



Farm Service Agency

January 2013

Cochise/Santa Cruz County Newsletter

Willcox USDA Service Center

Cochise/Santa Cruz County FSA Office
658 N. Bisbee Avenue
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

Edward Curry
Brian Driscoll
Robert Noon
Lance Owen

Minority Advisors:

Annie Marie Moore
Marie Pyeatt

Program Staff

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

Farm Loan Staff

Jonna Darnell, FLM
Travis Lilly, FLOT

In this Issue:

- COC Election Results
- IRS Form 1099
- Controlled Substance
- Electronic News Delivery
- Foreign Buyers Notification
- FSA Signature Policy
- 2013 Sales Closing Dates
- Dates to Remember
- Farm Loan Limitations



FSA STAFF TO MEET WITH SANTA CRUZ FARMERS AND RANCHERS AT SONOITA FAIRGROUNDS

With the recent closure of the Pima/Santa Cruz County FSA Office in Tucson, Santa Cruz County was joined with the Cochise County Farm Service Agency in the Willcox USDA Service Center in Willcox, Arizona. To assist with this transition, FSA staff will be available at Pioneer Hall at the Sonoita Fairgrounds to answer questions, review files and provide assistance as needed to farmers and ranchers of Santa Cruz County. Staff will be available from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and from 12:45 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on each of the following days:

January 23, 2013 • February 20, 2013 • March 13, 2013

The public is welcome to come and obtain information regarding the Farm Service Agency. No appointments are needed. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Cochise/Santa Cruz County FSA Office at (520) 384-3588 Ext 2.

2011 SURE PROGRAM SIGNUP UNDERWAY

Signup for the SURE program for 2011 crop losses will continue through June 7, 2013. The SURE Program provides payments to producers when crop revenues are less than the crop guarantee. To be eligible, the producer must have at least one crop with a 10 percent production loss. To determine the guarantee and revenue for the SURE Program, all crops on all farms are included in the calculation. To be eligible for the 2011 SURE Program, producers must have crop insurance on all insurable crops. For crops that are not covered by crop insurance such as pumpkins and cucumbers, producers must have purchased Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage from FSA. The Crop Insurance and NAP purchase requirement is waived for crops that are not economically significant to the farming operation.

For more information concerning the 2011 SURE program, contact your local FSA office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov/sure.

REMINDER: ACREAGE REPORTING DATE CHANGES

Effective July 1, 2012 for 2012 and subsequent crop years, several crop reporting dates have changed. These dates are extremely important to know to ensure a timely acreage report is filed in the county office for all farmland. The following summarizes the new acreage reporting date changes:

January 15	March 15	July 15	August 15	November 15
Apples Grapefruit Lemons Mandarins Oranges (Navel, Sweet, Valencia) Tangelos (Minneola, Orlando)	Barley Oats Pecans Potatoes Wheat	All Other Crops Not Specified on This Table (including fallow ground)	Grain Sorghum	Apiculture PRF Perennial Forage

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulations to Brian Driscoll. Brian was elected to represent farmers from Bowie, San Simon, Portal and the Chiricahua Monument on the county committee. Brian was elected to serve a three year consecutive term. The election results for Local Administrative Area 2 are:

Brian Driscoll—Elected to the county committee,
Lyn Kimble—1st alternate to the county committee

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

The committee members will hold their organizational meeting on January 17, 2013 to determine who will serve as the county committee chairman and vice-chairman.

IRS FORM 1099

With the end of the calendar here, tax time is upon us! In past years, IRS Form 1099-G would be issued to show all program payments received from the Farm Service Agency regardless of the amount. Effective for the 2012 calendar year, producers whose total reportable payments from FSA are less than \$600 will not receive IRS Form 1099-G. Also, producers who receive payments from more than one county will only receive one Form 1099-G if the total of all payments from all counties is \$600 or more. The same changes will apply to producers and vendors who normally receive IRS Form 1099-MISC from FSA.

If you happen to receive an incorrect IRS Form 1099-G, contact your local FSA office for assistance.



CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE

Any person convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium poppies and other drug producing plants.

ELECTRONIC NEWS DELIVERY

All The USDA Farm Service Agency offices have moved to a paperless news distribution system. Producers are asked to enroll in the new *GovDelivery* system, which provides notices, newsletters and electronic reminders instead of a hard copy through the mail. FSA, like many other organizations, is trying to work smarter and be more efficient. Moving to electronic notifications via email helps conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars. Producers can now subscribe to receive free email updates by going to www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe.

FOREIGN BUYERS NOTIFICATION

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their purchases or sales of property to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

All individuals who are not U.S. citizens, and have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. 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.

FSA SIGNATURE POLICY

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

There are exceptions to the rule. Spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities.

Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.

For more clarification on spousal signature authority, contact your local FSA office.

*****2013 Sales Closing Dates*****

*****Attention: Some dates have changed from the 2012 crop year*****

This table provides the 2013 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, 2013	February 28, 2013	May 1, 2012	September 1, 2012	September 30, 2012	October 31, 2012	November 20, 2012	November 30, 2012	December 31, 2012
Cucumbers Grapes Herbs, All Pecans Peppers, Chile Raisins Tomatoes	Beans, Pinto Beans, Gar Corn Cotton Okra Olives Peanuts Potato, Sweet Pumpkins Sorghum Squash	Broccoli Cabbage Carrots Cauliflower Celery Nursery: -Ornamental -Non-ornamental	Crustaceans Garlic Value Loss Crops: -Aquaculture -Ginseng Root -Turf Grass	Alfalfa, Seed Forage Crops: -Intended Use of Forage (Hay - Mechanically Harvested) -Intended Use of Grazing	Barley Cantaloupe Honeydews Lettuce Oats Onions Rye Wheat	Apples Apricots Cherries Grapfruit Greens, All Honey Lemons Peaches Pears Peas Plums Tangelos Watermelon	Potatoes	Pistachios

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



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

January

- 15 Acreage Reporting Deadline for Apples, Grapefruit, Lemons, Mandarins, Oranges and Tangelos for 2013 Crop Year
- 17 County Committee Meeting @ 9:00 a.m.
- 21 Office closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr's Birthday
- 23 Office Staff will be at Sonoita Fairgrounds

February

- 6 Southeastern Arizona Ag Day & Trade Show @ Willcox Community Center
- 18 Office closed in observance of George Washington's Birthday
- 20 Office Staff will be at Sonoita Fairgrounds

March

- 13 Office Staff will be at Sonoita Fairgrounds

LOAN LIMITATIONS/RATES

Loan Type	Maximum	Term	Rate as of 01/01/2013
Farm Ownership (FO)	\$ 300,000	Up to 40 years	Now 3.250%
Farm Operating (OL)	\$ 300,000	1 to 7 years	Now 1.250%
Emergency Loan	\$ 500,000	1 to 40 years	Now 2.250%
Guaranteed Loans (FO & OL)	\$ 1,302,000	By Lender	By Lender, Commercial Rates
Farm Storage Facility Loan	Up to \$ 500,000	7 years	Now 1.125%
		10 years	Now 1.625%
		12 years	Now 1.875%
Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL)	Varies based on quantity of crop	9 Months	Now 1.125%

Stop by our booth at the 34th Annual Southeastern Arizona Ag Day and Trade Show on Wednesday, February 6, 2013 at the Willcox Community Center!

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT: The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audio tape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). 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, DC 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). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.