



Summer Harvest Farm Safety

In rural areas it is a well-known fact that work on the farm continues all summer long. The spring planting is hardly complete when preparation for the winter wheat harvest begins. Part of the readiness ritual includes getting the combine in good working order. Repairing broken equipment or performing maintenance on large farm machinery can be very dangerous. Research from the University of Illinois has revealed that agricultural fatality rates are five times that of other industries. For this reason the Farm Service Agency (FSA) wants to remind producers to exercise caution at all times around heavy equipment.

For many farmers it will take days or even weeks in the farm shop to get everything ready for wheat harvest. Adjusting the tension on chains, replacing worn parts, and applying grease and oil where needed are just some of the items that are on a producer's equipment checklist. It is also important to insure

that safety shields are in place and danger zones are clearly marked. The florescent orange slow moving vehicle signs are required by law for all tractors, wagons, and combines that travel under 35 MPH on the road. Thorough advance preparation will not only save time but could save lives and prevent injuries.

FSA would also like to emphasize caution when children are near farm equipment. Recent statistics reveal that annually over 30,000 farm injuries involve children under the age of 20. In agriculture today over 2 million youth are directly exposed to farm activity in some manner. As responsible adults we owe it to our families to practice safety at all times on the farm. Minimizing risk and exercising caution allows work on the farm to get done more efficiently and effectively. A fully successful summer harvest depends on getting the crop in, while insuring everyone remains safe and accident free.

Compiled by Michael Kaufman, FSA Public Affairs Specialist.

The Farmer Portal – A Water Management Tool for Farmers



The Georgia Water Planning and Policy Center recently introduced a new tool that helps farmers track their water use. This new tool, the Farmer Portal, is free and available on the Internet at: <http://www.gafarmerportal.org/>. The Portal gives farmers an easy way to track water use against real-time benchmarks based on data from other Georgia farms. The Portal provides a wealth of information to farmers, including the ability to create instant reports that compare their water and crop data with averages for other farmers in their county or watershed. Farmers can also use the Portal to access information about water-saving practices and current agricultural news. All data entered into the Portal is kept confidential.

In June of this year, Hal Haddock of Early County was the first farmer to log-in to the Portal. As the founding Chairman of the Flint River Regional Water Council, Mr. Haddock is a leader in Georgia on water resource management. He sees the Portal as an important tool for farmers. "As a businessman and farmer, I need practical and timely information regarding one of my most important resources – water. The web site is easy to use, confidential, and contains links to weather information, government programs, and agricultural news," said Hal Haddock.

The Georgia Water Planning and Policy Center encourages farmers to use the Farmer Portal to manage water use, to evaluate their own operations, and to access current agricultural news. Currently, use of the Portal is limited to farmers that have a State installed water meter on their farm. To utilize the Portal's full potential, a farmer needs only the serial number from the meter. (Further explanation is available on the Portal login web page.) The Georgia Water Planning and Policy Center is exploring ways to make the Portal available to all farmers by involving the Farm Service Agency and other agencies.

Compiled by Marty McKimney, Flint River Water Policy & Planning Center, 125 Pine Avenue, P O Box 345, Albany, GA 31701.

Director's Message

After four years in the State Executive Director (SED) chair it is time to move on. Working for the Bush Administration as Georgia's Farm Service Agency (FSA) SED has been a tremendous privilege. I very much appreciate the opportunity provided by the Administration to work in this position and look forward to continuing to serve the Administration for the next two years in Washington, DC.

If you are lucky, the best thing you take away from a job when you leave is new friends. Fortunately for me this job is no exception and some of the strongest friendships are formed when working under stress. As any farmer or FSA employee knows, during the last four years we have had our share of stress. In these situations it gives you a chance to observe the quality and character of individuals around you when things are at their toughest.

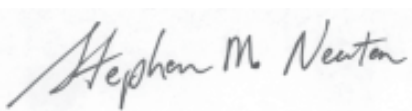
A good portion of my time has been spent working with cases coming before the Georgia State FSA Committee. To a person, everyone who has served on the State Committee has been exemplary in their effort to serve the farming community. This means being fair with the producer but also following the guidelines. Sometimes those two points are in conflict and hence the stress mentioned above. Good leadership starts at the top and Chairman Lane has provided thoughtful and attentive leadership to the committee, while managing a successful commercial farming operation in middle Georgia. Without question, he is one of the finest individuals I have ever had the pleasure of working with. I could say similar things about the other committee members as well.

