

AG FACTS:

TODAY'S
AVERAGE FARM
IS 417 ACRES
COMPARED TO
147 ACRES IN
1900.

ALMOST 90
PERCENT OF U.S.
FARMS ARE
OPERATED BY
INDIVIDUALS OR
FAMILY
CORPORATIONS.

42 PERCENT OF
U.S. TOTAL LAND
AREA IS
FARMLAND.

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National Ag Day 2008



March 16-22 is National Ag Week. LVEA will be hosting the second annual NAW celebration here in Fallon. Last year we scheduled events all week throughout the community for both adults and children, focusing the week on National Ag Day which is Wednesday. We worked together with the Great Basin Plant Materials Center to have Ag Day activities for children at their location. This was a great success. We had over 150 kids come and learn about agriculture, specifically here in the Lahontan Valley.

Unfortunately for us, Ag Week 2008 falls on Spring break, making our youthful audience unavailable. We have decided to go ahead with the celebration but will focus on producers here in the valley. We are

working with both local and regional agriculture groups to have a



National Ag Week Nevada Small Farmers Conference.

The Conference will be March 20-22 here in Fallon. We will be discussing issues like specialty crops, sustainable ag, organic and natural growing, irrigation conservation techniques, irrigation alternatives, agritourism, transfer of wealth, bio fuels, hoop houses, small farm and

ranch set up lectures, grant opportunities and much more.

As we did last year, we will have a National Ag Day Dinner at which we will honor members of the community that have shown outstanding efforts in the protection and preservation of this valley's agricultural community. Much to our delight, Nevada Governor Jim Gibbons will be in attendance to present the awards and scholarship.

With funds raised from last year's auction and dinner, we will award a \$1,500.00 scholarship to a person that is either in or planning to enroll in an ag related field of study. If you would like to apply for this money or know someone who does, please call the LVEA office.

Beginning Farmer and Rancher Loans

Farm Service Agency Farm Loan Program

**CHECK IT OUT
and
Apply Today!!**



**I'd rather be
on a farm
than
emperor of
the world ~**

Overview

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides direct and guaranteed loans to beginning farmers and ranchers who are unable to obtain financing from commercial credit sources. Each fiscal year, the Agency targets a portion of its direct and guaranteed farm ownership (FO) and operating loan (OL) funds to beginning farmers and ranchers.

A beginning farmer or rancher is an individual or entity who (1) has not operated a farm or ranch for more than 10 years; (2) meets the loan eligibility requirements of the program to which he/she is applying; (3) substantially participates in the operation; and, (4) for FO loan purposes, does not own a farm greater than 30 percent of the average size farm in the county. (Note: all applicants for direct FO loans must have participated in business operation of a farm for at least 3 years.) If the applicant is an entity, all members must be related by blood or marriage, and all stockholders in a corporation must be eligible beginning farmers.

Maximum Loan Amounts

Maximum amounts of indebtedness are: Direct FO or OL: \$200,000; Guaranteed FO or OL: \$949,000 (Amount varies annually based on inflation).

Down Payment Farm Ownership Loan Program

FSA has a special down payment FO loan program to assist beginning farmers and ranchers to purchase a farm or ranch. This program also provides a means for retiring farmers and ranchers to transfer their land to a future generation.

To qualify:

- An applicant must make a cash down payment of at least 10 percent of the purchase price.

- FSA may provide a maximum amount equal to 40 percent of the purchase price or appraised value, whichever is less. The term of the loan is 15 years at a fixed interest rate of 4 percent.

- The remaining balance may be obtained from a commercial lender or private party. FSA can provide up to a 95 percent guarantee if financing is obtained from a commercial lender. Participating lenders do not have to pay a guarantee fee.

- The purchase price or appraised value, whichever is lower, may not exceed \$250,000.

Sale of Inventory Farmland

FSA advertises acquired farm property within 15 days of acquisition. Eligible beginning farmers and

ranchers are given first priority to purchase these properties at the appraised market value for the first 135 days after acquisition. If more than one eligible beginning farmer or rancher offers to purchase the property, the buyer is chosen randomly.

Joint Financing Plan

Beginning farmer or rancher applicants may choose to participate in a joint financing plan that is also available to other applicants. In this program, FSA lends up to 50 percent of the amount financed, and another lender provides 50 percent or more. FSA will charge a reduced interest rate on the loan.

