



Farm Service Agency

May 2011

Cochise County Newsletter

Cochise County USDA Service Center

Cochise County FSA
658 N Bisbee Ave
Willcox, AZ 85643
PH: (520) 384-3588
FAX: (520) 384-2735
www.fsa.usda.gov

Hours of Operation
Monday – Friday
8:00 am – 4:30 pm
Closed on Legal Holidays

County Committee

Mark Cook, Chair
Lance Owen, Vice Chair
Edward Curry, Member

Program Staff

Carol Case, CED
Rebecca Burright, PT
Shari Binger, PT
Tonya Ayala, PT

Farm Loan Staff

Jonna Darnell, FLM
Dee Haupt, FLOT

In this Issue:

- Hispanic & Women Farmers
- Acreage Certifications
- NAP Loss Filing
- NAP Records
- Federal Budget Cuts FSA Meetings
- 2012 Sales Closing Dates
- Dates to Remember
- Farm Loan Limitations



JUNE 1ST DEADLINES APPROACHING

2011 DCP:

Signup for the 2011 Direct & Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program ends on June 1, 2011. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications. Contact your local county office to schedule an appointment to sign up today!

AGI VERIFICATION:

Every producer who submitted a CCC-926 Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Form for 2011 to the Farm Service Agency **must** complete the AGI Verification Process. In order to complete the verification process, Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information Forms have been created; form CCC-927 is for individuals with a social security number and form CCC-928 is for entities with an EIN. For example: Yellow Farms, LLC has three members, Gary Yellow, Jason Yellow and Chad Yellow. The LLC would complete a form CCC-928 and each member would complete a form CCC-927. The forms must be completed and mailed no later than June 1, 2011 directly to the IRS at: Internal Revenue Service – USDA; P.O. Box 24033; Fresno, CA 93779. Consent forms are available online and at FSA County Offices. Failure to complete the AGI Verification Process could result in the repayment of benefits received from FSA and/or NRCS.

2011 LIVESTOCK FORAGE PROGRAM UNDERWAY

The Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered grazing losses due to a qualifying drought condition. For 2011, Cochise County has been declared a level D3 (extreme drought) rating by the U.S. Drought Monitor which, consequently, allows eligible producers to receive assistance in an amount equal to three monthly payments. The LFP monthly payment rate for drought is equal to 60 percent of the lesser of the monthly feed cost for all covered livestock or the monthly feed cost calculated using the normal carrying capacity of the grazing land. Total LFP payments will not exceed three monthly payments in a calendar year.

To be eligible for LFP, the producer must have timely purchased Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on the grazing land. Note: Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of “Socially Disadvantaged (SD),” “Limited Resource (LR),” or “Beginning Farmer or Rancher (BF),” do not have to meet this requirement.

For more information on LFP or to schedule an appointment to sign up for benefits, please contact your local county FSA office.

HISPANIC & WOMEN FARMERS

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans is being established.

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you during certain time periods between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

For additional information on this claims process and other settlement issues, contact:

- **Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process**, please visit: www.farmerclaims.gov or call 1-888-508-4429;
- **Pigford — The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation**, please visit: www.blackfarmercase.com or call 1-866-950-5547;
- **Keepseagle — The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement**, please visit: www.IndianFarmClass.com or call 1-888-233-5506.

County Committee Elections are right around the corner! Watch your FSA newsletters and area newspapers for details!

DID YOU CERTIFY YOUR ACRES?

Producers who have planted wheat, barley and/or oats on their farm must certify their acreage by **May 16, 2011**. All other crops, including fallow ground and rangeland, must be certified by **July 15, 2011**. If the crop will not be planted until the certification date has passed, producers have 15 calendar days from the date which it was planted to timely certify the crop.

ATTENTION: Most programs require producers to timely certify all of their acres, whether planted or not, in order to be eligible for payments.

If you have any questions concerning certifying your acreage, contact your local FSA office.

