

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

FARM
SERVICE
AGENCY

TAOS COUNTY FSA OFFICE
224C CRUZ ALTA ROAD
TAOS, NEW MEXICO 87571

COUNTY COMMITTEE
Crestina Trujillo-Armstrong, Chairperson
Aaron Eichwald, Vice-Chairperson
Jerry B. Sanchez, Member
John Mirabal, Advisor



COUNTY OFFICE STAFF
Mary Gurule', Acting CED
Mary Louise Garcia, Temporary PT
Susanah G. Archuleta, Permanent Part-Time PT
Marcos Jeantete, Temporary PT
Oliver L. Jenkins, Loan Officer

REGULAR COC MEETING: SECOND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 9:00 A.M.
LOCATION: 224C CRUZ ALTA ROAD – TAOS, NEW MEXICO 87571
OFFICE HOURS: 8:00 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M. –PHONE NUMBER (505) 758-3863 EXT. 2

**MARY GURULE', ACTING CED AND OLIVER L. JENKINS, LOAN SPECIALIST, ARE SCHEDULED TO BE IN DULCE AT THE
EXTENSION SERVICE OFFICE ON THE SECOND AND FOURTH WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH.**

OCTOBER 2006
COC ELECTIONS FOR LAA 1

The USDA – Taos County FSA Office will be holding County Committee Elections for LAA 1, - which includes Questa, Amalia, Costilla, Cerro, and surrounding communities.

Nominating petitions can be obtained at the Taos County FSA Office – 224C Cruz Alta Road – Taos, New Mexico, by filling out the **attached** Nominating Petition, signing and returning by no later than August 1, 2006.

County Committee Election Fact Sheets and FSA-669A's are available at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections>. FSA-669A's are also available at <http://intranet.fsa.usda.gov>. Spanish versions are also available.

Ballots will be mailed out to eligible voters November 3, 2006, and must be returned by December 4, 2006.

Jerry B. Sanchez is currently the Committee member for the above listed areas.

NONINSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

NAP covers losses to crops not covered by Federal Crop Insurance. Coverage is for rangeland, vegetables, hay crops, etc. To be eligible for NAP, you need to do the following:

Report crop acres to our office by no later than July 15.

Please be aware that State Committee Policy states that Notice of Loss (CCC-576) must be filed within 15 calendar days after disaster occurred or damage to crop becomes apparent. Failure to report timely will result in a loss of benefits.

Your crop loss must be greater than 50% of expected yield and you will be paid on 55% of the county price.

An appraisal must be completed prior to destroying the crop or putting the crop to another use. Contact this office for an appraisal.

The cost will be \$100 per crop unit not to exceed \$300 per county per producer. There is a \$900 maximum per producer.

Keep in mind, if you purchased NAP coverage, cattle must be kept out of hay fields from June 1 through September 30, to allow hay to grow and to be harvested.

Please review the **attached** page showing application closing dates for the various crops covered under the NAP.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: If you applied for the Crop Disaster Program (CDP), and received payments, you are **REQUIRED** to purchase NAP coverage for the next two subsequent years for such crop(s).

Also, if you intend to have your cattle graze your hay field(s) instead of cutting the hay, before doing so, you will need to write a letter which will have to state, that you are aware that you need to leave 8' by 8' representative samples **PER** field and an appraisal is required at the time of the normal final harvest date, unless sufficient representative samples are placed in each field that is to be grazed. Representative samples required need to be 8' by 8' **PER** field. The total amount of representative samples needed depend on the number of acres on each field.

ACRES IN FIELD OR SUBFIELD	MINIMUM NUMBER OF SAMPLES NEEDED
0.1 - 10.0 acres	3
10.1 - 40.0 acres	4

Add one additional sample for each additional 40.0 acres (or fraction thereof) in the field or subfield.

Please be sure to turn in your acceptable records of hay production, in writing, as soon as you finish harvesting your crops. Producers are responsible for reporting production on all NAP crops. If you do not report your production, your yields will be lowered and this will reflect on any applicable NAP payments. Continuity of records is required when calculating an approved yield. The records must be consecutive, without breaks.

