



## CAPITAL FARM NEWS NOVEMBER 2007

OFFICE STAFF	SANTA FE COUNTY FSA	COUNTY COMMITTEE
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**\*COUNTY COMMITTEE USUALLY MEETS 2<sup>ND</sup> THURS EACH MONTH, 10 AM\*  
HOWEVER, DUE ELECTION REQUIREMENTS, COC MUST MEET DEC 6<sup>TH</sup>, 07 (10 AM)**

### OPEN INVITATION – ALL PRODUCERS WELCOME

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**\*\*Once again – Where possible, PLEASE call ahead to make appointment prior to coming into town to be sure County Office is available and prepared to assist you. PLEASE leave brief message when calling, that we may have opportunity to return your call to assist you. \*\*Also – please note all County Offices will be closed Thursday, Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> for Thanksgiving & Dec 25<sup>th</sup> for Christmas Holidays. \*\***

***A very happy Thanksgiving holiday to each and all!***

## URGENT! SIGN-UP FOR DISASTER PROGRAMS LIVESTOCK & CROPS

May 25, '07 President Bush signed into law the "U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans Care, Katrina Recovery, & Iraq Accountability Appropriation Act, 2007". Act provides aprox \$3billion in Disaster Aid for America's farmers & ranchers. Aid may cover crop losses, livestock/feed losses, emergency conservation practices & dairy losses. More info can be obtained online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> – click on "Disaster Assistance". USDA is offering to eligible counties the Crop Disaster Program, Livestock Compensation Program, Livestock Indemnity Program, Dairy Disaster Assistance Program, Emergency Conservation Program, and Emergency Forestry Conservation Program. Producers may only receive benefits for one year.

## CROP DISASTER PROGRAM – SIGNUP BEGAN OCTOBER 15TH – DON'T DELAY!

Crop Disaster Program (CDP) provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity & quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops. Losses from natural disasters may qualify for financial assistance if crop was planted before Feb 28, '07, or in 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. May apply for loss benefits on multiple crops as long as losses occurred in same disaster year. Payments issued for CDP are limited to \$80,000 per "person" & not to exceed 95% "Cap", 95% of what the value of the crop would have been in the absence of the losses, as estimated by the Secretary of Ag.

Sign-up for QUANTITY losses began Oct 15<sup>th</sup>, there is no sign-up end-date/deadline posted as yet, however sign-up end dates could be posted at any time, thus don't wait – APPLY NOW! County producers are eligible to apply for Crop Disaster Assistance on crop losses between January 1, 2005 through February 28, 2007 if producers farm experienced a crop loss of 35% or greater AND producer had crop insurance or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). Again, producers may only receive benefits for one year on each crop type – producers may be eligible for payment on multiple crops.

Producers should be aware of whether they participated in NAP or Federal Crop Insurance, however producers may certainly inquire to Cnty Office with questions regarding their operation's eligibility. Again, only producers who obtained Crop Insurance coverage or NAP for year of the loss will be eligible for CDP

Producers may also qualify for crop "Quality losses" at the lesser of the actual production of the crop affected by quality loss or quantity of expected production of the crop affected by a quality loss. Sign-up has not yet officially begun for quality losses as all the Federal Regulations have not yet been published.

## **2005-2007 LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION PROGRAM (LCP)**

### **SIGNUP BEGAN SEPTEMBER 10TH – DON'T DELAY!**

**\*When applying, producers will need to know their Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006 inventory\* (Adult cattle, cattle over 500 #)**

**Also be prepared to provide \$ amount of additional/above normal feed costs for '06 due drought**

LCP provides payment for feed losses due natural disaster. LCP provides benefit to producers who suffered feed losses and/or incurred additional feed costs directly resulting from disaster inc, but not limited to, drought, between Jan 1 '05 ~ Feb 28 '07. (Affected producers may elect to receive compensation for loss incurred during '07 grazing season wildfires.) To be eligible, livestock must have been located in a primary/contiguous "disaster" county as declared by Secretary of Ag or the President or in primary/contiguous county that received "Administrators Physical Loss Notice".

Eligible livestock inc Beef or Dairy cattle, Buffalo, Beefalo, Equine, Poultry, Elk, Reindeer\*, Sheep, Goats, Swine\*, or Deer\* physically located in eligible disaster county on beginning date of disaster period & have been maintained for commercial use as part of farm operation since beginning date of disaster period; & have not been produced/maintained for reasons other than commercial use (such excluded uses inc, not limited to, wild free roaming animals or animals used for recreational purposes).

