

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

FARM SERVICE AGENCY
CHATHAM COUNTY
COMMITTEE

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Doris P Thomas - Vice Chair
Craig Bray - Member
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Lori E Andrews - PT
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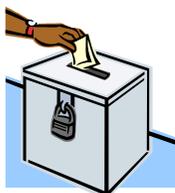
OFFICE HOURS

**Monday – Friday
8:00 am – 4:30 pm**

Farm Service Agency

**Chatham County Farm Service Agency
Newsletter**

JUNE 2008



**FARM SERVICE AGENCY
NOMINATING PETITIONS BEING
ACCEPTED**

The Chatham County Farm Service Agency (FSA) Committee election will be held this year for Local Administrative Area (LAA) 1 on December 1, 2008. LAA 1 includes the townships of: Albright, Bear Creek, and Matthews.

Eligible voters in LAA 1 have the right to nominate candidate(s) of their choice by petition. **Blank petitions (FSA-669A's) will be mailed to all known eligible voters and are included in this mailing or these petitions may be obtained from the county office.**

Persons nominated should actively participate in the operation of a farm or ranch and be well qualified for committee work. A producer is eligible to be a County or Community FSA committee member if the producer resides in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) in which the election is to be held and is eligible to vote.

To ensure diversity on county and community FSA committees, the Chatham County FSA encourages nominations from groups representing producers who are fairly representative of agricultural producers in each LAA and the committee encourages nominations from socially disadvantaged groups.

Any interested person who would like more information on committee nominations or the committee election process should contact the county office.

IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES:

- June 16, 2008Nomination period begins
- Aug. 1, 2008Last day to file nomination form,
- Nov 3, 2008Ballots mailed to eligible voters
- Dec 1, 2008Last day to return voted ballots
- January 1, 2009 Elected member takes office



LIVESTOCK PROGRAMS

The Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) provides benefits to livestock producers who suffered feed losses resulting from natural disasters between January 1 and December 31, 2007. The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths caused by excessive heat in 2007. **The ending signup date for both of these programs will be July 18, 2008. There are no late-filed provisions for 2007 LCP or LIP.** Eligible livestock for this program are animals that have been maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation. These livestock are NOT eligible if they are wild animals or animals used for recreational purposes such as pleasure, hunting, pets, roping or for show. **Please call the county office at 919-542-2244 ext 2 to set up an appointment to sign up for this program.** Since FSA makes payments by direct deposit, please bring a check for the account in which you wish to have your payment deposited. Both programs will require several forms to complete. Please allow at least 30 minutes to complete your application.



SPOUSAL SIGNATURES

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse. There are exceptions to the rule. Spouses may not sign FSA-211s on behalf of each other or sign on behalf of the other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities. Spouses must have a power of attorney on file or sign personally for claim settlements, such as promissory notes, and on security documents for price support loans. Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents. A spouse's authority to sign documents on behalf of the other spouse does not entitle the spouse to review or receive agency records of the other spouse.

GENERAL REMINDERS

- **Report losses on NAP crops or any other crops within 15 days of loss**
- **Report changes in farm operation or farm ownership timely**
- **Report any banking changes affecting direct deposit**

CROP REPORTS

Producers are reminded to report their planted acreage to FSA. Crop reports are required to earn payments in many programs. Crop reports must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. Small grains (wheat, barley, oats, rye) should have been reported by May 15. **All spring or summer seeded crops (corn, soybeans, sorghum, grass, tobacco, cotton, CRP, and fruits or vegetables) must be reported by June 30.** Prevented planting and failed acreage should also be reported. Prevented planting occurs when a crop cannot be planted during the established planting period because of a natural disaster. Failed acreage is timely planted acreage with the intent to harvest, but because of disaster related conditions, the crop failed before it could be harvested. Acreage reports for 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 or was prevented from planting because of natural disaster conditions.

FARM STORAGE LOANS AVAILABLE

Loans are available to producer of wheat, corn, soybeans and other commodities for the construction or upgrade of farm storage and handling facilities. Loans may be made only for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed handling equipment or the remodeling of existing facilities. The maximum term of the loan is 7 years and all loans must be secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum principal amount of any farm storage facility loan is 85 percent of the net cost of the applicant's needed storage or handling equipment. A minimum down payment representing the difference between the net cost of the storage facility and the amount of the loan shall be made by the loan applicant to the supplier or contractor before the loan is disbursed. The interest rate will be the equivalent to that charged on U.S. Treasury securities of comparable maturity on the date the loan is approved. The interest rate for each loan will remain in effect for the term of the loan.



OFFICE CLOSING

The Chatham County FSA Office will be closed, Friday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day.

FARM LOANS

FSA has funds available that are targeted for Socially Disadvantaged (SDA) individuals who want to purchase or operate a family-size farm. This special financing is for people who have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender inequality without regard to their individual qualities. SDA members include women, African Americans, American Indians, Hispanics, Asian and Pacific Islanders and Alaskan Natives. The SDA program provides direct and guaranteed assistance in the form of farm operating and ownership loans. Direct loans are made to applicants from FSA while guaranteed loans are issued by lending institutions and guaranteed by FSA. Operating loans may be used to purchase livestock, equipment, feed, seed, and other business related expenses. Repayment terms run 1-7 years. Ownership loans provide capital to purchase or enlarge a farm, construct or improve buildings, promote soil and water conservation and pay closing costs. Direct loan terms are up to 40 years. Guaranteed loan terms are established by the lender. SDA loans do not receive automatic approval. Individuals must be US citizens with a satisfactory history of meeting credit obligations; have sufficient education, training or experience managing or operating a farm; possess legal capacity to incur debt; and be unable to obtain credit elsewhere. Qualified candidates are provided information and assistance to develop sound management practices, analyze problems and utilize available resources essential for successful farming operations to cope with the changing agricultural environment.

COMMODITY LOANS

Marketing assistance loans can be critical to the success of your operation. With that in mind, it's important to comply with the rules. To be eligible, you must comply with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, report how you use cropland acreage on the farm and ensure that the commodity meets Commodity Credit Corporation minimum grade and quality standards. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for a loan. Loan eligible commodities have been produced by an eligible producer, are in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC.