



**Cochise County
USDA Service Center**

Cochise County FSA
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Willcox, AZ 85643
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www.fsa.usda.gov

Hours of Operation
Monday – Friday
8:00 am – 4:30 pm
Closed on Legal Holidays

County Committee
Mark Cook, Chair
Lance Owen, Vice Chair
Edward Curry, Member

Program Staff
Carol Case, CED
Rebecca Burreight, PT
Shari Binger, PT
Tonya Ayala, PT

Farm Loan Staff
Jonna Darnell, FLM
Cissi Graves, FLO
Dee Haupt, PT

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Farm Service Agency

October 2010

Cochise County Newsletter

FSA CONSERVATION LOAN PROGRAM

Conservation Loan funds can be used to implement a conservation practice approved by the Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS), such as reducing soil erosion, improving water quality and promoting sustainable and organic agricultural practices. This would include installation of conservation structures; establishment of forest cover; installation of water conservation measures; establishment or improvement of permanent pastures; transitioning to organic production; manure management, including manure digestion systems; adaptation of other emerging or existing conservation practices, techniques or technologies.

Interested applicants who do not already have NRCS-approved conservation plans should work with the local NRCS staff to develop a conservation plan, including all applicable conservation practices. New or existing conservation plans must be NRCS approved before FSA can provide financing.

Rates and Terms

Those interested may apply for direct conservation loans with loan limits up to \$300,000 at local FSA offices. In addition, guaranteed conservation loans up to \$1,112,000 (amount adjusted for inflation), may be available by applying with lenders working with FSA to obtain a guarantee.

Interest rates on guaranteed conservation loans will vary, but may not exceed the rate charged the lender's average farm customer. For direct conservation loans, the interest rate will be the direct loans rate in effect (for farm ownership loans) either at the time of loan approval, or loan closing. These rates are available at the local FSA office.

Terms will vary and will be based on the life of the security offered, but not to exceed 20 years for real estate security and seven years for chattel property. Conservation loans must be fully secured and can only be approved for those who have the ability to repay them.

Streamlined Conservation Loans

For those applicants with a strong financial position, paperwork requirements can be significantly reduced. The streamlined application process reduces paperwork for applicants, lenders and FSA staff by eliminating the requirement to provide a cash flow and its supplementary documentation

To submit a streamlined conservation loan application, the applicant must: be current on payments to all creditors; have a debt-to-asset ratio of 40 percent or less; have a minimum Fair Isaac Corporation score of 700; have a net worth of at least 3 times the loan amount; and not have received FSA primary loan servicing within the past five years.

For More Information and Eligibility Criteria

Additional information may be obtained at local FSA offices or through the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov.

DCP SIGN-UP UNDERWAY

Signup has started for the 2011 Direct & Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program for farms with base acres. Signup will continue until June 1, 2011. The June 1, 2011 deadline is mandatory for all participants. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications.

FSA computes DCP Program Payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2011, producers may request to receive advance payments no earlier than December 2010 based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price.

To schedule an appointment to signup or for more information, contact Rebecca at (520) 384-3588.



UPCOMING COC ELECTION

The County Committee nominations are closed for LAA 2, which covers Bowie, San Simon, Portal and the Chiricahua Monument. The nominees are Mark Cook and Lynne Ray. The ballots are being printed and will be mailed to eligible voters on November 5, 2010.

It is very important that producers take the time to complete their ballots correctly, including signing them, in order for them to be counted in the finally tally. For example, if XYZ, LLC is voting, the LLC's authorized signor would sign the ballot as "XYZ, LLC by John Doe, Manager."

The ballots must be completed and postmarked by December 6, 2010. The ballots will be counted on December 9, 2010. The nominee with the most votes will take office and begin their three year term on January 1, 2011.

If you have any questions regarding the election or how to fill out your ballot correctly, please contact your local FSA office.

FSA FINANCIAL SERVICES WEBSITE

The Farm Service Agency would like to announce a new web page to assist customers with their FSA Financial needs. This new page allows producers to enter their own assignment of payment, enter a joint payment election, enter their own direct deposit information or to look up financial inquiries including payments, collections, debts and CCC-1099-G queries. In order to access the web page, the customer must have a valid e-Authentication Level 2 Account. Customers may sign up for an account online then must complete the process by visiting a USDA Service Center. For more information or details on how to obtain an account, please contact your local FSA office.

IRS CONSENT FORMS

The Average Adjusted Gross Income Statement (AGI) verification process for 2009 and 2010 payment eligibility **requires** all program participants to provide written consent to IRS for the disclosure of certain information to FSA. This information allows FSA to determine each participant's eligibility for certain programs based on their AGI.

All program participants who have **not** submitted a consent form to IRS for 2009 and 2010 AGI verification purposes have been identified and will be receiving a notification letter that will be prepared and mailed by the National Office beginning October 6, 2010. The letter provides instructions for where to obtain a consent form and the applicable 30 calendar day deadline to mail IRS consent form to IRS.

It's imperative for all FSA and NRCS program participants to fulfill the requirement to timely submit a completed consent form to IRS to maintain 2009 and 2010 payment eligibility and avoid repayment of program benefits. If you have any questions regarding this process, contact your local FSA Office.

FSA RECORDS

Fiscal year 2011 is already here at FSA. In order to facilitate enrollment for upcoming programs, producers are encouraged to update their eligibility files. Such information including power of attorneys, land leases, and eligibility forms change regularly and require updates. Accordingly, average adjusted gross income (AGI) statements must be completed yearly. If you are in need of updating your records or in need of completing new forms, please contact your local FSA office to schedule an appointment.

2011 Sales Closing Dates

This table provides the 2011 sales closing dates for Arizona. The county where the crops are physically grown, will determine whether they are insurable and eligible for catastrophic risk protection (CAT) level or are noninsurable and eligible for noninsured crop disaster assistance program (NAP). Consult your local insurance agent to determine whether the crops you are growing are eligible for CAT or NAP. Please note: Some FSA programs require ALL crops to be insured with either CAT or NAP.

January 31, 2011	February 28, 2011	May 31, 2010	May 31, 2011	September 1, 2010	October 31, 2010	November 20, 2009	November 20, 2010	November 30, 2010
Alfalfa Mix Cucumbers Grapes Grass, Bermuda Grass, Sudan Herbs, Basil Jojoba Pecans Peppers, Chile Raisins	Beans, Pinto Corn Cotton Okra Olives Peanuts Potato, Sweet Pumpkins Sorghum Squash	Artichokes Beans, Gar Beets Broccoli Cabbage Canola Carrots Cauliflower Celery Flowers, Chrysanthemum Greens, All Herbs, Cilantro Mustard Oats Onions Peas Radish Tomatoes	Nursery	Crustaceans Flowers, Stock Garlic	Alfalfa Barley Cantaloupe Grass, Native Honeydews Lettuce Rye Wheat	Grapfruit Lemons Oranges Tangelos	Apples Apricots Cherries Honey Peaches Pears Pistachios Plums Watermelon	Potatoes

United States Department Of Agriculture
 Cochise County Farm Service Agency
 658 North Bisbee Avenue
 Willcox, Arizona 85643

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

November

- 11 Office Closed in Observance of Veteran’s Day
- 18 Cochise County Committee Meeting [Tentatively Scheduled]
- 25 Office Closed in Observance of Thanksgiving Day

December

- 9 Cochise County Committee Meeting @ 9:00 am—Ballot Counting for Election
- 24 Office Closed in Observance of Christmas Day
- 31 Office Closed in Observance of New Years Day

FARM LOAN LIMITATIONS

Loan Type	Maximum	Term	Rate as of 10/01/2010
Farm Ownership Loan (FO)	\$ 300,000	Up to 40 years	Now 4.375%
Operating Loan (OL)	\$ 300,000	1 to 7 years	Now 2.125%
Emergency Loan	\$ 500,000	1 to 40 years	Now 5.000%
Guaranteed Loans (FO & OL)	\$ 1,112,000	By Lender	By Lender, Commercial Rates

Reminder for DCP Participants: If you planted fruits/vegetables on base acres, you must double crop with a program crop or your payment will be reduced. Contact your local FSA office for details.

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