



**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
Kathleen Fanning, PT
Michelle Ontiveros, PT

Farm Loan Staff

Shawneen Stevenson, FLM
Kent Erickson, FLO
Patrick Fox, FL PT

**County Executive
Director
Debbie Hopkins**

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FSA UPDATES

**October
2006**

Final DCP Payments For 2006

Enrolled producers can expect their final direct payment to be directly deposited into personal bank accounts in early October.

Producers who did not elect to receive an advance direct payment will receive their entire direct payment for the year in one lump sum after the end of the fiscal year (September 30). The direct payment for a crop equals 85 percent of the farm's base acreage *times* (x) the farm's direct payment yield *times* (x) the direct payment rate.

2007 EQIP Signup

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Arizona is announcing the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) continuous signup will have a cutoff date of **November 1, 2006**. EQIP offers financial and technical assistance to eligible participants to install or implement structural and management practices on eligible agricultural land. EQIP activities are carried out according to a plan of operation developed in conjunction with the producer that identifies conservation practices to address their resource concerns. Local priorities include insufficient water for irrigated cropland/pastureland with approved practices eligible for cost-share assistance. Structural and management practices may include irrigation land leveling, concrete lined ditches, structures for water control, sprinkler and micro-irrigation systems, irrigation water management, cropping system, and crop residue use.

All approved contracts will be for a minimum two years and maximum ten years to allow installation of practices according to NRCS standards and specifications in order to secure cost-share payment. The land must have been irrigated two out of the last five years to qualify for EQIP.

To be eligible to participate in EQIP, an applicant must be an agricultural producer engaged in livestock or agricultural production as defined by the EQIP manual. Applications must have an interest in the farm operation, have control of the land for the term of the proposed contract, be in compliance with highly erodible land and wetland conservation compliance provisions, and provide a Social Security Number for each individual that is eligible for payment.

For details about the EQIP program, contact the USDA-NRCS office at 520-836-1960, Ext. 3.



We Support our men and women in the Armed Forces.

Payment Limitations

USDA payments and benefits are subject to producer eligibility and limitation provisions as defined by law. Documents and forms to determine eligibility and limitation once completed are reviewed on an annual basis.

It is the producer's responsibility to report changes in the farming operation that may affect payment eligibility and payment limitation.

The following limitations apply to Direct and Counter-cyclical Program payments for each contract year. For all covered commodities (except peanuts): \$40,000 for direct payments and \$65,000 for counter-cyclical payments. For peanuts: \$40,000 for direct payments and \$65,000 for counter-cyclical payments.

EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM (ECP)

Drought has caused severe conditions for livestock owners in Pinal County. Funding is not available at this time, but we are accepting applications for emergency water hauling and providing water facilities for livestock under the cost share program ECP. Documentation is required when submitting claims. Please contact your local FSA Office for additional guidelines.

Flooding conditions resulting from heavy rains in some areas of Pinal County may be covered for assistance. Please call the office for additional information.

Livestock Assistance Grant Program

Livestock assistance grant program provides \$50 million in state block grants to help livestock producers partially recover forage production losses due to certain drought conditions during 2006. Livestock producers in certain drought-affected states may be eligible for the program. A complete list of eligible states and counties is posted at: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>

Please note Arizona Department of Agriculture will administer this program, for more information, please call 1-602-542-0943

COUNTY COMMITTEE Election Ballots FOR LAA 11 – Northeast Pinal County (North of Coolidge, Queen Creek to Globe)

Producers should keep in mind several important dates regarding the upcoming county committee elections. Producers can request, fill out and submit nomination forms up to August 1st. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by November 3rd.

The deadline to return ballots to FSA is December 5th.

Elected committee members and alternates take office on Jan. 1, 2006.

Prospective Voter Requirements. Anyone who meets the requirements in 1 or 2, plus 3, below, is eligible to vote.

1. Be of legal voting age and participate or cooperate in any FSA program, or
2. Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm.
3. Participate in any FSA program that is provided for by law, regardless of the status of funding.

Prohibited Discrimination No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

Contact the county office staff if you have questions about voter eligibility.

For more information about FSA county committees, visit a local USDA Service Center or go online at:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections>



This Newsletter.....

...is the primary method we have of contacting you, our customer, directly. Our goal in producing the newsletter is to make you aware of the availability of farm programs and to periodically remind you of certain program requirements.

DCP Sign-up Starts Oct. 1

Sign-up for the 2007 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program begins on Oct. 1, 2006. The CCC-509, "Direct and Counter-cyclical Program Contract," includes base acres, payment acres, payment yields, producer payment shares, advance direct and counter-cyclical payment selections and signatures of the producer and county office representative.

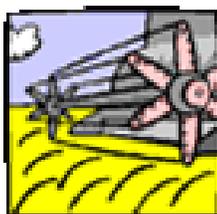
The CCC-509 must be submitted by June 1, 2007. All owners and operators who will share in the DCP payments on the farm must sign the CCC-509. Forms with signatures that are obtained after June 1, 2006, but before Sept. 30, 2007, will be accepted, but the farm will be assessed a late-file fee of \$100.

Farm producers must apply for DCP on an annual basis and can opt out of the program for any year if they so choose.

Producers must file (or have on file a current version of) the following documents to be eligible for DCP payments: the CCC-509, a farm-operating plan (CCC-502 and related forms), an average adjusted gross income certification (CCC-526), a certification of compliance with highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions (AD-1026).

A certification of the acreage of all cropland on the farm (FSA-578) is needed before final payments can be issued.

Producers have until Sept. 30, 2006, to fill their DCP contract for fiscal year 2006.



CCC-633-EZ Reminder

Then, depending upon the crop, page 2, 3 or 4 is used to request an LDP any time during the loan/LDP availability period before or after losing beneficial interest. For the 2006 crop year, the CCC-633 EZ and eLDP online requests are the only methods available to request LDPs. Contact the office with your harvest dates to see if there is an e-LDP rate the day you harvested corn, barley, wheat or sorghum.

Due to monsoonal rains, weeds are doing very well, DCP contracts require fields be kept clean of weeds. If there is doubt, call the office for additional information.

NAP (Non-Insured Assistance Program) Reminder

NAP Coverage Sales Closing Date

2007 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.

Oct 31, 2006: barley, cantaloupe, **native grasses**, honeydew, lettuce, rye & wheat.

Nov 20, 2006: apples, cherries, honey, peaches, pears, pecans, pistachios, plums & watermelon.

Nov 20, 2006 for 2008 Crop Year: grapefruit, lemon, oranges, & tangelos.

Nov 30, 2006: potatoes

Producers are reminded of these dates to ensure continued eligibility for the 2007 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.**

The program requires that producers must report the acreage and shares for all crops potentially eligible for NAP certify crop production history and report current crop year production on or before the deadline. They must also certify that they comply with all highly erodible land and wetland conservation requirements.

Producers must apply for NAP coverage using Form CCC-471, "Application for Coverage," and pay the service fee of \$100 per crop per county or \$300 per producer per county. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$900 per producer with farming interest in multiple counties.



Items to review:

- ❖ Change in Banking*****
- ❖ Address & Phone Number
- ❖ Change in ownership/lease+++++
- ❖ Signature Authority for Payment Limitation Files

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

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IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

September	30 th	Deadline 2007 Enrollment
October	1 st	DCP 2007 Enrollment Begins
	9 th	Office Closed - Columbus Day
	31 st	2007 NAP Sales Closing Date
November	1 st	EQIP Signup Deadline w/ NRCS



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