Valencia-Cibola County FSA Office

DECEMBER 3, 2009

NONINSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

THE NONINSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP) IS INSURANCE YOU PURCHASE THROUGH THIS OFFICE THAT PROVIDES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO PRODUCERS OF NONINSURABLE CROPS WHEN LOW YIELDS, LOSS OF INVENTORY, OR PREVENTED PLANTING OCCURS DUE TO A NATURAL DISASTER.

FINAL DATE TO PURCHASE 2010 NAP	
Alfalfa, Cucumbers, Grass, Mixed Forage, Pecans, Peppers	**Jan. 1, 2010**
Cabbage, Carrots, Onions, Spinach/Greens	**Feb. 1, 2010**
Beans, Dry Peas, Corn, Millet, Potatoes, Sorghum, Soybeans, Squash, Sunflowers, Tomatoes	**Mar. 15, 2010**

CCC-576 NOTICE OF LOSS FILING REQUIREMENT

If a natural disaster occurs and you purchased NAP insurance, a notice of loss **MUST** be filed on a CCC-576, **within 15 calendar** days after the:

- Latter of the occurrence of prevented planting or the end of the planting period.
- Disaster occurrence or date damage to the specific crop acreage is apparent to the producer.
- An appraisal must be completed prior to destroying the crop or putting the crop to another use. Contact this office for an appraisal.
- If you have NAP coverage on **NATIVE GRASS**, production loss must be over 50% and **you must file a notice of loss within 15 days after the first freeze**

DEFINING FORAGE CROPS

Forage Crops are considered ALFALFA when **more than 60%** of the plant population is alfalfa. Any forage crop with **less than 60%** of Alfalfa is considered mixed forage.

Coverage Period is the NAP coverage for forage acreage as commercially mechanically harvested (60% or more) is limited to the same number of years of productive longevity typically recognized by NM State University Cooperative Extension Forage specialists and FCIC coverage availability. NMSU data recognized that on average, alfalfa peaks around year 6 and then becomes not economically feasible to mechanically harvest and often terminated depending on its use.

USDA FARM SERVICE AGENCY WEBSITE

http://www.fsa.usda.gov

New Mexico Established NAP Coverage Period is the set New Mexico State Committee policy in which NAP coverage may be obtained for stands of alfalfa if the crop meets the definition of an Alfalfa stand for years 2 through 6. NAP coverage cannot be purchased for Alfalfa regardless of quality of the stand in year 7 and up. Coverage after year 6, if purchased, would be considered Alfalfa Mix. A new APH would be established at that time.

NAP YIELD

Production records for individual crops need to be filed to establish an approved NAP yield. If this is the first year you participated in NAP, you can provide prior years' production and acreage to establish a yield. If production records are not available, county average yields will be used.

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. If production is not provided, a zero yield will be used.

Records submitted must be reliable and verifiable. Records need to show crop disposition. ***All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date.***

HOLIDAYS

The Agricultural Service Center will be closed on Friday, December 25th in observance of Christmas Day, Friday, January 1st in observance of New Year's Day, and Monday, January 18th in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

NAP FEE INCREASE

For 2010 Crop Year, NAP Fees are as follows:
$250 per crop
$750 per county maximum

COC MEETING
2nd WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH

Date	Time
***December 9, 2009**	**9:00 a.m.**

* Indicates meeting date held at the NRCS Office in Grants, NM

UPDATING FARM/RANCH RECORDS

The COF will update your records if you have changes to your farming/ranching operation. Please contact the office for changes to the following:

	Direct Deposit Information
Acreage Divisions	Change in Owner/Operator
Entity Type Changes	Sale or Purchase of Land
Acreage Combinations	Name and Address Changes
Death of Owner/Operator	Leases and /or New Leases

BIOMASS CROP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) assists agricultural and forest land owners and operations with matching payments for the amount paid for the Collection, Harvest, Storage, and Transportation (CHST) of eligible material by a qualified Biomass Conversion Facility (BCF).

BCAP supports establishing and producing eligible crops for the conversion to bioenergy through project areas and through contracts on land of up to 5 years for annual/perennial crops or up to 15 years for woody biomass crops.

For more information on BCAP's CHST Matching Payment Program, please visit FSA's BCAP website at:

http://www.fsa.usda.gov/energy

or call Andrew Ortiz, Program Specialist at 505-761-4912 at the USDA Farm Service Agency, 6200 Jefferson NE, RM 211, Albuquerque, NM 87109.

