

# Navajo/Gila County FSA News

Holbrook, AZ  
USDA Service Center

Navajo/Gila County FSA  
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Holbrook, AZ 86025

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

**County Committee**  
Wilfred Stanley, Chair  
Robert Adams, V-Chair  
Elwood Saganey, Member  
Therman Susan, Member  
L Dee Johnson, Member

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

**Farm Loan Staff**  
Mike Miller, FLM  
Harriet Mann, FLO

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## 2011 LIVESTOCK FORAGE DISASTER PROGRAM (LFP) DEADLINE JANUARY 30, 2012

The USDA declared Navajo and Gila Counties eligible for 2011 drought relief payments under the **Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)**. Both counties were rated by the US Drought Monitor as sustaining a D3 intensity for four weeks for a maximum 3 month payment. **Only those livestock producers who purchased NAP coverage for 2011 are eligible for 2011 LFP benefits.** Waivers apply for producers who qualify as Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource or Beginning Ranchers. The Holbrook FSA office began accepting applications June 1st. The following documentation is required for the following types of grazing land:

1. **US Forest Service-** A copy of the 2011 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 2011 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 2011 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.

**IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY APPLIED DURING 2011,** 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.

**Filing dates for 2012 crops are as follows:**

**Native Range Grazing- October 31, 2011**

*Small Grains (Wheat, Barley, Oats)- October 31, 2011*

*Alfalfa, Alfalfa/Mix, Sudan, and other forage crops- October 31, 2011*

*Coarse Grains (Corn, Grain Sorghum)- February 28, 2012*

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, 2011 for 2012 NAP to be eligible for possible LFP benefits for 2012.**



## **WOOL 2011 BENEFITS**

Right now because of high market prices for wool there is not a payment available. The average national market price is determined each week. The payment is based on the date you sell your wool. When you sell your wool, contact the office and we will let you know if there is a payment available.

When you sell your wool there is another form that must be completed in order to receive a payment. Please see our scheduled chapter visits in this newsletter and contact this office if you have any questions.

## **2011 FSA COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION**

Ballots for this year's county committee election were returned and counted. The new 2012 COC member is:

COC Member: Andrew Bradley

1st Alternate: Clyde G Gamble, Sr

Congratulations to these individuals and thanks to all those who participated by casting their vote.

## **ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME REPORT TO IRS**

**Producers and legal entities who failed to file an IRS Consent form, CCC-928 or CCC-929 for 2009 and/or 2010 before Sept. 2011; have been notified from National Office.**

These letters were mailed November 23, 2011. Follow directives in the letter. Failure to submit will result in non-compliance with all payments issued to be refunded. You are now required to complete and file the CCC-931 AGI & Consent form. Please contact this office if you need additional assistance.

## **FARM LOAN PROGRAM LIMITS**

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to renew your loan.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans have a maximum limit of \$1,214,000 starting on Oct. 1, 2011.

The one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed farm ownership and

operating loans has increased from 1 percent to 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan, for loans obligated after Oct. 1, 2011.

To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the farm loan staff in Holbrook.

## **BEGINNING AND LIMITED RESOURCE FARMERS**

FSA assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises with financing through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm not 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 median size.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

## **IRS FORM 1099-G**

Producers receive CCC-1099-Gs annually detailing payments from the Commodity Credit Corporation. The annual report of program payments on the CCC-1099-G is a service intended to help FSA customers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the producers' responsibility to report income to the IRS.

FSA staff cannot interpret IRS regulations or advise producers about which payments to report on their income tax returns. However, county office staff can review payments for accuracy of data.

## **GET GOVDELIVERY – INSTANT NEWS, UPDATES**

Farm Service Agency offices are adopting an instant delivery, electronic option. Producers can now enroll in the new GovDelivery system which will provide notices, newsletters and reminders via email, rather than costly paper copies delivered through the mail.

FSA, like many other organizations, is working smarter and more efficiently. Conversion to electronic notifications via email helps conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars.

County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers. Subscribe right now to receive your free e-mail updates instantly by going to [www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe).



## **HISPANIC AND WOMEN FARMERS**

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans has been established.

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

For additional information contact:

• **Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process:**

[www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov) or call 1-888-508-4429

• **Pigford – The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation:** [www.blackfarmercase.com](http://www.blackfarmercase.com) or call 1-866-950-5547

• **Keepseagle - The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement:** [www.IndianFarmClass.com](http://www.IndianFarmClass.com) or call 1-888-233-5506

## **2011 ELAP AND LIP SIGN UP**

Sign up deadlines are approaching for FSA's Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) and the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). Fact sheets for these programs can be found at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov); click on NEWSROOM, then FACT SHEETS.

Producers who have suffered a disaster due to the recent severe weather conditions should read the fact sheets and visit their local FSA office to get a quick start on the recovery process.

Both ELAP and LIP Sign-ups require a Notice of Loss filed by the earliest of either:

- 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent to the participant or
- October 31, 2011

An application for payment must be received no later than January 30, 2012.

## **CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE**

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium poppies and other drug producing plants.

## **SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS**

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff directly or by phone.

## **FOREIGN BUYER NOTIFICATION**

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign investors who buy, sell or hold an interest in U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings and transactions by submitting a completed FSA-153 to the Secretary of Agriculture not later than 90 calendar days after the date of acquisition or transfer.

Who must report:

- Foreign Individuals
- Foreign organizations
- Foreign Governments
- U.S. Organizations if a significant interest or substantial control is directly or indirectly held by foreign individuals, organizations or governments

Failure to submit the AFIDA form FSA-153 could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property.

County government offices, realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

## **SPOUSAL SIGNATURES**

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

There are exceptions to the rule, where spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities.

Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.

## **APPEAL PROCESS**

After an FSA official makes a decision on your request for USDA services or application, you will be sent a letter informing you of the decision and options you can pursue if you disagree.

Generally, program participants have three choices:

- An informal review with the original agency decision-maker,
- An opportunity for mediation, and
- Finally an appeal to the next level of authority within the agency.

### **SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SURE)**

The sign-up for 2010 losses began **Nov. 14, 2011** and will end **June 1, 2012**.

SURE provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters and is available to eligible producers on:

- Any farm in which, for the crop year, the actual production on the farm because of disaster-related conditions is 50 percent or less than normal production of the farm.



*United We Stand!*

### **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 House	Jan 10, 24	10 A.M. to 2 P.M.
St. Michaels USDA Service Center	Jan 12, 26	10 A.M. to 2 P.M.
Kayenta NRCS next to Chapter	Jan 11. 25	10 A.M. to 2 P.M.
Teec Nos Pos Chapter	Jan 18	9:30 A.M. to 12 P.M.
Red Valley Chapter	Jan 18	1 P.M. to 3 P.M.

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

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.  
 To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English-Federal Relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish-Federal Relay).  
 Special accommodations will be made upon request for persons with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please call Gregg W. Norton, CED at (928) 524-3214.