

Apache County FSA News

St Johns, AZ
FSA Program Delivery
Office

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Hours
Monday - Friday
7:30 A.M.-4:30 P.M.
Closed Legal Holidays

County Committee
Norman Brown, Chair
Fay Pase, V-Chair
Ray Castillo, Member

Office Staff
Gregg W. Norton, CED
Genetta Thornhill, PT
Teresa Jim, PT

Farm Loan Staff
Mike Miller, FLM
Harriet Mann, FLO
Holbrook USDA Service
Center
(928) 524-3214

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2009 COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

FSA COUNTS ON YOU: NOMINATE AND VOTE!

One of FSA's responsibilities is to conduct County Committee elections in an open manner that ensures accountability. FSA will provide local organizations representing socially disadvantaged groups with detailed information about the COC election process. The agency is reaching out to agricultural communities to get equitable representation on their county committees.

Groups representing socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, will be actively solicited for COC election candidates, and encouraged to fill out a nomination form (**FSA-669A**).

Nomination forms can be filed starting **June 15, 2009 and must be filed not later than August 3, 2009 at the FSA office. Contact this office for a nomination form.**

Under represented farmers and ranchers are encouraged to step up and participate in their county's COC election process. Producers will notice posters and announcements displayed in businesses, churches, and other public places. COC election fact sheets can be found online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA> under the News & Events tab on the FSA homepage. **LAA #2 is up for election. This is central Apache County. Norman Brown from St Johns is the current representative on the county committee.**



WOOL/MOHAIR 2009 BENEFITS

It's that time of year again. Time to file your 633-EZ Page 1 so that your wool and mohair will be eligible for payment.

DO NOT WAIT UNTIL YOU ARE READY TO SELL TO SIGN THE FORM. The form must be RECEIVED in this office before you sell your wool/mohair. Producers should complete page one of the EZ form as soon as possible. Once page one is completed, producers can request benefits any time **up until January 31, 2010.**

Page 1 of the 633-EZ was mailed to all wool and mohair producers that applied for benefits in prior years. **Please sign and return the form to this office as soon as possible so your wool and mohair is covered.**

When you sell your wool and mohair there is another form that must be completed. Please see our scheduled chapter visits in this newsletter.

NON INSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

NAP benefits are based on a producer's individual crop losses and covers all non insurable, commercially grown crops produced for food and fiber. NAP is available to those producers who share in the risk of producing a crop. Crop losses must be as a result of a weather-related disaster condition such as: drought, hail, excessive moisture, freezing conditions, excessive wind, hurricane, or other related conditions. Coverage costs \$250 per crop per county, up to \$750 maximum for single county farmers or ranchers and \$1,875 for multi-county operators.

Application filing dates for 2009



crops have passed. Filing dates for 2010 are as follows:

- Native Rangeland- October 31, 2009*
- Small Grains (Wheat, Barley, Oats)- October 31, 2009*
- Alfalfa, Alfalfa/Mix, Sudan, and other forage crops- October 31, 2009*
- Coarse Grains (Corn, Grain Sorghum)- February 28, 2010*

Producers with NAP coverage are required to 1) file a Notice of Loss the earlier of 15 days of the date of a disaster or 15 days of when a loss is apparent, 2) timely file an acreage report (May 15- small grains, alfalfa and July 15- native range, coarse grains), and 3) keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. **You must also provide land documentation (leases, deeds, grazing and land use permits).**

If you have any questions, please contact the county office for more information.

REMEMBER- Participation in NAP on grazing land is required to be eligible for the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP).

**DISASTER PROGRAM UPDATE
EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR
LIVESTOCK, HONEY BEES, AND FARM
RAISED FISH (ELAP)**

The 2008 Farm Bill created 5 new disaster programs, one of which is the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP).

ELAP provides emergency relief to producers of livestock, honey bees, and farm-raised fish

to aid in the reduction of losses because of disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires, as determined by the Secretary, during the calendar year, that are not covered by the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), and Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP).

