

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

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

Farm Loan Staff
Mike Miller, FLM
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Holbrook FSA
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In this issue:

1. NAP
2. Limited Resource Producer
3. Wool/Mohair
4. Hispanic/Women
5. SURE
6. EFRP
7. AGI Verification
8. Conservation Loan
9. PCC
10. BCAP
11. Banking Changes
12. AGI Eligibility
13. Outreach Visits



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.

Filing dates for 2012 crops are as follows:

Native Range Grazing- October 31, 2011

Small Grains (Wheat, Barley, Oats)- October 31, 2011

Alfalfa, Alfalfa/Mix, Sudan, and other forage crops- October 31, 2011

Coarse Grains (Corn, Grain Sorghum)- February 28, 2012

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. You must file your application for NAP by OCTOBER 31, 2011 for 2012 NAP to be eligible for possible LFP benefits for 2012.

NO NAP SERVICE FEE FOR LIMITED RESOURCE PRODUCERS

To qualify as a limited resource producer, your Gross Farm/Ranch Sales for each of the past two years must be less than \$142,000 AND; your household income must be **\$22,050** or less. If you meet both of these requirements you qualify as a "Limited Resource Producer" and **NO "Service Fee"** is required.

WOOL/MOHAIR 2011 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, 2012.**

Page 1 of the 633-EZ was mailed to all wool and mohair producers that applied for benefits in the prior year. **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.





NOTICE to Hispanic and/or Women Farmers & Ranchers

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation. You may be eligible if:

1. you sought a farm loan or farm-loan servicing from USDA during that period; and
2. the loan was denied, provided late, approved for a lesser amount than requested, approved with restrictive conditions, or USDA failed to provide an appropriate loan service; and
3. you believe these actions occurred because you are Hispanic or female.

If you want to register your name to receive a claims package, you can call the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429 or access the following website:
www.farmerclaims.gov.

In 2011, a Claims Administrator will begin mailing claims packages to those who have requested one through the Call Center or website. The claims package will have detailed information about the eligibility and claims process. In order to participate, you must submit a claim to the Claims Administrator by the end of the claims period. If you are currently represented by counsel regarding allegations of discrimination against USDA or in a lawsuit claiming discrimination by USDA, you should contact your counsel regarding this claims process.

USDA Cannot Provide Legal Advice to You. You are not required to hire an attorney to file a claim, but you may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider in your community for additional guidance.

2009 SURE

Did your farm suffer a crop loss related to weather in 2009? If you did, you can apply for the 2009 SURE (Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program).

SURE provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that were incurred January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009. *You may recall this program took the place of the old Crop Disaster Program (CDP).* To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to have crop insurance on **ALL** crops of economic significance in all counties; or, if crop insurance is not available, to have purchased Non-Insured Crop Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for the crops grown. Producers considered socially disadvantaged,

a beginning farmer or rancher, or a limited resource farmer may be eligible for SURE without insurance or NAP coverage's.

Producers who think they may qualify for disaster benefits should contact the FSA office, as soon as possible to file an application before the **July 29, 2011 deadline**.

Emergency Forest Restoration Program

USDA – FSA's Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) provides payments to eligible owners of nonindustrial private forest (NIPF) land in order to carry out emergency measures necessary to restore land damaged by a natural disaster. County FSA committees determine land eligibility using onsite damage inspections that assess the type and extent of damage. To be eligible for EFRP, NIPF land must:

1. Have existing tree cover (or had tree cover immediately before the natural disaster occurred and is suitable for growing trees); and
2. Be owned by any nonindustrial private individual, group, association, corporation, or other private legal entity, that has definitive decision-making authority over the land.

In addition, the natural disaster must have resulted in damage that if untreated would:

- Impair or endanger the natural resources on the land; and,
- Materially affect future use of the land.

For more information on the EFRP program please contact the FSA office or visit FSA's EFRP website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/>.

AGI VERIFICATION FORMS

EACH INDIVIDUAL AND ENTITY who received 2009 payments or who request 2010/2011 payments must complete and mail to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) a "Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information" form. This form will allow IRS to share adjusted gross income (AGI) information with the USDA in order to verify AGI certifications. The purpose is to ensure that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds regulatory limits. **Individuals must file using form CCC-927 and entities using form CCC-928.** These forms are available online at <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov> or may be obtained from any FSA office. While FSA can assist you with understanding the form, *FSA is NOT authorized to accept completed consent forms and FSA is NOT authorized to submit these forms to IRS on your behalf.* **Failure to provide this consent form to IRS could**



result in a producer being ineligible for future FSA payments and could require refund of payments already received. Contact your local FSA office in order to obtain these forms and for completion instructions.

