

Navajo/Gila County FSA News

Holbrook, AZ
USDA Service Center

Navajo/Gila County FSA
51 W Vista Drive, #2
Holbrook, AZ 86025

Phone: (928) 524-3214
Fax: (928) 524-6609

Hours
Monday - Friday
7:30 A.M.-4:30 P.M.
Closed Legal Holidays

County Committee
Therman Susan, Chair
Wilfred Stanley, V-Chair
Steven Flake, Member
Elwood Saganey, Member
Robert Adams, Member

Office Staff
Gregg W. Norton, CED
Catherine Nez, PT

Farm Loan Staff
Mike Miller, FLM
Harriet Mann, FLO

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2010 Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)

The USDA has declared Navajo County eligible for 2010 drought relief payments under the **Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)**. Navajo County was rated by the US Drought Monitor as sustaining a D3 intensity drought for 4 weeks allowing eligible producers to apply for a 3 month payment. Gila County is not eligible as of this date. **Only those livestock producers who purchased NAP insurance for 2010 are eligible for 2010 LFP benefits.** "Equitable relief" provisions are not available for 2010. Waivers apply for producers who qualify as Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource or Beginning Ranchers. The Holbrook FSA office is now beginning to accept applications for 2010 LFP benefits. The following documentation is required for the following types of grazing land:

1. **US Forest Service-** A copy of the 2010 Bill for Collection that shows the AUM allowance on the term permit
2. **BLM-** A copy of the BLM grazing permit
3. **State-** A copy of the state grazing lease or any state approved sub-lease or assignment of lease that shows the acres and the AU allowance
4. **Privately owned-** A copy of 2010 property tax receipts that show the legal description and number of acres
5. **Private leased-** A copy of any lease
6. **Tribal/BIA Grazing permit-** A copy of a valid permit covering the 2010 grazing year

All grazing land must be in the name of the applicant. Grazing land cannot be included in calculating the pasture value for your operation if it is in a different name. This could reduce the amount of payment you can receive.

Please contact the county office in advance of your visit or if you have any questions about the program.

NON INSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

NAP benefits are based on a producer's individual crop losses and covers all non insurable, commercially grown crops produced for food and fiber. NAP is available to those producers who share in the risk of producing a

crop. Crop losses must be as a result of a weather-related disaster condition such as: drought, hail, excessive moisture, freezing conditions, excessive wind, hurricane, or other related conditions. Coverage costs \$250 per crop per county, up to \$750 maximum for single county farmers or ranchers and \$1,875 for multi-county operators.

Application filing dates for 2010 crops have passed. Filing dates for 2011 crops are as follows:

Native Range Grazing- October 31, 2010

Small Grains (Wheat, Barley, Oats)- October 31, 2010

Alfalfa, Alfalfa/Mix, Sudan, and other forage crops- October 31, 2010

Coarse Grains (Corn, Grain Sorghum)- February 28, 2011

Producers with NAP coverage are required to 1) file a Notice of Loss the earlier of 15 days of the date of a disaster or 15 days of when a loss is apparent, 2) timely file an acreage report (May 15- small grains, alfalfa and July 15- native range, coarse grains), and 3) keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. **You must also provide land documentation (leases, deeds, grazing and land use permits).**

If you have any questions, please contact the county office for more information.

REMEMBER- Participation in NAP on native grazing land is required to be eligible for the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) or any other livestock related disaster program that may become available. You must file your application for NAP by OCTOBER 31, 2010 for 2011 NAP to be eligible for possible LFP benefits for 2011.



WOOL/MOHAIR 2010 BENEFITS

It's that time of year again. Time to file your 633-EZ Page 1 so that your wool and mohair will be eligible for payment.

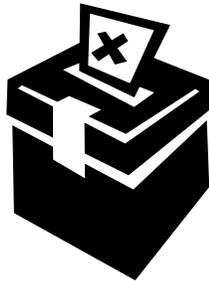
DO NOT WAIT UNTIL YOU ARE READY TO SELL TO SIGN THE FORM. The form must be RECEIVED in this office before you sell your wool/mohair. Producers should complete page one of the EZ form as soon as possible. Once page one is completed, producers can request benefits any time **up until January 31, 2011.**

Page 1 of the 633-EZ will be mailed to all wool and mohair producers that applied for benefits in the prior year. **Please sign and return the form to this office as soon as possible so your wool and mohair is covered.**

When you sell your wool and mohair there is another form that must be completed. Please see our scheduled chapter visits in this newsletter.

make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers. COC members are elected by and represent agricultural producers of legal voting age that participate or cooperate in any FSA program. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy for the COC. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Additionally, organizations representing farmers or ranchers who are socially disadvantaged, women or beginning farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates. To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign a nomination form FSA-669A. The form includes a statement indicating that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. This form and other election information is available at USDA Service Centers and online at: www.fsa.usda.gov/elections.

Nomination forms for the 2010 election must be postmarked or received in the Navajo/Gila FSA Service Center by close of business **August 2, 2010.**



2010 FSA COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The Navajo/Gila FSA Service Center administers programs for Navajo and Gila Counties. These counties are represented by a five-member County Committee (COC), each member representing a specific area within the county. In 2010, the representative seat from Local Administrative Area (LAA) 5 will be up for election. LAA 5 covers all non tribal areas of Navajo and Gila counties. Steve Flake has served for 9 years which is the term limit. Also up for election is the representative from LAA 3. LAA 3 cover the White Mountain Apache tribal land.

