

# Rio Arriba County FSA Newsletter



*September 2008*

## 2008 Crop Year buy in Disaster Assistance Programs

June 18, 2008, the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 was enacted into Public Law. Five new disaster programs, to be eligible for these programs, producers must timely obtain a crop insurance policy for insured crops and grazing land before the deadline **September 16, 2008**. Fees are \$100 per crop, \$300 per producer per county, or \$900 total per producer. Producers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource Producer, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher will not be required to pay the buy-in fee. If a producer fails to have crops insured by the deadline, then he/she will not be eligible for the disaster program benefits that will be administered soon as part of the new farm bill. These programs provide benefits to farmers and ranchers who suffered crop, grazing, emergency relief with losses from adverse weather conditions, loss of fruit, nut or Christmas trees for commercial sale

## Direct Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP)

The Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP) provides payments to eligible producers on farms enrolled for the 2008 through 2012 crop years. Payments are computed using the base acres (barley, corn, grain sorghum, oats, upland cotton and wheat) also payment yields established for the farm. DCP sign-up period for the 2008 crop year began June 25, 2008 and will end **September 30, 2008**. The 2008 Farm bill changes DCP base acres that total 10.0 acres or less will not receive a direct counter cyclical, or average crop revenue election program payment, unless the farm is wholly owned by a socially disadvantaged or limited resource farmer or rancher. Annual sign-ups for 2009-2010 crops are from October 1 of the prior calendar year to June 1.

## Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP)

This program assists farmers and ranchers with 50% or more crop losses, due to weather conditions on insured crops. The deadline to purchase crop insurance of the following crops: Sod grass, Onions, Garlic, Barley, Oats, Rye, Triticale, Wheat, Apples, Apricots, Cherries, Caneberries, Grapes, Nectarines, Peaches, Pears, Pistachios, Plums, Honey and Lettuce have been extended to **December 1, 2008**. (Ref. NAP-111) Farm Records must have documentation of the current land owner(s). If the land is leased then a copy of your lease agreement must be provided. Producer must certify 2009 crops by the following dates: 2/15/09-for private dry land grazing which includes FS & BLM permits. 5/15/09-for small grains such as barley, oats, or wheat. 7/15/09-for all other crops like alfalfa or other forage hay crops

A notice of loss for crop year 2008 must be filed within 15 days of a loss of 50% or more of the date it becomes apparent. **November 1, 2008** is the deadline to file on native and hay crops. Contemporaneous Records, diaries, or calendars of daily farm activities must be provided to the office no later than **July 15, 2009** regardless of whether you file a Notice of Loss. Some examples are as follows: Weather conditions, dates of supplemental feeding to the number of livestock, feed purchased, ditch cleaning, fence or farm equipment repairs, Livestock born, branded, sold, purchased or lost. Date crops were planted, disked, harrowed, harvested on the number of acres, dates irrigated, cut, harvested the number of bales and weight per bale.

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### **Definitions**

**Socially Disadvantaged** is a group whose members have been subject to racial or ethnic prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities. These groups consist of: American Indians or Alaskan natives, Asians, Blacks or African Americans Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders, Hispanics. Women who are socially disadvantaged will be eligible under the DCP only.

**Limited Resource Producer** is a farmer or rancher who had gross farm sales (directly or indirectly) of not more than \$116,800 per year in each of the two previous years and has a total household income at or below the national poverty level (19,350.00 for Rio Arriba County) in each of the two previous years.

**Beginning Farmer or Rancher** is an individual or entity who has not operated a farm or ranch for more than 10 years.



### **Office Staff**

Anna Martinez, County Executive Director  
Mary Gurule, Program Technician  
Susanah Griego, Program Technician

### **County Committee**

Stephen Gallegos, Chairperson  
Mariano Manzanares, Vice-Chairperson  
Leroy A. Martinez, Member  
Jeff Sisneros and Alma Schmitz, Advisors

**Office Hours 8:00 – 4:30 Monday through Friday**

### **Monthly Meeting is the First Wednesday of the month at 1:00 pm**

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