DEFINITIONS AND APPLICABILITY

Socially Disadvantaged Group:
A socially disadvantaged group is a group whose members have been subjected to racial or ethnic prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities.
A socially disadvantaged farmer/rancher is a farmer/rancher who is a member of a socially disadvantaged group. These groups consist of American Indians, Alaskan natives, Asians, Blacks or African Americans, Native Hawaiians, or Pacific Islanders or Hispanics. Gender is not a covered group under the 1990 Farm Bill definition.

Applicability: Waiver for Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance Program, Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, Farm Raised Fish, TAP, BCAP, CRP.

Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher
A Limited Resource farmer/rancher is a producer with a direct or indirect farm sale of not more than $155,200.00 in both of the previous 2 years, and have a household income at or below the national poverty level ($21,432.40 for Valencia County, $21,200.00 for Cibola County) in each of the previous 2 years.

Applicability: Waiver for DCP 10-acre exception, CRP, ECP, NAP, Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance Program, Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees and Farm Raised Fish, and TAP.

Beginning Farmer or Rancher
A Beginning farmer/rancher is an individual or entity who has not operated a farm or ranch for more than 10 consecutive years.

A producer can determine his status using their personal data at their State and County location by using the NRCS Limited Resource Farm and Rancher Online Self Determination Tool at the following website:

http://www.lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/tool.asp

LIVESTOCK FORAGE DISASTER PROGRAM

The Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) compensates eligible livestock producers who suffer grazing losses for covered livestock due to drought conditions or fire on federally managed land.

Eligible livestock producers may receive assistance for eligible livestock grazing losses that occur due to drought or fire on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011, during the calendar year in which the loss occurs.

In order for an LFP applicant to qualify for program benefits, the applicant must have purchased insurance coverage through FSA's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) or the Pasture, Rangeland and Forage Insurance (PRF-RI) program offered through the Risk Management Agency (RMA).

For drought: LFP is for livestock producers that suffer a grazing loss because of drought on pastureland that is physically located in a county that is rated by the US Drought Monitor.

For fire: LFP is eligible on grazing land managed by a Federal Agency for which the producer's livestock is prohibited by this Federal Agency from grazing the normal permitted livestock due to a qualifying fire.

Producers cannot receive payment for drought and fire on the same land.

County offices can only accept applications after being notified by the National Office of qualifying drought.

AS OF THIS DATE, VALENCIA AND CIBOLA COUNTIES DO NOT YET QUALIFY.

EMERGENCY LIVESTOCK ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

ELAP provides compensation to eligible producers of livestock, honey bees, and farm-raised fish for losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other loss conditions, including losses due to blizzards and wildfires. ELAP is for losses that are not covered be Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), or Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE).

Eligible producers under ELAP may receive assistance for losses that occur on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011, during the calendar year in which the loss occurs. Eligible losses include feed losses, physical losses and additional costs incurred in providing feed to eligible livestock.

In order for an ELAP applicant to qualify for program benefits, the applicant must have purchased insurance coverage through FSA's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

Producers who suffered losses in calendar year 2008 must provide a notice of loss by December 14, 2009. An application for payment shall be filed no later than January 30, 2010.

Producers who suffer losses September 14, 2009 through December 31, 2009, shall file a notice of loss within 30 days of when the loss is apparent to the participant, no later than January 30, 2010.

FARM OWNERSHIP AND OPERATING LOANS FOR SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED GROUPS

FSA has targeted loan funds for producers that are recognized as Socially Disadvantaged (SDA) farmers or ranchers. These loan programs are designed to help farmers/ranchers purchase and operate family farms/ranches.

With these loans, FSA's mission is to reverse the declining number of farmers and ranchers across the United States and to encourage and assist them in owning and operating their own farms and ranches,

participate in ag programs, and become integral parts of the ag community.

FSA reserves a portion of its loan guarantee funds each year for SDA loans. SDA's are individuals or entities who are members of a SDA group. A SDA group is a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity. These groups consist of American Indian or Alaska Natives, Asians, Blacks or African Americans, Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders, Hispanics and Women.

Direct loans are made to applicants by FSA and include both farm operating and farm ownership loans.

Guaranteed loans also may be made for farm ownership or operating purposes, and may be made by any lending institution, subject to Federal or State supervision, who make agriculture type loans (banks, savings and loans, credit unions, and units of the Farm Credit System including the Bank for Cooperatives) and guaranteed by FSA. Typically, FSA guarantees 90 or 95 percent of a loan against any loss that might be incurred if the loan fails.

Repayment terms for direct operating loans depend on the collateral securing the loan and usually run from 1 to 7 years and repayment terms for direct ownership loans can be as long as 40 years.

