



Pinal County

Newsletter

February, 2011



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

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 (COC) Advisors

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is asking for your assistance to help ensure that all producers, including under-represented groups, have the opportunity to be nominated as a Minority Advisor to the **Pinal County Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Committee**.

Advisors are needed to be a voice for the socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. Each County Committee is looking for someone who is willing to serve and is interested and active in farming in the applicable county.

The person who is selected to serve as an Advisor will be instrumental in increasing the awareness and participation in FSA activities, including elections. Advisors play an important role by providing diverse viewpoints, help insure that problems and viewpoints of the under-represented groups – females and minorities – are understood and considered in actions taken by the Farm Service Agency on the local level.

County Committee Advisors are responsible for:

- Attending each COC meeting
- Participating in all deliberations
- Increasing awareness of and participation in FSA activities to ensure that socially disadvantaged group problems and viewpoints are understood and considered in FSA actions.
- Helping to develop interest and incentives in socially disadvantaged group members for considering FSA work as a career.
- Actively solicit candidates from socially disadvantaged groups for nominations during the election process.
- Performing special duties at the COC's request.

We appreciate your help in our efforts to obtain Minority Advisor that are representative of all agricultural producers in Pinal County. If you know someone who would be interested in this position, please contact our office at (520) 836-1960 by **February 10, 2011** so that we may approach them about serving.

DCP SIGNUP & ADVANCE PAYMENTS

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through June 1, 2011. Advance payments of 22% on the 2011 DCP program will be available starting December 1, 2010. The remaining 78% of your DCP payment will be issued after October 1, 2011.

Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. DCP contract signatures for enrollment are due by the signup deadline of June 1, 2011. For more information producers can contact their local FSA office.

Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) Program

Note: February Start Month Dairies must present your February UDA Production Statement to FSA for payment.

Loan Deficiency Payments

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

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 disaster benefits..

- **February 28, 2011**
Pinto Beans, Corn, Cotton, Okra, Olives, Peanut, Swt Potato, Pumpkins, Sorghum, and Squash

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. ****Includes Rangeland**
3. **Supply FSA with production records prior to deadline; please contact the office of dates.**

Civil Rights/Discrimination Complaint Process

As a participant or applicant for programs or activities operated or sponsored by USDA you have a right to be treated fairly. If you believe you have been discriminated against because of your race, color, national origin, gender, age, religion, disability, or marital or familial

status, you may file a discrimination complaint. The complaint should be filed with the USDA Office of Civil Rights within 180 days of the date you became aware of the alleged discrimination. To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD), USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

A complaint must be filed within 180 calendar days from the date the complainant knew, or should have known, of the alleged discrimination.

Pinal County FSA Office Closure:

February 21st President's Day, office re-opens February 22nd



FOREIGN BUYERS NOTIFICATION

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their 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 with 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, Realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

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:

✓ BARLEY	January 31 st
✓ WHEAT	February 10 th
✓ 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.

2011 Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) and)

Livestock producers may file a notice of loss for livestock (FSA-914) within 30 calendar days when the loss of livestock becomes apparent. LIP provides monetary assistance to eligible livestock owners/growers, for eligible livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality that occurred in the calendar year for which benefits are being requested as a direct result of an eligible adverse weather event, including losses because of hurricanes, floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires, extreme heat, and extreme cold. **drought is not considered and eligible weather event.* All requests for payment and supporting documents must be received by January 30, 2012 for 2011 claims.

Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP)

Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP) provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honey bees, and farm-raised fish that have losses because of disease, adverse weather, or other conditions including losses because of blizzards and wildfires. **drought is not considered an eligible event under ELAP.*

All application requests for payment (FSA-930) and supporting documents must be received within 30 calendar days when the loss of livestock, honeybees or farm-raised fish becomes apparent. All requests for payment and supporting documents must be received by January 30, 2012 for 2011 claims.

Additional information and criteria for either program is available for review at your Farm Service Agency office.

SURE- SIGNUP FOR CROP PRODUCTION LOSS

Signup for the 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments program (SURE) began on January 10, 2011 ending July 29, 2011.

SURE provides crop disaster assistance payments to eligible producers on farms that have incurred crop production or crop quality losses in 2009. The program takes into consideration crop losses on all crops grown by a producer nationwide.

Producers must meet the risk management purchase requirement by either obtaining a policy or plan of insurance, under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or NAP coverage, for all economically significant crops. Producers considered socially disadvantaged, a beginning farmer or rancher, or a limited resource farmer may be eligible for SURE without a policy or plan of insurance or NAP coverage.

For more information on the new SURE program, please visit the county office or <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

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 directly or by phone.



Sorghum Referendum Checkoff Program

Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) in conjunction with USDA will conduct a referendum to continue the Sorghum Promotion, Research, and Information Order of July 1, 2008 to continue February 1-28, 2011 at local FSA office for producers and the Agricultural Marketing Service office. Ballots may be obtained in person, by mail or facsimile at county FSA office or via the Internet at www.ams.usda.gov/sorghumpage.

Sorghum checkoff is a national, coordinated, self-help marketing program designed to strengthen the position of sorghum in the marketplace, maintain and expand existing domestic and foreign markets and the uses for sorghum, and develop new markets and uses for sorghum.

USDA Announces Funding to Improve Public Access for Hunting, Fishing, and other Recreation Opportunities to Restore Wildlife Habit

Funding is authorized under the 2008 Farm Bill. Approximately \$11.75 million was earmarked for Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Programs in seventeen states to include Arizona.

This program provides \$50 million to states and tribal governments through fiscal year 2012. The object of the program is to encourage owners and operators of privately-held farm, ranch and forest land to voluntarily make that land available for access by the public for wildlife-dependent recreation, including hunting or fishing, under programs implemented by State or tribal governments. For additional information, please contact your local FSA office for details



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 21st Service Center Closed- Federal Holiday
16th Pinal County Committee Meeting
March 16th Pinal County Committee Meeting

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

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 U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotapes, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

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