



**UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE**

*FARM SERVICE AGENCY
MOORE-MONTGOMERY
COMMITTEE*

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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

DECEMBER 2006

**COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION
RESULTS**

Congratulations to Lewin M. Blue who was recently elected as the new member of the Moore-Montgomery FSA County Committee. He will begin serving the producers of Moore and Montgomery counties in January 2007. The first alternate to the Committee is Tony Ross and John A. Keith is the second alternate. This was one of the closest elections held in recent years. A big thank you goes out to all of the voters who chose to participate in this year's County Committee election and to the candidates for running on the ballot. With sadness, we announce that Lloyd Thomas will be rotating off the Committee with over 45 years of service to USDA, most recently as the chairperson of the Committee. We are looking forward to working with our new and returning members in the coming year.

SELLING LAND

If you're planning to sell farmland, there may be some program consequences you should be aware of. For example, if you are planning to sell land that is enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, the buyer must agree to continue the enrollment. If the buyer does not want to continue the CRP contract, you might have to refund all of the payments you have received to date. Reviewing program implications with your local Farm Service Agency staff before completing a sale of farmland is always a prudent precaution.

HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSINGS

- Dec. 25th** Christmas Day Holiday
- Jan. 1st** New Year's Day Holiday
- Jan. 15th** Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday

**CONSERVATION RESERVE
PROGRAM LONGLEAF PINE
INITIATIVE**

Signup continues for the Conservation Program Longleaf Pine Initiative.

Provisions of this CRP signup include:

- A one-time up front signing incentive payment (SIP) of \$100 per acre for CRP contracts for 10 or more years, which will be paid by CCC after eligible criteria are met and the CRP contract is approved;
- A one-time practice incentive payment (PIP) equal to 40 percent of the eligible installation costs for certain practices on Continuous CRP land, CCC will issue PIP payments after the CRP practice is installed, eligible costs are verified and other payment eligibility criteria are met.

Eligible Land and Practices

To be eligible for this practice, land must be in the nine states, within the historic range of the longleaf pine and soils suitable for longleaf pine. In addition, land must first meet the basic CRP eligibility requirements. Acceptable land is cropland that was planted or considered planted (including field margins) to an agricultural commodity in four out of six years between 1996 and 2001 and which is also physically and legally capable of being planted for manner normal for an agricultural commodity.

Sign-up begins Dec. 1, 2006, at local FSA offices for the CRP Longleaf Pine Initiative and runs continuously until the 250,000 acre goal is met, or December 31, 2007, whichever comes first.



SODBUSTER / SWAMPBUSTER PRECAUTIONS

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Before starting any earth or dirt work on the farm, discuss your plans with the staff at your local Natural Resources Conservation Service office. Converting wetlands and/or highly erodible lands to cropland use is a violation of sodbuster / swampbuster provisions and could result in the loss of USDA program benefits.

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.

LOANS FOR BEGINNING OR SOCIALY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS

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 who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 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.

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.

DIRECT AND COUNTER-CYCLICAL PAYMENT PROGRAM

Applications for the 2007 crop year are now being accepted. Remember in order to be eligible for advance payments, producers must either have a signed lease agreement from all owners on the farm, power-of-attorney for the owners, or the owners must sign the contract. Producers who cannot meet these requirements may apply, but will not be eligible for payments until after July 1, 2007. June 1, 2007, is the final date to apply for the 2007 crop year without paying a late fee of \$100 per farm. September 30, 2007, is the last day to accept late-filed applications for 2007.

Acreage reports are required in order to maintain eligibility for payment. Shares reported for planted acres must match shares on the payment acres of the DCP contracts. If a change on your farm is anticipated, you are encouraged to wait until the reconstitution or other changes are complete to enroll the farms involved. Farms will have 30 days from the date of a reconstitution to enroll the new farms.