



OFFICE STAFF	SANTA FE COUNTY FSA	COUNTY COMMITTEE
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Allen Mackrain, Oliver Jenkins Farm Loan Mgr, Officer	PH: (505) 988-6253 OPT 2 FAX: (505) 988-6615	John C Bassett, Board Member Gilbert Sanchez, Judy Boutte Advisors

****REGULAR COUNTY COMMITTEE MEETING USUALLY 2ND THURSDAY EACH MONTH @ 10:00AM****



2006 COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

COC AGAIN OFFERING PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING REGARDING ELECTION PROCESS SEPT15TH @ 10:00AM @ SANTA FE SERVICE CENTER. ALL ARE WELCOME. COFFEE & REFRESHMENTS SERVED!

Election ballots will be mailed by contractor to eligible voters Nov 3rd. This year nominations were accepted for LAA3, position presently held by Jake Vigil – Jake’s was only nomination submitted for LAA3. Please show your support & appreciation for his willingness to serve his community by returning your ballot! LAA3 Boundaries run aprox “Northernmost” Santa Fe Cnty - Township 20North; Ranges 7E-11E to borders. Very generally includes North of San Ildefonso, Nambe, Pojoaque Pueblos, inc but not limited to Cundiyo, Santa Cruz, surrounding Mesas. Still cleaning up our databases & mailing lists, please contact us if you believe you should receive election ballot & you don’t, or you’re receiving mailings & would prefer not to. Calendar for 2006 Election:

- ❖ September 15th, 2006 – Public Informational Meeting for all interested producers
- ❖ November 3rd, 2006 ---- Election ballots will be mailed by contractor to eligible voters
- ❖ December 4th, 2006 ---- Final date to return ballots to FSA County Office for Dec 7th Election

Election of responsible Ag producers to County Committees is important to ALL farmers & ranchers with large or small operations. It is crucial that every eligible producer take part in their election because County Committees are a direct link between the farm community & USDA. Committee members are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers who serve on committees help decide the kind of programs counties will offer. They work to make FSA Ag programs serve the needs of local producers. Forms & fact sheets about the election are available @ www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections.



NRCS – FY 2007 EQIP AND WHIP DEADLINES - NOVEMBER 3RD 2006!

(ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE/WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVE PROGRAMS)

Earlier deadline is a continuing effort to improve funding process. Accelerated program cut-off dates will allow producers time to complete practices during first years of contract. Earlier application deadlines will help accommodate field work in preparation for project to be done before winter weather. Finally, earlier date will allow producers to get to project work in spring rather than later in summer when they’re in middle of growing season.

EQIP is a voluntary conservation program for farmers & ranchers to address significant natural resource concerns. EQIP program established in 1996 Farm Bill & reauthorized in 2002 Farm Bill, offers financial & technical assistance to eligible participants who wish to install or implement structural & management practices on eligible Ag land. Offers incentive payments & cost-share assistance. EQIP is typically used in NM for irrigation system improvements that conserve water, & rangeland improvements such as brush management & development of H2O sources for livestock & wildlife. In 2006 \$18.2 million was allocated in NM thru EQIP. “WHIP” is also a voluntary program that encourages creation of high quality wildlife habitats that support wildlife populations. NRCS provides technical & financial assistance to landowners to develop & protect upland, wetlands, riparian, aquatic habitats. If you wish to apply or want more info, please contact NRCS @ 988-6253, Opt 3, or at <http://www.nm.nrcs.usda.gov>.

MISC QUICK “QUIPS” & DATES TO REMEMBER

- ❖ **September 4th – All County Offices closed for Labor Day**
- ❖ **September 14th – CED in Albuquerque for Seminar/Training**
- ❖ **September 30th – Last day to late file signatures for 2006 DCP Contracts**
- ❖ **November 3rd – Last day to apply for EQIP, administered by NRCS**

DCP – DIRECT AND COUNTER-CYCLICAL PROGRAM PRODUCERS

Producers participating in DCP Agree by contract to: 1)Comply with HELC and WC provisions on all their land; 2)Devote acreage equal to base acreage to an agricultural or conserving use; 3)Effectively control noxious weeds & maintain base acres accordingly including erosion control; 4)File acreage reports for all cropland on the farm; and 5)Notify FSA when there are any changes to the farm operation.

RECONSTITUTIONS.....

