



NEWSLETTER



April-May 2012

Pima-Santa Cruz County FSA Office

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Hours: Thursdays by
Appointment

Debbie Hopkins CED

County Staff

County Committee:

Robert Noon, Chair.
Gary Deen, V-Chair.
Andy Smallhouse, Member
Marie Pyeatt, Advisor

Farm Program Staff

Lori Burns, PT
Angie Carranza, PT
Kathy Fanning, PT
Michelle Ontiveros, PT

Farm Loan Staff

Shawneen Stevenson
Farm Loan Manager
Kent Erickson, FLO
Patrick Fox, FL-PT

Important Dates:

May 15- Certify Small Grains

May 30th Prevented Planting Deadline

June 1st – Deadline To enroll in DCP Program

DCP/ACRE Sign-Up

The 2012 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment runs from Jan. 23, 2012 through June 1, 2012. Here are some IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- All producers planting on **DCP base** acres must be identified on the DCP/ACRE contract and receive a proportionate share of DCP/ACRE payment for the farm.

- Changes on the farm after June 1 enrollment in DCP/ACRE **must** be reported to your local FSA office. Changes may include: a) Ownership changes, b) Producer changes (Individuals and Entities), c) Change in crop shares arrangements

- No changes can be made after Sept. 30, 2012.

Acreage Certification

Time is nearing for producers to certify their 2012 acreage. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of program benefits.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acreage reports are required for many FSA programs. For crops enrolled in programs other than NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program), acreage reports are to be certified by the May 15th deadline on small grains and a July 15th deadline on all other crops.

*Call the Office to make an
Appointment to Enroll.*

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

The sign-up for recovery payment for 2010 losses under the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) runs through **June 1, 2012.**

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

- Farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties, that have incurred crop production or quality losses, or both, and includes all crops grown by a producer nationwide, except grazed crops.

- 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.

Get GovDelivery – Instant News, Updates

Farm Service Agency offices are adopting a 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.

**NOTICE
TO HISPANIC
AND/OR
WOMEN
FARMERS OR
RANCHERS
COMPENSATION
FOR CLAIMS OF
DISCRIMINATION**

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.

To register your name to receive a claims packet, call the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429 or visit: www.farmerclaims.gov

The claims package will have detailed information about the eligibility and claims process.



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

The noninsured crop disaster assistance program (NAP) is a federally funded program that helps producers reduce their risk when growing food and fiber crops, specialty crops and crops for livestock feed. These benefits are only available for crops for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available. Application for coverage must be filed by the applicable crop's application closing date.

Production records for all crops must be reported to FSA no later than the acreage reporting date for the crop for the following year. FSA requires that any production reported in a loss year be verifiable according to Agency specifications. NAP Losses must be reported within 15 days of loss.

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report new holdings or their changes in holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

All individuals who are not U.S. citizens, and have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. 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, real estate agents, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

Farming Operation Changes

If you have bought or sold land, or if you have added or dropped rented land from your operation, make sure you report the changes to the office as soon as possible. You need to provide a copy of your deed or recorded land contract for purchased property. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you

have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. Making the record changes now will save you time in the spring. Update signature authorization when changes in the operation occur. Producers are reminded to contact the office of a change in operations on a farm so that records can be kept current and accurate.

Farm Safety

Flowing grain in a storage bin or gravity-flow wagon is like quicksand; it can kill quickly. When a person is caught in flowing grain it takes less than five seconds to be trapped. The mechanical aspects of grain handling equipment also present a real danger. Augers, power take-offs and other moving parts can grab arms, legs, hair or clothing.

These hazards, along with pinch points and missing shields, are dangerous enough for adults; not to mention children. It is always advisable to keep children a safe distance from operating farm equipment. Always use extra caution when backing or maneuvering farm machinery. Ensure everyone is visibly clear and accounted for before machinery is engaged. FSA wants all farmers to have a productive crop year, and that begins with putting safety first.

Direct and Guaranteed Loans

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.

If you've had a setback and your current lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan, ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee

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. This makes the maximum combination of direct and guaranteed loan indebtedness \$1,514,000.

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. This applies to loans obligated after October 1, 2011. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

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Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Compliance

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions are required. Farmers with HEL determined soils are reminded of tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified per their conservation plan. Producers are to notify the USDA Farm Service Agency prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in the loss of eligibility and all Federal payments.

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.

changes, such as a change in producer, shares, address or bank routing number.

Dairy producers applying for MILC payment must meet adjusted gross income (*AGI CCC-931*) "*AGI Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information*"

For MILC enrollment, dairy producers must fill out, CCC-580 Milk Income Loss Contract and select a start-month for payments. Current dairies in MILC can make changes to their start-month with certain restrictions.

Any start-month changes must be made **on or before the 14th of the month before** the selected MILC production start-month has passed.

Changes to the dairy operation start-month must be designated on the "*CCC-580-M- Milk Income Loss Contract Modification*."

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.

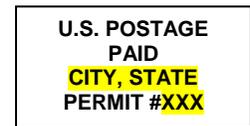
Generally, program participants have three choices — an informal review with the original agency decision-maker, an opportunity for mediation and finally an appeal to the next level of authority within the agency.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Closing Sales Dates

Changes In Sales Closing Date Deadlines for 2013

<u>May 1st</u>	<u>September 30th</u>	<u>October 31st</u>	<u>November 30th</u>
Broccoli	Alfalfa Seed	Barley	Fruit, see Office
Cabbage	Forage Crops	Melons;	Watermelon
Carrots	**intended	Honeydew &	Honey
Cauliflower	for Grazing	Cantaloupe	
Celery	* Native Grass	Lettuce	
		Oats & Wheat	

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 Farm Service Agency
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DATES to Remember	
Jan. 23- June 1	2012 DCP/ACRE sign up
May 15 th	Small Grain Certification Deadline
July 1	All Crops/ All land use
August 15 th	Grain Sorghum

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