



South Carolina State FSA Office

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Attention

Due to budget constraints, this newsletter is mailed to one recipient per address. Please share with others concerned in your household.



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

South Carolina has had a beautiful spring with warm weather for our planting season. Recently we have had an abundance of rainfall over many areas, which is very strange for this time of the year. With farm prices remaining strong for most commodities, I hope that South Carolina farmers will have a great year, with high yields and good prices.

Again, let me call to your attention the "Dates to Remember" located on this front page of our newsletter.

FSA considers it a privilege to serve you, our producers. You are the reason that we are here and we want to help you in all ways that we can. Our intention is to always be warm, efficient, and friendly.

Conservation Reserve Program Continuous CRP Signup

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program is a private lands environmental improvement program that allows participants the opportunity to enroll environmentally sensitive acreages in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality and provide wildlife habitat and food sources.

The Continuous CRP program is a voluntary enrollment program. Eligible landowners enter into contracts that range from 10 to 15 years in length. In return, the landowners will receive annual rental and maintenance payments, incentive payments for certain activities, and cost share for establishment.

Some 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 2002-2007 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 2002 through 2007. 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.

Dates to Remember

July 15, 2012	Acreage Reporting Deadline for: Corn, Cotton, Flue-Cured Tobacco, Grain Sorghum, Peanuts, Soybeans, and all other Land Use; CRP; Orchards; Vineyards; all other NAP crops.
July 15, 2012	Final Crop Reporting and Disposition Date for Corn, Cotton, Flue-Cured Tobacco, Grain Sorghum, Peanuts, Soybeans, and all other Land Uses; CRP, Orchards, Vineyards, all other NAP crops.
August 1, 2012	NAP Application Closing Date (Program Crop Year 2013): Onions and strawberries.
August 1, 2012	Final day to file nomination forms at the local USDA Service Center.
August 15, 2012	Acreage Reporting Date: Fresh Market Tomatoes (Planted 7/1-7/15).
September 1, 2012	End of CRP Primary Nesting Season.
September 1, 2012	NAP Application Closing Date (Program Crop Year 2013): Floriculture, aquaculture, turf grass sod, Christmas trees, mushrooms, cilantro, and parsley.
September 30, 2012	NAP Application Closing Date (Program Crop Year 2013): Small grains, canola, flax, garlic, and triticale.
November 5, 2012	COC Election ballots will be mailed to eligible voters.
November 15, 2012	Acreage Reporting Date: Pasture Rangeland and Forage (PRF Pilot Program).
November 20, 2012	NAP Application Closing Date (Program Crop Year 2013): Alfalfa, apples, blackberries, caneberries, blueberries, grapes, all perennial grasses for hay or grazing , honey, kiwifruit, lespedeza, nectarines, peaches, pears, pecans, plums and figs.
December 3, 2012	Last day to return voted COC Election ballots to the USDA Service Center.
December 15, 2012	NAP Application Closing Date (Program Crop Year 2013): Artichokes, asparagus, basil, beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, all greens, kohlrabi, lettuce, green onions, <u>all peas</u> including English and field varieties, potatoes, radishes, rutabagas, turnips, and leeks.



JULY 2012 INTEREST RATES

Farm Operating	1.250%
Farm Ownership	3.375%
Farm Ownership – Beginning Farmer Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency – Actual Loss	3.750%

2013 NAP Coverage

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available and is produced for food or fiber.



The application deadline to apply for many 2013 NAP crops is soon approaching.

For Strawberries and bulb onions, the deadline date is **August 1, 2012**.

For Floriculture, Aquaculture, Turf Grass Sod, Christmas trees, mushrooms, Cilantro, and Parsley, the deadline date is **September 1, 2012**.

For small grains, canola, flax, garlic, and triticale, the deadline date is **September 30, 2012**.

For alfalfa, apples, blackberries, caneberries, blueberries, grapes, **all perennial grasses for hay or grazing**, honey, kiwifruit, lespedeza, nectarines, peaches, pears, pecans, plums and figs, the deadline date is **November 20, 2012**.

For artichokes, asparagus, basil, beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, all greens, kohlrabi, lettuce, green onions, all peas including English and field varieties, potatoes, radishes, rutabagas, turnips, and leeks the deadline is **December 15, 2012**.

Producers who already have coverage on 2012 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2013, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops.

Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee.

NAP coverage for 2013 costs \$250 per crop, but not more than \$750 per producer per county, or not more than \$1875 total per producer for all counties. Service fees may be waived for eligible limited resource producers.

Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports.
- Maintain production records and report production to the county office for APH purposes.
- File a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail, etc.

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. Report of crops must be filed for the farm by the applicable final reporting date listed above. To be considered timely filed, acreage reports for:

- prevented planted acreage are required to be submitted no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date for the applicable crop
- failed acreage must be filed before the disposition of the crop.

Late Filed Report of Acreage

The County Committee may accept a late-filed acreage report as timely filed when all of the following apply:

- the operator pays the cost of a farm visit and the costs of verification and determination of crop acreage
- physical existence of the late-filed crop or crop residue for the crop year being reported exists, if applicable
- the crop's use can be verified
- the crop's acreage for the specific crop year can be determined.

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

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFLP) 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.



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.

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

Farm Operators Subleasing Cropland

All producers planting on **DCP base** acres must be identified on the DCP contract and receive a proportionate share of DCP payment for the farm. Producers who enroll farm in DCP and at a later date sublease cropland to another producer that is considered to be **DCP base** acres, but that producer is not identified on the DCP contract, the addition of that producer must be reported for DCP contract revision no later than September 30, 2012. Failure to report the new producer and make a DCP contract revision is considered 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 **must** be reported to your local FSA office to determine if new producer is planting on base acres. If you sublease land **after** June 1, the DCP contract should be revised as soon as the change occurs but no later than September 30, 2012. Do not wait until the last minute to revise DCP contract because all necessary signatures must be obtained by September 30, 2012.

Refund of Program Payments Due to Adjusted Gross Income Limitation

The 2008 Farm Bill provides average adjusted gross income (AGI) limitations for FSA and NRCS program participants earning payments. AGI certifications that program participants do not exceed \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI, \$750,000 farm average AGI, and \$1 Million nonfarm average AGI are required to earn payments. FSA and the IRS formed a partnership to ensure that only those participants who comply with AGI requirements receive farm program benefits. This data-sharing process maintains the confidentiality and privacy of tax return information while providing FSA information necessary to verify and validate the average AGI certification you previously filed.

However, for IRS to cooperate with FSA in sharing your data for this AGI determination, your consent to disclose this information is required before IRS can make the comparison and report the results to FSA. Letters have been issued notifying program participants who have not provided consent forms needed for this determination. An additional letter will be issued by FSA to program participants that have received benefits placing them on notice that because of the non-compliance in this matter they are ineligible for 2009, 2010, and/or 2011 program benefits. A refund is required of all 2009, 2010, and/or 2011 program payments benefits received. To possibly avoid this refund and allow FSA to make the necessary determination with the IRS, FSA is asking that you complete and return to FSA form CCC-931, "Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information". If you receive such a letter after receiving this newsletter, it is imperative that you complete form CCC-931 and return such form to the FSA County Office. If form CCC-931 is **not** received you will be notified by separate letter of refund amounts that are required.

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, the 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 a group.

FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

To find out more about FSA loan programs, please contact your local FSA office.