All types of losses for which livestock, honey bee, and farm-raised fish producers may be compensated for under ELAP will not be known until the regulations for

ELAP are published in the Federal Register. However, following are possible losses that may be compensated under ELAP:

- grazing losses because of eligible adverse weather events other than drought and wildfire on non-federally managed lands
- purchased or harvested feed that was intended as feed for eligible livestock, honey bees, or farm-raised fish that was destroyed or lost because of an eligible adverse weather event
- feed purchased to sustain livestock, honey bees, or farm-raised fish because of blizzards, floods, and hurricanes, etc. for a short period of time until additional feed becomes available
- physical losses of honey bees because of colony collapse disorder or eligible adverse weather events
- physical losses of honey bee hives because of eligible adverse weather events
- physical loss of farm-raised fish because of eligible adverse weather events
- reimbursement of costs incurred by an eligible producer associated with providing feed to livestock during a blizzard or flood such as hay lifts
- reimbursement of costs incurred by an eligible producer associated with providing feed to livestock during a blizzard such as the cost of snow removal equipment to clear a trail to transport feed to the eligible livestock
- transportation costs to move livestock from flooded areas during a flood to higher ground.

Note: These losses are examples of losses that **may or may not** be compensated under ELAP. A forthcoming regulation in the Federal Register will provide final determinations.





FARM LOAN PROGRAMS

Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes agricultural loans; provides credit counseling and supervision to farmers and ranchers who are unable to obtain private, commercial credit.

FSA places special emphasis on socially disadvantaged applicants (SDA) because we understand and recognize that certain groups have not participated in or have received limited benefits from FSA programs. Our goal is to increase the participation of socially disadvantaged applicants in FSA programs, with special emphasis on those who are members of racial minority groups. FSA lends money and provides credit counseling and supervision to eligible applicants who operate family-size farms. All applicants must meet qualifying criteria to be eligible.

TYPES OF LOANS AVAILABLE

Farm Ownership (FO)

Farm Operating (OL)

Emergency (EM)

A FSA FO loan provides funds to purchase farm or ranch land; repair buildings and other fixtures; promote soil and water conservation.

Farm Operating loan funds may be used to purchase or lease items needed such as livestock, farm equipment, feed, seed, fuel, farm chemicals, insurance or other operating expenses.

LOAN AMOUNTS

Direct loans can be made up to \$300,000.00

Guaranteed loans can be made up to \$1,094,000.00

SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED PROGRAM

Funds are set aside for socially disadvantaged applicants (SDA) to buy and operate family-sized farms and ranches. SDA applicants must meet the same eligibility requirements as other non-SDA applicants.

FSA farm loan employees provide information and assistance to applicants to help them develop sound farm management practices, analyze problems, and plan the best use of available resources essential for suc-

cess in farming or ranching. For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Operating loans can be repaid within 1 to 7 years depending on the loan purpose. Farm Ownership loans can be repaid from 10 years to 40 years.

YOUTH LOANS

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor and parents/guardians, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5,000.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States or a legal resident alien.
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements, except managerial experience. Reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources.

Currently FSA has no funds available for direct loans; however, this could change before 10/1/09. The 2010 fiscal year begins 10/1/2009 and funds for direct loans should be available at that time. Loan applications are encouraged and if approved, will be approved subject to funding availability.

For additional information contact the Farm Loan Team at the phone number given in this newsletter.



*United We
Stand!*



New FSA Administrator

Doug Caruso

Doug Caruso returns to USDA after working as chief executive officer for Wisconsin Farmers Union Specialty Cheese, a manufacturer of award-winning blue and Gorgonzola products.

From 1993 to 2001, Caruso served as State Executive Director (SED) for FSA in Wisconsin. During his tenure, he was honored by FSA as Outstanding State Executive Director in the Clinton Administration for his exemplary leadership, superior management skills, and significant contributions to the agency at all levels.

OUTREACH VISITS

We will be making the following visits to take applications for *all* FSA programs available at this time:

Location	Date	Time of Day
Chinle Chapter House	June 2, 16, 30 July 14, 28	10 A.M. to 2 P.M.
St. Michaels USDA Service Center	June 4, 18, July 16, 30	10 A.M. to 2 P.M.
Shonto Chapter House	June 2, 16, 30 July 14, 28	1 P.M. to 4 P.M.
Kayenta NRCS next to Chapter House	June 3, 17 July 1, 15, 29	8 A.M. to 12 P.M.
Teec Nos Pos Chapter House	July 8	10 A.M. to 2 P.M.
Pinon Chapter House	July 10	10 A.M. to 2 P.M.
Rock Point Chapter House	July 22	10 A.M. to 2 P.M.

This schedule will be in place as long as weather and road conditions permit

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for 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 to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (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. If accommodations are required, please call Greg W. Norton, CED at (928) 337-4411.