



USDA Service Center
 Pima/Santa Cruz
 FSA Office
 3241 N Romero Road
 Tucson, AZ 85705-9223
 CG (520) 836-1960
 Phone: (520) 292-2999
 FAX: (520) 836-1297

Office Hours

Thursday-
 7:30 am - 4:00 pm
 All other weekdays
 By Appointment Only

County Committee

Gary Deen, Chairman
 Andrew Smallhouse, Vice
 Chairman
 Robert Noon, Member
 Marie Pyeatt, Advisor

Farm Programs Staff

Debbie Hopkins, CED
 Lori Emmert, PT
 Michelle Ontiveros, PT
 Angie Carranza, PT
 Kathy Fanning, PT

Farm Loan Staff

Shawneen Stevenson, Farm
 Loan Manager
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**Keepseagle Meeting@
 Harrah's Ak-Chin
 Casino**
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We Proudly
 Support our Men
 and Women in the Armed
 Forces.

**County Mandatory Rates for Measurement Service/Late
 File Fee with farm visit:
 Basic farm fee \$15 plus hourly rate of \$16 first hour/+ \$.50
 per mile. Minimum of 1 hour.**

2011 ELAP and LIP Sign Up

Sign up deadlines are approaching for FSA's Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) and the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). Fact sheets for these programs can be found at www.fsa.usda.gov; click on NEWSROOM, then FACT SHEETS.

Producers who have suffered a disaster due to the recent severe weather conditions should read the fact sheets and visit their local FSA office to get a quick start on the recovery process.

Both ELAP and LIP Sign-ups require a Notice of Loss filed by the earliest of either:

- 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent to the participant or
- October 31, 2011

An application for payment must be received no later than January 30.

Emergency Farm Loans

The Farm Service Agency provides emergency loans to help producers recover from production losses and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters, or quarantine.

Loan Uses

Emergency loan funds may be used to:

- Restore or replace essential property;
- Pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year;
- Pay essential family living expenses;
- Reorganize the farming operation; and
- Refinance certain debts.

Further information and applications for the loan programs described are available at local FSA county offices.

NAP Loss Filing

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 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent. The CCC-576 is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses.

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.

AFIDA

Any foreign person who acquires, transfers or holds any interest, other than a security interest, in agricultural land in the United States, is required by law to report the transaction no later than 90 days after the date of the transaction. They must file Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) reports with the FSA county office that maintains reports for the county where the land is located.

For AFIDA purposes, agricultural land is defined as any land used for farming, ranching or timber production, if the tracts total 10 acres or more.

For more information contact the FSA office near you or visit the USDA Web site at www.usda.gov.

Hispanic and 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 has been established.

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

For additional information contact:

- **Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process:**
www.farmerclaims.gov or call 1-888-508-4429

- **Pigford – The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation:**
www.blackfarmercase.com or call 1-866-950-5547

- **Keepseagle - The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement:**
www.IndianFarmClass.com or call 1-888-233-5506
Meeting in Maricopa see back page

Farm Safety

Flowing grain in a storage bin or gravity-flow wagon is like quicksand, it can kill quickly. It takes less than five seconds for a person caught in flowing grain to be trapped.

The mechanical aspects of grain handling equipment, also presents a real danger. Augers, power take offs, and other moving parts can grab people or clothing.

These hazards, along with pinch points and missing shields, are dangerous enough for adults; not to mention children. It is always advisable to keep children a safe distance from operating farm equipment. Always use extra caution when backing up or maneuvering farm machinery. Ensure everyone is visibly clear and accounted for before machinery is engaged.

FSA wants all farmers to have a productive crop year, and that begins with putting safety first.

Newsletters and eUpdates through GovDelivery!

The Farm Service Agency is providing more cost-effective and resource-conserving options to deliver news, deadlines and bulletins. You have the option to receive information instantly and electronically from your state or local FSA office directly to your farm or ranch. Several states already have GovDelivery for news releases.

Take a look at your current state and county options for electronic delivery by visiting the FSA home page at www.fsa.usda.gov

Click on the small  [Email Updates](#)

E-MAIL UPDATES icon and once you enroll in GovDelivery, you can select electronic subscriptions via e-mail. For more information contact your FSA state office and watch for more news and opportunities to sign up to receive your news quicker and at less cost via e-mail.

