



United States Dept.
of Agriculture



Flagstaff, Arizona
USDA Service Center

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Flagstaff, AZ 86001-7156

Phone Number

(928) 774-2401 Ext. 2

Fax Number

(928) 774-2780

Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (MST)

County Committee

Marilyn Savoini-Chairperson
Nathan Kilgore - Vice Chair
Diana Kessler - Member
Joe Querta - Member
Anita Waite – Member

County Executive Dir.

Annie Schlittenhart
(928) 774-2401 Ext. 105

Farm Loan Manager

Mike Miller
(928) 524-3214 Ext. 104

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IMPORTANT DATES:

February 26, 2009

COC meeting - Flagstaff, AZ
10:00 AM



FSA NEWS

FEB
2009

Servicing Coconino, Mohave, and Yavapai Counties

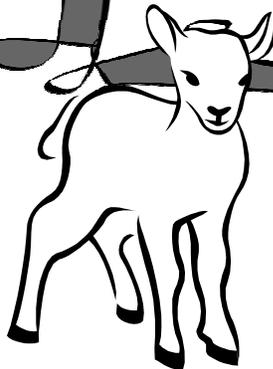
ATTENTION ALL PRODUCERS

To meet the 2008 Farm Bill eligibility requirements, it is mandatory to sign all new paperwork. The new forms will apply to all producers and operations regardless if there have been no changes to the operations.

What new forms are required?

- CCC-902 Payment Limitation Eligibility
- CCC-926 Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Statement
- AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELIC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification

- Other applicable forms associated may apply -



USDA Sets Date for Lamb Referendum

WASHINGTON, DC - The U.S. Department of Agriculture is offering lamb producers, feeders, and first handlers the opportunity to vote in a nationwide referendum on whether to continue or terminate the Lamb Promotion, Research, and Information Order, authorized under the Commodity Promotion, Research, and Information Act of 1996. The referendum will be held Feb. 2-27, 2009.

The referendum will be conducted at USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) county offices. To be eligible to vote, persons must certify and provide documentation, such as a sales receipt or remittance form, which shows they have been engaged in the production, feeding, or slaughtering of lambs during the period, Jan. 1, 2008, through Dec. 31, 2008.

Beginning Feb. 2, 2009, and continuing through Feb. 27, 2009, persons eligible to vote should obtain form LS-86 from a county FSA office either in person, by mail, fax, or via the Internet at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/ismarketingprograms>. Persons must vote in the referendum at the County FSA office where their administrative farm records are maintained. For those persons not participating in FSA programs, the opportunity to vote will be provided at the County FSA office where the person owns or rents land.

Form LS-86 and supporting documentation must be returned in person, by mail, or by fax to the appropriate county FSA office. The form and documentation returned in person or by fax must be received in the appropriate county office prior to the close of business on Feb. 27, 2009. The form and documentation returned by mail must be postmarked no later than midnight on Feb. 27, 2009, and received in the county FSA office by March 6, 2009.

USDA monitors activities of the American Lamb Board. The mandatory program is financed by producers, seedstock producers (breeders), feeders, and exporters who are assessed one-half cent (\$.005) per pound when live ovine animals are sold. The first handler, primarily packers, pays an additional 30 cents per head on ovine animals purchased for slaughter.

Notice of the referendum will be published in the Dec. 16, 2008, Federal Register. Copies of the Final Rule and Notice are available from the Marketing Programs Branch; Livestock and Seed Program, AMS, USDA; STOP 0251 - Room 2628-S; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW; Washington, D.C. 20250-0251; tel. (202) 720-1115; or via the Internet at www.ams.usda.gov/ismarketingprograms.



SECRETARIAL NATURAL DISASTER DETERMINATION

On January 2, 2008, the USDA designated 15 counties in Nevada as primary natural disaster areas, making certain farmers and other agricultural producers in the counties eligible for low-interest emergency loans from USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA).

Counties eligible because they are contiguous to those listed above are: **Mohave County**

To qualify, farmers must be unable to obtain credit from commercial sources. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for loans to help cover part or all of their actual losses. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. FSA has a variety of programs, in addition to the emergency loan program, to help eligible farmers recover from adversity.

Interested farmers should contact their local FSA county office for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for these and other programs.

Mike Miller, Farm Loan Manager
51 West Vista Drive, # 2
Holbrook, AZ 86025-1844
(928) 524-3214 Ext. 104



Crop Certification

Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments. Report of acreage must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted.

2009 Certification Deadlines

- May 15, 2009 - Small Grains (Wheat, Sorghum, etc)
- July 15, 2009 - All crops except small grains

MILK INCOME LOSS CONTRACT PROGRAM



The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) reauthorizes the Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) Program through September 30, 2012. The USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) MILC Program supports the dairy industry by providing direct counter-cyclical style payments to milk producers on a monthly

basis when the Boston Federal Milk Marketing Order Class I price for fluid milk falls below the benchmark of \$16.94 per hundredweight (cwt.). The 2008 Farm Bill changed the \$16.94 per cwt of milk trigger for MILC payments to a variable trigger that may be adjusted monthly for variations in feed costs above \$7.35 per cwt of a 16-percent protein feed ration. Monthly MILC payment rates will be determined and payments issued to eligible dairy operations when the Boston Class I price falls below the feed-cost-adjusted trigger. Certain per year per operation eligibility pound limits also apply

Wool & Mohair LDP Program



The Wool/Mohair LDP program is designed to support the wool and mohair industry by supplementing the price producers receive for their product when market prices fall below a minimum ("Loan") level.

