



U.S. Department  
Of Agriculture

Pinal County FSA  
520 N Camino Mercado  
Suite 10  
Casa Grande, AZ 85222  
520/ 836-1960  
520/836-1297 FAX

Hours

**Monday - Friday**

7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

County Committee

Don England, Jr., Chair  
Daniel Nowlin, V-Chair  
John O Nevitt, Member  
Alex Blaine, Advisor  
Vince LaPaglia, Advisor

Staff

Lori Emmert, PT  
Angie Carranza, PT  
Shirley Ciskowski, PT  
Kathy Fanning, PT  
Michelle Ontiveros, PT

Farm Loan Staff

Shawneen Stevenson, FLM  
Kent Erickson, FLO  
Patrick Fox, FL PT

County Executive Director

Debbie Hopkins

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

Farm Bill Update

Crop Disaster Signup  
Livestock Programs  
Deadlines

Election Applications

NAP Deadlines

Farm Loan Updates



**We Support our men  
and women in the  
Armed Forces.**

**Farm Bill 2008**

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY, Ed Shafer  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

This certainly has been an eventful week surrounding the Farm Bill, but we now have a new law. On Wednesday of this week, the President vetoed H.R. 2419, the "Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008." That afternoon, it was discovered that the bill enrolled by the Congress and presented to the President for his signature was missing "Title III - Trade." Notwithstanding this omission, Congress proceeded to override the President's veto. Understandably, there has been a significant amount of confusion over what exactly this means. However, we have now been assured that 14 of the 15 Farm Bill titles have been enacted into law.

Although the Administration has had significant policy differences with the Congress over the wisdom of many of the provisions in the new Farm Bill, it is now the law of the land. We have each taken an oath to faithfully execute the law, and so it is now time to end the debate, roll up our sleeves, and get to work implementing the new legislation.

During my short time here at USDA, I have pleasantly discovered the commitment to public service our employees have and I appreciate their hard work. I am confident that we will continue to provide effective, efficient, and citizen-centered government as we smoothly and rapidly work to implement the new law. All of our program beneficiaries, from farmers to food stamp recipients, deserve our best efforts.

*Please realize that regulations and software for USDA programs for Farm Bill 2008 will be forth coming in the weeks ahead. The Pinal County FSA Office will keep you informed of the latest sign-up information via Newsletter as soon as it becomes available.*



**COUNTY COMMITTEE  
NOMINATIONS OPEN  
FOR LAA 13 – East Pinal County**  
(East of Casa Grande to include Chuichu  
Road east; Florence-Eloy, Mammoth to  
Superior)



**June 15** through **Aug. 1st**, farmers and ranchers can nominate eligible peers or one's self as candidates for election to the Pinal County Farm Service Agency county committee.

Nominations may be you, another producer in same area, women in agriculture, minorities, socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. All are encouraged to apply. The Farm and Rural Investment Act of 2002 significantly expanded the requirements of the agency to expand its county committee members to include all interested participants. All applications must be submitted on form FSA-669A available on website: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections> , by mail or in person at Pinal County FSA Office.

*"Our goal is to have as many eligible candidates nominated to serve on FSA county committees as possible. We want to encourage everyone to get involved," said Debbie Hopkins, Pinal County Executive Director. This year we hope you'll consider nominating a farmer or rancher you know will make a real difference in his or her community.*

Committees apply their judgment and knowledge to make decisions on county commodity price-support loan eligibility, establishment of bases and yields, conservation programs, disaster programs, employment and other farm program-related issues.

Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Nominations and elections are open to all eligible candidates and voters without regard to race, color, religion, nation origin, age, sex, marital status or disability.

### **Complaint Process**

***After an FSA official makes a decision on your request for USDA services or application, you will be sent a letter informing you of the decision and options you can pursue if you disagree.***

## **DROP DEAD-DEADLINES!**

**Deadline for Prevented Planting  
Sorghum  
July 31, 2007**  
**Be sure to call the office for  
further information.**

**All Cropland Certification  
Deadline July 15, 2008**  
**(Cotton, Corn, etc., and all other land  
use to include Fallow)**  
*Without late file fees assessed*

### ***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.

Producers must apply for NAP coverage by the sales closing date using Form CCC-471, "Application for Coverage," and pay the service fee of \$100 per crop per county or \$300 per producer per county. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$900 per producer with farming interest in multiple counties.

