

Taos County FSA Newsletter



November 2007



County Committee Elections

Election ballots will be mailed out in mid November by the contractor; they must be returned to the FSA office by December 1, 2007. Reminder, vote for only one person and sign the outside label, with your address printed on the envelope. If you do not receive a ballot and your farm or ranch is in LAA 2B the Taos area or surrounding communities, you can pick up a ballot at the office or call within reasonable time so I can mail your election ballot.

Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP)

Deadlines to purchase insurance for the following crops are as follows:

- Apples, Apricots, Cherries, Cane berries, Grapes, Nectarines, Peaches, pears, Pistachios, & Plums November 20, 2007.
- Honey, Lettuce December 1, 2007
- Alfalfa, Cucumbers, Grass, Mixed Forage, Pecans, Peppers January 31, 2008

Contemporaneous records, diaries or calendars of daily farm activities **must be provided** regardless of a claim being filed. The deadline to submit is **July 15, 2008** for hay crops. This will help bring up your yield that has dropped because of past years ongoing drought. **If no contemporaneous records are submitted to the office you will be assigned a zero yield for 2007 crop year, because this is your responsibility** to turn in records annually.

Producers must submit their records to keep the Actual Production History (APH) that is the base of calculating program payments. It is very important that production records/contemporaneous diaries are turned in timely to help you get benefits when disaster affects your crops. Payments for 2006 crop year are still being processed, checklist completed, and funds received at the county office. If you are not sure on the status of your application, please call the office.

Disaster Programs

Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) helps producers in declared disaster areas during January 1, 2005 through February 28, 2007, by the Secretary of Agriculture or President of the United States. The Presidential Declaration, in Taos County is for drought, during the crop year 2006. Start date of January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006. Producers, who suffered feed losses on dry land pastures owned or leased, because of drought and use their livestock for commercial (sell as food or fiber) use, are eligible to apply for this program. Crop insurance did **not** have to be purchased and will **NOT REQUIRE** the producer to purchase insurance for the next two crop years, as a requirement for this program. If land was grazed during the crop year 2006 a copy of your grazing permit for that crop year will need to be submitted to the office during the time of your appointment. Livestock inventory, receipts for seed or feed purchased during crop year 2006, must also be presented for your application to be processed at the time of your appointment. Eligible Livestock is adult beef cattle (cows, bulls) with a weight of 500 pounds or more, non-beef cattle, buffalo or beefalo, dairy cattle, goats, sheep, swine (sow or boar), equine, reindeer, deer, or elk used as a cattle operation, and poultry.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides benefits to livestock producers, on livestock deaths caused by a natural disaster occurring between January 1, 2005, and February 28, 2007.



Taos County FSA Newsletter

Disaster Programs Continued

The LIP Presidential Designation for Taos County, during crop year 2006 is as follows:

Disaster Event	Start	End
Severe Storms, Excess Moisture	7/26/2006	9/18/2006
High Winds	1/1/2006	12/31/2006
Wildfires, High Winds, Excess Moisture	1/1/2006	12/31/2006

Drought is not an eligible cause of loss for this program. Livestock must have been physically located in the Taos County during the time of the Presidential Designation start and end date period. **Livestock death must be verified** by rendering truck receipts or certificates, National Guard or other agency for removal of carcass, veterinary records, IRS records, private insurance documents, or third party certification. A third party certification must state all the following:

- ❖ specific details on the death of the livestock.
- ❖ how the third party has knowledge of the livestock death.
- ❖ how the third party is associated to producer who lost the livestock.
- ❖ telephone number and address of third party.
- ❖ number and type of livestock that died.

Eligible Livestock is adult beef cattle (cows, bulls) with a weight of 500 pounds or more, non-beef cattle, buffalo or beefalo, dairy cattle, goats, sheep, swine (sow or boar), equine used for cattle operation, reindeer, deer, or elk used as a cattle operation, and poultry.

Applications will be taken by **appointment only**, please call the office to schedule an appointment.

