

Apache County FSA News

St Johns, AZ
FSA Program Delivery
Office

Apache County FSA
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St Johns, AZ 85936

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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
(928) 524-3214

In this issue:

1. LFP
2. NAP
3. Wool
4. County Committee Elections
5. Farm Loans
6. AGI Verification Forms
7. PCC
8. Hispanic/Women
9. Outreach Visits



2011 Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) Signup starting June 1st

The USDA has declared Apache County eligible for 2011 drought relief payments under the **Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)**. Currently, Apache County is rated by the US Drought Monitor as sustaining a D3 intensity drought allowing eligible producers to apply for a 2 month payment. That could be increased to a maximum 3 month payment if conditions continue. **Only those livestock producers who purchased NAP coverage for 2011 are eligible for 2011 LFP benefits.** Waivers apply for producers who qualify as Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource or Beginning Ranchers. The St Johns FSA office is accepting applications for 2011 LFP benefits beginning June 1st. The following documentation is required for the following types of grazing land:

1. **US Forest Service-** A copy of the 2011 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 2011 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 2011 grazing year

All grazing land must be in the name of the applicant. Grazing land cannot be included in calculating the pasture value for your operation if it is in a different name. This could reduce the amount of payment you can receive.

Please contact the county office in advance of your visit or 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.

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.



WOOL 2011 BENEFITS

It's that time of year again. Time to file your 633-EZ Page 1 so that your wool will be eligible for payment. **BENEFITS FOR MOHAIR ARE NOT AUTHORIZED FOR 2011.**

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. 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 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 is covered.**

Right now because of high market prices for wool there is not a payment available. The average national market price is determined each week. The payment is based on the date you sell your wool. When you sell your wool, contact the office and we will let you know if there is a payment available.

When you sell your wool there is another form that must be completed in order to receive a payment. Please see our scheduled chapter visits in this newsletter and contact this office if you have any questions.

2011 FSA COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

The Apache FSA Service Center administers programs for Apache County. This county is represented by a three-member County Committee (COC), each member representing a specific area within the county. **In 2011, the representative seat from Local Administrative Area (LAA) 1 will be up for election. LAA 1 covers the Navajo Nation area of the county.**

COC members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers. COC members are elected by and represent agricultural producers of legal voting age that participate or cooperate in any FSA program. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy for the COC. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Additionally, organizations representing

farmers or ranchers who are socially disadvantaged, women or beginning farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates. To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign a nomination form FSA-669A. The form includes a statement indicating that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. This form and other election information is available at USDA Service Centers and online at: www.fsa.usda.gov/elections. A nomination form is included in this newsletter for voters in LAA 1 to use.

Nomination forms for the 2011 election must be postmarked or received in the Apache FSA Service Center by close of business August 1, 2011.

REQUIRED AGI VERIFICATION FORMS

EACH INDIVIDUAL AND ENTITY who received 2009 or 2010 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.

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.

Contact Mike Miller or Harriet Mann at (928) 524-3214 with any questions about the loan program.

FSA-669A
(03-24-10) **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**
Farm Service Agency

NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION

1. NAME OF NOMINEE <i>(Type or Print Nominee's Full Name)</i>	TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE	
2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE	4. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE RECEIVED	
3. NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION: <i>I hereby agree to have my name placed on the ballot, that I will serve if elected, and if there is a conflict of interest, I will resign such position.</i>	5. COUNTY	
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>I DO want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>I DO NOT want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.</i>	6. LAA	7. STATE
3A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE	3B. DATE	8A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINATOR
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Check here if nominee is a write-in candidate.</i>	8B. DATE <i>(If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required).</i>	
9. TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINEE		

VOLUNTARY INFORMATION FOR MONITORING PURPOSES: The following information is requested by the Federal Government in order to monitor FSA's compliance with federal laws prohibiting discrimination against program participants on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, handicapped condition, or age. You are not required to furnish this information, but are encouraged to do so. This information will not be used in evaluating your nomination or to discriminate against you in any way.

ETHNICITY <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino	RACE <i>(Choose as many boxes as applicable)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African-American <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> White	GENDER <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
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INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM

- Complete the form as follows:
- ITEM 1** Type or Print the nominee's full name. The nominee must be:
 - A. Eligible to vote in the designated County FSA Committee election.
 - B. Eligible to hold the office of County FSA Committee member.
 - C. Willing to serve if elected.
 - ITEM 2** Enter the nominee's current address.
 - ITEM 3** The nominee must check one of the boxes to indicate a preference regarding the settling of tied votes.
 - ITEMS 3A & 3B** The nominee must sign and date.
 - ITEMS 8A & 8B** The nominator must sign and date. *(If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required.)*
 - ITEM 9** Completing this item is voluntary.
- ALL FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE COUNTY OFFICE OR POSTMARKED BY AUGUST 2, 2010.**

NOTE: *The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a - as amended). The authority for requesting the information identified on this form is the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-246). The information will be used to obtain nominees for election to the County FSA Committee. The information collected on this form may be disclosed to other Federal, State, Local government agencies, Tribal agencies, and nongovernmental entities that have been authorized access to the information by statute or regulation and/or as described in applicable Routine Uses identified in the System of Records Notice for County Personnel Records, USDA/FSA-6. Providing the requested information is voluntary. However, failure to furnish the requested information will result in a determination of ineligibility for nomination for election to the County FSA Committee.*

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0560-0229. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The provisions of appropriate criminal and civil fraud, privacy, and other statutes may be applicable to the information provided. RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.

NOTICE to Hispanic and/or Women Farmers & Ranchers



*United We
 Stand!*

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.

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	May 31	10 A.M. to 2 P.M.
	June 14, 28	
	July 12, 26	
St. Michaels USDA Service Center	June 2, 16, 30	10 A.M. to 2 P.M.
	July 14, 28	
Kayenta NRCS next to Chapter	June 1	8 A.M. to 12 P.M.
	June 15, 29 July 13, 27	10 A.M. to 2 P.M.
Shonto Chapter	May 31	12 P.M. to 4 P.M.

There is a change in the FSA schedule. Starting in June, FSA will ONLY be in Kayenta for sign up for programs. FSA will not have program sign up in Shonto due to budget concerns. 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..