Where to Apply

Applications for direct loan assistance may be submitted to the FSA local office serving the area where the operation is located. Local FSA offices are listed in the telephone directory under U.S. Government, Department of Agriculture, and Farm Service Agency. For guaranteed loans, applicants must apply to a commercial lender who participates in the Guaranteed Loan Program. Local FSA offices have lists of participating lenders.

For More Information

Further information about FSA farm loan programs is available from Carolyn Persinger, Farm Loan Manager at carolyn.persinger@nv.usda.gov or (775) 423-5124 x 105 or on the FSA website at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/> Local contact: Michelle 423-5124 Ex 108

Newlands Project Mobile Museum Contest



Door
Side of
Museum

We are challenging you to submit an individual or group plan to paint the side of the museum. The entries will be given to the LVEA Board, who will pick the winner and the winner will be given funds to paint the trailer. The theme is the Newlands Project. There are two sides that need a mural type picture. Think of what this project brought and

means to this area. Use those artistic bones if you have them and send us your ideas right away!!

Attention: The Newlands Project Mobile Museum is in desperate need of a paint job.

Entries are due February 21st. Please pass this along to any school, artist, community group, church or who ever you think may want to enter. Call LVEA at 423-0525 for more information.

Links worth Checking out

[Center For Rural Affairs](#)
[Biodynamic Farming and Gardening Association](#)
[Sustainable Farming Connection](#)
[Farm & Garden Services](#)
[Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds](#)
[Microfarm Sustainable Research and Education](#)
[Organic Gardening .com](#)
[Victory Seed Company](#)
[The Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture](#)
[ALHFAM - The Association for Living History, Farm and Agricultural Museums](#)

[American Grassfed Association](#)
[American Livestock Breeds Conservancy](#)
[American Milking Devon Cattle Association](#)
[Dutch Belted Association of America](#)
[New England Heritage Breeds Conservancy](#)
[Randall Cattle Registry](#)
[St Croix Hair Sheep Breeders of America](#)
[St Thomas Hair Sheep Breeders of America](#)
[Family Farm Alliance](#)
[Small Farmers Journal](#)
[Nevada Grown](#)

[Made In Nevada](#)
[Nevada Cattlemen](#)
[Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources](#)
[Fallon Convention and Tourism Authority](#)
[Nevada Farm Bureau](#)
[USDA](#)
[National Ag Day](#)
[American Rivers](#)
[Bureau of Reclamation](#)
[U.S. Census Bureau](#)
[National River Clean Up](#)
[NRCS](#)
[Ag Wired](#)
[World Ag Expo](#)
[Grants.gov](#)
[Growing for Market](#)
 All of these sites have great info and are truly worth checking out!

LVEA Board Members

Richard Harriman, Chairman
 Truckee-Carson Irrigation District

 Willis Swan, Vice-Chairman
 Shirley Walker
 City of Fallon

Gwen Washburn
 Ron Anglin
 Paul Ortiz
 Jason Carter
 Churchill County

Joanne Hanks
 Conservation Districts

 Charles Shepperd
 City of Fernley



Lahontan Dam

**Lahontan Valley
Environmental Alliance**

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**“Through Better Understanding,
Lasting Solutions”**



Mission of LVEA

Created by an interlocal agreement, the members of Lahontan Valley Environmental Alliance include Churchill County, the City of Fallon, the City of Fernley, the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District, and the Lahontan and Stillwater Conservation Districts,

The LVEA acts in a cooperative manner to:

- Provide education regarding issues affecting the natural resources of Churchill County and Fernley.
- Formulate and present positions supported by members to relevant agencies pertaining to common goals.
- Coordinate members and com-

munity interest groups in negotiations with other affected groups on common goals

- Recommend appropriate federal and state legislation to further LVEA objectives.
- Conserve, protect and enhance the levels and quantities of groundwater within the recharge areas of Churchill County and Fernley.

- Assist in planning for and adequate future water supply for the region.

LVEA is committed to reaching and maintaining an effective environmental balance through the preservation and protection of our limited water resources. The LVEA works to inspire people to join in protecting local natural resources and the vitality of rural lifestyles. The LVEA coordinated efforts in the Lahontan Valley to protect and manage our water resources while working to preserve our growing rural community both now and in the future. Funding for LVEA comes from appropriation by its members.



Thank you.