



# NEWSLETTER



June 2012

**Georgia State FSA Office**

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## 2012 Dates and Deadlines

**Acreage Reporting Deadlines:**

<u>July 16</u>	<u>All other crops and land uses planted by July 16, 2012</u>
<b>Note: Crops with NAP Coverage:</b> 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.	

**Important COC Election Dates:**

<u>Jun 15</u>	<u>Nomination period begins. Nomination forms are available from your local FSA Office.</u>
<u>Aug 1</u>	<u>Last day to file nomination forms at the local FSA Office.</u>
<u>Nov 5</u>	<u>Ballots mailed to eligible voters.</u>
<u>Dec 3</u>	<u>Last day to return voted ballots to the local FSA Office.</u>
<u>Jan 1, 2013</u>	<u>Elected committee members and alternates take office.</u>

**Additional Program Deadlines**

<u>Now</u>	<u>Inquire and Sign-up CRP Continuous Practices such as Riparian Buffers, Longleaf Pine, Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds</u>
<u>Now</u>	<u>Emergency Conservation Approved Applicants -- report completed practices to FSA</u>
<u>Now</u>	<u>Emergency Forest Restoration Program Applicants -- report completed practices to FSA</u>
<u>Now</u>	<u>Complete for 2012 form CCC-931, Average Adjusted Income Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information</u>

**Present Emergency Loan Application Deadlines in Georgia:**

<u>Nov 16</u>	<u>Designation M4060 in 6 counties due to severe storms, tornadoes, straight-line winds and flooding</u>
<u>Dec 20</u>	<u>Designation S3245 in 2 counties due to frost and freezing temperatures</u>

**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.

## **REVISED Crop Acreage Reporting Dates for FSA and Crop Insurance**

Beginning this July, 2012, there will be a big change in many of the Crop Acreage Reporting Dates (CARD) for several of the crops planted in Georgia. The revision in reporting dates was the result of a combined effort of both FSA and the Risk Management Agency (RMA – crop insurance) to make acreage reporting easier by standardizing the acreage reporting deadline for crops for both FSA and crop insurance purposes.

As a result, there are more deadline dates applicable to specific fruit and vegetable crops than in prior years. The newly established deadline dates for the specific fruit and vegetable crops mentioned below will apply to these crops regardless of whether the producer has them covered under a crop insurance plan or not. These particular crops (apples, blueberries, peaches, cabbage, onions, pecans, fresh market sweet corn, fresh and market tomatoes) now have a specific FSA reporting deadline date and must be reported by the newly established reporting deadline whether the crop is covered by crop insurance or not.

### Newly Established Crop Reporting Dates for Georgia – Effective July 1, 2012:

January 2 --- Honey (producers with NAP coverage)

January 15 --- Apples, Blueberries, Peaches, Barley, Canola, Oats, Rye, Wheat, and any other Fall-Seeded Small Grains, and Grazing and Forage crops with NAP coverage

March 15 --- Cabbage (Planted between 10/1-2/20), Onions (Planted between 10/21-2/1), and Pecans

May 15 --- Flue-cured Tobacco, Fresh Market Sweet Corn (Planted between 8/26-5/15), Fresh Market Tomatoes (Planted between 8/16-4/5)

July 15 --- Cabbage (Planted between 2/21-5/31), Corn, Cotton, Grain, Sorghum, Peanuts, Soybeans, and any other crops planted by this date and not already reported.

August 15 --- Cabbage (Planted between 6/1-7/15), Fresh Market Tomatoes (Planted between 7/1-8/15)

September 15 --- Fresh Market Sweet Corn (Planted between 7/15-8/25)

October 15 --- Cabbage (Planted between 7/16-9/30)

November 15 --- Apiculture and Pasture, Range, Forage (PRF) – **NOTE: Apiculture is NOT the same as NAP/Honey coverage and PRF is not the same a NAP-covered grazing and forage; these are 2 separate crop insurance programs**

December 15 --- Onions (Planted between 9/20-10/20).