To be eligible for the Wool/Mohair LDP program, you must first sign an "LDP Agreement & Request" form CCC-633EZ, Page 1 before relinquishing beneficial interest in their product.

In order to receive a payment, the producer must then complete a CCC-633EZ, Page 4 detailing their product, quantity, date of sale or loss of beneficial interest and price received.

Payment rates depend on the date the producer sells or relinquishes beneficial interest in their wool/mohair. LDP rates can be viewed at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/> and by clicking on the applicable region. [Region 2: Navajo, Apache County - Region 3: Coconino County]

Reasonable Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call the Farm Service Agency county office staff, and we will be happy to make any arrangements that are necessary.



USDA Extends Comment Period for Regulation on Payment Limitations and Payment Eligibility

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that the comment period for the regulations defining actively engaged participation in a farming operation has been extended for an additional 60 days. FSA is seeking a diverse range of comments from different areas of the United States and farming communities.

With this extension, the public may continue to submit comments until April 6, 2009. The extension document is available at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/federalNotices?are=home&subject=lare&topic=frd-ii>.

To be "actively engaged in farming," the individual or entity must make significant contributions to the farming operation of (1) capital, equipment, land, or a combination; and (2) personal labor or active personal management, or a combination.

Under rules in effect since 1988, not every member of an entity is required to contribute active personal labor or management. The interim rule requires each partner, stockholder, or member with an ownership interest to make a contribution of active personal labor or active personal management. The contribution must be regular and substantial, and documented as well as separate and distinct from any other member's contribution. The rule limits the ability of passive stockholders to continue to realize benefits from the entity.

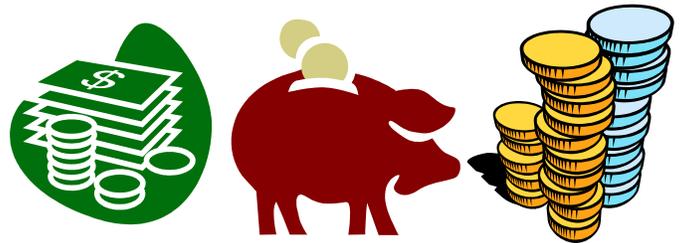
Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA. Foreign persons who 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 could result in civil penalties of up to 25% 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.



CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLAINT PROCESS

Any person, class or group of persons may file a discrimination complaint within 180 days of an alleged discriminatory action. Complaints may be filed in writing or orally with the agency head or any designated agency official; the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. Assistance in filing a complaint can be obtained by calling or visiting any FSA office.



AGRICULTURAL LOANS--AVAILABLE

The U. S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes and Guarantees agricultural loans; provides credit counseling and supervision to farmers and ranchers who are temporarily unable to obtain private & commercial credit.

FSA lends money & provides supervision to eligible applicants who operate family-size farms.

All loans must meet qualifying criteria to be eligible.

TYPES OF LOANS AVAILABLE

- Farm Ownership (FO)
- Farm Operating (OL)
- Emergency (EM)
- Youth loans

DIRECT AND GUARANTEED LOANS AVAILABLE

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct & guaranteed loans are available now.

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan. Loan funds are available now — apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner. Most of our loan programs have special funding available for minority, female and beginning farmers.

FSA staff will help you complete the necessary forms and application, and help you understand what information is required and where to get it. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

LOAN PURPOSE

With a Direct or Guaranteed FO Loan, you can purchase farmland, build or repair buildings and other fixtures, & promote soil & water conservation. Guaranteed FO Loans may also be used to refinance debt.

For additional information contact:

Mike Miller, Farm Loan Manager
51 West Vista Drive, # 2
Holbrook, AZ 86025-1844
(928) 524-3214 Ext. 2

or
Harriett Mann, Farm Loan Officer
51 West Vista Drive, # 2
Holbrook, AZ 86025-1844
(928) 524-3214 Ext. 2

United States Department of Agriculture

Farm Service Agency
Coconino, Mohave, Yavapai County
1585 S. Plaza Way, Suite 120
Flagstaff, AZ 86001-7156



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Permit NO. G-96

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

2008 FARM BILL OUTREACH IN PRESCOTT VALLEY, AZ

On **March 4th, 2009, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM**, at the **PRESCOTT VALLEY NRCS FIELD OFFICE**
A representative from the Farm Service Agency office will be available to answer questions and help with the 2008 Farm Bill program eligibility and sign-up.



**NRCS Field Office Address: 8841 E. Florentine Road, Suite C
Prescott Valley, AZ 86314**

Directions from Prescott: Take Hwy 69 (East) until you get to N. Truwood Drive. Turn left and travel past E. Valley Road. Turn right at E. Florentine Road.

Directions from Dewey: Take Hwy 69 until you get to N. Truwood Dr. Turn right and travel past E. Valley Road. Turn right at E. Florentine Road

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT: The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.