



# DE BACA COUNTY COURIER



May 2010

June 2010

IMPORTANT DATES		IMPORTANT DATES	
May 9	Mother's Day	June 1	<b>Deadline to enroll in 2010 DCP Program</b>
May 15	<b>Deadline to certify small grains and spring seeded crops: Wheat, Barley, Triticale and Oats</b>	June 14	Flag Day
May 31	Office Closed-MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY	June 15	County Committee Nominations Begin
		June 20	Father's Day
		June 21	Summer Begins

**Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program and Acre Program:** The deadline for both DCP and ACRE Programs is **June 1st, 2010**. There will be **no** late-file program provisions. If you operate a farm with base acres, you must sign your contract(s) no later than June 1st and have your acres certified by the required deadlines.

**CROPLAND COMPLIANCE**—Remember that controlling weeds and erosion on cropland is mandatory for compliance under several different government programs. You should inspect cultivated and CRP acres to see if you need to implement erosion or weed control measures. Out-of-County owners should check with your operator or have someone inspect your acreage to determine if your acreage is compliant. Please be attentive in maintaining your acreage in accordance with your farm plans that were established through NRCS.

On March 16th, Adolfo Lucero, resigned his position as current COC Member for LAA-3 in order to file as candidate for County Commissioner, District 2. While this decision saddens the staff and producers of the Farm Service Agency, we know that all the people in our community will benefit from Adolfo's knowledge and expertise and we wish him well in his new endeavor.

Consideration has been given to holding a special election to fill the LAA-3 position, however, due to budget constraints, both the County Committee and State Office have decided to combine the LAA-2 and LAA-3 elections for the 2010 Regular Election process which begins June 15th.

LAA-1's boundary is from the railroad South through Fort Sumner Valley to Highway 272, LAA-2's boundary is South of Highway 272 to end of Fort Sumner Valley, and LAA-3's boundary covers entire remaining area of County around Fort Sumner Valley. LAA-2 for a 3-year term and LAA-3 for a 2-year term will be up for election this year.



**See inside for County Committee Election Process >>>>>>**

# COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

## ***OVERVIEW:***

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers, whether beginning or long-established with large or small operations. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

## ***WHAT ARE COUNTY COMMITTEES?***

More than 7,700 elected members serve on County Committees that meet in more than 2,200 USDA Service Centers nationwide. Committee members, consisting of farmers and ranchers, help deliver FSA programs in their local farming communities. Members meet approximately once a month, depending on the tasks at hand. The committee may call a special meeting to respond to an unexpected situation such as a natural disaster.

A County Committee is composed of 3 to 11 elected members from local administrative areas (LAA) and each member serves a 3-year term. One-third of these seats are up for election each year. County Committees may also have one or more appointed advisors to further represent the local interests of minority and women farmers and ranchers.

USDA is committed to increasing the participation of all farmers and ranchers on the FSA County Committees, with an emphasis on women and minority farmers and ranchers, including African-Americans, American Indians, Alaska Natives, Hispanics, Asians, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. Beginning farmers and ranchers are also highly encouraged to become involved.

## ***WHAT KIND OF DECISIONS DO MEMBERS HELP WITH?***

FSA County Committees operate under official regulations for federal farm programs. Committee members apply their judgment, experience, and knowledge when making local decisions regarding:

- Producer appeals,
- Commodity price support loans and payments,
- Conservation programs,
- Employing county executive directors,
- Incentive, indemnity, and disaster payments for commodities,
- And, other farm disaster assistance.

## ***ELIGIBILITY TO HOLD OFFICE:***

Producers elect farmers and ranchers to County Committees. The following are some of the requirements for being a candidate to serve on a County Committee:

- Be of legal voting age,
- Live in the LAA holding an election,
- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA,
- A person must not have been:
  - Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee,
  - Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony,
  - Or, dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

People uncertain about their eligibility to vote in the county committee election or hold office should contact their local FSA office or visit the Web site at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>.

## COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS (Continued)

### ***WHEN AND WHERE TO SUBMIT NOMINATIONS FOR COUNTY COMMITTEES:***

Beginning each June, nominations will be accepted at USDA Service Centers. Individuals may nominate candidates for the County Committee from a list of voters who may be eligible to serve in the LAA holding an election. The list is maintained by the local Service Center.

- Names for candidacy (nominations) are submitted using an official FSA nomination form (FSA-669A). Nomination forms are available at local USDA Service Centers and on the FSA Web site: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>.
- Candidates may nominate themselves or be nominated by others.
- Nomination forms must be submitted to the Service Center or be postmarked on or before the closing date of the nomination period (Close of business on August 2, 2010).
- Nomination forms must be signed by the nominee, whether self-nominated or nominated by someone else.

### ***WHO CAN VOTE?***

Agricultural producers of legal voting age can vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. Check with your USDA Service Center or on the FSA Web site for more information on voting requirements. Voting eligibility is not limited by the size of a farming operation or type of production.

### ***WHAT IS THE VOTING PROCESS?***

In early November, ballots are mailed to all eligible voters. Eligible voters can also pick up ballots at their local Service Centers. The deadline for voting is the end of the day of the first Monday in December. The ballots are counted within seven (7) calendar days after the voting deadline. The public is given a 10-calendar-day advance notice of the ballot counting. The meeting to count ballots is open to the public.

### ***WHAT IS THE ELECTION TIMELINE?***

June 15, 2010:	FSA offices begin accepting nominations.
August 2, 2010:	Last day to file nomination forms at the local USDA Service Center.
November 5, 2010:	Ballots mailed to eligible voters.
December 6, 2010:	Last day to return voted ballots to the USDA Service Center.
January 1, 2011:	Newly elected county committee members take office.

In addition to minority and women producers, USDA strongly encourages beginning farmers to actively seek a position on a county committee.

During the election period, individuals not receiving a ballot in the mail may obtain a ballot directly from their FSA county office. The ballot must be cast on or before the election deadline.

### ***FOR MORE INFORMATION:***

For more information about FSA county committees, visit a local FSA or USDA Service Center or the Web site at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>.

**The committee election process is designed to give landowners, farmers, and ranchers a better chance of having their opinions and ideas expressed in the community, throughout FSA, and throughout the Nation.**

PO Box 329  
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Ft. Sumner, NM 88119  
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www.fsa.usda.gov/nm

## DE BACA COUNTY COURIER



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Postage Fees Paid  
Farm Service Agency  
Permit NO. G-96

### **Staff**

Earl Sena—CED  
Perri Jennings—PT

### **OFFICE HOURS**

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

### **County Committee meets**

the third Thursday  
of each month at 1:30 pm

### **County Committee**

Glenda Armstrong, Chairperson  
Eddie Pena, Vice Chairperson  
(Vacant), Member

**FOREIGN LANDOWNER NOTIFICATION**—The Agriculture Foreign Investment Disclosure act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of US agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. FSA administers this program for USDA. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in penalties of up to 25% of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements. It is the foreign person's responsibility to report the land transactions.

**CHANGES IN FARMING OPERATION**—Failure to notify FSA of changes in your farming operation may adversely impact your different government programs. You should also be aware of Highly Erodible Land Conservation, Wetland Conservation, Payment Eligibility, and Payment Limitation provisions, which may impact your eligibility for program payments. Changes to your farming operation may include, but are not limited to, a change in the structure of your farming operation or changes in your rental agreement as well as the purchase/sale of land. Failure to timely report changes may result in ineligibility for a variety of benefits.

**NESTING SEASON CONTINUES THROUGH JULY 1ST:** Due to the nesting season restrictions, you are prohibited from performing any maintenance on CRP land between March 1, 2010 and July 1, 2010. Dates will reopen 7/2/2010 and continue through 9/30/2010 for normal and mid-contract management.

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