

Apache County FSA News

St Johns, AZ
FSA Program Delivery
Office

Apache County FSA
PO Box 70
St Johns, AZ 85936

Phone: (928) 337-4411
Fax: (928) 337-2441

Hours
Monday - Friday
7:30 A.M.-4:30 P.M.
Closed Legal Holidays

County Committee
Norman Brown, Chair
Fay Pase, V-Chair
Ray Castillo, Member

Office Staff
Gregg W. Norton, CED
Genetta Thornhill, PT
Teresa Jim, PT

Farm Loan Staff
Mike Miller, FLM
Harriet Mann, FLO
Holbrook USDA Service
Center
(928) 524-3214

In this issue:

1. LIP
2. Wool/Mohair
3. NAP
4. Farm Loans
5. Youth Loans
6. Successor in Interest
7. Foreign Land Owner
8. Help for Stress
9. FSA Administrator
10. Outreach Visits



LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM (LIP)
DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 13, 2009

Eligible ranchers and livestock producers could begin applying for benefits through the LIP provided in the 2008 Farm Bill on July 13, 2009. The LIP provides assistance to producers for **livestock deaths** that result from weather disaster. LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather, including losses due to hurricanes, floods, blizzards, weather related disease, wildfires, extreme heat and extreme cold. **Livestock deaths due to ANY OTHER causes are NOT eligible (wild animal predators, drought, etc.)**

Eligible losses must have occurred on or after Jan. 1, 2008, and before Oct. 1, 2011. The following provides the final dates to file a notice of loss and/or application for payment for either 2008/2009 livestock losses:

LIVESTOCK DEATH OCCURRENCE	DEADLINE-NOTICE OF LOSS	DEADLINE-APPLICATION FOR PAYMENT
CALENDAR YEAR 2008	Sept. 13, 2009	Sept. 13, 2009
JAN 1-JULY 12, 2009	Sept. 13, 2009	Jan. 30, 2010
JULY 13, 2009-DEC. 31, 2009	30 days after death is apparent	Jan. 30, 2010

When a livestock owner files an application for LIP, they **MUST** provide records that prove that they had livestock death due to a weather disaster. Without documentation the application **WILL NOT** be approved. Please contact the county office for more information or to apply.



WOOL/MOHAIR 2009 BENEFITS

It's that time of year again. Time to file your 633-EZ Page 1 so that your wool and mohair will be eligible for payment.

DO NOT WAIT UNTIL YOU ARE READY TO SELL TO SIGN THE FORM. The form must be RECEIVED in this office before you sell your wool/mohair. Producers should complete page one of the EZ form as soon as possible. Once page one is completed, producers can request benefits any time **up until January 31, 2010.**

Page 1 of the 633-EZ was mailed to all wool and mohair producers that applied for benefits in prior years. **Please sign and return the form to this office as soon as possible so your wool and mohair is covered.**

When you sell your wool and mohair there is another form that must be completed. Please see our scheduled chapter visits in this newsletter.

NON INSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

NAP benefits are based on a producer's individual crop losses and covers all non insurable, commercially grown crops produced for food and fiber. NAP is available to those producers who share in the risk of producing a crop. Crop losses must be as a result of a weather-related disaster condition such as: drought, hail, excessive moisture, freezing conditions, excessive wind, hurricane, or other related conditions. Coverage costs \$250 per crop per county, up to \$750 maximum for single county farmers or ranchers and \$1,875 for multi-county operators.

Application filing dates for 2009 crops have passed. Filing dates for



2010 are as follows:

- Native Rangeland- October 31, 2009*
- Small Grains (Wheat, Barley, Oats)- October 31, 2009*
- Alfalfa, Alfalfa/Mix, Sudan, and other forage crops- October 31, 2009*
- Coarse Grains (Corn, Grain Sorghum)- February 28, 2010*

Producers with NAP coverage are required to 1) file a Notice of Loss the earlier of 15 days of the date of a disaster or 15 days of when a loss is apparent, 2) timely file an acreage report (May 15- small grains, alfalfa and July 15- native range, coarse grains), and 3) keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. **You must also provide land documentation (leases, deeds, grazing and land use permits).**

If you have any questions, please contact the county office for more information.

REMEMBER- Participation in NAP on grazing land is required to be eligible for the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP).



FARM LOAN PROGRAMS

Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes agricultural loans; provides credit counseling and supervision to farmers and ranchers who are unable to obtain private, commercial credit.

FSA places special emphasis on socially disadvantaged applicants (SDA) because we understand and recognize that certain groups have not participated in or have received limited benefits from FSA programs. Our goal is to increase the participation of socially disadvantaged applicants in FSA programs, with special emphasis on those who are members of racial minority groups. FSA lends money and provides credit counseling and supervision to eligible applicants who operate family-size farms. All applicants must meet qualifying criteria to be eligi-

ble.

