

DISCLAIMER

Electronic versions of the exhibits in these minutes may not be complete.

This information is supplied as an informational service only and should not be relied upon as an official record.

Original exhibits are on file at the Legislative Counsel Bureau Research Library in Carson City.

Contact the Library at (775) 684-6827 or library@lcb.state.nv.us.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

USDA

Original Exhibit on file at the Legislative
Council Bureau Research Library

K106

ASSEMBLY NATURAL RES., AGRICULTURE & MINING
DATE: 2/19/03 ROOM: 3161 EXHIBIT K1-6
SUBMITTED BY: Roger Van Valkenburg

USDA- Farm Service Agency

Provided by: Roger Van Valkenburg, State Executive Director,
Farm Service Agency

Index

- 1) Written Testimony with notes
- 2) Farm Service Agency: Serving America's Farmers and Ranchers brochure
- 3) USDA website information sheet
- 4) NV FSA Accomplishments and Payments
- 5) NV State FSA Offices
- 6) Farm Loans Fact Sheet
- 7) FSA Weekly: Information on DCP
- 8) Milk Income Loss Contract Program Fact Sheet
- 9) FSA News Room: Crop Marketing Assistance Loans
- 10) 2002-2007 Crop Honey Nonrecourse Marketing Assistance Loan and LDP Program Fact Sheet
- 11) Nonrecourse Marketing Assistance Loans and Loan Deficiency Payments Background Information
- 12) Conservation Practices and Programs for Your Farm brochure
- 13) Agricultural Disaster Assistance Package
- 14) Disaster Assistance for Farmers Fact Sheet
- 15) Livestock Compensation Program Fact Sheet
- 16) Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program Fact Sheet
- 17) Emergency Conservation Program Fact Sheet
- 18) Emergency Loan Program Fact Sheet



If you need to know more about the United States Department of Agriculture, check out the following web sites:

USDA

The USDA Mission is to enhance the quality of life for the American people by supporting production of agriculture by ensuring a safe, affordable, nutritious, and accessible food supply. As well as caring for agricultural, forest and range lands. In addition to supporting sound development of rural communities plus providing economic opportunities for farm and rural residents. Also, expanding global markets for agricultural and forest products and services along with working to reduce hunger in America and throughout the world.

Home Page Address: <http://www.usda.gov/>

Farm Service Agency (FSA)

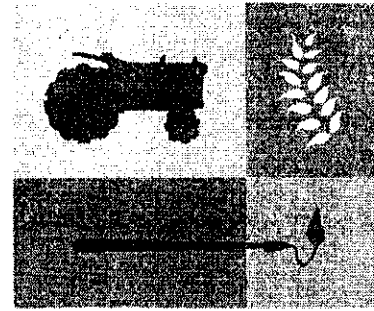
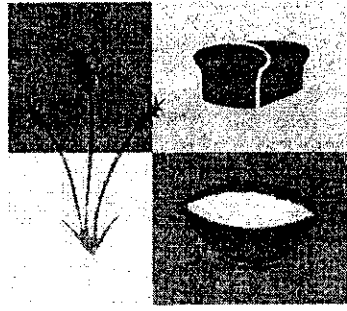
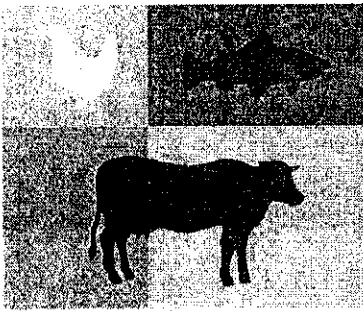
FSA helps ensure the well-being of U.S. agriculture through efficient and equitable administration of farm commodity programs; farm operating, ownership, and emergency loans; conservation and environmental programs; emergency and disaster assistance; domestic and international food assistance; and international export credit programs. These programs are major components of USDA's farm safety net, which helps producers maintain viable operations, compete for export sales of commodities and contribute to the year-round availability of low-cost, safe, and nutritious foods.

Home Page Address: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

Nevada Farm Service Agency (NV-FSA)

The Farm Service Agency in Nevada is headquartered in Reno. There are 7 county offices primarily located in USDA Service Centers serving 2,829 farms across the State. The 7 offices are located in Elko, Ely, Fallon, Lovelock, Minden, Winnemucca and Yerington.

Home Page Address: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/NV/>



NEVADA

FSA accomplishments and payments

Helping Nevada Farmers Through Price Support/Farm Programs

- ★ *Nevada receives over \$ 10 million.* These payments helped the state's ranchers and farmers stay in business during tough economic times.
- ★ *Farmers conserve their natural resources.* Nevada farmers received \$650,000+ in payments under the Environmental Quality Incentives Programs and the Conservation Reserve Program, promoting good land stewardship practices in the state.
- ★ *Production Flexibility Payments yield \$786,000.*
- ★ *Producers compensated for low prices.* The Apple and Potato Quality Loss Program paid state producers \$164,000 to help offset the losses of growers. In addition, the Lamb Meat Adjustment Program paid out \$288,000 in Nevada.

