



Natural Resources Conservation Service
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March 6, 2009

NEW MEXICO BULLETIN NO. 190-9-02

SUBJECT: ECS – PERFORMANCE OF ASSESSMENTS OF 2008 GRAZING FORAGE
CONDITIONS

TO: All Field Office Employees

Purpose. To advise employees of MOU

Expiration Date. September 30, 2009

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) New Mexico has entered into a Joint Agreement with the Farm Service Agency (FSA), and others to provide an independent assessment of grazed forage acreage conditions in accordance with FSA Handbook 1- Non Insured Assistance Program (NAP) (Rev. 1), paragraph 195. See attached “2008 NAP Grazing Loss Assessment Memorandum.” As per this agreement NRCS and representatives of the other organizations involved which varies by county will serve to perform the two independent assessments of 2008 grazing forage conditions, as referenced in the above regulation.

Please see the “Assessment Method” portion of the Memorandum for an explanation of NRCS responsibilities in developing these loss estimates. In previous years NRCS field staff has conducted an after the fact forage survey of the counties to develop a loss estimate. This year NRCS has centralized this task at the state office to free-up field staff for other priority work. The attached spreadsheet shows the estimated loss for each county for FY 2008.

The County Executive Board portion of the Memorandum for the local responsibilities for developing a report to the FSA state office using the NRCS percentages and the report of the other agency that provides the second opinion.

If you have any questions, please contact John Tunberg, State Rangeland Management Specialist at (505) 761-4488.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis L. Alexander".

DENNIS L. ALEXANDER
State Conservationist

Attachments

