

Apache County FSA News

St Johns, AZ
FSA Program Delivery
Office

Apache County FSA
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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 EXTENDED THROUGH MARCH 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 the extended date of close of business **March 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 house hold 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 in advance of your visit and if you have any questions about the program.

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 most 2010 crops have passed. Filing dates for 2011



are as follows:

- Native Range Grazing- October 31, 2010*
- Small Grains (Wheat, Barley, Oats)- October 31, 2010*
- Alfalfa, Alfalfa/Mix, Sudan, and other forage crops- October 31, 2010*
- Coarse Grains (Corn, Grain Sorghum)- February 28, 2011*

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 native 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 February 1, 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

Congratulations to: Norman Brown. He was re-elected to represent farmers in LAA 2 and on the County Committee. Norman is from St Johns and represents the St Johns/Concho area of the county. The county office appreciates all those who participated in the election.

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. To be **eligible for LIP** for livestock losses suffered during 2009, livestock owners and contract growers must first file a notice of loss no later than 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock is apparent to the producer and an **application for payment no later than February 1, 2010.** 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 disad-



vantaged 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 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.

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

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.

SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE ASSISTANCE "SURE" PROGRAM

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) **Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program** provides benefits for 2008 through 2011 crop year farm revenue losses due to natural disasters in accordance with the 2008 Farm Bill. It is the 2008 Farm Bill's successor to prior ad hoc crop disaster programs. SURE provides crop disaster assistance payments to eligible producers on farms that have incurred crop production or crop quality losses. This is a revenue based program that uses a formula to compare the expected revenue to actual revenue for the entire farming operation. **Signup**



*United We
 Stand!*

began on January 4, 2010. Eligibility Requirements: A portion of the farm must be located in a county covered by a qualifying natural disaster declaration (USDA Secretarial Declarations only) or a contiguous county **OR** The actual production is less than 50% of the normal production and at least a 10 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance. In addition, Producers must have obtained a policy or plan of insurance for **all** crops nationwide in which producer had an interest through either the Federal Crop Insurance Act or FSA's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP); Have annual average adjusted nonfarm income of \$500,000 or less and comply with USDA provisions for highly erodible land and wetlands.

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	Feb 9, 23	10 A.M. to 2 P.M.
St. Michaels USDA Service Center	Feb 11, 25	10 A.M. to 2 P.M.
Shonto Chapter	Feb 9, 23	1 P.M. to 4 P.M.
Kayenta NRCS next to Chapter	Feb 10, 24	8 A.M. to 12 P.M.
Rock Point Chapter	Feb 3	10 A.M. to 2 P.M.
Teec Nos Pos Chapter	Feb 17	9 A.M. to 12 P.M.
Red Valley Chapter	Feb 17	1:30 P.M. to 3:30 P.M.

This schedule will be in place as long as weather and road conditions permit. THESE ARE THE ONLY VISITS WE WILL MAKE PRIOR TO THE LIVESTOCK FORAGE PROGRAM DEADLINE.

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 Greqq W. Norton, CED at (928) 337-4411.