



Gates County FSA Office
104 New Road
Gatesville NC 27938
May 23, 2008
252-357-0290 phone
252-357-1242 fax

2008 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 fact sheets can be found online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA> under the News & Events tab on the FSA homepage.

The Gates County FSA Committee (COC) will hold the annual election in December. The Gates COC consists of three persons selected from three Local Administrative Areas (LAA) in the county. This year LAA 1 area will be selecting a person to represent their farmers and landowners. The LAA descriptions are as follows:

LAA-1	Gatesville, Mintonville
LAA-2	Hall, Haslett, Reynoldson
LAA-3	Holly Grove, Hunters Mill

Nominations from the LAA-1 area are being accepted through August 1, 2008. A nomination form will be mailed under separate cover for your convenience if you would like to nominate an eligible person in the LAA-1 area. Additional forms may be obtained online at [Http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/) or from this office.

August 1	Nomination period ends
November 3	Ballots mailed to eligible voters
December 4	Last Day for ballots to be returned or postmarked

Reporting Crops. The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA office 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, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs.

Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. And, 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 30 for all crops. If crop not planted by June 30th, the report must be made within 15 days after planting commodity. **Prevented Planting:** Prevented planting needs 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. Contact your insurance agent if you carry insurance on crops that are damaged or failed.

Maintaining CRP. 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. Spot treatment of the acreage may be allowed during the primary nesting season if certain criteria are met. The ending date for the primary nesting season in North Carolina is September 1st.

Maturing Contracts: CRP participants with expiring contract acres in the final year of the CRP-1, who intend to destroy cover for preparation for spring or fall-seeded crops, need pre-authorization from FSA to avoid penalty. Authorization can only be granted after a completed CRP-1G (Modification to Allow Early Preparation) is reviewed and approved by a representative of the Commodity Credit Corporation.

Farm Loan Programs. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$200,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$949,000. Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA.

For detail information loan eligibility or the different available loan programs, just contact the county office staff for an appointment with a farm loan officer.

Outreach and Special Accommodations. Gates County FSA Office is committed to ensuring that all persons are aware of programs and benefits available to them. FSA programs are administered to ensure equal opportunity for participation and services for all persons to the fullest extent of the law. Representatives are available to present information to community and civic groups and organizations. Anyone interested in having an official meeting with his or her group should contact his office. Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment.

Reminders

- » Obtain prior approval before modifying any wetland or drainage ditch.
- » Report any banking changes for direct deposit
- » Need to divide or add farms – request recons NOW!
- » Operator or owner changes? Owner changes, bring in deed or other documentation
- » Crop reports due by June 30th -
- » FSA closed on May 26th for Memorial Day and July 4th for Independence Day