



# NEWSLETTER



January 2013

Maricopa County  
FSA Office

12409 W. Indian  
School Rd  
Building B  
Suite 201  
85392-9505

623-535-5055 phone  
623-536-5261 fax  
www.fsa.usda.gov/az

Hours  
Monday - Friday  
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Maricopa County  
Staff

Christina A. Day,  
County Executive  
Director

Shawneen Stevenson,  
Farm Loan Manager

Tim Garcia, NRCS  
District Conservationist

## Results of Organizational COC Meeting

The results for the COC are as follows:

Michael Brooks –Chairperson

Dawnie Stewart - Vice Chairperson

Gary Gable - Member

## Changes 2013 Acreage Crop Reporting

Depending on your crop and region, the NEW acreage reporting date may be as early as **Nov. 15, 2012. PLEASE NOTE: FOR 2012 ONLY: You Can Still Report Your FORAGE PRODUCTION AND You Will Not be Considered Late, “No Measurement Fee Applied”**

Call the office for questions.

DATE:	ACREAGE & PRODUCTION REPORTING DATE CHART
11/15	Forage Production (includes all Perennial Forage -Alfalfa Bermuda)
3/15	Barley, Pecans, Potatoes, Oats and Wheat
7/15	Chile Peppers, Corn, Cotton, Cotton EX Long Staple, Dry Beans and all other crops not listed
8/15	Grain Sorghum
01/02	Honey Reporting Date
11/15	Apiculture Reporting Date (RMA crop/RMA date used)

## Farm Bill: FEB Signup Update

**ATTN: 2013 DCP & ACRE Signup begins Feb 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013 thru Aug 2nd, 2013**

**Please call for an appointment.**

**Appointments are recommended** to facilitate the process, as you will meet with more than one person. Currently, recons may be requested and 2013 (**NEW FORM**) CCC-933 Adjusted Gross Income Certifications are also being accepted. Any changes to your farming operation may also be accepted at this time. Land leases: Need to be complete with landowner addresses, and legal descriptions. \*Come in early and avoid the last minute



## ATTN: MILC Producers

The 2008 Farm Bill extension provides for a **continuation** of the MILC program **through Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013**. Dairy operations may select a production start month other than October 2012. If you want to select a production start month other than October 2012 you must **contact the FSA office between February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013 and February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013**. This is called the Relief Period. (A CCC-580-M will need to be completed for the change). **Two “NEW” Forms Required for 2013:** A New Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) form CCC-933 and a CCC-902 “Farm Operating Plan for Eligibility”. You have to come into the local FSA office to complete these forms and change your start month!!!!!!

Please call **ASAP to make an appointment** with JoAnn!!! Questions please call 623-535-5055. JoAnn or Christina

## Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Period

USDA has announced that Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades can file claims between Sept. 24, 2012 and March 25, 2013. The process offers a voluntary alternative to litigation for each Hispanic or female farmer and rancher who can prove that USDA denied their applications for loan or loan servicing assistance for discriminatory reasons for certain time periods between 1981 and 2000. As announced in February 2011, the voluntary claims process will make available at least \$1.33 billion for cash awards and tax relief payments, plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief, to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers. There are no filing fees to participate in the program. USDA will continue reaching out to potential Hispanic and female claimants, around the country to get the word out to individuals who may be eligible for this program so they have the opportunity to participate.

Claimants can obtain a claims package in the mail by calling 1-888-509-4429 or visiting the website [www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov) and the claims package will be mailed to claimants. Public meetings are also being held in many areas to share further information. Contact your nearest **FSA office to get a schedule in your area.**

**Website:** [www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov)

**Phone:** 1-888-508-4429

**Claims Period: Sept. 24, 2012 - March 25, 2013**

An independent third-party administrator will administer the claims process and adjudicate the claims. There are no filing fees to participate and a lawyer is not required to participate in the claims process, but claimants may retain an attorney or other legal services provider. The USDA news release provides more background:

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2012/09/0309.xml&contentidonly=true>

## IRS 1099 Changes

Calendar year 2012 has brought changes to the way FSA reports farm program payments to the producer and to the IRS. In past years, IRS Form 1099-G would be issued to show all program payments received from the Farm Service Agency, regardless of the amount. Starting with calendar year 2012, producers

whose total reportable payments from FSA are less than \$600 will not receive IRS Form 1099-G. Also, producers who receive payments from more than one county will only receive one Form 1099-G if the total of all payments from all counties is \$600 or more. The same changes will apply to those who normally receive IRS Form 1099-MISC from FSA.

## Guaranteed Loan Limit

The Farm Service Agency has announced that as of Oct. 1, 2012 the loan limit for the Guaranteed Loan Program is \$1,302,000. This limit is adjusted annually based on data compiled by the National Agricultural Statistics Service. The FSA overall lending ceiling increases every year according to an inflation index. The maximum combined guaranteed and direct farm loan indebtedness is now \$1,602,000. As a reminder, the one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans is 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan. Producers can contact the local FSA county offices with questions about farm loans.

