



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

County Committee

Mark Cook, Chair
Twila Shelton, Vice Chair
Alan Seitz, Member

Staff

Carol Case, CED
Rebecca Burrignt, PT
Sharina Terry, PT
Tonya Ayala, PT
Maggie Rorbach, PT

Farm Loan Staff

Jonna Darnell, FLM
Cissi Graves, FLO
Dee Haupt, PT

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Farewell David Toll

Just a note to tell everyone ‘THANKS.’ By the time you read this, I’ll be retired; enjoying life with a fishing pole in one hand and a Coke in the other! I’ve spent the past 17 years in the Cochise County Office doing my thing while FmHA changed to CFSA and finally to FSA. I’ve met many unforgettable people (and they know who they are) and shared many experiences. Some of the experiences have been heart breaking, but most have been the happiest times in my life. It has always been my goal to serve the community in anyway I could be of help. In doing so, I have served on the Rotary, Rex Allen Days and Quail Park Boards. I know you will continue receiving the best service possible from both the Farm Loan Staff and the Farm Program Staff in the State of Arizona. I wish each and everyone the best.

Your Friend,

David Toll

Farm Loan Manager of Santa Cruz, Cochise, Graham and Greenlee Counties

FARM & RANCH UPDATES REQUIRED!

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 became law on May 22, 2008. In order to accommodate all farmers and ranchers to ensure they receive the maximum benefits for their operations, the Cochise County FSA Office is requiring all active participants to review their eligibility files. Eligibility files must be reviewed prior to the enrollment in any FSA programs.



This update may include any/all of the following:

- Verifying current information on the CCC-502, Farm Operating Plan
- Completing current AD-1026, Highly Erodible and Wetland Certification
- Completing current CCC-526, Adjusted Gross Income for the 2008 crop year
- For all OWNED land, current property tax notice/deed to validate ownership
- For all LEASED land, current lease agreements along with current proof of ownership to validate ownership
- For all entities, current articles of organization or agreements, including signature authority documentation to determine current legal signers

If you have any questions on how this will affect your operation, please contact the FSA Office at (520) 384-3588.



2008 Farm Bill Updates



Direct & Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP)

The sign up period for the 2008 crop year began on June 25, 2008 and will end on **September 30, 2008**. There will be no late fees for the 2008 sign up as the September 30th deadline is statutory and therefore will not be extended.

For 2008 DCP, the following will apply:

- A producer on a farm may **not** receive direct or counter-cyclical payments if the sum of the base acres on the farm is 10 acres or less with exceptions;
- Producers may elect to receive 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 as they did in 2007;
- The contract period is from October 1, 2007 through October 15, 2008 for the 2008 crop year; and
- Payment limitation per person for 2008 is \$40,000 for direct payments and \$65,000 for counter-cyclical payments for covered commodities and peanuts.

Due to the short time frame for sign ups, Producers are highly encouraged to schedule an appointment to reduce their wait time when visiting the County Office. To schedule an appointment, Shari can be reached at (520) 384-3588 x109.



Farm Loan Limitations

Loan Type	Maximum	Term	Rate as of 07/01/2008
Farm Ownership Loan (FO)	\$ 300,000	Up to 40 years	Now 5.000%
Operating Loan (OL)	\$ 300,000	1 to 7 years	Now 3.625%
Emergency Loan	\$ 500,000	1 to 40 years	Now 3.750%
Guaranteed Loans (FO & OL)	\$ 949,000	By Lender	By Lender, Commercial Rates

NOTICE: 2008 Disaster Programs Requires Crop Insurance or NAP

The recently-enacted Farm Bill legislates 2008 disaster programs covering losses to crops, trees/vines/bushes, forage, and other losses due to adverse weather. These programs require the crops you planted, grew, produced or were prevented from planting to have been covered by federal crop insurance or FSA's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). *All* of your crops on *all* of your acreage must be covered, not only those acres that suffered losses.

Due to the late passage of the Farm Bill in May, you will be given an opportunity to "buy-in" to the disaster program by paying a \$100/crop catastrophic crop insurance or NAP service fee for any 2008 crops that are not already covered by crop insurance or NAP.

This eligibility "buy-in" must be completed by September 16, 2008 at your FSA Office to satisfy the requirement for total CI / NAP coverage. Note that it does not provide you with crop insurance indemnities or NAP benefits. Once this requirement is met, you may be eligible for one or more of the following programs:

Supplemental Revenue Program (SURE): Covers crop revenue losses from quantity or quality deficiencies in disaster declared counties, contiguous counties, or in cases where the overall production loss exceeds 50%

Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP): Compensates livestock owners for forage losses due to drought. Additionally, losses due to wildfire will be covered on public lands.

