



CARLOS H. CASCOS, CPA  
COUNTY JUDGE

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## **For Immediate Release**

**September 10, 2010**

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## **COUNTY JUDGE ANNOUNCES MEETING FOR LOCAL SHRIMPERS**

County Judge Carlos H. Cascos announced today that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency will be holding a public meeting for local shrimp producers to complete their applications for Trade adjustment assistance for Farmers Program. According to USDA, shrimp producers, including boat owners, captains and crew members in Texas only have until September 23, 2010, to apply for training and benefits. The public meeting will be held on Wednesday September 15, 2010, beginning at 7:00 pm in the Cameron County Commissioners Court, Dancy Courthouse, 1100 E. Monroe St., Brownsville, TX 78520. "It is important that our local shrimpers take advantage of this program that will allow them significant training for emerging business opportunities," Cascos stated.

"With a potential direct impact of \$3.6 million dollars in benefits to our local producers it is very important that our local shrimp producers timely complete their applications," said Mr. Cristobal Perez, County Executive Director of USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Cameron County, TX. "Applicants who qualify for assistance will receive business training through the Texas AgriLife Extension Service and cash benefits from the USDA's Farm Service Agency that will help improve their business profitability and competitiveness," Mr. Perez said.

Program benefits include cash payments and free technical training designed to help producers develop and implement business adjustment plans. Producers that develop an approved initial business plan will receive up to \$4,000 as payment toward implementing the plan or developing a long-term business adjustment plan. Producers who subsequently develop approved long-term business adjustment plans are entitled to receive an additional cash payment of up to \$8,000 to be applied toward implementing the plan. A producer may not receive more than \$12,000, or benefit from any other TAA program, during the 36-month period following certification of a group petition. Certain travel and subsistence expenses related to attending training sessions may also be reimbursable.

This meeting is co-sponsored by the USDA-FSA, Texas AgriLife Extension, Texas Sea Grant, and Cameron County. For more information or to apply, interested shrimp producers can contact the Cameron County FSA Service Center located at 2315 W. Frontage Rd, Exp. 77/83, San Benito TX or call 956/399-1311 Ext. 2

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