



December 2012

New Mexico FSA Office

6200 Jefferson St.
Suite 211
Albuquerque, NM

Ph: 505-761-4900
Fax: 505-761-4934
www.fsa.usda.gov/nm

Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 am - 4:30 pm

NM FSA State Office Staff:

Lawrence Rael
State Executive Director

Brenda Archuleta
Executive Officer

Mary Ann Romero
Farm Loan Chief

State FSA Committee

James Bostwick
Chairperson

Larry Burnett
Member

Eddie Diaz
Member

Molly Manzanares
Member

Jeff Sisneros
Member

In the past six months since becoming the FSA State Executive Director, I have had the pleasure of traveling around the state and visiting each of the 24-field offices and meeting with the dedicated employees who staff them. What strikes me as I visit each of these offices is how hardworking and committed these employees are in their efforts to serve the agriculture community across our great state. With dwindling resources the FSA employees continue to go above and beyond to deliver the best to those they serve. From my perspective, the future of New Mexico farmers and ranchers continues to look bright - even facing the fact that we continue to wait for a new Farm Bill.



Take for example, Harding County ranchers Rebecca and Brandon Smith, who secured much needed Farm Ownership funds to improve the profitability and delivery services of their ranch (page 3), or the Colwell brothers from Eddy County who pursued a FSA Youth Loan to raise more farm animals and bring them to auction (page 3). I am proud to say that these are some of the many success stories I have witnessed around our state, and there are more scenarios like these taking place all the time.

As you know, NM FSA's primary mission is to help New Mexico's farmers and ranchers secure the best possible financial assistance from USDA programs, as well as play a vital role in the economic survival of our state's rural communities. New Mexico FSA is proud to continue its strong tradition of providing customer-based service to NM producers. As the State Executive Director of FSA, I am committed to ensuring that agriculture across New Mexico continues to flourish throughout our rural communities.



NM COUNTIES ELIGIBLE FOR FSA EMERGENCY LOANS

As of July 12, 2012, New Mexico was declared a disaster for drought only using the new, streamlined Secretarial Disaster Designation process.

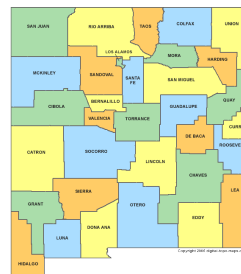
The disaster designation was a direct result of several program improvements announced by Secretary Vilsack on July 11, 2012. The program improvements include a streamlined Secretarial Disaster Designation process that automatically qualifies a disaster county once it is categorized as a severe drought for eight weeks according to the U.S Drought Monitor. Other improvements include a reduced interest rate for emergency loans.

New Mexico counties are eligible to apply for low-interest emergency (EM) loans. Emergency loans help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding and other natural disasters or quarantine. The current emer-

gency loan interest rate is 2.125 percent.

Producers have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for emergency loan assistance. Emergency loan applications will be accepted through March 12, 2013, for production and physical losses.

On August 22, 2012, Secretary Vilsack announced another modification to the emergency loan program allowing them to be made earlier in the season.



Get Involved with the 2013 Census of Agriculture!

The Census of Agriculture is a complete count of America's farms and ranches and the people who operate them. The Census provides valuable information used at the local, state, and national level to plan for the future.

For more information about the Census of Agriculture please call 888-424-7828 or visit www.agcensus.usda.gov

DISASTER ASSISTANCE SIGN-UP FOR 2011 LOSSES

Producers can enroll in the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program for 2011 crop year losses beginning October 22, 2012. Under the 2008 Farm Bill, SURE authorizes assistance to farmers and ranchers who suffered crop losses caused by natural disasters occurring through September 30, 2011.

All eligible farmers and ranchers must sign up for 2011 SURE benefits before the June 7, 2013 deadline.

During 2011, 32 New Mexico counties received a Secretarial Disaster Designation, whether primary or contiguous, and producers are eligible to apply for SURE benefits if they experienced at least a 10 percent production loss that affects one crop of economic significance.

Non-Insurable Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

NAP is designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disaster cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to Catastrophic Risk Protection (CAT) insurance. A nonrefundable service fee in the amount of \$250 per crop, \$750 maximum per county not to exceed \$1,865 per producer for all counties is due at the time the applications is submitted. The service fee may be waived for limited resource producers.

Reporting Crop Losses to FSA

Producers must report crop losses resulting from a weather-related disaster event within 15 days of the disaster or when the loss first becomes apparent, this includes crops covered by crop insurance, the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crops without insurance coverage. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Crop losses are acres that were timely planted with the intent to harvest, but the crop failed because of a natural disaster. It is important that producers file accurate and timely loss reports to prevent the potential loss of FSA program benefits.

Producers who have NAP coverage will be required to report crop losses on an FSA form CCC-576 - "Notice of Loss and Application for Payment NAP."