COC members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to



FARM LOAN PROGRAMS

Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes agricultural loans; provides credit counseling and supervision to farmers and ranchers who are unable to obtain private, commercial credit.

FSA places special emphasis on socially disadvantaged applicants (SDA) because we understand and recognize that certain groups have not participated in or have received limited benefits from FSA programs. Our goal is to increase the participation of socially disadvantaged applicants in FSA programs, with special emphasis on those who are members of racial minority groups. FSA lends money and provides credit counseling and supervision to eligible applicants who operate family-size farms. All applicants must meet qualifying criteria to be eligible.

TYPES OF LOANS AVAILABLE

- Farm Ownership (FO)
- Farm Operating (OL)
- Emergency (EM)



A FSA FO loan provides funds to purchase farm or ranch land; repair buildings and other fixtures; promote soil and water conservation. Farm Operating loan funds may be used to purchase or lease items needed such as livestock, farm equipment, feed, seed, fuel, farm chemicals, insurance or other operating expenses.

LOAN AMOUNTS

Direct loans can be made up to \$300,000.00

Guaranteed loans can be made up to \$1,112,000.00

SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED PROGRAM

Funds are set aside for socially disadvantaged applicants (SDA) to buy and operate family-sized farms and ranches. SDA applicants must meet the same eligibility requirements as other non-SDA applicants.

FSA farm loan employees provide information and assistance to applicants to help them develop sound farm management practices, analyze problems, and plan the best use of available resources essential for success in farming or ranching. For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian and Pacific Islanders.

Operating loans can be repaid within 1 to 7 years depending on the loan purpose. Farm Ownership loans can be repaid from 10 years to 40 years.



EMERGENCY (EM) LOANS

On 12/3/2009, Apache, Gila and Navajo Counties received a Secretarial Disaster Determination. This makes EM loans available to family farmers who meet the eligibility requirements contained in 7 CFR 764.352 (a) and 764.101. To be eligible for an EM loan the family sized producer must:

- Own or operate a farm/ranch in a county designated
- Have adequate managerial ability
- Have suffered a 30 percent loss in crop production or pasture/grazing
- Have an acceptable credit history

- Be unable to obtain credit from commercial sources
- Have sufficient collateral to secure the requirements for both EM and OL loans are the same, with the exception of, no 30 percent loss is necessary for an OL loan.
- Have adequate repayment ability to pay all debts, including the loan requested

The 30 percent loss must be calculated based on the producers' records for the 3 years immediately prior to the emergency designation. A loss cannot be calculated if no records are provided or available.

If a producer is approved for an EM loan, they must agree to pay any duplicative Federal assistance which includes Disaster Payments such as Livestock Forage Program (LFP) payments. If the amount of payment is known at the time of loan approval, it will be deducted from the qualifying loss amount. If the amount of disaster payment is not known at the time of loan approval, the applicant must assign the benefits to FSA to be applied to the EM loan amount as an extra payment.

The interest rate for EM loans is 3.75%. The current interest rate for Operating Loans (OL) is 3.125%. Producers who do not qualify for an EM loan, may apply for an OL loan. The eligibility requirements for both EM and OL loans are the same, with the exception of, no 30 percent loss is necessary for an OL loan.

You may contact the Holbrook FSA office at 928/524-3214 and talk to Michael Miller or Harriet Mann if you need additional information or assistance.

NEWLY REQUIRED AGI VERIFICATION FORMS

EACH INDIVIDUAL AND ENTITY who received 2009 payments or who request 2010 payments must complete and mail to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) a "Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information" form. This form will allow IRS to share adjusted gross income (AGI) information with the USDA in order to verify AGI certifications. The purpose is to ensure that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds regulatory limits. **Individuals must file using form CCC-927 and entities using form CCC-928.** These forms are available online at <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov> or may be obtained from any FSA office. While FSA can assist you with understanding the form, *FSA is NOT authorized to accept*



*United We
 Stand!*

completed consent forms and FSA is NOT authorized to submit these forms to IRS on your behalf. Failure to provide this consent form to IRS could result in a producer being ineligible for future FSA payments and could require refund of payments already received.

Contact your local FSA office in order to obtain these forms and for completion instructions.

OUTREACH VISITS

We will be making the following visits to take applications for *all* FSA programs available at this time:

Location	Date	Time of Day
Chinle Chapter	July 13, 27 Aug 10, 19	10 A.M. to 2 P.M.
St. Michaels USDA Service Center	July 15, 29 Aug 12, 26	10 A.M. to 2 P.M.
Shonto Chapter	July 13, 27 Aug 10, 24	1 P.M. to 4 P.M.
Kayenta NRCS next to Chapter	July 14, 28 Aug 11, 25	8 A.M. to 12 P.M.
Teec Nos Pos Chapter	July 21	1 P.M. to 3 P.M.
Red Valley Chapter	July 21	10 A.M. to 12 P.M.

This schedule will be in place as long as weather and road conditions permit.

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 Greg W. Norton, CED at (928) 524-3214.