



**UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE**

*FARM SERVICE AGENCY
Swain/Jackson COUNTY
COMMITTEE*

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Verna Kirkland - Vice Chair
Mark Hyatt- Member
James (JoHi) Griffin- Member
Jack Boggs- Member
Rebecca Fortner -Director

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Farm Service Agency

Swain/Jackson County Farm Service Agency Newsletter

June 2008



County Committee Nominations in Progress

June 16, 2008 Nomination period begins. Attached you will find a Nomination petition form. Please nominate an eligible candidate and return to the Swain FSA Office by August 1, 2008.

The following LAA's are up for election;

Local Administrative Area 2 which covers the Alarka and Needmore communities. Currently, Verna Kirkland is serving her first consecutive term.

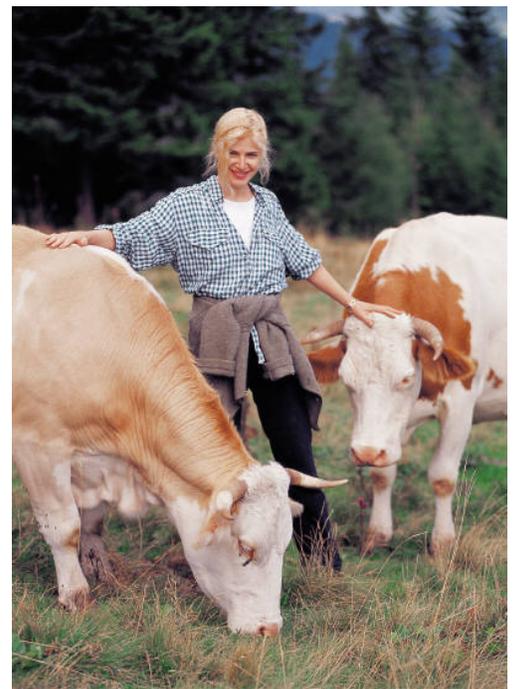
Local Administrative Area 4 which covers communities of Whittier, Barkers Creek, Dillsboro, Sylva, Webster, Little Savannah, Old Ashe Settlement and Caney Fork. Currently Jim Rhinehart is serving his first consecutive term

Committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs their counties offer. They work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.



LIVESTOCK ASSISTANCE SIGNUP UNDERWAY

The FSA Office is currently accepting applications and making payments on 2005, 2006 and 2007 livestock that suffered from the droughts. If you are a livestock owner please contact the FSA Office. Deadline to apply is COB July 18, 2008.



United States
Department
Of Agriculture
Swain/Jackson CO Farm Service Agency
P O Box 2331
Bryson City, NC 28713

Official Business

Penalty for Private Use \$300

OFFICE HOURS

Customers are reminded that the Swain/Jackson County FSA Office hours are 7:30 to 4:30 Monday Through Friday.

UTILIZING GIS: The Farm Service Agency currently employs a Geographic Information System (GIS), a computer based tool for capturing, storing, mapping and analyzing geographic farm data. FSA uses GIS to replace the old manual system of hard copy maps and aerial photographs. This digital technology is faster and more accurate than the old way, and saves taxpayers money over the long term. The software can automatically calculate the size of each field and is connected to a database that contains cropping history for each particular field. GIS gives us the tools to provide quicker, more accurate info to producers and as an added bonus, producers can review their farms online from the comfort of their homes.

CROP ACREAGE REPORTS

Producers in Swain and Jackson Counties are requested to report their crop acres to the FSA Office as soon as planting is completed.

In addition to traditional row crops, nursery crops, fruits and berries, and ornamentals; producers are also encouraged to report their fields that are in **hay and pasture**.

Participation in many FSA programs requires a crop report to be on file with the FSA Office to be eligible.

Remember you must report the date the crops were planted.

The crop reporting deadline is June 30, 2008, however it will not be long before crops are planted and we ask farmers to report their acres as soon as possible.

DATES TO REMEMBER

June 30th - Crop Reporting Deadline

July 4th - The Office will be closed.

July 18th - Last day to apply for Livestock Assistance

August 1- Last day to nominate COC Candidate.

September 1st. – Last day to purchase Nap for Strawberries, Nursery and Aquaculture.

BEGINNING, SMALL AND LIMITED RESOURCE FARMERS & RANCHERS

NRCS and FSA have worked together to make conservation programs more available to beginning, small and limited resource farmers. To help producers implement conservation measures, FSA has several loan programs available to assist with up-front costs. FSA makes direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans to family-size farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit otherwise. A primary objective of FSA's farm loan programs is to assist small, beginning, and socially disadvantaged (minority and female) producers.



IF YOU HAVE BOUGHT OR SOLD ANY AGRICULTURAL PROPERTY, OR CHANGED BANKS AND/OR ACCOUNTS PLEASE NOTIFY THE FSA OFFICE, SO THAT WE CAN CHANGE OUR RECORDS.