



# Alaska FSA News

October 2006

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DEPARTMENT  
OF  
AGRICULTURE  
Farm Service  
Agency

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**State Committee**  
Bill Ward, Chair  
Jeanette James

State Executive  
Director  
Chad B. Padgett



## **County Committee Election**

Just a reminder: Be watching your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot starting early next month. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters on Nov. 3, 2006. If for some reason you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify the county FSA office. Completed and signed ballots are due back in the county office by the close of business on Dec. 4, 2006.



## **FSA Farm Loans Available For Beginning Farmers or Rancher**

Beginning farmers or ranchers can get a "regular" farm ownership loan by using funds set aside especially for them by the Farm Service Agency. These loans finance up to 100 percent of the land's purchase price (up to the \$200,000 loan limit), and the term of the loan can be up to 40 years.

The interest rate can be 5.75 percent, or the "limited resource" rate of 5.00 percent.

The regular farm ownership loan funds may also be used in joint financing where FSA lends up to 50 percent of the amount financed and another lender provides 50 percent or more. FSA may charge an interest rate of not less than 4 percent with terms up to 40 years.

## **Changes in Your Farming Operation**

Producers are responsible for informing FSA of any changes to their farming operations to ensure that they will remain eligible for any program benefits. Changes may include selling land, obtaining or losing a lease, etc.

FSA County Offices are currently updating Common Land Units (CLU's). If you have made changes (sold land, bought land, changed field boundaries, cleared or abandoned land), please notify the County Office.

Once FSA reviews the aerial photographs with the satellite imagery files, a copy will be sent to the producer for their review and certification. Review of information and prompt return of updates or certification of data would be appreciated.

## **2007 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP)**

Enrollment for the 2007 program year began October 1, 2006 and continues until June 1, 2007. Producers who have obtained a Level 2 eAuthentication account are able to sign up online.

Producers may request to receive direct advance payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment rate for each commodity associated with the farm. USDA will issue DCP direct advance payments beginning December 1, 2006.

Counter-cyclical payments are issued only when the effective price (which takes into account the direct payment rate, market price and loan rate) for a commodity is below its target price.

For more information please contact your local FSA Office.

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"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."

## **TAA Deadline Announced**

If you are a producer of a commodity which has recently suffered from low prices due to increasing imports, you may be eligible for technical assistance and a financial payment under the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Program. A petition must be filed with USDA's Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) between August 15, 2006 and January 31, 2007 in order to receive benefits under the TAA.

Benefits under this program include cash payments and various educational benefits that can include occupational training. In prior years, TAA benefits have been provided to producers of blueberries, concord grapes, potatoes, lychees, avocados, and

to fishermen of shrimp and salmon, to name a few.

The petition for benefits must be received by the TAA office by close of business January 31, 2007. The TAA office address is Foreign Agricultural Service, ITP/IPPD, MS-1021, Washington, DC 20250-1021; the facsimile number is (202) 720-0876; the e-mail address is [trade.adjustment@fas.usda.gov](mailto:trade.adjustment@fas.usda.gov). Use of fax or e-mail is recommended.

For further information or assistance in completing form FAS-930, contact: Jean-Louis Pajot, Coordinator, Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers, FAS, USDA, (202) 720-2916, or send an e-mail to: [trade.adjustment@fas.usda.gov](mailto:trade.adjustment@fas.usda.gov). Additional program information can be obtained at the TAA website at <http://www.fas.usda.gov/itp/taa/taaindex.htm>

## **USDA Awards Grants To Develop Risk Management Tools, Education, and Outreach**

The Risk Management Agency (RMA) Spokane Regional Office announced awards of nearly \$900,000 in partnership agreements to help provide new ways for producers to manage agricultural risks, and for outreach and educational opportunities to women, limited resource and other traditionally underserved farmers and ranchers. For information contact Jo Lynne Seufer at [jo.lynne.seufer@rma.usda.gov](mailto:jo.lynne.seufer@rma.usda.gov)

## **Program Technician for Southern County**

Chris Dickinson has been selected for the Program Technician (PT) position in the Southern County. The contact number for the office is (907) 761-7754.

## **CED Schedule**

Acting CED Wilhelm or a member of the staff is scheduled to visit Kenai and Homer on the following dates:

October  
Kenai October 17 morning  
Homer October 18 afternoon  
Homer October 19 office morning  
October 19 field afternoon  
Kodiak October 20 field

November  
Kenai November 14 morning  
Homer November 14 field  
Homer November 15 office

Please call (907) 895-4242 Ext. 2, for an appointment.

## **Dates to Remember**

December 7, 2006  
Northern County FSA Committee will hold a meeting at 9:00 AM in the Jarvis Building Conference room, Delta Junction, Alaska with COC ballots being counted at 10:00 AM.

December 8, 2006  
Southern County FSA Committee will hold a meeting at 9:00 AM in the Southern County Office located at 800 W Evergreen, Suite 216., Palmer, Alaska. COC election ballots will be counted at 10:00 AM.

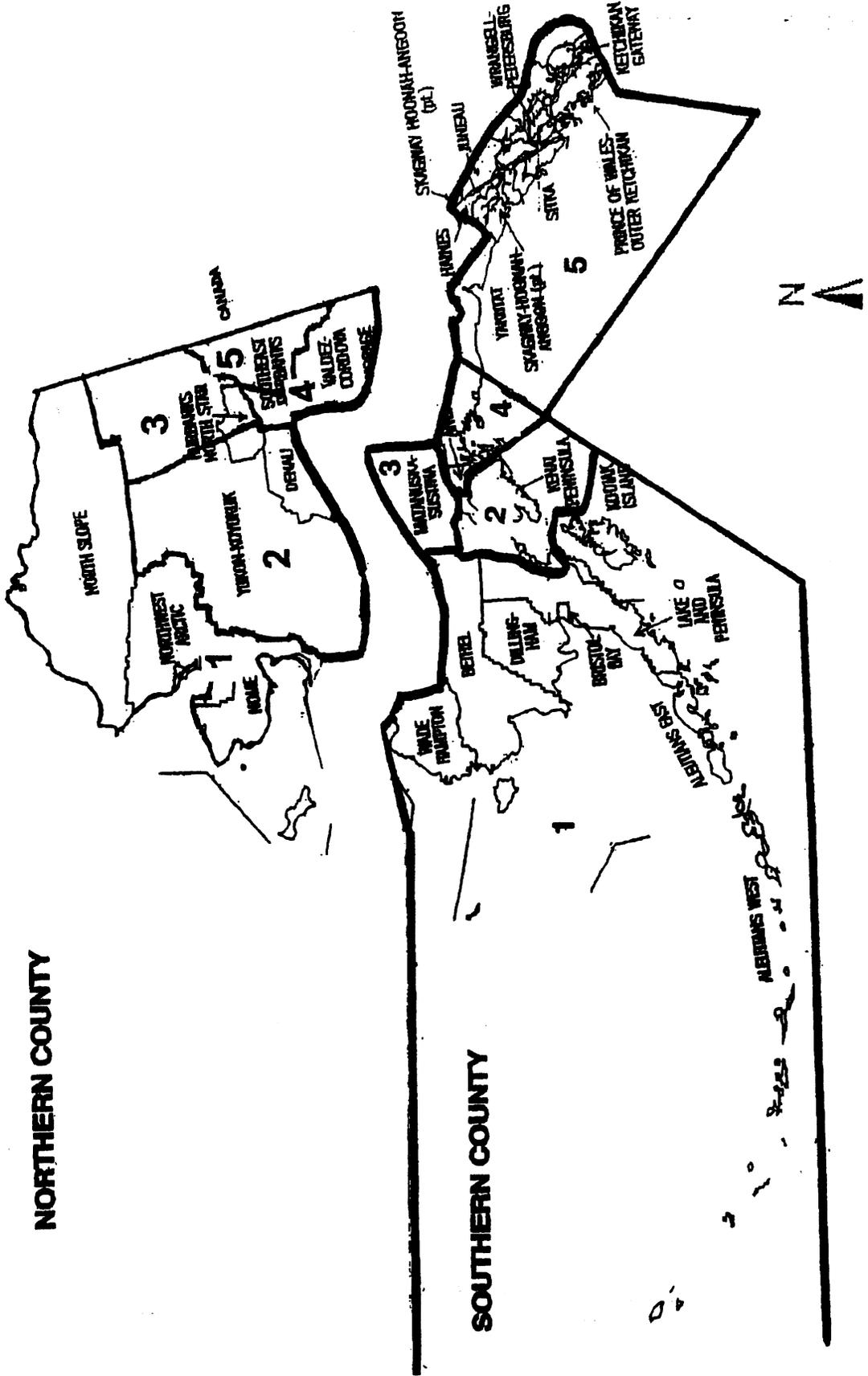
## **CRP Annual Rental Payments**

Secretary of Agriculture Johanns announced that beginning October 2, 2006, USDA will issue Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) annual rental payments to participating producers for fiscal year 2007.

"The Conservation Reserve Program works to conserve and preserve the soil, water and wildlife resources of our nation," said Secretary Johanns.

# ALASKA FARM SERVICE AGENCY

## County Local Administrative Areas (LAA)



Alaska State FSA Office  
 800 W Evergreen  
 Suite 216  
 Palmer, AK 99645

PRSRT STD  
 Postage Fees Paid  
 Farm Service Agency  
 Permit NO G-96

## **COC Elections 2006**

The following is a list of candidates that will be included on the 2006 ballot for the Northern and Southern counties. Watch your November newsletter for biographies on individual candidates.

### **Northern County:**

LAA: 1 Clark Davis  
 Ted Katcheak

LAA: 2 Micheal Martin  
 Mark Kern  
 LAA: 3 Clyde Barnebey  
 McLaren Carter  
 LAA: 4 Robert Green  
 Paul Knopp  
 LAA: 5 Roger Hendry  
 Richard Karr

### **Southern County:**

LAA 1: Aloysius Unok  
 Craig Schauff  
 Jesse Edwards

LAA 2: Kevin Hogan  
 Lee Martin  
 Leroy Cabana  
 Mike Swan  
 LAA 3: Matthew Shaul  
 Rose Marie Depriest  
 Wayne Brost  
 LAA 4: Charles Treinen  
 Kevin Adams  
 LAA 5: Rodger Painter  
 Thomas Henderson  
 Thomas McAllister

### **Selected Interest Rates for October 2006**

90-Day Treasury Bill	5.125
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	5.375
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	5.625
Limited Resource Loans	5.0
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	4.0
Emergency Loans	3.75
Farm Storage Facility Loans	4.750
Sugar Storage Facility Loans	5.000
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	6.000

