



JUNE 11, 2008



# ALAMOSA COUNTY FSA NEWS



**Alamosa County FSA**  
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Visit us online at  
[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) or at  
your local county office

**Hours:**  
Monday - Friday  
8:00a.m. - 4:30p.m.

**County Committee:**  
Shawn Schulz, Chair  
Ben Rizzi, Vice Chair  
John Curto, Member  
Julie Adams, Advisor  
Tim Gallegos, Advisor

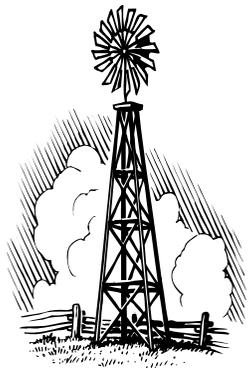
County Committee meets  
the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of  
each month

**Office Staff:**  
Kevin Reeves, CED  
Arlene Sandoval, PT  
Irene Marquez, PT  
Raida Knapp, FLO  
Dwight Martin, FLM

### Food for Thought:

"Let us never forget that  
the cultivation of the  
earth is the most impor-  
tant labor of man.  
When tillage begins,  
other arts follow. The  
farmers therefore are  
the founders of civiliza-  
tion."

--Daniel Webster



## CROP DISASTER AND LIVESTOCK PROGRAMS

Applications are being taken for the following three new programs Disaster Assistance Programs: Crop Disaster Program (CDP), Livestock Compensation Program (LCP), and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). The three ad hoc disaster programs provide benefits to farmers and ranchers who suffered losses caused by natural disasters in recent years. A signup deadline has not been announced for CDP... **however, don't delay!!!**

The **CROP DISASTER PROGRAM** is only available to those producers who obtained either Federal Crop Insurance or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Program (NAP) for the year of the loss. CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to crops as a result of naturally occurring weather related disasters in the following years: 2005, 2006, or 2007 (**note:2007 spring-seeded crops are now eligible**). Producers incurring qualifying losses in either of the years must choose only one year to apply for benefits. Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35% to be eligible for CDP. At the present time only applications for production losses are being accepted. The sign-up for quality losses will be announced at a later date. It is the producer's responsibility to provide verifiable and/or reliable production records to substantiate production to the FSA County Committee. FSA will use Federal Crop Insurance records for insured crop where available and only of determined to be accurate. The committee may assign production if it is determined that adequate and acceptable production records do not exist, if there were losses that were not a result of disaster conditions, or non-harvested acreage was not timely appraised.

## LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION PROGRAM (LCP) ENDS JULY 18, 2008

The LCP compensates livestock producers for feed losses occurring between January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2007, due to a natural disaster. To be eligible for LCP, producers must have either owned or cash-leased eligible livestock on January 1<sup>st</sup> of the applicable year and producers must have suffered pasture losses or incurred additional feed costs.

**Only losses on non-irrigated or irrigated pastures that received no irrigation water are eligible. Irrigated pasture that received any irrigation water is not eligible.**

Producers must provide adequate proof that the feed losses or incurred additional feed costs were for eligible livestock and the losses occurred as a direct result of an eligible disaster event. Please be prepared to provide the number of livestock owned on January 1<sup>st</sup> of the supported by verifiable purchase records, veterinarian records, loan papers, production records, IRS records, sales records, and/or similar documents. If additional feed was purchased, sales receipts signed by the seller must be provided.

*The Alamosa County FSA staff wishes everyone a safe and smooth season!*



## 2008 Acreage Reports

The Alamosa County FSA office has prepared appointment cards that were sent to producers stating a date and time to file a 2008 Crop Acreage Report, FSA-578. **Tuesday, July 15th is the deadline** to file a 2008 Acreage Report of Commodities, FSA-578. Acreage reports are required to be filed by anyone enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Program (NAP), and anyone who intends to apply for a 2008 commodity loan or Loan Deficiency Payment. We continue to wait for formal word regarding the new direct payment program and its requirements.

**Important** - Please be prepared to provide planting dates on all crops planted, including existing stands of Alfalfa.

Acreage reports may be submitted after July 15, but will be subject to a late file administrative fee of at least \$46 per farm and a required spot-check. If uncertain about acreages, a measurement service may be requested for a fee.

**Prevented Planted Crops:** Producers who request prevented planting acreage credit must report acreage on FSA-578 and complete a Notice of Loss within 15 days after the latter of the occurrence of prevented planting or the end of the planting period. The County Committee will review records and determine if preliminary efforts were made to plant the crop and that the acreage prevented from being planted was affected by a natural disaster rather than a management decision. If any questions contact this office for more information.

