



August 2014

NEWSLETTER



NM FSA State Newsletter

New Mexico FSA Office

6200 Jefferson St.
Suite 211
Albuquerque, NM

Ph: 505-761-4900
Fax: 877-450-0860
www.fsa.usda.gov/nm

Hours

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

NM FSA State Office Staff:

Molly Manzanares
State Executive Director

Brenda Archuleta
Executive Officer

Mary Ann Romero
Farm Loan Chief

State FSA Committee

James Bostwick
Chairperson

Larry Burnett
Member

Eddie Diaz
Member

New Mexico Farm Service Agency's primary mission is to help ensure the success of New Mexico's farmers and ranchers through various programs and technical assistance. The work that FSA continues to accomplish day to day is important not only to the agricultural producers around the State but also to the rural communities that depend on the agricultural industry.

Take for example, Torrance County's Marilyn and Erik Simpson, who received a Microloan to continue their farming tradition; or Eddy County's Taylor Martinez, who received a Rural Youth Loan to purchase a steer and sheep to show at the Eddy County fair. I am proud to say that these are some of the many success stories

Over the last 5 years, FSA has distributed over \$508 million in program benefits and loans to New Mexico's agricultural producers. These investments in our State's rural economy are delivered through a network of 24 county offices and four (4) farm loan offices. These offices serve the State's 33 counties and are staffed with hard-working, dedicated employees that continue the strong tradition of providing excellent customer service to our producers.

As the State Executive Director of New Mexico FSA, I am committed to ensuring that agriculture across New Mexico continues to flourish throughout our rural communities.



Molly Manzanares

Molly Manzanares
State Executive Director



Marilyn and Erik Simpson

MICROLOAN HELPS NAVAJO COUPLE CONTINUE FARMING TRADITION

Marilyn Simpson grew up on the Navajo Reservation in Torreon, N.M., where she learned all about farming from her parents who raised sheep and cows. The youngest of eight children, Marilyn left the reservation, and her parents, to go to college in Arizona. That's also where she met her husband Erik. After graduating, she and Erik moved back to Torreon to help Marilyn's parents.

"We saw that my parents were getting older and they needed help with the animals," said Marilyn, whose parents only speak Navajo. "We eventually took over their operation." For 14 years the couple managed her parents' operation. Now, Marilyn, age 35 and Erik, 39, decided they wanted to start out on their own while still caring for her parents and living on the reservation.

The couple had heard about USDA's Microloan program. The program allows beginning, small and mid-sized farmers to access up to \$35,000 in loans using a simplified application process with up to seven years to repay. Marilyn and Erik came up with a plan on how much they wanted to borrow and how they planned to back the loan before contacting a FSA loan officer. After deciding that the Microloan was the best option, they contacted the Torrance County FSA. "The Microloan is a great help because a lot of conventional lenders aren't able to make these loans on the tribal trust lands," said Mackrain.



TAYLOR'S TRAIL

Taylor Martinez son of Kandy Martinez in Eddy County is a member of the Brushpopper 4-H Club in Loving, New Mexico. Taylor is 11 years old and is very motivated to show his animals. Taylor first came to the Roswell Farm Loan Office last year for his first \$5,000 Rural Youth Loan to help purchase two (2) steers and a lamb. "I enjoy the challenge of showing my animals at the Eddy County Fair" said Taylor.

At the Eddy County Fair Taylor placed well "I get the chance to show everyone my hard work and how it pays off", he said. As a result Taylor was able to sell a steer and lamb in the Premium Auction.

He looks forward to earning more profits this season. He has now started his own bank account and learning the financial end of animal agriculture. Taylor is working with the Roswell Farm Loan team once again this year for his second Youth Loan.

The FSA Youth Loan Program has given him the opportunity to gain responsibility and knowledge about the cattle and sheep industry. In the end, Taylor stated, "All the late nights and early mornings are worth it for a country boy. Like they say, a country boy works until the day light ends".

Taylor's projects has expanded his friendships over the county. He makes a point to make all the 4-H dances at the fair and other area livestock shows.

LIVESTOCK DISASTER ASSISTANCE SIGN-UP UNDERWAY

Livestock disaster program enrollment opened on April 15, 2014. These disaster programs are authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill as permanent programs and provide retroactive authority to cover losses that occurred on or after Oct. 1, 2011.

