

# Maricopa County Courier

April 2009

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## Dates To Remember:

- **MILC Extended Phase Signup until Sept. 2012**
- **On going DCP Sign-up -Deadline 8/14**
- **ACRE program signup begins 04/27 and ends 08/14.**
- **Aug 1, 2009 Farm Reconstitution Request Deadline**
- **09 NAP application closing dates inside**
- **On going - Farm Loan Program Applications are ac-**

## DCP Signup Underway:



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

## Important Extended Date:

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 the extended deadline of August 14, 2009. Call office for more info.

The **August 14, 2009 extended deadline is mandatory** for all participants. USDA will **not accept** any "late-filed" applications. Accordingly, enrollment is **NOT** permitted after August 14, 2009.

**Exception:** If recon request is on file by August 14th, DCP enrollment deadline will be 30 calendar days after recon completion date.

**Reconstitutions:** Aug. 1st is the cut off to request a recon. DCP producers have 30 days following the notification of the completion of the recon to enroll or re-enroll. Please come in to request your reconstitution as soon as possible if you are losing or gaining farmland.

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

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

## NAP Program Updates:

### 2009 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 Service Fees Increase:

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

### Price Support Program Updates:

#### Loan & LDP Availability Date:

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

- **May 31st**– Corn, Grain Sorghum, Small Chick-peas
- **Jan 31st**– Wool/Mohair/Unshorn pelts is the following year in which the unshorn lamb is slaughtered.
- Producers must submit CCC-633EZ page 1, 2, 3 or 4 **BEFORE** the applicable Final Availability Date for the respective commodities to be eligible for the LDP benefits.



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

### 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 is 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.**

**Acreage reporting requirements: For LDP's and Marketing Assistance Loans– all cropland on the farm. DCP– All cropland on the farm. NAP– Crop acreage for which NAP benefits maybe requested. SURE program– ALL crops in all counties.**



*USDA appreciates all the farmers hard work*



### MILC Payments:

MILC payments are underway— PLEASE be patient. We are having trouble paying certain entity types due to NEW software. This is a nationwide problem and out of the County Office’s hands. The County office is working diligently to get all approved Dairy’s paid. Please be patient until all computer issues are in order and as soon as we can pay we will.

### Second 2008 Buy-In for Insurable and Noninsurable Crops :

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 authorized an additional waiver which allows producers another opportunity to pay a buy-in fee to be eligible for 2008 SURE, TAP and ELAP. To be considered to have met RMPR producers must pay a “buy-in” fee in an amount equal to the applicable CAT fee and or/NAP fee for those 2008 crops that currently do not have either a crop insurance policy of NAP coverage.

The Buy-in fee must be paid within 90 calendar days of the enactment so the final date for paying the buy-in fees is COB May 18, 2009.

### 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.



### ACRE Program Enrollment Opens :

Beginning April 27th, 2009 producers may enroll in the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE).

The Average Crop Revenue Election program is an innovative alternative to the traditional farm safety. This new option presents an opportunity for producers to review both programs and decide which one will work best for the 2009 crop. USDA will not accept any late-filed applications.

Producers who elect the ACRE program for a farm agree to: forgo counter-cyclical payments; accept a 20-percent reduction of the direct payments; and accept a 30-percent reduction in loan rates for all commodities produced on the farm.

Commodities eligible for ACRE payments are wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, upland cotton, long grain rice, medium and short grain rice, peanuts, soybeans, sunflower seed, canola, flaxseed, safflower, mustard seed, rapeseed, sesame seed, crambe, dry peas, lentils, small chick peas and large chickpeas.

The ACRE Program was created in the 2008 Farm Bill to give producers an option in lieu of traditional counter-cyclical payments. Producers may elect to enroll in this program even if they’ve signed up for the DCP/CC Program.

Please call the office for more information.

**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:**

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To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer." Special accommodations will be made upon request for persons with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please call the Maricopa County Farm Service Agency at (623) 535-5055.