



**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**  
**December, 2009**



## **SOCORRO-CATRON AGRICULTURAL NEWS**

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

### **NON-INSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)**

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock for which CAT is not available. Producers who already have coverage on 2009 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2010, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date.

Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits: 1) Timely file acreage reports; 2) Provide proof of harvested production using acceptable methods such as packing house receipts, farmers market sales reports, etc.; 3) Notify FSA within 15 days of a damaging weather event, or within 15 days of the crop damage becoming apparent; 4) Notify FSA prior to completion of harvest for all hand harvested crops.

More information about NAP may be found on the FSA web site located at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> PLEASE CONTACT FSA IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT NAP.

### **NAP APPLICATION CLOSING DATES**

**JANUARY 31 - Alfalfa, Cucumbers, Native Grass, Mixed Forage, Pecans, Peppers**

**February 1 - Cabbage, Carrots, Spinach Greens**

**March 15 - Beans, Dry Peas, Corn, Millet, Potatoes, Sorghum, Soybeans, Squash, Sunflowers, Tomatoes**

**Please call the FSA office to check on other crop application closing dates**



**DEADLINE TO PURCHASE NAP COVERAGE FOR  
NATIVE GRASS, ALFALFA, AND PEPPERS IS JANUARY 31, 2010.**

### **NAP PRODUCTION REPORTING**

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 reliable or verifiable. We recommend producers submit 2009 production records as soon as harvest is complete.

**All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date.**

### **TIMELY FILING OF NAP LOSS**

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for ALL CROPS INCLUDING GRASSES. For losses on crops covered by the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576 (notice of loss) in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

## ACREAGE SPOT CHECK DETERMINATIONS AND NOTIFICATION

Each year the Farm Service Agency completes spot checks of acreage reports. Acreage reports are an important part of farm program participation. Acreage spot checks are completed to ensure accurate acreage reports are used in farm program computations.

FSA will conduct spot checks on a selected number of farms in each state. All acreage determinations will be completed using the FSA Geographic Information System official acreages.

After farms are spot checked, a Notice of Determined Acreage will be sent to the farm operator. Producer notifications will be issued by FSA as spot checks are completed. Questions concerning determined acres should be directed to your local FSA office for further explanation.

## SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SURE)

The 2008 Farm Bill created new "permanent" annual Disaster Programs, most prominent being the SURE program. To meet the provisions of SURE, **producers who want to participate in the SURE program MUST report ALL crops, in ALL counties, in which they have an interest.** In order to be eligible for SURE, producers must be insured at least at the CAT level of coverage for all insurable crops and have NAP coverage for all non-insurable crops in all counties. This includes crops planted on cropland and/or noncropland, including native or improved grass that will be hayed. Please contact your local FSA office today for more information.

## FARM SERVICE AGENCY ANNOUNCES BIOMASS PROGRAM

Biomass conversion facilities may begin to apply for qualification under the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP). This allows producers or owners of eligible material who sell to these facilities to apply for matching payments under the collection, harvest, storage and transportation (CHST) component of BCAP.

BCAP will provide financial assistance to owners of eligible material who deliver the material to qualified biomass conversion facilities that use biomass to produce heat, power, biobased products or advanced biofuels.

An eligible material owner may be eligible for a matching CHST payment for eligible material delivered to a qualified biomass conversion facility which will be paid at a rate of \$1 for \$1 per dry-ton equivalent received from a qualified biomass conversion facility, not to exceed \$45 per dry-ton equivalent. An eligible material owner may receive payments for a period of two years. The purpose of the matching payments is to assist biomass producers with the CHST cost of delivering biomass to a qualified biomass conversion facility.

For example, if a qualified biomass conversion facility pays a producer \$30 per dry ton for biomass, the eligible material owner or producer would be able to apply for a matching payment of \$30 per dry ton from FSA.

An added benefit of BCAP is the reduction of fuel loads on forest and range lands that reduces the risks associated with wildfires and other natural disasters. Contractors who collect the forest thinning byproducts on National Forest System land may be eligible to apply for a matching payment for those materials sold to a qualified biomass conversion facility; however, they must work with the Forest Service and conform to any rules, permits or other requirements applicable to the National Forest System.