Tree Assistance Program (TAP): Provides for partial reimbursement for replanting, salvage, pruning, debris removal and land preparation for orchardists and nursery tree growers if losses exceed 15%.

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (EALHF): Emergency relief to producers of livestock (including horses), honey bees, and farm-raised fish. Covers losses from disasters such as adverse weather or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires not adequately covered by any other disaster program. This program is authorized at the discretion of the Secretary.

Another disaster program authorized by the Farm Bill is the **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)** for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality. This is the only disaster program that does not require crop insurance or NAP coverage.

Further details of all of these disaster programs, including signup information, will be provided at a later date. Note that additional requirements exist for disaster programs eligibility.

Crop Certification Deadline Extended!

Because of the delay in announcing the provisions of the 2008 Farm Bill and extreme weather conditions throughout the nation, the 2008 reporting deadlines for crops has been extended to **August 15, 2008**.

EXCEPTION: For NAP purposes, producers are required to file an acreage report on the earlier of the extended acreage reporting date or no later than 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest.

Please remember that most programs offered through FSA require filing an accurate acreage report for all cropland, even if the land is fallow, to prevent loss of program benefits including payments.

For more information or to schedule an appointment to certify, contact your FSA Office.

Crop Disaster Program — Quality Losses

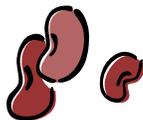
The Farm Service Agency's Crop Disaster Program 2005-2007 (CDP) provides benefits to farmers who suffered quality losses (as well as quantity losses) from natural disasters and related conditions to 2005, 2006 or 2007 crops. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year for which to receive benefits and may receive benefits for multiple crop losses if all were in the same crop year.



To receive CDP benefits for quality losses, farmers must have:

- had crop insurance or been covered under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the disaster year that the quality loss occurred;
- suffered quality losses to an eligible 2005, 2006 or 2007 crop;
- complied with Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation provisions for the 2005, 2006 or 2007 crop year;
- had endured at least a 25 percent loss; and
- been entitled to an ownership share of the crop.

Farmers may apply to receive CDP quality loss benefits by visiting the Cochise County FSA Office beginning June 23, 2008. Call the Cochise County FSA Office at (520) 384-3588 to schedule an appointment.



WANTED:

County Committeeman

Election time is here! The seat for LAA-1 is up for grabs which includes Willcox, Bonita, Stewart District, Kansas Settlement, Cochise, Pomerene and Benson. Any eligible producer from this area can be nominated.

The County Committee (COC) serves an important role in the everyday operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their county. They work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers. Committees provide input on:

- Commodity price support loans and payments;
- Conservation program;
- Incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities; and
- Emergency programs.

Agricultural producers of legal voting age can vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm can also vote.

County Committee Election Schedule

August 1, 2008: Last day to file nomination forms at the local FSA Office

November 3, 2008: Ballots mailed to eligible voters

December 1, 2008: Last day to return voted ballots to the local FSA Office

January 1, 2009: Elected committee members and alternates take office and begin their 3-year term

For more information, contact your local FSA Office or visit: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> and look under News & Events/County Committee Elections.



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

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

July

- 4th Closed in Observance of Independence Day
- 17th County Committee Meeting (Tentatively Scheduled)
- 18th Livestock Compensation Program Sign Up Period Ends

August

- 1st Nomination Period Ends for County Committee Election
- 15th Acreage Report Deadline (Extended from July 15th)
- 21st County Committee Meeting (Tentatively Scheduled)

September

- 16th Crop Insurance "Buy-In" Deadline
- 30th Direct & Counter-Cyclical Program Sign Up Deadline



What lies behind us and what lies in front of us are but tiny matters as compared to what lies within us.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT: As a participant in or applicant for programs, activities operated or sponsored by USDA, you have the right to be treated fairly. If you believe you have been discriminated against because of your race, national origin, gender, age, religion, disability or marital or familial status, you may file a discrimination complaint. The complaint should be filed with the USDA Office of Civil Rights within 180 days of the date you became aware of the alleged discrimination. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 326-S.W., Whitten Building, Stop 9410 Washington DC 20250-9410 Washington DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.