Disaster Payments Continue to Help Farmers

- ★ *Farmers receive needed crop disaster assistance.* Nevada farmers received \$2.7 million under FSA's Non-Insured Assistance program, helping to protect growers for which federal crop insurance is not available.
- ★ *Crop Disaster payment total \$81,000.* Nevada farmers qualifying for assistance through the Disaster program received payments to assist them in recovery of losses.
- ★ *FSA Emergency Conservation Program pays out \$419,000.* Producers in Nevada have benefited from payments through FSA's emergency conservation program, helping them recover from natural disasters which damaged their farm and ranchland.
- ★ *Livestock producers receive drought aid.* Nevada farmers and ranchers received \$5.1 million through the FSA Livestock Compensation Program to assist them to withstand the impact of Nevada's statewide drought.



Emergency Conservation Program

Purpose

The Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) provides emergency funding for farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by wind erosion, floods, hurricanes, or other natural disasters, and for carrying out emergency water conservation measures during periods of severe drought.

The natural disaster must create new conservation problems, which, if not treated, would:

- 1) impair or endanger the land;
- 2) materially affect the productive capacity of the land;
- 3) represent unusual damage which, except for wind erosion, is not the type likely to recur frequently in the same area; and
- 4) be so costly to repair that Federal assistance is or will be required to return the land to productive agricultural use.

Conservation problems existing prior to the disaster involved are not eligible for cost-sharing assistance. ECP is administered by state and county Farm Service Agency (FSA) committees.

Program Administration

Subject to availability of funds, county FSA committees, with concurrence by the FSA state committee, are authorized to implement ECP for eligible farmers for all disasters except drought. When severe drought conditions exist, the determination to implement the program will be made by the Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs (DAFP), FSA.

Cost-share levels up to 64 percent are set by county FSA committees. Eligibility for ECP assistance is determined by county FSA committees based on individual on-site inspections, taking into account the type and extent of damage. Individual or cumulative requests for cost-sharing of \$20,000 or less per person per disaster may be approved by county FSA committees, and of \$20,001 to \$62,500 by state FSA committees. Cost-sharing over \$62,500 must be approved by DAFP. Technical assistance may be provided by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Emergency Practices

Emergency practices to rehabilitate farmland damaged by wind erosion and other disasters, including drought, may include debris removal, providing water for livestock, fence restoration, grading and shaping of farmland, restoring conservation structures, and water conservation measures. Other emergency conservation measures may be authorized by county FSA committees with approval by state FSA committees and DAFP. Farmers or ranchers may enter into pooling agreements to jointly solve mutual conservation problems.

Funding

Funding for the program is appropriated by Congress.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Disaster Assistance for Farmers

Emergency Loans

The Farm Service Agency provides emergency loans to help cover production and physical losses in counties declared as disaster areas by the President or by the Secretary of Agriculture. These loans are made to qualifying established family farm operators. Loans for crop, livestock, and nonreal estate losses are normally repaid in 1 to 7 years, and in special circumstances, up to 20 years. Loans for physical losses to real estate and buildings are normally repaid in 30 years, and in special circumstances, up to 40 years.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program

This program provides crop loss protection for growers of many crops when crop insurance is not available. When a disaster occurs, producers may qualify if there are five or more producers of approved crops on separate and distinct farms within the affected county or disaster area; there is at least a 35-percent loss for that crop in the disaster area; and a farmer's gross revenue does not exceed \$2 million. Outside the 50 United States, the disaster area must include 10 producers of a crop. Minimum area size requirements do not apply. The farmer's loss must also exceed half of the expected yield. Farmers must report their crop damage within 15 days of the disaster to their nearest Farm Service Agency office. In addition, farmers annually must report their acreage and production.

Emergency Conservation Program

The Emergency Conservation Program provides emergency cost-share funding for farmers and ranchers for carrying out emergency water conservation measures during periods of severe drought. These funds may also be used to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters that create new conservation problems which, if not treated, would:

- Impair or endanger the land;
- Materially affect the productive capacity of the land;
- Represent unusual damage, which is not the type likely to recur frequently in the same area; and
- Be so costly to repair that Federal assistance is or will be required to return the land to productive agricultural use.

The assistance may be used for:

- Removal of debris from farmland;
- Grading, shaping, releveling farmland;
- Restoration of livestock fences;
- Restoration of irrigation structures; and
- Providing water for livestock.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.

K Leaf