



October 2007

Lea County News

Lea County USDA Service Center

Lea County FSA
401 Tatum Highway
Lovington, NM 88260
505-396-5857 (phone)
505-396-5768 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/nm

Hours
Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

County Committee
W.D. McWhorter - Chair
Lee Roberson - V. Chair
John Ingle - Member
Dorothy Bess - Advisor

County Committee meets
the third Tuesday of each
month.

Staff
Terry Cater, CED
Cheri Sedgwick, PT
Casey Graham, PT



Office Closed

The Lea County FSA office will be closed the week of October 15-19 because of training. The office will re-open Monday, October 22. Consequently, the monthly county committee meeting has been moved to Tuesday, October 23. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

Disaster Assistance

Lea County farmers and ranchers can sign up for the new Livestock Compensation Program, Livestock Indemnity Program and Crop Disaster Program. Lea County producers may qualify for benefits relating to weather related disasters experienced in 2005 and 2006.

Sign up for Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) began September 10. LCP covers losses suffered due to drought or wildfire. Producers should bring their livestock numbers to the county office for 2005 and 2006, with receipts of any livestock sold specifically because of disaster. Additional receipts for feed purchased that was not a normal condition may be helpful. Computer software will calculate which year is the most beneficial. All applications are subject to spot check, and may require that current livestock numbers be counted to verify that the numbers you submit are reasonable.

LIP compensates producers for livestock death caused by a disaster event. Only those producers in Lea County who suffered losses due to fire will qualify for LIP. Losses caused by drought are not eligible. You must bring verifiable documentation of the livestock death. Third party certifications are acceptable, only if there are no other forms of evidence.

Crop Disaster Program (CDP) provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops from natural disasters if the crop was planted before Feb. 28, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 may only receive benefits in one of the three years. Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Nonin-

sured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits. Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP. CDP sign up begins October 15. **Contact the FSA county office for more details or to set up an appointment to sign up.**

Direct & Counter-cyclical Program

Final 2007 direct payments have recently been issued by the county office. Advance 2007 counter-cyclical payments will not be issued until February 2008. There is not a current sign up for a 2008 farm program, as Congress has not yet passed a new Farm Bill. Provisions of the next Farm Bill will be publicized as soon as they are known.

Cotton Program Referendum Sign-up

Cotton producers and importers who want a referendum regarding the Cotton Research and Promotion Program must come to the FSA county office to vote before **November 30, 2007**. Producers who do not want a referendum do not need to vote.

This voting period allows eligible cotton producers and importers to request a referendum of the continuation of the 1990 amendments to the Cotton Research and Promotion Act.

Eligible producers are individuals over age 18 engaged in the production of upland cotton during calendar year 2006. Eligible importers are those who imported upland cotton in excess of the value of \$2.00 per line item entry during calendar year 2006. **Note:** *Other eligibility requirements may apply and eligibility will be determined by FSA.*

Weed Control

Recent weather conditions have been ideal for weeds, some of them noxious, to proliferate on CRP and idle DCP acres. **Take steps NOW to control your weeds.** The county office will be sending maintenance default letters to those producers who do not comply with applicable program provisions.



Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is currently taking applications for CY 2008 EQIP contracts. The funding window has been accelerated for CY 2008 contracts.

EQIP is a cost-share program that helps eligible producers to implement conservation practices to improve grazing management, reduce water use and prevent erosion, just to name a few. You are strongly encouraged to have your application on file by Oct. 5. Initial contracts will be approved by the end of November.

EQIP is a cost-share program that helps eligible producers to implement conservation practices to improve grazing management, reduce water use and prevent erosion, just to name a few. If you are interested in signing up or curious about how the program could benefit you, come by the county office or call 505-396-5857 Ext. 3.

NAP on Native Grass

Producers who have NAP coverage on Native Grass for 2007 must file a notice of loss by November 1 if they have suffered a qualifying weather related loss. This includes losses due to wildfire and drought.

Dates to Remember

Oct. 15-19	County office closed due to training.
Nov. 1	Deadline to submit notice of loss for 2007 Native Grass
Nov. 12	Office Closed--Veterans Day Holiday
Nov. 20	Deadline to apply for NAP on Apples, Apricots, Cherries, Cane berries, Grapes, Nectarines, Peaches, Pears, Pistachios, Plums.
Nov. 22	Office Closed--Thanksgiving Day Holiday

Producers must suffer the first 50 percent of loss of a crop covered by NAP. Following the notice of loss deadline, Native Grass loss will be assessed county-wide. Two independent assessors, the County Extension Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service evaluate Native Grass conditions and establish the loss level for Lea County.

Deadline to take out NAP coverage for Native Grass for the 2008 year is Jan. 31, 2008.

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