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### **EXPEDITING FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS**

(HARRISBURG, PA), July 2, 2009 - The 2008 Farm Bill reauthorized the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL). The program provides low-interest financing for producers to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

To expedite the FSFL approval process, producers planning to submit an FSFL application to FSA, may request an environmental evaluation of their proposed project at their county FSA office.

To comply with the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), FSA must evaluate the potential impacts the proposed structure could have on the environment for FSFL applications. An FSA-850 form must be completed for each FSFL application before the application can be approved.

Producers requesting an environmental compliance determination are advised that the FSFL application must be submitted and approved before site preparation and construction can begin on the facility.

Applicants will be required to identify the:

- type of structure they wish to construct
- proposed site by marking the location on an aerial photo.

County Offices will not accept requests to complete FSA-850 via telephone. If a producer is unable to visit the office, the request must be submitted in writing and include the necessary information to complete FSA-850.

Additional information about initiating a Farm Storage Facility Loan is available at FSA county offices.