



**Hidalgo County
FSA Office**

November 2011

**Hidalgo County FSA
Office**

405 Duncan Highway
Lordsburg, NM 88045

575-542-3241 ex.2
phone
575-542-3295 fax
www.fsa.usda.gov/nm

Hours

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

County Staff

Arlen L. Hall, CED
Betty Rendon, PT

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COUNTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RETIREMENT

Producers are advised that Hidalgo County CED Arlen L. Hall will be retiring effective December 3, 2011. After almost 30 years at the helm of the Hidalgo County FSA Office Mr. Hall will be turning the reins over to someone else. An open house has been planned for December 1, 2011 from 10:00 am to 12:00 am. for all interested producers to drop in and wish Mr. Hall well.

COUNTY COMMITTEE VOTING BEGINS

Ballots for this year's county committee election will be mailed to eligible voters on Nov. 4, 2011. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on Dec. 5, 2011. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight Dec. 5, 2011.

If your operation is located in a local administrative area (LAA) that is having an election this year and you did not receive a ballot, contact your local FSA office.

Voter Requirements Persons meeting requirements in **1 or 2, plus 3**, below, is eligible to vote:

- 1.** Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as any of the following:
 - An individual
 - The authorized representative of an entity
 - Both spouses when property is owned jointly
 - Spouses in community property states.
- 2.** Is not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm.
- 3.** Participates or cooperates in any FSA program that is provided by law.

Discrimination Prohibited No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

FSA MOVING TO ELECTRONIC INFORMATION

The USDA Farm Service Agency offices are moving toward a paperless operation.

Producers are asked to enroll in the new GovDelivery system which will provide notices, newsletters and electronic reminders instead of a hard copy through the mail.

FSA, like many other organizations, is trying to work smarter and be more efficient. Moving to electronic notifications via email will help conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars.

County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers.

Producers can now subscribe to receive free e-mail updates by going to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe>.

2012 DCP/ACRE SIGNUP

2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment will begin Jan. 23, 2012 and will end June 1, 2012. Here are some IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- All producers planting on **DCP base** acres must be identified on the DCP/ACRE contract and receive a proportionate share of DCP/ACRE payment for the farm.
- Changes on the farm after enrolling June 1st in DCP/ACRE **must** be reported to your local FSA office such as:
 - Ownership changes
 - Producer changes (Individuals and Entities)
 - Change in crop shares arrangements

Note: Changes cannot be made after Sept. 30, 2012.

SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SURE)

The sign-up for 2010 losses begins **Nov. 14, 2011** and will end **June 1, 2012**.

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that incurred in the crop year 2010. SURE is available to eligible producers on:

- Farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties, that have incurred crop production or quality losses, or both, and includes all crops grown by a producer nationwide, **except** grazed crops.
- Any farm in which, for the crop year, the actual production on the farm because of disaster-related conditions is 50 percent or less than normal production of the farm.

MARKETING ASSISTANCE LOAN

A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available to producers who share in the risk of producing a crop. To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the earlier of the date the loan is repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity.

Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if the producer regains beneficial interest.

Commodity loan eligibility also requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, acreage reporting and ensuring that the commodity meets Commodity Credit Corporation minimum grade and quality standards.

For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan.

Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical and/or ACRE Programs to be eligible for commodity loans.

Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans.

Section 1291 of the Department of Defense and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act of 2011 does not authorize funding to provide nonrecourse MALs for mohair for the remainder of FY 2011. Effective April 14, 2011, County Offices are no longer authorized to accept requests for mohair marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments.

NEW AGI FORM FOR 2012

On September 28, 2011, FSA started using CCC-931 "Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information" for all 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 programs that are subject to AGI compliance. FSA will no longer accept CCC-926, CCC-927, or CCC-928 for any program. The new form is a combination of the Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information forms previously used by FSA.

Form CCC-931 is available at your local FSA office or online at <http://intranet.fsa.usda.gov>. Producers can print and mail the form to their local FSA office. FSA employees will review the form for accuracy before forwarding it to the IRS. If CCC-931 is incomplete, the producer will be notified and corrections will be completed prior to FSA forwarding it to the IRS. Producers with FSA-211, "Power of Attorneys" will not be allowed to use the FSA-211 to complete the CCC-931.

Without these forms on file, eligible producers will not receive USDA program payments. For more information please contact your local FSA office.

CHANGING BANKS

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions. If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

FSA SIGNATURE POLICY FOR SPOUSES

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities
- For additional clarification on proper signatures contact your local FSA Office.

NAP CLOSING DATE

The deadlines to purchase NAP coverage for 2012 are as follows:

November 20, 2011

Apples, Apricots, Cranberries, Cherries, Grapes, Peaches, Pears, Pistachios, Plums

December 1, 2011

Honey, Lettuce

January 31, 2012

Alfalfa, Cucumbers, Native Grass, Mixed Forage, Pecans

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