



United States Dept. of Agriculture



**Flagstaff, Arizona
USDA Service Center**

1585 S. Plaza Way, Ste 120
Flagstaff, AZ 86001-7156

Phone Number

(928) 774-2401 Ext. 2

Fax Number

(928) 774-2780

Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (MST)

County Committee

Marilyn Savoini-Chairperson
Nathan Kilgore - Vice Chair
Diana Kessler - Member
Joe Querta - Member
Anita Waite – Member

Office Staff

Rose Gene, PT
Calvin Johnson, PT
Renee Tohannie, PT

County Executive Dir.

Arnie Schlittenhart
(928) 774-2401 Ext. 105

IN THIS ISSUE:

- New Disaster Program
 - NAP Coverage
 - Crop Certification
 - Wool/Mohair LDP
- More*

IMPORTANT DATES:

August 28, 2008

COC meeting - Flagstaff, AZ



FSA NEWS

Servicing Coconino, Mohave, and Yavapai Counties



New Disaster Program

The 2008 Farm Bill established a new Supplemental Ag Disaster Assistance Program. One of the components of this new program is the **Livestock Forage Disaster Program** or LFP. The LFP compensates ranchers for forage losses due to;

1. drought, on land that is either of the following:
 - native or improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover
 - planted to a crop specifically for providing grazing
2. fire, on rangeland managed by a Federal agency if the eligible livestock producer is prohibited from grazing the normal permitted livestock on the managed rangeland.

HOW IT WORKS

Under LFP livestock producers are compensated for drought related losses based upon the severity of the drought as determined by the U.S. Drought Monitor. Payments will be made to livestock producers with owned or leased grazing land or pastureland physically located in a county with the following U.S. Drought Monitor designations;

- a D2 (severe drought) intensity in any area of the county for at least 8 consecutive weeks during the normal grazing period for that county. Under this designation, livestock producers will be eligible to receive a payment equal to 1 monthly payment
- a D3 (extreme drought) intensity in any area of the county at any time during the normal grazing period for that county. Under this designation, livestock producers will be eligible to receive a payment equal to 2 monthly payments.
- a D3 for at least 4 weeks during the normal grazing period for that county, or D4 (exceptional drought) intensity in any area of the county during the normal grazing period for that county. Under this designation, livestock producers will be eligible to receive a payment equal to 3 monthly payments.

BUY IN

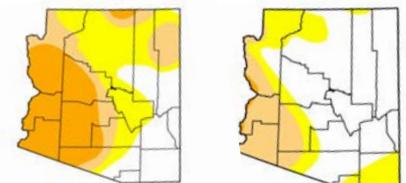
Producers who wish to participate in the new disaster programs are required to purchase insurance or non-insured crop disaster assistance (NAP) coverage on Native Grass (Rangeland) and crops on all farms in all counties in which they have an interest. Because the 2008 Act was enacted after the application periods had closed for those programs, the 2008 Act authorizes a **waiver** that allows producers to pay a fee, called a "**Buy-In**" fee, to be eligible for the new disaster assistance programs.

The **Buy-In** fee deadline is Sept. 16, 2008. Payment of the **Buy-In** fee does **not** provide the producer crop insurance or NAP coverage; it only affords eligibility for the 2008 disaster programs. Those who miss this opportunity will **not** be eligible for 2008 disaster assistance.

To participate in the supplemental disaster programs for Crop Year 2009 and beyond, producers **must** purchase or obtain one of the following coverages for their grazing and/or crop land;

- NAP coverage by filing the required paperwork, and paying the administrative fee by the applicable State filing deadline.
- a policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act, including pilot programs such as the Pasture, Rangeland, Forage Program

Failure to obtain a minimum level of catastrophic insurance will cause a producer to be ineligible for the disaster program.





NAP Coverage – Plan for 2009

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production of 50% or more. **NOTE: The application deadline date for 2009 NAP coverage has been extended to Dec. 1, 2008 for those crops whose insurance deadlines were prior to Dec. 1, 2008. This includes native forage (rangeland).**

Producers who *already have* coverage on 2008 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2009, if the applicable *service fee of \$250 is submitted by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops.

***NO SERVICE FEE FOR LIMITED RESOURCE PRODUCERS**

If you live in **Coconino County** and your household income is **\$22,500** or less, or

If you live in **Mohave County** and your household income is **\$19,350** or less, or

If you live in **Yavapai County** and your household income is **\$20,500** or less,

you qualify as a “Limited Resource Producer” and NO “Service Fee” is required.



Crop Certification Deadline

For 2008, the final crop reporting dates have been extended to August 15, 2008. Late fees will not be applied if acreage reports are filed by August 15 and all other reporting requirements are met.

Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments.

