



RIO GRANDE, HINSDALE, MINERAL AND SAGUACHE COUNTIES JUNE, 2007

ACREAGE REPORTS

July 16, 2007 is the final date reported acres can be accepted without producers paying a late fee. The late fee amount is now \$46.00. If you are participating in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) or the Non-Insurable Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) you are required to report your planted acres. If you are not participating in these programs but want to provide an acreage report for future programs or other purposes, please come in before the deadline. Remember we need planting dates of the crops.

DIRECT AND COUNTER-CYCLICAL PROGRAM (DCP)

The sign-up period for the DCP has been extended until August 3, 2007. If you have not signed up you still can. After August 3, you have until September 30, 2007. But you will have to pay a \$100 late fee to participate.

FOREIGN INVESTMENT DISCLOSURE

It is a foreign person's responsibility to report agricultural landholdings. If you are a foreign person and have purchased or sold any agricultural land in the United States, then you are required to report any agricultural land transactions within 90 days of purchase or sale. Failure to disclose this information in the allotted time frame could result in a civil penalty of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the interest held in the agricultural land on the date of the civil penalty. Required forms to report this information are available at your Farm Service Agency office.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH FOR ELECTION AND NOMINATION PETITIONS

County committee elections will soon be here once again. Local Administrative Area (LAA-2) will be holding the election this year. Charles Stillings has been representing this area for the last three years. The area boundaries are the land south of the Rio Grande River to the Rio Grande-Conejos County line; from the Rio Grande-Alamosa County line west to County Road 6 West.

Hinsdale County (LAA-5) will also be holding an election for County Committee member. Curtis Cadwell has been serving as representative, but has reached term limit. The boundary area for this LAA is all of Hinsdale County.

Saguache County, LAA-3 has been represented by John Artachevarria for the past three years. The boundaries for this LAA are the lands east of Highway 285 to the Saguache-Alamosa County line, from Highway 112 on the south to County Road L on the north.

Any interested producer who would like to serve on the committee and is an eligible voter in the LAA's holding elections this year is encouraged to complete the enclosed form FSA-669A, Nomination Form for County FSA Committee Election. Return the completed form to this office no later than August 1, 2007. If any producer has any questions concerning the program that are administered by this agency, this is your chance to make a difference. Ballots will be mailed out to eligible producers no later than November 2, 2007. Voted ballots are to be returned to the FSA office no later than December 3, 2007. Please follow the instructions on the ballot carefully.

LOAN DEFICINECY PAYMENT (LDP) AGREEMENT AND REQUEST

If you are growing a grain crop, raising wool or mohair, growing a grain ensilage crop or have unshorn pelts, you may be eligible for an LDP payment. Before you lose beneficial interest we encourage you to sign form CCC-633EZ. This will increase your chances of receiving a payment. You then have an opportunity to lock in an LDP rate after harvest or take the rate at the time of sales, if the LDP rate is working. We will then have you sign the same form for payment. January 31, 2008 is the final date that an LDP payment for wool, mohair or pelts can be requested. March 31, 2008 is the final date you can request payment for grains, forage or ensilage.

PREVENTED PLANTING AND FAILED ACRES

Producers who request prevented planting acreage credit must report acreage on FSA-578 and complete a CCC-576 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. Be prepared to provide evidence supporting a prevented planting claim resulting from natural causes. 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. It will be necessary to conduct a field visit prior to the crop being destroyed.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP) SIGN-UP

November 1, 2007 is the final date producers can sign-up for the EQIP program with NRCS. Some of the conservation projects that can be cost-shared with are: water structures, gated pipe, wind breaks, cross-fencing, and more. Contact your local NRCS office if you are interested.

2007 COMPLIANCE PROCESS

Instead of selecting individual farms, contracts, loans, LDP's, etc. for spot check and review, a nationwide selection of producers for 2007 will be made using a statistical sampling method. Producers will be selected based on their participation in CRP, DCP, LDP, marketing assistance loans, and NAP. A representative sample of FSA employees, COC members, and other required producers will also be selected for spot check and review.

Not all States and counties will have producers selected for spot check and review under this new process. As in the past, producers who have been spot checked and reviewed will be notified after the review has been completed.

PRODUCER MEETING

We would like to hold a producer meeting for any interested party to ask questions about the county committee election process or any programs FSA administers. On July 11, 2007 a meeting will be held in Rio Grande County from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, at the USDA Service Center located at 0881 Highway 285 N, Monte Vista. On July 12, 2007 another meeting will be held in Saguache County from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, at the USDA Center located at 550 S Worth St, Center. Socially disadvantaged producers are encouraged to attend along with any other interested producers.

NAP CLOSING SALES DATE

If you are interested in purchasing the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on various crops, the closing dates to purchase the coverage will be here soon for 2008 coverage. For coverage on HRW wheat, canola, rye or triticale, you have until September 1, 2007. For coverage on alfalfa, alfalfa-grass mixed forage, native grass forage, other mixed forage and pastures the final date to purchase the coverage will be December 1, 2007.

NAP PRODUCTION EVIDENCE

Producers are responsible for providing accurate and complete information. It is the producer's responsibility to report the total amount of unit production. The producer's responsibilities include, but not limited to:

- *providing the best verifiable or reliable production evidence available for the crop by practice, type or variety
- *summarizing all the production evidence;
- *providing the information in a manner that can be easily understood
- *reporting production by the date specified by CCC
- *retaining production evidence for 3 years after the crop year it is initially certified.

All acceptable production reports that are continuous signed and submitted by the producer for the applicable period, will be used.

Production records acceptable to CCC include verifiable or reliable:

- *commercial receipts, settlement sheets, warehouse ledger sheets or load summaries, if the eligible crop was sold or otherwise disposed of through commercial channels
- *documentary evidence, such as contemporaneous measurements, truck scale tickets and contemporaneous diaries, as necessary to verify information provided by the producer if eligible crop was stored, sold, fed to livestock, or otherwise disposed of other than through commercial channels
- *appraisal information from a loss adjuster is acceptable to CCC.

Verifiable production records for an eligible crop must be submitted by the producer to support an application for payment, or as required to support a certification of production. Verifiable records of production include contemporaneous records provided by the producer that:

*may be verified by CCC through an independent source are used to substantiate the amount of production reported.

Verifiable records shall be dated, show disposition of the crop's production, including both quantity and price. Verifiable records shall also be provided if they exist together with the producer's certification of production in support of any application for payment, and whenever a record of production is otherwise required by CCC. Reliable records include, but are not limited to, copies of receipts, ledgers of income, income statements of deposit slips, register tapes, invoices for custom harvesting.

In the past, we have accepted a signed certification for production evidence from producers. If you are chosen for spot-check, you will be required to provide copies of records that are reliable and verifiable and keep those records on file for three years. A signed certification is not going to be enough information to complete the spot checks.

2006 production evidence is due to be submitted to this office no later than July 16, 2007.

NAP NOTICE OF LOSS

Once again we would like to stress the NAP coverage is just like an insurance policy. It needs to be treated as such. If you feel you have had a loss on your covered crop, report it to this office right away. Procedure states that producers are to report any loss to FSA within 15 days of noticing that loss. October 15 is the final date we will accept notice of losses. After that date, the County Committee may or may not approve the loss.

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Rio Grande, Hinsdale, Mineral Area Committee
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Saguache County Committee
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 Elizabeth Temple

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To file a complaint of Discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call 1-800-795-3272 (voice) or 202-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity provider and employer.

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