



Pinal County

Newsletter

May, 2010



USDA Service Center

Pinal FSA Office
520 N Camino Mercado Ste 10
Casa Grande, AZ 85122
Phone: (520) 836-1960
FAX: (520) 836-1297

Office Hours

Monday - Friday
7:30 am - 4:00 pm

County Committee

Mark Hamilton, Chair
Daniel Nowlin, V-Chair
John O Nevitt, Member
Alex Blaine, Advisor

Farm Programs Staff

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

Farm Loan Staff

Shawneen Stevenson, FLM
Kent Erickson, FLO
Patrick Fox, FLPT

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IRS Disclosure Forms

Deadline is June 15, 2010



We Proudly
Support our Men
and Women in the
Armed Forces.

DEADLINE TO CERTIFY SMALL GRAINS (WHEAT, BARLEY & OATS)

****MAY 17, 2010****



Direct and COUNTER-cyclical Program Enrollment continues.

Deadline to enroll June 1, 2010

NO LATE FILE PROVISIONS!

If unsure where you stand with 2010 paperwork, please call the office, we will see what you need to do to be in compliance for USDA payments.

PREVENTED PLANTED COTTON CERTIFICATION

DEADLINE JUNE 1, 2010

(The most recent SCIDD water allotment letter required)

Agriculture Secretary Vilsack Seeks Nominations for Advisory Committee on Minority Farmers

This committee will advise on how to provide outreach and assistance to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, methods to maximize participation of minority farmers and ranchers in USDA programs and civil rights activities related to program participation. The committee, which was established by the 2008 Farm Bill, will be composed of not more than 15 members. Nominations should describe and document the proposed member's qualifications and must be received at USDA by May 24, 2010. The nomination may be in the form of a letter or on a completed Advisory Committee Membership background Information Questionnaire (Form AD-55). Those nominated for this committee will be required to complete and submit this form. The form is also available at: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/ad755.pdf. However, nominees who complete the form online must print their completed forms from the Adobe PDF file, sign, and mail or fax them to Elaine Huhn. All inquiries about the nomination process and submissions of the AD-755 should be made to Elaine Huhn.

Payment Limitation for Disaster Programs

The 2008 Farm Bill and other legislation include disaster and payment assistance programs for crops and livestock losses experienced by producers in 2008 and subsequent years. The livestock programs implemented include Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Livestock Forage Program (LFP), Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP) and SURE a crop disaster program.

2008 SURE, ELAP, LFP, LIP and Stimulus Payments will be subject to “person” rules with a limit of \$100,000 per “person” collectively from these programs

2009 through 2011 SURE, ELAP, LFP and LIP payments a producer receives are subject to “direct attribution” provisions, limited to \$100,000 **per person** or **legal entity** received collectively, directly or indirectly from the listed programs. A multi-county producer receiving payments will be monitored by their recording county and each county will coordinate with other counties of interest for payment information.

Consent to Disclose Tax Information 2009/2010

CCC-927 and CCC- 928

Consent forms are now available at your local Service Center for your completion and return to the Internal Revenue Service. Failure to return to IRS could result in payments refunded to FSA.

It is the producer’s responsibility to pick these forms up at the FSA Service Center or go online to: www.fsa.usda.gov. A consent form must be completed for EACH legal entity and EACH individual.

DEADLINE TO RETURN TO IRS, JUNE 15, 2010. (*Failure to return forms CCC-927/928 could result in returning all payments earned in 2009 and 2010*).

CROP CERTIFICATION DEADLINES

(CCC 578-Acreage Reports)

Deadlines:

July 15th Upland cotton (UPCN) Corn, Sorghum & All Other cropland use.
To include rangeland for grazing.

Procedure for Prevented Planting

*All prevented planting must be certified on the FSA 578 (acreage report) **NO LATER THAN 15 DAYS AFTER THE FINAL PLANTING DATE.***

Final Planting dates for:

| | |
|-----------|-----------------------|
| ✓ UPCN | May 15 th |
| ✓ Corn | May 31 st |
| ✓ Sorghum | July 31 st |

*******Prevented Planting UPCN June 1st, 2010 Deadline*****

Please contact your local FSA Office to verify deadlines for all prevented planted crops.

