

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
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Fay Pase, V-Chair
Ray Castillo, Member

Office Staff
Gregg W. Norton, CED
Genetta Thornhill, PT
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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) or any other livestock related disaster program that may become available. DO NOT DELAY in filing for NAP if you wish to be eligible.



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.



FSA COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

Just a reminder: Watch your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters in LAA 2 (St. Johns/Concho/Hunt) starting on November 6, 2009. If, for some reason you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify the county FSA office. Completed and signed ballots are due back in the county office by the close of business on December 7, 2009.

LIVESTOCK FORAGE DISASTER PROGRAM (LFP)

LFP is a program available to assist livestock producers when forage losses occur due to DROUGHT. Eligibility for the program is based on the US Drought Monitor. **As of this newsletter we are not eligible for this program.** That could change in the near future. **Please remember the importance of purchasing NAP coverage on your grazing land by October 31, 2009.**

LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM (LIP)

LIP was authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill to provide assistance to livestock producers for livestock deaths from **weather disaster events**, except drought, in excess of normal mortality. Livestock deaths due to other causes (predator deaths, drought, etc.) are NOT eligible. You must notify the county office within 30 days of the date you discover the livestock deaths. You must also provide verifiable or reliable records that prove the livestock existed and that the deaths were caused by an eligible weather related condition. For further information, please contact the county office.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR LIVESTOCK, HONEYBEES, AND FARM RAISED FISH (ELAP)

ELAP was authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill to provide emergency relief to producers of livestock, honeybees, and farm-raised fish and covers losses from disaster such as adverse weather or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires not adequately covered by any other disaster program. For more details please contact the county office.

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 \$1,112,000.00

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 success 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.

BIOMASS CROP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

FSA is currently accepting applications from biomass facilities interested in participating in the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP).

Once an agreement is signed between FSA and a facility and funding through the program is provided, the facilities can begin accepting materials. Producers who sell these materials can apply for matching payments under the collection, harvest, storage and transportation (CHST) component of BCAP. Eligible material owners or producers, who market eligible material to a qualified biomass conversion facility, may apply for the matching CHST payment at their FSA county office. An application must be submitted before the eligible material is sold and delivered to a qualified biomass conversion facility. After the product is delivered, a producer must provide FSA with documentation of product quantity, quality and payment rate. County offices will validate payment requests with information in the county office and information provided under the



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terms of MOUs with the qualified biomass conversion facilities. CHST payments will not be authorized until after an appropriate environmental analysis has been conducted.

Biomass conversion facilities and material owners or producers should contact their local FSA office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov for more information.

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	Oct 20 Nov 3, 17 Dec 1, 15, 29	10 A.M. to 2 P.M.
St. Michaels USDA Service Center	Oct 22 Nov 5, 19 Dec 3, 17	10 A.M. to 2 P.M.
Shonto Chapter	Oct 6, 20 Nov 3, 17 Dec 1, 15, 29	1 P.M. to 4 P.M.
Kayenta NRCS next to Chapter	Oct 7, 21 Nov 4, 18 Dec 2, 16, 30	8 A.M. to 12 P.M.
Rock Point Chapter	Oct 28	10 A.M. to 2 P.M.
Pinon Chapter	Nov 12	10 A.M. to 2 P.M.
Teec Nos Pos Chapter	Dec 9	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.