



South Carolina State FSA Newsletter



Volume 5, Issue 5

June, 2010



**Laurie C. Lawson, State Executive Director,
South Carolina Farm Service Agency**

After several weeks of very dry conditions, most of South Carolina has been blessed with good rains during the last ten days. Corn that was twisting has now come out and it looks much better. Cotton looks good and soybeans are being planted at a rapid rate. Pastures and hay crops look so good and tobacco is growing at a very brisk rate. Our beautiful South Carolina peaches are now in the market as well as our sweet onions, squash, and other vegetable crops.

Our Direct and Counter-cyclical signup is now over and we look forward to the final reporting date of July 15, for tobacco, spring-seeded crops such as cotton, corn, peanuts, and rice, as well as summer-seeded crops such as soybeans, grain sorghum, and others. Also, this is the final reporting date for CRP, orchards, vineyards, and all other NAP crops.

I encourage each of our producers to stay in close touch with the FSA office in your area. Our fine employees want to serve you well and to help you with information about our different programs that is available to you.

County Committee Elections

It's county committee election time, and this special issue of the South Carolina State FSA newsletter is your guide to the 2010 election.

Since this only happens once a year, here is an election refresher. For election purposes, counties are divided into *local administrative areas*, or LAAs. Each LAA has one producer serve a three-year term on the Farm Service Agency county committee.

Most counties are divided into three LAAs. Combined counties may have three to five LAAs.

Each year, an election is held in a LAA to replace the committee member whose three-year term is expiring. In counties with three LAAs, one seat is up for election annually. In combined counties in some years, two seats may be up for election.

The three steps in the election process are the call for nominations, the election and installing the new committee member.

Office Closures

July 5, 2010	Offices Closed – Independence Day
September 6, 2010	Offices Closed – Labor Day
October 11, 2010	Offices Closed – Columbus Day

Dates to Remember

July 15, 2010	Final Reporting Date for Flue-Cured Tobacco
July 15, 2010	Final Reporting Date for Spring Seeded Crops: Cotton, Corn, Peanuts, Rice
July 15, 2010	Final Reporting Date for Summer Seeded Crops: Soybeans, Grain Sorghum, Summer Seeded Grasses, and other land uses
July 15, 2010	Final Reporting Date for CRP, Orchards, Vineyards, all other NAP crops
August 1, 2010	NAP Application Closing Date – Strawberries and Bulb Onions
August 4, 2010	Application deadline for Oconee County to apply for FSA emergency loan assistance due to a GA disaster declaration for losses caused by severe storms and flooding that occurred from September 18, 2009, and continuing.
September 1, 2010	NAP Application Closing Date - Floriculture, Aquaculture, Turf Grass Sod, Christmas Trees, Mushrooms
September 30, 2010	NAP Application Closing Date - small grains, canola, flax, garlic, and triticale.
October 4, 2010	Application deadline for Oconee County to apply for FSA emergency loan assistance due to a NC disaster declaration for losses caused by severe winter storms and flooding that occurred from December 18-25, 2009.
November 2, 2010	Application deadline for Abbeville, Aiken, Allendale, Anderson, Barnwell, Hampton, Jasper, McCormick and Oconee counties to apply for FSA emergency loan assistance due to a GA disaster declaration for losses caused by excessive rainfall that occurred from September 18, 2009, and continuing.



NOTE: For spring planted fruit and vegetable crops not planted by the final reporting date, the acreage must be reported by 15 calendar days after planting is completed.

Measurement service is available to owners, operators, or other tenants. Contact your local FSA Office for rates and additional information.

Election Timetable

June 15	Nomination period begins.
Aug. 2	Deadline to submit nomination forms.

Nov. 5 Ballots are mailed to eligible voters.
 Dec. 6 Deadline to return completed ballots to FSA county office.
 Jan. 1, 2011 New committee members and alternates are installed.

Nominations Open June 15

Nominations for candidates to run for the Farm Service Agency county committee election representing producers in a Local Administrative Area will be accepted from June 15 through Aug. 2, 2010.