**Failed and/or Damaged Crops:** Producers who have established crops with intent to harvest, but suffered loss due to a disaster related condition need to contact the County Office within 15 days and report the crop as failed before destroying the crop.

**Aerial Photos:** The County Office has been working on Digital Imagery that will be used for 2008 acreage reporting purposes. Producers will be asked to review the boundaries of fields and property for accuracy. Acreages are all derived by the computer based on the location of a boundary.

Once again, appointment cards have been sent out stating a date and time of appointment. If you are unable to make the appointment or if you wish to file a report and did not receive an appointment card, please contact your this office.

## WE HAVE A FARM BILL!

USDA's long-awaited 2008 farm bill, titled The Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008, has finally been passed. Although the Direct & Counter-Cyclical Payment (DCP) program was extended, there are some other significant changes that will be publicized in an upcoming newsletter.

**FSA News in the Valley Courier-** Watch the Thursday, Western Living Section for any FSA news releases and program information.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**July 3**—Final Date to apply for EQIP with NRCS

**July 4**—Office closed for Independence Day

**July 15**—Final Acreage Reporting date for all crop

**July 15**—Final date to submit 2007 production evidence for 2008 Actual Production History Records

**July 18**—LCP & LIP Application deadline.

**Sept 2**—2009 NAP application for coverage for wheat, triticale, canola deadline

**Sept 1**—Office closed for Labor Day

## LOAN RATES

The 2008 Farm Bill mandates that 2008 and 2009 commodity loan rates and target prices will remain unchanged from 2007.

Both will increase beginning with the 2010 crop year.

Below are the 2007 rates for Alamosa County.

Wheat, soft white—\$2.38/bu.

Wheat, HRW&HRS \$2.84/bu.

Wheat, durum - \$2.77/bu.

Barley—\$2.00/ bu.

Oats—\$1.37/bu.

Canola--\$7.37/cwt

Rates can also be accessed online at [www.usda.fsa.gov](http://www.usda.fsa.gov). Under Browse By Subject, click on "Price Support."

## SUBMIT 2009 COC ELECTION NOMINATIONS BY AUGUST 1, 2008

County Committee Elections are coming up soon and the Alamosa County FSA is accepting nomination, FSA-669A, forms for or from those interested in serving their agricultural community. The seat coming up for election serves LAA 3, which is the area south of the line established by the Stanley Road and east of Hwy 17 north of Alamosa and east of US Hwy 285 south of Alamosa. August 1, 2008 is the final deadline for FSA-669A's to be received by the county office or postmarked. The County Committee representative for LAA 1 is currently held by Ben Rizzi. If there are any questions regarding this process, please contact the County Office. The nomination form may be obtained from our office or online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections>. Further guidelines can also be viewed at this website.

The election of agricultural producers to 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 direct link between the agricultural community and USDA. Committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. Farmers and ranchers who serve on committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs their counties offer. They work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers. Committees provide local input on commodity price support loans and payments; establishment of allotments and yields; conservation programs; incentive, indemnity, and disaster payments for some commodities; emergency programs; employing County Executive Directors. FSA committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws and committee members apply their judgment and knowledge within these regulations to make local decisions.

**DROP BY OUR BOOTH!** We will be available with information at the "Farm & Ranch Heritage Days" at the Ski Hi facilities in Monte Vista on July 4 & 5.

## 2008 NAP – NONINSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM NAP-VERY IMPORTANT Producer Responsibilities:

1. Keep and maintain *accurate* production records. *Verifiable* production records may be in the form of delivery sheets, settlement sheets, and commercial receipts, and needs a signature and date from the buyer. *Reliable* production records may be in the form of truck scale tickets, field book or diary, notes on a calendar or canceled checks for custom work. Your signature is required on these records and is subject to county committee approval.
2. File a notice of loss with the county office **within 15 days** of when the loss is apparent.
3. If acreage is damaged and not going to be harvested, a representative area must be left for an adjuster to assess. This also applies to acreages that were intended for hay, but then is grazed. An adjuster needs to do an assessment of the damaged crop before you destroy any of the acreage.
4. Report acres and intended use of crops by July 15<sup>th</sup>.
5. **Submit 2007 production evidence** as soon as possible, but no later than July 15, 2008, so the County office may update production history. Failure to report production timely will result in a "zero" credit. Please be reminded that this is not an entitlement program. Your benefits are derived from information provided by you. The more accurate and complete the record, the more FSA can assist you.



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