



Pinal County

Newsletter

December, 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
Gerald Sunna, Advisor

Farm Programs Staff

Debbie Hopkins, CED
Lori Emmert, 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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Via USDA Web

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We Proudly
Support our Men
and Women in the
Armed Forces

**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
From your USDA Service Center**



2012 DCP/ACRE Signup

2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment is

Jan. 23, 2012 through June 1, 2012.

Changes cannot be made after Sept. 30, 2012.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

The sign-up for 2010 losses begins
Nov. 14, 2011 and will end **June 1, 2012.**

Disaster Assistance Programs

Sign-up ends **Jan. 30, 2012**, for LFP, LIP, and ELAP

Adjusted Gross Income Report to IRS

Producers and legal entities who failed to file an IRS Consent form, CCC-928 or CCC-929 for 2009 and/or 2010 before Sept. 2011; have been notified from **National Office**. These letters were mailed November 23, 2011. Follow directives in the letter. Failure to submit will result in non-compliance with all payments issued to be refunded. You are now required to complete and file the CCC-931 AGI & Consent form. Please contact this office if you need additional assistance.

Pinal County FSA Office Closures:

December 26th - Christmas Holiday Observed
January 2nd - New Year's Observed
16th - Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday

Move with FSA to Instant Electronic Information

The USDA Farm Service Agency offices are moving toward a paperless operation.

Producers can now enroll in the new GovDelivery system for notices, newsletters and electronic reminders and discontinue their slow and costly paper copies received through the mail.

FSA, like many other organizations, is working smarter and more efficiently. Conversion to electronic notifications via email helps conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars.

County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers.

Subscribe now to receive free e-mail updates by going to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe> or use the box "Sign up for updates" on the FSA homepage.

Hispanic and Women Farmers

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans has been established.

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.

For additional information contact:

- **Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims**

Process:

www.farmerclaims.gov or call

1-888-508-4429.

- **Pigford – The Black Farmers**

Discrimination Litigation:

www.blackfarmercase.com

or call 1-866-950-5547.

- **Keepseagle - The Native American**

Farmers Class Action Settlement:

www.IndianFarmClass.com or call 1-888-233-5506.



IRS Form 1099-G

Producers receive CCC-1099-Gs annually detailing payments from the Commodity Credit Corporation. The annual report of program payments on the CCC-1099-G is a service intended to help FSA customers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the producers' responsibility to report income to the IRS.

FSA staff cannot interpret IRS regulations or advise producers about which payments to report on their income tax returns. However, county office staff can review payments for accuracy of data.

LDPs for Unshorn Lamb Pelts

Eligible producers have until **Jan. 31, 2012**, to apply for Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) for unshorn pelts produced during the 2011 crop year.

Eligible producers must have beneficial interest in the pelts, owned the lamb for at least 30 calendar days before the date of slaughter and sell the unshorn lamb for immediate slaughter. Producers must also comply with wetland conservation and highly erodible land conservation provisions on all lands they operate or have interest in.

To qualify for payment, pelts must have been produced by an eligible producer from live unshorn lambs of domestic origin in the United States. Payment depends on current market prices for LDP.

Spousal Signatures

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 and CCC-931 AGI Consent Forms.

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

2012 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.

- **January 31, 2012**

Cucumbers, Grapes, Bermuda & Sudan Grasses, Herbs, Basil, Jojoba, Pecans, Chile Peppers and Raisins.

- **February 28, 2012**

Pinto Beans, Corn, Cotton, Okra, Olives, Peanut, Swt Potato, Pumpkins, Sorghum, and Squash.

Producers are reminded of these dates to ensure continued eligibility for the 2012 crop year.

Producers must: (1) Annually provide records of crop acreage, crop yields, and production evidence for NAP crop to be eligible; (2) Inform FSA **within 15 days of the date any disaster condition occurred or damage to the crop became apparent.** ****Producers must file this form even if they intend to harvest the crop.**



Items to review:

- Changes in Banking/Direct Deposit
- Address & Phone number
- Change in ownership/leases
- Signature Authority/ a change in how you operate under the new Farm Bill

Any of the above could delay your payments.

Please notify the office of any changes so we might update our records.

2012 DCP Deadlines to Note:

January 30th, 2012 Deadline Disaster Assistance Application * see article
31st NAP - * see article
31st LDP-Wool & Pelts 2011 claim

February 28, 2012 NAP- * see article

June 1, 2012 DCP Enrollment Deadline

May 15, 2012 Certification Small Grains

May 31, 2012 Prevented Planting Deadline UPCN

July 15th, 2012 Certification All other Land Use
**To include Rangeland*

August 1st, 2012 Deadline for Farm Reconstitution
1st, All Documents/Forms/Leases required for DCP Payments

NAP Deadlines are month specific. * see article

Disaster Assistance Programs

FSA disaster assistance programs include:

- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)
- Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)
- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
- Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program
- Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

To be eligible for the SURE, TAP and ELAP programs, producers must have purchased catastrophic risk protection insurance for all insurable crops, and NAP coverage for non-insurable crops. **Sign-up ends Jan. 30, 2012, for LFP, LIP, and ELAP 2011.**

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.

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

IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

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- December 5th** Ballots Return Deadline
December 12th Pinal County Committee Meeting-Ballot Count
26th Service Center Closed - Christmas Observed
January 02nd Service Center Closed-New Year's Observed
23rd DCP Signup begins
16th Service Center Closed - MLK Day
31st NAP Deadline * See article for commodity

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