South Carolina Local Administrative Area (LAA) 2 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 – LAA2	Due West / Donalds / Level Land / Long Cane / Parsons Mount
Abbeville/Greenwood/McCormick – LAA5	Callison / Bradley / Epworth / Kirksey / Promise Land / Troy
Aiken	Couchton / Monetta / Windsor
Allendale	Barton / Bull Pond / Fairfax
Anderson	Belton / Honea Path
Bamberg	Denmark / Olar
Barnwell	Blackville / Hilda
Calhoun/Richland – LAA2	St. Matthews / Cameron
Calhoun/Richland – LAA4	Lower Richland
Charleston/Berkeley	Moncks Corner / Sandridge / Lebanon / Black Creek / Cooper Store
Chester/Fairfield – LAA2	Lewis / Fort Lawn / Edgemoor
Chester/Fairfield – LAA4	Blair / Monticello / White Oak
Chesterfield	Snow Hill / Chesterfield / Shiloh
Clarendon	Gable / Sardina / New Zion / Turbeville / Beards Crossroads / Barrineau Crossroads
Colleton	Canadys / Warren / Sheridan Glover
Darlington	Oats / Lydia / Hartsville / Clyde / Byrdtown
Dillon	Latta / Oak Grove / Mallory / Berry's Crossroads / Bingham
Dorchester	Saint George / Rosinville / West of Harleyville
Edgefield	Augusta / Trenton
Florence	Coward / Olanta / Scranton / Lake City
Georgetown	Choppee/ Good Hope / Rose Hill / Carvers Bay / Rice Town / Plantersville/ St Luke
Greenville/Pickens	Pickens County
Hampton	Cummings / Hopewell / Early Branch / Yemassee
Horry	Floyds / Green Sea / Simpson Creek
Jasper/Beaufort	Beaufort County
Kershaw/Lancaster – LAA2	Buford / Flat Creek
Kershaw/Lancaster – LAA4	Buffalo / Mt. Pisgah / Beaver Dam / Cassatt / Bethune/ Antioch / Westville
Laurens	Laurens / Mountville / Joanna / Clinton / Hunter-Jacks
Lee	Hebron / Lucknow / Stokes Bridge
Lexington	Fairview / Pelion / Lexington
Marion	Mullins / Nichols
Marlboro	Brightsville / McColl
Newberry	Bush River / Newberry / Jalapa / Whitmire
Oconee	Seneca / Cross Roads / Friendship
Orangeburg	Orangeburg / Cope / Branchville / Cordova / Bowman / Rowesville
Saluda	Clyde / Ridge
Spartanburg/Union/Cherokee	Spartanburg County
Sumter	Wedgefield / Pinewood / Privateer / Concord
Williamsburg	Mouzon / Sumter / Ridge / Clarendon / King Townships
York	Fort Mill / Catawba / Lesslie / McConnells / Bethesda

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) 245-4311	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) 534-2409
COLLETON	(843) 549-1821	SALUDA	(864) 445-8118
DARLINGTON	(843) 395-1407	SPARTANBURN/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, Spartanburg, Kershaw, Charleston, Calhoun)	
GREENVILLE	(864) 467-2755		
HAMPTON	(803) 943-2586		

Office Closures

July 4, 2012	Offices Closed – Independence Day
September 3, 2012	Offices Closed - Labor Day
October 8, 2012	Offices Closed - Columbus Day
November 12, 2012	Offices Closed - Veterans Day
November 22, 2012	Offices Closed - Thanksgiving Day
December 25, 2012	Offices Closed - Christmas Day
January 1, 2013	Offices Closed - New Year's Day
January 21, 2013	Offices Closed - Dr. Martin Luther King's Birthday
February 18, 2013	Offices Closed - President's Day

Farm Service Agency - Making a Better South Carolina

In 2011, FSA supports South Carolina farm producers and landowners through programs such as:

- \$27,308,361 Direct and Counter Cyclical Program
- \$11,003,707 Price Support Commodity Program
- \$53,989,403 Tobacco Transition Program Payments
- \$1,395,519 Trade Adjustment Assistance Program
- \$641,377 Farm Storage Facility Loans
- \$37,964,000 Guaranteed Loan Program
- \$30,197,804 Direct Loan Program
- \$2,342,245 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments
- \$6,422,285 Livestock Forage Program
- \$2,675,482 Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program
- \$7,102,180 Conservation Reserve Program
- \$3,520 Grassland Reserve Program
- \$ 181,117,883 State Total

FSA County Committee Election

The election of the agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers, whether beginning or long-established with large or small operations. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

County Committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs as the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to ensure FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

County committees provide local input on:

- Commodity price support loans and payments
- Conservation programs
- Incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities

- Emergency programs
- Payment eligibility

FSA county committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

The Local Administrative Area (LAA) 2 in each county in SC; LAA2 and LAA 4 14 up for election in Chester/Fairfield, Calhoun/Richland, Kershaw/Lancaster counties; and LAA 2 and LAA5 are up for election in Abbeville/McCormick/Greenwood.

The nomination period for the 2012 elections is **June 15 – August 1, 2012**. Request nomination forms from your local FSA Office or obtain online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>.

August 1, 2012 is the final day to file nomination forms at the local USDA Service Center.

On **November 5, 2012** ballots will be mailed to eligible voters.

December 3, 2012 is the last day to return voted ballots to the USDA Service Center.

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign nomination form FSA-669A. The form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. This form is available at your local USDA Service Center and online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>.

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

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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.

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