



Farm Service Agency

August 2012

Cochise County Newsletter

Cochise County USDA Service Center

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

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

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

Farm Loan Staff
Jonna Darnell, FLM
Travis Lilly, FLOT

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SANTA CRUZ COUNTY TO JOIN WILLCOX SERVICE CENTER

With the closing of the Pima/Santa Cruz County FSA Office, in Tucson, the two counties will each be re-assigned to operate out of larger service centers. As of September 1, 2012, Pima County will join the Casa Grande Service Center which currently services Pinal County producers and Santa Cruz will join the Willcox Service Center which currently services Cochise County producers.

The addition of the new county will bring a few changes to the Willcox Service Center. The Willcox Service Center's Farm Service Agency will be renamed to Cochise/Santa Cruz County FSA Office. Also, the county committee will grow by two new committee members from LAA areas established within Santa Cruz county.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the upcoming changes, please do not hesitate to contact the Cochise County FSA Office at 520-384-3588 Extension 2.

CHANGES IN 2013 SALES CLOSING DATES FOR CROP INSURANCE

Effective for the 2013 crop year, several changes have been made to the Sales Closing Dates which establish the deadline to purchase insurance coverage (whether it be NAP through the Farm Service Agency or CAT through a private insurance company) on crops grown in Arizona. It is very important to carefully review the new deadlines to be sure you don't miss out on your opportunity to purchase insurance coverage. The chart on Page 3 of this newsletter illustrates all of the 2013 Sales Closing Dates. Some crops have deadline changes while others do not. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your local FSA Office or your private insurance carrier. A few of the most prominent crops grown in our area with date changes are:

- September 30, 2012: Native Grass & Forage Crops for Haying or Grazing
- October 31, 2012: Oats & Onions
- December 31, 2012: Pistachios
- January 31, 2013: Tomatoes



WELCOME NEW FLOT TRAVIS LILLY

On August 13, 2012, Travis Lilly will be joining the Farm Service Agency as the new Farm Loan Officer Trainee (FLOT). Mr. Lilly is a New Mexico State University graduate with his Masters in Business Administration specializing in Ag Business. Producers are welcome to stop by and meet the new addition to the office.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

It's time for elections again. Mark Cook has served on the County Committee for the maximum term of 9 years in LAA 2. We would like to thank Mr. Cook for his commitment and all of the years of hard work he has dedicated to the County Committee. LAA 2 covers Bowie, San Simon, Portal and the Chiricahua Monument areas. The deadline to accept nominations of new candidates was August 1, 2012. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters on November 5, 2012. Ballots must be completed and returned to the county office by December 3, 2012 with the final date to count the ballots being December 10, 2012. The newly elected candidate will begin their three year term on January 1, 2013. Mark your calendars so you don't miss the voting deadline. Your votes are important and will choose the next committee member who will represent LAA 2's farmers and ranchers.

AGI RECONCILIATION PROCESS

In order to maintain the integrity of farm programs, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) created a simple process to ensure that only those participants who comply with AGI requirements set in the 2008 Farm Bill receive farm program benefits. This process requires anyone who completes an Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certification to complete a Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information which gives the IRS permission to verify the Producers average AGI.

An AGI Reconciliation Report has been created for program years 2009, 2010 and 2011 which identifies those participants who have not completed the Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information. Notification letters have been mailed out to those participants informing them of their need to complete the IRS consent or they will be deemed as ineligible and required to refund all payments received from FSA and/or NRCS for the specific program year.

If you receive a notification letter and have any questions, please contact the county office immediately. The submission of a complete CCC-931 "Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information" will avoid any ineligible determinations.

WEED CONTROL

As Summer monsoons are upon us, we would like to take this time to remind producers of their obligation to maintain the weeds on their farmland. Those producers who are enrolled and participate in the Direct & Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP) are contractually obligated to maintain all weeds and noxious plants that are growing on their payment acres, also known as base acres. Weeds that are growing out of control serve as a nuisance to neighboring farms and the general public. Producers who are found to have unmaintained weeds will receive written notification to control the weeds. Failure to comply will result in a reduction of DCP payments. If you have any questions or would like to anonymously report an out of compliance farm, please notify your local county office.



CHANGES TO FARMING OPERATIONS

Mid-year has been frequently known as a time when most farms and ranches make changes to their operations. For example, changes could include change in farm operator or a change in land being operated whether sold or acquiring more. If you have changes to your operations, please contact your local county FSA Office to complete the necessary paperwork. If you are in need of having a farm reconstitution completed on your farm whether it be for a combination or division, the deadline to initiate the farm reconstitution is August 1, 2012.

DID YOU CERTIFY YOUR ACRES?

Most programs offered through the Farm Service Agency require farmers and ranchers to timely file an acreage report on all of their land. An acreage report, also known as a crop certification, is a report of what is planted or voluntarily growing on a farmer or rancher's land. If nothing is planted, the report would be completed as "fallow land" whereas if the land is rangeland, the report would be completed as "native grass" for grazing. Please contact the county office to verify all of your acres are certified to avoid any delays in receiving program payments.

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

*****Caution: 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



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

August

- 1 COC Nomination Deadline for LAA2
Deadline to request a farm reconstitution
- 30 Cochise County Committee Meeting
(Tentatively Scheduled)

September

- 3 Office closed in observance of Labor Day
- 20 Cochise County Committee Meeting
(Tentatively Scheduled)

FARM LOAN LIMITATIONS

Loan Type	Maximum	Term	Rate as of 8/01/2012
Farm Ownership Loan (FO)	\$ 300,000	Up to 40 years	Now 3.000%
Operating Loan (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)	\$ 1,214,000	By Lender	By Lender, Commercial Rates

Direct Payments issued under the 2012 Direct & Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) are scheduled to be issued mid-October. To avoid any delays in receiving your payment, please ensure any changes made to your banking information is updated. It is also important to verify that ALL acres on the farm are certified whether planted or not planted.

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