



**County Information**

Granville County FSA  
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**Office Hours:**

8:00am - 4:30pm **M T TH F**

8:00am - 12:30pm **W**

Committee Meetings: **3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Thursday of Each Month**

**County Committee:**

Wyatt Al Fuller, *Chairperson*

Eugene Blackwell, *Vice*

*Chairperson*

Paul B. Currin, *Regular Member*

Willie Sherman Richards, *Advisor*

Deborah Brogden, *Advisor*



**Staff:**

Robert Satterfield, Jr., *CED*

Dave Bonnett, *Farm Loan Officer*

Tammy Dail, *Farm Loan PT*

Jackie Jeffers, *PT*

Shelley Noblin, *PT*

Courtney Nunnemaker, *PT*



**Dates To Remember:**

June 30<sup>th</sup> - Last Day for Crop Reporting

July 4<sup>th</sup> - Independence Day

Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup> - County Committee Nominations



**County Committee Elections**

Nominations for the FSA County Committee election will be accepted **June 15 through August 2, 2010.**

Farmers or farm owners who are residents in LAA 1 (Brassfield, Dutchville & Fishing Creek townships) & who are eligible to vote in the FSA election may be nominated to serve on the County Committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Organizations representing minorities or women may also nominate candidates.

Participation in the committee election is important to all famers & landowners because FSA County Committees provide a vital link & a voice for landowners & farmers to have opinions & ideas heard at the U. S. Department of Agriculture. With better participation in recent years, we have also seen a trend of increased nominations of minority & women producers that we hope will continue.

FSA County Committee members make decisions on disaster & conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support, loan programs, & other important agricultural issues. Members serve three-year terms. Nationwide, there are about 7,800 farmers & ranchers serving on FSA County Committees. Committees consist of 3-11 members who are elected by eligible producers.

FSA will mail ballots to eligible voters beginning Nov. 5. The ballots are due back to the local county office either by mail or in person by Dec. 6. Newly elected committee members & alternates take office Jan. 1, 2011.

To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated, indicating agreement to serve if elected. The completed nomination form must be returned to the county office by the close of business on **August 2, or postmarked by midnight August 2, 2010.** A nomination form is included with this newsletter; they can also be obtained on line at [www.fsa.usda.gov/elections](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections) or requested from the local FSA Office.

To hold office as a County Committee member

A nominee must meet the basic eligibility criteria:

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA.
- Be eligible to vote in a County Committee election
- Reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate
- Not have been removed or disqualified from the office of County Committee member, alternate or employee; removed for cause from any public office; convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony; or be dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

**2010 Cropland Certification**

**Deadline June 30**

Crop reports covering all crops & land uses must be completed by **June 30, 2010** for the farm or the crops to be eligible for any USDA benefits. Wheat, Barley & Oats should have been reported by May 15 & a late fee must be paid to report those crops now.

Participation in all FSA programs & filing acreage reports is voluntary; however, the filing of a timely & accurate acreage report is required in order to receive any USDA benefits. Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event & before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date for the crop.

If you have a crop covered under crop insurance you need to file an acreage report with the FSA & with your crop insurance agent. To avoid potential problems, be sure the acreage reported to each office is the same.

Home certification is available upon request. Aerial photos & tract summary sheets will be provided so you can mark the location & record the acreage planted at your convenience. When completed, simply return the information back to the FSA office & you will be notified when your reports are ready to be signed.



The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers loans for farmers & ranchers to purchase farmland & 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 \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,094,000. 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 & Loans for Socially Disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA.

For details, contact the county office staff for an appointment with a farm loan officer. The new Farm Loan Officer for Granville County is Dave Bonnett. Dave serves several counties but he is headquartered in the Granville County Office and can be reached by calling 919-693-7345



### **Compliance**

Compliance & spot checks will once again be utilized during the 2010 crop year. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, deficiency loans, etc. for spot check & review, a nationwide selection of

producers is used to achieve a statistical sampling of participating producers. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer's participation in Conservation Reserve Program, Direct & Counter-cyclical Program, Loan Deficiency Program, etc.

### **Geographic Information Systems**

As part of a program to digitally map the nation's farms & fields, the USDA has established the Common Land Unit (CLU) as a standardized GIS data layer that has allowed mapping to be integrated easily on a nationwide basis. The FSA manages this CLU data layer through a distributed database environment for all field service centers throughout the country.

Using the GIS provides for more consistent & more accurate land measurements, such as field acreage & acreage boundaries of conservation practices, like riparian buffers. With high quality digital imagery, new land use changes (farm transfers & land subdivisions) can be easily updated. Maps can be created in either paper or digital format for FSA customers or the public.

More information about the CLU & NAIP imagery can be found by visiting the APFO (Aerial Photography Field Office) website at [www.apfo.usda.gov](http://www.apfo.usda.gov).

### **Controlled Substances**

Program participants convicted under federal or state law of any planting, cultivating, growing, producing, harvesting, or storing a controlled substance are ineligible for program payments & benefits.

If convicted of one of these offenses, the program participant shall be ineligible during that crop year and the four succeeding crop years for Direct & Counter-cyclical Payments, price support loans, loan deficiency payments, market loan gains, storage payments, farm facility loans, Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program payments or disaster payments.



### **Transition Incentives Program**

The Transition Incentives Program (TIP) was created to encourage retired or retiring owners or operators to transition their Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres to beginning or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers.

TIP sign up began on Monday, May 17, 2010. If all program requirements are met, TIP provides annual rental payments to the retiring farmer for up to 2 additional years after the date of the expiration of the CRP contract, provided the transition is not to a family member.

To be eligible, TIP requires that the retired or retiring farmer or rancher:

- Have land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) that is in the last year of the contract.
- Agree to allow the beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher make conservation & land improvements.
- Agree to sell, or have a contract to sell, or agree to long-term lease (a minimum of 5 years) the land under CRP contract to a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher by Oct. 1 of the year the CRP contract expires.

Generally, TIP only applies to contracts that expire on September 30, 2010, or later. However, retired or retiring owners or operators with CRP contracts that expired on Sept. 30, 2008 & Sept. 30, 2009, may be eligible to enroll in TIP. To learn more about this program, please visit your local USDA FSA county office or [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).



For the latest information, visit the FSA Web Site at:

[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

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