



*Socorro-Catron County Farm Service Agency*  
Office Location: *103 Neel St NW*  
Mailing Address: *PO Box DD*  
*Socorro, New Mexico 87801-0537*  
Office Hours: *8:00 AM – 4:30 PM* (Monday – Friday)  
Telephone: *(575) 835-1710, ext. 2* Fax: *(575) 835-3872*  
June 2009

## *SOCORRO-CATRON AGRICULTURAL NEWS*

County Committee meetings are the first Wednesday following the first Monday of each month at 10:00 A.M.



### 2009 COUNTY COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS OPEN IN JUNE

The nomination period for the 2009 County Committee elections opens on June 15, 2009. The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers, whether beginning or long-established, with large or small operations. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

Important dates for the upcoming election are listed below.

**June 15, 2009:** Nomination period begins.

**August 3, 2009:** Last day to file nomination forms at local FSA Offices.

**November 6, 2009:** Ballots mailed to eligible voters.

**December 7, 2009:** Last day to return voted ballots to local FSA Offices.

**January 1, 2010:** Elected committee members and alternates take office.

Elections will be held for **LAA1** which is the southwest corner of Catron County. It includes the towns of Reserve, Apache Creek, and the Glenwood area. This position is currently held by Alan Robinson of Apache Creek. Alan is not eligible for re-election due to term limits.

Farmers and ranchers located in **LAA4** will also have an election this year. This area is the northeast corner of Socorro County and includes the Veguita, Lemitar, Sevilleta, and Bernardo areas. This position is currently held by Mary Fagan of Lemitar.

County committees provide local input on: Commodity price support loans and payments; Conservation programs; Incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities; Emergency programs; Payment eligibility.

FSA county committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

**Nominations** - To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign nomination form FSA-669A (attached). The form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. Nomination forms for the 2009 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on August 3, 2009. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Additionally, organizations representing minority and women farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates. Nomination forms are filed for the county committee of the office that administers a producer's farm records.

**Eligibility to Hold Office** - To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet each of the following basic eligibility requirements described: 1) Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA; 2) Be eligible to vote in a county committee election; 3) Reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate; 4) A person must not have been removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee, removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony, dishonorable discharged from any branch of the armed services. People uncertain about their eligibility to vote in the county committee election should contact their local FSA office. Affirmation of eligibility to vote must be determined in order for a vote to count in an election.

**Who can vote** - Agricultural producers of legal voting age may be eligible to vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm may also be eligible to vote.

**FSA COUNTS ON YOU: NOMINATE AND VOTE!**

## FINANCIAL SERVICES

County offices will no longer issue checks or direct deposit transaction statements for customers. All payments will be completed by the National Finance Center (NFC) through the National Payment Service (NPS). NPS is a centralized, web-based payment processing application that interfaces with a web-based program application to complete the payment process for a program. County office will "certify" and "sign" your payment eligibility in the county office, but your direct deposits and/or checks and transactions statements will be prepared by NFC. If you've changed banks or bank accounts, please update this information as quickly as possible to prevent payment delays!

## NON-INSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Producers are reminded about the need for insurance coverage on crops in order to remain eligible for the agency's Disaster Assistance Programs such as SURE, LFP, TAP, and ELAP. Producers must purchase at least catastrophic (CAT) level of insurance for all insurable crops.

NAP is a federally funded program that provides coverage to producers for non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occurs due to natural disasters. Crops eligible for NAP coverage are those for which crop insurance is not available, including fruits and vegetables, pecans, turf grass, native grass and forage crops just to name a few.

NAP applications for coverage must be filed using Form CCC-471 and pay the applicable service fees by the closing date. Application closing dates vary by crop. Socorro and Catron County producers can contact the FSA Office for specific crop application sales closing dates at: 575-835-1710 extension 2.

More information about NAP may be found on the FSA web site located at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

## NAP FILING OF LOSS AND PRODUCTION REPORTING

File a Notice of Loss (CCC-576, Page 1) the earlier of 15 calendar days after a damaging weather condition occurs, damage to the crop becomes apparent or final harvest date. Remember to file your prevented plant acres within 15 days of the final plant date for the crop

If you had 2008 NAP coverage for any crop that was not intended for grazing, you must report all production for that crop and acreage no later than the immediately subsequent crop year reporting date. This means that if you had coverage for Haygrazer/Cane/Sudex, pumpkins, watermelons, etc. last year and didn't report a loss, you must provide verifiable/reliable records by July 15, 2009. Don't wait!! Bring in your production as soon as possible!

To be considered 'Verifiable' the record should 1) be dated, 2) show disposition of the crop's production, including both quantity and price, 3) be seasonal or crop specific for crops that are produced more than once in a calendar year, 4) be provided if they exist. 'Reliable' records may be provided if verifiable records do not exist. These records include, but are not limited to: copies of receipts, ledgers of income, income statements or deposit slips, register tapes, invoices for custom harvesting, and pick records.

## CROP CERTIFICATIONS

All farmers are reminded to report acreage to the FSA office no later than **July 15 for all crops**, excluding small grains and native grass. If certifications are not submitted timely, **late file fees will apply**. In order to accept a late filed crop certification all of the following apply: 1) The operator pays the cost of a farm visit and the costs of verification and determination of crop acreage; 2) Physical existence of the late-filed crop or crop residue for the crop year being reported exists, if applicable, according to 2-CP Par. 21, subparagraph E; 3) The crop's use can be verified; 4) The crop's acreage for the specific crop year can be determined; 5) Spot checks will be performed on all late-filed crops.

Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs. Failed acreage must be reported within 15 calendar days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

Crop certifications may be revised at any time if the revised acreage can be verified by physical evidence to COC's satisfaction.

## DIRECT AND GUARANTEED LOANS

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are available now.

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan. Loan funds are available. However, producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner. Most of our loan programs have special funding available for minority, female and beginning farmers.

FSA employees will help you complete the necessary application and other forms, and help you understand what information is required, where to find it or who to contact to get it. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff and set an appointment with Farm Loan staff.

## BANKING CHANGES

If you have changed banks and not notified FSA, your payment could be delayed. Payments are electronically transferred into your bank account, if we are not aware of changes to your account and routing numbers, there could be problems. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. It is important that any changes in producer's account such as type account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers, be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay

<b>FSA-669A</b> (04-17-09)	<b>U.S. Department of Agriculture</b> Farm Service Agency
<h2 style="margin: 0;">NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION</h2>	

1. NAME OF NOMINEE <i>(Type or print Nominee's Full Name)</i>	<b>TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE</b>
2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE	
3. <b>NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION</b>  <i>I hereby agree to have my name placed on the ballot, that I will serve if elected, and if there is a conflict of interest, I will resign such position.</i>  <input type="checkbox"/> <i>I DO want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.</i>  <input type="checkbox"/> <i>I DO NOT want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.</i>	5. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE <i>(MM-DD-YYYY)</i>
4A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE	6A. COUNTY
4B. DATE <i>(MM-DD-YYYY)</i>	6B. LAA NO.
	7. STATE
<b>DATE OF ELECTION IS 1st MONDAY OF DECEMBER OF EACH CALENDAR YEAR</b>	

**8. TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINEE**

**VOLUNTARY INFORMATION FOR MONITORING PURPOSES:** The following information is requested by the Federal Government in order to monitor FSA's compliance with federal laws prohibiting discrimination against program participants on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, handicapped condition, or age. You are not required to furnish this information, but are encouraged to do so. This information will not be used in evaluating your nomination or to discriminate against you in any way.

<b>ETHNICITY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino	<b>RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> America Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African-American <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> White	<b>GENDER</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
--	--	---

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM**

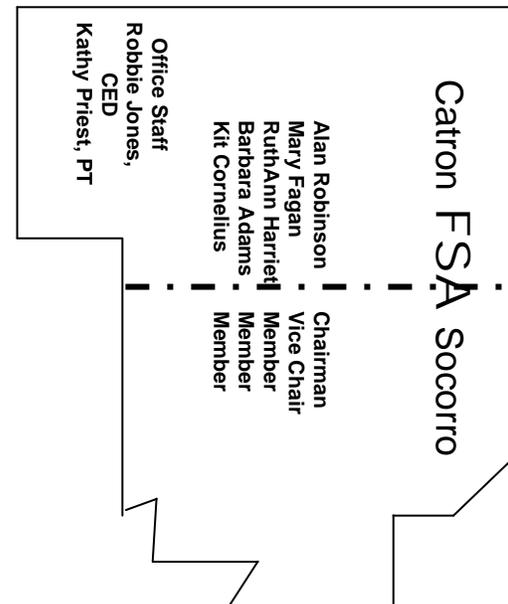
Complete the form as follows:

- ITEM 1** Type or Print the nominee's full name. The nominee must be:
  - A. Eligible to vote in the designated County FSA Committee election.
  - B. Eligible to hold the office of County FSA Committee member.
  - C. Willing to serve if elected.
- ITEM 2** Enter the nominee's current address.
- ITEM 3** The nominee must check one of the boxes to indicate a preference regarding the settling of tied votes.
- ITEM 4** The nominee must sign and date.
- ITEM 8** Completing this item is voluntary.

**ALL FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE COUNTY OFFICE OR POSTMARKED BY AUGUST 3.**

**NOTE:** *The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a) and the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, as amended. The authority for requesting the following information is 7 CFR Part 7. The information will be used to obtain nominees for County FSA Committee.*

*According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0560-0229. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.*



## Socorro - Catron Agricultural News

FSA ensures the well-being of American agriculture, the environment and the American public through efficient and equitable administration of farm commodity programs; farm ownership, operating and emergency loans; conservation and environmental programs; emergency and disaster assistance; domestic and international food assistance and international export credit programs.

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, SW., Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (800)795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an 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 requieran medios de comunicación alternativos (Braille, literatura en letra de mayor tamaño, cintas/audio, etc.) deben comunicarse con el programa 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., 202) 720-9410 o llame al (202) 720-5964 (Voz o Teletexto). El USDA proporciona oportunidades y empleos con igualdad.

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Violations also include convictions for

### CHANGES IN FARMING OPERATION

Failure to notify FSA of changes in your farming operation may adversely impact your eligibility for USDA benefits. You should also be aware of Highly Erodible Land Conservation, Wetland Conservation, Payment Eligibility, and Payment Limitation provisions, which may impact your eligibility for program payments. Changes to your farming operation may include, but are not limited to, a change in the structure of your farming operation or changes in your rental agreement. Failure to timely report changes may result in ineligibility for a variety of benefits.

### FOREIGN LANDOWNER NOTIFICATION

The Agriculture Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of US agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. FSA administers this program for USDA. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in penalties of up to 25% of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, realtors, attorneys, and other involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements. It is the foreign person's responsibility to report the land transactions.

COUNTY COMMITTEE MEETINGS WILL BE HELD ON June 3 and July 8 at 10:00 am at the Socorro Catron FSA Office.

FARM LOAN STAFF WILL BE IN THE SOCORRO OFFICE ON June 19, July 8, and August 12. Call the Socorro Catron FSA Office to schedule an appointment.