Conservation Loan Program (CL)

This FSA loan program can be used to implement a conservation practice by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Interested applicants who do not have a NRCS approved conservation plan should work with the local NRCS staff to develop one. New or existing conservation plans must be NRCS approved before FSA can provide funding.

Applicants must meet the same eligibility and feasibility requirements for CL loans as for other FSA loans; with 2 exceptions: CL loan applicants do not have to meet the eligibility requirement for "family size farm and do not have to meet the "test for credit elsewhere". Depending on the type of collateral offered by the applicant, the term of the loan can be 7 to 20 years.

You may contact Mike Miller or Harriet Mann at the Holbrook FSA office if you have questions or are interested in applying for a CL loan.

PAPER CHECK CONVERSION (PCC)

Over the next year, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) is moving toward an electronic method for processing producers' checks. This will allow FSA/CCC to process collections faster.

When producers present checks, either in person or through the mail, the checks will be converted into an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). The funds will be debited from the producer's account, usually within 24 hours of receipt.

Please see the U.S. Department of Treasury legal notices posted in the Service Center or visit the following U.S. Department of Treasury Internet site for detailed information:

<https://www.pccotc.gov/pccotc/pcc/usin gpcc/Legal%20Notices/legalnotices.htm>

Biomass Crop Assistance Program

The Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP), created in the 2008 Farm Bill, is a primary component of the domestic agriculture, energy, and environmental strategy to reduce carbon pollution, and spur rural economic development and job creation.

BCAP provides incentives to interested farmers, ranchers and forest landowners for the establishment and cultivation of biomass crops for heat, power, bio-based products and biofuels. Crop producers and bioenergy producers will be able to team together to submit applications to USDA to be selected as a BCAP project area. If selected, crop producers will be eligible for reimbursements of up to 75 percent of the cost of establishing a bio-energy perennial crop. Producers also can receive up to 5 years of annual payments for grassy crops (annual or perennial), and up to 15 years of annual payments for woody crops (annual or perennial).

Assistance for the collection, harvest, storage and transportation of biomass to qualified biomass conversion facilities will be available for 2 years, per producer, in the form of a matching payment for up to \$45 per dry ton of the delivery cost to the facility. For more information on BCAP, please visit FSA's BCAP website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/bcap>

BANKING CHANGES

FSA requires that program payments be issued by direct deposit unless a hardship form has been filed. Any producer who has direct deposit but has made changes to their banking information such as a new account number, routing number or account type, must notify their FSA office immediately and provide the updated information. Without this updated banking information, payments could be delayed.



Payment Eligibility and Payment Limitation Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)

For commodity and disaster programs under the 2008 farm bill, the AGI limitation was reduced from \$2.5 million from all sources to a three-year average non-farm AGI of \$500,000 such that a person or entity shall not be eligible for such programs if the non-farm AGI exceeds \$500,000.

Also, under the new regulations, an individual or entity must have a 3-year average AGI less than or equal to \$750,000 per year from farm income in order to qualify for direct payments issued under the Direct and counter-cyclical Program.

For conservation programs, the average nonfarm AGI limitation is \$1 million or less for eligibility. However, an individual or entity who has non-farm AGI in excess of \$1 million remains eligible for conservation programs only if 66.66 percent or more of the total AGI is derived from farming, ranching, and forestry operations. In addition, the AGI limitation for conservation programs may be waived on a case by case basis if it is determined that environmentally sensitive land of special significance would be protected.



United We Stand!

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	April 5, 19 May 3, 17, 31 June 14, 28	10 A.M. to 2 P.M.
St. Michaels USDA Service Center	April 7, 21 May 5, 19 June 2, 16, 30	10 A.M. to 2 P.M.
Shonto Chapter House	April 5, 19 May 3, 17, 31 June 14, 28	1 P.M. to 4 P.M.
Kayenta NRCS next to Chapter	April 6, 20 May 4, 18 June 1, 15, 29	8 A.M. to 12 P.M.
Pinon Chapter House	April 27	10 A.M. to 2 P.M.
Teec Nos Pos Chapter House	April 12	10 A.M. to 2 P.M.
Rock Point Chapter House	May 11	10 A.M. to 2 P.M.

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

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.
 To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English-Federal Relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish-Federal Relay).
 Special accommodations will be made upon request for persons with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please call Gregg W. Norton, CED at (928) 337-4411.