Producers who are residents in the LAA holding the election and who participate or cooperate in an FSA program *and* are of *legal voting age* may be nominated *to serve on the county committee*.

Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers or ranchers may also nominate candidates.

A nomination form, FSA-669A, is included in this newsletter. Additional forms and details may be picked up at your local USDA Service Center, FSA county office or downloaded from http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa0669a_commiteeectform.pdf

Eligible voters can nominate as many candidates as they wish.

To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated, indicating agreement to serve if elected, and returned to the FSA county office by the close of business on Aug. 2, or postmarked by midnight Aug. 2, 2010.

Election

The county committee election is held by mail. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters beginning Nov. 5, and must be returned to the FSA county office by the close of business on Dec. 6, or postmarked by midnight Dec. 6, 2010.

Who Can Vote

Agricultural producers of legal voting age can vote if they participate or cooperate in any Farm Service Agency program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm can also vote.

No one can be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

If you are unsure of your eligibility, contact the staff at the county office.

Who Can Hold Office

To hold office as a county committee member, a person 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 or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony
 - Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

For more information about county committee elections, contact the county office staff.

CAUTION: Farm Change after Enrollment in DCP

Enrollment of a farm in DCP requires the signatures of all owners, giving permission for producers to earn payment on the farm, and the signatures of all producers agreeing to the shares in the DCP acres on the farm. If a change in owner, producers or a change in producer shares occurs after enrollment, such changes must be reported to FSA for contract modification BEFORE September 30, the end of contract fiscal year. This also includes producers who enroll farm in DCP and at a later date sublease cropland that is considered base acres to another producer. Failure to report this contract revision by any producer on the farm is a contract violation which will result in DCP contract termination and loss of payment for all producers on the farm. To avoid DCP contract violations, such changes in producers on the farm after enrolling in DCP should be reported to your local FSA office to determine if the new producer is planting on base acres. This could result in a revised DCP contract which should be filed any time prior to September 30 of the crop year covered by the contract. Contracts may also be terminated upon written agreement of all producers receiving payment under the contract, provided any advanced payments are repaid with interest.

After September 30 contract changes can NOT be accepted. If after September 30 of the fiscal year it is determined that producer shares changed but were not revised on contract, all producers on the contract must refund to CCC payments received for the crop year, plus interest.

Marketing Assistance Loans

A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available for producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the earlier of the date the loan is repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and title to the commodity.

Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if the producer regains beneficial interest.

Commodity loan eligibility also requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, acreage reporting and ensuring that the commodity meets Commodity Credit Corporation minimum grade and quality standards. For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan. In 2009, South Carolina FSA offices made 249 loans valued at \$17,309,889.

Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical and/or ACRE Programs to be eligible for commodity loans.

Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans.

The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification.

Marketing Assistance Loan Rates 2010

Barley	Wheat	Corn	Oats	Soybeans	Grain Sorghum
\$1.80 bu.	\$1.84 bu.	\$2.12 bu.	\$1.35 bu.	Varies by County \$5.04 – \$5.09 bu.	\$3.70 cwt

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program Changes

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin. In 2009, South Carolina FSA offices made 33 loans valued at \$1,627,829 and for 2010, 16 loans valued at \$960,583.

The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas
- Hay
- Renewable biomass
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities

For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov

Importance of Accurate and Timely Acreage Reports

Filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of program benefits. In stressing timeliness of making an acreage report, it is important for producers to know that if a crop is not reported by the established state reporting date, or the required NAP reporting date (if applicable), a late-filing fee will be assessed. The crop can be considered timely reported as long as there is physical evidence of the crop still remaining in the field.

Prevented Planted Provisions

Producers should report prevented planted acreage to their local FSA Office when the crop acreage is not planted due to a natural disaster. To be considered timely, producers who request prevented planting acreage credit must report the acreage within 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

2011 NAP Application Closing Dates

Producers in need of insurance coverage for the following crops for which catastrophic level of insurance is not available through FCIC can apply under the Noninsured Crop Assistance Program (NAP) by the following dates:

August 1, 2010 - for Strawberries and bulb onions

September 1, 2010 - for Floriculture, Aquaculture, Turf Grass Sod, Christmas trees, mushrooms

September 30, 2010 - for small grains, canola, flax, garlic, and triticale.

