



# Georgia Farm Service Agency Newsletter

October - November 2009

United States Department of Agriculture

Volume 6, Issue 5

## Important Dates calendar for FSA Programs

### Final Availability Dates for 2009 Crop Loans and LDP's:

31-May Cotton, Corn, Grain Sorghum, Soybeans, Sunflower Seeds

### 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 Emergency Conservation approved applicants -- report completed practices to FSA

Now Sign-up Livestock Forage Program (Eligible Counties Only); 2008 Sign-up ends December 10

1-Apr - 31-Aug CRP Nesting Season

14-Aug Deadline to report spring/summer-seeded crops

14-Aug Deadline to certify and pay for final cotton acres for BWEP without a late fee assessed

1-Aug Deadline for requesting the reconstitution of a farm with crop bases

14-Aug Deadline to enroll into 2009 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) and Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE)

1-Nov Tobacco Buy Out Program Successor In Interest Contracts for 2010, as well as contract transfers involving moving "purchased" quota

**NOTE: If the crop being reported has NAP coverage, the final date to timely report the acreage is 15 days PRIOR to the onset of harvest or grazing. It is important for producers to remember that crops with NAP coverage will usually have a NAP crop reporting date EARLIER than the regularly established reporting dates for crops without NAP coverage.**

### Present Emergency Loan Application Deadlines in Georgia:

5-Oct-09 Designation S2846 in 7 counties due to early frost

13-Oct-09 Designation S2850 in 13 counties due to drought

21-Dec-09 Designation M1831 in 4 counties due to severe storms, flooding, tornadoes and straight-line winds

23-Dec-09 Designation M1833 in 50 counties due to severe storms, flooding, tornadoes and straight-line winds

28-Dec-09 Designation M1831, Amend. 1, in 3 counties due to severe storms, flooding, tornadoes and straight-line winds

28-Dec-09 Designation M1835 in 6 counties due to severe storms, flooding, tornadoes and straight-line winds

28-Dec-09 Designation S2864 in 2 counties due to very cold weather and freezing temperatures

4-Jan-10 Designation M1831, Amend. 2, in 3 counties due to severe storms, flooding, tornadoes and straight-line winds

4-Jan-10 Designation M1833, Amend. 1, in 61 counties due to severe storms, flooding, tornadoes and straight-line winds

7-Jan-10 Designation M1833, Amend. 3, in 18 counties due to severe storms, flooding, tornadoes and straight-line winds

8-Jan-10 Designation M1836 in 3 counties due to severe storms, flooding, tornadoes, and straight-line winds

11-Jan-10 Designation N981 (Physical Loss Only), in 20 counties due to severe snowstorm

20-Jan-10 Designation S2867 in 25 counties due to freezing temperatures

22-Jan-10 Designation N983 in 51 counties (PHYSICAL LOSSES ONLY) due to high winds and tornadoes

30-Jan-10 Designation N987 in 8 counties (SEVERE PHYSICAL LOSSES ONLY) due to tornado

3-Feb-10 Designation S2869 in 16 counties due to freezing temperatures

4-Feb-10 Designation M1840, Amend. 1 in 3 counties due to severe storms, flooding, tornadoes and straight-line winds

8-Feb-10 Designation S2871 in 5 counties due to storms, excessive rainfall, and flooding, followed by low temperatures, frost, and freezes

22-Mar-10 Designation S2882 in 2 counties due to severe storms with excessive rain, flooding, flash flooding and high winds

22-Mar-10 Designation S2886 in 88 counties due to excessive rainfall, flash flooding, severe wind, tornadoes and lightning

24-May-10 Designation M1858 in 13 counties due to severe storms and flooding

25-May-10 Designation M1858, Amend. 1, in 14 counties due to severe storms and flooding

25-May-10 Designation M1858, Amend. 2, in 7 counties due to severe storms and flooding

25-May-10 Designation M1858, Amend. 3, in 24 counties due to severe storms and flooding

