



NEWSLETTER



Luna-Grant County FSA Office

August 2011

405 E. Florida
Deming, NM 88030

575-546-9291 phone
575-546-0038 fax
www.fsa.usda.gov/nm

Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Office Staff:

Mackey Irwin, CED
Paul Offutt, PT

County Committee Members:

Suanne Delk
J W Donaldson
Joel Nanez
Kenneth Stockton
Jerry Woodrow

Committee Meetings:

The County Committee meetings are held the first Tuesday after the fourth Monday.

Agricultural Lending Opportunities

Questions regarding obtaining credit to start or enlarge a farming or ranching operation; financing agricultural operating expenses; or livestock, machinery purchases call:

Leah Walsh, Loan Manager
575-522-8775 ext.110

FARMING OPERATION CHANGES

If you have bought or sold land, or if you have added or dropped leased land from your operation, make sure you report the changes to the office as soon as possible. You need to provide a copy of your deed or recorded land contract for purchased property. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. Making the record changes now will save you time in the spring. Update signature authorization when changes in the operation occur. Producers are reminded to contact the office of a change in operations on a farm so that records can be kept current and accurate

DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

To be **eligible** for FSA disaster assistance programs producers must obtain a policy or plan of insurance under the **Federal Crop Insurance Act (FCIA)** at a minimum **CAT level** for all insurable crops, and **NAP coverage** for non-insurable crops. Producers who do not purchase the required coverage **will not be eligible** for benefits unless an exception applies. The exception allows certain waivers for “Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers”, as well as “Limited Resource Farmers and Ranchers” and “Beginning Farmers and Ranchers”.

It is highly recommended that even producers, who qualify under the waiver provisions, purchase the required insurance or NAP coverage. Doing so will increase the farm guarantee utilized in the calculation of the SURE payment.

NON-INSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to provide financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields or prevented planting occurs as the result of natural disasters. These benefits are only available for crops for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available. Producers who choose to obtain NAP coverage for 2012 must file a CCC-471 application for coverage and pay the applicable service fee by the sales closing deadline. Eligible producers must pay a service fee of \$250 per crop per administrative county or \$750 per producer per county, not to exceed \$1,875 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties. Service fees may be waived for limited-resource producers. Please contact your local FSA Office for additional information.

If you have NAP on a crop that suffers a covered loss, you must notify your local FSA office by completing a **Notice of Loss** within **15** calendar days of the date the loss is apparent. Failure to timely report your loss may result in a loss of benefits. This includes crops that are multi-plantings.

If the cause of loss for Native Forage is **drought**, producers must file a **Notice of Loss** no later than **November 1st** of the crop year.

NAP PRODUCTION RECORDS

Production records for individual crops need to be filed with our office to establish an approved NAP yield. If this is the first year you participated in NAP, you can provide production and acreage information from prior years to establish your yield. If you participated in NAP in previous years, you must report your production and acreage on a yearly basis to keep your yield up-to-date. Records submitted must be verifiable and reliable. Records need to show crop disposition. All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date.

NOTICE TO HISPANIC AND/OR WOMEN FARMERS AND RANCHERS

As part of continued efforts to close the chapter on allegations that discrimination occurred at USDA in the past decades, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and Assistant Attorney General Tony West announced the establishment of a process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers and ranchers who assert that they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans.

In conjunction with this announcement, USDA is launching an outreach effort to potential claimants that will include a call center for farmers and ranchers, a website, public service announcements, and in-person meetings around the country.

Individuals interested in participating in the claims process may register to receive a claims package, or may obtain more information, by visiting the following : www.farmerclaims.gov. Individuals can register to receive a claims package by calling the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-58-4429. USDA cannot provide legal advice to potential claimants. Persons seeking legal advice may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider.

FSA SPOUSAL SIGNATURE POLICY

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse. There are exceptions to the rule, where spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities. Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents. For more clarification on spousal signature authority, feel free to contact the local FSA office.

