

January/February 2008

Lea County News

Lea County USDA Service Center

Lea County FSA
401 Tatum Highway
Lovington, NM 88260
575-396-5857 (phone)
575-396-5768 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/nm

Hours
Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

County Committee
Lee Roberson - Chair
John Ingle - V. Chair
Rory Wier - Member
Dorothy Bess - Advisor

County Committee meets
the third Tuesday of each
month.

Staff
Terry Cater, CED
Cheri Sedgwick, PT
Casey Graham, PT



Office Closed

The Lea County FSA office will be closed February 18 in observance of Washington's Birthday. The office will re-open on Tuesday, February 19.

Farm Loans

Customers in Lea County are served by Farm Loan staff in the Curry County Office. They visit the Lea County office the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month and by appointment. Contact the office for details or to set up an appointment.

Disaster Assistance

Lea County farmers and ranchers can sign up for the new Livestock Compensation Program (LCP), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) and Crop Disaster Program (CDP). Lea County producers may qualify for benefits relating to weather related disasters experienced in 2005 and 2006 **and now for losses experienced in 2007.**

To sign up for LCP, bring your livestock numbers as of April 1, 2005 and Jan. 1, 2006. Contact the FSA county office for more details or to set up an appointment to sign up for CDP.

Water Rights

If you don't know the status of your water rights, you may want to check with the Office of the State Engineer. The State Engineer covering Lea County is Andy Morley. He is in the office in the basement of the Lea County Courthouse every Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Additionally, he may be reached in Roswell at 575-622-6521.

Foreign Landowner Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the secretary of Agriculture. FSA administers this program for USDA. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value or the property. County government offices, realtors, attorneys and

others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements. It is a foreign person's responsibility to report the land transactions.

Direct Deposit

By law, payments from FSA are required to be directly deposited into a producer's checking or savings account. All producers were required to have initiated electronic funds transfer (EFT) by January 1, 1999. Any person may request a waiver of EFT if it poses a financial or personal hardship. Notify us of any banking changes ASAP to avoid delay of your payments.

NAP on Native Grass

The deadline to purchase NAP coverage on your Native Grass for 2008 is January 31. The deadline to certify Native Grass for Grazing that is covered by a NAP policy is February 14. A crop must be certified at least 15 days before harvesting or grazing begins. NAP coverage for 2008 starts on March 1.

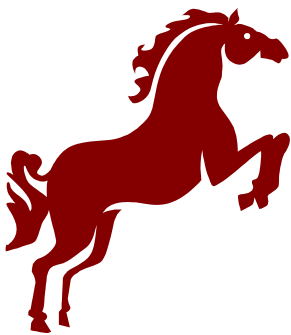
Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law on a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments and/or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting, or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium poppies and other drug producing plants.

1099G Report of Payment

A summary of all earned payments and/or refunds during the previous calendar year has been mailed to producers for tax reporting. The Kansas City Processing office sent a payment statement under form CCC-1099G

The amount on your 1099G may look bigger this year than in years past. This is because of a change in reporting. Beginning with the 2007 calendar year, FSA/CCC will report producer market gains associated with the repayment of a CCC loan, whether the producer repays the loan with cash or uses commodity certificates in exchange of the outstanding loan collateral.



Farm Changes

If there have been changes in your operation for 2008 let the county office know ASAP. These changes include changes in ownership, operator, acquiring new land, expiring leases, etc. **Changes of address for you or your farm operation must be requested in writing.**

Request for Reconstitution

The deadline to request a reconstitution of your farm because of the addition of new land or because you have sold off part of your land is August 1, 2008.

Production Records

Remember to submit records of your production to the county office to maintain your files. Records of production may be used to help you build bases for future programs and are necessary to maintain your Actual Production History (APH) yield for NAP purposes.

Highly Erodible Land & Wetland Conservation Compliance

In order to receive payments, operators must be in compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions.

Dates to Remember

Feb. 4	Deadline to return your Ag. Census form
Feb. 18	Office closed for Washington's Birthday
March 15	Deadline to purchase NAP on Dry Peas, Millet, Potatoes, Squash, Sunflowers, Tomatoes
April 15	Deadline to purchase NAP on Broccoli, Cantaloupe, Garlic, Gourds, Honeydew, Pumpkins, Turnips, Watermelon

Farmers with HEL soils need to be aware of tillage, crop residue and rotation requirements as specified in your conservation plan. **ALL of Lea County is considered Highly Erodible.** Don't wait until you have plowed to find out that you are out of compliance. Contact the office before modifying any drainage or breaking out new land. Failure to obtain advance approval for these situations can result in loss of benefits and eligibility. Contact NRCS if you have questions about your conservation plan at 505-396-5857 Ext 3.

The U.S. 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 complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.