



Greene County Farm Service Agency County Committee

Jimmie Lee Jones, Chairperson
Audie Murphy, Vice Chairperson
R W Bynum III, Member
Dorothy Sutton, Advisor
Lafayette Edwards, Advisor

Committee meets on the 1st Wednesday each month at 8:30 am

Office Staff

Richard Toler, CED
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Office Hours

Monday thru Friday
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USDA Website:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

OUTREACH - The Farm Service Agency is committed to informing all persons of the programs that it administers. As part of the Outreach Plan for the Greene County FSA Office, the County Executive Director will be available to speak to groups upon request.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODIATIONS will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please call Richard Toler at (252) 747-2968.

POLICY

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEWSLETTER

GREENE COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY

June 2008

"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 a LAA to replace the committee member whose three-year term is expiring. In counties with three LAAs, one seat is up for election. This year a producer will be selected from LAA 1 which represents the Snow Hill, Carrs and Speight's Bridge townships.

Nominations

Candidate nominations for the FSA county committee election will be accepted June 15 through Aug. 1, 2008. Producers who are residents in the LAA holding the election and 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?area=newsroom&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.

Crop Reporting

The Greene County Farm Service Agency reminds all farmers that **August 15, 2008** deadline is for reporting tobacco, peanuts, corn, cotton, sorghum, soybeans, fruits, vegetables and all other cropland. All Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) crops that are planted or growing after May 15, 2008 should also be reported.

Planting dates are required for all annual planted crops. This information must be the same information furnished to federal crop for crop insurance reporting.

It is important to start reporting crops as early as possible in order to prevent long lines. The following are options for giving crop reports:

1. Producers make an appointment and visit the office, identify crops with assistance from office staff, and waits to sign the computer generated report. This method is used most often.
2. Producers make an appointment and visit the office to complete maps with assistance from our staff. The operator leaves while the crop report is loaded in the computer, then returns to sign the report. The report must be signed before the applicable deadline.
3. Producers complete maps and tract sheets at home then bring them to the FSA Office for data loading. The following information will be needed: (A) Tobacco acreage and sled row pattern, (B) Shares for each crop, (C) Cropland balanced by field, (D) All fields reported, (E) Planting dates. Producers will be notified when to come by and sign the reports. All computer generated reports must be signed before the applicable crop reporting deadline.
4. Producers visit the office without appointment.

This method is not encouraged because lines may get long.

The annual crop certification process is the basis for all program benefits. Federal crop insurance is based on the information found on the FSA-578, Report of Acreage. It is important that all information be reported timely due to the recent increase in late filed fees.

BOLL WEEVIL ERADICATION PROGRAM

Producers will continue to report their cotton acreage as in the past to the FSA Office. However, NCDA&CS will be sending a billing invoice directly to the producer. Payments will not be accepted at the Greene County FSA Office. The assessment for the 2008 Boll Weevil Eradication Program has decreased this year to \$1.25 per acre.

Nomination Forms

In order to increase awareness of the County committee election process, FSA will be mailing nomination petitions to all producers in Greene County. This year a producer is eligible to be a County FSA committee member if the producer resides in the LAA-1 which consists of Snow Hill, Carrs, or Speight's Bridge townships.

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 earlier this year for the two programs that provide aid to livestock producers who suffered eligible livestock or livestock feed losses between Jan. 1, 2007, and Dec. 30, 2007, because of a natural disaster.

Crop Disaster Program Signup Continues

Eligible farmers and ranchers who suffered crop loss damage before Dec. 31, 2007, can still apply to receive disaster assistance.

FSA continues to accept applications and make payments for quantity losses under the Crop Disaster Program (CDP), for losses that occurred before the end of the 2007 calendar year.

For more disaster program information go online at: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) 2007 Production

Producers that participated in NAP have until June 30, 2008 to furnish FSA with copies of their 2007 or earlier year's production. This production will be used to establish an actual production history (APH). The APH is the yield that will be used to establish losses. Producers who have had losses in the past years or have furnished past years production do not to have resubmit production. Prior year production submitted after June 30, 2008 or after a loss is filed will have to wait until the following year for the production to be added to their history.

Production records must include the name and address of the purchaser, date of purchase, the quantity purchased and price of the production. The information must be verifiable and reliable.

Dates to Remember

June 30	NAP Production Due
July 18	Deadline LIP and LCP
August 15	Crop Reports Deadline