



October 2008

# Apache County FSA News

St. Johns, AZ  
FSA Program Delivery  
Office

Apache County FSA  
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**Hours**  
Monday - Friday  
7:30 A.M.-4:30 P.M.  
Closed Legal Holidays

**County Committee**  
Ray Castillo, Chair  
Norman Brown, V-Chair  
Fay Pase, Member

**Office Staff**  
Gregg W. Norton, CED  
Genetta Thornhill, PT  
Teresa Jim, PT

**Farm Loan Staff**  
Harriet Mann, FLOT  
(928) 524-3214

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## NAP Coverage – Plan for 2009 and New Disaster Programs

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 or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

**NOTE: The application deadline date for 2009 NAP coverage has been extended to December 1, 2008 for those crops whose insurance deadlines are prior to that date. In Apache County the deadline for native range, small grains, and forage crops has always been October 31<sup>st</sup>. With this extension, the application fees will not be due until December 1, 2008. The new fees, as prescribed in the newly passed farm bill, are \$250 per crop per county, up to \$750 for single county producers and \$1,875 for multi county producers. For limited resource producers the fee can be waived. *IMPORTANT: Participation in NAP is required to be eligible for the new disaster programs authorized in the new farm bill when implemented. This is referred to as the "Risk Management Purchase Requirement". There is a waiver for this requirement if a producer is socially disadvantaged, limited resource or a beginning farmer or rancher. The new Farm Bill programs are as follows:***

- **Supplemental Revenue Program (SURE):** Covers crop revenue losses from quantity or quality deficiencies in disaster declared counties, contiguous counties, or in cases where the overall production loss exceeds 50%
- **Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP):** Compensates livestock owners for forage losses due to drought. Additionally, losses due to wildfire will be covered on public lands.
- **Tree Assistance Program (TAP):** Provides for partial reimbursement for replanting, salvage, pruning, debris removal and land preparation for orchardists and nursery tree growers if losses exceed 15%.
- **Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (EALHF):** Emergency relief to producers of livestock (including horses), honey bees, and farm-raised fish. Covers losses from disasters such as adverse weather or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires not adequately covered by any other disaster program. This program is authorized at the discretion of the Secretary.

Another disaster program authorized by the Farm Bill is the **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)** for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality. This is the only disaster program that does not require crop insurance or NAP coverage.

These new farm bill programs replace any other programs we have had in prior years. **Therefore, if you wish to be able to apply for benefits in the event**



**of drought or other natural disasters, you must apply for NAP coverage by December 31, 2008.**

Further details of all of these new disaster programs, including signup information, will be provided at a later date. Note that additional requirements exist for disaster programs eligibility.



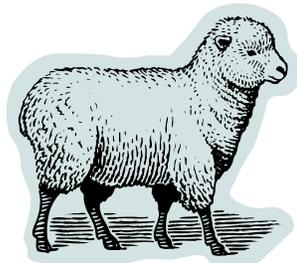
### **Wool, Mohair 2008 Benefits**

There is still time to apply for price support benefits for your wool and/or mohair. Producers can request benefits any time **up until January 31, 2009** as long as you have not sold your wool and/or mohair before you sign the application with our office.

***If the CCC-633EZ form page 1 is not received by the office before you sell, you are ineligible for payment.***

When you sell your wool and mohair there is another form that must be completed.

We will be making outreach visits to the Navajo Nation to take applications. Please see this newsletter for a schedule.



### **FSA County Committee Election**

County committees play a crucial role in helping county office staff implement the 2008 Farm Bill. Due to the importance of

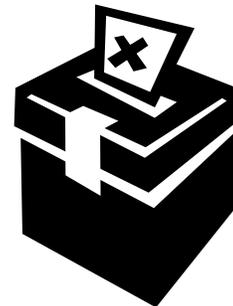
county committee members and their roles, producers are always encouraged to participate in the FSA county committee election.

FSA county committee members make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other important agricultural issues. Members serve three-year terms. Nationwide, there are more than 7,800 farmers and ranchers serving on FSA county committees. Committees consist of three to five members who are elected by eligible local producers.

This year we are electing our representative from the Navajo Nation. Our current representative is Raymond Castillo from St. Michaels.

FSA will mail ballots to producers beginning Nov. 3. The voted ballots are due back at the local county office either via mail or in person by December 1, 2008.

Newly elected committee members and alternates take office January 1, 2009.



### **FSA Farm Loans**

The new Farm Bill provides increased limits on loans through FSA's Farm Loan Program. The maximum loan amount authorized for direct Farm Ownership (FO) loans and direct Operating Loans (OL) has been increased from \$200,000 to \$300,000.

In the FO program, the maximum loan term for the revised down payment program has been extended from 15 years to 20 years. Changes in the Down Payment Program mean the required down payment amount has been reduced from 10 percent to 5 percent and interest rates have been reduced to as low as 1.5% depending on the present FO interest



depending on the FO interest rate. This program allows the agency to loan up to 45% of the purchase price with another lender providing 50% of the financing and the applicant contributing 5%.

FSA makes both direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans to family-size farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit from a bank, Farm Credit System institution or other lender. FSA loans can be used to purchase land, livestock, equipment, feed, seed and supplies. The loans can also be used to construct buildings or make farm improvements.

If you're having trouble getting commercial credit, check with your county office staff about a FSA loan.

For more information and to obtain an application package, contact: Harriet Mann at the contact number in this newsletter.



### Youth Project Loans Available

Where's the STEER?  
Where's the LAMB?  
Where's the SWINE?

YOUTH LOANS AVAILABLE FOR  
JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SHOW  
PROJECTS AND OTHER AG  
PROJECTS

Contact Farm Service Agency if funds are needed to purchase a show project animal, feed, show equipment, or to finance an income-producing 4-H or FAA project.

Who's eligible? Any youth between the ages of 10 and 20, who lives in the country or in a community of less than 50,000 people.

How are funds used? Buy animals, equipment and supplies; buy, rent or repair needed tools and equipment; pay operating expenses for the project.

Youth Loans have a maximum amount of \$5,000.

For more information and to obtain an application package, contact: Harriet Mann at the contact number in this newsletter.



### Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers and Ranchers

FSA assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)



*United We  
Stand!*

Now Open For  
Fun and Games



[www.fsa.usda.gov/fsakids](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/fsakids)

### **Outreach Visits**

We will be making the following visits to take applications for *all* FSA programs available at this time:

Location	Date	Time of Day
Chinle Chapter	Nov 18, 25 Dec 9, 23	10 A.M. to 2 P.M.
Rock Point Chapter	Dec 16	10 A.M. to 2 P.M.
St. Michaels USDA Service Ctr	Nov 6, 20 Dec 4, 18	10 A.M. to 2 P.M.
Shonto Chapter	Nov 18 Dec 2, 16	1 P.M. to 4 P.M.
Kayenta NRCS next to Chapter	Nov 19 Dec 3, 17	8 A.M. to 12 P.M.
Teec Nos Pos Chapter	Nov 12	10 A.M. to 2 P.M.
Pinon Chapter	Dec 11	10 A.M. to 2 P.M.

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, or 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, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call 202-720-5964 (voice or 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. If accommodations are required, please call Gregg W. Norton, CED, at (928) 337-4411