

September 2010

Yuma/La Paz County News

Yuma/La Paz County
USDA Service Center

**Yuma/La Paz County
FSA**
2197 S. 4th AVE #104
Yuma, AZ 85364
928-782-0860 (phone)
928-782-0930 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/**

Hours
Monday - Friday
7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
Mike Blohm
Bill Daily
Joe Martinez
Nathan Rovey
Jesus Tovar

County Committee meets
2nd Tuesday of month

Staff
James Reinertson (CED)
Barb Erlemann
Brenda Raney
Raney Brown



NAP CLOSING DATES

October 1, 2010 is the beginning of the 2011 crop year. October 31, 2010 is the 2011 NAP coverage purchase deadline for the following crops:

- Barley Grass
- Cantaloupe
- Honeydew melons
- Wheat

NOTE: NAP coverage is a requirement for all noninsurable crops in order to qualify for benefits received under the Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) program.

08 SURE SIGN-UP ENDS SEPTEMBER 30, 2010

The deadline to submit 2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) program payment applications is close of business on September 30, 2010. Contact the county office to schedule an appointment.

SURE provides financial assistance to producers who had 2008 crop production and/or quality losses caused by natural disasters.

FILING NOTICES OF CROP LOSS

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses. For losses on crops covered by the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576 (notice of loss) in the FSA County Office **within 15 days** of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

When filing for prevented planting, an acreage

report and CCC-576 must be filed **within 15 calendar days of the final planting date established for the crop.**

ACTIVELY ENGAGED

FSA reminds producers that rules governing the requirements to be 'actively engaged' in farming. These rules apply to eligibility for payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) or Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program administered by FSA.

Normally the stockholder or a member of a legal entity **must** make contributions of active personal labor and/or active personal management for the farming operation. Qualifying contributions must be performed on regular basis, be identifiable and documentable, and must be separate from the contributions of others.

The exception to this rule for a stockholder or member of a legal entity only occurs if both of the following apply:

- At least half of the interest in the legal entity is held by stockholders or members who are providing active personal labor or active personal management; and
- The total direct payments received, both directly and indirectly, by the legal entity and each of the members can't exceed \$40,000.

KEEP YOUR 2009 AND 2010 PAYMENTS – SUBMIT AGI VERIFICATION FORMS TO IRS

EACH INDIVIDUAL AND ENTITY who received 2009 payments or who requests 2010 payments must complete a consent form and provide it to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) so compliance with adjusted gross in-



come (AGI) requirements can be verified.

Please Note: In addition to FSA's ongoing programs, this requirement also applies to participants in TAA (for 2009 or later crop year crops) and CRP Signup 39.

It is important that the consent form is completed correctly and that it is signed and dated. If you submit an incomplete form, it will be returned to you. The form must include the complete social security number for an individual or employer identification number for a legal entity.

For entities, a consent form must be submitted by the entity and by each shareholder in such entity, to the fourth level of ownership. Individuals file on form CCC-927 and entities use form CCC-928. These forms are available online at <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov> or may be obtained from any FSA office.

Submit completed forms directly to IRS at:

Internal Revenue Service – USDA
PO Box 24033
Fresno, CA 93779

Failure to provide this consent form to IRS will result in ineligibility for future FSA payments and refund of payments already received. Contact your local FSA office if you have difficulty understanding how to complete the form. While FSA can assist you with understanding the form, FSA is NOT authorized to accept completed consent forms and FSA is NOT authorized to submit these forms to IRS on your behalf.

SUCCESSION IN INTEREST

If you have made any changes that affect your interest in base acres since you signed your last Direct and Counter-cyclical Program contract, you must report these successions-in-interest to the county committee by Sept. 30, so that a final determination can be made on who is eligible for the program on the farm.

Changes that qualify as a succession-in-interest include:

- A sale of land
- A change of operator or producer, including an increase or decrease in the number of partners
- A foreclosure, bankruptcy or involuntary loss of the farm.
- A change in producer shares to reflect changes in the producer's share of the crop(s) that were originally approved

- on the contract.

If a succession-in-interest has taken place, you, as the "predecessor," are required to refund any advance DCP payments you received for the affected base acres before a payment can be made to the "successor."

Not reporting a succession-in-interest can result in contract termination and a loss of program benefits for all producers involved.

FARM LOAN PROGRAMS

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.

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

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 \$1,112,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded 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.

RURAL YOUTH LOANS

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups.

Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements



- Reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

Visit our Web site:
http://www.fsa.usda/**

BEGINNING AND LIMITED RESOURCE FARMERS

FSA assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- has operated a farm for not more that 10 years
- will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size



Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov **LOANS FOR THE SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED**

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of Socially Disadvantaged Applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders.

If producers or their spouses believe they would qualify as socially disadvantaged, they should contact their local FSA office for details. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

BANK ACCOUNT CHANGES

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA county office if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.

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.

