



Farm Service Agency

**U.S. Department
Of Agriculture**

**Pinal County FSA
520 N Camino Mercado
Suite 2-F
Casa Grande, AZ 85222
520/ 836-1960
520/836-1297 FAX**

Hours

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

County Committee

Don England, Jr., Chair
Daniel Nowlin, V-Chair
John O Nevitt, Member
Alex Blaine, Advisor
Frank Campillo, Advisor

Staff

Lori Emmert, PT
Angie Carranza, PT
Shirley Mallory, PT
Kathy Fanning, PT
Michelle Ontiveros, PT

Farm Loan Staff

Shawneen Stevenson, FLM
Kent Erickson, FLO
Patrick Fox, FLPT

**County Executive
Director**

Debbie Hopkins

IN THIS ISSUE:

DCP/CCC Sign-up

FAV Rules

**MILC Program
Extension**

**Farmers Market
Program**

**Prevented Planting
Certification Deadline**

NAP Sales Closures

FSA UPDATES

**April
2006**

Budget Reconciliation and DCP Direct Payments

On February 8, 2006, the President signed the Agricultural Reconciliation Act of 2005 (2005 Act) into law which provides for modifications to the DCP direct advance payment percentages for FY's 2006 and 2007. The 2005 Act amends the 2002 Farm Bill to change 2006 DCP Direct Advance Payments from 50% to 40%. The 2007 DCP Direct Advances will be limited to only 22%. Producers who received advances on farms enrolled prior to February 8, 2006 were advanced 50% of the Direct Payment. Those paid at 50% **will not** be required to refund 10%. However, producers receiving payments on farms enrolled after February 8, 2006 will be limited to 40% advances. The final 50% or 60%, as applicable, will be paid in October 2006.

Exception to FAV Rule

Every rule has an exception, and the exception for the FAV – that's fruits (including nuts) and vegetables –rule is that FAV's may be planted without penalty on Direct and Countercyclical Payment Program base acres under these conditions:

- o FAVs are designated as and meet the definition of a home garden;
- o FAVs *are planted and reported* with an intended use of green manure or forage and the producer pays a fee to cover the cost of a farm visit to verify that the crop has not been harvested as FAV;
- o Lentils, mung beans and dry peas (dry peas include Austrian, wrinkled seed, green, yellow and Umatilla).

The producer declares his or her intentions when the acreage report is filed and cannot subsequently change the intended use of reported FAV acreage to home garden, green manure or forage to negate a violation or payment reduction.

Check with the County Office before planting any FAVs on DCP base acres.

**Office Closed May 29th
In Observance of Memorial Day
Office re-opens May 30th**



- The most reliable information available can be found at www.usda.gov/farmbill or by clicking on the 2002 farm bill logo on the FSA web page.



Milk Income Loss Contract Extension (MILCX) Program

The MILC program ended on September 30, 2005, as provided by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002. The Agricultural Reconciliation Act of 2005 (2005 Act), Section 1101, authorized the extension of the MILC program during the period beginning October 1, 2005, and ending September 30, 2007, with some minor changes to MILC program provisions.

Initial signup began March 13, 2006 to May 17, 2006. A start month may be selected from October 2005 through May 17, 2006. Signup will continue through September 30, 2007 with start month limitations.

Payments are determined upon Boston Class I Milk price is under the Northeast Milk Marketing Order falls below \$16.94 national rate. Production limits for the MILCX program is 2.4 million pounds per year.

NAP Deadline Approaching

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) can soften financial losses caused by natural disasters, but only if you've applied for coverage and paid the application fee. The application deadline date for certain 2006 NAP crops is approaching.

May 31, 2006

Beans, Gar Beets, Broccoli, Cabbage, Canola, Carrots, Cauliflower, Celery, Garlic, Greens, All Herbs, Cilantro, Mustard, Oats, Onions, Peas, Radish and Tomatoes.

Guaranteed Loan Limits Have Increased

Effective October 1, 2005, FSA's guaranteed loan limit increased. Limits include new guaranteed loan(s) plus any outstanding direct or guaranteed principal balances, as indicated, owed by anyone who will sign the promissory note.

The total outstanding:

- Combined guaranteed farm ownership (FO) and

operating loan (OL) principal balance cannot exceed \$852,000;

- Direct and guaranteed FO principal balance cannot exceed \$852,000;
- Direct and guaranteed OL principal balance cannot exceed \$852,000; and

Direct and guaranteed FO and OL and emergency loan principal balance cannot exceed \$1,513,000.

