

USDA-Farm Service Agency
San Juan County, NM
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7:30 A.M.—4:30 P.M.
Closed Holidays



Three Rivers News

Farm Service Agency

June/July 2009

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Points of Interest:

- ◆ The San Juan County Committee Meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 9:00 A.M. at the Aztec FSA Office. Meetings are open to the public.
- ◆ USDA Service Center is closed on all Federal holidays.
- ◆ Please report all farm operator/owner/land changes

County Committee Members

Tiffani Montoya— Chair
Donna Benally— V. Chair.
Fred Armenta— Member



County Committee Election

Nominations for the San Juan County FSA Committee will start being accepted June 15 for Local Administrative Area (LAA) 2. LAA-2 is that area north and west of the San Juan and Animas River. Election area includes La Plata community, and those areas on the north and west shore of the San Juan and Animas rivers that include Farmington, Flora Vista, Aztec, Cedar Hill north to the Colorado state line. The term is for 3 years. To be eligible to serve on the county committee a person must participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA, involved in an Ag enterprise, be eligible to vote in the county election process, and reside in the LAA up for election. Producers may also nominate themselves. Nomination forms are available at the county office. Nomination forms **MUST BE POSTMARKED OR RECEIVED IN THE FSA OFFICE BY COB AUGUST 3, 2009**. FSA county committee members are a vital link between federal programs and the local communities. Committees make decisions on conservation, disaster, emergency, price support and related programs as well as other important agricultural issues.

Sheep Producers Voted to Keep Lamb Checkoff Program

Under the Commodity Promotion, Research and Information Act of 1996, which authorized the checkoff, the US Secretary of Agriculture was required to hold a vote of producers not more than seven years after the assessments began to see whether they should continue. Assessments were started in July 2002, and the vote was held throughout the month of February 2009. For the program to continue, it had to be supported by a majority vote and the majority of production representing the vote. Eighty five percent of the total vote were cast in favor of the checkoff program. The assessments help fund the work of the American Lamb Board, which includes research, promotion, marketing, and industry communications.

Documenting Livestock Death Losses- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

The 2008 Farm Bill created 5 new disaster programs, 1 of which is LIP. LIP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have incurred livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality, after January 1, 2008 and before October 1, 2011. Eligible loss conditions include blizzards, disease, extreme cold, extreme heat, floods, hurricanes, and wildfires. To be eligible for assistance, livestock producers **MUST** provide verifiable documentation of livestock deaths. Documentation **MUST** include the death was directly due to an eligible cause (adverse weather event). Some examples of proof include veterinary record, tax record, bank record, contracts, or third party documents showing the death. Other reliable records include brand inspection, Inspector documentation, contemporaneous records, or pictures. Certification

LIP Continued.....

by a third party may be accepted under certain conditions if no other proof is available. Producers that lose livestock should contact the office right away if they plan on applying for LIP to review eligibility and to ensure all documentation is in order. Further details on LIP are available at the FSA office.

ACREAGE REPORTING

We can't repeat enough the importance of reminding producers that it is vital to report plantings of crops and acreage each year. FSA often receives funding "after the fact" for a program that requires planted acreages to have been certified/reported in a past year to be eligible. Watch out for the reporting deadlines: July 15 is the final deadline for 2009 plantings. Reporting after July 15 will be assessed a late file fee. Our new GIS maps now have the new acreages on all the fields. Just takes minutes to complete. Don't get caught being ineligible for a current or future program because you didn't file your yearly planting report at the county office. Like all of our programs, its voluntary, but highly recommended if you plan to participate.

WOOL/MOHAIR REMINDERS

Its shearing season around the county. With that said, wool/mohair producers are once again reminded that they must have a page 1 of the CCC-633 signed and on file before you sell to be eligible for the LDP payment with FSA. Failure to do so will result in ineligibility.

Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP)

Now that all 2009 application closing dates to purchase NAP coverage have passed, its an appropriate time to talk about the reporting of a damaging event that causes loss to crops. Procedure requires that all damaging events (weather events) that cause loss to crops must be reported to the FSA office by the producer within 15 days from the date of the damaging weather occurrence. The crop must be inspected and appraised if necessary by our Loss Adjuster during this 15 days. This 15 day requirement is a hard rule and one that we cannot waive at the county office. Once the loss has been reported, the producer will be advised of the next steps to take. The main message is to relay the requirement of the 15 day rule for NAP coverage in reporting crop damage for NAP claim eligibility. For specific questions, please contact our office for additional answers on NAP and/or crop coverage/loss reporting requirements.

DCP & ACRE Program-- Sign Up Extend until August 14

The 2009 deadline to sign up for the DCP and ACRE program has been extended until August 14, 2009.



The U.S. Department 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, and marital 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 to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th & Independence Ave., SE Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202)720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Persons with disabilities who require special accommodations to attend, participate, or enter the USDA Service Center should contact Mark Bentley, CED at (505)334-3090 or the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 two days in advance of the accommodation date.

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