



Pinal County

Newsletter

November, 2010



USDA Service Center

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

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

County Committee Elections

FOR LAA 2 -West Pinal County (Casa Grande, Stanfield to Maricopa)

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters beginning Nov. 5, and must be returned to the county office by the close of business on Dec. 6, or postmarked by midnight Dec. 6, 2010.

Agricultural producers of legal voting age can vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm can also vote.

No one can be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

For additional clarification about county committee elections, contact your local county office staff.



Obama Administration Appoints Patricia Jo Robertson to USDA's Farm Service Agency State Committee in Arizona

WASHINGTON, October 26, 2010 The Obama Administration today announced an additional appointee who will serve on the Arizona Farm Service Agency State Committee. The State Committee members oversee the activities of the agency, including carrying out the state agricultural conservation programs, resolving appeals from the agriculture community and helping to keep producers informed about FSA programs.

"These individuals will work with USDA to help farmers and ranchers build and maintain successful operations that produce the safe, nutritious food supply that America needs while spurring economic development in our nation's rural communities," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "They bring the experience and passion necessary to help continue the Obama Administration's efforts to rebuild and revitalize rural America."

The latest appointee to serve on this committee is:

Patricia Jo Robertson. Patricia is a native of Coolidge Arizona and is a second generation farmer. She has been farming since the early 1980's and grows cotton, alfalfa, and durum wheat on her operation.

Conservation Compliance

There are Highly Erodible and Wetlands provision questions that need to be considered each year by producers to assure that they may remain eligible for USDA benefits. If you have any questions or concerns that something you plan to do on your farm could jeopardize your benefits, please contact your NRCS representative before you begin work.

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

2011 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, Apricots, Cherries, **Honey**, Peaches, Pears, Pistachios, Plums, and Watermelons.
- **Nov 30th**: Potatoes

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to FCIC catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT insurance is not available.

Producers who already have coverage on 2010 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2011; may pay fee and a new CCC-471, application for coverage is generated and are not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops.

Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee. The service fee is \$250 per crop per county or \$750 per producer per county. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$1875 per producer with farming interest in multiple counties.

NAP coverage is only available for crops not covered under the Federal Crop Insurance program.

Producers are reminded about the need for insurance coverage on crops in order to remain eligible for the agency's Disaster Assistance Programs such as SURE, LFP, TAP, and ELAP.

Producers must purchase at least catastrophic (CAT) level of insurance for all insurable crops and producers must apply for coverage before a disaster strikes.

Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to remain eligible for NAP benefits:

1. **Timely file acreage reports** and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required. ****Includes Rangeland**

2. File a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, so the loss can be appraised and production counted before the crop is put to another use, abandoned or destroyed.
3. Supply FSA with production records prior to deadline; please contact the office of dates.

FINAL DELAP PAYMENTS

The final Phase III payments under the Dairy Economic Loss Assistance Payment (DELAP) program began the week of Oct. 12, 2010. The program is funded by \$290 million, of which \$273 million was distributed during Phase I and Phase II of the program.

Phase I payments were issued in mid-December 2009 to eligible dairy producers with production records from previous participation in dairy programs. Dairy producers who did not have production records at the FSA county office were issued payments in Phase II beginning June 18, 2010.

DELAP Phase III will be disbursed to eligible dairy producers that received DELAP benefits under Phase I or Phase II. For more information regarding payments under the DELAP program, visit the local FSA county office.

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.

Loan Deficiency Payments

Final commodity loan availability (LDP) payments for Mohair, Peanuts, **Unshorn Pelts**, and **Wool** must be submitted for payment by January 31, 2011.

2010 **Wheat**, Barley and Oats LDP payments must be submitted for payment by May 15, 2011.



*Office Closed in Observance of
Thanksgiving Day November 25th, 2010; Business
resumes November 26th*

Applications for FSA Farm Loan Assistance

Farmers and ranchers who 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. Failure to apply early may result in a delay in processing loans due to the volume of applications. Contact your local FSA Farm Loan representative for more details and assistance in applying.

SIGNING AUTHORITY FOR SPOUSES

Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided, in writing, to the county office.

However, spouses are **NOT** allowed to sign on behalf of the other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities. The exception to this is that spouses may sign on behalf of each other for a husband/wife joint venture with a permanent tax ID number and sole proprietorship, unless written notification denying a spouse authority has been provided to the county office.

In addition to policy regarding signature authority for spouses, county offices cannot provide Agency records of a producer to that producer's spouse unless written authority to provide such records has been provided to the county office.

DCP Signup Crop Year 2011 Signup for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP/SURE) Program

October 1st, 2010 begins the program year for Pinal County. As Crop Year 2011 begins, please be aware your new leases must depict full coverage for the entire crop year through September 30th of any given year. These leases must read how you are operating in Pinal County and have all signatures on the documents before submitting to FSA for the DCP/Sure program.

Also required for the new year, Adjusted Gross Income Statement for crop year 2011 for each active member of your organization as completed in previous years. Income for the applicable 3 previous years (2007, 2008 & 2009) when answering questions # 5,6,7 & 8 on the CCC-926 form.

****IMPORTANT****

LETTERS MAILED TO THOSE WHO HAVE NOT SUBMITTED CCC-927 OR CCC-928

Producers who participated in 2009 or 2010 programs subject to adjusted gross income limitations (AGI) had to certify compliance with AGI rules. The average AGI verification process for 2009 and 2010 payment eligibility requires all program participants to provide written consent to IRS for the disclosure of certain information to FSA.

On October 6, 2010, a letter was mailed to producers **who have not submitted:**

CCC-927: "Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information-**Individual Form**"

CCC-928: "Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information-**Legal Entity**"

Individuals and legal entities, **including** members of legal entities, that certified to average AGI compliance for 2009 and/or 2010 payment eligibility **must submit** a completed CCC-927 or CCC-928 **to IRS regardless** of whether they received program benefits directly or as a member of a joint operation or entity. These forms must be submitted to IRS in order **to avoid a demand for refund of program payments and benefits received.**

If unsure of your status, contact your FSA Service Center we will check our list of non participants.

Conservation Loans Available to Arizona Farmers and Ranchers

USDA – FSA Farm Loan Department wish to remind farmers and ranchers that the Loan Department will make and guarantee Conservation Loans (CL) to producers who want to promote conservation on their land as well as conserve the country's natural resources by implementing conservation measures they normally would not be able to budget.

Producers who do not currently have an existing conservation plan on file with Natural Resources Conservation Service should contact NRCS to develop such plan prior to requesting Conservation Loan Program assistance.

Examples of conservation practices include the installation of water conservation measures, establishment or improvement of permanent pastures, implementation of manure management and the adaptation of other emerging or existing practices.

Please contact the FSA Office for additional information.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Pinal County Farm Service Agency
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Casa Grande, AZ 85122-5754



IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

November 17th Pinal County Committee Meeting Cancelled
December 13th Pinal County Committee Meeting Scheduled
November 25th FSA Service Center Closed for
Thanksgiving Day office reopens 26th
20th & 30th NAP Closing Deadlines

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

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."