NAP coverage requires a service fee of \$250 per crop, per producer with a \$750 cap per county. Out-of-pocket expenses will not exceed \$1850 for any producer, even if production occurs in more than three counties. Service fees may be waived for eligible limited resource producers.

NAP Crop and Production Reporting Requirements

To remain eligible for the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) assistance, producers must annually report both acreage and production information. Producers should report crop

acreage soon after planting. The report should include the following crop information:

- name of the crop, e.g.; *peppers*
- type and variety, e.g.; *jalapeno*
- location and acreage of the crop
- producer's share of the crop and the names of other producers with an interest in the crop
- type of practice used to grow the crop, e.g., *irrigated*
- date the crop was planted by field if there are several; and
- intended use of the commodity, e.g., *processed*



Additionally, producers must annually provide the following production information:

- the quantity of all harvested production of the crop in which you have an interest during the crop year
- the disposition of the harvested crop, such as whether it was marketable, unmarketable, salvaged, or used differently than intended
- verifiable or reliable production records, when required.

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) uses the acreage information to verify that crops exist and to record the number of acres of the subject crop. Acreage information is combined with the production data to calculate an *approved yield*—expected production for the crop year. An approved yield for a crop for an individual producer is usually the average of the producer's actual production history (APH) for a minimum of 4 to a maximum of 10 years.

Conservation Reserve Program

Through the Conservation Reserve Program, USDA is serious about restoring and enhancing habitat for wildlife.

Practices available now under the Continuous CRP signup are:

- **Restoration of longleaf pine plantations** that provide habitat for numerous species of plants and animals. Land must have 4 out of 6 year cropping history in years 1996 through 2001 and be longleaf suitable soils. Other eligibility requirements apply.
- **Establishment of bird buffers** that provide habitat for the bob-white quail and numerous other bird species. The bird buffer strips established under CCRP have been proven to increase quail populations in the State. Land must have 4 out of 6 year cropping history in years 1996 through 2001. Other eligibility requirements apply.
- **Establishment of riparian buffers** on marginal pastureland that protect water quality for all animals, including humans.

This practice establishes a strip of trees next to an eligible permanent water body used for livestock drinking water. The livestock are fenced out of the protected water body and cost-share assistance and other lucrative benefits are provided to install wells as an alternate water source. Livestock producers that have utilized this practice in the past have stated that providing reliable clean well water to their livestock has greatly improved herd health.

- **Thinning CRP Pines** Producers may thin CRP pines without an annual rental payment reduction. The thinning must be done in accordance with State Specifications that provide enhanced wildlife habitat. Burns are required in conjunction with the thinning. Cost-share assistance is available to establish pollinator/wildlife habitat on logging roads and decks.
- **Re-enrollment of Expiring CRP** - CRP participants with contracts expiring September 30, 2010 may re-offer some or all of the expiring acreage under the Continuous CRP sign up if the acreage meets the requirements of a Continuous CRP practice. The offer must be made in time for a new conservation plan to be developed and a new CRP contract approved by the local County Committee prior to the contract expiration of September 30, 2010. If you think you qualify contact your FSA office soon. Do not delay.

Conservation Reserve Program Reminders

- ✓ Producers are required to annually certify CRP acreage by July 15 of each year. Failure to certify may result in contract termination.
- ✓ Pine straw cannot be harvested from CRP acreage.
- ✓ Clear-cutting CRP trees is a contract violation. If your CRP trees are damaged by root-rot, pine beetles or other disasters, immediately notify FSA.
- ✓ Thinning of CRP pines must be approved by the County Committee prior to thinning and must be thinned according to State Specifications.
- ✓ If CRP land is sold, or if there is a death of a CRP participant, the new owner or estate representative must assume the CRP contract within 60 days or the contract will be terminated. If you are considering selling your CRP land, contact the FSA office so that they can advise you of the penalties that will apply if the new owners do not assume the contract.
- ✓ Management and maintenance activities are prescribed in the Conservation Plan and must be completed outside of the primary nesting season. The primary nesting season is April 1 through September 1 CRP contracts will be considered in non-compliance if required management and maintenance activities are not performed or performed during the primary nesting season. Carefully review and follow your conservation plan.

