

GUADALUPE COUNTY FSA NEWS

May 11, 2010

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
Gilbert Lee Gallegos –ViceChairman
Eduardo Cordova – Member
Teresa T. Cribbs – Advisor

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

SIGN-UP FOR USDA CROP LOSS ASSISTANCE UNDERWAY

USDA has implemented the new **SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS program (SURE)** in accordance with the 2008 Farm Bill. FSA County offices began accepting producer applications for benefits on January 4, 2010 for crop production losses suffered during the 2008 crop year.

No sign-up deadline has been set for 2008 crop losses because FSA is waiting for automated computer software to be released. Until the software is issued, FSA will accept applications and process producer payments manually so producers do not experience a delay in program benefits.

Eligible producers who experienced crop production losses in crop year 2009 will not apply for SURE program benefits until fall of 2010 as seasonal average market prices, a critical element in calculating program payments, will not be finalized until October at the earliest.

SURE provides crop disaster assistance payments to eligible producers on farms that have incurred crop production or crop quality losses. The program takes into consideration crop losses on all crops grown by a producer nationwide. SURE provides assistance in an amount equal to 60 percent of the difference between the SURE farm guarantee and total farm revenue. The farm guarantee is based on the amount of crop insurance and Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on the farm. Total farm revenue takes into account the actual value of production on the farm as well as insurance indemnities and certain farm program payments.

To be eligible for SURE, producers must have suffered at least a 10 percent production loss on the crop of economic significance. In addition, producers must meet the risk management purchase requirement by either obtaining a policy or plan of insurance, under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or NAP coverage, for all economically significant crops. For 2008 crops, producers had the opportunity to obtain a waiver of the risk management purchase requirement through a buy-in provision. Contact the local FSA Office for more info.

TREE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

TAP provides help to orchardists and nursery tree growers who produce trees, bushes and vines for commercial purposes, to replant or rehabilitate trees, bushes and vines damaged or destroyed by natural disasters. To be eligible for TAP, producers must have suffered more than a 15 percent death loss due to the natural disaster after adjustment for normal mortality. TAP is a cost-reimbursement program, with payments covering up to 70 percent of replant costs and 50 percent of pruning, removal and other salvaging costs for replacing or salvaging damaged trees. Producers can receive assistance for up to 500 acres of trees, bushes or vines. Producers must also have purchased a policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance program, or for 2008, obtained a waiver of the risk management purchaser requirement through the buy-in provision. Eligible losses must have occurred on or after Jan. 1, 2008, and before Oct. 1, 2011. Signup began on May 10, 2010 at the local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office. Contact us for more information or the website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/tap>.

DIRECT AND COUNTER CYCLICAL PROGRAM

Producers can currently sign up for the 2010 DCP programs. If you currently have an active crop acreage base for wheat, corn, barley, or oats, you are eligible to sign up for DCP. The deadline to sign up for DCP is June 1, 2010

Certification Deadlines May 17th, 2010 is the deadline to certify wheat, barley and oats. July 15th, 2010 is the deadline to certify all other crops. All participating farms and ranches must certify in order to be eligible for any program payments.

Compliance/Weed Control Reminder to all producers to keep their farm land maintained. Idle land is to be kept clean. The preferred methods of maintenance are mowing or shredding. Failure to control weeds and erosion is a violation of the DCP contract, and can result in payment reductions.

WOOL & MOHAIR LOANS / LOAN DEFICIENCY PAYMENT PROGRAM

The Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 provides 2008-2012 crop year marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments (LDPs) for wool and mohair to eligible producers who produce and shear wool and mohair from live sheep and goats. The LDP program is also available to eligible producers of nongraded wool in the form of unshorn pelts for the 2008-2012 crop years. The wool and mohair nonrecourse marketing assistance loan and LDP program provides eligible producers with two forms of Federal assistance. Eligible producers can either: 1. Request a nine-month marketing assistance loan; or 2. Agree to forgo the loan and request an LDP. The program helps stabilize America's wool and mohair industry and ensures the well-being of agriculture in the USA. FSA administers these loans on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC). The national loan rates for the 2008-2012 crop years for wool and mohair (grease basis) are as follows: Graded Wool \$1.00 per pound; Ungraded Wool \$0.40 per pound; Mohair \$4.20 per pound. File your application with FSA by providing a weight slip from the wool warehouse.

NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM – NAP is a federally funded program that provides financial assistance to producers of noninsurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occurs as a result of natural disasters. NAP provides coverage for crops for which the catastrophic level of insurance is not available. Eligible Crops are crops that are noninsurable and eligible for disaster assistance include commercially produced crops grown for food; crops planted and grown for livestock consumption, including but not limited to grain, seeded and native forage crops; crops grown for fiber, such as cotton and flax. Natural Disasters include damaging weather, such as drought, hail, freeze, hurricane, excessive moisture or wind; an adverse natural occurrence, such as an earthquake or a flood; or a condition related to damaging weather or adverse natural occurrence such as disease or insect infestation. Note: the Natural disaster must occur before or during harvest and must directly affect the noninsurable crop. **NAP Coverage Deadlines:** April 15th – Basil, Beets, Broccoli, Cantaloupe, Cilantro, Eggplant, Gourds, Honeydew, Okra, Pumpkins, Strawberries, Turnips, & Watermelon. Sept. 1st – Garlic, Onions, and Sod Grass.

The cost per crop is \$250; \$750 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of \$1875 per producer with farming interests in multiple counties. Producers may be eligible for a waiver if they meet requirements of the two previous years their direct or indirect Gross Farm Sales was less than or equal to \$142,000 per year and their Adjusted Gross Income in each of the last two years, their Total household Income was less than the Guadalupe County "County/Area Value" of \$22,050.00.

Foreign Investors Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA forms could result in civil 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 of reporting requirements.

HOLIDAY – MEMORIAL DAY The Guadalupe County Ag. Service Center will be closed on Monday, May 31st, 2010.

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, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). 202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD).

USDA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER, EMPLOYER AND LENDER.

GUADALUPE COUNTY FSA OFFICE
586 S. 9th Street
PO BOX 502
Santa Rosa, NM 88435

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