

**November 2010**

# ***Yuma/La Paz County News***

**Yuma/La Paz County  
USDA Service Center**

**Yuma/La Paz County  
FSA**

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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  
2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of month

**Staff**

James Reinertson (CED)  
Barb Erlemann  
Brenda Raney  
Raney Brown



## **2011 DCP SIGNUP**

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through June 1, 2011. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) urges producers to make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up, or producers can visit the FSA office to complete their 2011 DCP contract.

Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. FSA will issue advance direct payments beginning Dec. 1, 2010.

## **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 these programs, producers must obtain a policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act (FCIA) at a minimum CAT level for all insurable crops, and NAP coverage for non-insurable crops under SURE, TAP, and ELAP.

Farm-Raised Fish means all fish being produced for sale by an eligible producer. In the case of honey, the term "farm" means all bees and beehives in all counties that are intended to be harvested for a honey crop by the eligible producer.

Producers who do not purchase the required coverage will not be eligible for benefits unless an exception applies. The exception allows certain waivers for "Socially Disadvantaged

Farmers and Ranchers", as well as "Limited Resource Farmers and Ranchers" and "Beginning Farmers and Ranchers".

It is highly recommended that even producers, who qualify under one the waiver provisions, purchase the required insurance or NAP coverage. Doing so will increase the farm guarantee utilized in the calculation of the SURE payment.

## **NAP DEADLINE**

The final date to purchase Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for grass for hay, grazing or seed use is January 31, 2011. The application and service fee must be filed by the January 31, 2011, deadline. Limited resource producers may request a waiver for service fees.

In order to be eligible for the permanent disaster programs producers must purchase NAP coverage.

To qualify for the Supplemental Disaster Assistance Program (SURE) producers must have coverage on all acreage that will be harvested as forage, (green chop, silage, etc.)

To qualify for the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) producers must have coverage on all acreage they intend to graze during the 2011 growing season.

A major change in program policy now provides producers with NAP coverage the option to purchase Pasture, Rangeland & Forage, Rainfall Index (RI) coverage through the Risk Management Agency without running the risk of not receiving benefits under both programs. NAP covers all risk associated with producing a crop. Below normal rainfall is the only risk covered under the Rainfall Index policy



## CCC-927 OR CCC-928 MUST BE SENT TO IRS

Producers who participated in 2009 or 2010 programs subject to adjusted gross income limitations (AGI) had to certify compliance with AGI rules. The average AGI verification process for 2009 and 2010 payment eligibility requires all program participants to provide written consent to IRS for the disclosure of certain information to FSA.

On October 6, 2010, a letter was mailed to producers who have not submitted:

CCC-927: "Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information-Individual Form"

CCC-928: "Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information-Legal Entity"

Individuals and legal entities, including members of legal entities, that certified to average AGI compliance for 2009 and/or 2010 payment eligibility must submit a completed CCC-927 or CCC-928 to IRS regardless of whether they received program benefits directly or as a member of a joint operation or entity. These forms must be submitted to IRS in order to avoid a demand for refund of program payments and benefits received.



## VOTING FOR COUNTY COMMITTEE BEGINS

Ballots for this year's county committee election will be mailed to eligible voters on November 5, 2010. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on December 6, 2010. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight December 6, 2010.

The candidates in this year's election are: David Sharp is nominated in LAA 3 Wellton area and Rodney Swan has been nominated to run for LAA 5 in La Paz County,

Eligible voters in a local administrative areas 3 & 5 who have not received a ballot should contact the FSA county office staff.

**Voter Requirements** Persons meeting requirements in 1 or 2, plus 3, below, is eligible to vote:

1. Be of legal voting age and have an interest in

- a farm or ranch as either of the following:  
an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper, or  
a partner in a general partnership or member of a joint venture that has an interest in a farm as an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper; or
2. Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm; and
3. Eligible to participate in any FSA program that is provided by law, regardless of the status of funding.

**Discrimination Prohibited** No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

## FSA SIGNATURE POLICY

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities

For additional clarification on proper signatures contact your local FSA office.

## CHANGING BANKS

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions.

If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

## FARM RECONSTITUTIONS

When changes in farm ownership or operation take place, a farm *reconstitution* is necessary. The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by Aug. 1 for farms enrolled in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program.

- **Estate Method** — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;
- **Designation of Landowner Method** — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;
- **DCP Cropland Method** — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;
- **Default Method** — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

If DCP direct payments have already been issued on a particular farm, the reconstitution will be effective for the next year, unless the payments are refunded.

## 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.

FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

## 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 than 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.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

## HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Visit our Web site:  
[http://www.fsa.usda/\\*\\*](http://www.fsa.usda/**)



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