26-May-10 Designation M1858, Amend. 4, in 16 counties due to severe storms and flooding

**NOTE: All producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office for information specific to the Emergency Loan Program and to determine whether their counties are declared under a certain designation.**



Georgia State FSA Office ♦ 355 E. Hancock Ave. ♦ Stop 100 ♦ Athens, GA 30601-2775

Phone: (706) 546-2266 ♦ FAX: (706) 546-2327



# Director's Message



It is indeed an honor to be selected as USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) State Executive Director for Georgia. I look forward to being a part of your staff and to serving the agricultural community in Georgia.

USDA-FSA is a customer-driven Agency with a diverse and multi-talented work force, dedicated to achieving an economically and environmentally sound future for American agriculture.

As your FSA staff is being called upon to do more with less, we need you, our stakeholders, to help us in helping you. One of the ways you can help is by using your computer to access [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) for updates on programs and other valuable information.

We welcome you to visit our county offices, but much valuable information is available on line and accessible all the time.

Please look over our website and call me at 706-546-2266 or send me an email, [hobby.stripling@ga.usda.gov](mailto:hobby.stripling@ga.usda.gov), to let me know how we may serve you better.

## **Obama Administration Names Charles H. (Hobby) Stripling as State Executive Director for the USDA's Farm Service Agency in Georgia**

The Obama Administration announced on July 30, 2009, that Charles H. (Hobby) Stripling will serve as Georgia State Executive Director for the Farm Service Agency at the USDA.

"Hobby Stripling has a solid understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing our rural communities and will help build on the Obama Administration's efforts to rebuild and revitalize rural America," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack.

Since 2002, Stripling has served as District Director for Congressman Jim Marshall. Previously, from 1992-2002, he served as District Director for Congressman Sanford Bishop. He has served both as Mayor and as Municipal Court Judge in Vienna, Georgia, and has served as Chairman of the Board of Bank of Dooly in Vienna. Stripling attended Georgia Southwestern University, as well as the University of Georgia Leadership Institute.

### **FSA State Executive Director addresses Bleckley County Farm Bureau**



Hobby Stripling, Georgia FSA State Executive Director, recently addressed members of the Bleckley County Farm Bureau during their annual meeting. Pictured (left to right): Tony M. Rogers, County Executive Director Bleckley-Pulaski-Twiggs FSA; Eddie Holloway, FSA County Committee Chairperson; Hobby Stripling; and Delton English, FSA County Committee Member.

## Georgia State FSA Newsletter

**State Executive Director**  
Hobby Stripling

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Kula C. Moore

**Farm Loan Programs:**  
David F. Laster

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**Price Support/Compliance/GIS Section:**  
Clark E. Weaver

**State Outreach Coordinator:**  
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**Newsletter Editor:**  
Elaine P. McGarity

**For information, please first contact your  
local FSA County Office.**

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Mail Stop 100  
Athens, Georgia 30601  
(706) 546-2266

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.

## **USDA Launches Enhanced Rural Tour Website and New Media Efforts**

President Obama asked USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack to lead a Rural Tour across the country to create a more robust dialog with rural Americans and inform them of efforts to rebuild and revitalize Rural America. So far, Secretary Vilsack has participated in 17 forums, talked to thousands of people, answered questions and also, learned a lot about what people are struggling with and how USDA can help.

But, while the Secretary would enjoy doing so, he will not be able to get to every rural community in America. So, USDA has launched a new Rural Tour Web site with a fresh design and cutting edge features to engage the public over the internet. Please go to [www.RuralTour.gov](http://www.RuralTour.gov) to check it out.

A “Join the Conversation” section has been created that provides an opportunity for people to share their stories, challenges and ideas. They also have a “What’s Working” section where people can post success stories from the Recovery Act and other USDA programs. You can submit blog posts by sending an email to [USDAnewmedia@oc.usda.gov](mailto:USDAnewmedia@oc.usda.gov), and community residents who have a story to tell, can submit their thoughts, in their own words.