TIMELY FILING OF LOSS

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report yield losses, 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 on 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 within the normal cropping year. 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.

2009 NAP Range Assessments

The Arizona State Committee reviewed the assessments by NRCS Field Office range assessments, National Resource Inventory Loss assessments and determined producers within the Colorado Plateau, Sonoran Basin and Range SE Arizona Basin and Range and the Arizona and New Mexico Mountains Major Land Resource Areas sustained losses greater than 50% for 2009 and are therefore eligible for NAP assistance. NAP applicants for crop year 2009 must have filed a notice of loss within the crop year.

Civil Rights Complaint Process

Any person, class or group of persons may file a discrimination complaint within 180 days of an alleged discriminatory action. Complaints may be filed in writing or orally with the agency head, any designated agency official or the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. Assistance in filing a complaint can be obtained by calling or visiting any USDA Service Center.

**COUNTY COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS
OPEN
FOR LAA 2 -
West Pinal County
(Casa Grande, Stanfield to Maricopa)**

Candidate nominations for the FSA county committee election will be accepted June 15 through Aug. 2, 2010. Producers who are residents in the LAA-2 holding the election and who participate or cooperate in an FSA program and are of legal voting age may be nominated to serve on the county committee.

Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers or ranchers may also nominate candidates.

The nomination form, FSA-669A, is available at the County Office or may be downloaded from <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=cce>.

To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated, indicating agreement to serve if elected. The completed nomination form must be returned to the county office by the close of business on Aug. 2; or postmarked by midnight Aug. 2, 2010.

USDA/FSA Outreach Program

FSA places special emphasis on outreach of underserved customers because we understand and recognize that certain groups have not participated in or have received limited benefits from USDA/FSA programs. Our goal is to increase the participation of the underserved customers, including limited-resources farmers/ranchers in FSA programs, with special emphasis on those who are socially disadvantaged or members of racial minority groups.

Underserved customers are farmers/ranchers and landowners/operators with limited resources, minority groups (including American Indians, Alaskan Natives, and Aleuts), women, and the physically challenged, who may need, but have not fully benefited from USDA assistance; individuals and groups who have not participated in or have received limited benefits from FSA programs, which may improve their quality of life and/or the environment; rural and urban communities; members of religious minorities; small specialty crop farmers, organic farms and other farmers with production practices that are different from most farmers in the area.

FSA administers farm commodity and conservation programs and makes loans to farmers and ranchers who are unable to obtain conventional credit. The Outreach

Program provides resources to help limited-resource and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers improve their incomes through better farm management and financial planning.

Additional information about FSA programs and outreach projects is available at your local USDA Service Center.

DIRECT AND GUARANTEED LOANS

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are available now.

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

Loan funds are available. However, producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner.

Most of our loan programs have special funding available for minority, female and beginning farmers.

FSA Farm Loan employees will help you complete the necessary application and other forms, and help you understand what information is required, where to find it or who to contact to get it. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office 520-836-1960 Ext 2.

NAP (Non-Insured Assistance Program) Reminder **NAP Coverage Sales Closing Date**

2010 Crop Year Sales (Application) Closing Dates are set by the state committee. Producers are required to apply for the NAP program prior to these dates in order to remain eligible for payments.

- **May 31, 2010** – Beans (garden), Beets, Broccoli, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Greens (*spinach*) Oats, Onions, Peas, Radishes, Tomatoes.

Producers are reminded of these dates to ensure continued eligibility for the 2010 crop year.

Producers must: (1) **Annually provide records of crop acreage, crop yields, and production evidence for NAP crop to be eligible;** (2) **Inform FSA within 15 days of the date any disaster condition occurred or damage to the crop became apparent.** ****Producers must file this form even if they intend to harvest the crop**

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



IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

- May 6th Pima County Committee Meeting 8:30 AM
- May 17th Small Grain Certification
- June 1st Deadline to Enroll in DCP/CC Program
*no late file available
- June 1st Prevented Planting Deadline for Cotton

***June 15th IRS CCC-927/928 Disclosure DEADLINE! ***

FSA 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>

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT: The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the county office at the phone number listed above.

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