While the SED and State Committee positions are somewhat a revolving door, the professional leadership in the GA FSA organization is ultimately the glue that holds this Agency together. From Section Chiefs to Program Technicians, every one plays an important role in making this organization work. I have witnessed firsthand the willing and thoughtful cooperation and assistance employees offer to each other when help is needed. That cooperation and willingness to help your fellow employee is a reward that can never be reflected in a paycheck.

A lot of changes are still up in the air for the next few years, such as budget constraints, the farm bill rewrite, office consolidation, and staffing limits, to name just a few. Each one of these issues will be dealt with one at a time to the best of our ability as they come up.

Thank you for your tremendous support and encouragement during the last four years. I look forward to our continuing service to the farming community.

Sincerely,



Georgia State FSA Newsletter

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The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) is the main source for information contained in this educational newsletter. Eligibility and participation for all FSA programs is determined in accordance with FSA rules and regulations. Contact your local FSA Service Center to determine program eligibility.

The Georgia Farm Service Agency State Newsletter is published by the Georgia FSA State Office. Contact your local USDA Service Center - Farm Service Agency listed in the phone book, weekdays 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. to obtain a free subscription, make address corrections, or be removed from the mailing list.

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Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in any meeting/event/function should contact Kula C. Moore, 706-546-2269.

Loans Available To Rural Youths

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes loans to individual rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects of modest size in connection with their participation in 4-H clubs, Future Farmers of America, and similar organizations.

Each project must be part of an organized and supervised program of work. The project must be planned and operated with the help of the organization adviser, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience.

Each year, many young entrepreneurs take advantage of these loans and gain valuable business experience in the process.

To qualify for a loan, an applicant must meet the following criteria:

- be a U.S. citizen (or permanent resident),
- be between 10 and 20 years old,
- live in a town of less than 10,000 people,
- be unable to obtain a loan from other sources,
- conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised work program, and
- be capable of planning, managing, and operating the project under guidance from a project adviser.

These loans may be used to finance nearly any kind of income-producing project of modest size. Common projects include livestock and crop production, lawn and garden services, repair shops, and roadside stands. The maximum loan amount can't exceed \$5,000. Loan funds can be used to buy livestock, equipment, and supplies; buy, rent, or repair needed tools and equipment; and pay operating expenses for running the project.

Applicants must sign a promissory note and be responsible for repaying the loan. In some cases, a cosigner may be required. Loan collateral normally consists of items produced or purchased with loan funds. Repayment terms can vary depending on the type of project. For more information interested persons may contact any of the Farm Service Agency offices located in local USDA Service Centers throughout Georgia.



Important Dates calendar for FSA Programs

Final Availability Dates for Loans and LDP's:

31-May Cotton, Corn, Dry Peas, Grain Sorghum, Lentils, Mustard Seed, Safflower Seed, Small Chickpeas, Soybeans, Sunflower Seeds

Final Crop Reporting Dates:

15-Jul All crops, except small grains
15-Jul Final date to pay on "certified" cotton acres without penalty

NAP Insurance Sales Closing Dates:

1-Dec Honey
31-Jan All annually planted crops, both spring and fall
15-Aug Perennial crops, forage crops for hay and grazing, and all value loss crops

Additional Program Deadlines:

Now Inquire and Sign-up CRP Continuous Practices such as Riparian Buffers
Now Inquire and Sign-up for Bobwhite Quail Habitat Buffers (selected counties only)
Now Emergency Conservation approved applicants - report completed practices to FSA
1-Apr-31-Aug CRP Nesting Season
1-Jun 2006 Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) Sign-up Period Ends (no fee)
1-Aug Final Date to Request Reconstitution of DCP Farm
29-Sep Final Date to Enroll in 2006 DCP (\$100 late fee per farm)
1-Nov Tobacco Buy Out Program Successor In Interest Contracts for 2007, as well as contract transfers between family members due to death of contract holder or moving "purchased" quota

FSA Offices closed on the following holidays:

4-Sep-06 Labor Day
9-Oct-06 Columbus Day
10-Nov-06 Veterans Day (Observed)
23-Nov-06 Thanksgiving Day
25-Dec-06 Christmas Day

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Farm Programs

September 29 Deadline for Late-filed DCP Contracts and Successions

The June 1 deadline for enrolling in the 2005 Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) has passed, but interested participants may continue to enroll through September 29 with payment of a \$100 per farm late fee. This is a statutory deadline with no exceptions.

