



Pinal County

Newsletter

February, 2010



USDA Service Center

Pinal FSA Office
520 N Camino Mercado Ste 10
Casa Grande, AZ 85122
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

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IRS Disclosure Forms

Deadline is June 15, 2010



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

Very Important Information

Program Reminder

NAP Coverage Sales Closing Date

With the adverse weather during the crop year 2010, NAP Insurance is mandatory for Disaster Assistance Programs with the US Department of Agriculture. NAP Coverage Sales Closing Dates are listed in our newsletters outlining the month and which crops deadlines are approaching. Not all crops are grown in Pinal County therefore **it is you** the producer; who must know what crops pertain to your operation. Please keep in mind that you are buying insurance for crops that you **plan or intend** to plant in the crop year **2011**. All NAP insurance deadlines are at least **one year in advance of the crop year**. Example, 2010 for 2011. The exception is Citrus crops which is two years in advance. The fees are \$250 per crop or \$750 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of \$1,875 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties. This fee is authorized by the 2008 Act. Limited resource producers may request a waiver of service fees. To qualify for waiver, the producer must meet a certain income criteria. Please contact your local service center for details.

Native Grass is for all rangeland, State Leases, BLM Ground, Forest Service and private land which is intended for livestock forage. The NAP deadline is always October 31st the previous year for which you purchase NAP insurance. NAP insurance is **required** for most Livestock Disaster Programs. Rangeland must be certified "*intended use for grazing purposes*". The deadline to certify all ground intended use is July 15th of each program year. A late filed certification will result in late file fees even for rangeland.

Producers are reminded **of these dates to ensure continued eligibility for the 2011 crop year**. The upcoming Deadlines for NAP Insurance are:

- February 28, 2010 NAP Deadline **for 2010 crops of:**
Pinto Beans, Corn, Cotton, Okra, Olives, Peanut, Swt Potato, Pumpkins, **Sorghum**, and Squash.
- May 31, 2010 NAP Deadline for all 2011 crops of:
Artichokes, **Garbanzo Beans**, Beets, **Broccoli**, Cabbage, Canola, Carrots, Cauliflower, Celery, **All Greens**, Herbs, **Oats**, Onions, Peas, Radishes, tomatoes.

Please contact your local Service Center for enrollment details.

Very Important:

Report Claim of Loss within 15 days when disaster becomes apparent to your local FSA Service Center to include rangeland.

NAP is for ALL crops not insurable through a crop insurance agent. If the crop is insurable it must be insured to be eligible to participate in any disaster programs. Bottom line – all crops must be insured **or have NAP coverage on all farms and in all counties.**

2009 EARNING STATEMENT

Form CCC-1099G, Report of Producer Payments, will be mailed in January to all FSA program participants who received payment in 2009. These reports are mailed from FSA's Kansas City Office; please watch your mail for your report. If you do not receive form CCC-1099G, or if it does not match your records, contact our office immediately so that corrective action can be taken. It is important that the 1099G be accurate, because the data is reported to the Internal Revenue Service. **Please remember, refunds made to FSA will not show on your CCC-1099G.** FSA has also made modifications to 2009 1099G to prevent overstating DCP direct payments. Producer's with eAuthentication Level 2 accounts can login online and obtain a 1099G report and obtain a report showing any refunds made to FSA.

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.

Pinal County FSA Office Closure:

February 16th President Washington's Birthday, office re-opens February 17th



Consent to Disclose Tax Information 2009/2010 CCC-927 and CCC- 928

Consent forms are now available at your local Service Center for your completion and return to the Internal Revenue Service. Failure to return to IRS could result in payments refunded to FSA.

It is the producer's responsibility to pick these forms up at the FSA Service Center or go online to: www.fsa.usda.gov. A consent form must be completed for EACH legal entity and EACH individual. **DEADLINE TO RETURN TO IRS, JUNE 15, 2009.**

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
- finally an appeal to the next level of authority within the agency.

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 available now.

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

Loan funds are available. However, producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner.

Most of our loan programs have special funding available for minority, female and beginning farmers.

FSA employees will help you complete the necessary application and other forms, and help you understand what information is required, where to find it or who to contact to get it. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.



It is imperative **you call the office**
to schedule your **appointment for**
enrollment.

DCP Signup Continues

Signup for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program continues until the **June 1, 2010 deadline.**

FSA SIGNATURE POLICY

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.

For more clarification on spousal signature authority, feel free to contact your local FSA office.

CUSTOMER STATEMENT

January signals the beginning of a new year, and a time to starting thinking about filing taxes. Producers who have signed up for a USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account will be able to access their farm data via their Customer Statement.

The Customer Statement puts a range of USDA services and programs into a single report that's at your fingertips and available online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

It allows USDA customers to view their participation, application and payment status in various commodity and conservation.

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 |
| ✓ WHEAT | FEBRUARY 10TH** |
| ✓ BARLEY | January 31 st |

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

**Change for 2010 and subsequent years.

TIMELY FILING OF LOSS

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report yield losses, failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required on **ALL CROPS INCLUDING GRASSES**. For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576 (notice of loss) in the FSA County Office within 15 calendar days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent. Since most of the state is suffering from drought, it might be time to get this done.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

CROP CERTIFICATION DEADLINES **(CCC 578-Acreage Reports)**

May 15th Small Grains Certification Deadline
(Wheat, Barley and Oats)

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.



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



IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

February 15th Office Closed Holiday Observed
28th NAP Closing Date
May 15th Small Grain Certification
***June 15th IRS CCC-927/928 Disclosure DEADLINE! ***

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