

Colfax County News March 2008



Beware of Crop Insurance Rebating Schemes

With the spring sales closing date for many Federal crop insurance policies right around the corner, crop insurance agents have stepped up their marketing efforts. The Risk Management Agency (RMA) has received reports from producers and agents that some aggressive marketers have been approaching producers with rebating offers. These schemes promise lower insurance premiums, refunds, dividends, or items of value tied to crop insurance purchases. Most of these activities are illegal. RMA reminds all Federal crop insurance participants that it is now coordinating with state regulators to take appropriate regulatory action against all those who are found to promote or participate in such schemes. **Producers who are found to participate in illegal rebating activities will not only lose their crop insurance coverage but will also lose eligibility in all USDA programs.** Producers and agents can report suspicions of illegal rebating to OIG Hotline: 1-800-424-9121.

Livestock Compensation Program Continues

USDA's Farm Service Agency provides benefits to livestock producers who suffered feed losses or incurred additional feed costs directly resulting from natural disasters occurring between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007. Livestock producers may elect to receive compensation for losses in counties declared secretarial or presidential disaster areas. Eligible livestock are beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, equine sheep, goats, or swine that have been physically present in an eligible county, (March 1, 2005 thru the end of the year and January 1, 2006 till the end of the year) have been maintained for commercial use as a part of a farming operation on the beginning date of the disaster. To be eligible producers must have owned or cash-leased eligible livestock for the applicable disaster period. Livestock Assistance Grant Program Payments received in 2006 will be deducted from your payments. Sign-up for LCP began September 10, 2007 and livestock producers must submit applications in their administrative county FSA office. A deadline date has not yet been set.

Crop Certification

Producers are reminded of the requirements to certify crops timely. The deadline to certify (wheat) small grain crops is May 15, 2008 and all another crops is July 15, 2008. In order to participate in FSA programs, your crops must be certified every year. Late filed acreage report fees are \$.08 per acre for the first field and not to exceed \$35.00 and \$.08 per acre for each additional field not to exceed \$15.00 per field.

Monthly County Committee Meetings

The County Committee meetings are open to the public and held on the second Tuesday of each month. Meetings are held at the Federal Building 245 Park Ave Room 206 at 1:00 P.M.

Land Leases and Agreements

Producers are reminded that if your State of New Mexico Land Office Leases have been renewed and you participate in our programs, you must supply us with a copy of that lease or any other leases or agreements with the land owners if you want to be paid for those lands. It is your responsibility to make sure any land you lease is included in your producer profile.



The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or familial status. (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, Target Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice or TDD). To file a complaint, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC, 20250-9410, or call (202) 720-5962 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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