



**USDA Service Center**  
Pima/Santa Cruz  
FSA Office  
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**Office Hours**  
Thursday-  
7:30 am - 4:00 pm  
All other weekdays  
By Appointment Only

**County Committee**  
Robert Noon, Chairman  
Gary Deen, Vice-Chairman  
Andrew Smallhouse, Mber  
Marie Pyeatt, Advisor

**Farm Programs Staff**  
Debbie Hopkins, CED  
Lori Emmert, PT  
Shirley Ciskowski, PT  
Michelle Ontiveros, PT  
Angie Carranza, PT  
Kathy Fanning, PT

**Farm Loan Staff**  
Shawneen Stevenson,  
Farm Loan Manager  
Kent Erickson, FLO  
Patrick Fox, FLPT

**IN THIS ISSUE**

Farm Storage Facility  
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*Thank You!*  
*As 2009 Crop year comes to an end and Crop Year 2010 begins,*  
*The Staff of Farm Service Agency wish to thank our*  
*Agricultural Producers for their diligence in producing all the*  
*required documents to make this first year under the new farm*  
*bill a success.*

*Your patience was greatly appreciated.*

*The Staff*

**FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOAN PROGRAM CHANGES**

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin. For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

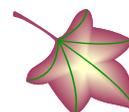
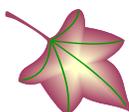
**USDA Announces Timeframe for Nominations to the Advisory Committee for Beginning Farms and Ranchers**

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Administrator Jonathan Coppess announced that nominations for individuals to serve on the Advisory Committee for Beginning Farmers and Ranchers are being accepted through October 5, 2009.

“As we look to build a new generation of farmers and ranchers throughout the country, this committee will work to update or develop policies and programs that will hopefully make it easier for beginning producers to enter the agricultural industry,” said Coppess. “This committee will help strengthen our nation’s food supply for the coming decades, and I urge qualified individuals to apply.”

For qualifications and Form AD-755, please call the office or visit: [http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA\\_File/ad755.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/ad755.pdf)

 We Proudly  
Support our Men  
and Women in the  
Armed Forces.



## ***NAP (Non-Insured Assistance Program) Reminder***

### **NAP Coverage Sales Closing Date**

#### **2009 Crop Year 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.

- Oct 31<sup>st</sup> : Barley, Garb-beans, (Yuma Cty)  
Cantaloupe, Native Grass (rangeland)  
Honeydews, Lettuce, Rye and Wheat

**\*\* Reminder; to be eligible for SURE - LFP, you must have NAP or CAT insurance for all crops planted.**

Public may access NAP Basic Provisions (BP)

publications/forms on web site:

<http://165.221.16.90/ffasforms/forms.html>

### **Insurance Reporting Requirements**

September 30<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for producers to sign up for federally subsidized crop insurance coverage on fall-seeded crops like winter wheat, barley, oats and forage production, and producers need to check the yield and revenue potential of their spring planted crops, according to the National Crop Insurance Services (NCIS)

It is very important for producers to follow the crop damage reporting requirements if a loss is anticipated. Insurance policies require producers to give written notice to their crop insurance agents, by crop and by unit/farm, if a loss is suspected. This must be done within 72 hours of discovery of damage or loss and 15 days before harvest begins. "The most important thing to remember is: don't destroy the evidence of damage until a loss adjuster evaluates it," according to NCIS.

### **Risk Management Purchase Requirement (RMPE) Equitable Relief Provisions for 2009**

The 2009 crop year sales closing dates for crop insurance and application closing dates for NAP coverage had occurred **before** the date of enactment for some crops. An amendment to the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act (June 18, 2008) of 2009 producers were given an opportunity to "buy-in" until January 12, 2009, for crops that had sales closing date before August 14, 2008. The application closing date for NAP was extended until December 1, 2008; therefore, this provision did not apply to NAP crops.

Equitable relief may be granted on a case-by-case basis, to an eligible producer that failed to meet 2009 RMPE when the determination has been made that the producer made a good faith effort to comply and met qualified situations.

Please contact your local FSA Office for additional information.

