



June 2008

# San Juan-Grand County News

## San Juan-Grand County USDA Service Center

San Juan-Grand County FSA Office  
32 S. 100 E.  
Monticello, UT 84535

**Phone**  
435-587-2473

**Fax**  
435-587-2104

**Hours**  
Monday - Friday  
7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**County Committee**  
Tammy Taylor  
Chairperson

Terri Laws  
Vice-chairperson

Ked Somerville  
Member

Bob Barry  
Member

Raymond Chief  
Member

## Staff

Doug Christensen  
County Executive Director  
Karla Eberling  
Program Technician  
Shirley Provance  
Program Technician  
Carla Sorrell  
Farm Loan Officer

## Acreage Reporting Time is Here!

We are now accepting 2008 acreage reports. As soon as your spring crops are planted you need to come into the office and file your crop report. Please remember that failure to file an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses—including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage as well as rangeland and pastureland—can prevent you from qualifying to receive benefits for a variety of programs.

The planting date for all reported crops is also required as part of the acreage report. **Acreage reports need to be completed and certified by June 30, 2008. Acreage reports filed after the deadline will be required to pay a \$46 late filing fee.**

Please call before you come so we can review your paperwork prior to your arrival to better serve you. This way we can determine if we need you to bring documentation with you such as BLM, State or Forest Service permits, leases, etc.

If you are participating in ANY of our programs, you **MUST** file a 2008 Acreage Report before June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008.



## Critical Feed Use on CRP

Because of record level feed prices, tight supplies of feed and competition for grazing acres, critical feed use of CRP acreage for grazing and haying will be allowed during 2008.

CRP participants may request a voluntary modification of the CRP contract, using form CRP-1M Addendum to allow critical feed use, such as haying or grazing of CRP acreage. CRP participants may use their CRP acreage for a critical feed use or may lease the privilege to any other individual.

**Note: There will be “no” payment reduction for critical feed use.**

### Haying Provisions:

- CRP participants must obtain a modified conservation plan from NRCS.
- Pay \$75 administrative fee per contract hayed.
- Not conduct haying activity until July 16.
- Leave at least 50 percent of each field unhayed.
- Only 1 cutting is allowed.
- Not hay and graze the same acreage.

### Grazing Provisions:

- CRP participants must obtain a modified conservation plan from NRCS, including stocking rate.
- Pay \$75 administrative fee per contract grazed.
- Grazing Period will be July 16 through November 10.
- Not hay and graze the same acreage.

CRP participants who are interested in Critical Feed Use on CRP acreage should contact our office.

## COC Elections

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers 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).

Nominations for this year's election begin June 15<sup>th</sup>. First a little background on the election process: For the purpose of county committee (COC) elections, counties are divided into local administrative areas, more commonly referred to as LAAs. Each LAA is represented on the committee by one producer who is elected by the active producers in that LAA and serves a three year term. Single counties are divided into three LAAs and combined counties may have from three to five LAAs. Each year an election is held in an LAA to replace or re-elect the committee member whose three year term is expiring. In counties with three LAA's, one seat is up for election. In combined counties there are years when two seats may be up for election.

**This year, LAA1 will be conducting an election. LAA1 includes all of Grand County and the LaSal area of San Juan County.**

**Nominations begin June 15<sup>th</sup>:** Nominations for candidates to run for county committee election representing LAA 1 will be accepted from June 15 through August 1, 2008. Producers who reside in LAA1 and who participate or cooperate in an FSA program, and are of legal voting age may be nominated to serve on the county committee. Almost anyone can nominate a candi-

date—nominate yourself, your neighbor, or any other producer of choice. Also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers or ranchers may also nominate candidates. Nominees must sign the "Nomination Form" indicating their willingness to serve if elected. The FSA 669A, Nomination Form for County Farm Service Agency (FSA) Committee Election, must be returned to our office or postmarked by August 1, 2008.

If you are uncertain of your eligibility to vote or hold office in the upcoming election, please give us a call. If you want a voice in how FSA programs are administered to meet your local community and resource needs—get involved. **Make a difference!**

### IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES

June 15:

Request nomination forms from the FSA office and begin submitting nominations.

August 1:

Last day to file nominations.

November 3:

Election ballots mailed.

December 1:

Last day to return ballots.

January 1:

Elected committee members and alternates take office.



## Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)

**Sign Up Deadline July 18, 2008.**

Livestock producers in both San Juan and Grand counties who suffered forage losses due to drought in 2006 or 2007 may be eligible for benefits under this program.

The program has been amended to include 2007. Producers must choose only one year for which to receive benefits. Producers who have already signed up for the 2006 year program, but who had more animal numbers in 2007, may want to come into the office and re-evaluate their application so that maximum benefits are received.

Eligible livestock include beef cattle, equine, elk, sheep and goats. To be eligible, livestock must have been located in an eligible county on January 1 of the applicable year and must have been maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation.