### **The BIG changes are:**

- (1) Winter-seeded small grains were moved forward from March 1, to January 15
- (2) Grass and forage crops with NAP coverage moved up to January 15 from March 1 to coincide with small grain acreage reports, the same as in prior years.
- (3) Tobacco was moved back from May 1, to May 15
- (4) Specific dates were implemented for FSA acreage reporting purposes for numerous fruit and vegetable crops, depending on the planting date.

Producers are advised to contact their local FSA offices for more information on the revised crop acreage reporting deadlines and to obtain a copy of the new crop reporting deadlines.

### **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.

### ***FSA County Committee Nominations Begin June 15***

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds farmers and landowners that local Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committee nominations begin on Friday, June 15, 2012.

Farmers and ranchers are urged to participate in this year's county committee elections by nominating candidates by the August 1 deadline. County committees are a vital link between the farm community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture and provide a voice to landowners, farmers and ranchers so that their opinions and ideas can be heard.

To be eligible to serve on an FSA county committee, a person must participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA, be eligible to vote in a county committee election and reside in the local administrative area in which the person is a candidate.

Farmers and rancher may nominate themselves or others, and organizations representing minorities and women may also nominate candidates. To become a candidate, an eligible individual must sign the nomination form, FSA-669A. The form and other information about FSA county committee elections are available online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>. Nomination forms for the 2012 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 1, 2012. Elections will take

place this fall. Form FSA-669A is also attached to the end of this newsletter.

While FSA county committees do not approve or deny loans, they make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other agricultural issues. Members serve three-year terms. Nationwide, there are about 7,800 farmers and ranchers serving on FSA county committees. Committees consist of 3 to 11 members that are elected by eligible producers.

FSA will mail ballots to eligible voters beginning Nov. 5. The voted ballots are due back to the local county office either by mail or in person by Dec. 3. Newly elected committee members and alternates take office on Jan. 1, 2013.

NOTE: FSA news releases and media advisories are available on the Web at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

### ***FSA Loans – Helping to Ensure the Stability of Georgia's Family Farms***

Georgia FSA makes hundreds of loans each year to farmers who need a helping hand. Whether it's a young person or a young family trying to buy their first farm or a veteran facing temporary adversity, FSA provides financial assistance that helps to ensure the well being of Georgia agriculture.

FSA lends money and provides credit counseling and supervision to eligible loan applicants who operate family farm size operations. A family farm size operation is generally considered to be one that a family can manage and operate by itself. FSA makes direct loans and also provides guarantees on loans made by eligible conventional lenders.

Under the Guaranteed Loan Program FSA guarantees loans made by eligible conventional agricultural lenders up to 95% of any loss. All loans must meet qualifying criteria to be eligible for guarantees, and FSA will monitor the lender's servicing of the loan. Farmers interested in

Guaranteed Loans apply directly with a conventional lender, who then arranges for the guarantee.

For those unable to qualify for a Guaranteed Loan, FSA offers Direct Loans. Funding for Direct Loans is more limited and applicants sometimes must wait until funds are available before they can receive a loan. FSA works with the applicant to analyze the situation, provide technical assistance, and tailor the loan to meet unique circumstances of the applicant. Loan funds can be used for a variety of agricultural purposes to assist the applicant achieve a viable farming operation.

In Georgia, FSA administers its Farm Loan Programs through 72 County Offices and 11 Farm Loan Offices. For Direct Loans, interested farmers can apply at the FSA County Office or USDA Service Center serving the area where the farming operation is conducted. For a Guaranteed Loan, interested farmers should apply to a commercial agricultural lender who participates in the FSA Guaranteed Loan Program. The lender then submits the loan proposal to the local FSA Farm Loan Office for consideration of a FSA guarantee. Farmers seeking more information on the availability of farm loans are encouraged to contact their local FSA office. FSA is an equal opportunity lender.

#### Loans to Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

Farm Service Agency makes and guarantees loans to beginning farmers who are unable to obtain financing from commercial lenders. Each fiscal year, FSA targets a portion of its direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating funds to beginning farmers.