Eligible producers must have either owned or cash-leased eligible livestock on beginning date of applicable disaster periods; suffered eligible feed losses from produced or purchased forage/feedstuffs or incurred additional feed costs as result of eligible disaster event during applicable disaster period & feed lost or additional incurred feed costs must have been intended for use with eligible livestock.

FSA will calculate payment by multiplying national payment rate for each livestock category by # of eligible livestock claimed. National rate represents 61% of cost for corn needed to maintain specific livestock or 30 days. Producers may not receive duplicate benefits under LCP for same loss or any similar loss if they previously received payment under '05 Feed Indemnity Program, '05 Hurricanes LCP, or 2006 Livestock Assistance Grant Program (LAGP) administered through NMSU in Las Cruces. Producer who applies for benefits under LCP for 2006 will have LCP payment reduced by amount of payment received under 2006 LAGP. An \$80,000 payment limitation applies each "person" for benefit under '05-'07 LIP.

**Producers in Santa Fe County** are eligible only for feed losses suffered due drought & high winds from Jan 1 '06 thru Dec 31 '06, or due severe storms & excessive moisture from July 26 '06 thru Sept 18 '06. Producers with livestock in other counties may be eligible for different disaster events and disaster periods. A list of all counties eligible for LCP may be found at <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

***Livestock producers must submit a complete application package including all supporting documents in their administrative FSA County Office before sign-up deadline. If you have not been participating in recent years, we will also need copies of your Forest Service, BLM, State, or private leases as well as proof of ownership in any deeded land.***

## **LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM (LIP)    SIGNUP BEGAN SEPTEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>**

LIP provides benefit to eligible producers for livestock deaths caused by natural disasters occurring between Jan 1 '05 ~ Feb 28 '07, inc losses due blizzards started in Dec '06 & continued into Jan '07.

**Santa Fe County** was not approved for losses occurring in late 2006 thru early 2007 due insufficient numbers of reported losses. Santa Fe producers would only be eligible for livestock deaths directly related to severe storms/excessive moisture during disaster period July '06 thru Sept '06 or directly due drought/high winds from Jan 1<sup>st</sup> '06 thru Dec 31 '06. Counties instructed to publicize all programs in event producers have interests in other counties, other states.

FSA will use data furnished by applicants to determine eligibility for benefits. Furnishing data is voluntary; however, w/out all required data benefits may not be provided. Producers with livestock in other counties may be eligible for different disaster events & disaster periods. A list of all counties eligible for LIP may be found at <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov> or feel free to contact County Office. Eligible livestock should be same as for LCP, above. An \$80,000 payment limitation applies each "person" for benefit under '05-'07 LIP.

**ALSO URGENT -- NAP PRODUCERS – TAKE NOTE NOW! Don't miss out ever again!**

<b>Nov 20 2007 deadline</b>	<b>'08 Apples, Apricots, Cherries, Grapes, Nectarines/Peaches, Pears, Plums</b>
<b>Dec 1, 2007 deadline</b>	<b>'08 Honey, Lettuce crops</b>
<b>Jan 31, 2008 deadline</b>	<b>Alfalfa, Cucumbers, Grass, Native Grass, Mixed Forage, Pecans, Peppers</b>

NonInsured Assistance Program. As seen by regulations for current CDP program, it literally “pays” to participate in NAP. Producers not participating in NAP are not eligible for current Crop Disaster Program for '05-'07 crop losses. NAP is here to stay – protect your crops now before losses occur! Upcoming coverage deadlines above. Producers must supply check/money order (no cash!), \$100 per crop, maximum fees \$300 per county or \$900 for multi-county producers. Producers may qualify as “Limited Resource” producers & have administrative fees waived, thus don't assume that you cannot afford coverage. In Santa Fe County, if in each of last 2 years, Gross Farm Sales (defined as gross income on IRS 1040, Schedule F, in Farm Income Section) is less than/equal to \$116k/year & your Adjusted Gross Income is less than \$24,878, you are eligible to qualify as a limited resource producer. If spot checked, may be required to provide sufficient documentation to support Limited Resource status.

Signature authority must be on file BEFORE Office may accept application for any FSA program. Applies to all Partnerships, Corporations, LLC's, Trusts, etc. All NAP producers must supply documentation on control of land. If land is leased, copies of lease agreements must be provided, inc certification by producer on informal verbal lease agreements. All producer eligibility forms must be on file.