To expedite applications, all producers who experienced losses are encouraged to bring records documenting those losses to their local FSA Office. Producers should record all pertinent information of natural disaster consequences, including:

- Documentation of the number and kind of livestock that have died, supplemented if possible by photographs or video records of ownership and losses
- Dates of death supported by birth recordings or purchase receipts
- Costs of transporting livestock to safer grounds or to move animals to new pastures
- Feed purchases if supplies or grazing pastures are destroyed
- Crop records, including seed and fertilizer purchases, planting and production records

Eligible producers can sign-up for the following livestock disaster assistance programs:

Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP):

LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered grazing losses due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land or fire on federally managed land. Eligible producers must physically be located in a county affected by a qualifying drought during the normal grazing period for the county. Producers who suffered eligible grazing losses should submit a completed CCC-853 and supporting documentation by January 30, 2015.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP):

LIP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law. Producers who suffered livestock death losses should submit a notice of loss and an application for payment to their local FSA office by January 30, 2015.

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)

ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish that have losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires. ELAP assistance is provided for losses not covered by LFP and LIP. Producers who suffered eligible livestock, honeybee or farm-raised fish losses during 2012 and 2013 program years must submit a notice of loss and application for payment to their local FSA office by August 1, 2014. For 2014 program year losses, the notice of loss and an application for payment must be submitted by November 1, 2014.

For more information, producers can review the LFP, LIP and ELAP Fact Sheets on the [Farm Bill webpage](#). Producers are encouraged to make an appointment with their local FSA office to apply for these programs.



Left to Right: Brenda Archuleta and Bob Ledingham

Second Annual Salomon E. Ramirez "Employee of the Year" Award

In memory and honor of Salomon E. Ramirez, former New Mexico FSA State Executive Director, NM FSA in 2012 established an annual "Salomon E. Ramirez, Employee of the Year Award" to recognize employees that portray the same outstanding, dedication, and commitment to public service to Farm Service Agency and to the producers of New Mexico.

On September 11, 2013, 1st Annual Employee of the Year award recipient Brenda Archuleta presented the 2013 Employee of the Year Award to Bob Ledingham, Farm Loan Manager and the Clovis Farm Loan Team Roberta Jones, Farm Loan Officer; Rebecca Padilla, Farm Loan Officers and Kimberly Dewbre, Farm Loan Program Technician.



Left to Right: Lawrence Rael, Roberta Jones, Rebecca Padilla, John Ledingham, Kimberly Dewbre and Brenda Archuleta

The Clovis Farm Loan Team fulfills the Agency's mission, internal and external vision, as well as the core values it was built on. The Clovis Farm Loan Team has a high morale in all aspects of the day to day functions due to the structure and cohesiveness exhibited by them. Customer service is extremely important to this team. The Clovis Farm Loan Team have been able to maintain a positive relationship with our agricultural producers of diverse backgrounds and the lending institutions that allow us to integrate our programs with theirs to further help the farming and ranching tradition/industry in New Mexico.

In 2013, the Clovis Farm Loan Team made over \$5,880,310 in direct and guaranteed loans to 62 producers which include beginning farmers and socially disadvantaged producers. This team provides assistance to ten eastern and northeastern New Mexico counties.

Regional Administrator's Award

The Farm Service Agency Administrator's Award for Service to Agriculture was established in an effort to create a working place where the extra efforts shown by individuals and teams are given due recognition. This year New Mexico had a recipient for this prestigious award;

Jordanna Gurule, Acting County Executive Director in Sierra County.

This award symbolized her continuous demonstration of professionalism, innovation, teamwork, leadership, a strong customer focus, and the quality in her work.



Left to Right: Lawrence Rael and Jordanna Gurule

Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

The Agricultural Credit Improvement Act of 1992 required the Secretary of Agriculture to establish the Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Committee.



Rebecca Padilla

This year New Mexico will be represented on this National Committee by our own FSA Clovis Farm Loan Officer, Rebecca Padilla who was appointed to serve on the committee for two-years.

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.

Individuals who are interested in applying for a microloan or would like to discuss other farm loan programs available should contact their local FSA office to set up an appointment with a loan official.

SAVE TIME – MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH FSA

As we roll out the Farm Bill programs administered by FSA, there will be related signups and in some cases multiple management decisions that need to be made by you, the producer, in consult with FSA staff. To insure maximum use of your time and to insure that you are afforded our full attention to your important business needs, please call our office ahead of your visit to set an appointment and to discuss any records or documentation that you may need to have with you when you arrive for your appointment.

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	(575) 356-6629
San Juan	(505) 334-3090
San Miguel-Mora	(505) 425-7812
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