



**UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE**

*LEE COUNTY
COMMITTEE & STAFF*

William Buchanan - Chairman
Mike Gaster - Vice Chairman
Sam Harrington- Member
John Cameron – Advisor
Rebecca Kelly - Advisor
Amber Waller – CED
Karen Smith – Lead PT
Tami Thomas – PT

PHONE 919-775-3407 ext. 2
FAX 919-776-7104
WEBSITE www.fsa.usda.gov

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, family status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a 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 communications of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA's TARGET CENTER at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20205-9401 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

OFFICE HOURS

**Monday – Friday
8:00 am – 4:30 pm**



Farm Service Agency

Lee County Farm Service Agency

Newsletter

December 2006

County Committee Election

Congratulations to Sam Harrington for being elected back to the County Committee for another 3 year term. Estelle Bullard was elected as 1st alternate. We look forward to working again with Sam. His new term will begin January 2007.

Annual DCP Enrollment

To participate in DCP, producers are required to **designate shares and sign the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program Contract (CCC-509) on a yearly basis.** The annual DCP sign-up period runs from October 1 to June 1 of the applicable program year. To be considered enrolled timely; the CCC-509 must be submitted by June 1 of the applicable program year. In cases where a farm is reconstituted, all resulting farms will need to enroll (signatures obtained) if the producers intend to participate. CCC-509s with signatures obtained after June 1, but by September 30, will be accepted, but the farm will be assessed a late-filed sign-up fee of \$100. All supporting documentation, such as CCC-502, AD-1026, and CCC-526, must be submitted before payments can be issued. Annual acreage reports indicating uses of all cropland on a farm must be filed by the applicable established reporting dates. Acreage reports filed after the applicable final reporting date may be accepted if all requirements are met and a late-filed fee is paid.

DCP payments are calculated by taking 85 percent of the base acres, multiplied by the farm yield, times the applicable payment rate, times the producer share. Producers may receive an advance of the direct payment, beginning on December 1 of the program year. Final direct payments will be made on or after October 1 following the contract period. Counter-cyclical payments

may also be authorized for one or more covered commodities, depending on the projected and actual market prices. Producers may elect to receive up to two counter-cyclical payments per year: (1) the first partial payment, if any, is available after the first six months of the marketing year, and (2) final payment, if any, is made after the end of the marketing year for each eligible crop. Producers who do not elect to take the first advance payments will receive the entire counter-cyclical payment at the end of the marketing year. The amount of a counter-cyclical payment is dependent upon the average of the actual prices received by farmers during the marketing year.

Loans for Beginning Farmers, Socially Disadvantaged

FSA is authorized to assist beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person whom:

- Has operated a farm for not more that 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed. Socially disadvantaged groups are Hispanics, American Indians, African Americans, Asians, Pacific Islanders and women.

Maintaining the Quality of Loaned Grain

This year's large grain crop has its obvious up side, but there is a downside too. Many producers are hard pressed to find adequate storage for every bushel harvested. Overfilled grain storage bins can lead to grain quality problems. 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 commodity through the term of the loan.

For information about grain storage options visit <http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/cropsystems/M1080-FS.pdf> or contact your local extension office.

Spousal Signatures

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse. There are exceptions to the rule. Spouses may not sign FSA-211s on behalf of each other or sign on behalf of the other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities.

Spouses must have a power of attorney on file or sign personally for claim settlements, such as promissory notes, and on security documents for price support loans.

Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.

A spouse's authority to sign documents on behalf of the other spouse does not entitle the spouse to review or receive agency records of the other spouse.

Small Grain Crop Reports

Farmers should report their planted acreages of wheat, barley, oats or rye to the Farm Service Agency by Tuesday, May 15, 2007. Producers will be required to furnish the date the crop was planted. Acreage reports must account for all cropland on the farm and are required for producers to be eligible for commodity loans, loan deficiency payments, and DCP or CRP participation.

Planting Dates

Remember that anyone reporting crops are required to give a planting date for those crops. When you turn in your crop acreage report this year, please keep in mind the county office will need planting dates of all crops in order to load each report into the computer.

Sodbuster, Swampbuster

Most Farm Service Agency programs require compliance with sodbuster and swampbuster provisions. These provisions require producers to follow an approved conservation system on all highly erodible land planted to an annual crop as determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Be sure to have determinations made on any land you plan to clear and plant to annual crops. If you plan to plant a different crop on your current cropland, check with NRCS to assure the new crop will qualify under your conservation system. Swampbuster provisions state that converting a wetland to make possible the planting of a crop will result in the loss of all USDA benefits. To avoid this possibility it is strongly recommended that producers check with NRCS before starting any kind of planting on new land.

Dates to Remember

Dec. 25 – Christmas Day Holiday (All Federal Offices Closed)

January 1 – New Years Holiday (All Federal Offices Closed)

January 15 – Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday (All Federal Offices Closed)

*Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year from the
Staff of the Lee County FSA
Office*