A Reconstitution is a change in the land constituting a farm as a result of combining or dividing tracts or farms. A tract is a unit of contiguous land that is both 1)under 1 ownership; 2) operated as a farm or part of a farm. A Recon may be initiated by 1)farm operator; 2) farm owner; 3) Cnty Committee. Recon is required & shall be initiated when change has been made in operation of the land, farm wasn’t properly constituted before, other COC determination. TO BE EFFECTIVE FOR CURRENT FY, RECONS MUST BE REQUESTED BY AUG 1ST OF FY FOR FARMS SUBJECT TO DCP. Methods of division in priority are 1)Estate; 2)Designation by Landowner; 3)DCP Cropland; 4) Default. PLEASE! Critical that all operation changes be reported to FSA inc land lease changes, purchase/sale of farm/ranch, changes w/Direct Deposit , changes to structure or membership of entity, Name & Address changes!

NAP (NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM) REMINDERS

Production Records – Must be filed for individual crops with County Office to establish approved NAP yield. If this is the first year you have participated in NAP, you can provide prior year’s production and acreage to establish a yield. If you participated in NAP previous years, you must report your production on a yearly basis to keep your yield up to date. Records submitted must be reliable and verifiable. Records need to show crop disposition. Commercial receipts or delivery sheets that display production, price and the date sold through commercial channels is considered as verifiable evidence. For production that is sold off the farm or fed, crop production may be documented with scale tickets, diaries, or data recorded in field book and a photocopy of such evidence may be provided to FSA. All production records are required to be submitted by the subsequent crop year’s final acreage reporting date, (no later than July 15th). It is very important to always report production immediately after Harvest. Failure to report production may prevent you from receiving NAP benefits if a loss occurs.

Notice of Loss – Also be reminded that a Notice of Loss must be filed **the earlier of 15 calendar days after a damaging weather condition occurs, or the damage to the crop becomes apparent, or the final harvest date.** By reporting the loss timely, this allows the County Office to contact a Loss Adjuster to perform a field visit or provide further instruction if the use of the crop is going to change or crop is still intended for harvest.

Failed Acres – Producers who have established crops with intent to harvest, but suffer loss due natural disaster need to contact the County Office and report crop as failed before destroying the crop!

Prevented Planting Acres – Producers must report prevented planting acreage on FSA-578 and complete CCC-576 w/in 15 days after the latter of the occurrence of prevented planting or the end of the planting period.

2007 NAP Policies – Producers can sign up or purchase 2007 NAP Coverage now for all 2007 crops including rangeland, and avoid stressing to meet application deadlines such as those below:

Sept 1st, '06	Sod Grass, Onions
Sept 30, '06	Barley, Oats, Rye, Triticale, Wheat
Jan 31st, '07	Grass, Native Grass, Alfalfa, Mixed Forage, Cucumbers, Pecans, Peppers



CROP DISASTER – DOCUMENT NOW! (EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM)

Producers that aren’t covered by NAP or RMA, should contact Office immediately following any disaster to document damages/crop losses in event there may be programs released after the fact like the Crop Disaster Program. Also, Ag producers suffering damages due natural disaster such as Heavy Rains, Flash Flooding, etc should contact Cnty Office immediately to report damages – producers may possibly qualify for Emergency Conservation Program assistance to remove debris interfering in farm operations due heavy rains, flooding, restoring permanent fences destroyed by heavy rains, floods, winds, restoring conservation structures inc irrigation ditches & acequias, etc. If you’re experiencing disaster damages, call us now – if we don’t know, we can’t help.

LOW INTEREST EMERGENCY LOANS

Effective May 18th the USDA has designated 31 counties in NM (inc Santa Fe) as primary natural disaster areas due to continuing drought and high winds beginning January 2006. Farmers & Ranchers are now eligible for FSA Low Interest Emergency Loans. Producers have until January 2007 to apply to help cover part of their actual losses, provided all eligibility requirements are met. Additional info available online @ <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

BENEFICIAL INTEREST REQUIREMENTS ON LDP’S AND MAL’S

To be eligible for Loan Deficiency Payment or Marketing Assistance Loan, producers must maintain beneficial interest in commodity at time of request. If a producer still has control of the commodity, it is assumed that the producer has risk of loss of the commodity. Request to file CCC-633EZ before losing interest in commodity crop.

2006 WOOL & MOHAIR PRODUCTION

Have you sheared, are you preparing to shear wool/mohair? Will you sell, trade, or process 2006 fiber immediately after shearing? If so, contact our Office to apply for an LDP. You will receive the LDP rate in effect on the day your receipt indicates you transferred control or processed your fiber. You must sign the application before you sell the wool or mohair. For more info, contact this County Office. Request to file CCC-633EZ before losing interest.

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