



United States Dept. of Agriculture



Flagstaff, Arizona
USDA Service Center

1585 S. Plaza Way, Ste 120
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

Farm Loan Officer

Harriett Mann
(928) 524-3214 Ext. 112

IMPORTANT DATES:

May 15 - Small Grains
Certification

June 1 - DCP Signup
Deadline

Website

www.fsa.usda.gov



FSA NEWS

Servicing Coconino, Mohave, and Yavapai Counties

APRIL
2010

2010 Wool & Mohair LDP Program



The Wool and 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.



The CCC-633 EZ, Loan Deficiency Payment Agreement and Request form, is now available for producers to request 2010 Wool/Mohair LDP benefits.

DO NOT WAIT UNTIL YOU ARE READY TO SELL TO SIGN THE CCC-633EZ Pg. 1

The CCC-633 EZ for wool and mohair requires 2 page forms:

- **Page 1** includes terms and conditions, and serves as your intention to request and receive LDP benefits and **must be filed BEFORE YOU SELL you wool or mohair.** *Page 1 was recently mailed to all wool and mohair producers that applied for benefits in prior years.*
- **Page 4** is the request for payment sheet which must be filed, along with the sales receipt, after you sell your wool or mohair. *Producers can request LDP payment any time up until January 31, 2011.*

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

In addition, under the new 2008 Farm Bill, you are **required** to sign new eligibility forms before any payments can be issued. Please contact or come in to our office for the details on these forms.

2010 LFP Payment Triggered for Northern Arizona Counties



The USDA has declared Apache, **Coconino, Mohave** and Navajo Counties eligible for 2010 drought relief payments under the **Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)**. Coconino County was rated by the US Drought Monitor as sustaining a D3 intensity drought for 4 weeks allowing eligible producers to apply for a 3 month payment. Mohave County was rated as a D2 intensity allowing eligible producers to apply for a 1 month payment.

Only those livestock producers who purchased NAP insurance for 2010 are eligible for 2010 LFP benefits. Livestock producers on the Navajo Nation who maintain a valid grazing permit are eligible for benefits. Waivers apply for producers who can be considered Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource or Beginning Farmer/Ranchers.

Signup dates will be announced in upcoming newsletters.

NON-INSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

NAP covers losses on non-insurable crops such as rangeland in the event of a natural disaster such as drought or fire. NAP provides indemnity payments for losses that exceed 50%. The NAP application fee costs \$250 per crop per county, up to \$750 maximum for single county farmers or ranchers and \$1,875 maximum for multi-county operators.

The Application Deadline for 2011 Native Rangeland is **October 31, 2010**.

Applications for the 2011 crop year are currently being accepted.

*NAP coverage is required in order to participate in the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) as well as other livestock related disaster programs. You must file your 2011 NAP application by **OCTOBER 31, 2010** in order to be eligible for possible 2011 LFP benefits.*

***NO FILING FEE REQUIRED FOR LIMITED RESOURCE PRODUCERS**

Limited Resource producers can apply for NAP without having to pay the \$250 filing fee. To qualify as a limited resource producer, your Gross Farm Sales for each of the past two years must be less than \$155,200 and, for Coconino County residents, your average household income must be \$22,795 or less.

Foreign Buyer 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. 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 with 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.

Attention All Producers

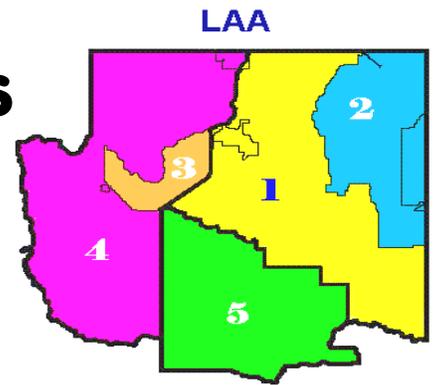
To meet the 2008 Farm Bill eligibility requirements, it is mandatory that all producers complete new eligibility paperwork. These new forms apply to all producers and operations regardless of whether or not there have been changes to the operation.

What new forms are required?

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

- Other applicable forms associated may apply -

COC ELECTIONS LAA 1 AND LAA 2



County Committee (COC) members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers. COC members are elected by and represent agricultural producers of legal voting age that participate or cooperate in any FSA program. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The Flagstaff FSA Service Center administers the three county area of Coconino, Mohave and Yavapai counties. This area is represented by a five-member COC, each member representing a specific area within the three counties. In 2010, the representative seats from Local Administrative Areas (LAA) 1 & 2 will be up for election. LAA 1 covers Coconino County except for the Navajo Reservation portion and LAA 2 covers the Navajo Reservation portion of Coconino County.

