



NEWSLETTER



November 2013

New Mexico FSA Office

6200 Jefferson St.
Suite 211
Albuquerque, NM

Ph: 505-761-4900
Fax: 505-761-4934
www.fsa.usda.gov/nm

Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 am - 4:30 pm

NM FSA State Office Staff:

Brenda Archuleta
Acting State Executive Director

Mary Ann Romero
Farm Loan Chief

State FSA Committee

James Bostwick
Chairperson

Larry Burnett
Member

Eddie Diaz
Member

Molly Manzanares
Member

The USDA Farm Service Agency delivered more than \$14.3 million in federal program payments and loans to New Mexico farmers and ranchers during FY 2013. New Mexico agriculture benefits greatly from the tireless efforts of our dedicated employees and locally elected County Committees.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Watch your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot starting early this month. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters on November 4, 2013. If for some reason you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify your local FSA office.

Completed and signed ballots must be returned to the county office by close of business on December 2, 2013.

FSA PAYMENTS

FSA has started issuing Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) annual rental payments to participants across the country. CRP payments will be followed by 2013 direct payments and 2012 Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program payments beginning Oct. 24. These payments were delayed by several weeks due to the lapse in Federal funding.

ACRE payments for 2012-crop barley, corn, grain sorghum, lentils, oats, peanuts, dry peas, soybeans, and wheat are scheduled to be released beginning Oct. 24. ACRE payments are contingent upon national average market prices and yields in New Mexico. Only those farms that participated in the 2012 ACRE program and met both the state and farm trigger will be eligible for payment.

The 2008 Farm Bill, extended by the American Tax Payer Relief Act of 2012, provided authority to enroll land in DCP, ACRE and CRP through Sept. 30, 2013; however, no legislation has been enacted to reauthorize or extend this authority. Effective Oct. 1, 2013, FSA does not have legislative authority to approve or process applications for these programs.

INCREASED GUARANTEED LOAN LIMIT

The Farm Service Agency has announced that the loan limit for the Guaranteed Loan Program will increase to \$1,355,000 on Oct. 1, 2013. The limit is adjusted annually based on data compiled by the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

The lending limit is adjusted every year according to an inflation index. The maximum combined guaranteed and direct farm loan indebtedness will also increase to \$1,655,000.

As a reminder, the one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed Farm Ownership and Operating loans is 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan.

ELECTRONIC SERVICES AVAILABLE

If a producer has Internet access, program participants can access many services from home 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and receive approval and payment by direct deposit within 48 hours.

To participate in these services, you must meet all program eligibility requirements. Online services have stringent security measures to protect your private information.

To utilize electronic services a producer needs an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires an e-mail address and filling out an online registration form at www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/ followed by a visit to the county office for identity verification.

2014 ACREAGE REPORTING DATES

Producers who file accurate and timely reports for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage can prevent the potential loss of FSA program benefits. Please pay close attention to the acreage reporting dates below, as some dates have changed for 2014.

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit their County FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

The following acreage reporting dates are:

January 15	Apples
March 15	Pistachios
May 15	Spring Barley, Onions, Pecans, Potatoes, Spring Wheat
July 15	All Other Crops
August 15	Beans
November 15	Apiculture, PRF, Perennial Forage (all grasses, Alfalfa, Mixed Forage, etc.)
December 15	Fall-Seeded Small Grain

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.
- If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of "cover only," "green manure," "left standing," or "seed," then the acreage must be reported by July 15th.

After September 15, 2013, late-file fees will be assessed for 2013 and 2014 late-file acreage reports.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.



BREAKING NEW GROUND

Agricultural producers are reminded to consult with FSA and NRCS before breaking out new ground for production as doing so without prior authorization may put a producer's federal farm program benefits in jeopardy. This is especially true for land that must meet Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions.

Producers with HEL determined soils must apply tillage, crop residue and rotation requirements as specified in their conservation plan.

Producers should notify FSA prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to ensure compliance. If you intend to clear any trees to create new cropland, these areas will need to be reviewed to ensure any work will not risk your eligibility for benefits.

Landowners and operators can complete form AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification to determine whether a referral to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is necessary.

NON-INSURABLE CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

NAP is designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disaster cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to CAT insurance. A nonrefundable service fee in the amount of \$250 per crop, \$750 maximum per county not to exceed \$1,865 per producer for all counties is due at the time the applications is submitted. The service fee may be waived for limited resource producers.

The following is list of the current application closing dates for NAP crops.

Sept. 30	Nov. 20	Dec. 1
Barley	Apples	Honey
Canola	Apricots	Lettuce
Oats	Cherries	
Rye	Caneberries	
Triticale	Grapes	
Wheat	Nectarines	
	Peaches	
	Pears	
	Pistachios	
	Plums	

FILING A NOTICE OF LOSS

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses. For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent. If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

The Deadline for filing a Notice of Loss for Native Forage has been extended to November 15, 2013 for Crop Year 2013.