A beginning farmer is an individual or entity who has operated a farm for no more than 10 years, meets eligibility requirements of the program to which he/she is applying, substantially participates in the operation, and for farm ownership purposes does not own a farm greater than 30 percent of the median size farm in the county. All applicants for direct FO (Farm Ownership) loans must have participated in the business operations of a farm for at least three years out of the 10 years prior to the date the

application is submitted. If the applicant is an entity, all members must be related by blood or marriage, and all members in a corporation must be beginning farmers.

The maximum loan amount under the direct program is \$300,000 and under the guaranteed program, \$1,214,000.

#### Loan Funds for Conservation Programs and Practices

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Farm Service Agency (FSA) have worked cooperatively to make USDA conservation programs more available and readily accessible to beginning, small, and limited resource producers. As producers move from initial conservation program contract development into the implementation stage, many face the inability to acquire capital investment for their cost-share portion needed for contract implementation. Even with increased cost-share rates, the challenge of providing the upfront share may present an insurmountable barrier to full contract implementation.

FSA has several loan programs available that may help mitigate the upfront costs associated with USDA conservation program implementation. A primary objective of the FSA farm loan program is to assist small, beginning, and socially disadvantaged (minority and female) producers. These loan programs are not new (and not to be confused with the unfunded direct Conservation Loans) and have been used successfully in conjunction with conservation programs in certain states across the country.

While collateral is required for the loan, and a business plan must indicate that the loan can be repaid, FSA loans can be used for various farm purposes such as farm improvements, which would cover conservation projects and practices, and payment of costs associated with land and water development for conservation use purposes. Loan funds may be used to finance the producer's share of the project cost, and also as interim financing on the

Federal cost-share portion paid upon completion of the conservation program project.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available on the FSA Web site at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov), or by contacting your local FSA county office.

### **USDA Celebrates 150 Years**

One hundred and fifty years ago, in the midst of a great Civil War, President Lincoln signed legislation to establish a Department of Agriculture in order to “acquire and to diffuse among the people of the United States useful information on subjects connected with agriculture ... and to procure, propagate, and distribute among the people new and valuable seeds and plants.”

Armed with these broad mandates, the “People’s Department,” as he called it, set about to serve American farmers and a mostly rural American landscape. At that time, almost half of all Americans lived on farms, compared with about 2 percent today. The population in 1862 was then about 31.4 million and today, that number has increased tenfold to almost 313 million people.

Over the last 150 years, through the department’s work on food science, agricultural research, nutrition assistance, bio-fuel production, economic and community development, natural resource conservation, international trade, credit, and a host of other issues, the USDA still fulfills Abraham Lincoln’s original vision – touching the lives of every American, every day in almost every way.

By any measure, it’s been a very successful 150 years for USDA. Americans benefit from safe, abundant, and reasonably priced food. We produce 85% of what we consume and therefore enjoy food security. Our food, fuel, and fiber industries provide employment for more than 20 million Americans. Agricultural exports continue to post significant trade surpluses which, in turn, have generated almost 1 million jobs alone.

As we look to the decades ahead, USDA must continue to contribute to the strength and health of the nation by becoming a more modern and effective service provider. We must tighten our belt, just as many Americans are doing with their household budgets.

In the past few decades, American agriculture has become one of the most productive sectors of our economy, thanks to farmers, ranchers and growers adopting technology, reducing their debt, and effectively managing risk. USDA is adopting these same lessons in its *Blueprint for Stronger Service*, announced by Secretary Vilsack earlier this year.

The *Blueprint for Stronger Service* aims to build a modern and efficient service organization that is closely aligned with technological innovations - and better suited to respond to 21st century agricultural challenges.

The challenges ahead are many, both for USDA and American agriculture, but by focusing on a strong safety net for farmers and ranchers, supporting policies that encourage sustainable productivity, and by promoting vibrant markets that help feed consumers at home and abroad, the “People’s Department” will continue to help create jobs, support working families, strengthen rural communities, and build on the success and productivity of the America’s farmers and ranchers.