NAP LOSS FILING

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing the Notice of Loss is required for **ALL CROPS INCLUDING GRASSES**. For losses on crops covered by the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576 (notice of loss) in the FSA County Office within 15 calendar days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

NAP RECORDS

Production records for individual crops need to be filed at the FSA office to establish an approved NAP yield. If this is your first year in NAP, you can provide production and acreage information from prior years to establish your yield. If you participated in NAP in previous years, you must report your production and acreage on a yearly basis to keep your yield up-to-date. Records submitted must be reliable or verifiable and need to show crop disposition. We recommend producers submit production records as soon as harvest is complete. **All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date.**

FEDERAL BUDGET CUTS MEETINGS

Due to federal budget cuts, the Farm Service Agency has been asked to cut back on operating costs. Areas being cut back on is holding meetings, including paying salaries and mileage.

Effective immediately, State Committee and County Committee meetings will be limited to only those times necessary to conduct business, preferably not more than one meeting each quarter. Unless an agenda requires face-to-face meetings with producers or employees, such as program appeals or personnel matters, teleconferences will be used as an appropriate means of conducting business. However, even teleconferences should not be held unless absolutely necessary. Typically, the Cochise County Committee Meetings are scheduled to for every third Thursday of each month, however, due to the cut back, the county office will schedule meetings on an as needed basis.

To find out when your county committee will be meeting, contact your local FSA office.

2012 Sales Closing Dates

This table provides the 2012 sales closing dates for Arizona. The county where the crops are physically grown, will determine whether they are insurable and eligible for catastrophic risk protection (CAT) level or are noninsurable and eligible for noninsured crop disaster assistance program (NAP). Consult your local insurance agent to determine whether the crops you are growing are eligible for CAT or NAP. Please note: Some FSA programs require ALL crops to be insured with either CAT or NAP.

January 31, 2012	February 28, 2012	May 31, 2011	May 31, 2012	September 1, 2011	October 31, 2011	November 20, 2010	November 20, 2011	November 30, 2011
Alfalfa Mix Cucumbers Grapes Grass, Bermuda Grass, Sudan Herbs, Basil Jojoba Pecans Peppers, Chile Raisins	Beans, Pinto Corn Cotton Okra Olives Peanuts Potato, Sweet Pumpkins Sorghum Squash	Artichokes Beans, Gar Beets Broccoli Cabbage Canola Carrots Cauliflower Celery Flowers, Chrysanthemum Greens, All Herbs, Cilantro Mustard Oats Onions Peas Radish Tomatoes	Nursery	Crustaceans Flowers, Stock Garlic	Alfalfa Barley Cantaloupe Grass, Native Honeydews Lettuce Rye Wheat	Grapfruit Lemons Oranges Tangelos	Apples Apricots Cherries Honey Peaches Pears Pistachios Plums Pomegranates Watermelon	Potatoes

United States Department Of Agriculture
 Cochise County Farm Service Agency
 658 North Bisbee Avenue
 Willcox, Arizona 85643

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- May
- 16 Deadline to certify small grains (wheat, barley and/or oats) to county office
 - 19 Cochise County Committee Meeting (Tentatively Scheduled)
 - 30 Office Closed in Observance of Memorial Day
- June
- 1 Deadlines: Sign up for 2011 DCP Program & Submission of IRS Consent Forms
 - 16 Cochise County Committee Meeting (Tentatively Scheduled)

FARM LOAN LIMITATIONS

Loan Type	Maximum	Term	Rate as of 5/01/2011
Farm Ownership Loan (FO)	\$ 300,000	Up to 40 years	Now 5.000%
Operating Loan (OL)	\$ 300,000	1 to 7 years	Now 2.625%
Emergency Loan	\$ 500,000	1 to 40 years	Now 3.750%
Guaranteed Loans (FO & OL)	\$ 1,112,000	By Lender	By Lender, Commercial Rates

Newsletters Are Now Available Electronically!

Do you want to start receiving your county office newsletters electronically? If so, you now can! To add your name to the electronic list, send an email to carol.case@az.usda.gov with "Electronic Newsletter Request" in the Subject Line or call the county office to give us your email address.

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