

GUADALUPE COUNTY FSA NEWS

February 1, 2008

Guadalupe County FSA Office
586 S. 9TH Street
PO BOX 502
PHONE: 575-472-5401 Ext. 2
FAX: 575-472-1057

OFFICE HOURS
7:30AM - 5:00PM
Monday - Friday
OFFICE STAFF:
Earl J. Sena, CED
Melecia D. Flores, PT

COC COMMITTEE:
William Ortiz, Chairman
Eduardo Cordova - ViceChairman
Gilbert Lee Gallegos - Member
Teresa T. Cribbs - Advisor

COUNTY COMMITTEE Meetings held 4th Tuesday of Month 9:30AM

CO.COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Ballots for this year's County Committee Election were Tabulated in December. The results are as follows:

Gilbert Lee Gallegos was elected to the 3-year term for LAA-1

Emery Urban, Jr. was elected as the 1st Alternate.

We wish to Thank all the voters who participated in the Election process. We especially wish to thank both Candidates. We also take this means to Congratulate Gilbert Lee Gallegos and thank Emery Urban for stepping up to COC Member when Luis J. Sacnhez had to resign his position on the COC due to health issues.

Elected committee members and alternate took office on January 1, 2008.

February COC Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 26, 2008 at 9:30 AM in the Conference Room of the Guadalupe Co. Ag. Service Center. Meetings are open to the public.

CENSUS GIVES FARMERS A VOICE IN THEIR FUTURE

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/>.

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

NONINSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

NAP provides financial assistance to producers of noninsurable crops and commodities, including rangeland, when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occurs, due to a natural disaster. Producers who have no crop changes from their 2007 NAP contract have the option of continuous coverage. **However, the applicable service fee of \$100 must be paid by the application closing date.** \$300 maximum for unlimited crops per county, with a \$900 cap for multi-county producers.

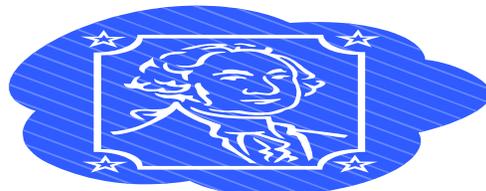
Coverage does not start until 30 days after application is filed and fees paid or the date the crop is planted and does not exceed the final planting date. When a natural disaster occurs you must notify FSA and complete a Notice of Loss and an application for payment within 15 days. A loss of 50% or greater must be suffered to be eligible for program benefits.

Deadline to Purchase NAP Coverage are as follows:

February 1, Cabbage, Carrots and Spinach

March 15, Beans, Corn, Dry Peas, Flaxseed, Sillet, Potatoes, Rapeseed, Sorghum, Soybeans, Squash, Sunflowers, Tomatoes

Producers who reported 2007 Losses on their Native Pasture before November 1, 2007 will be notified and sent Application for Payment form as soon as the Percent below Normal is approved by the State Committee.



DISASTER SIGNUP - LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION PROGRAM

Eligible ranchers and other livestock producers can apply to receive benefits under the LCP Program starting **September 10, 2007**. **Guadalupe County Livestock producers are eligible to apply for 2006 LCP**. That will compensate them for feed losses between January 1, 2006 and December 31, 2006., due to a natural disaster. We need your livestock numbers as of January 1, 2006. **We do not have a closing date on the application period. Livestock producers are encouraged to apply ASAP.**

Eligible Livestock must be dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, equine, poultry, elk, reindeer, sheep, goats, swine or deer that: have been physically located in an eligible county on the beginning date of the applicable disaster period; have been maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation on the beginning date of the disaster period; and not have been produced and maintained for reasons other than commercial use as part of a farming operation. Such as excluded uses include, but are not limited to, wild free roaming animals or animals used for recreational purposes such as pleasure, hunting, pets, roping, or for show. **The Payment Rate is \$10.66 per Adult Cows and Bulls; and \$8.00 for Non-adult cows and bulls, 500 lbs. or more; \$7.89 for All Equine; All Sheep \$2.67.**

Eligible producers must have either owned or cash-leased eligible livestock (but not both for the same livestock) on the beginning date of the applicable disaster period; and must have suffered an eligible feed loss from produced or purchased forage or feedstuffs, or incurred additional feed costs as a result of an eligible disaster event during the applicable disaster period and the feed lost or additional incurred feed costs were intended for use with eligible livestock. For detailed application and eligibility information, please contact the Guadalupe County FSA at 505-472-5401. Interested producers can also access LCP fact sheets on FSA's web site <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>; click on Disaster Assistance Programs. In an effort to expedite the application process and provide efficient, quality customer service, the local FSA office recommends that producers call the local FSA Office to schedule an appointment to apply for disaster program assistance.

CROP DISATER PROGRAM

CDP provies benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops. CDP signup for quantity lossfor quantity loss began October 15, 2007.

Losses from natural disasters may qualify for financial assistance if the crop was planted before Feb. 28, 2007, or in the case of prevented plantings, for crops that would have been planted before Feb. 28, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006, or 2007 must choose only one year to apply for benefits. Participants may apply for loss benefits on multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year.

Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the the Noninsured Crops Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits. Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP. Contact the local FSA Office for more Information.

HOLIDAY – The Ag. Service Center will be closed on Monday, February 18, 2007 in observance of George Washington's Birthday.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply of all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audio/tape, 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, 14th and Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD).
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