



Maricopa County December 2006 Newsletter

Farm Service Agency

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

PROGRAM NOTES:

Dates to Remember

- Oct 1st - 2007 DCP Sign-up Continues...
- Dec – 2007EQIP Sign-up Begins
- Dec 25th - Office Closed (Holiday)
- Jan 1st - Office Closed (Holiday)
- Jan 31st - Deadline for Wool/Mohair Loan/LDP's
- MILCX Extended Sign-up Continues ...
- 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 call and schedule appointments for any program sign-up. To provide you the optimum service possible in a timely manner, please schedule your appointment 1 week in advance and please anticipate enough time to thoroughly review your farm and payment limitation files. Don't forget to bring any new leases.

Please Note: A lengthy wait time is to be expected for all non-scheduled producers

2007 DCP Sign-up Starts Oct. 1-

(ACTION): Sign-up for the 2007 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) began Oct. 1. The CCC-509, "Direct and Counter-cyclical Program Contract," includes base acres, payment acres, payment yields, producer payment shares, advance direct and counter-cyclical payment selections and signatures of the producer and county office representative. The CCC-509 must be submitted by June 1, 2007, to be considered timely. All owners and operators who will share in the DCP payments on the farm must sign the CCC-509. Forms with signatures obtained after June 1, 2007, but before Sept. 30, 2007, will be accepted, but the farm will be assessed a late-file fee of \$100. Farm producers must apply for DCP each year and can opt out of the program for any year.

To be eligible, producers must file: annual DCP contract (CCC-509), a farm-operating plan (CCC-502

and related forms), an average adjusted gross income certification (CCC-526), a certification of compliance with highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions (AD-1026). A certification of the acreage of all cropland on the farm (FSA-578) is also needed before final payments can be issued. Please anticipate a longer wait time during your appointment so we can thoroughly review your files.

Signature Authority for Partnerships-

(INFO): In the past there have been questions regarding who may sign on behalf of a partnership. The current procedure is: any member of a general partnership may sign for the general partnership and bind all members unless the Articles of Partnership are more restrictive.

Note: This policy is adopted by FSA because the majority of States have laws that provide for this; however, this is **not** the case for other business enterprises.

Signature Authority for Entities-

(INFO): In simpler times, when a producer visited the county office to sign a form there was no question about how to sign. The producer simply signed his or her name on the dotted line. In today's world of "entities" – trusts, limited liability companies, cooperatives, partnerships and corporations- signing Farm Service Agency and Commodity Credit Corporation forms isn't so simple.

First, you have to have a document on file at the county office saying you're authorized to sign for the entity. It could be a copy of the articles of partnership or articles of corporation or a valid power of attorney.

Second, you have to know how you're supposed to sign. In almost all instances, when you're signing for an entity, your signature has to include "by" or "for," indicating you're signing in a representative capacity. For example, let's say you have a partnership, the John R. Smith & Sons Partnership, and you're authorized to sign for the partnership. Acceptable signatures include "by George C. Smith"; "by George C. Smith, Partner"; and "John R. Smith & Sons Partnership, by George C. Smith, Partner."

Remember, if you've established an entity for your operation, **you can no longer sign forms and contracts as yourself.** When you have **signing authority for an entity, you have to sign forms on behalf of the entity,** not yourself.

If you have questions about the proper way to sign forms and contracts for your entity, contact the county office staff. We can review the records and help determine the acceptable signature for your situation.

Payment Limitations: CCC-502

Submissions - (ACTION):

When submitting a new 502B for a joint venture/general partnership, the last page (pg .3) **must include all members' signatures,** a form submitted with the wording "**See Attached Page**" is not acceptable and is **considered invalid.** If you require more space for signatures, please attach another (pg.3.) to **include all signatures** of members.

2006 Wool and Mohair Price Support

Benefits-(ACTION):

The final availability date for loan/LDP on Wool, Mohair and Unshorn Pelts is **January 31, 2007.** Remember, you must **file an application prior to shearing** your wool, mohair and unshorn pelts **or you will be ineligible for benefits.** After applying for the program and after selling your wool, mohair or unshorn pelts, you must provide your sales receipt(s) in order to receive benefits. Please contact Joann for more information.

NRCS 2007 EQIP Sign-up Begins-

(ACTION):

The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is currently accepting applications for the 2007 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), from now until January 29, 2007. Producers are encouraged to apply early. Applications are taken year round at local NRCS field offices, but must be received by the deadline to be considered for the 2007 fiscal year.

EQIP is a voluntary, incentive based, program that helps farmers and ranchers implement various conservation measures on their land. EQIP provides both financial and technical assistance to producers, in efforts to improve agricultural yields while improving environmental benefits to the land and community. Applicants are ranked by their resource concerns. Such concerns include, but are not limited to, soil erosion, water quality and quantity, rangeland health, air quality, and wildlife. To qualify for EQIP you must have and maintain control of the land which you are applying for throughout the duration of the contract, which can vary from two to ten years. The land must be currently engaged in some type of agricultural production. For cropland, fields must have been irrigated for a minimum of two of the last five years.