Crop Disaster Program (CDP)

Sign up started on October 15, 2007. Assistance for this program covers losses insured under the Non insured Assistance Program (NAP) during the crop year which **insurance was purchased**. This authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to provide assistance to producers who suffered crop losses because of adverse weather conditions in 2005, 2006, and 2007. Applicants must select **ONLY** one year when applying for this program. Maximum loss levels will be applied to applications, based on years of determined documentation on file for the applicable years. **Contemporaneous records, diaries or calendars of daily farm activities must be provided for the year application is made.** The reason being, no verifiable/reliable records are on file for the years 2005, 2006, and 2007. To be eligible irrigated crop land insured by a private insurance or the NAP on planted or prevented planted acres before February 28, 2007. Drought is an eligible cause of loss for this program. Crops must have been timely certified for year crop insurance was purchased; late filled acreage reports will not be used to meet history requirements because existence of the crops cannot be verified. Payments will be issued when required documents are submitted to the office. Application has been presented to the County Committee for approval/disapproval. Two party checklists have been completed. Funds received at the county office. Keep in mind we are very short staffed and are still processing payments for 2006 NAP so it will be some time before payments are issued for these disaster programs. No Deadline date has been announced for either of the three disaster programs; this information will be forthcoming.



Taos County FSA Newsletter

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.

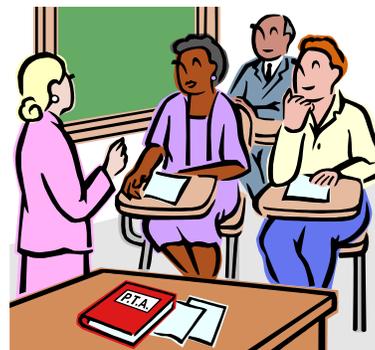
According to NASS, the Census of Agriculture provides information that is not available anywhere else – information that benefits agricultural producers and their communities in many ways. Policy-makers use Census data for decisions concerning agricultural and rural programs. Community planners use Census 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/>.

Public Information/Outreach Meeting Producers in Rio Arriba, Santa Fe, and Taos Counties

We would like to invite all Agricultural Producers and any affiliates for Pojoaque and the other Eight Northern Pueblos to a Public Informational Meeting ***hosted most generously by the Pueblo of Pojoaque***. Meeting topics will include not only current disaster aid, but also ongoing assistance the Agencies have to offer, including but not limited to Farm Loans, and Natural Resource and Soil Conservation Programs. Meeting will be on November 8, 2007, from 1:00 to 5:00 PM. at the Pojoaque Pueblo at the Pueblo of Pojoaque Tribal Council Chambers. In Pojoaque, Exit 502, go East towards Cities of Gold Casino, take frontage road straight up the hill North of the Casino less than ½ mile.



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.

Taos County FSA Office
224 C Cruz Alta Road **Taos, NM 87571**
Phone: (505) 758 – 3863 Ext 2 **FAX: (505) 758 - 7650**

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
ALBUQ NM
PERMIT NO. 470

Taos County Farm Service Agency will be closed November 12, 2007 in observance of Veterans Day.



We will also be closed on November 22, 2007 in observance of Thanksgiving Day.



Office Staff

Anna Martinez, Acting CED
Susanah Griego, Program Technician
Oliver Jenkins, Farm Loan Officer

County Committee

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

Office Hours 8:00 – 4:30 Monday through Friday

Monthly Meeting is the second Tuesday of the month at 9:30 am

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program and activities on the bases 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 become 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, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is 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, minusvala, creencias políticas, orientación sexual y estado civil. (No todas las prohibiciones se aplican a todos los programas.) Las personas con minusvalas que require medios de comunicacion alternativas (Braille, literature en letra de mayor tamaño, cintas/audio, etc.) deben comunicarse con el programs TARGET del USDA al (202) 720-2600 (Voz o Teletexto). Para procesar quejas sobre cualquier tipo de dicriminacion 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.