

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

SAN JUAN/GRAND
COUNTY NEWSLETTER
JANUARY 2005



County Information

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Office Hours:
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7:00 am - 4:30 pm

County Committee:

Dee Taylor
Juan Hansen
Bob Barry
Stephen Meyer
Raymond Chief
Terri Laws

Chairperson
Vice-chair
Member
Member
Member
Advisor

Dates to Remember

Today	Report changes to your farming operation
Today	Sign 2005 DCP Contract
Today	Make sure your land is HELC/WC compliant
Jan. 13	ELRRP Sign-up Deadline
Jan. 17	Office Closed – Martin Luther King Day
Jan. 18	COC Meeting
Feb. 1	Office Closed – President's Day

Ewe Lamb Replacement & Retention

A deadline has been announced for the Ewe Lamb Replacement and Retention Program. Producers have until **JANUARY 13, 2005** to apply for benefits. The application form and all required documentation **MUST** be turned into the county office by close of business on January 13, 2005.

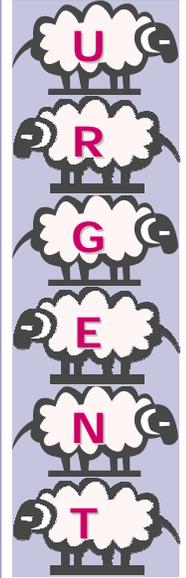
USDA has announced an \$18 million program to enhance the competitiveness of the domestic lamb and sheep industry and re-establish producers' purchasing power. The Ewe Lamb Replacement and Retention Program will pay producers per head for ewe lambs purchased or retained between August 1, 2003 and July 31, 2004.

To qualify for the program, producers must retain qualifying ewe lambs for at least one complete offspring lambing cycle.

Adequate record keeping is a must. Producers should keep records such as sale receipts as proof of purchase and retention, veterinarian certifications as proof of ewe lamb characteristics and scrapie program forms.

Documentation must disclose the dates of lamb purchase; birth and death certificates, as applicable; lamb identification and control information; the number of ewe lambs purchased; and the identification with Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) approved scrapie program.

The deadline to submit an application is January 13, 2005.



DCP Contract Reminder

Are you planning to participate in the 2005 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program? If so, come into the office to sign your 2005 DCP contract (CCC-509) before June 1, 2005. (You can sign your contract after June 1 and before September 30, but you will be assessed a late-signing fee of \$100.)

When you sign the CCC-509, you are agreeing to:

- Comply with highly erodible land conversation and wetland conversation provisions on all your land
- Devote acreage equal to the base acreage to an agricultural or conserving use. The planting of fruits and vegetables – FAVs (other than lentils, mung beans, and dry peas) on base acreage may result in payment reductions or loss of benefits
- Effectively control noxious weeds and otherwise maintain base acres according to sound agricultural practices
- File acreage report with respect to all cropland on the farm
- Notify the county office staff when there is a transfer of or change of interest of a producer

The DCP contracts are not like the old seven-year Production Flexibility Contracts. You must designate shares and sign a new DCP contract each year.



Conservation Security Program (CSP)

The Montezuma Creek and McElmo Creek Watersheds in San Juan County have been selected to participate in the Conservation Security Program (CSP) administered by the Natural Resource Conservation Service. The program is designed to recognize the best land stewards and encourage them to do more. The program will not return for another 8 years to these watersheds. Payments are determined by your current conservation activities, willingness to continue conservation and one time payments for additional practices needed. To participate in the program at least 50 percent of your land must fall within the boundaries of those watersheds. You will also be required to complete a self assessment work book to determine further eligibility.

An information meeting will be held January 20, 2005 to explain the program and the self-assessment workbook. Please plan on attending this meeting (approximately two hours). The time is 7:00 pm, located at the San Juan County Commissioner room, on the second floor. Please bring pencil and paper to take notes.

If you cannot attend this meeting or have any questions, please stop by the office or call us at (435) 587-2481 ext 18.



AMS News Release: Lamb Referendum



The USDA Agricultural Marketing Society announced the final procedures for a continuance referendum under the Lamb Promotion, Research, and Information Order, more commonly known as the Lamb Checkoff Program. The goal of the Lamb Promotion, Research, and Information Order is to strengthen the position of, and to develop and expand the markets for, ovine animals and ovine products. Under the program, producers, seedstock producers (breeders), feeders, and exporters will pay an assessment of one-half cent (\$0.005) per pound when live ovine animals are sold. The first handler, primarily packers, will pay additional 30 cents per head on ovine animals purchased for slaughter. Importers are not assessed.



The referendum will be conducted at USDA's County Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices beginning January 31, 2005 and continuing through February 28, 2005.

To be eligible to participate, persons must certify and provide documentation, such as sales receipts or remittance forms, which show they have been engaged in the production feeding or slaughtering of lambs during the period of January 1, 2004 through December 31, 2004. Any reasonable type of supporting documentation will be acceptable.



Beginning January 31, 2005 persons may obtain form LS-86 (Ballot) to vote in the referendum from county FSA offices either in person, by mail or facsimile. Forms may also be obtained via the internet at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsg/mpb/rp-lamb.htm>.

Persons will vote in the referendum at the county FSA office where their administrative farm records are maintained. For the person not participating in FSA programs, the opportunity to vote will be provided at the county FSA office where the person owns or rents land. The ballots and supporting documentation may be returned in person, by mail or facsimile to the appropriate county FSA office.

For the program to continue, it must be approved by a majority of voters who also represent a majority of the volume represented in the referendum and who were engaged in the production, feeding or slaughtering of lambs from January 1, 2004 to December 31, 2004.

County Committee Election Results

Elections for the Monticello South Area and the Navajo Reservation concluded with Bob Barry and Raymond Chief both being re-elected to the County Committee. We would like to thank all those who ran on the ballot at appreciated their willingness to participate.

Congratulations to Bob Barry and Raymond Chief!!

Applications for 2005 EQIP Available NOW!!

The Natural Resource Conservation Service is accepting applications for the 2005 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) through January 31, 2005. Projects will be prioritized according to the following areas of focus:

- Cropland Management
- Grazing Land Management
- Wildlife Habitat Management

Eligible conservation practices may include fencing, range and pasture seeding, irrigation systems, wildlife habitat establishment and terracing. For additional information, call NRCS at (435) 587-2481 ext 18.



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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

USDA - Farm Service Agency
San Juan/Grand FSA Office
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