Livestock Indemnity Program

LIP will compensate producers for eligible livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality that occur due to adverse weather. Pleasure livestock, pets, and livestock that are not used as part of a farming operation are not eligible. Contract growers must provide a copy of their grower contract. For eligible livestock losses a notice of loss must be filed within 30 calendar days of when the livestock loss is apparent, and an application for payment no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the loss of livestock occurred.

Inventory documentation must be provided when the first LIP application is filed during the calendar year. Producers must provide documentation of livestock deaths by one of these

means:

- Verifiable documentation.
- Producer reliable records in conjunction with verifiable beginning and ending inventory records.
- Third party certification. A completed FSA-926 form is required for third party certifications.

In the event of a disaster resulting in livestock losses, livestock producers should document normal mortality losses during the year. Dated photographs are a good means of documentation.

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)

The purpose of ELAP is to provide compensation to eligible producers of livestock, honey bees, and farm-raised fish for losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other loss conditions, including losses due to blizzards and wildfires, that are NOT covered under LIP, LFP, or SURE. Eligible losses includes feed losses, physical losses and additional costs incurred in providing feed to eligible livestock. Contact your local FSA office if you believe you have an eligible loss.

Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

TAP authorizes payments for eligible orchardist and nursery growers who produce nursery, ornamental, fruit, nut or Christmas trees for commercial sale and actually replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes, and vines that have been destroyed or damaged by a natural disaster. For producers with losses in calendar year 2008, 2009, and through May 7, 2010 application and supporting documentation must be furnished to the FSA office no later than July 6, 2010. For losses May 8, 2010 through September 30, 2011 applications and supporting documentation must be filed within 90 calendar days of the disaster event.

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 two 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 and 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 September 30, 2008, and September 30, 2009, may be eligible to enroll in TIP. To learn more about this program, producers interested in applying and participating in TIP should visit their USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

FSA-669A
(03-24-10)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 2, 2010.
- 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.

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.

FSA-669A (03-24-10) **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**
Farm Service Agency

NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION

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. NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION: <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>I DO want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>I DO NOT want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.</i>		5. COUNTY	
		6. LAA	7. STATE
3A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE		8A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINATOR	
3B. DATE		8B. DATE	
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if nominee is a write-in candidate.		(If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required).	

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.

ETHNICITY	RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable)	GENDER
<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino	<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	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female

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 2, 2010.

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.***

South Carolina Local Administrative Area (LAA) 3 Up for Election Unless Otherwise Indicated
(Maps delineating the LAAs established in your County are available in the local FSA Office)