Participants are reminded that enough qualifying acreage to support their payment shares must be controlled throughout the program year which ends September 30. Failure to do so or revise the contract by September 29 will result in total ineligibility for the producer on the farm in question. Producers and owners are responsible for monitoring the need for revised contracts.

Please note that because September 30, 2006, falls on a Saturday, the actual deadline for producers to enroll or revise contracts is September 29.

2005 Payment Limitation/Eligibility Reviews Underway

To maintain the integrity of payment limitation and payment eligibility provisions, end-of-year reviews are conducted to ascertain that farming operations were carried out as represented when initial determinations were made. Selected producers must submit proof of capital, land and equipment contributions, as well as account for all labor and management. Operating notes, bank statements, negotiated checks, ledgers, invoices, land leases, equipment listings and any other documentation requested by FSA are necessary. Producers may be asked to meet with the review team to clarify any questions. The review team will make recommendations to the County Committee which will make the determination subject to review by the State Committee.

MILCX-Extended Program for Milk Producers

Dairy producers will be receiving assistance due to the continuation of the Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program. The continuation of financial assistance to dairy operations is in conjunction with production sold in the commercial market when domestic prices fall below specified levels. The MILCX payment rates are announced each month. Producers or their milk companies provide the production

evidence to the Farm Service Agency (FSA) office where the dairy is located.



Sign-up for this program began March 13, 2006, and will continue until September 30, 2007. As of July 15, 2006, dairy producers in Georgia have received \$1,771,357.41

Dairy operations must immediately notify their local offices of any intentions to relocate their dairy to another county or state. Producers with relocation or change in their operations must complete a CCC-580M at their local FSA office.

For further information, contact your local County FSA Office or visit the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Signup 33 Results

Georgia land owners had 13,639.6 acres accepted in CRP SU33 with a weighted average rental payment of \$44.42 per acre. Listed below is a summary breakdown by practice of how the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Signup 33 resulted:

Practice	Total Offers	Acres
CP1, Establishment of Permanent Grass	3	86.4
CP10, Grass Already Established	3	39.9
CP11, Trees Already Established	56	2,006.8
CP12, Wildlife Food Plot	45	43.2
CP3, Tree Planting	47	1,167.7
CP3A, Longleaf Pines	303	10,209.3
CP4D, Permanent Wildlife Habitat	5	86.3
Total	462	13,639.6

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a voluntary program that helps landowners protect the land by planting resource conserving practices on the land to help control erosion, improve water and air quality, and promote wildlife habitat. Participants enrolled in the CRP program receive annual rental payments and a one time cost-share payment for assistance in carrying out the practice. For more information on CRP, contact your local County FSA Office or visit the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov.

County Committee Elections

FSA County Committee Election

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers with large or small operations. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a direct link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

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.

Committees provide local input on:

- Commodity price support loans and payments;
- Establishment of allotments and yields;
- Conservation programs;
- Incentive, indemnity, and disaster payments for some commodities;
- Emergency programs; and
- Employing county executive directors.

FSA committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. Committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

Election Period

June 15, 2006 - Nomination period began. Request nomination forms from local USDA Service Center or obtain online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections>.

August 1, 2006 - Last day to file nomination forms at the local USDA Service Center.

November 3, 2006 - Ballots mailed to eligible voters.

December 4, 2006 - Last day to return voted ballots to the USDA Service Center.

January 1, 2007 - Newly elected committee members and alternates take office.

Nominations

Nomination forms for the 2006 election had to be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on August 1, 2006. Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy for the committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Additionally, organizations representing socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers (minorities and women) may nominate candidates.