## Maintaining Quality of Loaned Grain

Bins are ideally designed to hold a level volume of grain. When bins are overfilled and grain is heaped up, airflow is hindered and the chance of spoilage increases.

Producers who take out marketing assistance loans and use the farm-stored grain as collateral should remember that they are responsible for maintaining the quality of the grain through the term of the loan.

## 2011 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program Applications

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will continue to accept SURE applications for 2011 crop losses through June 7, 2013. The SURE Program provides payments to producers when crop revenues are less than the crop guarantee. The SURE Program payment is equal to 60 percent of the difference between the SURE guarantee and total farm revenue.

SURE Program, all crops on all farms included in the calculation.

for a producer are Payments under the SURE Program are limited to \$100,000. To be eligible for the 2011 SURE Program, producers must

*Continued on Page 2 -  
Hispanic and Women*

have purchased Non Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage through have crop insurance on all insurable crops. For crops that are not covered by crop insurance such as pumpkins, cucumbers and FSA. The Crop Insurance and NAP purchase requirement is waived for crops that are not economically significant to the farming operation. In addition, producers must have at least one crop with a 10 percent production loss in the Secretarial Disaster Designation for the county or a 50% loss in actual crop production. For more information concerning the 2011 SURE program or other Farm Service Agency programs, contact your local FSA office or visit the Farm Service Agency website at [www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/).

## **NAP Coverage Deadlines**

Noninsured Crop Disaster applications are due at different times according to the crop being insured. Producers should apply for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage using form CCC-471 (Application for Coverage). Related service fees are due when the application is filed. The application and service fee **MUST** be filed by the crop sales closing date. Contact the local FSA office for the filing dates for your crops.

## **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, and 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 expenses;
- Reorganize the farming operation; and
- Refinance certain debts.

Further information and applications for the loan programs described are available at local FSA county offices.

## **Commodity Loans**

Commodity loans, also referred to as Marketing Assistance Loans, are available to producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, producers must maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the time of application. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if the producer regains beneficial interest. Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling in the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans. The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification.

## **LDPs for Unshorn Lamb Pelts**

Eligible producers have until Jan. 31, 2013, to apply for Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) for unshorn lamb pelts produced during the 2012 crop year. Eligible producers must have beneficial interest in the pelts, owned the lamb for at least 30 calendar days before the date of slaughter and sell the unshorn lamb for immediate slaughter. Producers must also comply with wetland conservation and highly erodible land conservation provisions on all lands they operate or have interest in. For an eligible producer to qualify for payment, pelts must have been produced from live unshorn lambs of domestic origin in the U.S.

## **Changes to your Farm**

**Operation** Please make sure that the way you operate with FSA, is the same way you operate with NRCS. The same operation cannot operate different ways. The operation must match. Please keep that in mind when signing up.

**Maricopa County**  
**FSA Office**  
**12409 West Indian**  
**School Rd. Build B**  
**Suite 201**  
**Avondale, AZ 85392-9505**



<p align="center"> <b>PRESORTED STANDARD</b>  <b>U.S. POSTAGE PAID</b>  <b>AVONDALE, AZ</b>  <b>PERMIT #050</b> </p>
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### Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches. While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of socially disadvantaged groups. A socially disadvantaged applicant is a member of a group that has been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice without regard to his or her individual qualities.

<b>Selected Interest Rates for January 2013</b>	
Farm Operating - Direct	1.250%
Farm Ownership - Direct	3.125%
Limited Resource	5.000%
Farm Ownership- Direct, Joint Financing	5.00%
Farm Ownership -Down Payment	1.50%
Emergency Loan	2.250%
Farm Storage Facility – 7 year	1.125%
Farm Storage Facility – 10 year	1.625%
Farm Storage Facility – 12 year	1.875%
Sugar Storage Facility	2.125%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.125%

<b>Dates to Remember</b>	
<b>Jan, 1</b>	Holiday, FSA office Closed.
<b>Jan, 21</b>	Holiday, FSA office Closed
<b>Jan, 31</b>	NAP 2013 Sales Closing date for: Cucumber, Grapes, Herbs, ALL, Pecan, Peppers, Chile, Raisins, Tomatoes
<b>Feb 19</b>	<b>2013 DCP/ACRE Signup BEGINS</b>
<b>Feb, 28</b>	Bean, Pinto, Beans, Gar, Corn, Cotton, Okra, Olives, Peanut, Potato, Sweet, Pumpkins, Sorghum, Squash
<b>Mar, 25</b>	Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Period Ends.
<b>May, 1</b>	Nursery: Ornamental and non-ornamental, Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Celery
<b>June, 7</b>	SURE Applications Due
<b>Aug, 2</b>	<b>2013 DCP/ACRE Signup ENDS</b>

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