Guaranteed loan terms are set by the lender. Interest rates for direct loans are set periodically according to the Government's cost of borrowing. Interest rates for guaranteed loans are established by the lender.

Farm ownership loan funds may be used to purchase or enlarge a farm or ranch, purchase easements or rights of way needed in the farm's operation, build or improve buildings such as a dwelling or barn, promote soil and water conservation and development, and pay closing costs.

Farm operating loan funds may be used to purchase livestock, poultry, farm equipment, fertilizer and other materials necessary to operate a successful farm. Operating Loan funds can also be used for family living expenses, refinancing debts under certain conditions, paying salaries for hired farm laborers, installing or improving water systems for home, livestock, or irrigation use, and other similar improvements.

Applications for all FSA direct loan programs are made through FSA. Producers interested in these loans should visit or call Allen Mackrain, Farm Loan Manager, in Estancia, NM. Telephone 505-384-2272 x 4.

FSA SIGNATURE POLICY

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- A married woman shall sign her given name: Mrs. Mary Doe, not Mrs. John Doe
- For a minor, FSA requires the minor' signature and one from an eligible parent
  Note, by signing the applicable document, the parent is liable for actions of the minor and may be liable for refunds, liquidated damages, etc
- When signing on one's behalf the signature must agree with the name typed or printed on the form, or be a variation that does not cause the name and signature to be in disagreement. Example - John W. Smith is on the form. The signature may be John W. Smith or J.W. Smith or J. Smith. Or Mary J. Smith may be signed as Mrs. Mary Joe Smith, M.J. Smith, Mary Smith, etc
- FAXED signatures will be accepted for certain forms and other documents provided the acceptable program forms are approved for FAXED signatures. Producers are responsible for the successful transmission and receipt of FAXED information.
  Examples of documents **not** approved for FAXED signatures include:
  - Promissory note
  - Assignment of payment
  - Joint payment authorization
  - NAP actual production history and approved yield record
  - Acknowledgement of commodity certificate purchase
  - Financing statement
  - UCC financing statement
- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities
- All members of a general partnership must sign for the general partnership unless an individual is authorized to act on the behalf of the general partnership and bind all members
- Spouses may sign on behalf of each other's individual interest in a partnership, unless notification denying a spouse that authority is provided to the county office
- Acceptable signatures for general partnerships, join ventures, corporations, estates, and trusts shall consist of an indicator "by" or "for" the individual's name, individual's name and capacity, or individual's name, capacity, and name of entity

For additional clarification on proper signatures contact your local FSA office.

THE VALENCIA-CIBOLA FSA COUNTY COMMITTEE AND OFFICE STAFF WISH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Valencia-Cibola County FSA Office
2600 Palmilla Rd, Suite A
Los Lunas, NM 87031

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	United States Department of Agriculture	FARM SERVICE AGENCY	Valencia-Cibola County 2600 Palmilla Rd., Suite A Los Lunas, NM 87031 (505) 865-4643 EXT. 2 (505) 866-0662 FAX

County Committee: Vicki Husbands, Chairperson Kenneth Monday, Vice-Chairperson Rex Salvador, Member Juan D. Sanchez, Jr., Member Rex L. Robinson, Member	 FSA Office Staff: BARBARA J ZELLERS, CED MELINDA MARTIN, PT Office Hours Monday-Friday: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audio tape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 voice and TDD).

To file a compliant of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer

El Departamento De Agricultura de los Estados Unidos De America (USDA por sus siglas en Ingles) Prohibe la discriminacion en sus programa y actividades en cuanto a raza, color, nacionalidad, sexo, religion, edad, impedimento fisico o mental, afliacion politica, estado civil o condicion social (No Todas las basas applican a todos los programas.) Las personas con alguin tipo de impedimento que requiren metodos alternos de comunicacion para obtener informacion sobre los programas (Brail, letras de imprenta grande, cintas de audio, etc.) Deben communicarse con el USDA Target Center al (202) 720-2600 (Voz Y TDD)

Para registrar una queja, deben escribirle a el director, oficina de derechos civiles, Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos, oficina numero 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 marque (202) 720-5964 (Voz Y Tdd). USDA es un patrono que ofrece igualdad de oportunidades de empleo.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in a meeting/event/function at the Los Lunas Service Center, should contact Barbara J. Zellers (barbara.zellers@n.m.usda.gov) by email or telephone, 505-865-4641, ext. 2 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339, two days prior to the day of event so accommodations can be prepared.