Who Can Vote

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 of an entire farm can also vote. More information about voting eligibility requirements can be found in the FSA fact sheet titled "FSA County Committee Election - Eligibility to Vote and Hold Office as a County Committee Member." Producers may contact their local USDA Service Center for more information.

Don't Miss Out on Voting

Ballots will be mailed to voters by November 3, 2006, and must be returned to the FSA county office or postmarked by December 4, 2006. Eligible voters may contact their local FSA county office if they do not receive a ballot by November 17, 2006.

New Uniform Guidelines

On January 18, 2005, USDA issued new uniform guidelines for county committee elections to help ensure that FSA county committees fairly represent the agricultural producers of a county or multi-county jurisdiction, especially socially disadvantaged (SDA) producers. SDA persons are African Americans, American Indians or Alaska Natives, Hispanics, Asians, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islanders, and women. The guidelines, authorized by the 2002 Farm Bill, govern the FSA county committee election process and are designed to increase participation by minorities and women.

The following are just some of the specifics of the guidelines that are now in effect:

- If no valid nominations are filed, the secretary of agriculture may nominate up to two individuals to be placed on the ballot.
- County committees must annually review local administrative area boundaries to ensure the fair representation of SDA producers in their county or multi-county jurisdiction.
- FSA county offices shall actively locate and recruit eligible candidates identified as SDA farmers and ranchers as potential nominees for the county committee elections using any reasonable means necessary, including the development of partnerships with community based organizations.

Role of Advisors

In addition to elected members, FSA county committees may also include advisors. Advisors are appointed to county committees in counties or multi-county jurisdictions that have significant numbers of SDA producers and lack minority or women-elected members on FSA county committees. Advisors play an important role by

(Continued on Page 6)

Farm Loan Programs

Loans for Socially Disadvantaged Persons

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes and guarantees loans to socially disadvantaged applicants to buy and operate family-size farms and ranches. Funds specifically for these loans are reserved each year. Non-reserved funds are also utilized.

A socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher is one group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of the group without regard to their individual qualities. For the purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African-Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders.

This program:

- ◆ Targets direct and guaranteed loan assistance to socially disadvantaged persons;
- ◆ Discovers and removes barriers that prevent full participation of those persons in FSA's farm loan programs; and
- ◆ Provides information and assistance to applicants to help them develop sound farm management practices, analyzes problems, and plans the best use of available resources essential for success in farming or ranching.

Direct loans are made to applicants by FSA and include both farm operating and farm ownership loans. Guaranteed farm loans may also be made for ownership or operating purposes, and may be made by any lending institution subject to Federal or State supervision and guaranteed by FSA. Typically, FSA guarantees 90 or 95 percent of a loan against loss that might be incurred if the loan fails.

Farm Ownership loans may be used to purchase or enlarge a farm or ranch, purchase easements or rights of way needed in the farm's operation, erect or improve buildings, promote soil and water conservation and development, and pay closing costs. In addition to the above purposes, guaranteed farm ownership loans may be used to refinance debt.

Farm Operating loans may be used to purchase livestock, poultry, farm equipment, feed, seed, fuel, fertilizer, chemicals, hail and other crop insurance, food, clothing, medical care, and hired labor. Funds may also be used to refinance debt and to install or improve water systems for home use, livestock, or irrigation, and other improvements.

Individuals and entities primarily and directly engaged in farming and ranching on family-size operations may apply. In addition to

being members of a socially disadvantaged group, individual applicants under this program must meet all requirements for FSA's regular farm loan assistance.

Repayment terms for direct operating loans depend on the collateral securing the loan and usually run from 1 to 7 years. Interest rates are set periodically according to the Government's cost of borrowing. Repayment terms for direct farm ownership loans are up to 40 years.

Interest rates for guaranteed loans are established by the lender, but may not exceed the rate the lender charges its average farm loan customer. Guaranteed loan terms are set by the lender.

For additional information interested persons should contact their local FSA office.

FY 2006 Funding Update

Borrowers and applicants are encouraged to file their loan applications as soon as possible. Funding for loans under FSA's Farm Loan Programs is made available by Congress each year, beginning October 1. As the lending season progresses, loan funds may become depleted for certain loan types.