A [YouTube](#) component has been added to capture video and a [Flickr](#) account to house photos, and USDA also joined the social networking world of [Facebook](#).

USDA is working to help bring broadband access to communities that currently are not connected but for folks who cannot use the internet to communicate with the Rural Tour Team, remember there is a mailing address,

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Rural Tour Team  
1400 Independence Ave, SW, Room 402A  
Washington, DC 20250

a toll-free number, 877-85-RURAL (877-85-78725), and local USDA Service Centers throughout the state that can be used as well.

USDA is the People’s Department and these new tools and an updated Web site are important avenues for connecting with people so they can participate in these efforts.

## **FSA Implements Treasury Offset Program August 3**

There are two changes producers saw with the Treasury Implementation Project that began August 3, 2009.

All payments the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) now makes by direct deposit will be transmitted by Kansas City to Treasury. This is required for FSA to be compliant with the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 (DCIA). All Federal payments will be

processed through the Treasury Offset Program (TOP), so that any delinquent Federal debt can be offset.

This new process will result in a delay of direct deposit payments to customers by one business day. All payments will be matched against debt referred to Treasury, including payments made by Treasury check. Payments will be subject to TOP offset if there is a delinquent Federal debt in TOP database. If the TOP database finds a match for taxpayer identification number (TIN) and name, the payment will be offset for the delinquent debt. Treasury will notify the payment recipient of any offsets taken for debts due other agencies. FSA will not receive notification of the offset.

If there are questions about a TOP offset, the payee may call the TOP Call Center at 1-800-304-3107 to obtain the contact information for the offsetting agency. The TOP Call Center only has access to provide the name of the offsetting agency and their contact information. The payee will need to call the offsetting agency to determine the origination of the debt.

The other change is a description on Bank Statements of Direct Deposit Payees. Prior to August 3, 2009, the description on the payee’s bank statement read, “USDA-FSAKCMOCDSP.” After August 3, 2009, the description on the bank statement will read, “FSA TREAS 310” for all payments that are disbursed by Treasury.

### **Electronic Services Available**

If a producer has Internet access, program participants can access many services from home 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and receive approval and payment by direct deposit within 48 hours.

To participate in these services, you must meet all program eligibility requirements. Online services have stringent security measures to protect your private information.

To utilize electronic services a producer needs an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires an e-mail address and filling out an online registration form at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/> followed by a visit to the county office for identity verification.

If you have more questions, or would like assistance establishing your account, just contact your local USDA Service Center and talk with our trained FSA personnel.

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# Farm Programs

Price Support/Compliance/GIS ~ Clark Weaver, Chief

## **Sign-up Begins for Additional Livestock Disaster Assistance Programs**

Producers may now begin applying for benefits under the provisions of the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) and the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP). These permanent disaster programs, authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill, replace previous ad-hoc disaster assistance programs and are funded through the Agricultural Disaster Relief Trust Fund.

**LFP** provides payments to eligible livestock producers that have suffered livestock grazing losses due to qualifying drought. For drought, the losses must have occurred on land that is native or improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover or a crop planted specifically for grazing for covered livestock due to a qualifying drought during the normal grazing period for the specific type of grazing land in the county.

Eligible livestock under LFP include beef cattle, alpacas, buffalo, beefalo, dairy cattle, deer, elk, emus, equine, goats, llamas, poultry, reindeer, sheep and swine. For losses due to drought, qualifying drought ratings are computed using the U.S. Drought Monitor as the sole criteria for determining eligibility for a particular county.

**ELAP** provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish that have losses due eligible adverse weather events and loss conditions. ELAP assistance is for losses not covered under other Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance programs established by the 2008 Farm Bill, specifically LFP, the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE). ELAP is being implemented to fill in the gap and provide assistance under other conditions determined to be appropriate.

