

July 2015



# NEWSLETTER



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## Delaware FSA Newsletter

### State Farm Service Agency

1221 College Park Dr

Dover, DE 19904

Phone: 302-678-4250

Fax: 855-389-2246

Web: [Delaware FSA](#)

### State Executive Director:

Bob Walls

### Kent County FSA Office

800 Bay Road, Suite 2

Dover, DE 19901

### Need a Receipt for That?

Local Offices Issue Receipts for Services Provided

Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds agricultural producers that FSA provides a receipt to customers who request or receive assistance or information on FSA programs.

As part of FSA's mission to provide enhanced customer service, producers who visit FSA will receive documentation of services requested and provided. From December through June, FSA issued more than 327,000 electronic receipts.

The 2014 Farm Bill requires a receipt to be issued for any agricultural program assistance requested from FSA, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Rural Development (RD). Receipts include the date, summary of the visit and any agricultural information, program and/or loan assistance provided to an individual or entity.

In some cases, a form or document – such as a completed and signed program enrollment form –

Phone: (302) 741-2600  
ext

Fax: (302) 401-6678

**Office Hours:**

Monday - Friday

8:00 am - 4:30 pm

**County Office Staff:**

Tammy Foraker

Lauren Huber

Carrie Strachar

**New Castle County  
FSA Office**

2430 Old County Road

Newark, DE 19702

Phone: (302) 832-3100

Fax: (302) 401-6678

**Office Hours:**

Tuesday - Thursday

8:00 am - 4:30 pm

**County Office Staff:**

Helen Sureda

**County Executive  
Director:**

New Castle & Kent  
County

serve as the customer receipt instead of a printed or electronic receipt. A service is any information, program or loan assistance provided whether through a visit, email, fax or letter.

To learn more about FSA, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) or to find your local USDA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

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## County Committee Nominations

The nomination period for the New Castle, Kent, and Sussex FSA county committee began on June 15, 2015. Nomination forms must be postmarked or received in the County FSA Office by close of business on Aug. 3, 2015.

County Committees are unique to FSA and allow producers to have a voice on federal farm program implementation at the local level.

To be eligible to serve on the FSA county committee, a person must participate or cooperate in an agency administered program, be eligible to vote in a county committee election and reside in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) where they are nominated. All producers, including women, minority and beginning farmers and ranchers are encouraged to participate in the nomination and election process.

This year, nominations and elections will be held in:

**New Castle County LAA 2:** Middletown, Odessa,

Port Penn

**Kent County LAA 1:** Smyrna, Clayton,

Hartly, Marydel,

Dover

**Sussex County LAA 3:** Bethel, Blades,

Laurel, Delmar,

Frankford, Gumboro,

Selbyville

Producers may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Organizations representing minority and women farmers and ranchers may also nominate candidates. To become a nominee, eligible

Maryann Reed

individuals must sign form FSA-669A. The form and more information about county committee elections is available online at: [www.fsa.usda.gov/elections](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections).

**Sussex County FSA Office**

21315 Berlin Road

Georgetown, DE 19947

Phone: (302) 856-3990, Ext 2

Fax: (855) 401-1964

**Office Hours**

Monday - Friday

8:00am - 4:30pm

Elected county committee members serve a three-year term and are responsible for making decisions on FSA disaster, conservation, commodity and price support programs, as well as other important federal farm program issues. County committees consist of three to 11 members.

FSA will mail election ballots to eligible voters beginning Nov. 9. Ballots are due back in the County Office by mail or in person no later than Dec. 7, 2015. All newly elected county committee members and alternates will take office January 1, 2016.

For more information about county committees, please contact the New Castle (302) 832-3100, Kent (302) 741-2600 or Sussex (302) 856-3990, County FSA office or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/elections](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections).

**County Office Staff:**

Jamie Argo

Lisa Ell

Carrie Hudson

Harry Hudson

Tiria Wright

Kenneth Wise

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**Did You Know?**

***Quantity or Quality the difference in FSFL Grain***

Bins are ideally designed to hold a level volume of grain. When bins are overfilled and grain is heaped up, airflow is hindered and the chance of spoilage increases.

