



Maricopa County September 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



- Sept 30th - DCP Sign-up Deadline
- Oct 13th – Holiday (Office Closed)
- Nov 11th – Holiday (Office Closed)
- 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.**

NOTE FOR PRODUCERS:

During the week of **October 27th – October 31st, 2008** we will have a limited office staff due to The State Farm Bill Training. We expect to be fully functional on November 3rd, 2008. Thank you in advance for your understanding and continued cooperation.

2008 DCP Sign-up Deadline

Approaching - (ACTION): Sign-up began on June 25, 2008 and will end 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. Unless the following exceptions are met: a socially disadvantaged farmer or a limited resource producer.**

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

Nominees for Upcoming Election- (INFO)

The county office received a nomination form for Dawnie Sue Stewart for 2009. Dawnie resides in Gilbert, AZ, LAA 3. Dawnie Sue Stewart is willing to serve if elected.

2008 Election Timetable

Nov. 3	Ballots are mailed to eligible voters.
Dec. 1	Deadline to return completed ballots to FSA County Office.
Dec. 8	Ballots will be counted in the county office
Jan. 1, 2009	New committee member and alternates are installed.

Prevented or Failed Acreage- (INFO):

Acreage reporting time is just around the corner. *Please remember that filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs. Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and **before** disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the **final planting date.** Acreage reports are required if you want to be eligible for Farm Service Agency programs.

Failed Acreage Credit or Prevented Planting – (ACTION):

- Producers requesting preventing planting credit shall:
- Report acreage on the FSA578
 - Complete a CCC 576 Notice of Loss Part B
 - Provide evidence that:
 - The land was prevented from being planted to the intended crop as a result of a natural disaster
 - An effort was made to plant the crop

For questions call the office.

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. These crops are:**

Oct 31, 2008- Alfalfa, Barley, Cantaloupe, Native Grass (Rangeland), Honeydews, Lettuce, Rye, Wheat

Nov 20, 2008- Apples, Apricots, Cherries, Honey, Peaches, Pears, Pistachios, Plums, Watermelon

Nov 30, 2008- Potatoes

This extension of the 2009 NAP application closing date to December 1, 2008, could result in producers needing to report acreage for 2009 NAP crops after the final acreage reporting date for that particular crop. So where the acreage reporting date falls before December 1, 2008, late-filed fees shall be waived for 2009 NAP crop acreage reported on the FSA-578 by COB December 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. **The New Fee is \$250.00/crop a maximum of \$750.00/per county.**

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.

CDP Program Sign-up Underway-

(Action): Sign-up for quantity losses under CDP began Oct. 15, 2007, and a deadline date has not been set. CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops from natural disasters if the crop was planted before Feb. 28, 2007, or, in the case of prevented plantings, for crops that would have been planted before Feb. 28, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year to apply for benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year. **Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits.** Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP.

FSA offices may accept information from producers about quality losses when producers submit applications for quantity losses. and all other information necessary to determine eligibility is received by FSA. To receive CDP benefits for quantity losses, the FSA county committee must determine that, because of eligible damaging weather, the producer: was prevented from planting a crop; sustained a loss in excess of 35 percent of the expected production of a crop; or sustained a loss in excess of 35 percent of the value for value-loss crops.

2009 Direct (DCP) Sign-up-(INFO):

Enrollment for 2009 can begin as early as October 2009. Final 2008 Direct Payment will be dispersed in October. Final 2007 Counter-Cyclical payments will be dispersed in October. Rates have yet to be announced.

Farm Record Changes-(ACTION):

If you have bought, sold or are renting different land, make sure you report the changes to the staff at this 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 landowners 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 a farm program.

New Leases-(INFO):

Reminder: For reconstitution purposes, "**Permission to Combine**" **must be included in new leases** that are submitted to our office and ALL leases must have legal descriptions.

Bank Account Changes-(ACTION): When making an account change/closure with your existing bank, **please notify our office and fill out a new SF-1199 Direct Deposit Form.** It is crucial that we maintain the most current accounting records to avoid delays when dispersing payments to you or your operation.

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.

Civil Rights Policy Statement-(INFO):

FSA is committed to ensuring the civil rights of every Individual who requests access to the programs administered by the Agency. They will be provided employment opportunities without regard to race, color, creed, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, marital status, or sexual orientation.



Supporting U.S. Troops and Their Efforts



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Attention: FSA Program Participant!!
This newsletter contains valuable information and important dates regarding our programs; therefore you may lose benefits



If You Do Not Read It!!

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT: The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

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.