

### Alabama USDA June Newsletter

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ALABAMA Updates - June 2025

Farm Service Agency | Natural Resources Conservation Service | Risk Management Agency

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## **Welcome SED Carroll**





ALABAMA

## **MONICA CARROLL**

State Executive Director USDA, Farm Service Agency Montgomery, Alabama

Monica Carroll was appointed by the Trump Administration to serve as the state executive director of the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Alabama in May 2025.

Carroll graduated from Auburn University with a Bachelor of Science in agricultural science. After graduating, Carroll worked with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service. Prior to her appointment, she also served as chairperson of the Alabama FSA State Committee during President Trump's first administration.

She works alongside her husband on their farm, 4C Farms, a sixth-generation, familyoperated farm that raises beef cattle and poultry and grows row crops.

Caroll is actively involved with the Alabama Farmers Federation Women's Leadership Committee, where she helps promote agricultural literacy throughout the state. She also serves on the Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Council in the Wiregrass Area

and sits on the State Board for Alabama RC&D. Through her work, she supports efforts to improve rural communities, making them better places to live, work, and play by administering project grants.

Carroll is from Batesville, Mississippi, but currently resides in Ozark, Alabama. She is married to Chris Carroll, and they have two children, Brittany and Blake, who are both involved in the farming operation along with their spouses. They all enjoy working together on the farm and share a love for spending time outdoors as a family.

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## **FSA Impact Series Sessions**



Session 1 will discuss Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) programs and show their implementation on the farm, discuss the Farm Service Agency (FSA) interaction, and inform participants of what Rural Development (RD) is able to accomplish in rural communities. Session 2 will be a conversation with the Macon County Extension Program Director discussing extension programs and opportunities. There will also be a meet and greet with a local producer.

**Date:** Friday, June 27, 2025 **Time:** 9:15am – 11:45am

Session 1 Location: Shady Grove RD Blueberry Farm

690 CR 81, Tuskegee, AL

**Time:** 1pm – 3pm

**Session 2 Location:** Macon County Cooperative

**Extension Program Office** 

207 N. Main Street, Tuskegee, AL

# Prevented Planting Deadline Extended for 2025 Spring Seeded Crops

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is extending the prevented planting crop reporting deadline for producers affected by spring flooding, excessive moisture, or qualifying drought.

Producers who intended to plant this spring, but were unable due to weather

being claimed as prevented planting. July 15 is a major deadline for most crops, but acreage reporting deadlines vary by county and by crop.

Producers need to report prevented planting acres to retain eligibility for FSA program benefits. Normally, the prevented planting reporting deadline is 15 calendar days after the final planting date for a crop as established by FSA and the Risk Management Agency (RMA). The prevented planting reporting deadline extension only applies to FSA and does not change any RMA crop insurance reporting deadline requirements.

The extension does not apply to crops covered by FSA's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). Producers should check with their local FSA office regarding prevented planting provisions for NAP-covered crops.

Producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office as soon as possible to make an appointment to report prevented planting acres and submit their spring crop acreage report. To locate your local FSA office, visit <u>farmers.gov/service-locator</u>.

## Nominations Now Open for Farmers and Ranchers to Serve on USDA Farm Service Agency County Committees



Nominations are now being accepted for farmers and ranchers to serve on local U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees. These committees make important decisions about how federal farm programs are administered locally. All nomination forms for the 2025 election must be postmarked or received in the local FSA office by Aug. 1, 2025.

Elections for committee members will occur in certain Local Administrative Areas (LAA). LAAs are elective areas for FSA committees in a single county or multi-county

jurisdiction and may include LAAs that are focused on an urban or suburban area.

Producers interested in serving on the FSA county committee can locate their LAA through a geographic information system locator tool available at <a href="mailto:fsa.usda.gov/elections">fsa.usda.gov/elections</a> and determine if their LAA is up for election by contacting their local FSA office.

Agricultural producers may be nominated for candidacy for the county committee if they:

- Participate or cooperate in a USDA program.
- Reside in the LAA that is up for election this year.

A cooperating producer is someone who has provided information about their farming or ranching operation to FSA, even if they have not applied or received program benefits.

Individuals may nominate themselves or others and qualifying organizations may also nominate candidates. USDA encourages all eligible producers to nominate, vote and hold office.