Recipients of EQIP will receive 50% cost share on approved conservation practices. Limited and beginning farmers and ranchers will receive 90% cost share. To qualify as a limited producer, total household income must be at or below \$26,736 for Maricopa County or at or below \$19,350 for La Paz County, and gross farm sales cannot exceed \$113,600.

Beginning Producers are those that have not operated a farm or ranch, or who have operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10 consecutive years. This requirement applies to all members of an entity and requires active participation in the operation of the farm or ranch.

For more information on EQIP visit our webpage at: <http://www.az.nrcs.usda.gov/PROGRAMS/EQIP/> or contact our field offices.

Avondale Field Office
12409 W. Indian School Road, Building B, Suite 201
Avondale, AZ 85323
(623) 535-5055x3

Buckeye Field Office
220 N. 4th Street
Buckeye, AZ 85326
(623) 386-4631

Farm Record Changes-(ACTION):

If you have bought, sold or are renting different land, make sure you report the changes to the staff at your local Farm Service Agency county office as soon as possible so farm records can be updated. For farm ownership changes you will need to provide a recorded deed or recorded land contract. All land owners must furnish their tax ID numbers.

Remember, failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and fines if you are participating in farm program.

Non-Insured Crop Assistance Program

- **(INFO):** The cost for NAP is a service fee of \$100 per crop, per a total of \$300 per producer, per county. Not to exceed \$900.00 total for all counties.

2007 CROP YEAR SALES

NAP APPLICATION CLOSING DATES:

January 31, 2006- Cucumbers, Grapes, Grass-Bermuda, Grass-Sudan, Herbs-Basil, Jojoba, Pecans, Peppers-Chile, Raisins

Producers are reminded of these dates to ensure continued eligibility for the 2007 crop year.

2007 Farm Reconstitutions: - (ACTION):

We are able to process 2007recons. If you have any

ground that you are losing or picking up for the 2007 year you will need to get with Mary Maxwell, please call for an appointment.

Final Loan/LDP Availability Dates- (ACTION):

The final loan/loan deficiency payment availability dates for crop year 2006 are:

- **March 31, 2007** for Barley, Oats, Wheat and Honey
- **May 31, 2007** for Corn, Grain Sorghum, and Cotton

Farm Storage Facility Loans-(INFO):

Low cost loans for storage facilities are available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including wheat, rice, soybeans and corn.

The seven-year Farm Storage Facility Loans are available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities. Eligible facilities include new conventional-type cribs or bins and new and remanufactured oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures.

All farm storage facility loans are secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85 percent of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to \$100,000 for each borrower. A minimum down payment is also required. For details, contact Christina Day.

Report Losses-(ACTION):

Producers: If you had any failed crop acres, give serious thought to report them before plowing under the evidence. If Congress authorizes a crop disaster program in the future, proof of failed acreage may be required for your participation.

Ensuring that failed acres are documented could be the determining factor in whether you are eligible for future crop disaster program payments.

If you are experiencing low crop yields, you should keep good production records, but you don't need to report this acreage right now.

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. For losses on crops covered by the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), you must contact the FSA county office staff within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent. Producers with crop insurance should contact their local agent when losses occur and before destroying the crop.

New Land/Equipment Leases –

(ACTION): When signing up for the DCP Program please bring in your current land leases, as well as **any new equipment leases** to update your payment

limitation file. **PLEASE NOTE:** All equipment leases **must include an equipment listing.**

Recon Reminder: For reconstitution purposes, **“Permission to Combine” must be included** in new leases that are submitted to our office.

Rural Youth Project Loan Program-

(INFO): The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes loans to individual rural youths that are 10-20 years of age to establish and operate income-producing projects of modest size. The projects are in connection with their participation in 4-H Clubs, Future Farmers of America, and similar organizations. Each project must be part of an organized and supervised program of work. The project must be planned and operated with the help of the organizational advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. Application forms for Rural Youth Loans are available at the Maricopa County USDA-FSA Office.

Monitoring Efforts by FSA and RMA

(INFO): In an effort to prevent fraud, waste and abuse in the Federal Crop Insurance Program, FSA will be assisting RMA and insurance providers in: Monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season

- Referring all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse about the Federal Crop Insurance Program to RMA
- Assisting RMA with auditing claims

Participants may report suspected cases of fraud, waste, and abuse to their local County, RMA Office or OIG.

Season's Greetings from your friends at



the Maricopa Farm Service Agency



PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Avondale, Arizona
PERMIT #50

Maricopa County FSA Office
12409 West Indian School Road
Building B, Suite 201
Avondale, AZ 85323-9525

Attention: FSA Program Participant
This newsletter contains valuable information and important dates
regarding our programs, therefore you may lose valuable benefits \$\$\$
IF YOU DO NOT READ IT!

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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.