

Maricopa County Courier

November 2009

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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.

For your convenience, we are asking all producers to **SCHEDULE APPOINTMENTS FOR ALL 2010 PROGRAM SIGNUPS**. Please allow up to 1 hour 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

2008 CC Payments Underway:

Final 2008 Counter Cyclical Payments are currently underway. **Please note: Payments may take up to two weeks to reach your bank.** The Final Payment rate for UPCN is .1258 cents. The advanced payment of 40%, was .0503 cents and now the remaining

is .0755 cents.

Keep in Mind: If you had changes to your bank account information and you didn't notify the County Office you may have a delay in getting your payment. Please contact the County Office with the new information.

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.

Final DCP Payments For 2009:

Enrolled producers can expect their final direct payment to be deposited directly into personal bank accounts starting in October.

NOTE: Our payment process has changed, because of this payments may be delayed. Payment statements may appear different. We ask that you please be patient, payments are releasing slower than normal. We are asking you to wait till the end of Oct. before calling the office with questions to give the county office time to work with these issues. THANK YOU.

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 un-earned 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

Dates To Remember:

- Nov 6th-Ballots mailed out
- Nov 11-Holiday (Office Closed)
- Nov 26-Holiday (Office Closed)
- Dec 07- COC Election Ballots due
- Dec 25- Holiday (Office Closed)
- 09 NAP application closing dates inside
- On going - Farm Loan Program Applications are accepted (Direct and Guaranteed Loans)

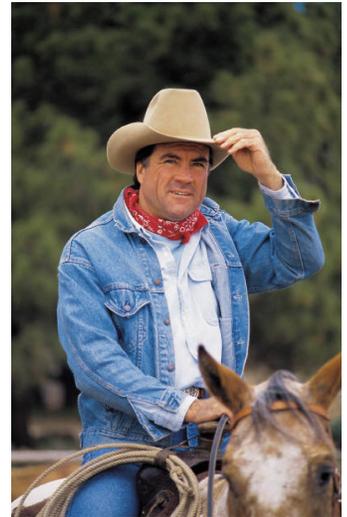
LIVESTOCK FORAGE DISASTER PROGRAM :

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.

AGI Reminder for MILC Program:

FY 2009 Ends on September 30, 2009 and FY 2010 begins October 1, 2009. MILC payments calculated on October 2009 production will be issued in December 2009, and a new AGI certification is **required** before the October MILC payment is issued.

Producers who certify on CCC-926 that their non farm average AGI exceeds \$500,000 are ineligible for MILC benefits. 11-LD, subparagraph 12 C provides that producers **are required** to certify to the AGI requirement each FY.

REMINDER: Changing the MILC Production Start Month Selection

Changes to the MILC production start month selected by the dairy operation **must** be made on or before the 14th of the month before the:

- month originally selected by the dairy operation as their MILC production start month
- newly selected MILC production start month for the dairy operation



Referendum for Proposed Amendments to Cotton Research



The USDA announced that a referendum will be conducted among U.S. Upland producers and importers. The referendum is scheduled for October 13, 2009 through November 10, 2009. The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is proposing to amend the Cotton Research and Promotion Order to implement section 14202 to the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) that amended the Cotton Research and Promotion Act. The 2008 Farm Bill provided that the states of Kansas, Virginia and Florida be separate states in the definition of "cotton-producing state". According to the Act, a referendum among cotton producers and importers is required to implement, amend, continue, or when appropriate, to suspend, or to terminate the Order or any of its provisions. According to the Act, the AMS will provide an opportunity for all eligible persons to vote on the amendments to the Order. Producers will have an opportunity to vote by mail or through their respective Farm Service Agency County office and by mail for importers. All known cotton importers will be mailed a ballot and referendum instructions. Ballots will also be available on the internet at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/cotton>.

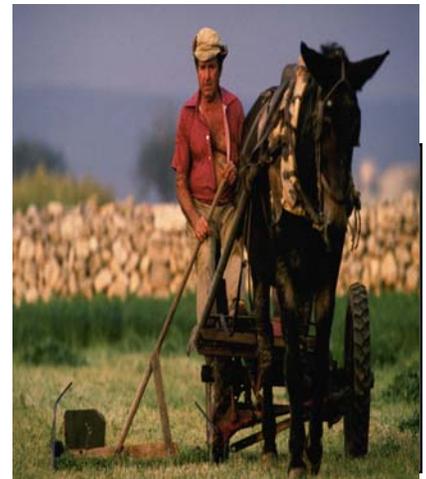
Beginning Farmer/Ranchers:

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 that 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



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.

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.

2009 NAP Sales Closing Dates:

Oct. 31st: native grasses, alfalfa, barley, gar. Beans, cantaloupe, honeydews, wheat, rye.

Nov. 20th: apples, apricots, cherries, honey, peaches, pears, pistachios, plums, and watermelons.

Nov. 30th: potatoes

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..