

# GRAHAM/GREENLEE COUNTY

## Farm Service News

### Farm Service Agency Graham/Greenlee

**County / State Office**  
305 E Fourth ST  
Safford AZ 85546  
928-428-5560 Ex 2  
Fax (928) 428-4248  
[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

**Hours**  
Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

### County Committee

John Howard  
Daisy Mae Cannon  
Kathy Sergent  
Pearl Willis  
Jane Wyatt

### County Executive Director

Ruth Veit  
[ruth.veit@az.usda.gov](mailto:ruth.veit@az.usda.gov)

For further details and to discuss your own operation's eligibility for any program, contact your nearest FSA local office.

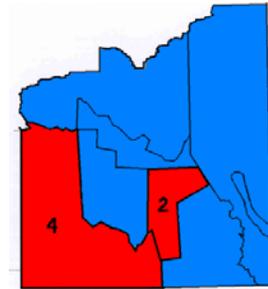
For a list of local offices, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/ca](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ca)

### VOTING FOR COUNTY COMMITTEE BEGINS

Ballots for this year's county committee election will be mailed to eligible voters on November 5, 2010. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on December 6, 2010. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight December 6, 2010.

The candidates in this year's election are: Bret J Whitmer and Jane Wyatt are nominated in LAA 2.

Bunny Dryden, Jackie Hoisington, Jeff Homack and Aaron Palmer are nominated in LAA 4.



Eligible voters in a local administrative area 2 and 4 who have not received a ballot should contact the FSA county office staff.

**Voter Requirements** Persons meeting requirements in 1 or 2, plus 3, below, is eligible to vote:

1. Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as either of the following:
  - an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper, or
  - a partner in a general partnership or member of a joint venture that has an interest in a farm as an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper; or
2. Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm; and
3. Eligible to participate in any FSA program that is provided by law, regardless of the status of funding.

**Discrimination Prohibited** No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

### Conservation Loan Program

The Farm Service Agency makes and guarantees conservation loans on farms and ranches to help conserve our natural resources. The Conservation Loan (CL) Program provides farmers with the credit necessary to implement conservation measures on their land.

The direct CLs loan limit is up to \$300,000 and guaranteed CLs up to \$1,112,000 (amount adjusted for inflation), may be available by applying with lenders working with FSA to obtain a guarantee.

Conservation practices must be approved by NRCS before FSA can provide financing. Producers who do not currently have an existing conservation plan should visit NRCS to develop one prior to requesting Conservation Loan Program assistance. Examples of conservation practices include installation of conservation structures; establishment of forest cover; installation of water conservation measures; establishment or improvement of permanent pastures; transitioning to organic production; manure management, including manure digestion systems; etc.

### FARM LOAN YEAR END REVIEWS

Producers that have a farm loan with FSA are reminded they must provide data for their Year-End Analysis to their loan officer each year. Borrowers are urged to provide this information timely so that their files can be maintained.

### APPLICATIONS FOR FSA FARM LOAN ASSISTANCE

Farmers and ranchers that intend to apply to the Farm Service Agency for loan assistance for the upcoming crop year are encouraged to file their applications as early as possible. Failure to apply early may result in a delay in processing loans due to the volume of applications. Contact your local FSA Farm Loan representative for more details and assistance in applying.

**DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

FSA disaster assistance programs include:

- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)
- Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)
- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
- Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program
- Tree Assistance Program (TAP)



To be eligible for these programs, producers must obtain a policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act (FCIA) at a minimum CAT level for all insurable crops, and NAP coverage for non-insurable crops under SURE, TAP, and ELAP.

Farm-Raised Fish means all fish being produced for sale by an eligible producer. In the case of honey, the term "farm" means all bees and beehives in all counties that are intended to be harvested for a honey crop by the eligible producer.

Producers who do not purchase the required coverage will not be eligible for benefits unless an exception applies. The exception allows certain waivers for "Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers", as well as "Limited Resource Farmers and Ranchers" and "Beginning Farmers and Ranchers".

It is highly recommended that even producers, who qualify under one of the waiver provisions, purchase the required insurance or NAP coverage. Doing so will increase the farm guarantee utilized in the calculation of the SURE payment.

**NAP DEADLINE**

Noninsured Crop Disaster applications are due at different times according to the crop being insured.

Limited resource producers may request a waiver for service fees. Otherwise the service fee is \$250 per crop per county or \$750 per producer per county. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$1875 per producer for individuals with farming interests in multiple counties. Different varieties may require separate fees.



