



Maricopa County June 2008 Newsletter

Farm Service Agency

Christina Day, CED
Phone: (623) 535-5055
Visit our website at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

Shawneen Stevenson, FLM
Fax: (623) 536-5261

Mark Dobson, Chairperson
Hours: 7:30 am to 4:30 PM

PROGRAM NOTES:

Dates to Remember



- July 4th- Office Closed (Holiday)
- July 18th- Sign-up Deadline for 06/07' LCP/LIP
- On going - Farm Loan Program Applications are accepted (Direct and Guaranteed Loans)

2006/2007 Deadline for, LIP/ LCP-

(UPDATE): The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has announced that livestock producers have until **July 18, 2008**, to enroll in the 2006 - 2007 Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). Signup began on Sept. 10, 2007, for the two programs that provide aid to livestock producers who suffered eligible livestock or livestock feed losses between Jan. 1, 2006, and Dec. 30, 2007, because of a natural disaster.

For more information please contact your local FSA office for program sign-up details

NOTE: There are no late-filed provisions for 2006/2007 LCP or LIP

2008 Crop Year Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) and Loan Deficiency Payments-(ACTION):

The Food Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Act) Pub L.110-234, was enacted into law May 22, 2008. The 2008 Act authorizes 2008 crop MAL's and LDP's on barley, canola, corn, crambe, dry peas, flaxseed, grain sorghum, honey, lentils, mohair, mustard seed, oats, rapeseed, rice, safflower, sesame seed, small chickpeas, soybeans, sunflower seed, wheat, and graded and non-graded wool.

NOTE: This Does Not Include Cotton and Peanuts

The Federal Regulation was filed on June 5, 2008, and State and County Offices are authorized to accept MAL and LDP requests **immediately**.

The 2008 Act authorizes MAL's and LDP's for crop years 2008 through 2012.

Hay, silage, and unshorn pelts derived from the eligible

Loan commodities are eligible for Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP), but not for Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL).

Beneficial Interest: A producer may be eligible to receive LDP benefits based on the earlier of:

- Date beneficial interest is lost in the eligible commodity, according to production evidence submitted
- The date of request for payment

Please call the office for questions.

Important Election Dates:

June 15, 2008:

Nomination period begins. Nomination forms are available at www.fsa.usda.gov under the Section heading Election Materials as well as from your local FSA Office.

August 1, 2008:

Last day to file nomination forms at the local FSA Office.

Crop Disaster Program Signup

Continues-(ACTION): Eligible farmers and ranchers who suffered livestock losses, feed losses, or crop loss damage before Dec. 31, 2007, can still apply to receive disaster assistance. FSA continues to accept applications and make payments for quantity losses under the Crop Disaster Program (CDP), for losses that occurred before the end of the 2007 calendar year. In designated disaster counties producers can still receive assistance under the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). No ending date has yet been announced for CDP. Later this summer FSA will begin making payments to producers for quality losses under CDP.

For more disaster program information go online at: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

TV Converter Box Coupon

Information-(INFO): Do you have a television that works with the help of "rabbit ears" or a roof-top antenna? If so, you should be aware of an important

change in Broadcasting coming in February 2009. The Digital Television Transition and Public Safety Act of 2005 requires TV stations to stop broadcasting in analog and to broadcast only in digital after February 17, 2009. The digital transition will provide a better viewing experience for consumers and help emergency responders protect your community. The Act created the TV Converter Box Computer Program for households wishing to use their analog TV's after the transition. The Federal Government is offering US households up to 2 \$40.00 coupons to help pay for the cost of a certified converter box. TV's connected to cable, satellite, or other pay services do not need a converter box to receive programs after February 17th, 2009. For each analog TV that you own, you need to decide before February 19, 2009 how you would like to get programming after the change to digital.

What Are My Options?

1. Buy a converter box that will plug into your current TV
2. Buy a TV with a digital tuner
3. Connect the analog TV to cable, satellite or other pay service

How Do I Get a Coupon?

Apply online or by phone. You may also mail in or fax a Coupon Application. You may request one coupon now and one later, but no more than two coupons per household are allowed. Coupon supplies are limited. Coupons expire 90 days after they are mailed. Requests must be received by March 31, 2009. Contact information is listed below.

Online:

www.DTV2009.gov

By Phone:

1-888-DTV-2009 (1-888-388-2009)

Deaf or Hearing Impaired:

1-877-530-2634 TTY-English

1-866-495-1161-Spanish

Fax Applications to:

1-877-DTV-4ME2

Mail Applications to:

PO Box 2000, Portland, OR 97208

NOTE: ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY MARCH 31, 2009.

