



NEWSLETTER



Sierra County FSA Office

November 2011

2101 S. Broadway
T or C, NM 87901

575-894-2563 phone
575-894-2165 fax

www.fsa.usda.gov/NM

Hours

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

County Office Staff:

Jordanna Gurule, Acting CED

County Committee Members:

Patrick Garay, Chairperson
Harvey Chatfield, Vice Chair
James Walker, Member
Dolores Ortega, Advisor

Next County Committee Meeting:

**December 8, 2011 @ 9:30
am**

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

COUNTY COMMITTEE VOTING BEGINS

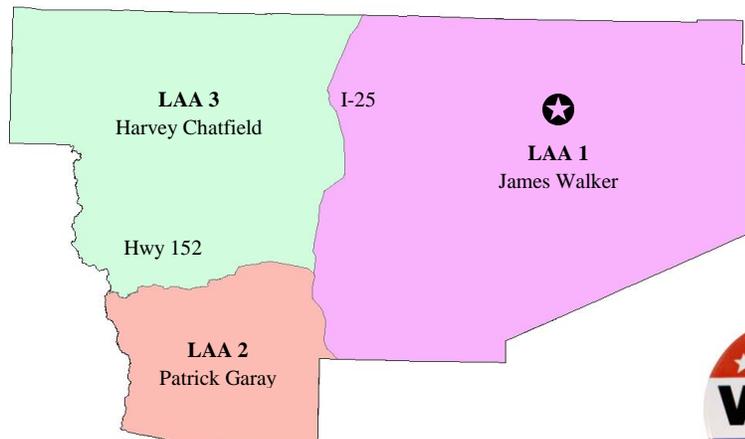
Ballots for this year's county committee election were mailed to eligible voters in LAA # 1 on Nov. 4, 2011. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on December 5, 2011. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight December 5, 2011.

If your operation is located in local administrative area (LAA) # 1 and you did not receive a ballot, please give us a call.

Voter Requirements Persons meeting requirements in 1 or 2, plus 3, below, is eligible to vote:

1. Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as any of the following:
 - An individual
 - The authorized representative of an entity
 - Both spouses when property is owned jointly
 - Spouses in community property states.
 -
2. Is not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm.
3. Participates or cooperates in any FSA program that is provided by law.

Discrimination Prohibited No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.



NONINSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

FSA's 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. Statutes limit NAP coverage to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which the catastrophic (CAT) level of insurance is not available.

In order to meet eligibility requirements for NAP, crops must be non-insurable, commercially-produced agricultural commodity crops for which catastrophic risk protection level of crop insurance is not available. If the Risk Management Agency offers coverage for a crop in the county, then NAP coverage is not available for that crop. In the event of a natural disaster, NAP covers the amount of loss greater than 50 percent of the expected production based on the approved yield and reported acreage.

Eligible producers can apply for coverage using form 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 \$1875 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties. Service fees may be waived for limited-resource producers.

For more info on NAP or other FSA programs, please give us a call.

NAP DEADLINES

November 20, 2011 is the deadline to purchase 2012 NAP Coverage for **Apples, Grapes, Peaches, & Pistachios.**

December 1, 2011 is the deadline to purchase 2012 NAP Coverage for **Honey & Lettuce.**

January 31, 2012 is the deadline to purchase 2012 NAP Coverage for **Alfalfa, Native Grass, Mixed Forage, Pecans, & Peppers.**

February 1 is the deadline to purchase 2012 NAP Coverage for **Cabbage.**

CHANGING BANKS

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit.

To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions.

If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

RURAL YOUTH LOANS

FSA makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5,000.

SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SURE)

The sign-up for 2010 losses begins **Nov. 14, 2011** and will end **June 1, 2012.**

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that incurred in the crop year 2010. SURE is available to eligible producers on:

- Farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties, that have incurred crop production or quality losses, or both, and includes all crops grown by a producer nationwide, **except** grazed crops.
- Any farm in which, for the crop year, the actual production on the farm because of disaster-related conditions is 50 percent or less than normal production of the farm.

For more information on the SURE program please contact your local FSA office.



NEW AGI FORMS FOR 2012

On September 28, 2011, FSA started using CCC-931 "Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information" for all 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 programs that are subject to AGI compliance. FSA will no longer accept CCC-926, CCC-927, or CCC-928 for any program. The new form is a combination of the Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information forms previously used by FSA.

Form CCC-931 is available at your local FSA office or online at <http://intranet.fsa.usda.gov>. Producers can print and mail the form to their local FSA office. FSA employees will review the form for accuracy before forwarding it to the IRS. If CCC-931 is incomplete, the producer will be notified and corrections will be completed prior to FSA forwarding it to the IRS. Producers with FSA-211, "Power of Attorneys" will not be allowed to use the FSA-211 to complete the CCC-931.

Without these forms on file, eligible producers will not receive USDA program payments. For more information please contact your local FSA office.

2012 DCP/ACRE SIGNUP

2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment will begin Jan. 23, 2012 and will end June 1, 2012. Here are some IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

All producers planting on **DCP base** acres must be identified on the DCP/ACRE contract and receive a proportionate share of DCP/ACRE payment for the farm.

Changes on the farm after enrolling June 1st in DCP/ACRE **must** be reported to your local FSA office such as:

Ownership changes

Producer changes (Individuals and Entities)

Change in crop shares arrangements

Note: Changes cannot be made after Sept. 30, 2012.

FSA MOVING TO ELECTRONIC INFORMATION

The USDA Farm Service Agency offices are moving toward a paperless operation.

Producers are asked to enroll in the new GovDelivery system which will provide notices, newsletters and electronic reminders instead of a hard copy through the mail.

FSA, like many other organizations, is trying to work smarter and be more efficient. Moving to electronic notifications via email will help conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars.

County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers.

Producers can now subscribe to receive free e-mail updates by going to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe>.

HISPANIC & WOMEN FARMERS

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans has been established.

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

For additional information on this and other settlement issues contact:

Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process:

www.farmerclaims.gov or call 1-888-508-4429

Pigford - The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation:

www.blackfarmercase.com or call 1-866-950-5547

Keepseagle - The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement:

www.IndianFarmClass.com or call 1-888-233-5506



SIERRA COUNTY FSA OFFICE
2101 S. Broadway
T or C, NM 87901



PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Truth or Consequences, NM
PERMIT #G-96

Selected Interest Rates - March 2011	
Farm Operating - Direct	1.375%
Farm Ownership - Direct	3.750%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Emergency Loan	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loan	1.500%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.125%
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%

Dates to Remember	
November 1	Last day to file a notice of loss for NAP – Native Grass
November 4	COC Ballots mailed to all eligible voters in LAA 1
November 24	Thanksgiving Holiday
December 1	Last day to purchase 2012 NAP Coverage for Lettuce & Honey.
December 5	Last day to return voted ballots
December 8	County Committee Meeting, ballots will be counted.
December 26	Christmas Holiday

HOLIDAYS

This office will be closed to observe the following Holidays:



November 24th – Thanksgiving Holiday; December 26 - Christmas Holiday; January 2 - New Year’s Holiday;

The Sierra County FSA Office is currently operating with one employee. Although, I strive to keep the office opened as much as possible, there will be times when the office will be closed. To avoid unnecessary fuel expenses, please give me a call and schedule an appointment. I can be reached at (575) 894-2563 or Jordanna.Gurule@nm.usda.gov

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.