The deadline to file a Notice of Loss and an Application for benefits for 2008 losses under ELAP is December 10, 2009. For ELAP losses occurring in calendar year 2009 which occurred prior to September 14, 2009, the Notice of Loss must be filed by December 10, 2009 as well. The 2009 Application for Payment can be filed up until January 30, 2010. Please note, there is no provision in the Federal Regulations that allows late-filed applications to be approved.

The deadline to file an Application for Benefits under LFP for grazing losses which occurred in 2008 is December 10, 2009. The Application for Benefits for 2009 LFP losses may be filed up until January 30, 2010. Again, there are no provisions to approve late-filed applications under LFP.

For more information or to apply for ELAP or LFP and other USDA Farm Service Agency disaster assistance programs, please visit your local USDA Service Center or FSA county office.

## **Hay Crop Storage and Cold Storage for Vegetable and Nuts now Eligible for Farm Stored Facility Loans**

The Farm Stored Facility Loan (FSFL) program provides producers of eligible commodities financing to build or upgrade on-farm storage and handling at a relatively low interest financing. The intent of this program is to provide storage to producers for storing eligible commodities they produced. This program does not provide financing for commercial storage facilities. Approved facilities must have a useful life of 15 years to ensure the loan is adequately secured through the FSFL terms.

The 2008 Farm Bill made some significant changes to the existing FSFL by including hay, fruits and vegetables, nuts and Renewable biomass as eligible FSFL commodities. The new maximum principal amount of the loan is \$500,000 and the nonrefundable application fee is \$100.00. However, the producer must show a need for farm storage and provide a down payment of 15 percent. New loan terms available are 7, 10 or 12 years depending on the amount of the loan. The interest rate charged is dependent on the length of the loan period.

A key aspect of the program is the application (CCC-185) has to be submitted to the local FSA office and approved prior to construction of the facility. A partial disbursement is available when a portion of the facility construction is completed and the maximum partial disbursement is 50 percent. The final disbursement is not made until the facility is completed and inspected.

Security is required on all loans exceeding \$50,000 and on loans less than \$50,000 with no resale collateral value as determined by CCC. When security is required the applicant will have to obtain a closing agent/attorney.

Interested applicants should submit their application to the FSA county office that maintains the farm records. Biomass storage facilities that are harvested on areas that do not have farm numbers established must submit their applications to the county office that services the area where the facility will be located.

*(Continued on page 5)*

# Farm Programs

*Production Adjustment/Conservation/Common Provisions ~ Brett Martin, Chief*

## **Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP)**

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) State Office in Athens, Georgia, is currently accepting applications from biomass facilities interested in participating in the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP).

Once an agreement is signed between FSA and a biomass conversion facility (BCF), and funding through the program is provided, the facilities can begin accepting eligible materials. Producers who sell eligible material can apply for matching payments under the collection, harvest, storage and transportation (CHST) component of BCAP.

County FSA offices will issue a matching payment at a rate of \$1 for \$1 per dry-ton equivalent received from a qualified biomass conversion facility, not to exceed \$45 per dry-ton equivalent. A biomass producer is eligible to receive payments for two years. The matching payment is to assist biomass producers with the CHST cost of delivering biomass to a qualified biomass conversion facility.

Eligible biomass material owners or producers, who market their biomass material to a qualified BCF, may apply for the matching CHST payment at their local county FSA office. An application must be submitted before the eligible material is sold and delivered to a qualified BCF. After the eligible product is delivered, a producer must provide the county FSA office with documentation of product quantity, quality and payment rate. FSA county offices will validate payment request with information in the County Office.

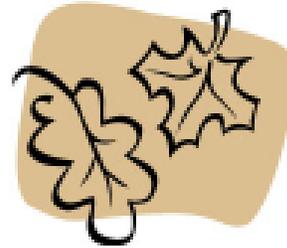
Please contact the Georgia State FSA Office or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) for more information.