As of June 29, 2006

Loan Type	Allocations	Obligations
Direct Farm Ownership (FO)	\$1,380,350	\$1,380,350
Direct Farm Operating (OL)	\$18,652,000	\$15,628,179
Guaranteed Farm Ownership	\$37,694,000	\$23,358,774
Guaranteed Farm Operating	\$38,892,000	\$32,836,774

FSA County Committee Election

(Continued from Page 5)

providing diverse viewpoints and by representing the interests of minorities and women in decisions made by county committees. FSA state committees officially appoint advisors who are recommended by county committees or community based organizations. The recommendation period for Advisors takes place in January and February. Advisors are appointed effective March 1 of each year.

For More Information

For more information on the uniform guidelines or to obtain a nomination form online, visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections> on the World Wide Web or contact your local USDA Service Center.

Locate your FSA County Offices

COUNTY	LOCATION	PHONE
APPLING	Baxley	912-367-6684
ATKINSON	Pearson	912-422-3363
BACON	Alma	912-632-4611
BAKER	Newton	229-734-5272
BEN HILL	Fitzgerald	229-423-2041
BERRIEN	Nashville	229-686-5557
BLECKLEY - TWIGGS	Cochran	478-934-6571
BRANTLEY-CHARLTON	Nahunta	912-462-5718
BROOKS	Quitman	229-263-4116
BULLOCH	Statesboro	912-871-2600
BURKE	Waynesboro	706-554-2109
CALHOUN	Morgan	229-849-2415
CANDLER	Metter	912-685-2635
CARROLL-DOUGLAS- FULTON-HARALSON- PAULDING	Carrollton	770-834-2097
COFFEE	Douglas	912-384-4811
COLQUITT	Moultrie	229-985-6509
COOK	Adel	229-896-3206
COWETA-HEARD- MERIWETHER-TROUP	Newnan	770-251-4282
CRISP	Cordele	229-273-4148
DECATUR	Bainbridge	229-246-5773
DODGE	Eastman	478-374-2531
DOOLY	Vienna	229-268-4131
DOUGHERTY	Albany	229-430-8510
EARLY	Blakely	229-723-3193
EFFINGHAM-BRYAN- CHATHAM	Springfield	912-754-6664
ELBERT-OGLETHORPE	Elberton	706-283-3021
EMANUEL	Swainsboro	478-237-8866
EVANS	Claxton	912-739-4527
FLOYD-POLK	Rome	706-291-5654
GORDON-BARTOW- CHEROKEE-COBB-MURRAY- PICKENS-WHITFIELD	Calhoun	706-629-2582
GRADY	Cairo	229-377-1607
GREENE-HANCOCK- TALIAFERRO	Greensboro	706-453-2086
HABERSHAM-RABUN- STEPHENS-WHITE	Clarksville	706-754-4211
HALL-DAWSON-FORSYTH- LUMPKIN	Gainesville	770-536-0549
HART-FRANKLIN	Hartwell	706-376-5451
HENRY-BUTTS-CLAYTON- FAYETTE-SPALDING	McDonough	770-957-7473
HOUSTON	Perry	478-987-2271
IRWIN	Ocilla	229-468-7491
JACKSON-BANKS-MADISON	Commerce	706-335-8111
JEFF DAVIS	Hazelhurst	912-375-2015

