



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
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October 4, 2012

**NEW MEXICO BULLETIN NO. 440-13-01**

**SUBJECT: PGM – FARM BILL PROGRAMS – GUIDANCE FOR FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2013**

**TO: All Employees**

**Purpose:** To provide information on status of USDA easement programs and alternatives.

**Expiration Date:** September 30, 2013

### **USDA Easement Programs**

The Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) is the only easement program funded under the pending continuing resolution. However, as all easement programs have a continuous sign-up policy, the national office has advised us to continue taking WRP and GRP applications with the following sideboards:

- Please provide a scanned electronic copy of any applications received to Seth Fiedler within one week of receipt.
- Limit technical assistance (TA) investment in application processing – no reviewing application packages for completeness, no eligibility determination, no ranking.
- Manage applicant expectations and frustrations. Inform applicant:
  - ✓ Program they are applying for is not authorized or funded.
  - ✓ Application servicing will begin once authorization and funding occurs.
  - ✓ When program is funded additional eligibility paperwork will be required.

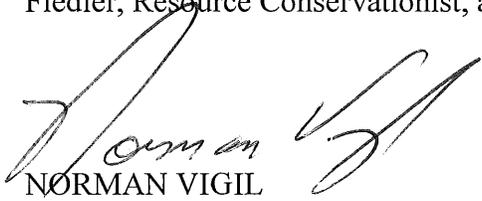
### **Other Easement Information**

Given both short and long-term funding limitations on USDA easement programs, staff may consider providing the attached pamphlet to interested landowners.

(MORE)

Page 2

If you have questions on any of this guidance or the attached information, please contact Seth Fiedler, Resource Conservationist, at (505) 761-4416.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Norman Vigil". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Norman" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Vigil".

NORMAN VIGIL

Assistant State Conservationist for Programs

Attachment:

1. A Guide to Conservation Easements for Agricultural Landowners