FSA MOVING TO ELECTRONIC INFORMATION:

The USDA Farm Service Agency offices are moving toward a paperless operation. Producers are asked to enroll in the new GovDelivery system which will provide notices, newsletters and electronic reminders instead of a hard copy through the mail. Subscribe at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe>.

FSA Loan Programs**FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOAN**

PROGRAM: The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) Program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.



MARKETING ASSISTANCE LOANS: Marketing Assistance Loans, also referred to as Commodity Loans, are available to producers who share in the risk of producing the crop.

DIRECT AND GUARANTEED LOANS: The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having difficulty obtaining the financing you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

RURAL YOUTH LOANS: FSA makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups.

BEGINNING FARMER LOANS: FSA has a program to assist beginning farmers and/or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises.

LOANS FOR SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED: FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production.

INCREASED GUARANTEED LOAN LIMIT: The Farm Service Agency has announced that the loan limit for the Guaranteed Loan Program will increase to \$1,302,000 on October 1, 2012. The limit is adjusted annually based on data compiled by the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

USDA CHANGES HELP FARMERS AND RANCHERS

Secretary Tom Vilsack announced another helpful change in August,



this one made by the Risk Management Agency (RMA), that livestock producers especially should appreciate. For the 2012 crop year, RMA intends to allow haying and grazing of cover crops without affecting the insurability of planted 2013 spring crops. This means farmers and ranchers can plant a cover crop without foregoing crop insurance coverage in 2013, thus giving producers another opportunity to grow needed forage and feed for this fall and winter. However, before making any plans to plant crop cover, producers should consult with their insurance agent, according to RMA.

For a review of the entire news release, go to <http://www.usda.gov>, click on Newsroom and look for **Agriculture Secretary Vilsack Announces New Help for Livestock Producers with Changes to Emergency Loans, Crop Insurance.**



Smith Family: Brandon, Rebecca, Rhett, Ike, Natalie

Smith Ranch Expands!

Ranchers Brandon and Rebecca Smith met at college, where they were both Ag majors. They have been managing the family ranch and trying to get an opportunity to acquire an ownership interest in the rangeland raised beef cattle business. They build fences, doctor and brand cattle, check

windmills and check on the markets on their email throughout the day. All with the easy and confident manner of old time traditional ranchers, maintaining the necessary practices of successful ranch management and cattle handling techniques while also incorporating contemporary practices. Rebecca and Brandon are an organized team and run their operation in a very businesslike manner. They make the time to keep up to date with industry trends, and new ideas, especially in the essential areas of marketing and drought mitigation tools.

In the spring of 2012, an adjoining piece of land had come up for sale. This pasture had been leased by the Smith's for several years, and offered the opportunity for Brandon and Rebecca to acquire some land of their own. The Smith's contacted their local FSA Farm Loan office, and began the process of applying for a Farm Ownership Loan. Their financing plan was developed for both short and long term cash flow projections to purchase the land and also included a term Operating Loan to purchase a small herd of cows. The budgeting plans were positive, even though the area is experiencing widespread drought. The loans were approved, funded and closed, and the land purchase was completed. "FSA's Farm Loan Program gave us the opportunity to expand our cattle operation by procuring land on terms that won't put a financial strangle hold on our family", said Rebecca and Brandon Smith. "The program is just the boost we needed to get us going in the right direction".

The Smith's have developed flexibility and readiness to allow them to respond timely to unforeseen changes. They are not reinventing the wheel, their operation maintains the ranch practice standards necessary for a strong, healthy southwest range beef cattle operation. They adhere to herd health protocols and have incorporated new ideas such as innovative marketing strategies. The Smiths are working together to take care of the land and animals, carrying on their family ranching lifestyle with a progressive attitude and lots of hard work. They will be here for the long haul, and FSA will be working with them as well.

Direct Farm Ownership Loans

Maximum Loan Amt. \$300,000
Purchase or enlarge a farm/ranch
Construct essential farm buildings/Improvements
Interest Rate as of November 1, 2012: 3.125%
Terms: Up to 40 years

Joint Financing Loans

Maximum 50% FSA not to exceed \$300,000
Interest Rate on FSA's Loan – 5%
50% commercial lender
Interest rate negotiated w/lender

Down Payment Loans

5% from Applicant;
45% FSA Down Payment Loan (maximum \$225,000)
Interest Rate on FSA's loan – 1.50%
50% commercial lender or private party
Interest Rate negotiated with lender or private party

High Marks for Colwell Brothers

Tylar and Jacob Colwell of Eddy County raise pigs, chickens, rabbits, lambs, and steers for their county fair each year as well as sell these animals to other 4-H and FFA participants. The Colwell's mother Donna, is persistent about teaching her boys responsibility - not only in the care of their animals, but also financially. Therefore they pursued a FSA Youth Loan funds as additional assistance for the expenses to raise their animals, and their hard work and dedication paid off in the Junior Livestock Auction-Eddy County Fair.



