

Maricopa County Courier

October 2009

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Office Staff:

Christina Day, CED

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Farm Loan Manager

Gary Gable,
COC Chairperson

Tim Smith,
Vice Chairperson

Dawnie Stewart,
COC Member

Corey Nelson, NRCS
District Conservationist

Dates To Remember:

- Oct 12– Holiday
(Office Closed)
- Nov 11-Holiday (Office
Closed)
- Nov 26-Holiday (Office
Closed)
- Dec 07- COC Election
Ballots due
- 09 NAP application
closing dates inside
- On going - Farm Loan
Program Applications
are accepted (Direct and
Guaranteed Loans)



Attention All Producers:

2010 Adjusted Gross Applications (CCC-926) will be needed for each producer/entity signing up for the following programs: ACRE/DCP, ELAP, LFP, LIP, NAP, SURE, LDP.

The form is needed prior to any payment being made.

FSA County Committee Elections:

Just a reminder: Watch your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters starting on November 6, 2009. If, for some reason you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify the county FSA

office. Completed and signed ballots are due back in the county office by the close of business on December 7, 2009

Final DCP Payments For 2009:

Enrolled producers can expect their final direct payment to be deposited directly into personal bank accounts sometime during the first few weeks of October.

Producers who did not elect to receive an advance direct payment will receive their entire direct payment for the year in one lump sum after the end of the fiscal year (Sept. 30).

The direct payment for a crop equals 83.3 percent of the farm's base acreage times (x) the farm's direct payment yield times (x) the direct payment rate.

If there are any unearned payments, Commodity Credit Corporation will automatically subtract those amounts from the final Direct and Counter-cyclical Program payments you are about to receive.

Stressed Farmers?:

With the economy, inclement weather, etc. hurting farming operations, many farmers are pushed to the breaking point. The National Suicide Prevention wants to help: if you know a farmer/rancher who is under stress and reluctant to ask for help, please call: 1-800-273-8255

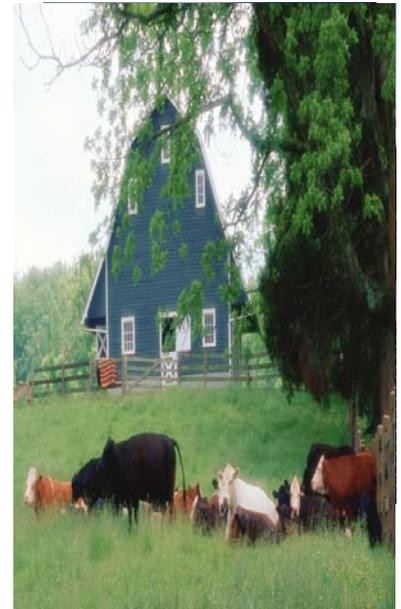
LIVESTOCK FORAGE DISASTER PROGRAM :

The Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) compensates eligible livestock producers who suffer grazing losses for covered livestock due to: drought conditions or fire on federally managed land. Eligible livestock producers may receive assistance for eligible livestock grazing losses that occur due to drought or fire on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011, during the calendar year in which the loss occurs. In order for an LFP applicant to qualify for program benefits, the applicant must have purchased insurance cover-

age through FSA's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) or the Pasture, Rangeland and Forage Insurance (PRF-RI) program offered through the Risk Management Agency (RMA). County committees can only accept applications after being notified by the National Office of qualifying drought, or if Federal agency prohibits producers from grazing normal permitted livestock on Federal managed lands due to qualifying fire.