## **Sale of Land Under CRP Contract**

This is a reminder for Conserve Reserve Program (CRP) participants who sell land under CRP contract to get a successor-in-interest to the contract. Failure to get the buyer to assume a contract will result in the original owner having to refund all CRP rental payments, cost share payments, incentive payments received on the contract, plus interest and liquidated damages. One way to prevent this from happening is to have a sales contract prepared that requires the new owner to assume the CRP contract.

Local county FSA committees have no authority but to terminate a CRP contract when the CRP participant loses control of the land and there is no successor-in-interest to the contract.

Please call or visit your local County FSA Office before you sell land that is currently in a CRP contract.



## **Hay Crop Storage and Cold Storage for Vegetable and Nuts now Eligible for Farm Stored Facility Loans**

*(Continued from page 4)*

Participants must obtain NAP or multi-peril insurance on all crops of economic significance and they must obtain structural insurance and list CCC as the loss of payee for the duration of the loan period.

The FSFL collateral must be used for the purpose for which the facility was constructed for the duration of the loan. For example, hay barns are only used for hay storage. The intent cannot be to store equipment when the facility is empty.

For more information, contact your local FSA office.



Just a reminder: Be watching your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot starting early November. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters starting on November 6, 2009. If, for some reason, you don't receive a ballot,

feel free to notify the county Farm Service Agency office. Completed and signed ballots are due back in the county office by the close of business on December 7, 2009.

# Farm Loan Programs

David Laster, Chief

## **Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers**

Farm Service Agency (FSA) assists beginning farmers and/or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agree to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's median size.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed. Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

## **Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged**

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, FSA has provided priority funding for members of Socially Disadvantaged Applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant 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 the program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaska Native, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders.

If producers or their spouses believe they would qualify as socially disadvantaged, they should contact their local FSA office for details. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

## **Administrative Offset**

Under law, delinquent debt owed to Federal agencies must be offset against any payments due from the Federal Government. The Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 (DCIA), effective April 26, 1996, was passed to increase collections of Federal non-tax debt.

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is required to collect payments that otherwise would be made to producers/borrowers who owe Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC), or delinquent direct farm loan program debt, unless the borrower can present an acceptable plan to resolve the delinquency. FSA is also required to offset payments to guaranteed farm loan program debtors who received loans after July 20, 2001, if a final loss claim has been paid on a loan. Payments subject to offset are issued by the United States and include:

- Program payments;
- Tax refunds;
- Federal salary offset;
- Federal retirement pay;
- Contract or vendor payments;
- Social Security, including Social Security Disability;
- Railroad retirement; and Black lung

FSA is committed to working with producers/borrowers to assist them in resolving any delinquency. If loan restructure is not feasible, interest rates may be lowered or the debt may be written down in certain circumstances. If the borrower has accepted a written offer from FSA to restructure the account, payments will not be offset. If the borrower presents an acceptable written plan that can be approved by FSA and will resolve the delinquency, the offset can be lifted. Guaranteed debtors can submit an offer directly to FSA to settle their Federal debt after a final loss claim has been paid. Your local Farm Loan Manager and County Executive Director may provide additional details on Administrative Offsets.

*FSA Offices will be closed  
on the following holidays:*

October 12 ..... Columbus Day  
November 11 ..... Veterans Day  
November 26 ..... Thanksgiving Day  
December 25 ..... Christmas Day