If you are interested in applying for assistance, or would like more information, you may come by this office at 224C Cruz Alta Road or contact this office by calling (505) 753-3508 Ext. 2, for an appointment.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP)

USDA-NRCS Announcement– The FY2007 Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) application period is open and will continue until November 3, 2006. EQIP is a key program under the 2002 Farm Bill that provides cost-share funds to working farms and ranches for conservation improvements. EQIP, like all NRCS programs, is a voluntary program that is intended to yield high quality, productive soils; clean and abundant water; healthy plant and animal communities; clean air; an adequate energy supply; and working farms and ranchlands. The early deadline is a continuing effort to improve the funding process. The new program cut-off date will allow producers time to complete practices during the first years of their contracts. The earlier application deadline date will help accommodate field work in preparation for a project, to be done in the fall before winter weather sets in. For assistance in applying or finding out more information on EQIP or any other Farm Bill Programs visit your local NRCS Field Office at 224 Cruz Alta Road, Taos, NM or contact us at (505) 758-3863 x3.

LOAN OFFICER

Oliver L. Jenkins, Loan Officer will be stationed out of the Santa Fe County FSA Office, but on Mondays he will still be at the Rio Arriba County FSA Office in Espanola and on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month, he is still scheduled to be at the Jicarilla Extension Service Office in Dulce, New Mexico.

IMPORTANT NOTICE - OFFICE CLOSURES

Since July 1st, 2004, this office has been **closed to the public at 1:00 p.m. every Wednesday**. The office closure allows office staff to more expediently process loans, program applications, payments and other duties, uninterrupted. FSA is attempting innovative ways to provide expert customer service by “doing more with less.” This change in office hours continues to be on a trial basis.

All other days, this office will remain open during regular business hours. If you have any questions, please call this office at (505) 753-3508, Ext. 2.

HOLIDAY

This office will be closed Friday, November 10, 2006, in observance of Veteran’s Day and Thursday, November 23, 2006, in observance of Thanksgiving Day.

Application Closing Dates

January 31	February 1	March 15	April 15
Alfalfa Cucumbers Grass Mixed Forage Pecans Peppers	Cabbage Carrots Spinach	Beans Dry Peas Corn Millet Potatoes Sorghum Soybeans Squash Sunflowers Tomatoes	Basil Beets Broccoli Cantaloupe Cilantro Eggplant Gourds Honeydew Okra Pumpkins Strawberries Turnips Watermelon
September 1	September 30	November 20	December 1
Sod Grass Onions *Garlic	Barley Oats Rye Triticale Wheat	Apples Apricots Cherries Caneberries Grapes Nectarines Peaches Pears Pistachios Plums	Honey Lettuce

Risk Management Agency (RMA) actuarial table by state and county are found at the following website:

<http://www3.rma.usda.gov/apps/docbrowser/docbrowserA.cfm>

SPEC-PROV (DOC TYPE) list insurable crops by county.

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REPORTING CHANGES

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH PRODUCER TO REPORT THEIR FARM OPERATION COMPLETELY AND ACCURATELY.

IT IS ALSO THE PRODUCER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO NOTIFY FSA OF ANY CHANGES IN THEIR FARMING OPERATION OR ENTITY STATUS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. Changes that may affect a determination include, but are not limited to a change in contract shares of a contract which may reflect change of land lease from cash rent to share rent or from share rent to cash rent; modification of the variable/fixed bushel rent arrangement; a change in the size of the producer's farming operation by the addition or deletion of a farm; a change in the structure of the farming operation, including any change in the member's shares; a change in the contributions of farm inputs of capital, equipment, active personal labor, or active personal management; and a change of farming interest not previously disclosed on CCC-502 or update, including the farming interest of a spouse or minor child.

Any producers who are determined "Not Actively Engaged in Farming" will be INELIGIBLE for most USDA payments. This includes DCP, gains from marketing loans and loan deficiency payments (LDPs), CRP annual rental payments, disaster assistance or emergency payments and any payment or benefit requiring a payment limitation determination.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audio/tape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (Voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (Voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

El Departamento de Agricultura de Estados Unidos (USDA) prohíbe la discriminación en sus programas y actividades basadas en la raza, color de piel, lugar de origen, sexo, religión, edad, minusvalía, creencias políticas, orientación sexual y estado civil. (No todas las prohibiciones se aplican a todos los programas.) Las personas con minusvalías que requieran medios de comunicación alternativos (Braille, literatura en letra de mayor tamaño, cintas/audio, etc.) deben comunicarse con el programa TARGET del USDA al (202) 720-2600 (Voz o Teletexto).

Para procesar quejas sobre cualquier tipo de discriminación escriba a USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410 o llame al (202) 720-5964 (Voz o Teletexto). El USDA proporciona oportunidades y empleos con igualdad.