



Maricopa County May 2008 Newsletter

Farm Service Agency

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

PROGRAM NOTES:



Dates to Remember

- May 5th- DDAP II Sign up Ends
- May 26th- Office Closed (Holiday)
- May 31st- NAP (Nursery) Sales Closing Date
- On going - Farm Loan Program Applications are accepted (Direct and Guaranteed Loans)

2007 Crop Deadline Extended for CDP,

LIP, LCP-(UPDATE): The 2007 Accountability Appropriations Act authorized assistance to producers who suffered 2005, 2006, and 2007 crop. Livestock feed losses. The 2007 Act limited eligibility under CDP for 2007 crops to include only those crop acres planted, or prevented from being planted, before February 28, 2007. On December 26, 2007, the President signed into law the Department of State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2008. The 2008 Act amended the February 28, 2007, date and allows for all crops planted for the 2007 crop year to be included for loss purposes under CDP. Similarly, under LIP and LCP, the 2008 Act extends the date livestock and livestock feed losses could have occurred in a primary or contiguous county named in a Secretarial or Presidential disaster declaration to December 31, 2007.

2008 COC Elections – Why Not You?-

(ACTION): One of FSA's responsibilities is to conduct County Committee elections in an open manner that ensures accountability. FSA will provide local organizations representing socially disadvantaged groups with detailed information about the COC election process. The agency is reaching out to agricultural communities to get equitable representation on their county committees.

Groups representing socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, will be actively solicited for COC election candidates, and encouraged to fill out a nomination form (FSA-669A). Under represented farmers and

ranchers are encouraged to step up and participate in their county's COC election process. Producers will notice posters and announcements displayed in businesses, churches, and other public places. COC election fact sheets can be found online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA> under the News & Events tab on the FSA homepage. LAA # 3 is up for Election it includes Mesa, Chandler, and Gilbert.

County Committee Elections

County	LAA	Townships for LAA 3	
Maricopa	3	4E-8E	1S-3S
		1N-2N	6S-7S

Sign-up for DDAP III Ends May 5th-

(ACTION): Eligible dairy producers who suffered production losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 have until May 5 to make application to receive benefits under the Dairy Disaster Assistance Program III.

Dairy producers with a dairy operation in designated counties are eligible due to a Presidential Notice designating the county a natural disaster between Jan. 1, 2005, and Dec. 31, 2007. Producers in contiguous counties are also eligible. More information on the Dairy Disaster Assistance Program III is available at your local county FSA office, or on line at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

DDAP III Sign Up Resumes-(ACTION):

Eligible dairy producers who suffered losses during 2005, 2006, or 2007 may now apply to receive benefits under the Dairy Disaster Assistance Program III (DDAP III) beginning March 5. The final rule published in the Federal Register on March 4 specifies that this newly reopened sign up period **ends on May 5, 2008.**

FSA began enrolling producers in DDAP III in late 2007. Then in early 2008 FSA temporarily halted sign up pending the completion of rulemaking. Based on public comments on the program elicited during this suspension, FSA made minor changes to the DDAP III rules. To be eligible, a producer's operation must be in

a county designated a major disaster or emergency area by the president or declared a natural disaster area by the secretary of agriculture between January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2007. Producers in contiguous counties are also eligible. Further eligibility is possible if an FSA Administrator's Physical Loss Notice was issued. For further information, contact our office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

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.

May 31, 2008- Nursery

Note: Ornamental nursery sales closing date is 09/01/2007

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.

Continuation of Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Provision - (INFO):

The AGI provision originally effective from 2003 through 2007 crop years has been extended. The extension is authorized to continue through **April 18,**

2008. 2008 AGI certifications are needed for emergency, disaster and conservation program purposes.

Extension of 2008 Crop Year Wool, Mohair, Unshorn Pelts, Honey MAL's and LDP's- (ACTION):

Attention all Producers: 2008 Crop wool, mohair and unshorn pelt MAL's and LDP requests have **been extended** now through **May 18th, 2008.** Also, 2008 crop honey has been added as an eligible commodity during the extension period.

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.

Flexible or Cash Lease- (INFO):

Producers should be careful to differentiate between flexible leases and cash leases when reporting to the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Flexible leases, in which the producer pays a base rent, and offers a bonus on yield and/or price increase to a landowner, are considered by the Farm Service Agency as share leases. Cash leases specifying a fixed amount, not subject to changes from yield or price are common and the norm across the country. Flexible or hybrid leases are now coming to the attention of FSA. Each year FSA participants complete form CCC-502 Continuation Sheet for Leased or Owned Land which are subject to spot check. Paying more than what the original lease specifies may violate a producer's CCC-502, if not completed correctly. A violation could make an operator ineligible for Direct Counter-cyclical Payments (DCP).

Example: A lease that is for \$100 acre plus an additional \$40 per acre if the crop exceeds \$4/bushel

or 170 bushels corn/acre or \$7/bushel or 40 bushels of soybeans per acre is by FSA procedure a share lease. FSA procedure states that, a lease is a share lease if the lease bases the amount of rent on the quantity of crop produced or the proceeds from the crop, or the interest a producer would have if the crop had been produced.

GIS Improving Your Data-(INFO):

USDA's decade long program to digitally map the nation's farms and fields has established the Common Land Unit (CLU) as a standardized GIS (Geographic Information Systems) data layer. This standard has allowed mapping to be integrated easily on a nationwide basis. FSA manages this CLU data layer through a distributed database environment at more than 2,500 field service centers in the U.S.

Transitioning to the GIS environment has made good business sense for FSA for a variety of reasons. First, CLU has improved Service Center to customer communication. For years, FSA had been using hard copy maps that were 10 years old or more. It was difficult to keep information accurate due to urban development and other land use changes. USDA Service Centers now maintain the Common Land Unit (CLU) boundaries and assist with a multitude of other farm programs. Second, GIS and GPS (Global Positioning System) provide more consistent and accurate land measurements, such as field acreage and acreage boundaries of conservation practices, such as riparian buffers. Using yearly updated high quality digital imagery, land use changes (farm transfers and land subdivisions) can be easily updated. Maps can be created in either paper or digital format for FSA customers or the public. Lastly, the GIS environment can accept data from outside sources for business decision making or environmental planning. Examples include demographic data, satellite imagery, GPS data, elevation data and soil types.

Are you a GIS user? FSA program participants can request a fully attributed CLU clip of your property. Make arrangements for this product delivery with your local County Office or Service Center. For more information about the Common Land Unit can be found by visiting on-line, APFO (Aerial Photography Field Office) at www.apfo.usda.gov.

Conservation Compliance-(INFO):

All participants in USDA programs are required to have a conservation system in place on all the highly erodible land (HEL) that they operate. Several areas where problems can arise with complying with a conservation system are; renting new cropland, purchasing new land, breaking out additional cropland, planting different crops such as soybeans, and changing or removing existing conservation practices. It is very important that you contact the FSA office before doing any of the above.

Selected Interest Rates for May 2008

90-Day Treasury Bill	1.50%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	3.125%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	5.00%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	4.00%
Emergency Loans	3.75%

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 for help preparing and processing the application forms. The FSA staff can help you with questions you may have about a particular program.



Supporting U.S. Troops



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Avondale, AZ 85323-9525

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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!!

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