# Locate your FSA County Office

COUNTY	LOCATION	PHONE
APPLING	Baxley	912-367-6684
ATKINSON-WARE	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-PULASKI-TWIGGS	Cochran	478-934-6571
BROOKS	Quitman	229-263-4116
BULLOCH	Statesboro	912-871-2600
BURKE	Waynesboro	706-554-2109
CALHOUN-DOUGHERTY	Morgan	229-849-2415
CANDLER	Metter	912-685-2635
CARROLL-COWETA-DOUGLAS-FULTON-HARALSON-HEARD-MERIWETHER-PAULDING-TROUP	Carrollton	770-834-2097
COFFEE	Douglas	912-384-4811
COLQUITT	Moultrie	229-985-6509
COOK	Adel	229-896-3206
CRISP	Cordele	229-273-4148
DECATUR	Bainbridge	229-246-5773
DODGE	Eastman	478-374-2531
DOOLY	Vienna	229-268-4131
EARLY	Blakely	229-723-3193
EFFINGHAM-BRYAN-CHATHAM	Springfield	912-754-6664
ELBERT-OGLETHORPE	Elberton	706-283-3021
EMANUEL	Swainsboro	478-237-8866
FLOYD-POLK	Rome	706-291-5654
GORDON-BARTOW-CHEROKEE-COBB-MURRAY-PICKENS-WHITFIELD	Calhoun	706-629-2582
GRADY	Cairo	229-377-1607
HALL-DAWSON-FORSYTH-HABERSHAM-LUMPKIN-RABUN-STEPHENS-WHITE	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
JEFFERSON-GLASCOCK	Louisville	478-625-7771
JENKINS	Millen	478-982-4281

COUNTY	LOCATION	PHONE
LAMAR-MONROE-PIKE-UPSON	Barnesville	770-358-0787
LAURENS-WILKINSON	Dublin	478-272-1757
LEE	Leesburg	229-759-9267
LOWNDES-CLINCH-ECHOLS-LANIER	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-GREENE-JASPER-NEWTON	Madison	706-342-1353
OCONEE-BARROW-CLARKE	Watkinsville	706-769-3987
PEACH-BIBB-CRAWFORD	Fort Valley	478-827-0016
PIERCE-BRANTLEY-CHARLTON	Blackshear	912-449-5303
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-EVANS	Reidsville	912-557-6706
TAYLOR	Butler	478-862-3645
TELFAIR-WHEELER	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
WASHINGTON-HANCOCK-JOHNSON	Sandersville	478-552-6071
WAYNE-CAMDEN-GLYNN-LIBERTY-LONG-MCINTOSH	Jesup	912-427-2502
WEBSTER-STEWART	Preston	229-828-2015
WILCOX	Rochelle	229-365-2231
WILKES-LINCOLN-TALIAFERRO	Washington	706-678-2630
WORTH	Sylvester	229-776-6985

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.

## ***Farm Service Agency Signature Policy***

Using the correct signature when doing business with Farm Service Agency (FSA) can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- A married woman shall sign her given name: Mrs. Mary Doe, not Mrs. John Doe.
- For a minor, FSA requires the minor's signature and one from an eligible parent. Note, by signing the applicable document, the parent is liable for actions of the minor and may be liable for refunds, liquidated damages, etc
- When signing on one's behalf, the signature must agree with the name typed or printed on the form, or be a variation that does not cause the name and signature to be in disagreement. [Example - John W. Smith is on the form. The signature may be John W. Smith or J.W. Smith or J. Smith. Or Mary J. Smith may be signed as Mrs. Mary Joe Smith, M.J. Smith, Mary Smith, etc.]
- FAXED signatures will be accepted for certain forms and other documents provided the acceptable program forms are approved for FAXED signatures. Producers are responsible for the successful transmission and receipt of FAXED information. [Examples of documents **not** approved for FAXED signatures include: Promissory note; Assignment of payment; Joint payment authorization; NAP actual production history and approved yield record; Acknowledgement of commodity certificate purchase; Financing statement; UCC financing statement.]
- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office.
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities.
- Spouses may sign on behalf of each other's individual interest in a partnership, unless notification denying a spouse that authority is provided to the county office.
- Acceptable signatures for general partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, estates, and trusts shall consist of an indicator "by" or "for" the individual's name, individual's name and capacity, or individual's name, capacity, and name of entity.

For additional clarification on proper signatures contact your local FSA office.