Non-Insured Crop Assistance Program

- (INFO): The cost for NAP is a service fee of \$100 per crop, per a total of \$300 per producer, per county. Not to exceed \$900.00 total for all counties.

2008 Crop Year Sales (Application) Closing Dates are set by the state committee. **Producers are required to apply for the NAP program prior to these dates in order to remain eligible for payments.**

You must file a notice of loss within 15 days from the date that the loss was apparent.

Producers are reminded of these dates to ensure continued eligibility for the 2008 crop year. Producers must:

1. Annually provide records of crop acreage, crop yields, and production evidence for NAP crop to be eligible.
2. Inform FSA within 15 days of the date any disaster condition occurred or damage to the crop became apparent. **Producers must file this form even if they intend to harvest the crop.**
3. Not exceed the gross revenue cap of \$2.0 million. HELC/WC compliance is required (AD-1026)

No Partial Counter-Cyclical Payments for Grains & Oilseeds- (INFO):

Based on supply/demand and price projections from USDA's World Agriculture Supply and Demand Estimates, producers of crops **other than** cotton and peanuts, will not receive a second partial counter cyclical payment. When effective commodity price projections are equal to or more than their respective target prices; the commodities do **not** qualify for counter-cyclical payments.

2008 Compliance-(INFO):

Compliance and spot checks will once again be utilized during the 2008 crop year. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, deficiency loans, etc. for spot check and review, a nationwide selection of producers is used to achieve a statistical sampling of participating producers. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer's participation in Conservation Reserve Program, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Loan Deficiency Program, etc. State and County Offices shall view and print their producer spot check lists as posted on the designated web site. If an entity is selected from the national database that is no longer farming or participating in the 2008 crop year, a notation shall be made on the spot check list. For more information about the new spot check selection procedure, feel free to contact your local Farm Service Agency office for additional clarification.

Acreage Reporting-(ACTION):

Acreage reporting time will soon be here. Please remember that 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 other than NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program) crops, acreage reports are to be certified by the May 15th deadline on small grains and a July 15th deadline on all other crops.

Acreage reports on crops for which NAP assistance may be paid are due in the county office by the earlier of May 15th for small grains and July 15th for all other crops, or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported.

Selected Interest Rates for June 2008

Farm Operating - Direct	3.125 %
Farm Ownership - Direct	4.875 %
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment	4.00 %
Beginning Farmer or Rancher	
Emergency	3.750 %

Youth Loans: A Good Start-(INFO):

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 21 years of age
- Live in a rural area or in a town of 50,000 people or fewer
- Must obtain a written recommendation and consent from a parent or guardian if the applicant has not reached the age of majority under state law
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- 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.

Stop by the county office or call for more details.

Monitoring Efforts by FSA and RMA

(INFO): In an effort to prevent fraud, waste and abuse in the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA will be assisting RMA and insurance providers in:

- Monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season
- Referring all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse about the Federal Crop Insurance Program to RMA
- Assisting RMA with auditing claims
- Participants may report suspected cases of fraud, waste, and abuse to their local County, RMA Office or OIG.

FSA Outreach Statement-(INFO):

FSA places special emphasis on outreach of underserved customers because we understand and recognize that certain groups have not participated in or have received limited benefits from USDA/FSA programs. Our goal is to increase the participation of the underserved customers, including limited-resource farmers, in FSA programs, with special emphasis on those who are socially disadvantaged or members of racial minority groups.

WHO ARE UNDERSERVED CUSTOMERS?

- Farmers/ranchers and landowners/operators with limited resources, minority groups (including American Indians, Alaskan natives, and Aleuts), women, and the physically challenged, who may need but have not fully benefited from USDA assistance;
- Individuals and groups who have not participated in or have received limited benefits from FSA programs, which may improve their quality of life and/or the environment;
- Rural and urban communities;
- Members of religious minorities;
- Small specialty crop farmers, organic, farmers, and other farmers with production practices that are different from most farmers in the area.



Supporting U.S. Troops



Maricopa County FSA Office
12409 West Indian School Road
Building B, Suite 201
Avondale, AZ 85323-9525

PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Avondale, Arizona
PERMIT #50

Attention: FSA Program Participant
This newsletter contains valuable information and important dates regarding our programs; therefore you may lose benefits



If You Do Not Read It!!

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT: The United States 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 of 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, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please call the office at (623) 535-5055.