



Pinal County

Newsletter

June, 2009



USDA Service Center

Pinal FSA Office
520 N Camino Mercado
Suite 10
Casa Grande, AZ 85222

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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
Vince LaPaglia, 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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Election 2009
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Certification Deadline



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

CROP CERTIFICATION DEADLINES (Acreage Reports)

July 15th All Cropland Usage Deadline
(UPCN, Corn, Sorghum, Hay, Fallow, Rangeland for Grazing * New requirement for future Disaster Livestock Programs)

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

DCP Signup Continues

Deadline has been extended for enrolling in DCP and ACRE Programs to August 14, 2009 to include all Eligibility forms.

Signup is mandatory for Payments from the Direct and Counter Cyclical Program.

It is imperative you call the office to schedule your appointment; you will need about an hour for enrollment. We will give you guidelines on the current requirements and the items you will need for enrollment.

COUNTY COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS OPEN

FOR LAA 1 -
Northeast Pinal County
(North of Coolidge,
Queen Creek to Globe)

Candidate nominations for the FSA county committee election will be accepted June 15 through Aug. 3, 2009. Producers who are residents in the LAA 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. 3, or postmarked by midnight Aug. 3, 2009.

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:

✓ Sorghum July 31st

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

NAP (Non-Insured Assistance Program) Reminder

NAP Coverage Sales Closing Date

2009 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.

- Oct 31st : Barley, Garb-beans, (Yuma Cty)
Cantaloupe, Native Grass (rangeland)
Honeydews, Lettuce, Rye and Wheat

Public may access NAP Basic Provisions (BP) publications/forms on web site:

<http://165.221.16.90/ffasforms/forms.html>

TIMELY FILING OF LOSS

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. Since most of the state is suffering from drought, it might be time to get this done. 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.

2008 AQUACULTURE GRANT PROGRAM (AGP)

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) was signed into law on February 17, 2009. Recovery Act, Section 102(d) provides \$50 million to administer AGP. AGP's purpose is to assist aquaculture producers who incurred losses associated with high feed input costs during the 2008 calendar year. The Recovery Act specifically states that AGP grants shall be made to State Departments of Agriculture designated by the Governor of States, that agree to provide assistance to eligible aquaculture producers. Interested parties shall contact Arizona Department of Agriculture for additional information.

Documenting Livestock Death Losses Under the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

The 2008 Farm Bill created 5 new disaster programs, 1 of which is LIP. LIP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have incurred livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality, on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011. Losses because of adverse weather, *as determined by the Secretary* during the calendar year, including blizzards, disease, extreme cold, extreme heat, floods, hurricanes and wildfires, are eligible for LIP.

- Proof of Death- must provide verifiable documentation of livestock deaths.
- Certification of Livestock Death by Third Parties- non-relative persons
- Verifiable Inventory Documentation

Please contact your local FSA office for entire list of acceptable documentation.

Pulse Crop Base Acres and Yield Update

Pulse crop base acres will only be eligible for counter-cyclical or Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) payments for 2009 through 2012 crop years. Direct payment rates were not established for pulse crops; therefore, direct payments are not authorized for pulse crops for 2009 through 2012 crop years. Production evidence may be required for payment yields. Deadline to participate is August 14, 2009. For additional information please contact your local FSA Office.

New Loan Repayment Rate Methods for All Eligible MAL Commodities, Except Cotton, Peanuts and Rice

Section 1204 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2009 ACT) permits the producers on a farm to repay MAL's on wheat, feed grains, (except rice), soybeans, other oilseeds, pulse crops, wool, mohair, and honey at a rate that is the lesser of the:

- The loan rate established for the commodity, plus interest
- A rate (determined by the Secretary) may be developed using alternative methods for calculating a repayment rate for a loan commodity that minimize potential loan forfeitures, accumulation of Federal Government commodity, minimize the cost uncured by the Federal Government storing the commodity.
- Allows commodity produced in the US to be marketed freely and competitively
- Minimize discrepancies in marketing loans

Please contact your local FSA Office for additional details and requirements.

Future Pinal County Newsletters

Pinal County Newsletter will be published on a Quarterly Basis effective with the September Mailing. Any new and important notifications will be sent via Post Cards. We strive to notify you of important information as quickly as possible.



Changes in Payment Limitations

The payment limitation provisions over the last 39 years have been expanded to more programs. Some of the changes in this area are listed below

New Forms for 2009 and subsequent years.

Anyone that plans to participate in 2009 programs is required to submit a completed CCC-902, CCC-926, and CCC-901, if applicable, for payment eligibility and payment limitation purposes. The form used prior to 2009 was named CCC-502.

Another change for 2009, ALL must make a contribution in an entity

All partners, stockholders, or members with an ownership interest in the legal entity must make a contribution, whether compensated or **not** compensated, for active--*

- personal labor,
- active personal management,
- or a combination of active personal labor and active personal management to the farming operation;

*Note: there are exceptions for spouses.

USDA/FSA/FLP 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/FLP programs. Our goal is to increase the participation of the underserved customers, including limited-resource farmers, 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 framers, 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.

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

FARM RECONSTITUTIONS

For FSA program purposes, tracts having the same owner and the same operator is grouped under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary.

The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **August 1** for farms enrolled in specific programs. The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon:

Estate Method — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;

Designation of Landowner Method — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;

DCP Cropland Method — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;

Default Method — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Pinal County Farm Service Agency
520 N Camino Mercado, Suite 10
Casa Grande, AZ 85222-5754

IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

June 17th Pinal County Committee Meeting

July 15th All Cropland Certification Deadline

Pinal County Committee Meeting

August 14th Deadline to Enroll in DCP/CC Program

August 19th Pinal County Committee Meeting

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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06-2009



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FORGET!