

October 2011

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

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

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2011 LIVESTOCK FORAGE DISASTER PROGRAM (LFP) DEADLINE JANUARY 30, 2012

The USDA has declared Apache County eligible for 2011 drought relief payments under the **Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)**. Apache County was rated by the US Drought Monitor as sustaining a D3 intensity for four weeks for a maximum 3 month payment. **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 began accepting applications 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

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

Watch your mailbox for the official county office committee election ballot starting early in November. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters on the Navajo Nation starting Nov. 4, 2011. If for some reason you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify the county FSA office.

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 PROGRAM LIMITS

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to renew your loan.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans have a maximum limit of \$1,214,000 starting on Oct. 1, 2011.

The one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans has increased from 1 percent to 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan, for loans obligated after Oct. 1, 2011.

To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the farm loan staff in Holbrook.

BEGINNING AND LIMITED RESOURCE FARMERS

FSA assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises with financing through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's median size.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

RURAL 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, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- United States citizenship (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements



- Reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people
- Inability to obtain a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan and provide adequate supervision.

HISPANIC AND WOMEN FARMERS

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans has been established.

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.

For additional information contact:

- **Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process:**
www.farmerclaims.gov or call 1-888-508-4429
- **Pigford – The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation:** www.blackfarmercase.com or call 1-866-950-5547
- **Keepseagle - The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement:**
www.IndianFarmClass.com or call 1-888-233-5506

2011 ELAP AND LIP SIGN UP

Sign up deadlines are approaching for FSA's Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) and the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). Fact sheets for these programs can be found at www.fsa.usda.gov; click on NEWSROOM, then FACT SHEETS.

Producers who have suffered a disaster due to the recent severe weather conditions should read the fact sheets and visit their local FSA office to get a quick start on the recovery process.

Both ELAP and LIP Sign-ups require a Notice of Loss filed by the earliest of either:

- 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent to the participant or
- October 31, 2011

An application for payment must be received no later than January 30, 2012.

FOREIGN BUYER NOTIFICATION

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign investors who buy, sell or hold an interest in U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings and transactions by submitting a completed FSA-153 to the Secretary of Agriculture not later than 90 calendar days after the date of acquisition or transfer.

Who must report:

- Foreign Individuals
- Foreign organizations
- Foreign Governments
- U.S. Organizations if a significant interest or substantial control is directly or indirectly held by foreign individuals, organizations or governments

Failure to submit the AFIDA form FSA-153 could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property.

County government offices, realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

EMERGENCY (EM) LOANS

Apache County 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.



*United We
 Stand!*

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 3.125%. 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 House	Oct 18 Nov 1, 15, 29 Dec 13, 27	10 A.M. to 2 P.M.
St. Michaels USDA Service Center	Oct 20 Nov 3, 17 Dec 1, 15, 29	10 A.M. to 2 P.M.
Kayenta NRCS next to Chapter	Oct 19 Nov 2, 16, 30 Dec 14, 28	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..