



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

FARM SERVICE AGENCY
Caswell County

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Helen Lunsford, Vice-Chairperson
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**FSA Office Hours
Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

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Farm Service Agency

Caswell County Farm Service Agency

Newsletter

JUNE 2008

Sign-up Deadline for LCP and LIP

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has announced that 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. For more information please contact your local FSA office for program sign-up details

County Committee Elections “FSA Counts on You”

Since COC elections happen only once a year, here is an election refresher. For election purposes, counties are divided into local administrative areas, or LAAs. Each LAA selects one producer to serve a three-year term on the Farm Service Agency county committee. Each year, an election is held in an LAA to replace the committee member whose three-year term is expiring. In counties with three LAAs, one seat is up for election. In combined counties in some years, two seats may be up for election.

Nominations

Candidate nominations for the FSA county committee election will be accepted June 15 through Aug. 1, 2008 for LAA-2 (Dan River, Yanceyville, and Anderson townships)

Producers who are residents in LAA-2 who participate or cooperate in an FSA program and are of legal voting age may be nominated to serve on the county committee.

Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers or ranchers may also nominate candidates. The nomination form, FSA-669A, is available at the county office or may be downloaded from

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?areawsroom&subject=landing&topic=cce>.

To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated, indicating agreement to serve if elected. The completed nomination form must be returned to the county office by the close of business on Aug. 1, or postmarked by midnight Aug. 1, 2008.

Voting Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters beginning Nov. 3, and must be returned to the county office by the close of business on Dec. 1, or postmarked by midnight Dec. 1, 2008. Agricultural producers of legal voting age can vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm can also vote. No one can 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.

Candidate Eligibility To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria:

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
- Be eligible to vote in a county committee election
- Reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate
- Not have been:
 - Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee
 - Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony
 - Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.
- For additional clarification about county committee elections, contact your local county office staff



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Attention Socially Disadvantaged Farmers

FSA is authorized to assist beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person whom: 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; and 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. Socially disadvantaged groups are Hispanics, American Indians, African Americans, Asians, Pacific Islanders and Women.

Signature Authority For Spouses Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, effective August 1, 1992, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the County Office. Spouses shall not sign FSA-211 (power of attorney) on behalf of each other and shall not sign on behalf of the other as an authorized signatory for entities.

Special Accommodations Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by FSA. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOAN

Low cost loans for storage facilities are available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including wheat, rice, soybeans and corn. The seven-year Farm Storage Facility Loans are available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities. Eligible facilities include new conventional-type cribs or bins and new and remanufactured oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures. All Farm Storage Facility Loans are secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85 percent of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to \$100,000 for each borrower. A minimum down payment is also required. For details, contact the county office staff.

Prevented Planting: Prevented planting is to be reported by CCC-576 no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

Failed Acreage: Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions

Banking Changes?
Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. This innovation has cut down on the number of missing and late payments and reduced the time required to move funds. It has been calculated that having a problem with a payment is 20 times greater with checks than with Direct Deposit. Another benefit is that

Direct Deposit to your account can be made within 48 hours. To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions. If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

Crop Reporting The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA office can be referred to as crop reporting, acreage reporting, or crop certification. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments. The certification form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. The producer certification deadline for all crops except small grains and burley tobacco is August 15. The final acreage reporting date for small grains was May 15.

IMPORTANT DATES

- August 15-----Spring Seeded Crops Reporting Deadline
- July 4-----Office Closed Independence Day Holiday
- July 15-----Burley tobacco reporting deadline
- July 18-----LCP,LIP signup deadline