



June 2008

**USDA Service Center
Farm Service Agency**

Pima/Santa Cruz Office
3241 N Romero Road
Tucson, AZ 85705-9223

Phone: (520) 292-2999
Fax: (520) 292-9099

Office Hours: Thursdays
7:30 am – 3:00 pm
All other weekdays – By
Appointment only

County Committee
Andrew Smallhouse
Robert Noon
Gary Deen

Farm Programs Staff
Debbie Hopkins, CED
Lori Emmert, PT
Shirley Ciskowski, PT
Michelle Ontiveros, PT
Angie Carranza, PT
Kathy Fanning, PT

Farm Loan Staff
Shawneen Stevenson, FLM
Kent Erickson, FLO
Pat Fox, FLPT

IN THIS ISSUE

- Office Staffing Changes
- 2008 Farm Bill Update
- LIP & LCP Deadline
- Certification Deadline



***We Support our men
and women in the
Armed Forces.***

Important Changes at the Pima/Santa Cruz County FSA Office

A Fond Farewell From Sue Thomas

As you may already know, May 30th was my last day as Program Technician at the Pima/Santa Cruz County Office. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with all of you and will miss you all very much. FSA has been a big part of my life for the past 24 1/2 years and I it has been a privilege to work with so many wonderful people. You can be assured that the staff at the Pinal County FSA Office will take very good care of you.

Best Regards, Sue Thomas

New Office Hours

Beginning June 1, 2008 the Pima/Santa Cruz FSA Office will be staffed and open on
Thursdays 8:00 am – 3:00 pm.
All other weekdays – By appointment only.
Please call the Pinal County Office with any questions and concerns or to schedule and appointment.
(520) 836-1960

Introducing the Pinal County FSA Staff

Shawneen Stevenson, FLM- Has been with the agency 12 years. Shawneen is the Farm Loan Officer for the county offices located in Pinal, Pima, Maricopa, Yuma and LaPaz counties.

Kent Erickson, FLO – Has been with the agency 19 years. Kent is the Farm Loan Officer for the above mentioned counties.

Pat Fox, FLPT – Has been with the agency 20 years. Pat is the PT for the Farm Loan Program.

Debbie Hopkins, CED – Has been with the agency for 22.5 years. Debbie is the County Executive Director who is responsible for the operations of Pinal and Pima/Santa Cruz counties.

Angie Carranza, PT – Has been with the agency 15 years. Angie is in charge of Recons and Crop Compliance.

Shirley Ciskowski, PT – Has been with the agency 14 years. Shirley is in charge of DCP and Farm Records.

Lori Emmert, PT – Has been with the agency 21.5 years. Lori is in charge of the Administrative duties, Price Support and Disaster Programs.

Kathy Fanning, PT – Has been with the agency for 7 years. Kathy is in charge of Wool, Mohair & Pelts Price Supports, and MILC, all Livestock programs, Outreach and assist in other program areas.

Michelle Ontiveros, PT – Has been with the agency for 16.5 years. Michelle is in charge of Payment Limitation, NAP and HELC-WC Compliance.

COUNTY COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR LAA 2 – East Pima County

June 15 through **Aug. 1st**, farmers and ranchers can nominate eligible peers or one's self as candidates for election to the Pinal County Farm Service Agency county committee.

Nominations may be you, another producer in same area, women in agriculture, minorities, socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. All are encouraged to apply. The Farm and Rural Investment Act of 2002 significantly expanded the requirements of the agency to expand its county committee members to include all interested participants. All applications must be submitted on form FSA-669A available on website: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>, by mail or in person at Pima/Santa Cruz or Pinal County FSA Offices.

“Our goal is to have as many eligible candidates nominated to serve on FSA county committees as possible. We want to encourage everyone to get involved,” said Debbie Hopkins, Pima/Santa Cruz County Executive Director. This year we hope you’ll consider nominating a farmer or rancher you know will make a real difference in his or her community.

Committees apply their judgment and knowledge to make decisions on county commodity price-support loan eligibility, establishment of bases and yields, conservation programs, disaster programs, employment and other farm program-related issues.

Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Nominations and elections are open to all eligible candidates and voters without regard to race, color, religion, nation origin, age, sex, marital status or disability.

Complaint Process

After an FSA official makes a decision on your request for USDA services or application, you will be sent a letter informing you of the decision and options you can pursue if you disagree.

DROP DEAD- DEADLINES!



**All Cropland
Certification Deadline
July 15, 2008
(Cotton, Corn, etc., and all other
land use to include Fallow)
*Without late file fees assessed***

USDA ANNOUNCES DEADLINE FOR 2005 – 2007 LCP AND LIP SIGN-UP

U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency Livestock producers have until July 18, 2008, to enroll in the 2005 – 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, 2005, and Dec. 30, 2007, because of a natural disaster.

FSA encourage all eligible producers to enroll soon because sign-up ends on July 18, 2008, all applicable documentations must be in by deadline date.

The LIP provides payments to eligible livestock owners and contract growers who incurred the death of livestock because of a natural disaster.

Items to review:

- ❖ Change in Banking*****
- ❖ Address & Phone Number ****Zip Codes**
- ❖ Change in ownership/lease+++++
- ❖ Signature Authority ****



Farm Bill 2008

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY, Ed Shafer
WASHINGTON, D.C.

This certainly has been an eventful week surrounding the Farm Bill, but we now have a new law. On Wednesday of this week, the President vetoed H.R. 2419, the "Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008." That afternoon, it was discovered that the bill enrolled by the Congress and presented to the President for his signature was missing "Title III - Trade." Notwithstanding this omission, Congress proceeded to override the President's veto. Understandably, there has been a significant amount of confusion over what exactly this means. However, we have now been assured that 14 of the 15 Farm Bill titles have been enacted into law.

Although the Administration has had significant policy differences with the Congress over the wisdom of many of the provisions in the new Farm Bill, it is now the law of the land. We have each taken an oath to faithfully execute the law, and so it is now time to end the debate, roll up our sleeves, and get to work implementing the new legislation.

During my short time here at USDA, I have pleasantly discovered the commitment to public service our employees have and I appreciate their hard work. I am confident that we will continue to provide effective, efficient, and citizen-centered government as we smoothly and rapidly work to implement the new law. All of our program beneficiaries, from farmers to food stamp recipients, deserve our best efforts.

Please realize that regulations and software for USDA programs for Farm Bill 2008 will be forth coming in the weeks ahead. The Pinal County FSA Office will keep you informed of the latest sign-up information via Newsletter as soon as it becomes available.



USDA 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.



Customer Statement

Producers who have signed up for a USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account will have a little online help in that they will be able to access their farm data via their Customer Statement.

The Customer Statement puts a range of USDA services and programs into a single report that's at your fingertips and available online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It allows USDA customers to view their participation, application and payment status in various commodity and conservation programs; information on farm loans; and conservation plan and land unit information.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Pinal County Farm Service Agency
520 Camino Mercado, Ste. 10
Casa Grande, AZ 85222



IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

June	25 ^h	Pinal County Committee Meeting
July	3 rd	Pima/Santa Cruz County Committee Meeting
	15 th	All Cropland Certification Deadline (this includes Fruits and vegetables and hay)
	16 th	Pinal County Committee Meeting
	18 th	DEADLINE TO SIGN-UP IN LCP & LIP PROGRAMS

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>

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 the county office at the phone number listed above.

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 520/836-1960