Nationwide, more than 7,700 dedicated members of the agriculture community serve on FSA county committees. The committees are made up of three to 11 members who serve three-year terms. Committee members play a key role in how FSA delivers disaster recovery, conservation, commodity and price support programs, as well as making decisions on county office employment and other agricultural issues.

#### **Urban and Suburban County Committees**

FSA urban county committees work to promote urban, indoor and other emerging agricultural production practices. Urban committee members are nominated and elected to serve by local urban producers in the same jurisdiction. Urban county committee members provide outreach to ensure urban producers understand USDA programs, serve as the voice of other urban producers and assist in program implementation that support the needs of growing urban communities.

The 27 cities with urban county committees are listed at fsa.usda.gov/elections and farmers.gov/urban.

#### More Information

Producers should contact their local FSA office today to register and find out how to get involved in their county's election, including if their LAA is up for election this year. To be considered, a producer must be registered and sign an FSA-669A nomination form. This form and other information about FSA county committee elections are available at fsa.usda.gov/elections.

All nomination forms for the 2025 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by the Aug.1, 2025, deadline. Election ballots will be mailed to eligible voters in November 2025.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is extending the

prevented planting crop reporting deadline for producers affected by spring flooding, excessive moisture, or qualifying drought.

Producers who intended to plant this spring, but were unable due to weather conditions, now have until the acreage reporting deadline for the applicable crop being claimed as prevented planting. July 15 is a major deadline for most crops, but acreage reporting deadlines vary by county and by crop.

Producers need to report prevented planting acres to retain eligibility for FSA program benefits. Normally, the prevented planting reporting deadline is 15 calendar days after the final planting date for a crop as established by FSA and the Risk Management Agency (RMA). The prevented planting reporting deadline extension only applies to FSA and does not change any RMA crop insurance reporting deadline requirements.

The extension does not apply to crops covered by FSA's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). Producers should check with their local FSA office regarding prevented planting provisions for NAP-covered crops.

Producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office as soon as possible to make an appointment to report prevented planting acres and submit their spring crop acreage report. To locate your local FSA office, visit farmers.gov/service-locator.

## **Every Season is Scam Season**

Remember to discuss your USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) account information only with people you recognize and trust.

If you have questions about your FSA accounts, including your farm loans, contact your County USDA Service Center or visit <u>fsa.usda.gov</u>.

# USDA Reminds Alabama Producers to File Crop Acreage Reports

After spring planting is complete, agricultural producers in Alabama should make an appointment with their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) county office to complete crop acreage reports before the applicable deadline.

#### How to File a Report

A <u>crop acreage report</u> documents a crop grown on a farm or ranch, its intended use and location. Producers should file an accurate crop acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planted acreage before the applicable deadline.

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Acreage reporting dates vary by crop and by county. Contact your local FSA office for a list of acreage reporting deadlines by crop.

To file a crop acreage report, producers need to provide:

- Crop and crop type or variety
- Intended crop use
- Number of crop acres
- Map with approximate crop boundaries
- Planting date(s)
- Planting pattern, when applicable
- Producer share(s)
- Irrigation practice(s)
- Acreage prevented from planting, when applicable
- Other required information

#### **Acreage Reporting Details**

The following exceptions apply to acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the acreage reporting deadline, then the
  acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is
  completed.
- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the acreage reporting deadline, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP-covered crops is the acreage reporting date or 15 calendar days before grazing or crop harvesting begins, whichever is earlier.

Producers with perennial forage crops should check with their local FSA office to see if their crops are eligible for continuous certification, which rolls the certified acreage forward each year until a change is made.

#### **Prevented Planted Acreage**

Producers should also report the crop acreage they intended to plant but were unable to because of a natural disaster, including drought. Prevented planted acreage must be reported on form CCC-576, *Notice of Loss*, no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date as established by FSA and USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA).

#### **Farmers.gov Portal**

Producers can access their FSA farm records, maps, and common land units through the farmers.gov customer portal. The portal allows producers to export field boundaries as shapefiles and import and view other shapefiles, such as precision agriculture boundaries within farm records mapping. Producers can view, print and

label their maps for acreage reporting purposes. A login.gov account that is linked to a USDA customer record is required to use the portal.

