

FARM SERVICE AGENCY WILKES COUNTY NEWS

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NOMINATIONS BEGIN SOON

From June 15 through August 1, farmers and ranchers can nominate eligible peers as candidates for election to the Wilkes County Farm Service Agency county committee.

The Wilkes County LAA up for election this year is **LAA-3**. LAA-3 consists of **Edwards and Traphill townships**.

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 weather tough financial times and natural disasters.

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 FORM IS ATTACHED OR 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 2. December 3 is the last day to return voted ballots to the county office. Newly elected committee members and alternates take office January 1, 2008.

Make a Difference: Nominate and Vote!

DCP ENROLLMENT DEADLINE EXTENDED

The June 1, 2007 deadline to enroll in the 2007 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) has been extended to **August 3, 2007**. Computer problems have caused application processing delays which prompted the enrollment deadline extension. A late-file fee of \$100 per farm will be assessed to the producer for CCC-509's filed after August 3, 2007 and before September 30, 2007.

Advance direct payments for the 2007 crop year are 22%. Advance payments may be requested in any month starting with December 2006. The remaining final direct payment of 78% will be issued to participating producers in October of 2007. For clarification or an appointment contact your local FSA office.

FARM RECONSTITUTIONS

In Farm Service Agency terms, farms are *constituted* to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm *reconstitution* is necessary.

The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **August 1** for farms enrolled in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program. If 2007 DCP direct payments have already been issued on the farm, the reconstitution will be effective for 2008 unless the payments are refunded.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- August 1 Deadline to submit COC nomination forms.
- August 1 Final date to timely sign up for 2006 DCP Program.
- August 1 Final date to request farm reconstitution for current fiscal year.

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