



Pinal County

Newsletter

November-December, 2009



USDA Service Center

Pinal FSA Office
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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 Program 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

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

Farm Service Agency Administrator Coppess Urges Farmers and Ranchers to Vote in County Committee Elections That Begin on Friday, Nov. 6

WASHINGTON, Nov. 5, 2009 - Farm Service Agency (FSA) Administrator Jonathan Coppess said today that the 2009 FSA county committee elections will begin tomorrow, **Nov. 6**, with USDA mailing ballots to eligible voters. The deadline to return the ballots to local FSA offices is **Dec. 7, 2009**.

"It is imperative that all eligible farmers and ranchers get involved and vote in this year's county committee elections," said Coppess. "County committee members will provide input and make important decisions on among other things, the local administration of new disaster and conservation programs under the 2008 Farm Bill. I particularly encourage minority and women producers to get involved so that county committees fairly represent the producers of a county or multi-county jurisdiction."

County committee members are an important component of the operations of FSA and provide a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level, applying their knowledge and judgment to make decisions on: commodity price support loans and payments; conservation programs; incentive indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities; emergency programs and payment eligibility. FSA committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws.

Eligible voters who do not receive ballots in the coming week can obtain ballots at their local USDA Service Center. Dec. 7, 2009, is the last day for voters to submit ballots in person to local USDA Service Centers. Ballots returned by mail must also be postmarked no later than Dec. 7. Newly elected committee members and their alternates will take office Jan. 1, 2010.

COC Election Ballots FOR LAA 1 – Northeast Pinal County (North of Coolidge, Queen Creek to Globe) Ballot Return Deadline December 7, 2009



Please turn in MILC Production Statements for October.

NAP (Non-Insured Assistance Program) Reminder
NAP Coverage Sales Closing Date

2010 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.

- Nov 20th: Grapefruit, Lemons, Oranges, Tangelos, Apples, Honey, Peaches, Pistachios, Watermelon
- Nov 30th Potatoes
- January 31st Cucumbers, Grapes, Bermuda & Sudan Grasses, Herbs, Basil, Jojoba, Pecans, Chile Peppers and Raisins.

**** *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>

2010 Direct /Counter-Cyclical and Sure Signup begins.

Producers may now enroll in crop-year 2010 DCP or ACRE program and will continue until June 1, 2010. The optional ACRE Program provides a safety net based on state revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP.

Producers may contact their local Service Center to sign contracts or may file their contract via electronic service which saves producers' time, reduces paperwork and speeds up contract processing. It is available to all producers who are eligible to participate in the DCP and ACRE Programs and can be accessed at www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp. To access the service, producers must have an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires filling out an online registration form at www.eauth.egov.usda.gov followed by a visit to the local USDA Service Center for identity verification.

Farms with **10 or less base acres may be enrolled in DCP** program for 2010, this is a change from the 2009 program.

When enrolling at your USDA Service Center, you may certify planted crop and complete the annual required Payment limitation requirements for 2010.

The payment limitation requirements for 2010 are the annual Adjusted Gross Revenue forms for each person, member, and/or entity in your

organization. All changes to your operation must be reported at the time of sign-up.
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: The US Drought Monitor is changing weekly and our status is changing. Please contact your Service Center for updates.

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.



*Office Closed in Observance of Thanksgiving Day
November 26th, 2009; Business resumes November 27th.*

FSA Signature Policy

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- A married woman shall sign her given name: Mrs. Mary Doe, not Mrs. John Doe.
- For a minor, FSA requires the minor's signature an done from an eligible parent
Note: by signing the applicable document, the parent is liable for actions of the minor and may be liable for refunds, liquidated damages, etc.
- When signing on one's behalf the signature must agree with the name typed or printed on the form, or be a variation that does not cause the name and signature to be in disagreement. Example-John W Smith is on the form. The signature may be John W. Smith or J.W. Smith or J. Smith. Or Mary J. Smith may be signed as Mrs. Mary Joe Smith, M.J. Smith, Mary Smith, etc.
- FAXED signatures will be accepted for certain forms and other documents provided the acceptable program forms are approved for FAXED signatures. Producers are responsible for the successful transmission and receipt of FAXED information.
Examples of documents **not** approved for FAXED signatures include:
 - Promissory note
 - Assignment of payment
 - Joint payment authorization
 - NAP actual production history and approved yield records.
 - Acknowledgement of commodity certificate purchase
 - Financing statement
 - UCC financing statement
- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships,

joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities

- All members of a general partnership must sign for the general partnership unless an individual is authorized to act on the behalf of the general partnership and bind all members.
- Spouses may sign on behalf of each other's individual interest in a partnership, unless notification denying a spouse that authority is provided to the county office.
- Acceptable signatures for general partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, estates, and trusts shall consist of an indicator "by" or "for" the individual's name, individual's name and capacity, or individual's name, capacity, and name of entity.

For additional clarification on proper signature contact your local FSA Service Center.

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.

Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)

Program payments are now issued by EFT, so changes in your bank or account information must be reported to the County Office immediately. Failure to report a change may result in transfers to a wrong or closed account, causing delays in receiving your payments.

Foreign Investors

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 requires all foreign owners of United States agricultural land to report their acquisitions, dispositions, leases and land-use changes to FSA. All transactions must be reported within 90-days of the effective date of the change.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Pinal County Farm Service Agency
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IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

Nov 6th Ballots Mailed to Producers

Nov 26th Office Closed for Thanksgiving

Dec 7th Ballots due in FSA by close of business

Appointments to Enroll in DCP/CC Program Appreciated, Please Call

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>

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