

Rio Arriba County FSA Newsletter



January/February 2010

2009 County Committee Elections

The Rio Arriba, County Committee Elections for LAA 3 from the Lindrieth, Youngsville, Coyote, Mesa Poleo, Gallina, Regina, Llaves, Canones, Gobernador and surrounding communities, were held on December 9, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. Our congratulations to **Julian Vigil**, newly elected County Committee Member for Rio Arriba County. He will serve his term (3 years) on the Farm Service Agency, County Committee. Thank you to all eligible voters who mailed or brought in election ballots and participated in this year's election to make it a successful 2009 County Committee Election.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program

This program provides benefits for **crop year 2008** because of the USDA Secretarial Designation. Crop losses with an actual production loss less than **50% of the normal production, due to natural disasters** are eligible for benefits; it is the 2008 Farm Bill's successor to prior ad hoc disaster programs. In order for producers to be eligible, **they must have obtained a policy or plan of insurance** for all crops through either the Federal Crop Insurable Act or FSA's Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). This program does not cover crops intended for grazing. Sign up started **January 4, 2010, no deadline date** as of yet has been announced. Producer(s) who did not purchase crop insurance for 2008, may still be able to obtain insurance for the SURE program if they meet the definition of "Socially Disadvantage", "Limited Resource", or "Beginning Farmer or Rancher". The payment Limitation is \$100,000 which applies to the combination of payments from the livestock disaster programs-Livestock Forage Program (LFP), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) and Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-raised Fish (ELAP). For 2008 SURE payments, payments are limited per "person" according to payment limitation rules in effect for 2008.

Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP)

This program assists farmers and ranchers with 50% or more crop losses, due to weather conditions on insured crops. The deadline is **January 31, 2010**, to purchased NAP coverage for the following crops: **Alfalfa, Cucumbers, Grass, Mixed Forage, Pecans, and Peppers**. The cost per crop is **\$250** or **\$750** per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of \$1, 875 per producer with farming interest in multiple counties.

Producer may be eligible for a waiver if they meet both requirements of the two previous years had total gross farm sales less than \$142,000 per year and have a total household income before deductions at or below the national poverty level of \$22,050 for Rio Arriba County.

Please keep in mind, to be eligible in participating for future disaster programs you must have, purchased NAP coverage for program benefits.



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Outreach Event

Please mark your calendars for **Saturday, February 6, 2010, at the Onate Center, in Alcalde, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** We will be hosting an **Expo** to inform the public of the programs and services through Agriculture Agencies such as: land or water conservation, farm programs, grazing permits, and much more information. Hope to see you there !

Reasonable Accommodation Statement

Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please call this office at (505) 753-3508 Ext. 2.

Office Closures

This month the office will be closed to the public on Monday, February 15, 2010, in observance of President's Day.

Office Staff

Anna Martinez, County Executive Director
Mary Gurule, Program Technician
Susanah Griego, Program Technician

County Committee

Stephen Gallegos, Chairperson
Leroy A Martinez, Vice-Chairperson
Julian Vigil, Member
Alma Schmitz, Advisor

Office Hours 8:00 – 4:30 Monday through Friday

Monthly Meeting is the First Wednesday of the month at 1:00 pm

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program and activities on the bases 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 become 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, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is equal opportunity provider and employer.

El Departamento de Agricultura de Estados Unidos (USDA) prohíbe la discriminación en sus programas y actividades basadas en la raza, color de piel, lugar de origen, sexo, religión, edad, minusvalía, creencias políticas, orientación sexual y estado civil. (No todas las prohibiciones se aplican a todos los programas.) Las personas con minusvalías que require medios de comunicación alternativas (Braille, literatura en letra de mayor tamaño, cintas/audio, etc.) deben comunicarse con el programs TARGET del USDA al (202) 720-2600 (Voz o Teletexto).

Para procesar quejas sobre cualquier tipo de discriminación escriba a USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410 o llame al (202) 720-5964 (Voz o Teletexto). El USDA proporciona oportunidades y empleos con igualdad.