Marketing Assistance Loans

A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available for producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the earlier of the date the loan is repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if the producer regains beneficial interest.

Commodity loan eligibility also requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, acreage reporting and ensuring that the commodity meets Commodity Credit Corporation minimum grade and quality standards. For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan.

Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical and/or ACRE Programs to be eligible for commodity loans.

Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans.

The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification.

Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of Socially Disadvantaged Applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

If producers or their spouses believe they would qualify as socially disadvantaged, they should contact the local FSA office for details. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

Rural Youth Loans

FSA 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, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. Loans may not exceed \$5000.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- United States citizenship (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- 10 to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- 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
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

Stop by the county office for help preparing and processing the application forms. The FSA staff can help you with questions you may have about a particular program.

Honey Producers Eligible for Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL)

Secretary of Agriculture added Honey as an eligible commodity to be eligible for loans to build or upgrade honey storage structures to be with useful life of at least 15 years, may be approved for financing a new facility, or additions/modifications to an existing storage facility, if CCC determines there is a need for the capacity of the structure.

Required proof of multi-peril crop insurance or NAP crop insurance with USDA. Please contact your service center for all details.

NOV. 1 DEADLINE FOR FARMERS, RANCHERS TO APPLY FOR CONSERVATION FINANCIAL HELP

PHOENIX, Sept. 13, 2011 – The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is accepting applications for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), with an application deadline of Nov. 1. NRCS will review applications from applicants who have completed a conservation plan and rank them for fiscal year 2012 funding.

Also included in the EQIP Nov. 1 deadline is the organic, air quality, on-farm energy, conservation activity plans, and high tunnel program application deadlines. All of these programs are funded through EQIP. To learn more about these programs, please visit www.az.nrcs.usda.gov.

The air quality program has four main areas of assistance:

1. **Combustion Engine Installation** or replacement allows for the installation of combustion engines as well as replacement of combustion engines to assist in reducing emissions by removing and destroying high-polluting internal combustion engines and replacing with new engines meeting the most current standards. Replacement engines must be decommissioned.
2. **Dust - Road Treatments** treat dirt roads with a soil stabilizer can reduce PM10 emissions by as much as 50%.
3. **Conservation Tillage** operations such as no-till, strip-till, ridge-till and mulch-till are effective ways of reducing soil erosion.
4. **Waste Utilization.** Manure has valuable nutrients that crops can utilize for their development, and by using waste utilization the operation will reduce the emissions of ammonia, volatile organic compounds and oxides of nitrogen.

Agriculture producers are encouraged to apply throughout the year for EQIP and other Farm Bill programs administered by NRCS. "The Nov. 1 deadline is so we set a time to review and rank applications for funding," said Keisha Tatem, NRCS State Conservationist. "Farmers and ranchers can apply throughout the year, after they complete a conservation plan. Additional application ranking deadlines may be announced throughout the year."

Please contact the Tucson NRCS Field Office to learn more about the technical and financial help NRCS provides at (520) 292-2999 ext 105.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Pinal County Farm Service Agency
520 N Camino Mercado, Suite 10
Casa Grande, AZ 85122-5754



IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

September 30th All documents; leases,
Adjusted Gross Revenue forms plus any
documents that Prevented DCP payment

October 1st, 2011 Crop Year 2012 Begins

October 12 & 13th Keepseagle v. Vilsack

Claims Assistance Meeting-@Harrah's Ak-Chin
Casino, 15406 N. Maricopa Rd, Maricopa Phone
888-233-5506 or www.IndianFarmClass.com
9am to 5pm

Homepage: www.fsa.usda.gov
Arizona State FSA Homepage:
www.fsa.usda.gov/edso/az/az.htm
USDA eCommerce Home (forms web site):
<http://www.sc.egov.usda.gov/Main.asp>

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To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250, or call (202) 720-7327 (voice) or (202) 720-1127 (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 upon request. If accommodations are required, please call Debbie Hopkins, CED, at 520/836-2028