TYPES OF LOANS AVAILABLE

- Farm Ownership (FO)
- Farm Operating (OL)
- Emergency (EM)

A FSA FO loan provides funds to purchase farm or ranch land; repair buildings and other fixtures; promote soil and water conservation.

Farm Operating loan funds may be used to purchase or lease items needed such as livestock, farm equipment, feed, seed, fuel, farm chemicals, insurance or other operating expenses.

LOAN AMOUNTS

Direct loans can be made up to \$300,000.00

Guaranteed loans can be made up to \$1,094,000.00

SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED PROGRAM

Funds are set aside for socially disadvantaged applicants (SDA) to buy and operate family-sized farms and ranches. SDA applicants must meet the same eligibility requirements as other non-SDA applicants.

FSA farm loan employees provide information and assistance to applicants to help them develop sound farm management practices, analyze problems, and plan the best use of available resources essential for success in farming or ranching. For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Operating loans can be repaid within 1 to 7 years depending on the loan purpose. Farm Ownership loans can be repaid from 10 years to 40 years.

YOUTH LOANS

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor and parents/guardians, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5,000.



Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States or a legal resident alien.
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements, except managerial experience. Reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources.

SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST

Many FSA programs will allow payments to be made to heirs or successors when a program participant passes away. Additionally, contracts in programs must be revised to reflect the successor(s) to a deceased participant's interest.

In the event of an FSA program participant's death, it is important that FSA be notified. Entities and joint operations that participate in FSA programs also need to notify FSA if a shareholder or member passes away. FSA benefits are reported to IRS and maintaining current, accurate records about participants is vital to ensuring that those payments are reported correctly.

FOREIGN LANDOWNER NOTIFICATION

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property.

County government offices, real estate agents, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are

reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

HELP AVAILABLE TO STRESSED FARMERS

In the past year, the economy, inclement weather, drought and other factors have hurt many farming operations around the country. These events pushed some farmers to the emotional breaking point. Watching their livelihood being threatened is difficult for farmers and ranchers and especially for those who care about them.

The National Suicide Prevention Hotline is available to help. If you know a farmer or rancher who is under stress and is reluctant to ask for help, or if you just need to talk to someone, call 1-800-273-TALK (8255). Your call will be routed to the crisis center nearest you, where trained staffers are available 24/7. This nationwide service is free and confidential. Help is just a phone call away. For more information, go to <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>. This service is not affiliated with the US Department of Agriculture.

BANKING CHANGES?

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. This innovation has cut down on the number of missing and late payments and reduced the time required to move funds. It has been calculated that having a problem with a payment is 20 times greater with checks than with Direct Deposit.

Another benefit is that Direct Deposit to your account can be made within 48 hours.

To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions. If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.



*United We
Stand!*



**New FSA Administrator
 JONATHAN COPPES**

Jonathan Coppess was appointed to serve as Administrator of the Farm Service Agency (FSA) in July 2009 upon the resignation of Doug Caruso. He previously served as the Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs at the agency.

Before moving to Washington to pursue a career in agricultural policy, Coppess practiced law in Chicago for several years as a commercial litigator for Freeborn & Peters LLP. Prior to attending law school, he worked at Archer Daniels Midland as a Grain Merchandiser.

Coppess grew up on his family's corn and soybean farm, located in Darke County, Ohio, near Union City. He maintains an interest in the seven-generation family farm that his father and brother continue to operate. Coppess resides in Washington, D.C., with his wife Susan and daughter Abigail. He earned a J.D. with honors from the George Washington University Law School in Washington, D.C., and received a Bachelor's degree in business from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. He has been admitted to the bar in both the State of Illinois and the District of Columbia.

OUTREACH VISITS

We will be making the following visits to take applications for *all* FSA programs available at this time:

Location	Date	Time of Day
Chinle Chapter House	August 11, 25 Sept. 15, 29	10 A.M. to 2 P.M.
St. Michaels USDA Service Center	August 13, 27 Sept. 17 Oct. 1	10 A.M. to 2 P.M.
Shonto Chapter House	August 11, 25 Sept 8, 22	1 P.M. to 4 P.M.
Kayenta NRCS next to Chapter House	August 12, 26 Sept. 9, 23	8 A.M. to 12 P.M.
Navajo Nation FAIR	Sept. 9, 10, 11, 12	10 A.M. to 4 P.M.
Central Pinon FAIR	August 20, 21	10 A.M. to 2 P.M.

This schedule will be in place as long as weather and road conditions permit

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

Special accommodations will be made upon request for persons with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please call Greg W. Norton, CED at (928) 337-4411.