Jacob Colwell



Tylar Colwell

"This was a tremendous experience for Tylar and Jacob", said Donna Colwell. "The additional FSA Youth Loan funds gave them an opportunity to take their livestock skills to the next level, and it worked!"

Class 1, 4th Place Market Lamb
Class 8, 4th place Market Lamb
Class 1, 6th Place Market Steer
Class 1, 7th Place Market Steer

The Colwell boys are our future farmers and ranchers!

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements

- * Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- * Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- * Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- * Reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people
- * Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- * Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- * Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

USDA Pumpkin Gleaning

The USDA, NM FSA participated in a collaborative effort with the Forest Service to pick and deliver more than 5,000 pumpkins to New Mexico schools, hospitals and organizations. "The purpose of the USDA Pumpkin Gleaning is to benefit children that may not have received a pumpkin from any other source this year" said Lawrence Rael.



USDA FSA Employees at 2012 Pumpkin Gleaning

Special Thanks to Pumpkin Farmers John and Dianne Aday for donating the pumpkins.

2012 The President's Call to Service Award

The President's Call to Service Award was presented to John Sakasitz, McKinley County Executive Director. This award was presented to employees who served 4,000 hours or more of service with a qualifying organization over the employee's lifetime.

The USDA 64th Annual Honor Awards Ceremony took place in Washington, D.C. on September 12, 2012. John Sakasitz was able to attend the ceremony to receive his award.



John Sakasitz helped to establish the McKinley County Regional Food Bank in 1997 with a small hand full of volunteers. "So I am considered to be one of the Founding Fathers" said Sakasitz. Within that time period Sakasitz served on the Board of Directors as the President for eight years. The Food Bank has grown from a small building to now a multi-million dollar facility that serves three counties of

McKinley, Cibola, and Catron. There is a branch Food Bank in Grants. The program has just dedicated a new Organic Garden with six greenhouses, raised beds, and orchard. Sakasitz also volunteers with the Gallup Lions Club, Red Rock Hot Air Balloon Rally, 100th Gallup Catholic Cathedral Bazaar, McKinley County Search and Rescue. "I calculated for the past twenty-five years and I have over 17,000 hours of volunteering. I just love to give back to my community of Gallup, New Mexico. I am not finished yet" said Sakasitz.

2012 Bronze Presidential Volunteer Service Award

Oscar Rivera, District Director received the President's Bronze Volunteer Service Award. This award was presented to employees who served 249 hours of service with a qualifying organization over a 12 month period.

Oscar Rivera has volunteered with the following organizations: St. Jude Thaddeus Church in Albuquerque, Knights of Columbus council, and the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta. Rivera assisted and participated at many events such as social gatherings sponsored by the Church and the Knights of Columbus, fundraisers, and blood drives which he assists with every six months. His service also includes many duties such as assisting with activity set up, cleaning, washing dishes, ushering, cashier, and parking guard.



Oscar Rivera and Lawrence Rael

"As a Knight of Columbus, I strive to do by word and deed by volunteering" said Rivera.

Salomon E. Ramirez "Employee of the Year" Award



In memory and honor of Salomon E. Ramirez, former New Mexico FSA State Executive Director, NM FSA has established the annual "Salomon E. Ramirez, Employee of the Year Award" to recognize employees that portray the same service to Farm Service Agency and to the producers of New Mexico. Mr. Ramirez' dedication and commitment to public service was exemplary.

Salomon E. Ramirez - Ramirez before being appointed as the NM State Executive Director served as the Assistant Deputy of Farm Programs, and then became the Director of the Production, Emergencies, and Compliance Division at the National Office of the Farm Service Agency. He served in various roles with the Farm Service Agency from 1978 to 2011. Ramirez had 36 years of service with USDA, and was a recipient of two Administrator Awards from the Farm Service Agency. He received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture from New Mexico State University. In 2009 Ramirez was appointed as the State Executive Director for NM Farm Service Agency. He said many times that it was an honor to be appointed by the President and he wanted to do his part in providing leadership to one of the teams that will help revitalize rural America.



Lawrence Rael, Brenda Archuleta, and Ryan Ramirez

On October 17, 2012, Lawrence Rael, State Executive Director; James Bostwick, State Committee Chairman; and Ryan Ramirez, Son of Salomon E. Ramirez presented the 1st Annual Salomon E. Ramirez Employee of the Year award to Brenda Archuleta, Executive Officer.

Mrs. Archuleta excelled above and beyond the call of duty and displayed the level of dedication to NM FSA as was demonstrated by Mr. Ramirez throughout his career. "I was only doing what Salomon taught me. It is a very humbling experience to be put in the same category as my mentor of 26 plus years. I am committed to doing my best for all NM FSA employees and producers. Thank you to everyone for your support" said Archuleta.