In order to be eligible for the permanent disaster programs producers must purchase NAP coverage.

To qualify for the Supplemental Disaster Assistance Program (SURE) producers must

have coverage on all acreage that will be harvested as forage, (green chop, silage, etc.) To qualify for the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) producers must have coverage on all acreage they intend to graze during the 2011 growing season.

A major change in program policy now provides producers with NAP coverage the option to purchase Pasture, Rangeland & Forage, Rainfall Index (RI) coverage through the Risk Management Agency without running the risk of not receiving benefits under both programs. NAP covers all risk associated with producing a crop. Below normal rainfall is the only risk covered under the Rainfall Index policy.

November 20, 2010	apples, apricots, cherries, honey, peaches, pears, pistachios, plums and watermelon
November 30, 2009	Potatoes
January 31, 2011	Alfalfa Mix, Cucumbers, grapes, Bermuda and Sudan Grass Basil Herbs, Jojoba, Pecans, and Chili Peppers
February 28, 2011	Pinto Beans, Corn, Upland Cotton, ELS Cotton, Okra, Sweet Potatoes, Pumpkin, Sorghum, Forage Sorghum, Grain Sorghum, and Squash
May 31, 2011	Nursery Crops

**2011 DCP SIGNUP**

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through June 1, 2011. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) urges producers to make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up, or producers can visit the FSA office to complete their 2011 DCP contract. FSA will issue advance direct payments beginning Dec. 1, 2010.

**For your convenience please call the office for an appointment.**

### CCC-927 OR CCC-928 MUST BE SENT TO IRS

Producers who participated in 2009 or 2010 programs subject to adjusted gross income limitations (AGI) had to certify compliance with AGI rules. The average AGI verification process for 2009 and 2010 payment eligibility requires all program participants to provide written consent to IRS for the disclosure of certain information to FSA.

Individuals and legal entities, including members of legal entities, that certified to average AGI compliance for 2009 and/or 2010 payment eligibility must submit a completed CCC-927 or CCC-928 to IRS regardless of whether they received program benefits directly or as a member of a joint operation or entity. These forms must be submitted to IRS in order to avoid a demand for refund of program payments and benefits received.

### FSA SIGNATURE POLICY

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities

For additional clarification on proper signatures contact your local FSA office.

### CHANGING BANKS

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions.

If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

### FARM RECONSTITUTIONS

When changes in farm ownership or operation take place, a farm *reconstitution* is necessary. The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by Aug. 1 for farms enrolled in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program.

- **Estate Method** — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;
- **Designation of Landowner Method** — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;
- **DCP Cropland Method** — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;
- **Default Method** — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

If DCP direct payments have already been issued on a particular farm, the reconstitution will be effective for the next year, unless the payments are refunded.



**NEW FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT WEB PAGE**

Producers who have level 2 e-authentication access can use the new Public Financial Management Information web page. The website allows producers to generate reports that show both current and historical financial information. This resource will allow users to view details on payments, collections and outstanding debt. The website is a great tool for producers to conveniently access financial information at any time. To view the Financial Management Information web page, visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/fmi>. Please contact your county office if you have any questions regarding the web page.

**Note: Website use requires level 2 e-authentication access. Follow the steps below to obtain level 2 access...**

1. Go to [www.eauth.egov.usda.gov](http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov), complete a customer profile and submit it online
2. After submitting your customer profile, you will receive a confirmation email, and you must respond to it within 7 days to activate your account
3. Then you must complete the "Identity Proofing" process by visiting a local USDA Service Center and presenting a photo ID, such as your driver's license

Dates to Remember	
Nov 20, 2010	apples, apricots, cherries, honey, peaches, pears, pistachios, plums and watermelon
Nov 25	<b>Office closed for Thanksgiving Day</b>
Nov 30, 2009	Potatoes
Dec 1, 2010	First day pay 2011 DCP advance
Dec 6, 2010	Last day to Vote for COC election
Dec 24, 2010	Closed for Christmas
Dec 31 2010	Closed for New Year
Jan31, 2011	Alfalfa Mix, Cucumbers, grapes, Bermuda and Sudan Grass Basil Herbs, Jojoba, Pecans, and Chili Peppers
Feb 28, 2011	Pinto Beans, Corn, Upland Cotton, ELS Cotton, Okra, Sweet Potatoes, Pumpkin, Sorghum, Forage Sorghum, Grain Sorghum, and Squash
May 31, 2011	Nursery Crops

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