



Pecos Valley News

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

FEBRUARY

EDDY COUNTY FSA

PO Box 278
114 S. Halagueno
RM 117
Carlsbad, NM
88221
(575) 887-3506 x2

County Committee
David Torres, Jr
Curtis Doyal
Sharon Giovengo

Staff
Jodie Chism, CED
Kim Gardner, PT

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USDA Issues Disaster Payments For Crop, Livestock And Feed Losses

Recently, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) began issuing payments to tens of thousands of farmers and ranchers across the country who suffered losses because of natural disasters.

USDA is currently processing about \$1 billion in payments under the Crop Disaster Program, Livestock Compensation Program and Livestock Indemnity Program. Sign-up for these programs is ongoing. The programs provide payments to agricultural producers who suffered crop, livestock and feed losses in 2006 in Eddy County

Farmers and ranchers can apply to receive benefits through these and other dis-

aster programs by visiting their local FSA service center. Find more information about FSA disaster programs online at: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.



is well underway. This month, we have started issuing payments to producers in Eddy County with approved applications. If you have not applied, please call our office to schedule an appointment. There is no deadline for sign-up as of yet.

If you owned or cash leased eligible livestock on January 1st of 2006 and suffered an eligible feed loss; you can be compensated.

ATTENTION LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS of Eddy County It's not to late to sign up

The Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) for the droughts in 2005 and 2006

Please come by or contact the office to sign up!

Spousal Signatures

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) programs in which either has an interest.

In most cases, this option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.



FEBRUARY 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	

- } February 18— Presidents Day Office Closed
- } February 20— COC Meeting 2:00 p.m. Federal Bldg.

Special Accommodations

will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact their local FSA County office.

Dairy Disaster Assistance Program III

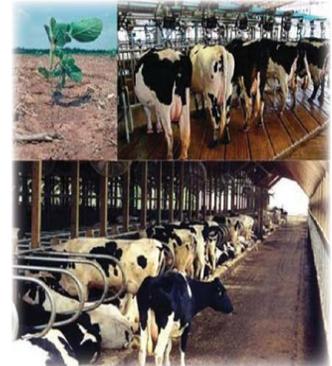
DDAP-III will provide \$16 million in financial assistance to producers who suffered dairy production losses because of natural disasters.

Eligibility Requirements: Eligibility requirements producers must meet to receive benefits:

- producers must have suffered dairy production losses attributed to the declared natural disaster during the eligible period in an approved area; and
- producers must have produced and marketed milk any time between January 1, 2005, and December 31, 2007;
- producers must provide proof of monthly milk production commercially marketed by all persons in the eligible dairy operation during the applicable milk marketing calendar year and claim period (January 2, 2005 - December 31, 2007).

Proof of Production and Losses: Producers must provide satisfactory production evidence for the claim period (January 2, 2005 - December 31, 2007). FSA will calculate a producer's total dairy production losses using the base year production minus commercially marketed production during the disaster period. FSA will calculate base year production by multiplying the USDA National Statistics Service (NASS) average milk produced per cow in a state by the number of cows in a producer's operation.

DDAP-III program sign-up will resume after the final regulations are published.



WHIP—WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Natural Resources Conservation Service has announced that individuals who wish to apply for the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) during the year 2008 need to submit their applications by February 29, 2008. The Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program offers opportunities to landowners to improve and protect wildlife habitat on private lands. While participating in the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, participants voluntarily limit future use of the land for a period of time, but retain private ownership. In addition, NRCS works with participants to develop a wild-

life habitat development plan. Projects in New Mexico have improved habitat on private land for quail, dove, deer, and other species. The projects have emphasized the development of water supplies for wildlife, establishment of permanent flood plains, fencing cattle out of creeks and ponds, and restoring riparian areas. To proceed, NRCS New Mexico is currently



accepting applications for the WHIP 2008 program year. Applications may be submitted to your local NRCS field office. Again, to be considered for 2008 funding, applications must be in by February 29, 2008. The first step in receiving

assistance is to contact the NRCS Office servicing the Artesia and Carlsbad areas.

Again, to be considered for 2008 WHIP funding, applications must be in by February 29, 2008.

Under the 2002 Farm Bill, USDA's authority to administer certain farm programs expired on December 31, 2007

2002 Farm Bill Extension

The 2008 catch all spending bill signed by President Bush on Dec. 26, 2007, extends FSA's authority to administer the Conservation Reserve Program and marketing loan benefits for wool and mohair through March 15, 2008. It also allows the Milk Price

Support Program to continue operating at current price support levels through March 15, 2008.

Under the 2002 Farm Bill, USDA's authority to administer these three programs expired on Dec. 31, 2007.

The law also provides \$3.3 billion in direct and guaranteed loan funds for FSA's Farm Loan Programs.

At this time there is not a Direct & Counter-Cyclical Program to sign up for.

Conservation Compliance

All participants in USDA programs are required to have a conservation system in place on all the highly erodible land (HEL) that they operate. Several areas where problems can arise with complying with a conservation system are; renting new cropland, purchasing new land, breaking out additional crop-

land, planting different crops such as soybeans, and changing or removing existing conservation practices.

It is very important that you contact the FSA office before doing any of the above. Also, it is very important that you contact our office before modifying -

tiling, draining, dredging, filling, or leveling - any wetland or drainage ditch. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in loss of all Federal payments and eligibility.



United States Department of
Agriculture
Farm Service Agency
Eddy County
PO BOX 278
Carlsbad, NM 88221-0278

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Reaching Out to
Eddy County Farmers And Ranchers



Kansas City Mails 1099-G

During the last week of January, producers who have received payments from FSA should have also received a CCC-1099-G from the Kansas City office. A CCC-1099-G is a report to the Internal Revenue Service about FSA payments made to you in calendar year 2007. The CCC-1099-G is a service to help participating producers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the program participant's responsibility to report income to the IRS.

If you received a CCC-1099-G, we recommend that you check the amounts shown with those in your



records to see that the amounts are correct. Refunds will no longer be reported on the 1099-G, but will be available online from the FSA Financial Inquiries (FSA-FI) web-based database. Program participants with eAuthentication user ID's and passwords can access their refund information at FSA-FI and select "Inquiry Type 1099/Refund Reports". Refund amounts are displayed on the Producer's Year-to-Date Activity web page.

"If you have a question concerning the 1099-G refund information, you may contact your local FSA office. Please bring your CCC-1099 -G with you if you choose to visit the office."

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family 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's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer