



Alaska FSA News

May 2007

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

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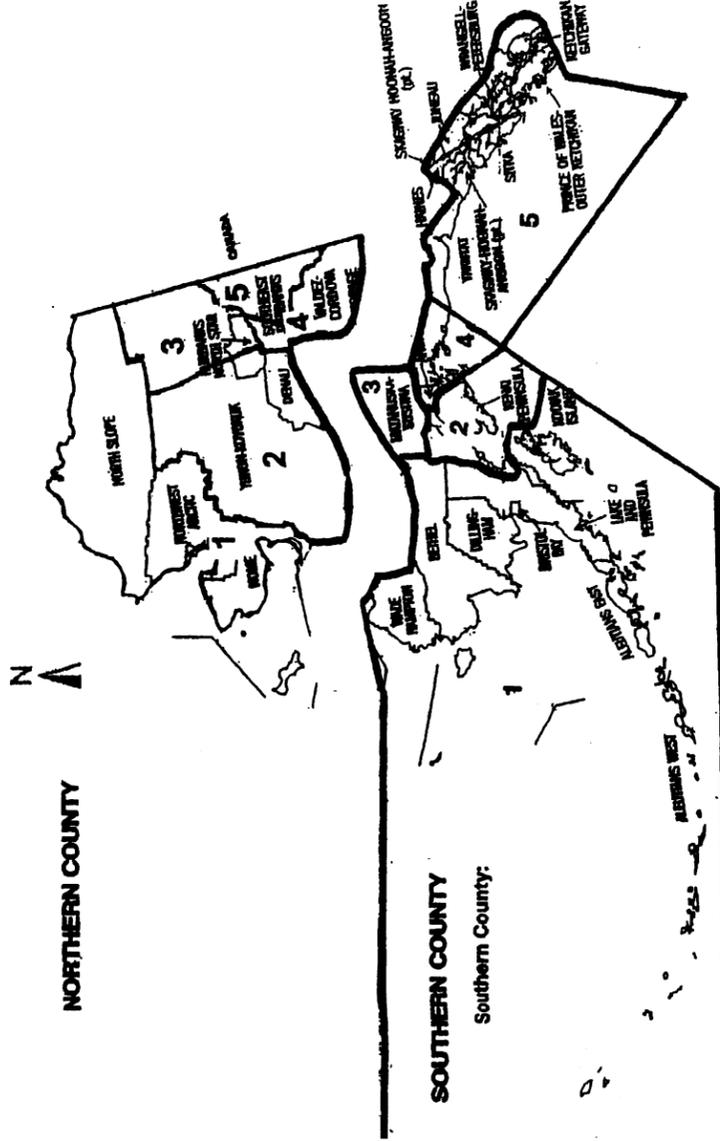
State Committee
Bill Ward, Chair
Jeanette James

State Executive Director
Chad B. Padgett



ALASKA FARM SERVICE AGENCY

County Local Administrative Areas (LAA)



2007 COC Election Information

One of FSA's responsibilities is to conduct County Committee elections in an open manner that ensures accountability. County FSA Offices will provide local organizations representing socially disadvantaged groups with detailed information about the COC election process. FSA is reaching out to agricultural communities to get equitable representation on their county committees.

Groups representing socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, will be actively solicited for COC election candidates, and encouraged to fill out a nomination form (FSA-669A). Under-represented farmers and ranchers are encouraged to step up and participate in their county's COC election process. Producers will notice posters and announcements displayed in businesses, churches, and other public places. COC election information can be found online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ak>. The nomination period closes Wednesday, August 1, 2007.

Rodger Painter in LAA 5 and Charles (Chip) Treinen in LAA 4 had 1 year terms in the Southern County. Clark Davis in LAA 1 and Mark Kern in LAA 2 had 1 year terms for the Northern County. These individuals are eligible for re-election in this year's County Office Committee Election in the above four LAAs.

A map of the Southern and Northern LAA boundaries is included in this newsletter.

Reporting Crop Acreage

The annual reporting requirement 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, with your FSA office 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.

Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. Crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.

Crop reports, Form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. Producers are required to file reports by June 15 for all crops and CRP.

Prevented Planting:

Prevented planting needs to be reported 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.

Source Water Protection Program

Overview

The Source Water Protection Program, a joint project by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the nonprofit National Rural Water Association (NRWA), is designed to help prevent source water pollution in 38 states through voluntary practices installed by producers at the local level.

The program is authorized by amendments to Sec. 12400 of the 1985 Farm Bill that were included in Sec. 2502 of the 2002 Farm Bill. Source water is surface and ground water that is consumed by rural residents. According to the NRWA, ground water is the primary source of drinking water for some 44,000 communities in the United States.

How the Program Works

NRWA is implementing the Source Water Protection Program, with oversight and assistance by FSA. Through the program, NRWA is hiring, for every participating state, full-time rural source water technicians who possess knowledge and experience in rural issues. The technicians will work with FSA state executive directors, FSA county executive directors and state conservation

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or

specialists with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service to create operating plans that identify priority areas where local pollution prevention efforts are needed most in their respective states. Working with state rural water associations, technicians will also facilitate the creation of local teams comprised of citizens with diverse backgrounds from federal, state, local and private entities. These teams will collaborate in the development of Rural Source Water Protection plans that promote clean ground water. The technicians will assist the teams in gathering local data and facilitate a planning workshop. The purpose of the workshop will be to create a plan that will include, but will not be limited to, developing the following:

- A map outlining the affected area;
- An inventory of potential contaminant sources;
- A definition of areas that match up with entities and organizations;
- A definition of voluntary measures that may be initiated;
- Identification of public education initiatives; and
- Identification of entities and resources that will facilitate implementation of the plan and its sustainability.

Rural Source Water Protection plans will outline voluntary measures that farmers and ranchers can install on their lands to prevent

because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large prints, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

source water pollution. Voluntary measures may range from producers storing herbicides, pesticides or other substances in more secure containers to relocating waste lagoons. By working at the grassroots level, local team members will inform and educate producers about source water protection measures that benefit their neighbors and communities. Additionally, the plans will establish steering committees to evaluate voluntary practices implemented by local producers. FSA will monitor the overall performance of the program.

Participating States

The program is being implemented in the following states: Alaska, Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington and Wisconsin. The 38 states participating in the Source Water Protection Program were chosen based on objective technical criteria relating to water quality and population.

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 800-795-3272 (voice) or 202-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Certification Maps and Forms

Please call the office for your farm maps and for help with your crop certification. It is important for future USDA programs that vegetables and other land uses are annually certified.

Maintaining CRP Cover

CRP cover maintenance is the participant's responsibility and must be done according to the conservation plan. All CRP maintenance activity, such as mowing, burning and spraying, must be conducted outside the primary nesting season for wildlife and in accordance with the conservation plan.

May 15 thru June 25 is the primary nesting season.

Outreach Program

The Farm Service Agency makes direct and guaranteed loans to socially disadvantaged applicants, enabling them to buy and operate family-size farms and ranches. Funds are reserved each year specifically for these loans, but regular loan funds can also be used.

Direct loans may be made to qualified applicants by FSA for both farm operating and farm ownership purposes. Guaranteed farm loans also may be made for ownership or operating purposes, and may be made by any lending institution subject to Federal or state supervision (banks, savings and loans, and units of the Farm Credit System) and guaranteed by FSA. Some state governments also operate farm loan programs that are eligible for FSA guarantees.

FSA typically guarantees 90 or 95 percent of a loan against any loss that might be incurred if the loan fails.

Persons who are primarily and directly engaged in farming and ranching on family-size operations may apply. A family-size farm is one that a family can operate and manage itself.

Socially disadvantaged loan applicants do not receive automatic approval. 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 program assistance, including:

- Have a satisfactory history of meeting credit obligations.
- Have sufficient education, training, or at least one-year's experience in managing or operating a farm or ranch within the last five years for a direct operating loan, or, for a direct farm ownership loan, have participated in the business operation of a farm or ranch for three years;
- Be a citizen of the United States (or a legal resident alien), including Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and certain former Pacific Island Trust Territories;
- Be unable to obtain credit elsewhere at reasonable rates and terms to meet actual needs; and
- Possess legal capacity to incur loan obligations.

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

Contact the FSA County Office Farm Loan Program staff for more details about this program, and other financial options.

Dates to Remember

May 25, 2007 Final planting date for Barley, Wheat and Oats.

May 28, 2007 Offices closed in observance of Memorial Day

June 16, 2007 Last day for Emergency Loan Applications under Presidential Major Disaster Declaration M1663.

August 8, 2007 Last day for Emergency Loan Applications under Presidential Major Disaster Declaration M1669.

Ongoing: DCP sign-up, Farm Loan Applications accepted, Continuous CRP sign-up

May 2007	
90-Day Treasury Bill	5.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	5.000%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	5.250%
Limited Resource Loans	5.000%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	4.000%
Emergency Loans	
Farm Storage Facility Loans	4.625%
Sugar Storage Facility Loans	4.875%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	5.875%