



Cochise County Newsletter

**Cochise County
USDA Service Center**

Cochise County FSA
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Willcox, AZ 85643
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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
Annie Marie Moore,
Minority Advisor

Program Staff

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

Farm Loan Staff

Jonna Darnell, FLM
Dee Haupt, FLO

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HORSESHOE II FIRE ASSISTANCE

The USDA Farm Service Agency has programs available for those producers who were affected by the wildfire and subsequent flooding. The following briefly describes the programs available to eligible producers:

LIP (Livestock Indemnity Program):

The Livestock Indemnity Program provides monetary assistance to eligible livestock owners for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality that occurred as a direct result of the wildlife or flooding. Producers who suffered a loss of livestock must notify the county office by filing a notice of loss the earlier of 1) 30 calendar days of when the loss of the livestock is apparent to the participant or 2) October 31, 2011. Livestock producers must provide sufficient documentation of livestock deaths, including those livestock that died because of normal mortality.

LFP (Livestock Forage Program):

The Livestock Forage Program provides monetary assistance to eligible livestock producers for grazing losses because of a qualifying fire that occurred on Federally managed rangeland in which the producer is prohibited by the Federal agency from grazing their normal permitted livestock as a result of the fire. Eligible livestock producers are required to have NAP insurance on their native grass for which benefits are being requested, unless the producer meets the requirements of an acceptable waiver. Eligible livestock producers must submit a completed application and supporting documentation to their county office no later than January 30, 2012.

ELAP (Emergency Loss Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees & Farm-Raised Fish Program):

ELAP provides emergency monetary assistance to eligible producers of livestock who have suffered grazing losses on rangeland that is not managed by a Federal agency because of wildfire. Eligible livestock producers are required to have NAP insurance on their native grass for which benefits are being requested, unless the producer meets the requirements of an acceptable waiver. Eligible livestock producers must submit a completed application and supporting documentation to their county office no later than January 30, 2012. .

The county office has also requested funding through the Emergency Conservation Program to provide financial assistance to repair/replace fences and waterlines. At this time, the request is still pending in Washington DC. Once our office is notified of the outcome of funding, we will begin notifying producers. If you have any questions on any of these programs or if you would like to sign up, please contact the county office at (520) 384-3588 x.2.

ATTENTION FARMERS & RANCHERS: **DO YOU HAVE CROP INSURANCE?**

There has been much confusion regarding crop insurance over the past several months. **All crops are able to have insurance coverage.** If the crop you are growing is considered “insurable,” for example corn and cotton, then you would purchase the insurance through a private insurance company. If the crop you are growing is considered “non insurable,” for example native grass (rangeland) and sorghum (milo), then you would purchase the insurance through your local Farm Service Agency (FSA).

Some crops are insurable in one county, but not in another. In Graham County, alfalfa and chili peppers are non insurable, therefore you would purchase coverage from FSA. In Cochise County, alfalfa and chili peppers are insurable, therefore you would purchase coverage from a crop insurance company.

Every crop has an established sales closing date, which is the deadline to purchase insurance coverage for that crop regardless if it is insurable or non insurable. The chart on the following page of this newsletter outlines the sales closing dates for crops in Arizona for the 2012 crop year. To determine if a crop you are growing is insurable or non insurable in your county, contact a local insurance agent or your local FSA office.

Insurance that is available through the Farm Service Agency is referred to as “NAP,” Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program. NAP insurance is equal to the catastrophic risk protection (CAT) level of crop insurance. Eligible disaster events covered under NAP insurance includes 1) damaging weather, such as drought or hail, 2) an adverse natural occurrence, such as an earthquake or flood and 3) a condition related to damaging weather or an adverse natural occurrence, such as excessive heat or plant disease. Fire is not covered under NAP. The cost of NAP insurance is the lesser of \$250 per crop or \$750 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of \$1,875 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties. Producers are required to meet the eligibility requirements for NAP in order to receive an insurance indemnity. To purchase NAP insurance on a crop which is non insurable, producers must do so by the sales closing date; there are no late file provisions for purchasing NAP insurance.

Under the current farm bill, nearly every disaster assistance program requires producers to have insurance coverage on **every crop** they are growing. For ranchers to be eligible for livestock, drought and other disaster relief programs, they would be required to have purchased NAP coverage on their native grass. For example: Rancher Joe purchased NAP insurance on his native grass for the 2011 crop year. His ranch was in an extreme drought and then suffered severe damage from the Horseshoe II Fire. Under the NAP program, although fire is not covered, drought is covered. Although he wouldn't be eligible for a fire indemnity, he may be eligible for a drought indemnity depending on the severity of the drought [In order for a drought indemnity payment to be processed, a loss of greater than 50 percent must be present for the entire county when averaged through yearly loss assessments taken by the Bureau of Land Management and NRCS]. Also, because he had purchased NAP insurance on his native grass, he will be eligible to apply for assistance through several other programs including the Livestock Forage Program.

In order to be eligible for assistance through FSA, you must have insurance on every crop, including native grass. If you have any questions regarding insuring your crops, please contact your local FSA office.

COUNTY COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS ARE IN!

The county committee nomination period has closed for LAA 1. Vying for the position is Michael Thompson, Kimberly Dunlap and Lance Owen. The elected will begin their three year term on January 1, 2012. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters on November 4, 2011. The deadline for completed ballots to be postmarked or received in the county office is December 5, 2011. The ballots will be counted at the December County Committee Meeting which is scheduled for December 8, 2011.

2012 Sales Closing Dates

This table provides the 2012 sales closing dates for Arizona. The county where the crops are physically grown, will determine whether the crop is considered “insurable” or “non insurable.” Crops that are “insurable” require coverage to be purchased through a private insurance company. Crops that are “non insurable” require coverage to be purchased through the local FSA Office under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). Consult your local insurance agent or your local FSA Office to determine whether your crops are considered “insurable” or “non insurable.” **Please note: Most FSA programs now require ALL crops to be covered with insurance.**

January 31, 2012	February 28, 2012	May 31, 2011	May 31, 2012	September 1, 2011	October 31, 2011	November 20, 2010	November 20, 2011	November 30, 2011
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	Grapefruit Lemons Oranges Tangelos	Apples Apricots Cherries Honey Peaches Pears Pistachios Plums Pomegranates Watermelon	Potatoes

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

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

October

- 6 County Offices to begin issuing final direct payments under the DCP Program
- 10 Office Closed in Observance of Columbus Day
- 20 Cochise County Committee Meeting (Tentatively Scheduled)

November

- 11 Office Closed in Observance of Veteran's Day
- 17 Cochise County Committee Meeting (Tentatively Scheduled)
- 24 Office Closed in Observance of Thanksgiving Day

FARM LOAN LIMITATIONS

Loan Type	Maximum	Term	Rate as of 10/01/2011
Farm Ownership Loan (FO)	\$ 300,000	Up to 40 years	Now 4.250%
Operating Loan (OL)	\$ 300,000	1 to 7 years	Now 1.750%
Emergency Loan	\$ 500,000	1 to 40 years	Now 3.750%
Guaranteed Loans (FO & OL)	\$ 1,214,000	By Lender	By Lender, Commercial Rates

Newsletters Are Now Available Electronically!

Do you want to start receiving your county office newsletters electronically? If so, you now can! To add your name to the electronic list, send an email to carol.case@az.usda.gov with "Electronic Newsletter Request" in the Subject Line or call the county office to give us your email address.

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