



**UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE**

*FARM SERVICE AGENCY
MOORE-MONTGOMERY
COMMITTEE*

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**Farm Service Agency
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FSA Office Hours
Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

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Farm Service Agency

Moore-Montgomery County Farm Service Agency

Newsletter

JUNE 2006

MAKE A DIFFERENCE - VOTE

From June 15 through August 1, farmers and ranchers can nominate eligible peers as candidates for election to the Moore-Montgomery County Farm Service Agency county committee. This is an important time for the community because county committee members make decisions that have significant effects on you and the area's agricultural sector as a whole. For example, committee members make decisions on applications for federal farm program and disaster payments. Committee members play a vital role by helping local farmers and ranchers during weather tough financial times and natural disasters. Also, committee members are responsible for hiring the county executive director – a key player in the delivery of farm programs. County committee members make many other important decisions that affect local farmers and ranchers, such as whether haying and grazing should be allowed on Conservation Reserve Program land. Talk to a county committee member or the CED for details on the types of decisions county committee members make. To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet basic eligibility requirements. Contact the county office staff or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections> for details about candidate eligibility. Nomination forms can be obtained at the county office or online at the above address. Remember, the nomination period runs June 15 through August 1. Voting takes place in the fall. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by November 3. December 4 is the last day to return voted ballots to the county office. Newly elected committee members and alternates take office January 1, 2007.

PREVENTING FRAUD

The Farm Service Agency and the Risk Management Agency are partners in preventing fraud, waste and abuse in the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, 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.

ACREAGE REPORTING

The timely filing of accurate acreage reports for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a number of programs, including Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program, Conservation Reserve Program, Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, as well as marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments. To be timely, you must file an FSA-578 by **JUNE 30th**. To be considered timely, acreage reports for prevented planted acreage must be filed no later than 15 calendar days after the final reporting date for the applicable crop. Failed acreage must be filed before the disposition of the crop. Crop certifications will be accepted from farm operators, farm owners, persons authorized by power of attorney, tenants and sharecroppers for which they have a share.

DATES TO REMEMBER

June 30	Final certification date for all crops except small grains
July 4	Independence Day Holiday FSA Offices Closed.
August 1	Deadline to submit COC nomination forms
August 1	Final date to request farm reconstitution for current fiscal year.



2008-2010 CRP CONTRACTS

If you have a Conservation Reserve Program contract that expires in 2008, 2009 or 2010, you should have received a letter from the county office explaining your options to re-enroll or extend your contract. To take advantage of the offer, you must respond by the close of business on June 30, otherwise your contract will expire on its stated date. If you have any questions, don't wait. Contact the county office staff for detailed information today.

SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS

Proper signatures on FSA contracts, applications and forms must be submitted before the document will be considered as filed. All entities, including revocable and irrevocable trusts, corporations, partnerships, estates, etc., must provide evidence of signature authority stipulating those individuals who are authorized to represent the entity. FSA cannot accept signatures without such documentation on file. Examples of acceptable evidence include trust agreements, corporate charters or resolutions, partnership agreements and court orders of appointment. Spouses can sign for one another on most program documents unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office staff. An FSA-211 may be filed to delegate signature authority for FSA program purposes to another individual.

YOUTH PROJECT LOANS

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other youth organizations. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000. Eligibility requirements include:

- Being a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Being 10 years to 20 years of age
- Living in the open country or in a town of less than 10,000 people
- Being unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conducting a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrating capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

Remember, FSA is an equal opportunity lender.

TOLL-FREE NUMBER FOR DIRECT LOAN BORROWERS

Direct loan borrowers with USDA's Farm Service Agency can now check the status of their accounts around the clock using a new toll-free telephone number. The toll-free number, 1-888-518-4983, is available in both English and Spanish. The system delivers information on active FSA loans 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. During the first call to the new system, borrowers will enter their tax identification number or the Social Security Number associated with the loan. They also will need to enter their ZIP code. Borrowers will create a personal identification number for security. Customers must enter their PIN every time they use the system and may change their PIN. The system menu helps users to access helpful information. The system may also direct borrowers to contact their local FSA servicing office if action is necessary on their accounts.