Producers are reminded of these dates to ensure continued eligibility for the 2009 crop year.

Producers must: (1) Annually provide records of crop acreage, crop yields, and production evidence for NAP crops to be eligible; (2) **Inform FSA within 15 days of the date any disaster condition occurred or damage to the crop became apparent. \*\*Producers must file this form even if they intend to harvest the crop.**

The program requires that producers must report the acreage and shares for all crops potentially eligible for NAP; certify crop production history and report current crop year production on or before the deadline. They must also certify that they comply with all highly erodible land and wetland conservation requirements.

## Customer Statement

Producers who have signed up for a USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account will have a little online help in that they will be able to access their farm data via their Customer Statement.

The Customer Statement puts a range of USDA services and programs into a single report that's at your fingertips and available online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It allows USDA customers to view their participation, application and payment status in various commodity and conservation programs; information on farm loans; and conservation plan and land unit information.

## USDA ANNOUNCES DEADLINE FOR 2005 – 2007 LCP AND LIP SIGN-UP

U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency Livestock producers have until July 18, 2008, to enroll in the 2005 – 2007 Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP).

Signup began on Sept. 10, 2007, for the two programs that provide aid to livestock producers who suffered eligible livestock or livestock feed losses between Jan. 1, 2005, and Dec. 30, 2007, because of a natural disaster.

FSA encourage all eligible producers to enroll soon because sign-up ends on July 18, 2008, all applicable documentations must be in by deadline date.

The LIP provides payments to eligible livestock owners and contract growers who incurred the death of livestock because of a natural disaster.

The LCP provides payments to eligible livestock owners and cash lessees who suffered feed losses or increased feed costs because of a natural disaster.



### Items to review:

- ❖ Change in Banking\*\*\*\*\*
- ❖ Address & Phone Number \*\***Zip Codes**
- ❖ Change in ownership/lease+++++
- ❖ Signature Authority \*\*\*\*

## USDA TOLL FREE NUMBER FOR FSA BORROWERS

Farmers and Ranchers Can Check Account Status  
24/7

Direct loan borrowers with USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) can now check the status of their accounts around the clock using a new toll-free telephone number.

This convenient new tool gives customers up-to-the-minute access to their accounts, helping producers better manage the daily operations of their farm or ranch. This secure system is fast, efficient and very user-friendly, and yet another hallmark of our commitment to provide high quality and convenient services.

The toll-free number is 1-888-518-4983 and is available in both English and Spanish. The system delivers information on active FSA loans 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



## County Committee Meetings

The Pinal County Farm Service Agency Committee is a 3 member, 2 advisor board which meets once a month. The committee has established 8:00 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month as its regular meeting time in the conference room of the Pinal County FSA office as the meeting place. The public is cordially invited to attend. \*\*June Meeting is scheduled for 6-25-08

*We will post a notice of any changes to meeting dates or times at the front of the office*

### PAYMENT LIMITATIONS

USDA payments and benefits are subject to producer eligibility and limitation provisions as defined by law. Documents and forms to determine eligibility and limitation, once completed, are reviewed on an annual basis.

It is the producer's responsibility to report changes in the farming operation that may affect payment eligibility and payment limitation.

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Pinal County Farm Service Agency  
520 Camino Mercado, Ste. 10  
Casa Grande, AZ 85222

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## IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

June	25 <sup>h</sup>	Pinal County Committee Meeting CDP, & LCP-LIP Sign Up Continues-DEADLINES
July	15 <sup>th</sup>	All Cropland Certification Deadline
	16 <sup>th</sup>	Pinal County Committee Meeting
	31 <sup>st</sup>	Prevented-Planting Sorghum Deadline

FSA Homepage: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

Arizona State FSA Homepage: [www.fsa.usda.gov/edso/az/az.htm](http://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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To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250, or call (202) 720-7327 (voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for persons with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment upon request. If accommodations are required, please call Debbie Hopkins, CED, at 520/836-2028