



Pinal-Pima County

Newsletter

August-September, 2013



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

Daniel Nowlin, Chair
Donny England, V-Chair
Mark Pace, Member
Gary Deen, Member
Chris Carranza, Advisor
Emilio Figueroa, Advisor

Farm Programs Staff

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

Farm Loan Staff

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

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We Proudly
Support our Men
and Women in the
Armed Forces

PLEASE CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT

DCP Deadline

The sign-up period for DCP has been extended and is still open. Producers are encouraged to sign before the extended Sept. 16, 2013, deadline.

For an appointment or more information, contact the FSA county office.

NAP Deadlines and Losses

Farmers who want risk protection for crops that are non-insurable should inquire about the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) offered by FSA. A payment will be issued when production losses for a participating crop exceed 50% of your expected production. The NAP payment rate is established at 55% of the average market price

2014 NAP purchase for Native Grass (NAG) deadline is September 30, 2013 fee \$250 not exceed \$750 per county.

Notice of Loss 2013

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 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.**

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.

Recent rains and Maintenance Violations

Failure to control weeds and wind and water erosion will result in acre-for-acre payment reductions being applied. Spot checks are being conducted

The Arizona State FSA Committee has set the following policies for **idled contract acreage**:

- ❖ Fallow ground is approved. Acceptable tillage practices include disking, listing, and plowing. The soil surface must be left rough when residue is tilled into the soil. Stubble residue can be left on the surface in lieu of tillage practices. Smooth soil surfaces, such as land after land planting will NOT qualify.
- ❖ Weeds must be controlled before reaching maturity, preferable by spraying, clipping or shredding.

Failure to maintain idled contract acreage will result in a reduction of DCP payments.

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.

Microloan Program

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the Microloan program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche and small family farm operations.

FSA offers applicants a Microloan designed to help farmers with credit needs of \$35,000 or less. The loan features a streamlined application process that helps new and smaller producers as well as specialty crop producers and operators of community supported agriculture (CSA).

Eligible applicants can apply for a maximum amount of \$35,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses to extend the growing season, essential tools, irrigation and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing, and distribution expenses. As financing needs increase, applicants can apply for a regular operating loan up to the maximum amount of \$300,000 or obtain financing from a commercial lender under FSA's Guaranteed Loan Program.

Individuals interested in applying for a microloan or would like to discuss other farm loan programs available, should contact the local FSA office to setup an appointment with an FSA Farm Loan Manager or Officer.

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, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5,000.

For more information you can stop by your FSA county office. Our staff can help with preparing and processing the application forms.

**It is imperative
office to schedule
appointment for**



**you call the
your
enrollment.**



IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

DCP signup extension deadline September 16, 2013
NAP- 2014 Native Grass Deadline September 30, 2013
COC Election – Ballots to be mailed November 4, 2013
- **Ballots must be returned by December 2, 2013**

**COC Meeting- September 18, 2013 @ 9:30 am Casa Grande
Service Center**

****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>

Please contact Debbie Hopkins, County Executive Director, at
(520) 836-1960, Debbie.Hopkins@az.usda.gov or for
Farm Loans, please contact Shawneen Stevenson, Farm Loan Manager, at (623) 535-5055, Ext. 117,
Shawneen.Stevenson@az.usda.gov.

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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