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# CURRY COURIER

TELEPHONE (505) 762-4769

CURRY COUNTY FSA OFFICE  
918 PARKLAND DRIVE  
CLOVIS, NM 88101 4432

OFFICE HOURS  
MONDAY - FRIDAY  
8:00AM - 4:30PM

## USDA SERVICE CENTER FARM SERVICE AGENCY

LDP rates are figured using the posted county prices which change daily (weekly for cotton& peanuts) depending on the previous day's cash closing prices. Give us a call at **762-4769** to check on the daily rates; or, rates can be found on the Internet at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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### DISASTER PROGRAM SIGN-UP CONTINUES

The Crop Disaster Program (CDP) provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops. **CDP signup** has begun.

Losses from natural disasters may qualify for financial assistance if the crop was planted before Feb. 28, 2007, or, in the case of prevented plantings, for crops that would have been planted before Feb. 28, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose **only one year** to apply for benefits. Participants may apply for loss benefits on multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year.

Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured 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.

Ranchers and other livestock producers can also apply to receive benefits under the **Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)** and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). LCP compensates livestock producers for **feed losses** occurring between Jan.1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007, due to a natural disaster. LIP compensates livestock producers for **livestock losses** during that same time period. Curry County is an approved area for 2005 and 2006 LCP. This program is different that previous years programs. Some of the items you will need: 1) 2005 livestock head count beginning 04/01/2005; 2) 2006 livestock head count beginning 01/01/2006; 3) amount of money collected under the 2006 LAGP conducted by NMSU; 4) land leases if not already on file. All applications will be subject to spot-check. Livestock maintained in a feedlot are ineligible. Irrigated forages and wheat pasture are ineligible to claim for feed loss under program regulations. For more information on these and other programs simply contact the nearest USDA Farm Service Agency office.

**PURCHASE NAP COVERAGE** – File a **Notice of Loss** (CCC-576, Page 1) the **earlier** of: 15 calendar days after a damaging weather condition occurs, damage to the crop becomes apparent, or final harvest date. Remember to file your prevented plant within 15 days of the final plant date for the crop. If you had 2007 coverage on any crop, you should have received a continuation letter recently. You may continue current coverage by sending in the applicable fee. No signatures will have to be obtained on the application of coverage.

If you are interested in purchasing coverage for your 2008: **Alfalfa, Grass, Mixed Forage, Cucumbers, or Peppers**; you must purchase this application by **January 31**.

**NON AGRICULTURAL LAND** – Remember to report land that has been converted from cropland to non agricultural land (i.e. housing development, golf course, gravel pit).

*The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Special accommodations will be mad, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please call Rhonda Mitchell at 505-762-4769.*

## **NEW! MARKET GAIN REPORTED ON IRS 1099-G**

Historically, commodity certificate redemptions were not reported to the IRS by FSA. The difference between the loan amount and repayment amount were not classified as a market gain. *However, Beginning with the 2007 calendar year, FSA/CCC will report producer market gains associated with the repayment of a CCC loan, whether the producer repays the loan with cash or uses commodity certificates in exchange of the outstanding loan collateral.* The market gain will be reported on IRS Form 1099-G. IRS Bulletin 2007-33, Notice 2007-63, dated August 13, 2007, provides answers to frequently asked questions about the tax treatment of market gain associated with the repayment of CCC loans under the nonrecourse marketing assistance loan (MAL) program.

Please note that commodity certificate redemptions remain subject to payment limitation policies.

## **FARM RECONSTITUTIONS**

In program terminology, farms are *constituted* to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm *reconstitution* is necessary. The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by Aug. 1 for farms enrolled in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program.

**Estate Method** — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;

**Designation of Landowner Method** — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;

**DCP Cropland Method** — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;

**Default Method** — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

## **CENSUS GIVES FARMERS A VOICE IN THEIR FUTURE**

America's farmers and ranchers will soon have the opportunity to participate in shaping the future of agriculture. The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will begin distribution of the 2007 Census of Agriculture next month.

According to NASS, the Census of Agriculture provides information that is not available anywhere else – information that benefits agricultural producers and their communities in many ways. Policy-makers use Census data for decisions concerning agricultural and rural programs. Community planners use Census information to target delivery of local services. Companies rely on Census data when determining where to locate their operations. And farmers themselves look at Census data when deciding to make changes in their production strategies.

Conducted every five years by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Census is a complete count of the nation's farms and ranches and the people who operate them. The Census looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures and other topics. It provides the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every county in the nation.

NASS will mail out Census forms on December 28, 2007 to collect data for the 2007 calendar year. Completed forms are due by **February 4, 2008**. Producers can return their forms by mail or, for the first time, they have the convenient option of filling out the Census online via a secure web site at <http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/>.

## **OFFICE CLOSINGS**

The county office will be closed: November 22, in observance of Thanksgiving – December 25, in observance of Christmas – and January 1, in observance of New Year. Have a safe and healthy Holiday Season!

CURRY COUNTY FSA  
918 PARKLAND DR  
CLOVIS, NM 88101 4432  
TELEPHONE (505) 762-4769, EXT. 2  
FACSIMILE (505) 763-0034  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PRSR STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
ALBUQ NM  
PERMIT NO. 470

FARM PROGRAM STAFF

*Rbonda Mitchell, CED*  
*Anita Helmer, PT*  
*Kelly Lunsford, PT*  
*Jimmy Ware, PT*

COUNTY COMMITTEE

*Lon Sultemeier, COC Member*  
*Vivian Jimenez, Advisor*  
*J L Wall, COC Chairman*  
*Storm Gerbart, COC Vice-Chairman*  
*County Committee Regular Meeting Scheduled*  
*Monthly on Third Tuesday beginning 9:30 a.m.*

FARM LOAN STAFF

*Bob Ledingham, FLM*  
*LeAnn Gibbs, FLO*  
*Kim Dewbre, PT*

**COMMITTEE ELECTIONS**

Ballots for this year's county committee election were mailed to eligible voters on November 2, 2007. Voters located in LAA 1 (Clovis and surrounding area) must complete their ballots and return them to the County Office by the close of business on **December 4, 2007**. If mailing ballots, they must be postmarked by midnight **December 3**. If you think you should have received a ballot and did not, please contact the County Office Staff.

The candidate in this year's election is: J L Wall. J L is currently serving the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of his 1<sup>st</sup> term.

**Voter Requirements** Persons meeting requirements in **1 or 2, plus 3**, below, is eligible to vote:

**1.** Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as either of the following:

an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper, *or*  
a partner in a general partnership or member of a joint venture that has an interest in a farm as an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper; *or*

**2.** Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm; *and*

**3.** Eligible to participate in any FSA program that is provided by law, regardless of the status of funding.

**Discrimination Prohibited** No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

**UNAUTHORIZED DISPOSITION OF LOANED GRAIN**

If loan grain has been disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization from the county office staff, it is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties for unauthorized dispositions are severe and a producers name will be placed on a loan violation list for a two-year period. Always call the office before any grain under loan is fed or sold.

**REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS**

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.