



USDA Service Center

Pinal-Pima 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

Donny England Jr, Chair
Daniel Nowlin, V-Chair
John O Nevitt, Member
Gary Deen, Member

Farm Programs Staff

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

Farm Loan Staff

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

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Via USDA Web

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We Proudly
Support our Men
and Women in the
Armed Forces

Dates to Remember 2012

\$1.33 billion available for qualifying claims across the nation

USDA plans meeting on September 25 in Casa Grande for Hispanic and Women farmers & ranchers who may be eligible for compensation

(Phoenix, AZ—September 11, 2012) USDA will be holding a meeting for Hispanic or women farmers or ranchers who believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied them farm loan benefits between 1981 and 2000 because they are Hispanic or female.

Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers may be eligible if:

- they sought a farm loan or farm loan servicing during that period;
- the loan was denied, provided late, approved for a lesser amount than requested, approved with restrictive conditions, or USDA failed to provide an appropriate loan service; and
- those actions were based on the applicant being Hispanic or female.

The meeting to learn more about the claims process is set for:

**Where: Central Arizona College; Corporate Center,
540 N. Camino Mercado, Room 106/107, Casa Grande, AZ 85122
(across from USDA Casa Grande Service Center)**

**When: Tuesday, September 25, 2012
9:00 a.m. – noon**

Producers who believe they may be eligible to file a claim, should attend this important meeting.

Filing for NAP Losses

Form 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 a 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 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.



*Office Closed in Observance of Columbus Day
October 8th, 2012; Business resumes October 9th*

Revised Adjusted Gross Income Form

Compliance Review is completed. If you received a letter requesting completion of an Adjusted Gross Income for any year (2009 through 2012) Please return corrected AGI prior to September 25, this will interfere with the payment process and you may owe previous years payments if deemed non-compliant.

NOTE: make sure you use your full name & address used to your file your tax returns. If it is not, IRS will reject it.

*Note: This original form must be returned to FSA within **90 days of the signature date** for the consent to be valid and eligible for payments.*

Power of Attorney documents not authorized.

For more information contact your local FSA office.

Foreign Landowner Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county 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 advised to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

Move with FSA to Instant Electronic Information

The USDA Farm Service Agency offices are moving toward a paperless operation.

Producers can now enroll in the new GovDelivery system for notices, newsletters and electronic reminders and discontinue their slow and costly paper copies received through the mail.

FSA, like many other organizations, is working smarter and more efficiently. Conversion to electronic notifications via email helps conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars.

County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers.

Subscribe now to receive free e-mail updates by going to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe> or use the box "Sign up for updates" on the FSA homepage.

Emergency Farm Loans

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides emergency loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters or quarantine. 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 expense
- Reorganize the farming operation
- Refinance certain debts

Further information and applications for the loan programs described are available at local FSA county offices. Contact your nearest office for an appointment.

Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers

FSA assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises with financing through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm not more that 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's median size.



Items to review:

- Changes in Banking/Direct Deposit
- Address & Phone number
- Zip Code Changes
- Change in ownership/leases
- Signature Authority/ a change in how you operate under the new Farm Bill

**Any of the above could delay your payment.
Please notify the office of any changes .**



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.

Casa Grande Service Center Employee appointed to Washington DC position.

Michelle Ontiveros, a 20 year Pinal County Program Technician, has accepted a position with the Washington DC MIDAS Team for a 2 year appointment that began August 27th.

Exciting changes are coming to USDA Farm Service Agency with MIDAS and we look forward to being a part of implementing these changes. Good Luck Michelle.

Highly Erodible Lands and Wetland Compliance

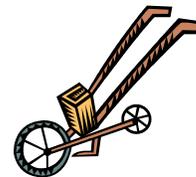
Producers participating in most programs administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are required to abide by certain stipulations on any land owned or farmed that is highly erodible or that is considered a wetland.

To be in compliance with the highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation provisions, producers must agree, that they **will not**:

- Produce an agricultural commodity on highly erodible land without a conservation system;
- Plant an agricultural commodity on a converted wetland;
- Convert a wetland to make possible the production of an agricultural commodity.

Producers must notify the FSA and update Form AD-1026 if they plan to remove fence rows, convert woodlots to cropland, combine crop fields, divide a crop field into two or more fields, install new drainage, or improve or modify existing drainage. FSA will notify NRCS who will then provide highly erodible land or wetland technical determinations.

To get additional information on highly erodible land and wetland conservation compliance contact the FSA office or the NRCS office at a local USDA Service Center. Additional information about conservation programs offered by FSA can be found online at www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation, and information on NRCS programs can be found at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>.



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



IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

September 19th COC Meeting @CG FSA Office

25th Hispanic & Women Discrimination
Claimants Outreach Meeting

28th Last Day of Program Year 2012

****Important, all deeds, leases, certification, Adjusted Gross Income forms, and any documentation that may prevent your payment processing must be turned in. Please call the office to be sure all documents are received.**

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>

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or