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOAN PROGRAM

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFLP) allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. Additional security is required for poured-cement open-bunker silos, renewable biomass facilities, cold storage facilities, hay barns and for all loans exceeding \$50,000. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas, dry beans and dry peas
- Hay
- Renewable biomass
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities
- Honey

MARKETING ASSISTANCE LOANS (MAL)

Short-term financing is available by obtaining low interest commodity loans for eligible harvested production. A nine-month Marketing Assistance Loan provides financing that allows producers to store production for later marketing. The crop may be stored on the farm or in the warehouse.

Loans are available for producers who share in the risk of producing the eligible commodity and maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the duration of the loan. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity, responsibility for loss because of damage to the commodity and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, it is ineligible for a loan, even if you regain beneficial interest.

RURAL YOUTH LOANS

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youth to establish and operate agriculture income-producing projects in connection with 4-H Clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

MICROLOAN PROGRAM

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the Microloan (ML) program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche and small family farm operations.

FSA offers applicants a Microloan designed to help farmers with credit needs of \$35,000 or less. The loan features a streamlined application process built to fit the needs of new and smaller producers. This loan program will also be useful to specialty crop producers and operators of community supported agriculture (CSA).

Eligible applicants can apply for a maximum amount of \$35,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses to extend the growing season, essential tools, irrigation and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing, and distribution expenses. As financing needs increase, applicants can apply for a regular operating loan up to the maximum amount of \$300,000 or obtain financing from a commercial lender under FSA's Guaranteed Loan Program.

BEGINNING FARMER LOANS

FSA assists beginning farmers to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years

- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's median size.

LOANS FOR THE SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches. While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of socially disadvantaged applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.



MANY NEW MEXICO COUNTIES ARE ELIGIBLE FOR EMERGENCY LOANS

Many New Mexico Counties have been declared a primary and/or contiguous disaster area due to drought and heat using the new, streamlined Secretarial Disaster Designation process. Under this designation, producers with operations in any primary or contiguous county are eligible to apply for low interest emergency loans.

The streamlined disaster designation process issues a drought disaster declaration when a county has experienced a drought intensity value of at least a D2 (severe drought) level for eight consecutive weeks based on the U.S. Drought Monitor during the crop year.

Emergency loans help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding and other natural disasters or quarantine.

Producers have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for emergency loan assistance. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. Producers can borrow up to 100 percent of actual production or physical losses, to a maximum amount of \$500,000.

Producers with operations in counties that did not receive a disaster designation could be eligible for emergency loan assistance if they suffered at least a 30 percent loss in crop production or a physical loss to livestock, livestock products, real estate or chattel property.

For more information about emergency loans, please contact your local FSA office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

LAND CONTRACT (LC) GUARANTEES

LC Program is a valuable tool to transfer farm real estate to the next generation of farm-ers and ranchers. Guarantees will be offered to the owner of a farm who wishes to sell real estate through a land contract to a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher. The guarantee reduces the financial risk to the seller.

FSA offers two types of guarantees:

- Prompt Payment Guarantee - A guarantee up to the amount of three amortized annual installments plus the cost of any related real estate taxes and insurance.
- Standard Guarantee - A guarantee of 90 percent of the outstanding principal balance under the land contract.

The guarantee period is 10 years and the contract payments must be amortized for a minimum of 20 years. The purchase price of the farm cannot exceed the lesser of \$500,000 or the market value of the property.



Selected Interest Rates for November 2013

90-Day Treasury Bill	.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.125%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.250%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.125%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (7 years)	2.00%
Sugar Storage Facility Loans	3.125%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.125%

ONLINE DATA TOOL FOR PUBLIC

The USDA Race, Ethnicity, and Gender Program Statistics query tool, known as REGStats, is the official new tool of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for making program application and participation rate data available to the public on the Internet.

The REGStats website provides summary information about the number of individuals and entities that apply for, and receive, federal assistance from four USDA agencies or mission areas – the Farm Service Agency (FSA), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Rural Development (RD), and the Risk Management Agency (RMA).

The information available in REGStats includes the number of applicants and recipients, by fiscal year, for USDA programs available to agricultural producers and landowners, categorized by race, ethnicity, and gender. Summary totals may be obtained nationally, or by state and county for the 50 states, as well as the U.S. territories.



County FSA Office	Phone Number
Chaves	(575) 622-8745
Colfax	(575) 445-9471
Curry	(575) 762-4769
De Baca	(575) 355-2448
Dona Ana	(575) 522 8775
Eddy	(575) 887-3506
Guadalupe	(575) 472-5402
Harding	(575) 485-2294
Hidalgo	(575) 542-3241
Lea	(575) 396-5857
Luna-Grant	(575) 546-9291
McKinley	(505) 722-9060

County FSA Office	Phone Number
Otero-Lincoln	(575) 437-3100
Quay	(575) 461-3612
Rio Arriba	(505) 753-3508
Roosevelt	(686) 356-6629
San Juan	(505) 334-3090
San Miguel-Mora	(505) 425-3594
Sierra	(575) 894-2563
Socorro-Catron	(575) 835-1710
Taos	(575) 758-3863
Torrance-Santa Fe	(505) 384-2272
Union	(575) 374-9461
Valencia-Cibola-Bernalillo-Sandoval	(505) 865-4643