### **FSA Near You! - Marion County, GA**

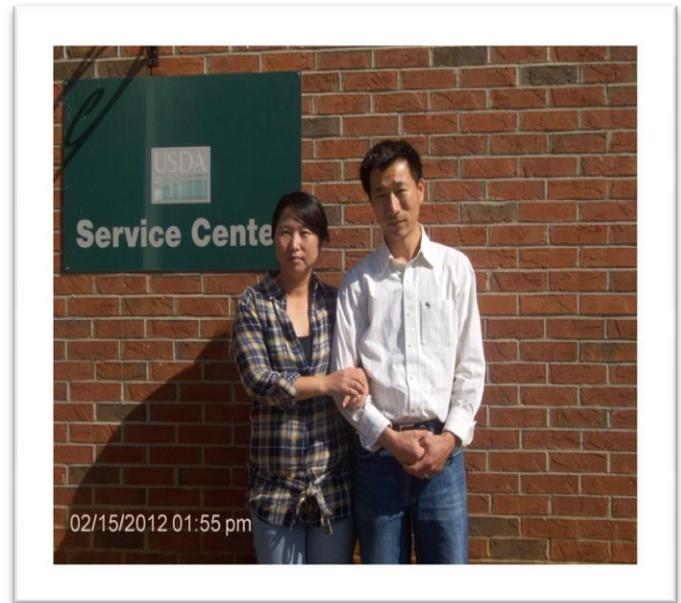
For Mr. Hea Yung Jung and his wife, Hyong Kung Jung, conservation is considered a high priority. For this reason the couple enrolled 61.8 acres of cropland, located in Marion County, in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

Hea Jung (called TJ by friends) and Hyong Jung own and operate Oakland IGA grocery store located in Marion County. Born in South Korea, Hea Yung Jung is a second-generation farmer who moved to America at the age of 19 to work in his family-owned grocery store in Macon, Georgia. In Korea, his grandmother was a farmer who grew rice. Hyong Kung Jung was also born in South Korea and

her family spent several generations growing apples and rice. At the age of 18, Ms. Jung traveled to the United States to attend college, but due to the death of her father she returned to South Korea. After 2 years, she traveled back to the U.S. to work in a family owned glass company in Atlanta, Georgia.

In 1997, Hea Yung and Hyong Kung were married and moved to Macon, Georgia, where they worked in Hea Yung's family-operated grocery store. In 1998, the Jung's moved to Buena Vista, Georgia in Marion County to operate a chain store owned by an uncle. The Jung's purchased their farm in 2003 from a local resident with plans to plant row crops. However, long hours of work in their grocery store business changed their plans.

After several years of renting the farm's cropland to a local farmer, Hea Jung and Hyong Kung, decided to enroll most of the cropland in the Conservation Reserve Program. This decision was made for two reasons; first to protect the land from further soil erosion, and second, to provide a better future for his family. "Tree planting not only provides wildlife habitat, but it is also an investment for our three children," said TJ.



**FSA-669A**  
(02-22-12)U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Farm Service Agency**NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION**

This form allows individuals to nominate themselves or any other person as a candidate. If additional forms are needed, this one may be copied or may be obtained at the County FSA Office or obtained electronically at <http://www.sc.egov.usda.gov>. Each form submitted must be:

- A. Limited to one nominee.
- B. Signed and dated by the nominee in Item 3. Nominee must sign if willing to have his/her name placed on the ballot and agrees to serve if elected.  
  
**Note:** Name shown on ballot will appear exactly the same as in Agency records.
- C. Delivered to the County FSA Office or postmarked no later than August 1, 2012.
- D. Signed and dated as a write-in candidate if elected as a member and willing to serve on the COC.

The County FSA Committee is responsible for reviewing each form to determine the eligibility of nominees. A person who is nominated on this form and is found ineligible will be so notified and have an opportunity to file a challenge.

Persons nominated should actively participate in the operation of a farm or ranch and be well qualified for committee work. A producer is eligible to be a County FSA committee member if the producer resides in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) in which the election is to be held and is eligible to vote.

