



Pinal County

Newsletter

March, 2009



USDA Service Center

Pinal FSA Office
520 N Camino Mercado
Suite 10
Casa Grande, AZ 85222

Phone: (520) 836-1960
FAX: (520) 836-1297

Office Hours

Monday - Friday
7:30 am - 4:00 pm

County Committee

Mark Hamilton, Chair
Daniel Nowlin, V-Chair
John O Nevitt, Member
Alex Blaine, Advisor
Vince LaPaglia, 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,
FLM
Kent Erickson, FLO
Patrick Fox, FLPT

IN THIS ISSUE

DCP Signup
MILC Signup



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



DCP Signup Continues

Signup for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program continues until the **June 1, 2009 deadline. (That's only 90 days)**

Signup is mandatory for all participants. USDA will not accept any late-filed applications.

The electronic DCP (or eDCP) service will save you time, reduce paperwork and speed up contract processing at FSA offices. It is available to anyone eligible to participate in the DCP Program. To access this on-line service, you must have an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires filling out an online registration form at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov> followed by a visit to the local USDA Service Center for identity verification.

Producers eligible for the DCP Program are also able to enroll in the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program or the Counter-cyclical Program. The enrollment period for the ACRE Program will begin in the spring. You may first enroll in the DCP Program, receive advance direct payments and then later modify your enrollment to the ACRE program or you may wait and elect to enroll in DCP and ACRE at the same time in spring 2009.

It is imperative you call the office to schedule your appointment; you will need about an hour for enrollment. We will give you guidelines on the current requirements and the items you will need for enrollment.

Kansas City Mails 1099-G

Producers were mailed the CCC-1099-G reported to the Internal Revenue Service about FSA payments made to you during the previous calendar year. The 1099-G is a service to help participating producers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the program participant's responsibility to report income to the IRS.

If you received a CCC-1099-G, we recommend that you check the amounts shown with those in your records to see that the amounts are correct. Refunds will no longer be reported on the 1099-G, but will be available online from the FSA Financial Inquires (FSA-FI) web-based database. Program participants with eAuthentication user ID's and passwords can access their refund information at FSA-FI and select "Inquiry Type 1099/Refunds Reports". Refund amounts are displayed on the Producer's Year-to-Date Activity web page.

If you have a question concerning the 1099-G refund information, you may contact your local FSA office for assistance locating the correct payment data. If you choose to visit the office, bring your CCC-1099-G with you.

LOANS FOR SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) can make and guarantee loans to socially disadvantaged applicants to buy and operate family size farms and ranches. Funds specifically for these loans are reserved each year. A socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of the group without regard to their individual qualities. For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians and Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, and Asians and Pacific Islanders. Contact your Farm Loan Officer, Kent Erickson, at the Pinal County FSA Office (520/836-1960) for more details and assistance in applying.

Civil Rights Complaint Process

Any person, class or group of persons may file a discrimination complaint within 180 days of an alleged discriminatory action. Complaints may be filed in writing or orally with the agency head, any designated agency official or the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. Assistance in filing a complaint can be obtained by calling or visiting any FSA office.

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.

Producers are reminded of these dates to ensure continued eligibility for the 2009 crop year.

Producers must: (1) Annually provide records of crop acreage, crop yields, and production evidence for NAP crop to be eligible; (2) Inform FSA **within 15 days of the date any disaster condition occurred or damage to the crop became apparent. **Producers must file this form even if they intend to harvest the crop.**

The program requires that producers must report the acreage and shares for all crops potentially eligible for NAP certify crop production history and report current crop year production on or before the deadline. They must also certify that they comply with all highly erodible land and wetland conservation requirements.

Producers must apply for NAP coverage using Form CCC-471, "Application for Coverage," and pay the service fee of \$250 per crop per county or \$750 per producer per county. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$1,875 per producer with farming interest in multiple counties. *Reminder: To be eligible for Disaster Programs, you must be enrolled in either NAP or Crop Insurance.*

Acres Reporting

Acres reporting time again. Please remember that filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

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.

Acres reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. For crops other than NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program) crops, acres reports are to be certified by the **May 15th deadline on small grains.**

May 29th Prevented Planting Short Staple Cotton (UPCN) Certification Deadline.

Procedure For Prevented Planting

*All prevented planting must be certified on the FSA 578 (acreage report) **NO LATER THAN 15 DAYS AFTER THE FINAL PLANTING DATE.***

Final Planting dates for:

- | | |
|-----------|------------------------|
| ✓ ELSCN | April 30 th |
| ✓ Alfalfa | April 30 th |
| ✓ UPCN | May 15 th |
| ✓ Corn | May 31 st |
| ✓ Sorghum | July 31 st |

Please contact your local FSA Office to verify deadlines for all prevented planted crops.



Choice of Administrative County

Until recently, the County Administrative Office for program participants was basically the county office in which the principal farm operator resided. Now a change in a farm's administrative county may be permitted without completing a farm combination in the receiving county, if the producer documents that the changed Administrative County Office is significantly more convenient. Changing an Administrative County Office because of convenience is a **one time selection (for the current operator)** and **will not** be used to evade program rules.

Those who use the convenience method will still be able to vote for county committee candidates running for county committee in their original county's Local Administrative Area, however they will not be permitted to be a candidate for that county's committee.

A farm transfer can be initiated by the farm's operator or owner or the receiving or transferring county committee. All owners and operator must sign a FSA-179, **TRANSFER OF FARM RECORDS BETWEEN COUNTIES**.

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please call the FSA office and we will be happy to make any arrangements that are needed.



MILC INCOME LOSS CONTRACT PROGRAM SIGNUP BEGAN DEC 22.

If you chose February as your start Month, it is time to turn in your UDA production. Even though there was no payment triggered for the month of February, you may fax your production to the FSA Office and look for a possible trigger in March.

If you have not enrolled in the MILC program for 2009-2012, please contact the office for enrollment procedures.



Items to review:

- Changes in Banking/Direct Deposit
- Address & Phone number
- Zip Code Changes
- Change in ownership/leases
- Signature Authority/ a change in how you operate under the new Farm Bill

Any of the above could delay your payments. Please notify the office of any changes so we might update our records.



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.

PAYMENT LIMITATION COMMENT PERIOD EXTENDED

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has announced that the comment period for the regulation defining actively engaged participation in a farming operation has been extended for an additional 60 days, FSA is seeking a diverse range of comments from different areas of the United States and farming communities.

With this extension, the public may continue to submit comments until April 6, 2009. The extension document is available at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/federalNotices?are=h&subject=lare&topic=frd-ii>.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Pinal County Farm Service Agency
520 N Camino Mercado, Suite 10
Casa Grande, AZ 85222-5754



IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

March 18th Pinal County Committee Meeting

April 30th Prevented Planting deadlines(ESCLN & Alfalfa)

May 29th Deadline for Crop Disaster Program
(quality and quantity applications 2005-2007)

June 1st deadline to enroll in DCP/CC Program ***no late file available**

FSA Homepage: www.fsa.usda.gov

Arizona State FSA Homepage: www.fsa.usda.gov/edso/az/az.htm

USDA eCommerce Home (forms web site): <http://www.sc.egov.usda.gov/Main.asp>

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT: The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the county office at the phone number listed above.

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