FSA began accepting 2008 calendar year applications September 14, 2009. The

applications must be filed by December 14, 2009. **Late filed applications for LFP cannot be approved.** For 2009 and subsequent years, applications must be filed no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the grazing losses occurred. Losses must occur in calendar year the application is being filed. The monthly payment rate will be an amount equal to 60 percent of the lesser of: the monthly feed cost for all covered livestock, using a feed grain equivalent (feed grain equivalent for adult beef cow is 15.7



LIVESTOCK FORAGE DISASTER PROGRAM (Cont):

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

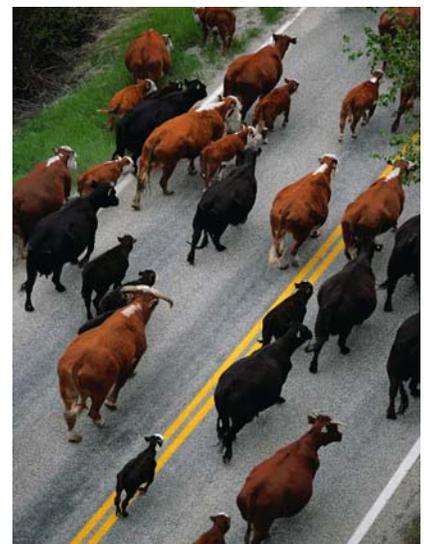
pounds of corn per day) The monthly feed cost calculated using the normal carrying capacity for the grazing land. Drought eligibility criteria require that the drought must have occurred on: or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011 native or improved permanent vegetative cover

small grains or forage sorghum planted specifically for grazing Losses due to drought must occur during the normal grazing period for the specific type of grazing land. Additional Information about LFP including eligible livestock and fire criteria is available

at county FSA offices or on line at: www.fsa.usda.gov.

Marketing Assistance Loans:

A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available for producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the earlier of the date the loan is repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if the producer regains beneficial interest. Commodity loan eligibility also requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, acreage reporting and ensuring that the commodity meets Commodity Credit Corporation minimum grade and quality standards. For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan. Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical and/or ACRE Programs to be eligible for commodity loans.



Acreage Spot Check Determinations and Notifications:



Each year the Farm Service Agency completes spot checks of acreage reports. Acreage reports are an important part of farm program participation.

Acreage spot checks are completed to ensure accurate acreage reports are used in farm program computations. FSA will conduct spot checks on a selected number of farms in each state. All acreage determinations will be completed using the FSA Geographic Information System official acreages.

After farms are spot checked, a Notice of Determined Acreage will be sent to the farm operator. Producer notifications will be issued by FSA as spot checks are completed.

Questions concerning determined acres should be directed to the Maricopa FSA office for further explanation.

Beginning Farmer/Ranchers:

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 no 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 percent of the county's average size Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at the Maricopa FSA Office. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov



FSA Signature Policy:

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent delays with payments. The following are FSA guidelines: A married woman shall sign her given name: Mrs. Mary Doe, not Mrs. John Doe. For a minor, FSA requires the minor's signature and one from an eligible parent Note: By signing the applicable document, the parent is liable for actions of the minor and may be liable for refunds, liquidated damages, etc. When signing on one's behalf the signature must agree with the name typed or printed on the form, or be a variation that does not cause the name and signature to be in disagreement. Example - John W. Smith is on the form. The signature may be John W. Smith or J.W. Smith or J. Smith. Or Mary J. Smith may be signed as Mrs. Mary Joe Smith, M.J. Smith, Mary Smith, etc. FAXED signatures will be accepted for certain forms and other documents provided the acceptable program forms are approved for FAXED signatures. Producers are responsible for the successful transmission and receipt of FAXED information. Examples of documents **not** approved for FAXED signatures include: Promissory note, Assignment of payment, Joint payment authorization, NAP actual production history and approved yield record, Acknowledgement of commodity certificate purchase Financing statement UCC financing statement 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. All members of a general partnership must sign for the general partnership unless an individual is authorized to act on the behalf of the general partnership and bind all members. Spouses may sign on behalf of each other's individual interest in a partnership, unless notification denying a spouse that authority is provided to the county office. Acceptable signatures for general partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, estates, and trusts shall consist of an indicator "by" or "for" the individual's name, individual's name and capacity, and name of the entity. For more information contact our office.

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)



Proudly supporting U. S. Troops and all their efforts

Civil Rights Policy:

FSA is committed to ensuring the civil rights of every individual who requests access to the programs administered by the Agency. They will be provided employment opportunities without regard to race, color, creed, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, marital status, or sexual orientation.

Maricopa County Office Committee (COC) Meet- ing Schedule:

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

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT:

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all 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, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a 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, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

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.