Please provide our office with the following information when you come in to apply:

- Animal numbers on January 1 of the applicable year. Navajo Producers bring in your tally sheets if you have them.
- Producers who run on BLM, Forest Service or State Lands must bring in their billing statements for the applicable year so that we can determine how many AUM's you paid for during the grazing season.

Note: Animal numbers need to be very accurate. If you are selected for spotcheck and are currently running fewer animals than certified to, you will be required to provide sales documentation/or other documentation showing what happened to the animals.

Please call for an appointment.

## Non Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

We would like to remind all participants in the NAP Program that Notice of Loss must be filed timely. **You must file a Notice of Loss in writing on Form CCC-576 within 15 days of when the loss occurred or when it became apparent to you that you will have a loss.**

Remember that NAP coverage is based on intended use of the crop. If you report a crop with an intended use of forage or seed and you decided to change the use of the crop, including destruction of the crop without harvest or grazing, you must notify our office and request that the crop be appraised.

Failure to do so may result in a loss of payment or a reduced payment. If your production will be fed or disposed of without a verifiable record, it would be a good idea to request an appraisal so your production can be documented in an acceptable manner. Failure to provide adequate documentation of production may reduce your actual production history (APH) yield in a future year.

**Production information is due** by the final reporting date of the succeeding year in which the crop was produced. For 2007 covered acreage, the deadline is **June 30, 2008 for San Juan and Grand Counties.**



## EQIP Sign-Up NRCS

2009 EQIP sign-up is now open. If you have conservation projects you would like to do next year you can sign up now. Examples of some of the practices that could be enrolled include terraces, fencing, ponds, water development, wells, brush management, seeding, residue management and others. .

Reminder that (HEL) highly erodible land requirements are still required under the new farm bill. Those of you who have HEL fields need to continue farming those fields using the conservation plan that was developed. This requires maintaining the crop rotation that you choose as well as maintaining the residue requirement for program eligibility.

### Farm Loan Assistance

Need temporary credit? Maybe we can help. FSA makes and guarantees loans to farmers and ranchers who are temporarily unable to obtain private commercial credit.

These loans are tailored to a producer's needs and may be used for the following purposes:

- Farm Ownership (FO) Loans: used to buy, develop, or expand a farm
- Down Payment (FO) Loans: used to assist beginning farmers and ranchers to purchase a farm or ranch
- Participation Loans: used to assist farmers or ranchers to purchase a farm with the assistance of a lender or the seller
- Farm Operating Loans: used for operating expenses, family subsistence, machinery, livestock, permits, and to refinance debt

- Beginning Farmer Loans: used to help farmers start an operation
- Guaranteed Loans: local lenders ask for assistance from FSA to guarantee their loans for farm ownership or farm operating purposes

Everyone needs financial help sometime. Perhaps FSA can help you with our loan programs and services to meet your farming needs.

Please contact Carla Sorrell at (435) 587-2473 ext 116 with any questions.

## TV Converter Box Coupon Program

Do you have a TV in your home that works with the help of "rabbit ears" or rooftop antenna? If you receive free TV using an antenna and your TV is not digital, you need to take action before February 17, 2009 so you can continue to receive programs after that date.

The Digital Television Transition and Public Safety Act of 2005 requires TV stations to stop broadcasting in analog and to broadcast only in digital after February 17, 2009.

The Act created the TV Converter Box Coupon Program for households wishing to use their analog TVs after the transition. The Federal government is offering US households up to two \$40 coupons to help pay for the cost of a certified converter box. TVs connected to cable, satellite, or other pay services do not need a converter box to receive programs after this date.

Coupon application forms are available at your USDA service center. Please come in for your copy or visit [www.DTV2009.gov](http://www.DTV2009.gov).

## USDA Farm Bill Funding Available for Clean Energy through Rural Development

Farmers, ranchers and rural small businesses have new opportunities to install energy efficiency upgrades and new renewable energy systems.

Rural Development has announced \$36 million in available funding in the clean energy grant and loan guarantee program.

For grants and loans, the application deadline is Monday, June 16, 2008.

Further information on the program including frequently asked questions, official application forms and templates, checklists, tips, case studies, application instructions and regulations can be found at [www.farmenergy.org](http://www.farmenergy.org) or by calling your local Rural Development office.

### Dates to Remember

Today	Report ANY changes in your farm operating plan or bank account
Today	Apply for disaster (drought) aid through CDP & LCP
Today	Wool LDP's: file CCC-633EZ Page 1 before shearing
Today	Apply for Farm Loans
June 15	Nominating period begins for 2008 COC Elections
June 17	COC Meeting
June 30	Deadline to file Acreage Report, without late file fee
July 4	Office Closed – Independence Day
July 18	Deadline to apply for LCP and LIP (livestock drought aid)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs 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 programs. (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 USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in San Juan-Grand County FSA meetings/events/functions should contact Doug Christensen, CED, on 435-587-2473 (Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339), or at: [doug.christensen@ut.usda.gov](mailto:doug.christensen@ut.usda.gov).