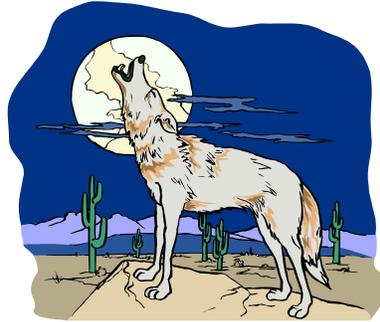


THE HIDALGO COUNTY HOWLER



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
HIDALGO COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY
405 DUNCAN HIGHWAY
LORDSBURG, NM 88045
November 2007

Tricia Elbrock, Chairman
Robert Brunson, Vice-Chairman
Jay Peterson, Member
Sylvia C. Dominguez, COC Advisor
Next COC Meeting: November 29, 2007

Arlen L. Hall, CED
Betty Rendon, PT

Office Hours: Monday – Friday
8:00 am-4:30 pm

Telephone: 505-542-3241 ext. 2
FAX: 505-542-3295

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DISASTER SIGNUP

The Crop Disaster Program (CDP) provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops. **CDP signup** for quantity loss began **October 15, 2007**.

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. For more information on these and other programs simply contact the nearest USDA Farm Service Agency office.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Ballots for this year's county committee election were mailed to eligible voters on November 2, 2007. ***Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on December 4, 2007. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight December 3rd.***

The candidates in this year's election are:

Jay Peterson is nominated in LAA 2 Hidalgo County, to serve as a committee member. Mr. Peterson ranches in the Animas area and has produced livestock for market for many years.

Mr. Peterson is currently an active member of the Hidalgo County FSA Committee serving this last year as regular member.

Eligible voters in a local administrative area LAA #2 (Animas/Lordsburg Area) who have not received a ballot should contact the FSA county office staff.

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.

CHANGING BANKS

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. This innovation has cut down on the number of missing and late payments and reduced the time required to move funds. It has been calculated that having a problem with a payment is 20 times greater with checks than with Direct Deposit. Another benefit is that Direct Deposit to your account can be made within 48 hours.

To keep the system running smoothly, it's important to keep the county office up-to-date on changes you might make in your financial institutions.

If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure uninterrupted service.

SELLING LAND

If you're planning to sell farmland, there may be some program consequences of which you should be aware. For example, if you're planning to sell land that's enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, the buyer must agree to continue the enrollment. If the buyer doesn't want to continue the CRP contract, you might have to refund all of the payments you've received to date.

Reviewing program implications with your local Farm Service Agency staff before completing a sale of farmland is always a prudent precaution.

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.

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.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PRSRT STD
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OFFICE CLOSURE

The Farm Service Agency will be closed on November 12 for Veterans Day and November 22-23rd for Thanksgiving.