



**Greene County Farm Service
Agency County Committee**

Jimmie Lee Jones, Chairperson
R.W. Bynum III, Vice Chairperson
Audie Murphy, Member
Sue Barrow, Advisor
Lafayette Edwards, Advisor

**Committee meets on the 1st
Wednesday each month at 8:30 am**

Office Staff

Richard Toler, CED
Carl Bond, FLM ext 110
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Office Hours

Monday thru Friday
8:00 a. m. – 5:00 p.m.

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USDA Website:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

OUTREACH - The Farm Service Agency is committed to informing all persons of the programs that it administers. As part of the Outreach Plan for the Greene County FSA Office, the County Executive Director will be available to speak to groups upon request.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please call Richard Toler at (252) 747-2968.

POLICY

“The United States department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its program 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, genetic information, political beliefs, 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, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 202250-9410, or Call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.”



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

NEWSLETTER

GREENE COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY

July 2007

FSA County Committee Election

The election of agricultural producers in LAA-2, which consists of **Hookerton, Olds, and Ormonds townships**, to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committee is important to ALL farmers and ranchers with large or small operations. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a direct link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers who serve on committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs their counties offer. They work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers. Committees provide local input on: Commodity price support loans and payments; establishment of allotments and yields; conservation programs; incentive, indemnity, and disaster payments for some commodities; and other farm disaster assistance.

Election Period - Nomination period began **June 1, 2007** and ends **August 1, 2007**. Nomination forms for the 2007 election must be postmarked or received by close of business in the local FSA county office on August 1, 2007.

Nominations - A nomination form signed by the nominee is needed to nominate an individual. The form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. The nomination form (FSA-669A) is available at your local FSA county office and online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections>

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy for the committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. In addition, organizations representing socially disadvantaged (minorities and women) farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates.

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters in LAA-1, which consists of **Hookerton, Olds, and Ormonds townships**, by **November 3, 2007**, and must be returned to the FSA county office or postmarked by **December 4, 2007**.

Who Can Vote - Agricultural producers of legal voting age can vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm can also vote. Check with your local FSA office for voting requirements and eligibility.

CCC-633-EZ Reminder

Remember, we’ve switched to the CCC-633-EZ form. It’s a one size fits all form you can use to indicate your intentions to receive loan deficiency payments for all your crops at the beginning of the crop year, long before you’ve lost beneficial interest.

The same form is then used to submit a request for an LDP any time during the loan/LDP availability period before or after losing beneficial interest. For the 2007 crop year, the CCC-633 EZ and eLDP online requests are the **only methods** available to request LDPs. Contact the county office staff for details.

2007 Compliance Process

Starting this year a new compliance and spot check selection process will be implemented for the 2007 crop year. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, deficiency loans, etc. for spot check and review, a nationwide selection of producers will be made using a statistical sampling method. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer's participation in Conservation Reserve Program, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Loan Deficiency Program, etc.

State and County Offices shall view and print their producer spot check lists as posted on the designated web site. If an entity is selected from the national database that is no longer farming or participating in the 2007 crop year, a notation shall be made on the spot check list. For more information about the new spot check selection procedure, feel free to contact your local Farm Service Agency office for additional clarification.

Farm Reconstitutions

In Farm Service Agency terms, farms are *constituted* to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm *reconstitution* is necessary.

The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **August 1** for farms enrolled in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program. If 2007 DCP direct payments have already been issued on the farm, the reconstitution will be effective for 2008 unless the payments are refunded.

BOLL WEEVIL ERADICATION PROGRAM

Producers will continue to report their cotton acreage as in the past to the FSA Office. However, NCDA&CS will be sending a billing invoice directly to the producer. Payments will not be accepted at the Greene County FSA Office. The assessment for the 2007 Boll Weevil Eradication Program has decreased this year to \$2.50 per acre.

Preventing Fraud, Waste

The Farm Service Agency and Risk Management Agency are partners in preventing fraud, waste and abuse in the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has and will continue to assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. In addition, FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse to RMA.

Producers can report suspected cases to the county office staff, RMA or the Office of the Inspector General.

Nomination Forms

In order to increase awareness of the County committee election process, FSA will be mailing nomination petitions to all producers in Greene County. This year a producer is eligible to be a County FSA committee member if the producer resides in the LAA-2 which consists of Hookerton, Olds, or Ormonds townships.

CROP LOSSES

Notice of loss to all crops including Fruits and Vegetables that have been damaged by weather conditions need to be reported to the local Farm Service Agency within 15 days of damage.

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 and 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 and 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.

Program participants convicted of any federal or state offense consisting of the distribution (trafficking) of a controlled substance shall, at the discretion of the court, be ineligible for any or all program payments and benefits:

Dates to Remember	
Aug. 1	Last date to return Nomination Petitions
Aug. 3	Last Date to Sign up in DCP without penalty
Sept. 1	Last Date to File For NAP on Strawberries, Nursery Crops, and Strawberry Rootstock