Reasonable Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call the Farm Service Agency county office staff, and we will be happy to make any arrangements that are necessary.



Wool & Mohair LDP Program



LDPs are payments made to producers who, although eligible to obtain a Commodity Credit Corporation loan, agree to forgo the loan in return for a payment on the eligible commodity.

The only form applicable for all LDPs in 2008-crop year and subsequent years is the CCC-633EZ. The CCC-633EZ Page 1 must be filed **before** beneficial interest is lost (before selling). Filing a timely CCC-633EZ Page 1 allows the producer to later file the CCC-633EZ Page 4 request for LDP payment, even after beneficial interest is lost. To request the LDP payment, file the CCC-633EZ Page 4 anytime up to the final loan/LDP availability date, as long as a CCC-633EZ Page 1 was filed before beneficial interest is lost. The CCC-709 form is no longer applicable for LDPs starting in the 2006 crop year.

LDP applications may be faxed to the FSA county office. Faxed applications are considered complete when all required items are completed correctly, form is signed and dated and received in the applicable county office. The producer is responsible for ensuring the correct form is used, completed correctly, signed, dated and received by the FSA office. Producer must have proof of a

Bank Account Changes?

As of January 1, 1999, all FSA payments are supposed to be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you closed your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if we are not aware of changes to your account and/or routing numbers.

CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLAINT PROCESS

Any person, class or group of persons may file a discrimination complaint within 180 days of an alleged discriminatory action. Complaints may be filed in writing or orally with the agency head or any designated agency official; the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. Assistance in filing a complaint can be obtained by calling or visiting any FSA office.



Change in Farming Operations?

Update signature authorization when changes in the operation occur. Producers are reminded to contact the office of a change in operations on a farm so records can be kept current and accurate or visiting any FSA office.

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25% of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, Realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

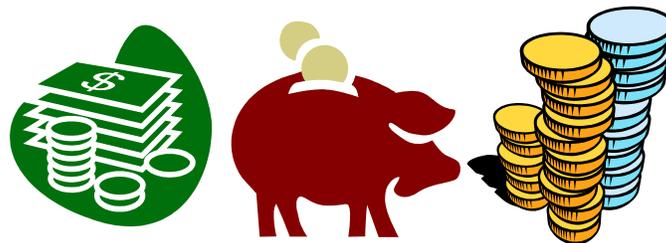


Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business

at the office.

Producers and landowners who previously executed an FSA-211 (Power of Attorney) will need to fill out a new FSA-211 form to be able to sign 2008 documents. For more information, please contact any Farm Service Agency office in your area.



AGRICULTURAL LOANS--AVAILABLE

The U. S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes and Guarantees agricultural loans; provides credit counseling and supervision to farmers and ranchers who are temporarily unable to obtain private & commercial credit.

FSA lends money & provides supervision to eligible applicants who operate family-size farms.

All loans must meet qualifying criteria to be eligible.

TYPES OF LOANS AVAILABLE

Farm Ownership (FO)
Farm Operating (OL)
Emergency (EM)
Youth loans

DIRECT AND GUARANTEED LOANS AVAILABLE

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, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct & guaranteed loans are available now.

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. Loan funds are available now — apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner. Most of our loan programs have special funding available for minority, female and beginning farmers.

FSA staff will help you complete the necessary forms and application, and help you understand what information is required and where to get it. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

LOAN PURPOSE

With a Direct or Guaranteed FO Loan, you can purchase farmland, build or repair buildings and other fixtures, & promote soil & water conservation. Guaranteed FO Loans may also be used to refinance debt.

For additional information contact:

Harriett Mann
51 West Vista Drive, # 2
Holbrook, AZ 86025-1844
(928) 524-3214 Ext. 2

or
Doug Littau
230 N. 1st Avenue, Suite 506
Phoenix, AZ 85003-1726
(602) 285-6318

United States Department of Agriculture

Farm Service Agency
Coconino, Mohave, Yavapai County
1585 S. Plaza Way, Suite 120
Flagstaff, AZ 86001-7156



PRSRT STD
Postage Fees Paid
Farm Service Agency
Permit NO. G-96

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

IMPORTANT FSA DISASTER PROGRAM DEADLINES

Eligibility rules under the new Disaster Assistance Programs including the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) requires producers to purchase a minimum level of insurance on their grazing land through NAP or some other type of insurance coverage.

For 2008 ONLY, producers who do not have NAP or insurance coverage may “Buy-In” to the program for a \$100 fee per crop. The deadlines for the Buy-In and NAP are as follows:

- **Sept 16, 2008 – Deadline for the Buy-in Waiver for Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance Program**
- **Dec 1, 2008 – Deadline for enrolling in the 2009 Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance**

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT: The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.