USDA UNVEILS NEW TOLL-FREE NUMBER FOR FSA BORROWERS

Farmers and Ranchers Can Check Account Status 24/7

Direct loan borrowers with USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) can now check the status of their accounts around the clock using a new toll-free telephone number.

This convenient new tool gives customers up-to-the-minute access to their accounts, helping producers better manage the daily operations of their farm or ranch. This secure system is fast, efficient and very user-friendly, and yet another hallmark of our commitment to provide high quality and convenient services.

The toll-free number is 1-888-518-4983 and is available in both English and Spanish. The system delivers information on active FSA loans 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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:

- | | |
|-----------|------------------------|
| ✓ ELSCN | April 30 th |
| ✓ Alfalfa | April 30 th |
| ✓ UPCN | May 15 th |
| ✓ Corn | May 31 st |
| ✓ Sorghum | July 31 st |

Please contact your local FSA Office to verify deadlines for all prevented planted crops.

Never EZer!

Last August, the Farm Service Agency announced the launch of the CCC-633EZ to replace the old CCC-709 and CCC 633 LDP. Since then, it's undergone a few modifications to make it even more user-friendly.

The EZ form is a two-part loan deficiency payment request that allows producers to (1) indicate their intentions to receive LDP benefits *before* losing beneficial interest in the eligible commodity, and (2) submit a request for an LDP at any time during the loan/LDP availability period before or after losing beneficial interest..

The EZ form was developed to cover field direct LDPs, basic LDPs and CCC-cotton AA, and revised to cover basic and field direct LDPs for wool, mohair and unshorn pelts.

By signing the first page of the EZ form, the producer indicates his or her intentions to receive LDP benefits. This one page covers **all** counties and **all** eligible harvested commodities for the entire crop year for the individual, joint operation or entity identified on the form.

Once the first page of the form has been signed and submitted, the producer can submit an LDP request by completing **page 2** for all harvested commodities, except cotton; **page 3** for cotton; or **page 4** for wool, mohair and unshorn pelts.

A key point to remember is that page 1 of the EZ form must be signed by the producer before beneficial interest in the commodity is lost. Once beneficial interest is lost the commodity is ineligible for an LDP even if beneficial interest is regained.

YOUR HELP PLEASE

The Natural Resource Education Center of Pinal County is trying to obtain donations of farm implements to use with a tractor that was donated to our youth agricultural education program. We would appreciate any help or donation you could give the youth of Pinal County.

Please call MarySue Bears 520-836-1960 Ext 3.



Farmers Market Promotion Program – Invitation for Grant Applications

The USDA Agricultural Marketing Service is pleased to announce the availability of approximately \$1million in competitive grant funds. You are invited to submit proposals under the Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP) for Fiscal Year 2006.

We urge agricultural cooperative, local governments, non-profit corporations, public benefit corporations, economic development corporations, regional farmer's market authorities, and Tribal governments to consider developing proposals for this grant program. The allocation of grant funds will be carried out in a single round of competition. Eligible entities must be owned, operated and located within one or more of the 50 United States and the District of Columbia.

Application forms and program guidelines are also available at the AMS Marketing Services website at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/tmd/MSB/index.htm>. The deadline for submitting a FMPP application is the close of business on May 1, 2006.

If you have questions, please call your local FSA office for additional details.

All proposals will be given full consideration in an impartial review process and selection. We are looking forward to receiving innovative proposals that will assist us in expanding the domestic consumption of agricultural commodities while strengthening the nation's farmers markets.

Notable Fact:

*The percentage of Africa that is wilderness: 28%
The percentage of North America that is wilderness is 38%*

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Pinal County Farm Service Agency
520 Camino Mercado, Ste. 2-F
Casa Grande, AZ 85222



IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

| | |
|-------|---|
| April | 30 th Prevented Planting Certification Deadline |
| May | 1 st Farmers Market Promotion Program Deadline |
| | 15 th UPCN Prevented Planting Certification Deadline |
| | 29 th Office Closed - Memorial Day |
| | 31 st NAP Deadlines |

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, write the Secretary of Agriculture, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250, or call (202) 720-7327 (voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for persons with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment upon request. If accommodations are required, please call Debbie Hopkins, CED, at 520/836-2028.

Se habla español en esta oficina de FSA. Si quiere informacion tocante a los programas de crédito, conservacion y otros programas que se administran en esta oficina, por favor visite o llame la oficina de FSA. El número de teléfono es (520-836-1960) en el condado de Pinal La dirección se encuentra al frente.