



# NEWSLETTER



## April 2011

Yuma/La Paz County  
2197 S 4<sup>th</sup> Ave STE. 104  
Yuma, AZ 85365

Executive Director  
James L. Reinertson  
928-782-0860 phone  
928-782-0930 fax  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/AZ](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/AZ)

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

### County Office Staff

James L. Reinertson  
Barb Erlemann  
Brenda Raney  
Raney Brown

Shawneen Stevensen  
Farm Loan manager

### County Committee

Bill Daily  
Joe Martinez  
David Sharp  
Rodney Swan  
Jesus Tovar

## ACRE

The optional ACRE program provides a safety net based on state revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. The sign up deadline is June 1, 2011. USDA will not accept any late-filed applications.

A farm's payment is based on a revenue guarantee calculated using a five year average state yield and the most recent two year national price for each eligible commodity. An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. The total number of planted acres for which a producer may receive ACRE payments may not exceed the total base on the farm. For participating in ACRE, in addition to not receiving counter-cyclical payments, a farm's direct payment is reduced by 20 percent and marketing loan rates are reduced by 30 percent.

The decision to enroll in the ACRE program is irrevocable. The owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll in ACRE. Once enrolled, the farm will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year.

## 2011 DCP Signup

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) will continue through June 1, 2011. USDA urges producers to make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up, or producers can visit any USDA Service Center to complete their 2011 DCP contract.

USDA computes DCP payments using base acres and payment yields established

## Acreage Certification

Time is nearing for producers to certify their 2011 acreage. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. For crops enrolled in programs other than NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program), acreage reports are to be certified by the May 15, 2011 deadline on small grains and by the July 15, 2011 deadline on all other crops.

## Adjusted Gross Income

USDA and the Internal Revenue Service have established an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent is required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to FSA.

This ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million

# NOTICE TO HISPANIC AND/OR WOMEN FARMERS OR 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.

To register your name to receive a claims packet, call the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429 or visit: [www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov)

The claims package will have detailed information about the eligibility and claims process.



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs.

Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-927 (Individual) and/or CCC-928 (Legal Entity) to the Internal Revenue Service by June 15 to avoid interruption of program benefits. These forms may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices or online at:

<http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/main/servlet>

### 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.

### Beginning and Limited Resource Loans

FSA has a program to assist 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 median size.

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

Additional program information is available at the local USDA Service Center or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) and [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov).

### Farm Safety

Flowing grain in a storage bin or gravity-flow wagon is like quicksand, it can kill quickly. It takes less than five seconds for a person caught in flowing grain to be trapped.

The mechanical aspects of grain handling equipment, also presents a real danger. Augers, power take offs, and other moving parts can grab people or clothing.

These hazards, along with pinch points and missing shields, are dangerous enough for adults; not to mention children. It is always advisable to keep children a safe distance from operating farm equipment. Always use extra caution when backing or maneuvering farm machinery. Ensure everyone is visibly clear and accounted for before machinery is engaged. FSA wants all farmers to have a productive crop year that begins with putting safety first.

### 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 for compensation.

To register for a claims package or for additional information on this and other settlement issues contact:

## Farm Record Changes

### **Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims**

#### **Process:**

[www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov) or call 1-888-508-4429

### **Pigford – The Black Farmers**

#### **Discrimination Litigation:**

[www.blackfarmercase.com](http://www.blackfarmercase.com) or call 1-866-950-5547

### **Keepseagle - The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement:**

[www.IndianFarmClass.com](http://www.IndianFarmClass.com) or call 1-888-233-5506.

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.

## **Join USDA and FSA in celebrating Earth Day 2011**

April 22 marks Earth Day 2011. In recognition of the power of millions of individual actions, Earth Day 2011 will be organized around A Billion Acts of Green®: Personal, organizational and corporate pledges to live and act sustainably. The first Earth Day was celebrated on April 22, 1970. The passage of the landmark Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act and many other groundbreaking environmental laws soon followed. The Earth Day Network (EDN) works with over 22,000 partners in 192 countries and more than 1 billion people now participate in Earth Day activities each year, making it the largest civic observance in the world.

For more information about Earth Day, visit [www.earthday.org](http://www.earthday.org)

Yuma County FSA  
2197 S 4<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Suite 104  
Yuma, AZ 85364

