035) on the FSA website www.fsa.usda.gov under "Forms".

For more information on bulletin subjects or details regarding your GovDelivery subscription with the Ely FSA Office, contact Claire Kehoe, County Executive Director, or call 775 738 6445 ext 106.

INTEREST RATES APRIL 2012	
Farm Operating - Direct	1.250%
Farm Ownership - Direct	3.375%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Farm Ownership - Direct, Joint Financing	5.000%
Farm Storage Facility—7 yrs	1.375%
Farm Storage Facility — 10 yrs	2.000%
Conservation Loan	3.375%
Commodity Loans – 1966 to present	1.125%
90 – Day Treasury Bill	0.125%

DATES TO REMEMBER	
OFFICE CLOSED EVERY FRIDAY	
NAP Signup Ends	
General CRP Signup Closes	Apr 6
Deadline – DCP Filing	Jun 1
Deadline – NAP for forage	Oct 31
Deadline – NAP for grazing	Dec 1
COC meets 3rd Wed of month on an "as needed basis"	

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay).