



Farm Service Agency

February 2011

Cochise County Newsletter

**Cochise County
USDA Service Center**

Cochise County FSA
658 N Bisbee Ave
Willcox, AZ 85643
PH: (520) 384-3588
FAX: (520) 384-2735
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
Dee Haupt, PT

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2011 AG DAY SUCCESS

The Cochise County Farm Service Agency participated in the 32nd Annual Southeastern Arizona Ag Day and Trade Show at the Willcox Community Center. Although the weather was cold, farmers and ranchers from around the county came together to visit one another, participate in continued education classes and visited the many sponsor booths; FSA was one of them.

This was our second year giving away basket-style door prizes. Being that Willcox is an agricultural based community, we created 14 themed baskets full of agricultural goods and products from all over Cochise County. Drawings were held throughout the day. It was a huge success and promoted the agricultural industry very well. A very special thank you our basket sponsors:

Apple Annie's Orchard
Bar M Bar Cattle Company
Bonita Bean Company
Coronado Vineyards
Curry Farms
Eurofresh Farms
Fischer Nursery
Fort Bowie Vineyards
Santa Cruz Chili Company
Willcox Cowbelles



SORGHUM CHECK-OFF REFERENDUM SCHEDULED

USDA will conduct a referendum on the Sorghum Check-off Program from February 1 to 28, 2011, at local Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices. Ballots may be obtained in person, by mail or facsimile at county FSA offices, or via the Internet at www.ams.usda.gov/sorghumpage.

Any eligible person engaged in the production of importation sorghum from July 1, 2008 to December 31, 2010 is eligible to participate. Individuals are required to provide documentation such as a sales receipt or remittance form that shows they engaged in the production or importation of sorghum.

Sorghum Check-off is a national, coordinated, self-help marketing program designed to strengthen the position of sorghum in the market place, maintain and expand existing domestic and foreign markets and uses for sorghum, and develop new markets and uses for sorghum.



SURE—2009 AND LATER

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters. **SURE signup for crop year 2009 runs from January 10, 2011 to July 29, 2011.** Deadlines for 2010 and 2011 crop years will be announced later.

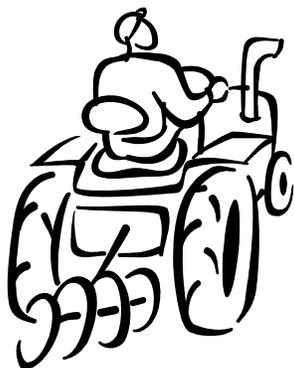
To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to participate in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) except for grazed acres. This requirement does not apply for crops that are not of economic significance or where the administrative fee required to buy NAP coverage exceeds 10% of the value of the crop coverage. Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher are exempt from the risk management purchase requirement.

The following conditions are required to trigger SURE payments:

- At least one crop of economic significance must suffer a 10% production loss due to an eligible disaster condition. A crop of economic significance is a crop that has contributed or would have contributed at least 5% or more of the total expected revenue from all crops on the farm.
- Producers must be in counties declared disaster counties by the Secretary of Agriculture, or in contiguous counties, or show proof of an individual loss of at least 50%. Losses are measured with consideration to the whole-farm revenue, which includes crop insurance indemnities and commodity program payments, so that producers are not paid more than once for the same losses.

Please note that due to the need to wait for end of year market price data to make SURE final calculations, SURE assistance payments lag the crop year's end by one full year.

If you would like additional clarification, call or stop by your local FSA office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov ; under "Browse by Subject" click "Disaster Assistance Programs," then "SURE."



MILK INCOME LOSS CONTRACT PROGRAM

The Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) Program, administered by FSA, compensates dairy producers when domestic milk prices fall below a specific level. FSA makes MILC payments on a monthly basis when the Boston Class 1 milk prices fall below \$16.94 per hundredweight as adjusted by the dairy feed ration adjustment. To be eligible for payments, dairy producers must have produced cow milk in the U.S., and commercially market the milk produced anytime during the period of October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2012. Dairy producers must also be compliant with Highly Erodible Land and Wetland conservation provisions and Adjusted Gross Income limitations. Signup for the program began December 22, 2008 and extends through the conclusion of the program on September 30, 2012. Payments are issued based on a start month selection by the producers in the dairy operation and are subject to a maximum eligible production limit per dairy operation per fiscal year, ranging from 2.4 million pounds to 2.985 million pounds, depending on the fiscal year.

Payment start month selections must be made on CCC -580 and submitted to an FSA Service Center on or before the 14th of the month before the month the dairy operation wants to begin payments. Production evidence for each applicable payment month must be provided to FSA before a MILC payment can be issued.

1099-G IS IN THE MAIL

Producers who have received payments from FSA are also receiving a CCC-1099-G in the mail. A CCC-1099-G is a report to the Internal Revenue Service regarding FSA payments made to producers during the previous calendar year. The CCC-1099-G is a service to help participating producers report taxable income.

When the CCC-1099-G is received, it should be checked with your records to see that the amounts are correct. It is not intended to replace the program participant's responsibility to report income to the IRS.

ATTENTION: Refunds are no longer reported on the 1099-G, but will be available online from the FSA Financial Inquiries (FSA-FI) web-based database.

If you have a question concerning the 1099-G refund information, you may contact your local FSA office for assistance.

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

- February
 17 Cochise County Committee Meeting
 21 Office Closed in Observance of George Washington's Birthday
 28 Sorghum Check-Off Referendum Ends
- March
 17 Cochise County Committee Meeting (Tentatively Scheduled)

FARM LOAN LIMITATIONS

Loan Type	Maximum	Term	Rate as of 2/01/2011
Farm Ownership Loan (FO)	\$ 300,000	Up to 40 years	Now 4.750%
Operating Loan (OL)	\$ 300,000	1 to 7 years	Now 2.250%
Emergency Loan	\$ 500,000	1 to 40 years	Now 3.750%
Guaranteed Loans (FO & OL)	\$ 1,112,000	By Lender	By Lender, Commercial Rates

Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact the Farm Service Agency nearest to you.

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