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy for the COC. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Additionally, organizations representing farmers or ranchers who are socially disadvantaged, women or beginning farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates. To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign a nomination form FSA-669A. The form includes a statement indicating that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. This form and other election information is available at USDA Service Centers and online at: www.fsa.usda.gov/elections. Nomination forms for the 2010 election must be post-marked or received in the Flagstaff FSA Service Center by close of business on **Aug. 2, 2010**.

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, any designated agency official or 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.

Newly Required AGI Verification Forms

EACH INDIVIDUAL AND ENTITY who received 2009 payments or who request 2010 payments must complete a consent form and provide it to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) so compliance with adjusted gross income (AGI) requirements can be verified. **Individuals file using form CCC-927 and entities use form CCC-928.** These forms are available online at <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov> or may be obtained from any FSA office. No actual data will be included in the report that the IRS sends to USDA. This agreement will ensure that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds regulatory limits. While FSA can assist you with understanding the form, *FSA is NOT authorized to accept completed consent forms and FSA is NOT authorized to submit these forms to IRS on your behalf.* **Failure to provide this consent form to IRS will result in ineligibility for future FSA payments and refund of payments already received.** Contact your local FSA office if you have difficulty understanding how to complete the form.

Emergency (EM) Loans

On 12/3/2009, Coconino, Yavapai and Mohave Counties received a Secretarial Disaster Determination. This makes EM loans available to family farmers who meet the eligibility requirements contained in 7 CFR 764.352 (a) and 764.101. To be eligible for an EM loan the family sized producer must:

- Own or operate a farm/ranch in a county designated
- Have adequate managerial ability
- Have suffered a 30 percent loss in crop production or pasture/grazing
- Have an acceptable credit history
- Be unable to obtain credit from commercial sources
- Have sufficient collateral to secure the requested loan
- Have adequate repayment ability to pay all debts, including the loan requested

The 30 percent loss must be calculated based on the producers' records for the 3 years immediately prior to the emergency designation. A loss cannot be calculated if no records are provided or available.

If a producer is approved for an EM loan, they must agree to pay any duplicative Federal assistance which includes Disaster Payments such as Livestock Forage Program (LFP) payments. If the amount of payment is known at the time of loan approval, it will be deducted from the qualifying loss amount. If the amount of disaster payment is not known at the time of loan approval, the applicant must assign the benefits to FSA to be applied to the EM loan amount as an extra payment.

The interest rate for EM loans is 3.75%. The current interest rate for Operating Loans (OL) is 2.875%. Producers who do not qualify for an EM loan, may apply for an OL loan. The eligibility requirements for both EM and OL loans are the same, with the exception of, no 30 percent loss is necessary for an OL loan.

You may contact the Holbrook FSA office at 928/524-3214 and talk to Michael Miller or Harriet Mann if you need additional information or assistance.

BANKING CHANGES?

If you have changed banks and not notified FSA, your payment could be delayed. Payments are electronically transferred into your bank account, if we are not aware of changes to your account and routing numbers, there could be problems. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. It is important that any changes in a producer's account such as account type, routing number or account number, be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.

Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP)

Enrollment is ongoing for the 2010 DCP program for farms that have established commodity base acres.

The **June 1, 2010 deadline is mandatory** for all participants. USDA will **not accept** any "late-filed" applications. Accordingly, enrollment is **NOT** permitted after June 1, 2010.

The Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP) provides payments to eligible producers on farms enrolled for the 2008 through 2012 crop years. There are two types of DCP payments - direct payments and counter-cyclical payments. Both are computed using the base acres and payment yields established for the farm. DCP is authorized by the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) and is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA).

2010 Crop Certification Deadline

Acreage reporting time is almost here. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs. Failed acreage must be reported within 15 calendar days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. For crops other than NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program) crops, acreage reports are to be certified by the **May 15 deadline for small grains** and the **July 15 deadline for all other crops**.

Acreage reports on crops covered under NAP must be filed by the earlier of May 15 **for small grains** and July 15 for all other crops, or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported.

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.

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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Postage Fees Paid
Farm Service Agency
Permit NO. G-96

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Important Reminders/Deadlines



- May 15, 2010: Small Grains Crop Reporting Deadline
- July 15, 2010: All Crops except Small Grains Reporting Deadline
- June 1, 2010: 2010 DCP Signup Deadline
- June 15, 2010: Nomination period begins. Nomination forms are available under the Section heading Election Materials on this page as well as from your local FSA Office.
- August 2, 2010: Last day to file nomination forms at the local FSA Office.
- October 31, 2010: 2011 NAP application Deadline
- November 5, 2010: Ballots mailed to eligible voters.

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.