



Pinal County

Newsletter

April, 2011



USDA Service Center

Pinal FSA Office
520 N Camino Mercado Ste 10
Casa Grande, AZ 85122
Phone: (520) 836-1960
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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

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.

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

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



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

*******Prevented Planting UPCN May 31st, 2011 Deadline*****

Please contact your local FSA Office to verify deadlines for all "prevented planting" crops. (The most recent SCIDD water allotment letter required)

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.

Thank you for your support

The staff of FSA would like to thank all of our producers and their families for the prayers and support for our co-worker Shirley Ciskowski during this difficult time as she deals with the death of her husband and mother and the illness of her father.

With this, we ask that producers who are ready to enroll into the DCP program or certify crops PLEASE CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT so we can be sure proper time and information is gathered for your visit as we cover Shirley's position.

2010 NAP Range Assessments

The Arizona State committee reviewed the assessments by NRCS Field Office range assessments, National Resource Inventory Loss assessments and determined producers within the Colorado Plateau (51%) Mohave Basin and Range Major Land Resource Area (51%) sustained losses greater than 50% for 2010 and are therefore eligible for NAP assistance. NAP applicants for crop year 2010 must have filed a notice of Loss within the Crop Year.

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)

Loan Deficiency Payments

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

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 are currently in a D-3 and eligible for three month payments, please contact the office for application procedures.

Pinal County D-2 and are eligible for one month payment. Please check with FSA for application process.

2011 NAP Rangeland Insurance is required for LFP.

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.

Farm Record Changes

June 1, 2011 is the deadline to provide changes to your farm records at the local FSA office for the 2011 crop year. If you are changing your operation entity type, adding or dropping cropland or farms, or adding entities to your operation, contact the FSA county office by June 1.

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 currently available.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,119,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so a loan can be processed in a timely manner.

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.

**COUNTY COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS OPEN
FOR LAA 13 -
East Pinal County
(East of Casa Grande to include Chuichu Road
east; Florence-Eloy, Mammoth to Superior)**

June 15 through **Aug. 1st**, farmers and ranchers can nominate eligible peers or one's self as candidates for election to the Pinal County Farm Service Agency county committee.

Nominations may be you, another producer in same area, women in agriculture, minorities, socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. All are encouraged to apply. The Farm and Rural Investment Act of 2002 significantly expanded the requirements of the agency to expand its county committee members to include all interested participants. All applications must be submitted on form FSA-669A available on website: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>, by mail or in person at Pinal County FSA Office.

"Our goal is to have as many eligible candidates nominated to serve on FSA county committees as possible. We want to encourage everyone to get involved," said Debbie Hopkins, Pinal County Executive Director. This year we hope you'll consider nominating a farmer or rancher you know will make a real difference in his or her community.

Committees apply their judgment and knowledge to make decisions on county commodity price-support loan eligibility, establishment of bases and yields, conservation programs, disaster programs, employment and other farm program-related issues.

Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Nominations and elections are open to all eligible candidates and voters without regard to race, color, religion, nation origin, age, sex, marital status or disability.

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=cce>.

To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated, indicating agreement to serve if elected. The completed nomination form must be returned to the county office by the close of business on Aug. 2; or postmarked by midnight Aug. 2, 2011.

Conservation Loan Program

The Conservation Loan (CL) program provides farmers with the funding necessary to implement approved conservation measures on their land. The available limit for a direct CL is \$300,000, and the limit for a guaranteed CL is \$1,119,000.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will work with applicants to develop a conservation plan

containing approved conservation practices, such as water conservation structures, forest cover, permanent pastures, manure digesters and other installations.

For more information on a potential Conservation Loan, call the local FSA office and make an appointment with a farm loan officer.

The Need for Conservation Planning by Jason Kepler, NRCS District Conservationist

Conservation planning is the starting point for maintaining and improving the natural resources that support a productive and profitable agricultural operation. The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Arizona is making an extra effort to show agricultural producers how conservation planning can help your land's natural resources. We are encouraging farmers and ranchers to request help developing a conservation plan. This free service from our experts will result in a farm or ranch plan which will assist in conserving water, improving air quality, and reducing soil erosion. It is also a requirement for participation in Farm Bill Programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

What is a Conservation Plan?

- A document that combines your farming or ranching skills and knowledge with NRCS science-based knowledge.
- A written record of the unique management decisions and conservation practices that are currently in use or planned for your operation.
- A document that may also help you prepare for agricultural certifications and regulatory requirements.
- A required document to be eligible for funding from Farm Bill programs managed by NRCS, Farm Services Agency, Rural Development, and other federal and state agencies.
- A confidential document that no person or agency other than NRCS has access to it without your written authorization.

After a conservation plan has been developed, you as an agricultural producer may choose to seek conservation cost share assistance or further technical assistance. NRCS can assist you with practice designs and installation costs through Farm Bill programs such as EQIP.

As an agricultural producer, you can request technical assistance and develop a conservation plan at any time. Please visit the NRCS Office in Casa Grande or call us at (520) 836-1960 ext. 101 for more information on signing up for a conservation plan as well as conservation programs. You may also email me directly at Jason.Kepler@AZ.USDA.gov

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



IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

April 20th Pinal County Committee Meeting
May 15th Small Grain Certification Deadline
30th Office Closed for Memorial Day
31st Prevented Planting Deadline UP
June 1st Deadline to Enroll in DCP Program

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