

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
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March 18, 2009

NEW MEXICO BULLETIN NO. 300-9-5

SUBJECT: LTP - FARM AND RANGLAND PROTECTION PROGRAM SIGN-UP AND
BATCHING DATE

TO: All Employees

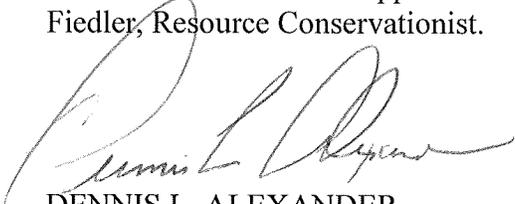
Purpose: To advise all NRCS employees that 2009 Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP) applications received by May 22, 2009 will be considered in the first, and probably only 2009, FRPP batching period.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2009

FRPP, unlike most other NRCS programs, is not a direct landowner assistance program. It assists entities land with pre-existing farm or ranchland programs in acquiring voluntary conservation easements from interested land owners. In New Mexico most of the qualified entities are non-governmental land trusts, though other entities including state and tribal government are also potentially eligible.

In a change from prior years and in accordance with 2008 Farm Bill requirements, the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP) will no longer be tied to single request for proposal issued annually. Starting this year, NRCS will offer a continuous (year round) sign-up. All applications received as of a given date will be ranked against one another on a state-by-state basis. In New Mexico the first (and possibly only) 2009 "batching" period will close on **May 22, 2009**.

Unfortunately final agency FRPP rules and forms are not available at this time. However, in order to allow sufficient time for processing and ranking applications, we are moving ahead with "interim final rules" (copy attached, entitled FRPP.pdf) and application form (copy attached, entitled FRPPApplicationForm.doc); additional forms, and a copy of the cooperative agreement will be available at a later date. Applications should be submitted directly to the State Office, attention Seth Fiedler, Resource Conservationist.



DENNIS L. ALEXANDER
State Conservationist

Attachments

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