FOREIGN BUYERS NOTIFICATION

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

All individuals who are not U.S. citizens, and have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form (FSA-153) could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent 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.

SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff directly or by phone.

IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES

November 4th, 2011:

Ballots mailed to eligible voters

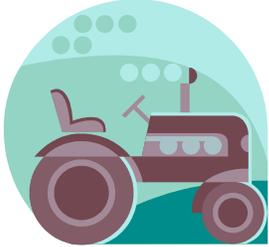
December 5th, 2011

Last day to return voted ballots to the local FSA Office

January 2nd, 2012

Elected Committee Members and Alternates take office

LAA 1 & LAA 5 are up for election. Visit the FSA office for more information.



NEW FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT WEB PAGE

January signals the beginning of a new year, and a time to start thinking about filing taxes. Producers who have level 2 e-authentication access can use the new Public Financial Management Information web page. The website allows producers to generate reports that show both current and historical financial information. This resource will allow users to view details on payments, collections and outstanding debt. The website is a great tool for producers to conveniently access financial information at any time. To view the Financial Management Information web page, visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/fmi>. Please contact your county office if you have any questions regarding the web page.



Note: Website use requires level 2 e-authentication access. Follow the steps below to obtain level 2 access...

1. Go to www.eauth.egov.usda.gov, complete a customer profile and submit it online
2. After submitting your customer profile, you will receive a confirmation email, and you must respond to it within 7 days to activate your account
3. Then you must complete the “Identity Proofing” process by visiting a local USDA Service Center and presenting a photo ID, such as your driver’s license

IRS FORM 1099-G

Each year producers receive 1099-G forms from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) detailing payments producers have received from the CCC. CCC’s annual report of program payments on the 1099-Gs help our customers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the producer’s own responsibility to report income to the IRS. FSA staff cannot interpret IRS regulations or advise producers about which payments to report on their income tax returns. However, county office staff can review payments for accuracy.

PAPER CHECK CONVERSION (PCC)

Over the next year, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) is moving toward an electronic method for processing producers’ checks. This will allow FSA/CCC to process collections faster.

When producers present checks, either in person or through the mail, the checks will be converted into an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT).

Please see the U.S. Department of Treasury legal notices posted in the Service Center or visit the following U.S. Department of Treasury Internet site for detailed information:

<https://www.pccotc.gov/pccotc/pcc/usingpcc/Legal%20Notices/legalnotices.htm>

ADJUST GROSS INCOME

USDA has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Internal Revenue Service to establish an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent will be required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to FSA.

The agreement ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs.

Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-927 (Individual) and/or CCC-028 (Legal Entity) to the Internal Revenue Service by June 15 to avoid interruption of program benefits. If you have not submitted the form or forms, you will be notified and immediate action will be required. These forms may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices or online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainServlet>.

LUNA-GRANT COUNTY FSA
 OFFICE
 405 E. Florida
 Deming, NM 88030



PRESORTED STANDARD
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 Deming, NM
 PERMIT #G-96

Selected Interest Rates – August 2011	
Farm Operating - Direct	2.125%
Farm Ownership - Direct	4.6250%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Youth Loan	2.125%
Emergency Loan	3.75%

Dates to Remember	
Sept. 1 st , 2011	Last day to purchase NAP coverage for Sod Grass, Onions, Garlic
Sept. 5 th , 2011	Office closed for Labor Day
Oct. 1 st , 2011	2012 DCP Sign-up begins
Oct. 10 th , 2011	Office closed for Columbus Day
Nov. 11 th , 2011	Office closed for Veterans Day
Nov. 20 th , 2011	Last day to purchase NAP coverage for Apples, Apricots, Cherries, Cane Berries, Grapes, Nectarines, Peaches, Pears, Pistachios, Plums
Nov. 24 th , 2011	Office closed for Thanksgiving
Dec. 1 st , 2011	Last Day to purchase NAP for honey and Lettuce

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (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 to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.