

Apache County FSA News

St Johns, AZ
FSA Program Delivery
Office

Apache County FSA
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St Johns, AZ 85936

Phone: (928) 337-4411
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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 LIVESTOCK FORAGE DISASTER PROGRAM (LFP) SIGNUP THROUGH FEBRUARY 1, 2010

Due to drought conditions during 2009 as reflected on the US Drought Monitor, this office is accepting applications for the 2009 LFP through close of business **February 1, 2010**. As detailed in previous newsletters, issued since the summer of 2008, a livestock producer must have a 2009 Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) contract on all grazing land in the operation in order to be eligible for LFP. The requirement to have NAP coverage is the Risk Management Purchase Requirement (RMPR). There is a waiver to the RMPR for any livestock producers that meet any one of the following three criteria:

LIMITED RESOURCE PRODUCER- If your total Adjusted Gross Income for ALL members of your household in each of the last two years was **\$22,500** or less combined, and your gross sales from farming and ranching in each of the last two years was **\$142,000** or less.

BEGINNING FARMER/RANCHER- An individual who has operated a farm or ranch for 10 years or less **AND** participates substantially in the farm/ranch operation. An entity could also be determined a Beginning Farmer/Rancher if **all** members of the entity qualify as Beginning Farmer/Rancher.

SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED PRODUCER- Any member of a Socially Disadvantaged group. A Socially Disadvantaged group consists of members who have been subject to racial or ethnic prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities.

Again, if you do not meet one of the three criteria above you must have purchased 2009 NAP on your grazing land or you are ineligible for the 2009 LFP. However, if a producer unintentionally failed to or was unable to purchase NAP coverage, relief may be requested by the producer and the request will be reviewed by the FSA County Committee and FSA State Committee for possible relief.

To apply for the 2009 LFP you must be prepared to certify to your livestock numbers and also provide documentation of all the grazing land in your operation. It is very important that your grazing land (privately owned, leased whether private, state, or federal) be in the name of the applicant. If the land documentation is in any other name, that grazing land cannot be included in calculating the pasture value for your operation which could reduce the amount of payment you can receive.

The following documentation is required for the following types of grazing land:

1. **US Forest Service-** A copy of the 2009 Bill for Collection that shows the AUM allowance on the term permit
2. **BLM-** A copy of the BLM grazing permit
3. **State-** A copy of the state grazing lease or any state approved sub-lease or assignment of lease that shows the acres and the AU allowance
4. **Privately owned-** A copy of 2009 property tax receipts that show the legal description and number of acres
5. **Private leased-** A copy of any lease
6. **Tribal/BIA Grazing permit-** A copy of a valid permit covering the 2009 grazing year

If you reduced your livestock numbers during 2009 or in one of the previous two years (2008, 2007) due to drought conditions and not as a part of your normal business operation, those livestock can be included on the application. It is important, however, that you maintain documentation of the livestock reductions (sales receipts, etc.)

The signup period is short, so do not delay in preparing and applying at the county office. Please contact the county office if you have any questions about the program.

EMERGENCY (EM) LOANS

On 12/3/2009, Apache, Gila and Navajo Counties received a Secretarial Disaster Determination. This makes EM loans available to family farmers who meet the eligibility requirements contained in 7 CFR 764.352 (a) and 764.101. To be eligible for an EM loan the family sized producer must:

- Own or operate a farm/ranch in a county designated
- Have adequate managerial ability
- Have suffered a 30 percent loss in crop production or pasture/grazing
- Have an acceptable credit history
- Be unable to obtain credit from commercial sources
- Have sufficient collateral to secure the requested loan
- Have adequate repayment ability to pay all debts, including the loan requested



*United We
Stand!*

The 30 percent loss must be calculated based on the producers' records for the 3 years immediately prior to the emergency designation. A loss cannot be calculated if no records are provided or available.

If a producer is approved for an EM loan, they must agree to pay any duplicative Federal assistance which includes Disaster Payments such as Livestock Forage Program (LFP) payments. If the amount of payment is known at the time of loan approval, it will be deducted from the qualifying loss amount. If the amount of disaster payment is not known at the time of loan approval, the applicant must assign the benefits to FSA to be applied to the EM loan amount as an extra payment.

The interest rate for EM loans is 3.75%. The current interest rate for Operating Loans (OL) is 2.875%. Producers who do not qualify for an EM loan, may apply for an OL loan. The eligibility requirements for both EM and OL loans are the same, with the exception of, no 30 percent loss is necessary for an OL loan.

You may contact the Holbrook FSA office at 928/524-3214 and talk to Michael Miller or Harriet Mann if you need additional information or assistance.

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	Dec 29 Jan 12, 26	10 A.M. to 2 P.M.
St. Michaels USDA Service Center	Dec 17 Jan 14, 28	10 A.M. to 2 P.M.
Shonto Chapter	Dec 29 Jan 12, 26	1 P.M. to 4 P.M.
Kayenta NRCS next to Chapter	Dec 30 Jan 13, 27	8 A.M. to 12 P.M.
Rock Point Chapter	Jan 20	10 A.M. to 2 P.M.
Teec Nos Pos Chapter	Jan 6	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) 524-3214.