This is a non-salary public service position. A small stipend is provided to offset expenses.

Federal regulations may prohibit County FSA Committee members from holding certain positions in some farm, commodity, and political organizations if such positions pose a conflict of interest with FSA duties. The positions include functional offices such as president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer; and positions on boards or executive committees. Conflict of interest restrictions also apply to employees, operators, managers, and majority owners of tobacco warehouses. Questions concerning eligibility should be directed to the County FSA Office.

A candidate has the option to request that all voted ballots for an individual county committee election be returned to the respective State Office in lieu of being returned to the county office. This request must be in writing and submitted to the local County Executive Director prior to the announced end of the nomination period.

The duties of County FSA Committee members include:

- A. Administering farm program activities conducted by the County FSA Office.
- B. Informing farmers of the purpose and provisions of the FSA programs.
- C. Keeping the State FSA Committee informed of LAA conditions.
- D. Monitoring changes in farm programs.
- E. Participating in county meetings as necessary.
- F. Performing other duties as assigned by the State FSA Committee

*The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of 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, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or 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 print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).*

*To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

<b>FSA-669A</b> (02-22-12)	<b>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE</b> Farm Service Agency
<h2 style="margin: 0;">NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION</h2>	

1. NAME OF NOMINEE <i>(Type or Print Nominee's Full Name)</i>	TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE	
2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE	4. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE RECEIVED	
3. <b>NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION:</b>  <i>I hereby agree to have my name placed on the ballot, that I will serve if elected, and if there is a conflict of interest, I will resign such position.</i>  <input type="checkbox"/> I DO want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee. <input type="checkbox"/> I DO NOT want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.	5. COUNTY  6. LAA <span style="float: right;">7. STATE</span>  8. <b>NOMINATOR'S CERTIFICATION:</b>  <i>If this nomination is by other than self, the following eligible voter or representative of a community based organization hereby nominates the afore-named person to be a candidate in the next County FSA Committee election for the county.</i>	
3A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE	3B. DATE	8A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINATOR  <i>(If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required).</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if nominee is a write-in candidate.		8B. DATE

**9. TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINEE**

**VOLUNTARY INFORMATION FOR MONITORING PURPOSES:** The following information is requested by the Federal Government in order to monitor FSA's compliance with federal laws prohibiting discrimination against program participants on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, handicapped condition, or age. You are not required to furnish this information, but are encouraged to do so. This information will not be used in evaluating your nomination or to discriminate against you in any way.

<b>ETHNICITY</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino	<b>RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable)</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African-American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	<b>GENDER</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
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**INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM**

- Complete the form as follows:
- ITEM 1** Type or Print the nominee's full name. The nominee must be:
    - A. Eligible to vote in the designated County FSA Committee election.
    - B. Eligible to hold the office of County FSA Committee member.
    - C. Willing to serve if elected.
  - ITEM 2** Enter the nominee's current address.
  - ITEM 3** The nominee must check one of the boxes to indicate a preference regarding the settling of tied votes.
  - ITEMS 3A & 3B** The nominee must sign and date.
  - ITEMS 8A & 8B** The nominator must sign and date. *(If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required.)*
  - ITEM 9** Completing this item is voluntary.
- ALL FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE COUNTY OFFICE OR POSTMARKED BY AUGUST 1, 2012.**

**NOTE:** *The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a - as amended). The authority for requesting the information identified on this form is the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-246). The information will be used to obtain nominees for election to the County FSA Committee. The information collected on this form may be disclosed to other Federal, State, Local government agencies, Tribal agencies, and nongovernmental entities that have been authorized access to the information by statute or regulation and/or as described in applicable Routine Uses identified in the System of Records Notice for County Personnel Records, USDA/FSA-6. Providing the requested information is voluntary. However, failure to furnish the requested information will result in a determination of ineligibility for nomination for election to the County FSA Committee.*

*According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0560-0229. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The provisions of appropriate criminal and civil fraud, privacy, and other statutes may be applicable to the information provided. **RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.***