COUNTY	LOCATION	PHONE
JEFFERSON-GLASCOCK	Louisville	478-625-7771
JENKINS	Millen	478-982-4281
JOHNSON	Wrightsville	478-864-3407
LAMAR-MONROE-PIKE- UPSON	Barnesville	770-358-0787
LANIER-CLINCH	Lakeland	229-482-3995
LAURENS-WILKINSON	Dublin	478-272-1757
LEE	Leesburg	229-759-9267
LOWNDES-ECHOLS	Valdosta	229-242-0575
MACON	Oglethorpe	478-472-7012
MARION-CHATTAHOOCHEE- HARRIS-MUSCOGEE- TALBOT	Buena Vista	229-649-4495
MCDUFFIE-COLUMBIA- RICHMOND-WARREN	Thomson	706-595-1339
MILLER	Colquitt	229-758-5219
MITCHELL	Camilla	229-336-0171
MONTGOMERY-TREUTLEN	Mount Vernon	912-583-4541
MORGAN-JASPER-NEWTON	Madison	706-342-1353
OCONEE-BARROW- CLARKE	Watkinsville	706-769-3987
PEACH-BIBB-CRAWFORD	Byron	478-956-6484
PIERCE	Blackshear	912-449-5303
PULASKI	Hawkinsville	478-783-1181
PUTNAM-BALDWIN-JONES	Eatonton	706-485-2341
RANDOLPH-CLAY-QUITMAN	Cuthbert	229-732-3001
SCREVEN	Sylvania	912-564-7101
SEMINOLE	Donalsonville	229-524-2434
SUMTER-SCHLEY	Americus	229-924-4056
TATTNALL	Reidsville	912-557-6706
TAYLOR	Butler	478-862-3645
TELFAIR	McRae	229-868-5696
TERRELL	Dawson	229-995-5811
THOMAS	Thomasville	229-226-3462
TIFT	Tifton	229-382-2775
TOOMBS	Lyons	912-526-6154
TURNER	Ashburn	229-567-3304
UNION-FANNIN-GILMER- TOWNS	Blairsville	706-745-2012
WALKER-CATOOSA- CHATTOOGA-DADE	LaFayette	706-638-1558
WALTON-DEKALB- GWINNETT-ROCKDALE	Monroe	770-267-8363
WARE	Waycross	912-283-6420
WASHINGTON	Tennille	478-552-6071
WAYNE-CAMDEN-GLYNN- LIBERTY-LONG-MCINTOSH	Jesup	912-427-2502
WEBSTER-STEWART	Preston	229-828-2015
WHEELER	Alamo	912-568-7411
WILCOX	Rochelle	229-365-2231
WILKES-LINCOLN	Washington	706-678-2630
WORTH	Sylvester	229-776-6985

Georgia Farm Service Agency
355 E. Hancock Avenue, Stop 100
Athens, Georgia 30601-2775

Producers are reminded when they have an address change due to 911 upgrades or relocation, to please contact your local FSA office to update your address.

2006 Celebrating Rural Georgia Conference

The 5th biennial 2006 Celebrating Rural Georgia Conference is scheduled August 21-23, 2006, in Augusta, Georgia. The theme of this year's conference is "One Georgia, Many Dreams" which exemplifies the meeting's varied offerings of over 30 concurrent sessions and six in depth skill building clinics as well as several distinguished plenary speakers. This event also provides plenty of opportunities for informal networking, enjoying the Georgia artists and musicians, and exploring Augusta's great downtown and plentiful tourist attractions. For additional information, including registration, visit website www.celebratingruralgeorgia.org or call the Georgia Department of Community Affairs at 404-679-1588.

Free Workshop for Small, Beginning, and Limited Resource Farmers

Team Agriculture Georgia (TAG) will hold a free one-day workshop for small, beginning, and limited resource farmers Tuesday, October 24, 2006, at the Heart of Georgia Technical College in Dublin, Georgia. Registration information will soon be available at www.teamaggeorgia.com.

Farmers Invited to Register for USDA Online Services

During the 2006 Sunbelt Ag Expo in Moultrie, the USDA Farm Service Agency will register farmers to conduct USDA business online. This will be accomplished through a partnership with Fort Valley State University and the use of their mobile satellite computer unit.

Assistance will be available for producers wishing to obtain a USDA eAuthentication Service Level 2 Customer Account. This provides a single user ID and password that grants access to the Customer Statement, and many other USDA e-Services, including submitting forms online through USDA e-File, such as eLDP and eDCP.

Visitors to Sunbelt Ag Expo may stop by the Fort Valley State University mobile satellite unit on Tuesday, October 17, from 2 until 4 p.m. or Wednesday, October 18, from 9 until 11 a.m. to receive help from FSA personnel. An email address is required to register. Anyone not having an established email address may stop by the satellite unit prior to the registration times to be assisted by the Fort Valley State University staff in setting up an email address.

Producers are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to register online or view a demonstration on how USDA's online services can save producers time and travel while providing flexibility in managing their USDA business 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Producers may create an account online at any time by going to the USDA eAuthentication site at: www.eauth.egov.usda.gov.