



Maricopa County August 2008 Newsletter

Farm Service Agency

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Mark Dobson, Chairperson
Hours: 7:30 am to 4:30 PM

PROGRAM NOTES:

Dates to Remember



- August 15th-Deadline for acreage reporting (other crops)
- Sept 1st – Holiday (Office Closed)
- Sept 16th - Deadline CAT/NAP Buy-in
- Sept 30th - DCP Sign-up Deadline
- On going - Farm Loan Program Applications are accepted (Direct and Guaranteed Loans)

ATTENTION ALL PRODUCERS-

(ACTION): For your convenience, we are asking all producers to **SCHEDULE APPOINTMENTS FOR ALL PROGRAM SIGNUPS.** To provide you the optimum service possible in a timely manner, please schedule your appointment **1 week in advance** and don't forget to **bring in any new leases.**

Buy-In Waiver for Supplemental Disaster Assistance-(ACTION):

Producers can establish 2008 eligibility for the new disaster assistance programs by paying a fee as required by the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (the 2008 Act).

Ordinarily producers who wish to participate in the new disaster programs would need crop insurance or non-insured crop disaster assistance (NAP) coverage on all farms in all counties in which they have an interest. Since the 2008 Act was enacted after the application periods had closed for those programs, producers who did not have insurance coverage could not comply with this requirement in order to be eligible. However, the 2008 Act authorizes a waiver that allows producers to pay a fee, called a "buy-in" fee, to be eligible for the new disaster assistance programs.

The buy-in fee is due no later than Sept. 16, 2008, 90 days after the date of enactment, as required by the 2008 Act. Payment of the applicable fees will allow the producer to be eligible for financial assistance under the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program

(SURE), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), and other disaster assistance programs. Those who miss this opportunity will **not** be eligible for 2008 disaster assistance. Producers are also reminded that the payment of the applicable buy-in fee does **not** provide the producer crop insurance or NAP coverage; it only affords eligibility for the 2008 disaster programs.

The buy-in fee for 2008 eligibility is \$100 per crop, but not more than \$300 per producer per county, or \$900 total per producer for all counties less any previously paid fees for CAT and/or NAP. Contact your local FSA County Office for details or to pay applicable fees

Crop Certification Deadline-

(ACTION): For 2008, the final crop reporting dates have been **extended to August 15, 2008.** Late fees will not be applied if acreage reports are filed by August 15 and all other reporting requirements are met.

Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments.

Report of acreage must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted.

CRP & NAP Certification

Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. And, crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.

Prevented Planting and/or Failed Acreage:

For 2008, County Committee may accept requests for prevented planting and/or failed acreage, if timely filed by August 15. Farm visits will not be required if claims are verified, and all other requirements are met.

2008 DCP Sign-up Under way -

(ACTION): Sign-up began on Wednesday, June 25th and will continue until September 30, 2008.

Producers may elect a 22 percent advance payment on direct payments through September 30, 2008. After September 30, 2008, all payments will be included with the final direct payments made in October. Fruit and Vegetable requirements remain the same in 2008 as they were in 2007. **No producer on a farm that has a total of 10 base acres or less shall be eligible to receive payments on that farm.**

NOTE: The September 30th sign-up deadline is statutory and therefore will NOT be extended.

NAP Coverage Plan for 2009-

(ACTION): The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

NOTE: The application deadline date for 2009 NAP coverage has been **extended to Dec. 1, 2008 for those crops whose insurance deadlines were prior to Dec. 1, 2008**

Producers who already have coverage on 2008 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2009, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops.

Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee.

Producers with 2008 NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required.
- File a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of
- when a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail, etc.

For more information on NAP coverage please contact your nearest Farm Service Agency office.

Farm Loan Programs-(INFO):

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are

designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$949,000. Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA.

For detail information loan eligibility or the different available loan programs, just contact the county office staff for an appointment with a farm loan officer.

Beginning Farmers & Ranchers-

(INFO): If you are a farmer or rancher who has substantially participated in the farming operation for at least three years but no more than 10 years, you may qualify for beginning farmer targeted loan funds with the Farm Service Agency.

The program is designed to assist these farmers by providing direct and guaranteed loans when they are unable to obtain financing from commercial credit sources.

If you believe this program could be of benefit to you, please contact the county office for more information. FSA loan officials will be happy to arrange an appointment to meet with you and discuss your options.



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12409 West Indian School Road
Building B, Suite 201
Avondale, AZ 85323-9525

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Attention: FSA Program Participant!!

New Farm Bill - Deadlines for Producers

2008 Crop and CRP Acreage Reporting	Sign-up Deadline: August 15, 2008
2008 Disaster Assistance "Buy-In" Fee For 2008 Crops, producers must submit a "buy-in" fee to assure disaster program eligibility.	Buy-In Deadline: September 16, 2008
2008 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP)	Sign-up Deadline: September 30, 2008
2009 NAP Applications Extended deadline for crops with NAP deadlines prior to December 1.	Sign-up Deadline: December 1, 2008

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please call the office at (623) 535-5055.