Biomass conversion facilities may become "qualified" by signing an Agreement with FSA state offices. The Agreement generally provides the framework that facilitates the making of CHST matching payments to eligible material owners or producers who plan to deliver biomass to that facility.

After a biomass conversion facility becomes "qualified" by signing an Agreement with FSA, eligible material owners or producers, who market eligible material to that biomass conversion facility, must apply for the CHST matching payment program at their nearest FSA county office before the eligible material is delivered. Eligible material owners must also provide a copy of their delivery agreement with the qualified biomass conversion facility as part of the application for a CHST matching payment. After the product is delivered, a producer must provide FSA with documentation of product quantity, quality, and payment rate. County offices will verify payment request information with the qualified biomass conversion facilities.

Interested biomass conversion facilities should contact their FSA state offices for further information and can visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/energy> to download and review the Agreement.

## HELP AVAILABLE TO STRESSED FARMERS

In the past year, the economy, inclement weather, drought and other factors have hurt many farming operations around the country. These events pushed some farmers to the emotional breaking point. Watching their livelihood being threatened is difficult for farmers and ranchers and especially for those who care about them.

The National Suicide Prevention Hotline is available to help. If you know a farmer or rancher who is under stress and is reluctant to ask for help, or if you just need to talk to someone, call 1-800-273-TALK (8255). Your call will be routed to the crisis center nearest you, where trained staffers are available 24/7. This nationwide service is free and confidential. Help is just a phone call away.

For more information, go to <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>. This service is not affiliated with the US Department of Agriculture.

## FARM LOAN PROGRAMS

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,112,000. Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA.

## RURAL YOUTH LOANS

The Farm Service Agency 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 \$5000.

### Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien.
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

## BEGINNING AND LIMITED RESOURCE FARMERS

FSA assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years.
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed. Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

## LOANS FOR THE SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of Socially Disadvantaged Applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders.

If the producers or their spouses believe they would qualify as socially disadvantaged, they should contact their local FSA office for details. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.



## DEADLINE TO PURCHASE NAP COVERAGE FOR 2010

### NATIVE GRASS, ALFALFA, AND PEPPERS IS JANUARY 31, 2010

*The Socorro Catron USDA Service Center and Farm Service Agency  
Will be closed December 25, 2009 for Christmas,  
January 1, 2010 for New Years Day, and  
January 18, 2010 for Martin Luther King Jr Birthday*

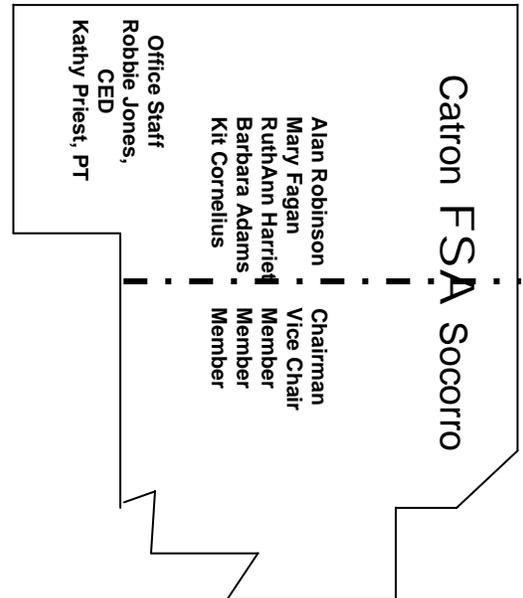
The Socorro Catron  
Farm Service Agency  
wishes you a very  
Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year.

**Merry  
Christmas**

We look forward to  
serving the producers  
of Socorro and Catron  
Counties in 2010.

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.

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**NRCS DEADLINE FOR EQIP AND WHIP** - The NRCS signup deadline for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is January 15, 2010. Please contact your local NRCS office for more information.

**COUNTY COMMITTEE MEETINGS WILL BE HELD ON December 11, January 6 and February 3 at 10:00 am at the Socorro Catron FSA Office.**

**FARM LOAN STAFF WILL BE IN THE SOCORRO OFFICE ON January 13, February 10, and March 19.** Call the Socorro Catron FSA Office to schedule an appointment

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

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