



Maricopa County February 2009 Newsletter

Farm Service Agency

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Gary Gable, Chairperson
Hours: 7:30 am to 4:30 PM

and will continue through the program's expiration date, Sept 30, 2012.

PROGRAM NOTES:



Dates to Remember

- MILC Extended Phase Signup until Sept. 2012
- Feb 16th – Office Closed (Holiday)
- Feb 17th - RSVP for Mary's Retirement Party
- Feb 26th - CDP (Quality/Quantity) Signup Deadline
- On going DCP Sign-up -Deadline June 1, 2009
- On going - Farm Loan Program Applications are accepted (Direct and Guaranteed Loans)

ATTENTION ALL PRODUCERS-

(ACTION): For your convenience, we are asking all producers to **SCHEDULE APPOINTMENTS FOR ALL PROGRAM SIGNUPS.** Please allow up to 2 hours for the sign-up process, you will need to meet with more than one person and filing new payment limitation forms is **mandatory for all participants.** To provide you the optimum service possible in a timely manner, please schedule your appointment 1 week in advance and don't forget to bring in any new land leases and equipment leases.

DCP Sign-up Underway-(ACTION):

Enrollment for 2009 Direct and counter-cyclical payment program for farms with base acres began Dec. 22 both online and at the local USDA service center and will continue until June 1, 2009. Call office for more info.

The **June 1, 2009 deadline is mandatory** for all participants. USDA will **not accept** any "late-filed" applications. Accordingly, enrollment is **NOT** permitted after June 1, 2009.

MILC Income Loss Contract Program

Sign-Up-(ACTION): USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced that signup for the Milk Income Loss Contract Program (MILC) begins Dec 22



Mary's "Surprise" Retirement Party - (INFO)

After 20 years serving Maricopa's farmers and ranchers, "Recon" Mary (Witt) Maxwell will be retiring.

We are planning a "**Surprise**" party for her

Date: Saturday, March 7th, 2009

Time: 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

At: Roman's Oasis -16825 West Yuma Road in Goodyear, AZ.

If you are interested in attending, please **RSVP before February 17th, 2009** by calling our office at (623) 535-5055 and asking for Santa or Denise.

Please help us make this not only a **Surprise** but also a memorable evening for Mary.

Non-Insured Crop Assistance Program

- (INFO):

The cost for NAP is a service fee of \$250 per crop, per a total of \$750 per producer, per county.

2008 Crop Year Sales (Application) Closing Dates are set by the state committee. **Producers are required to apply for the NAP program prior to these dates in order to remain eligible for payments.**

You must file a notice of loss within 15 days from the date that the loss was apparent.

Feb 28, 2008- Pinto Beans, Corn, Cotton, Okra, Olives, Peanut, Sweet Potato, Pumpkins, Sorghum, Squash

May 31, 2008- Nursery

Note: Ornamental nursery sales closing date is 09/01/2005

USDA Sets Date for Lamb Referendum

The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced that it will offer 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/lsmarketingprograms>.

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/lsmarketingprograms.

Crop Disaster Program Sign-Up Ends February 27

The USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) Administrator Teresa Lasseter announced that the sign-up period for the 2005-2007 Crop Disaster Program (CDP) will end Feb. 27, 2009. The ending date of Feb. 27 applies to the receipt of a signed and completed FSA-840 application along with all supporting documentation and required forms at the applicable county FSA office. Sign-up information and required forms are available at each county FSA office. Late filed applications will not be approved after the Feb. 27 deadline.

All application determinations will be made by March 27, 2009. For further questions about CDP and the sign-up deadline, producers may contact their county FSA office, ask for Denise.

Power of Attorney (FSA-211) Form

For experiencing difficulties visiting the county office because of work schedules, distance, health or other reasons, FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information.



Maricopa County FSA Office
12409 West Indian School Road
Building B, Suite 201
Avondale, AZ 85392-9505

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Attention: FSA Program Participant
This newsletter contains valuable information and important dates regarding our programs; therefore you may lose benefits



If You Do Not Read It!!

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

Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please call the office at (623) 535-5055.