<u>County:</u>	<u>LAA Description:</u>
Abbeville/Greenwood/McCormick	McCormick
Aiken	Kitchings Mill/New Holland/Salley/Wagener
Allendale	Sycamore/Jenny/Harmony/Ulmer/Seigling
Anderson	Iva/Starr/Pendleton/Townville
Bamberg	Ehrhardt/Hunters Chapel
Barnwell	Williston/Elko
Calhoun/Richland	Pine Grove
Calhoun/Richland - LAA5	Upper Richland
Charleston/Berkeley	Jamestown/Macedonia/Russellville/Pineville/St. Stephen/Cross/Bethera/Bonneau
Chester/Fairfield	Richburg/Winnsboro/Ridgeway
Chester/Fairfield - LAA5	Bethel/Greenbriar/Union/Jenkinsville
Chesterfield	Pageland/Mt. Croghan
Clarendon	Panola/Summerton/Rimini/Francis Marion/Goat Island/Davis Crossroads/Paxville/Davis Station
Colleton	Heyward-Blake/Veridier
Darlington	Darlington/Mechanicsville/Dovesville/Society Hill/Auburn
Dillon	Floydale/Riverdale/Hamer/Dillon/LittleRock/Minturn
Dorchester	Harleyville(west of Hwy 453)/Dorchester/Ridgeville
Edgefield	Harmony/Johnston
Florence	Pamplico/Johnsonville/Friendfield/Hannah
Georgetown	Pleasant Hill
Greenville//Pickens	Greenville/Greer/Travelers Rest
Hampton	Estill/Scotia/Furman/Garnett
Horry	Bayboro/Galivants Ferry/Dogbluff
Jasper/Beaufort	Tillman/Ridgeland/Hardeville
Kershaw/Lancaster	Heath Springs/Kershaw/Stoneboro
Kershaw/Lancaster - LAA5	Liberty Hill/Flat Rock/Lugoff/Elgin/Camden/Antioch/Westville
Laurens	Dialo/Youngs/Scuffletown
Lee	Lynchburg/Mayesville/Elliott/St. Charles
Lexington	Gaston/Poole's Mill/Swansea
Marion	Marion/Temperance Hill/Wahee
Marlboro	Bennettsville/Clio/Blenheim/Salem/Bristow/Brownsville/Dunbar
Newberry	Prosperity/Stoney Hill/Pomaria/Little Mountain/Peak
Oconee	South Union/Westminster
Orangeburg	Elloree/Vance/Providence/Eutawville/Holly Hill
Saluda	Trinity/Saluda
Spartanburg/Cherokee/Union	Union County
Sumter	Hagood/Rembert/Borden/Gaillard Crossroads/Dalzell/Stateburg
Williamsburg	Indian/Johnson/Mingo/Turkey
York	Bethany/Smyrna/Hickory Grove/Sharon/Bullocks Creek

SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OFFICE PHONE LISTING

ABBEVILLE/GREENWOOD/MCCORMICK	(864) 459-5418	HORRY	(843) 365-8732
AIKEN	(803) 649-4221	JASPER/BEAUFORT	(843) 726-5313
ALLENDALE	(803) 584-4233	KERSHAW/LANCASTER	(803) 432-4174
ANDERSON	(864) 224-2126	LAURENS	(864) 984-7741
BAMBERG	(803) 245-2037	LEE	(803) 484-5388
BARNWELL	(803) 259-7143	LEXINGTON	(803) 359-3205
CALHOUN/RICHLAND	(803) 874-3379	MARION	(843) 423-1341
CHARLESTON/BERKELEY	(843) 727-4160	MARLBORO	(843) 479-2441
CHESTER/FAIRFIELD	(803) 581-1906	NEWBERRY	(803) 276-0000
CHESTERFIELD	(843) 623-2185	OCONEE	(864) 638-2213
CLARENDON	(803) 435-2201	ORANGEBURG	(803) 534-3136
COLLETON	(843) 549-1821	SALUDA	(864) 445-8118
DARLINGTON	(843) 395-1407	SPARTANBURG/UNION/CHEROKEE	(864) 814-2471
DILLON	(843) 774-5122	SUMTER	(803) 905-7650
DORCHESTER	(843) 563-3218	WILLIAMSBURG	(843) 354-9621
EDGEFIELD	(803) 637-3220	YORK	(803) 684-3136
FLORENCE	(843) 669-9686	Toll Free number for combined counties	(800) 735-2796
GEORGETOWN	(843) 546-7616	(For Abbeville, Chester, Greenville, Jasper,	
GREENVILLE/PICKENS	(864) 467-2775	Spartanburg, Charleston, Calhoun)	
HAMPTON	(803) 943-2586		

JUNE INTEREST RATES

Farm Operating	3.125%
Farm Operating – Limited Resource	5.000%
Farm Ownership	5.125%
Farm Ownership – Limited Resource	5.000%
Farm Ownership – Beginning Farmer Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency – Actual Loss	3.750%

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 \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,112,000. 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.

Please visit our website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/sc>

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To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

The SC State FSA Newsletter is published and distributed by the SC State FSA Office at 1927 Thurmond Mall, Suite 100, Columbia, SC 29201-2375 The phone number is (803) 806-3830.