

# Maricopa County Courier

March 2009

Volume 1, Issue 3

## Office Staff:

Christina Day, CED

Shawneen Stevenson,  
Farm Loan Manager

Gary Gable,  
COC Chairperson

Tim Smith,  
Vice Chairperson

Dawnie Stewart,  
COC Member

Corey Nelson, NRCS  
District Conservationist

## Dates To Remember:

- MILC Extended Phase Signup until Sept. 2012
- FY 2008 CC Payments Underway
- On going DCP Sign-up -Deadline
- June 1, 2009 Farm Reconstitution Request Deadline
- On going - Farm Loan Program Applications are accepted (Direct and Guaranteed Loans)



## Attention All Producers:

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.

## Dairy Program:

Extended signup began January 22, 2009. It will continue throughout the duration of the MILC Program, ending on **September 22, 2012**. Producers that submit CCC-580's during the extended signup can select the current month

as the MILC production start month for their dairy operation.

\*Adjusted Gross Income Certification is required by all MILC participants. Producers who certify on the CCC-926 that their non-farm average

## DCP Signup Underway:

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.

**Exception:** If recon request is on file by June 1, DCP enrollment deadline will be 30 calendar days after recon completion date.

## 2008 Counter-Cyclical Payments:

County Offices have begun issuing FY 2008 advance CC payments as of February 3rd, 2009.

**NOTE:** Our payment process has changed because of this payments may be delayed, also payment statements may appear different.

AGI exceeds \$500,000 are ineligible for MILC payments.

\*Changes to the start month must be made by the 14th of the month, proceeding the **NEW** start month.

## NAP Program Updates:

### 2008 NAP Crop 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 the loss was apparent.

### May 31, 2008– Nursery

**Note: Ornamental nursery**

**Sales closing date is 09/01/08**

### NAP Basic Provisions

**Document Available:** NAP basic provisions are now available as CCC-471 NAP BP through the FSA website located at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

**Note:** After accessing the website click Disaster Assistance Programs, on the Disaster Assistance Programs home page click view NAP Basic Provisions located under I Want To... The CCC-471 NAP BP will soon be made available in Spanish.

### NAP Service Fees Increase:

- \$100 to \$250 per crop
- \$300 to \$750 per county
- \$900 to \$1,875 per producer for all counties

### Loan & LDP Availability

#### Date:

- **March 31st–** Barley, canola, crambe, flaxseed, honey, oats, rapeseed, wheat, sesame seed



*Protect your crops from damaging weather*

*"Remember to make an appointment to sign up for FSA Programs"*

### Recons.. Recons:

We are now able to process recons. If you have any ground that you are losing or picking up for the 2009 year you will need to come in before June 1st, 2009.

### Fallow Acreage:

Fallow acreage not devoted to crops must be kept clean or free of noxious weeds during the crop year. Failure to do so may result in loss of program benefits for the year, non-compliance assessment or both. The acreage required to meet this criteria is your crop acreage bases.

### Bank Changes:

When making an account change/closure with your existing bank, **please notify our office.** It is crucial that we maintain the most current accounting records to avoid delays when dispersing payments to you or your operation.

## Acreage Reporting:

Acreage reporting time will soon be here. Please remember that 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 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 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 15th deadline on small grains** and a **July 15th deadline on cotton, corn and all other crops.** Please schedule your appointments early to avoid the last minute rush and unforeseen delays



*USDA appreciates all the farmers hard work*



## Honey Loans Available:

Marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments for 2008 crop year honey are available until March 31, 2009. The national loan rate for honey is \$0.60 per pound. Market prices currently exceed the loan rate; so LDP's are not available right now.

To be eligible for a loan, the producer must have produced honey in the United States during the calendar year for which the loan is requested, and extracted the honey on or before Dec. 31 of the applicable crop year; have continuous beneficial interest in the honey through date of repayment of the loan; and been responsible for the financial risk of keeping the honey. Producers are responsible for maintaining the quality of farm-stored honey during the term of the loan.

The honey must be produced in the United States by an eligible producer, from an approved floral source, and stored in approved containers. The containers must be marked with the producer's name, type of honey, number of container and net-weight. Pre-loan inspections are required before the loans can be dispersed. Honey used as collateral may not be disposed of without approval of the county staff.

## Youth Loans:

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes operating loans to individual rural youths age 10 to 20 to establish and operate income producing products. These projects must be of modest size and be initiated, developed, carried out by rural youths participating in 4-H Clubs,

FFA or a similar organization or with a vocational teacher or county extension agent. The project must be an organized and supervised program of work. It must be planned and operated with the assistance of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the

loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience.

Contact you Farm Loan for more details.

*FSA Farmers are  
#1*



## Kansas City Mails 1099-G:

During the last week of January, producers who have received payments from FSA should have also received a CCC-1099G from the Kansas City office. A CCC-1099-G is a report to the Internal Revenue Service about FSA payments made to you during the previous calendar year. The CCC-1099-G 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. If you received a CCC-1099-G, we recommend that you check the amounts shown with those in 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 eAuthentication user ID's and passwords can 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. If you have a question concerning the 1099-G refund information, you may contact your local FSA office for assistance locating the correct payment data. If you choose to visit the office, bring your CCC-1099-G with you.

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

Phone: 623-535-5055

Fax: 623-536-5261

**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!!**



We're on the Web! @

[http://  
www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

## **Monitoring Efforts By FSA and RMA:**

In an effort to prevent fraud,  
waste and abuse in the Federal  
Crop Insurance Program. FSA and  
RMA will be assisting RMA and  
insurance providers in:

- Monitoring crop conditions  
throughout the growing season
- Referring all suspected cases of  
fraud, waste and abuse about the  
Federal Crop Insurance Program to  
RMA
- Assisting RMA with auditing claims

-Participants may report suspected  
cases of fraud, waste and abuse to  
their local county, RMA Office or  
OIG.

## **Maricopa County Office Committee (COC) Meeting Schedule:**

The County Committee will meet  
the 3rd Tuesday of each month at  
9:00 a.m. unless otherwise noted.



*Proudly supporting U. S. Troops and all their efforts*

**NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT:** The United States 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 of communication of program information (Braille, large print, audio tape, etc.) Should contact USDA's Target Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice & TDD).

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 & 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