

USDA

United States Dept.
of Agriculture

FSA

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

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 - Chair
Anita M. Waite – Vice
Diana Kessler - Member
Joel J. Querta - Member
Jonathan Haskie - Member

**County Executive
Director**

Arnie Schlittenhart
(928) 774-2401 Ext. 105

County Office Staff

Rose Gene, PT
Calvin Johnson, PT

Farm Loan Manager

Mike Miller
(928) 524-3214 Ext. 104

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Spousal Signatures
- 1099G
- Actively Engaged
- GovDelivery
- more

Website

www.fsa.usda.gov/az



Newsletter

Feb
2012

Flagstaff, Arizona - Farm Service Agency - Servicing Coconino, Mohave and Yavapai Counties

Spousal Signatures

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.

Exceptions to the rule: spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities. Nor may spouses sign the CCC-931 AGI certification form on behalf of the other.

Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents. For more clarification on spousal signature authority, feel free to contact your local FSA office.

1099-G

Producers who have received FSA payments should have received a CCC-1099-G, a report to the IRS about FSA payments made to producers the previous calendar year. The report is a service to help participating producers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the program participant's responsibility to report income to the IRS.

When the CCC-1099-G is received, it should be checked with your records to see that the amounts are correct. Refunds will no longer be reported on the 1099-G, but will be available online from the FSA Financial Inquiries (FSA-FI) web-based database. Program participants with an eAuthentication user ID and password may access their refund information at FSA-FI and select "Inquiry Type 1099/Refund Reports". Refund amounts are displayed on the Producer's Year-to-Date Activity web page.

Contact your local FSA office concerning 1099-G details and eAuthentication access.

Actively Engaged

USDA has amended the rules that govern the requirements to be 'actively engaged' in farming. These rules apply to eligibility for payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) or Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program administered by FSA.

Normally the stockholder or a member of a legal entity **must** make contributions of active personal labor and/or active personal management for the farming operation. The contributions are to be performed on regular basis, must be identifiable, and separate from the contributions of others.

The exception to this rule for a stockholder or member of a legal entity only occurs when both of the following apply:

- At least half of the interest in the legal entity is held by stockholders or members who are providing active personal labor or active personal management; and
- The total direct payments received by the legal entity and each of the members can't exceed \$40,000.

Get GovDelivery – Free News, Updates

Farm Service Agency offices are adopting an instant delivery, electronic option for providing notices, newsletters, reminders etc. Producers can now enroll in the new GovDelivery system which will provide these updates via email, rather than costly paper copies delivered through the mail.

FSA, like many other organizations, is working smarter and more efficiently. Conversion to electronic notifications via email helps conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars. Subscribe now to receive your free e-mail updates instantly by going to:

www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe

DCP/ACRE

2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment opened on Jan. 23, 2012 and closes on June 1, 2012. Call now to schedule an appointment at your local office. Here are some IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

1) All producers planting on **DCP base** acres must be identified on the DCP/ACRE contract and receive a proportionate share of DCP/ACRE payment for the farm.

2) Changes on the farm after enrolling June 1st in DCP/ACRE **must** be reported to your local FSA office including: ownership changes, producer changes (individuals and entities) and changes in crop shares arrangements. **Note:** All changes must be made by Sept. 30, 2012.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

The sign-up for 2010 SURE losses continues through **June 1, 2012.**

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that incurred in the crop year 2010. SURE is available to eligible producers on:

Farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties, that have incurred crop production or quality losses, or both, and includes all crops grown by a producer nationwide, except grazed crops.

Any farm in which, for the crop year, the actual production on the farm because of disaster-related conditions is 50 percent or less than normal production of the farm.

HISPANIC AND WOMEN FARMERS

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans has been established.

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

For additional information contact:

• **Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process:**
www.farmerclaims.gov or call 1-888-508-4429

• **Pigford - The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation:** www.blackfarmercase.com or call 1-866-950-5547

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

The noninsured crop disaster assistance program (NAP) is a federally funded program that helps producers reduce their risk when growing food and fiber crops, specialty crops and crops for livestock feed. These benefits are only available for crops for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available. Application for coverage must be filed by the applicable crop's application closing date.

Production records and applications for payment for all crops must be reported to FSA no later than the acreage reporting date for the crop for the following year. FSA requires that any production reported in a loss year be verifiable according to Agency specifications. NAP Losses must be reported within 15 days of loss.

March 1 is the upcoming deadline for annual crops. Contact your FSA County Office for deadlines and more information.

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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.

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Foreign Buyer Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign investors who buy, sell or hold an interest in U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings and transactions by submitting a completed FSA-153 to the Secretary of Agriculture not later than 90 calendar days after the date of acquisition or transfer.

Who must report:

- Foreign Individuals
- Foreign organizations
- Foreign Governments
- U.S. Organizations if a significant interest or substantial control is directly or indirectly held by foreign individuals, organizations or governments

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.

Farm Loan Programs

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 for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

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.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans have a maximum limit of \$1,214,000.

The one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans has increased from 1 percent to 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan, for loans obligated after October 1, 2011.

To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact Mike Miller or Harriett Mann at (928) 524-3214 Extension 2.

Rural Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youth to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, 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.

Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers

FSA assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 % of the county's median size.

Contact Mike Miller or Harriett Mann at (928) 524-3214 Extension 2. Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of Socially Disadvantaged groups.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of a group.

FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

Land Contract (LC) Guarantee Program

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes loans through the Land Contract (LC) Guarantee Program. The LC Guaranteed Loans will be offered to the owner of a farm who wishes to sell real estate through a land contract to a beginning farmer or a farmer who is a member of a socially disadvantaged group.

A land contract is an installment contract between a buyer and a seller for the sale of real property, in which complete ownership of the property is not transferred until all payments under the contract have been made.

Guarantees can be used for financing the purchase of a farm with a purchase price up to \$500,000 on a new land contract. FSA offers two types of guarantees under this program.

Prompt Payment Guarantee: A guarantee of up to the amount of three amortized annual installments plus the cost of any related real estate taxes and insurance; or

Standard Guarantee: A guarantee of 90 percent of the outstanding principal balance under the land contract. To find out if you qualify contact your local FSA office today or see additional information, including a complete list of borrower and seller eligibility criteria and application materials through the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov.

Selected Interest Rates for February 2012	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating - Direct	1.575%
Farm Ownership - Direct	3.375%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Emergency	3.750%

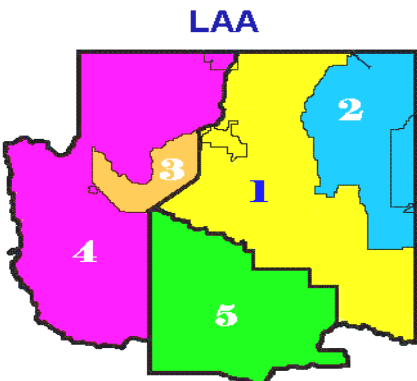
United States Department of Agriculture

Farm Service Agency
Coconino, Mohave, Yavapai County
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Flagstaff, AZ 86001-7156



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



LAA

FSA COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

Ballots for the Mohave County Committee Election were returned and counted.

The new 2012 COC members are:
Joel J. Querta (LAA 3)
Anita M. Waite (LAA 4)

Congratulations to these individuals and thanks to all those who participated by casting their vote.

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, political beliefs, genetic information, 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.