



Pinal County

Newsletter

March, 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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2009 SURE IS HERE NOW!

NAP Deadline

DCP Payments

MILC Start Month
Change/ Production
Stmts

Marketing MAL/LDP
Payments



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

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) is open for 2009 Crop Losses!

Did your farm suffer a crop loss related to weather in 2009?

If you did, you can apply for the 2009 SURE (Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program).

SURE provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that were incurred January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009. *You may recall this program took the place of the old Crop Disaster Program (CDP).* To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to have crop insurance on **ALL** crops of economic significance in all counties; or, if crop insurance is not available, to have purchased Non-Insured Crop Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for the crops grown. Producers considered socially disadvantaged, a beginning farmer or rancher, or a limited resource farmer may be eligible for SURE without insurance or NAP coverage's.

Producers who think they may qualify for disaster benefits should contact the FSA office, (520) 836-1960, as soon as possible to file an application before the July 29, 2011 deadline.

DCP SIGNUP & ADVANCE PAYMENTS

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 for an enrollment appointment.

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:

- | | |
|-----------|-----------------------|
| ✓ UPCN | May 15 th |
| ✓ Corn | May 31 st |
| ✓ Sorghum | July 31 st |

*******Prevented Planting UPCN June 1st, 2011 Deadline*****

Please contact your local FSA Office to verify deadlines for all "prevented planting" crops

DEADLINE TO CERTIFY SMALL GRAINS (WHEAT, BARLEY & OATS)

****MAY 16, 2011****



NAP Coverage Reminder

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 catastrophic (CAT) insurance.

Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

Producers who already have coverage on 2011 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2012, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is 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.

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

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

1. **Timely file acreage reports** (May 15th for Wheat, Barley & Oats and July 15th for all other crops) .****Includes Rangeland**
2. Keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required and **timely file production records** (July 15th of the subsequent crop year)
3. **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.**
4. Timely file all eligibility forms (July 15th of the subsequent year)

Did You Receive LFP Benefits?

If so... you may be receiving a letter in the mail soon! Previously our Agency issued Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) payments for the 2008 and 2009 years during 2010. However, program software was not available at that time, and therefore payments were issued manually. Now software is available and County Offices have been asked to reprocess these payments. As a result, you will likely receive a statement showing a receivable has been created and paid off (hopefully totaling a disbursement of \$0). We just wanted to give you a heads-up! Should you have any questions after reviewing this statement, please feel free to give our office a call!

Livestock Disaster Assistance Programs

LFP provides payments to eligible livestock producers who have suffered livestock grazing losses due to qualifying drought or fire.

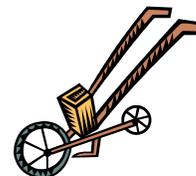
Producers are eligible for drought if located in a County designated on the US Drought monitor as one of the following:

- 1) D2 Drought – severe (for 8 consecutive weeks)
- 2) D3 Drought – Extreme
- 3) D4 Drought – Exceptional

NOTE: Pima, Santa Cruz and Pinal Counties are in various stages of drought conditions on the US Drought Monitor. Please check with FSA for status of your county.

Your local Farm Service Agency urges ranchers to take pictures and or get other documentations from outside sources for the purpose of application for various drought related livestock programs.

For more information or to apply LFP and other USDA Farm Service Agency disaster assistance programs, please visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.



Notice to Hispanic or Women Farmers and Ranchers: Compensation for Claims of Discrimination

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation. You may be eligible if:

1. You sought a farm loan or farm-loan servicing from USDA during that period; and
2. The loan was denied, provided late, approved for a lesser amount than requested, approved with restrictive conditions, or USDA failed to provide an appropriate loan service; and
3. You believe these actions occurred because you are Hispanic or female. If you want to register your name to receive a claims package, you can call the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429 or access the following website: www.farmerclaims.gov

In 2011, a Claims Administrator will begin mailing claims packages to those who have requested one through the Call Center or web-site. The claims package will have detailed information about the eligibility and claims process. In order to participate, you must submit a claim to the Claims Administrator by the end of the claims period. If you are currently represented by counsel regarding allegations of discrimination against USDA or in a lawsuit claiming discrimination by USDA, you should contact your counsel regarding this claims process. USDA Cannot Provide Legal Advice to You. You are not required to hire an attorney to file a claim, but you may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider in your community for additional guidance.

Biomass Crop Assistance Program:

The Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP), created in the 2008 Farm Bill, is a primary component of the domestic agriculture, energy, and environmental strategy to reduce carbon pollution, and spur rural economic development and job creation. BCAP provides incentives to interested farmers, ranchers and forest landowners for the establishment and cultivation of biomass crops for heat, power, bio-based products and biofuels. Crop producers and bioenergy producers will be able to team together to submit applications to USDA to be selected as a BCAP project area. If selected, crop producers will be eligible for reimbursements of up to 75 percent of the cost of establishing a bioenergy perennial crop. Producers also can receive up to 5 years of annual payments for grassy crops (annual or perennial), and up to 15 years of annual payments for woody crops (annual or perennial). Assistance for the collection, harvest, storage and transportation of biomass to biomass conversion facilities

will be available for 2 years, per producer, in the form of a matching payment for up to \$45 per ton of the delivery cost to the facility. For more information on BCAP, please visit FSA's BCAP website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/bcap>.

Loan Deficiency Payments

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

Consent to Disclose Tax Information 2009/2011 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 forms to IRS could result in payment 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.

(Failure to return form(s) CCC-927/928 could result in returning all payments earned in 2009, 2010 and 2011).



1099's

It is very important this year that producers closely review their 1099's to ensure it accurately reflects 2010 payments. If there are inaccuracies or producers have any questions about the data, please contact this office.



Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) Program

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

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



IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

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>

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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