Producers who take out marketing assistance loans and use the farm-stored grain as collateral should remember that they are responsible for maintaining the quality of the grain through the term of the loan.

**County Executive Director:**

Jennifer Feindt (Acting)

***Call Before You Haul...***

Loan grain disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization from the county office staff, is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties for unauthorized dispositions are severe and a producer's name will be placed on a loan violation list for a two-year period. Always call before you haul any grain under loan.

**Farm Loan Specialist**

Jennifer Feindt

(302) 856-3990 ext. 107

## Farm Loan Officer

Colleen Reed

(302) 856-3990 ext. 130

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## FSA Working for You!

### ***Farm Bill Website and Online Overview of Farm Bill Programs Available***

The Agricultural Act of 2014 (the Act), also known as the 2014 Farm Bill, was signed by President Obama on Feb. 7, 2014. The Act repeals certain programs, continues some programs with modifications, and authorizes several new programs administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Most of these programs are authorized and funded through 2018.

For the latest on 2014 Farm Bill programs administered by FSA, please visit our Farm Bill website at [www.fsa.usda.gov/farmbill](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/farmbill) and for an FSA program overview please read, download and/or print our recently posted FSA Farm Bill Fact Sheet titled, [What's in the 2014 Farm Bill for Farm Service Agency Customers?](#)

For more information on FSA, please contact your local USDA Service Center or visit us online at

### **ASKFSA**

Are you looking for answers to your FSA questions? Then ASK FSA at [askfsa.custhelp.com](http://askfsa.custhelp.com).

AskFSA is an online resource that helps you easily find information and answers to your FSA questions no matter where you are or what device you use. It is for ALL customers, including underserved farmers and ranchers who wish to be enrolled in FSA loans, farm, and conservation programs.

#### **Through AskFSA you can:**

- Access our knowledge base 24/7
- Receive answers to your questions faster
- Submit a question and receive a timely response from an FSA expert
- Get notifications when answers important to you and your farming operation are updated
- Customize your account settings and view responses at any time

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## Changes to Fruit and Vegetable Planting Rules

Farm Service Agency (FSA) has announced fruit and vegetable provisions that affect producers who intend to participate in certain programs authorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014.

Producers who intend to participate in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs are subject to an acre-for-acre payment reduction when fruits and nuts, vegetables or wild rice are planted on the payment acres of a farm. Payment reductions do not apply to mung beans, dry peas, lentils or chickpeas. Planting fruits or vegetables on acres that are not considered payment acres will not result in a payment reduction. Farms that are eligible to participate in ARC/PLC but are not enrolled for a particular year may plant unlimited fruits and vegetables for that

year but will not receive ARC/PLC payments for that year. Eligibility for succeeding years is not affected.

Planting and harvesting fruits and vegetables on ARC/PLC acreage is subject to the acre-for-acre payment reduction when those crops are planted on either more than 15 percent of the base acres of a farm enrolled in ARC using the county coverage or PLC, or more than 35 percent of the base acres of a farm enrolled in ARC using the individual coverage.

Fruits and vegetables that are planted in a double-cropping practice will not cause a payment reduction if the farm is in a double-cropping region as designated by the USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation.

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## **Still Time to Apply for Direct Farm Ownership Loan Program**

Low-Interest Loans Can Help Producers Start or Expand Farms

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Delaware Farm Service Agency (FSA) today announced that farmers and ranchers still have time to apply for low interest loans available through the FSA direct farm ownership program. Applications must be approved by Sept. 30, 2015, to take advantage of the funding available.

Eligible farmers and ranchers can borrow up to \$300,000 to buy farmland, construct or repair buildings, pay closing costs, or promote soil and water conservation. The interest rate can be as low as 1.5 percent with up to 40 years to repay.

New farmers and ranchers, military veterans, and underserved farmers and ranchers also are encouraged to apply. Each year Congress targets 80 percent of available loan funds to beginning and targeted underserved farmers and ranchers. Targeted underserved groups include American Indians or Alaskan Natives, Asians, Blacks or African Americans, Native Hawaiians, or other Pacific Islanders, Hispanics and women.

For more information about farm loan, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/farmloans](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/farmloans), or contact your local FSA office. To find your local FSA county office, visit <https://offices.usda.gov>.

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USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).