

Colfax County News

July 2008



County Committee Election

The USDA FSA urges eligible farmers and ranchers to participate and vote in their local county committee elections. Farmers and ranchers of legal voting age may vote and run for office if they are participating or cooperating in an FSA program. A strong response to the entire committee election process gives landowners, farmers, and ranchers a better chance of having opinions and ideas expressed in the community and throughout the nation. Committee members consisting of farmers and ranchers help to deliver FSA programs in their local farming communities. Members meet approximately once a month depending on the tasks at hand. The committee may call a special meeting to respond to an unexpected situation such as a natural disaster. The county committee is composed of three members of local administrative areas (LAA) each member serving a 3 year term. One third of these seats are up for election each year. County Committees may also have one or more appointed advisors to further represent the local interests of minority and women farmers and ranchers. USDA is committed to increasing the participation of all farmers and ranchers on the FSA County Committees with an emphasis on minority and women farmers and ranchers. FSA County Committees operate under official regulations for federal farm programs. Committee members apply their judgment, experience, and knowledge when making local decisions regarding producer appeals, commodity price support loans and payments, conservation programs, employing county executive directors, incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for commodities and other farm disaster assistance. Producers elect producers to county committees. The following are some of the requirements for being a candidate to serve on a county committee: be of legal age, live in the LAA holding the election, and participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA. Beginning in June nominations are being accepted for the seat currently being held by Mary Lou Kern LAA 2. August 1, 2008 is the last day to file nominations.

CCC-576 Notice of Loss Filing Requirement

A notice of loss must be filed on form CCC-576 within 15 calendar days after the occurrence of damage to a specific crop covered by NAP. The County Office should be notified within 72 hours of disaster that caused the loss and the crop should not be destroyed until the crop adjuster has verified the loss. The NAP program benefits producers who have had a 50% or more crop loss due to weather related conditions. Native grass losses should be reported no later than November 1.

Extending Crop Reporting Dates

Because of the delay in announcing the provisions of the 2008 Farm Bill and extreme weather conditions, many producers may have not filed a 2008 acreage report. For 2008, the final crop reporting dates are being extended to August 15, 2008. Late fees will not be applied if acreage reports are filed by August 15 and all other crop reporting requirements must be met. For NAP purposes, producers are required to file acreage reports on the earlier of the extended acreage reporting date or no later than 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest. Under no circumstances will the extended acreage reporting date impact or change deadlines for filing NAP forms such as CCC-576 Part B Notice of Loss, CCC-576 Part D-G, Application for Payment, CCC-472, Production and Yield Report. Late filed fees will continue to apply for acreage reports filed after the final crop reporting dates.

COUNTY OFFICE MEETINGS

County committee meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month at the FSA office in the Federal Building, 245 Park Ave., Room 203, Raton New Mexico at 1:00 P.M.

Colfax County Committee

Mary Lou Kern, Chairman
Alice Moore, Member

Gary Shaw, Vice Chairman

Office Staff

Howard G. Wilcox, County Executive Director

Arthur Tafoya, Program Technician

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