Producers can visit <u>farmers.gov/account</u> to learn more about creating an account. Producers who have the authority to act on behalf of another customer as a grantee via an FSA-211 *Power of Attorney* form, Business Partner Signature Authority or as a member of a business can now access information for the business in the farmers.gov portal.

#### **Electronic Geospatial Acreage Reporting**

Acreage reports using precision agriculture planting boundaries can be filed electronically with an approved insurance provider or an authorized third-party provider, who will then share the file with FSA staff. Producers should notify their local FSA office if they submitted an electronic geospatial acreage report containing precision planting boundaries that they want to use as part of their FSA acreage report.

#### More Information

For more information, producers should contact their local <u>USDA Service Center</u>.

## Gear Up for the 2025 Hurricane Season

Hurricane season is here, beginning June 1 and running through Nov. 30. Farmers, ranchers and forest landowners have been significantly impacted by hurricanes in recent years. USDA encourages agricultural producers to prepare for the 2025 season and get familiar with recovery resources.

USDA's <u>Farm Service Agency</u> (FSA), <u>Natural Resources Conservation Service</u> (NRCS), and <u>Risk Management Agency</u> (RMA) offer a suite of disaster assistance programs to help you recover from the impacts of natural disasters.

#### **Get Prepared**

# NRCS delivers resources to inform science-based, data-driven conservation.

As the U.S. Department of Agriculture's primary private lands conservation agency, NRCS delivers the data, technology, and standards that enable landowners and our many conservation partners to make decisions informed by objective, reliable science.

The <u>Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP)</u> is an effort led by NRCS to evaluate and inform voluntary conservation across the nation's working lands. From

a <u>decadal report on the outcomes of voluntary conservation in the sagebrush</u> <u>biome</u> to new data-driven tools for individual landowners, CEAP helps provide the science backing we need to:

- Identify how and where to invest conservation resources most strategically.
- Evaluate the outcomes of on-the-ground conservation actions.
- Leverage lessons learned from these findings to strengthen future conservation delivery.

Recent CEAP deliverables that support voluntary wildlife conservation include:

- Conservation Outcomes Webinars on targeting conservation in sagebrush country, rare turtle conservation in the Northeast, reducing woody encroachment to conserve rangeland production, and managing working lands for lesser prairie-chickens.
- <u>New research</u>quantifying the important role wetland easements play in wintering waterfowl conservation.
- The<u>Rangeland Brush Estimation Tool</u>, which ranchers and other land managers may use to quickly estimate woody plant canopy cover and assess woody encroachment on western rangelands.

Visit the <u>CEAP Wildlife Assessments webpage</u> to access more than 130 publications and other reports, webinar recordings, and interactive, data-based tools to support voluntary wildlife conservation.

# USDA Announces Changes to Enhanced Coverage Option Insurance Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced changes to the Enhanced Coverage Option (ECO) beginning with the 2025 crop year. USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) is expanding coverage options to additional crops as well as increasing premium support to make the policy more affordable for producers.

ECO is currently approved for 36 crops and RMA is expanding coverage options to almonds, apples, blueberries, grapes, and walnuts for the 2025 crop year and to citrus crops where the Supplemental Coverage Option is currently available in California and Arizona for the 2026 crop year.

Additionally, RMA is increasing premium support for all crops covered by ECO to 65% to make the policy more affordable.

ECO provides additional area-based coverage for a portion of a producer's underlying crop insurance policy deductible. ECO can be purchased as an endorsement to Yield Protection, Revenue Protection, Revenue Protection with the Harvest Price Exclusion or Actual Production History. ECO offers producers a choice of 90 or 95% trigger levels. Trigger is the percentage of expected yield or revenue at which a loss

becomes payable.

ECO coverage is unaffected by participation in USDA's Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Agriculture Risk Coverage program for the same crop, on the same acres. Producers may select ECO regardless of FSA farm program election.

Crop insurance is sold and delivered solely through private crop insurance agents. A list of crop insurance agents is available at all USDA Service Centers and online at the RMA Agent Locator. Producers can learn more about crop insurance and the modern farm safety net at rma.usda.gov or by contacting their RMA Regional Office.

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Service Center Locator











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