



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

**Program Staff**  
Carol Case, CED  
Rebecca Burreight, PT  
Shari Binger, PT  
Tonya Ayala, PT

**Farm Loan Staff**  
Jonna Darnell, FLM  
Dee Haupt, FLO

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## SUCCESSFUL 2012 AG DAY

The Cochise County Farm Service Agency participated in the 33rd Annual Southeastern Arizona Ag Day and Trade Show at the Willcox Community Center on February 1, 2012 by sponsoring a booth.

This was our third year to give away baskets for door prizes to attendees. The baskets were full of agricultural goods and products from all over Cochise County. Drawings were held throughout the day. It was a huge success and promoted the agricultural industry very well. A very special thank you our basket sponsors:

Bar M Bar Cattle Company  
Bonita Bean Company  
Coronado Vineyards  
Curry Farms  
Eurofresh Farms  
Santa Cruz Chili Company  
Willcox Cowbells



## AGI RECONCILIATION PROCESS

Producers who are active participants in programs offered through FSA and/or NRCS are required to complete form CCC-931 Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information. By completing and signing the form, the Producer is certifying their AGI compliance and giving the FSA Office permission to submit the form to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for verification of their income. In the event that the form is rejected by the IRS, the form is to be sent back to the originating FSA Office. The FSA Office will then notify the producer of the reason the form was rejected and will assist the producer in obtaining a correct form. The FSA Office will then submit the corrected form back to the IRS for processing.

Unfortunately, there was some confusion at the IRS. The IRS has erroneously returned over 8,000 forms that were received for the 2012 program year instead of sending them back to the originating FSA Office. If you receive a form CCC-931 returned from the IRS, contact your local FSA Office for assistance. We apologize for any confusion this may cause.

## 2012 DCP SIGNUP UNDERWAY

The signup period for the 2012 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP) has begun and will end **June 1, 2012**. As established through the 2008 Farm Bill, there will **not** be advance payments issued for 2012. All payments will be issued to eligible producers mid-October 2012. The payment rate factor for 2012 increased from 83.3% of the base acres to 85% of the base acres. For further details pertaining to the 2012 DCP signup or to schedule an appointment to signup, contact your local county office.

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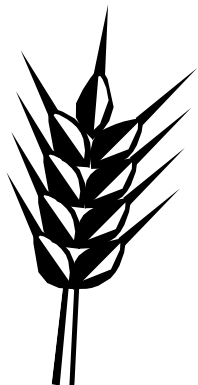
## ACREAGE REPORTS

Most programs offered through the Farm Service Agency require producers to timely file an acreage report on all of their land. An acreage report, also known as a crop certification, is a report of what is planted or voluntarily growing on a producer's land. If nothing is planted and the land is to remain vacant, a report of the ground being "fallow" would be completed. If the land is rangeland, a report of the ground being "native grass" would be completed.

The deadline to timely file a report of acreage on small grains including wheat, barley and oats, is **May 15, 2012**. This includes oats planted as a cover crop or for green manure. The deadline to timely file a report of acreage for all other crops including fallow ground and native grass (rangeland) is **July 15, 2012**. If the crop will be planted after its applicable deadline, the producer will have 15 days after which it is planted to timely notify the county office.

If a producer misses the filing deadline for their applicable crop, they can request a late filed acreage report to be completed. The county office will then perform a field visit to verify the existence of the crop and will be required to assess a fee for the service.

If you have any questions or would like to schedule an appointment to file a report of acreage, contact your local county office at (520) 384-3588 x2.



## WEED CONTROL

As Spring is right around the corner, we would like to take this time to remind producers of their obligation to maintain the weeds on their farmland. Those producers who are enrolled and participate in the Direct & Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP) are contractually obligated to maintain all weeds and noxious plants that are growing on their payment acres, also known as base acres. Weeds that are growing out of control serve as a nuisance to neighboring farms and the general public. Producers who are found to have unmaintained weeds will receive written notification to control the weeds. Failure to comply will result in a reduction of DCP payments. If you have any questions or would like to anonymously report an out of compliance farm, please notify your local county office.



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## COC OFFICERS SELECTED

The Cochise County Committee recently held their organizational meeting for the 2012 calendar year. The first order of business was to select the slate of officers. The results were as follows:

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

Anne Marie Moore was selected by the county committee to serve as the Minority Advisor for the 2012 year, pending state approval.

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## GOVDELIVERY — THE NEXT STEP TO SAVE TIME & INCREASE EFFICIENCY

The USDA Farm Service Agency offices are moving toward a paperless operation that saves taxpayer dollars. Producers can now enroll in the new GovDelivery email system which provides electronic deadline reminders, bulletins and newsletters instead of printing paper documents through the mail. As done in previous years, County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers. Producers can subscribe to receive free email updates by visiting [www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe). Give it a try!

## 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 the crop is considered “insurable” or “non insurable.” Crops that are “insurable” require coverage to be purchased through a private insurance company. Crops that are “non insurable” require coverage to be purchased through the local FSA Office under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). Consult your local insurance agent or your local FSA Office to determine whether your crops are considered “insurable” or “non insurable.” **Please note: Most FSA programs now require ALL crops to be covered with insurance.**

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 Watermelon	Potatoes

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

**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

**March**

15 Cochise County Committee Meeting - Tentative

**April**

19 Cochise County Committee Meeting - Tentative

**May**

15 Deadline to file acreage report for small grains  
 [wheat, barley and/or oats]

19 Cochise County Committee Meeting - Tentative

28 Office Closed in Observance of Memorial Day

**FARM LOAN LIMITATIONS**

<b>Loan Type</b>	<b>Maximum</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Rate as of 3/01/2012</b>
<b>Farm Ownership Loan (FO)</b>	\$ 300,000	Up to 40 years	Now 3.375%
<b>Operating Loan (OL)</b>	\$ 300,000	1 to 7 years	Now 1.375%
<b>Emergency Loan</b>	\$ 500,000	1 to 40 years	Now 3.750%
<b>Guaranteed Loans (FO &amp; OL)</b>	\$ 1,214,000	By Lender	By Lender, Commercial Rates

**In order to better serve our farmers and ranchers, we highly encourage everyone to schedule appointments to complete DCP signups and crop certifications. This will reduce the amount of time spent waiting when visiting the county office.**

**To schedule an appointment, please call (520) 384-3588 extension 2.**

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