### **BIOMASS CROP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

FSA is currently accepting applications from biomass facilities interested in participating in the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP).

Once an agreement is signed between FSA and a facility and funding through the program is provided, the facilities can begin accepting materials. Producers who sell these materials can apply for matching payments under the collection, harvest, storage and transportation (CHST) component of BCAP.

Eligible material owners or producers, who market eligible material to a qualified biomass conversion facility, may apply for the matching CHST payment at their FSA county office. An application must be submitted before the eligible material is sold and delivered to a qualified biomass conversion facility. After the product is delivered, a producer must provide FSA with documentation of product quantity, quality and payment rate. County offices will validate payment requests with information in the county office and information provided under the terms of MOUs with the qualified biomass conversion facilities. CHST payments will not be authorized until after an appropriate environmental analysis has been conducted.

Biomass conversion facilities and material owners or producers should contact their local FSA office or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) for more information.



### **RURAL YOUTH LOANS**

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

#### **Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:**

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien

- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

Stop by the county office for help preparing and processing the application forms. The FSA staff can help you with questions you may have about a particular program.

## **Livestock Disaster Assistance Programs**

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that producers may begin applying for benefits under the provisions of the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) and the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP). These permanent disaster programs, authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill, replace previous ad-hoc disaster assistance programs and are funded through the Agricultural Disaster Relief Trust Fund.

LFP provides payments to eligible livestock producers who have suffered livestock grazing losses due to qualifying drought or fire. For drought, the losses must have occurred on land that is native or improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover or a crop planted specifically for grazing for covered livestock due to a qualifying drought during the normal grazing period for the specific type of grazing land in the county. For fire, LFP provides payments to eligible livestock producers that have suffered grazing losses on rangeland managed by a federal agency if the eligible livestock producer is prohibited by the federal agency from grazing the normal permitted livestock on the managed rangeland due to a qualifying fire.

Producers are eligible for drought if located in a County designated on the US Drought Monitor as one of the following:

- 1) D2 Drought – severe
- 2) D3 Drought – Extreme
- 3) D4 Drought – Exceptional

**NOTE: At this time, Pinal, Pima & Santa Cruz Counties do not meet these requirements and are not eligible for drought.**

ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish that have losses due to disease, adverse weather or other conditions, including losses due to blizzards and wildfires. ELAP assistance is for losses not covered under other Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance programs established by the 2008 Farm Bill, specifically LFP, the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE). ELAP is being implemented to fill in the gap and provide assistance under other conditions determined to be appropriate.

For more information or to apply for ELAP or LFP and other USDA Farm Service Agency disaster assistance programs, please visit your FSA county office or [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

## **Complaint 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.



*Office Closed in Observance of Columbus Day  
October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009; Business resumes October 13<sup>th</sup>*

## **Applications for FSA Loans**

Farmers and ranchers that intend to apply to the Farm Service Agency for loan assistance for the upcoming crop year are encouraged to file their applications as early as possible. Filing early will help ensure that your application is processed and a decision made as soon as possible so that planting decisions can be made. Failure to apply early can result in a delay in processing loans due to the volume of applications that must be processed in date order. Contact your local FSA farm loan manager or officer for more details and assistance in applying.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Pinal County Farm Service Agency  
520 N Camino Mercado, Suite 10  
Casa Grande, AZ 85122-5754



## IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

Oct 12<sup>th</sup> Office closed for Columbus Day  
No Meeting of Pima/Santa Cruz County Committee for October  
Oct 31<sup>st</sup> Deadline to Purchase NAP Insurance  
Nov 6<sup>th</sup> Ballots Mailed to Producers  
Dec 7<sup>th</sup> Ballots due in FSA by close of business

FSA Homepage: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)  
Arizona State FSA Homepage: [www.fsa.usda.gov/edso/az/az.htm](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/edso/az/az.htm)  
USDA eCommerce Home (forms web site): <http://www.sc.egov.usda.gov/Main.asp>

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To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250, or call (202) 720-7327 (voice) or (202) 720-1127 (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 upon request. If accommodations are required, please call Debbie Hopkins, CED, at 520/836-2028