NAP producers must timely and accurately certify crop acreages on automated FSA-578 by the following deadlines:

<b>February 1<sup>st</sup> each year</b>	<b>All Grazing lands including private/deeded, Forest Service, BLM Permits, State Leases, etc</b>
<b>May 15<sup>th</sup> each year</b>	<b>Small grains inc, not limited to Wheat, Barley, Oats etc</b>
<b>July 15<sup>th</sup> each year</b>	<b>All other crops like Alfalfa, Mixed Hay, Fruits/Vegetables</b>

**NAP HAY/FORAGE PRODUCERS – TAKE NOTE NOW!**

Loss claims on form CCC-576 due natural disaster must be filed w/in 15 days of disaster occurrence, or 15 days after damage to crop becomes apparent. Failure to timely report will result in loss of benefit – there are no late-file provisions for Notice of Loss claims. Crops must also have been certified 15 days prior to any harvest or grazing!

Nov 1<sup>st</sup> is statewide deadline to submit Notices of Loss on native grass/grazing. Formal appraisals by certified Loss Adjuster must be conducted prior to acres being put to another use. Grazing on acres certified for forage shall not be permitted until acres are released; producers are forewarned that representative samples will be required. To retain eligibility for loss benefits on forage/hay, & will not mechanically harvest, before you graze livestock on any covered fields you must request from FSA “permission”, to graze. "Nongrazing" period is April 1<sup>st</sup> thru Nov 14<sup>th</sup> for croplands enrolled in NAP. Requests must state you are aware you must leave 8' x 8' representative samples PER field. Total samples needed depends on number of acres on each field:

<u>ACRES IN FIELD OR SUBFIELD</u>	<u>MINIMUM # OF SAMPLES (8'X8') NEEDED</u>
0.1 ACRES TO 10.0 ACRES	3 (THREE) 8' X 8' SAMPLES
10.1 ACRES TO 40.0 ACRES	4 (FOUR) 8' X 8' SAMPLES

Add 1 additional sample for each 40 acres (or fraction thereof) in field/subfield. If you do harvest your hay, you must certify to County your production for all hay crops covered by NAP on CCC-452 “NAP ACTUAL PRODUCTION HISTORY & APPROVED YIELD RECORD”. Is in your best interest to certify production after each cutting to maintain verifiable, reliable production records. You may request paid-for site-visit measurement from FSA to substantiate production after each cutting if you prefer. Certify all production no later than subsequent crop year reporting deadline for said crop, i.e. July 14<sup>th</sup> following year.

**All deadlines and eligibility requirements are the producer's responsibility!**

**Production Records** Must be filed with County Office to establish approved yield. **If you fail to submit production, it reduces your approved yield thus affecting amount of payment if disaster occurs!** First year to participate in NAP you can provide prior year's production & acreage to establish yield. If you participated previous years, you must report your production on yearly basis to keep yields active.



**ONE MORE DEADLINE! COC ELECTION! BALLOTS DUE DEC 3<sup>RD</sup>!**  
**December 3rd, 2007 --- Final date return ballots to County Office for Dec 6<sup>th</sup> Election**  
**Ballots for this year's County Committee election were mailed to eligible voters Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>.**  
**Ballots must be returned or post-marked December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2007.**

Current COC President Alfredo Roybal, of Rancho Las Lagunas, Nambe, is nominated for LAA2, Santa Fe County, to serve on Committee for another 3 year term. Please show your support & appreciation for his willingness to serve his community by returning your ballot! LAA2 Boundaries run aprox "North of Santa Fe" - T17-19North; R7E-11E. Generally includes North of County Office, Tesuque, Pojoaque, Nambe, San Ildefonso, etc, to Cundiyo. Still cleaning up databases, please contact us if you believe you should receive election ballot & you don't, or you're receiving mailings & prefer not to. Eligible voters in LAA2 who've not received a ballot should contact County Staff asap.

It's crucial every eligible producer take part in Election because County Committees are a direct link between the farm community & USDA. Committee members are a critical to the day-to-day operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at local level. Farmers who serve on committees help decide the kind of programs counties will offer. Forms & fact sheets about the election are available @ [www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections).

**Voter Requirements** – Persons meeting requirements n 1 or 2, plus 3, below, are eligible to vote:

- 1) Be of legal voting age and have interest in farm or ranch as either 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 & conducts farming operations on an entire farm
- 3) AND 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.

**FOR YOUR REFERENCE: USDA FARM SERVICE AGENCY WEBSITE! <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>**  
**"E-FORMS" AVAILABLE – INTERNET ACCESS MEANS MANY FORMS CAN BE COMPLETED AT HOME**  
**USDA FSA "HAY WEBSITE", USDA "HAY NET" [www.fsa.usda.gov/nm](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/nm) Click "Hot Links"**

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