ELECTRONIC SERVICES AVAILABLE:

If a producer has Internet access, program participants can access many services from home 24 hours a day, and receive approval and payment by direct deposit within 48 hours. Online services have stringent security measures to protect your private information.

To utilize electronic services a producer needs visit to the county office for identity verification.

2012 CRP Emergency Grazing Extended

The original Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) emergency grazing deadline of Sept. 30, 2012, was extended to Nov. 30, 2012. The grazing extension will help livestock producers facing forage and feed shortages as a result of drought.



Counties classified as 'D0 - abnormally dry' are eligible for CRP emergency grazing. Producers who take advantage of the emergency grazing extension will not incur an additional CRP rental payment reduction.

This extension only covers general CRP practices. The extension is not authorized for the environmentally sensitive practices of

- *CP8A, Grass Waterway-Noneasement;
- *CP23, Wetland Restoration;
- *CP23A, Wetland Restoration, Non-Floodplain;
- *CP27, Farmable Wetlands Pilot Wetland;
- *CP28 Farmable Wetlands Pilot Buffer;
- *CP37, Duck Nesting Habitat; and
- *CP41 FWP Flooded Prairie Wetlands.

CONTINUOUS CRP AVAILABLE

Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) practices are available for specific conservation practices where needed.



Producers offering environmentally sensitive acreage under the provisions of Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) may qualify for annual rental payments and practice cost-share incentives of up to 50 percent of the cost for installing the approved practices. This conservation program will remain funded,

and as implemented will continue to provide heightened environmental benefits on select areas.

SAFETY FIRST:

Flowing grain in a storage bin or gravity-flow wagon is like quicksand, it can kill quickly. It takes less than five seconds for a person caught in flowing grain to be trapped. The mechanical aspects of grain handling equipment, also presents a real danger. Augers, power take offs, and other moving parts can grab people or clothing.

These hazards, along with pinch points and missing shields, are dangerous enough for adults and children. Always use extra caution when backing or maneuvering farm machinery. Ensure everyone is visibly clear and accounted for before machinery is engaged.

HISPANIC AND WOMEN FARMER AND RANCHER CLAIMS PERIOD NOW OPEN

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced that Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades can file claims between September 24, 2012 and March 25, 2013.

The process offers a voluntary alternative to litigation for each Hispanic or female farmer and rancher who can prove that USDA denied their applications for loan or loan servicing assistance for discriminatory reasons for certain time periods between 1981 and 2000.

The Department will continue reaching out to potential Hispanic and female claimants, around the country to get the word out to individuals who may be eligible for this program so they have the opportunity to participate.

Call center representatives can be reached at 1-888-508-4429. Claimants must register for a claims package (by calling the number or visiting the website) and the claims package will be mailed to claimants. All those interested in learning more or receiving information about the claims process and claims packages are encouraged to attend meetings in your communities about the claims process and contact the website or claims telephone number.

Website: www.farmerclaims.gov

Phone: 1-888-508-4429

Claims Period: September 24, 2012 - March 25, 2013.

Independent legal services companies will administer the claims process and adjudicate the claims. Although there are no filing fees to participate and a lawyer is not required to participate in the claims process, persons seeking legal advice may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider.

To read Secretary Tom Vilsack's entire news release issued today (9/24/12) click on the following link:

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2012/09/0309.xml&contentidonly=true>

MIDAS:

MIDAS is the Farm Service Agency's initiative to "Modernize and Innovate the Delivery of Agricultural Systems". The heart of the MIDAS initiative is to improve the delivery of FSA farm program benefits and services through the re-engineering of farm program business processes and the adoption of enhanced and modernized information technology. MIDAS will modernize the delivery of farm programs and services.

County FSA Office	Phone Number
Chaves	(575) 622-8745
Colfax	(575) 445-9471
Curry	(575) 762-4769
De Baca	(575) 355-2448
Dona Ana	(575) 522 8775
Eddy	(575) 887-3506
Guadalupe	(575) 472-5402
Harding	(575) 485-2294
Hidalgo	(575) 542-3241
Lea	(575) 396-5857
Luna-Grant	(575) 546-9291
McKinley	(505) 722-9060

County FSA Office	Phone Number
Otero-Lincoln	(575) 437-3100
Quay	(575) 461-3612
Rio Arriba	(505) 753-3508
Roosevelt	(686) 356-6629
San Juan	(505) 334-3090
San Miguel	(505) 425-7812
Sierra	(575) 894-2563
Socorro-Catron	(575) 835-1710
Taos	(575) 758-3863
Torrance-Santa Fe	(505) 384-2272
Union	(575) 374-9461
Valencia-Cibola- Bernalillo-Sandoval	(505) 365-4643