



Farm Service Agency

November 2012

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

Lance Owen, Chair
Edward Curry, Vice Chair
Mark Cook, Member
Robert Noon, Member

Minority Advisors:

Annie Marie Moore
Marie Pyeatt

Program Staff

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

Farm Loan Staff

Jonna Darnell, FLM
Travis Lilly, FLOT

In this Issue:

- COC Elections
- IRS 1099 Changes
- Increased Guaranteed Loan Limit
- Santa Cruz County Farmers & Ranchers
- Did you apply for EQIP?
- Rural Youth Loans
- 2013 Sales Closing Dates
- Dates to Remember
- Farm Loan Limitations
- 2011 SURE Program

CROP 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

USDA ANNOUNCES HISPANIC AND WOMEN FARMER AND RANCHER CLAIMS PERIOD NOW OPEN

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced that Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades can file claims between September 24, 2012 and March 25, 2013. The process offers a voluntary alternative to litigation for each Hispanic or female farmer and rancher who can prove that USDA denied their applications for loan or loan servicing assistance for discriminatory reasons for certain time periods between 1981 and 2000.

As announced in February 2011, the voluntary claims process will make available at least \$1.33 billion for cash awards and tax relief payments, plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief, to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers. There are no filing fees to participate in the program.

The Department will continue reaching out to potential Hispanic and female claimants, around the country to get the word out to individuals who may be eligible for this program so they have the opportunity to participate. Call center representatives can be reached at 1-888-508-4429. Claimants must register for a claims package (by calling the number or visiting the website) and the claims package will be mailed to claimants. All those interested in learning more or receiving information about the claims process and claims packages are encouraged to attend meetings in your communities about the claims process and contact the website or claims telephone number.

Website: www.farmerclaims.gov

Phone: 1-888-508-4429

Claims Period: September 24, 2012 - March 25, 2013

Independent legal services companies will administer the claims process and adjudicate the claims. Although there are no filing fees to participate and a lawyer is not required to participate in the claims process, persons seeking legal advice may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider.



COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Watch your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot starting on November 5, 2012. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters. If for some reason you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify the county FSA office. Completed and signed ballots must be returned to the county office by close of business on December 3, 2012. The election ballots will be counted at the County Committee meeting held on December 6, 2012.

IRS 1099 CHANGES

Calendar year 2012 has brought changes to the way FSA reports farm program payments to the producers and to the IRS. In past years, IRS Forms 1099-G would be issued to show all program payments received from the Farm Service Agency, regardless of the amount. Starting with calendar year 2012, 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.

INCREASED GUARANTEED LOAN LIMIT

The Farm Service Agency has announced that the loan limit for the Guaranteed Loan Program has increased to \$1,302,000. The limit is adjusted annually based on data compiled by the National Agricultural Statistics Service. The lending limit increases every year according to an inflation index. The maximum combined guaranteed and direct farm loan indebtedness will also increase to \$1,602,000. As a reminder, the one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed Farm Ownership and Operating Loans is 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan.



Producers should contact their local FSA County Offices with questions about farm loans. Farm loan application forms are available online. Visit www.fsa.usda.gov, then under Browse by Subject, click "Farm Loan Programs."

WELCOME SANTA CRUZ COUNTY FARMERS & RANCHERS

All Santa Cruz County FSA files have been shipped to the Willcox USDA Service Center. At this time, our staff is reviewing the files to familiarize themselves with your farming operations. Feel free to contact our office with any questions or concerns you may have concerning upcoming deadlines or program questions. We are excited to meet each of you and look forward to assisting you in the future.

DID YOU APPLY FOR EQIP?

Nearly all programs offered through the FSA and NRCS require farmers and ranchers to complete an Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certification. Several producers have applied for EQIP contracts and inquired about the completion of their AGI Certification for the 2013 program year. Unfortunately an **AGI Certification for the 2013 program year will not be available** until a new Farm Bill is passed. Producers still have the ability to file form CCC-931 for program years 2009 through 2012. Please contact your local FSA office with any questions or concerns you may have.

RURAL YOUTH LOANS

The FSA makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income producing projects in connection with 4-H, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5,000.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a United States citizen or legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's eligibility requirements
- Reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

Stop by the county office for help preparing and processing the application forms.

*****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

November

- 5 Election ballots will be mailed to eligible voters
- 12 Office closed in observance of Veteran's Day
- 15 County Committee Meeting @ 9:00 a.m.
- 15 Deadline to certify perennial forage (rangeland/
native grass) acreage for 2012 crop year
- 22 Office closed in observance of Thanksgiving Day

December

- 3 Last day to return COC ballots to county office
- 6 County Committee Meeting @ 9:00 a.m.
- 25 Office closed in observance of Christmas Day

January

- 1 Office closed in observance of New Year Day

FARM LOAN LIMITATIONS

Loan Type	Maximum	Term	Rate as of 11/01/2012
Farm Ownership Loan (FO)	\$ 300,000	Up to 40 years	Now 3.125%
Operating Loan (OL)	\$ 300,000	1 to 7 years	Now 1.125%
Emergency Loan	\$ 500,000	1 to 40 years	Now 2.125%
Guaranteed Loans (FO & OL)	\$ 1,302,000	By Lender	By Lender, Commercial Rates

Signup for the SURE Program for 2011 crop losses began on October 22, 2012 and will end June 7, 2013. If you would like more information on the SURE Program, please contact your county FSA Office or visit: www.fsa.usda.gov/SURE

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.