



Pratt County Farm Service Agency

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Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Office Staff

Lori Kreutzer,
County Executive Director
Kevin Vondra,
Farm Loan Manager
Brandon Riffey,
Farm Loan Officer
Ann Venard,
FP Program Technician
Shelley Stotts,
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Michael Farney,
FP Program Technician
Linda Fox,
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FL Program Technician
Kelsy Huff
FL Program Technician

County Committee

Darren Hodgkinson
Betty Eubank
Larry Briggeman

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County Committee (COC) Election Results

We would like to congratulate Larry Briggeman on his election to the COC as representative for LAA2. For election purposes, counties are divided into local administrative areas (LAA's) and each LAA selects one producer to serve a three-year term on the FSA county committee. Each year an election is held in an LAA to replace the member whose three year term is expiring.

Election Totals:

Total Ballots:	608
Total Ballots Received:	83
Counted Ballots	73
Invalid Ballots	10

Current COC members are as follows:

LAA1 – Betty Eubank
LAA2 – Larry Briggeman
LAA3 – Darren Hodgkinson

COC meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 9:00a.m.

DCP/ACRE Enrollment Deadline – June 1

The deadline to enroll in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) and the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program is June 1. FSA computes DCP payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. Each year you may request to receive advance direct payments calculated on 22% of the direct payment for each base acre on the farm. Producers who elect the ACRE program for a farm agree to forego counter-cyclical payments, accept a 20% reduction of the direct payments, & a 30% reduction in loan rates for all commodities. Please contact your FSA office for more information or to make an appointment to enroll in either program.

Acreage Reporting Deadlines

Acreage reports are required for program participation in several programs. A complete acreage report of all cropland and non-cropland on a farm will be required. The final date to report acreages of wheat, canola, barley, oats, and rye is May 31. The final date to report corn, cotton, grain sorghum, soybeans, forage sorghum, & CRP is August 1. Please contact your FSA office to make an appointment.

Rural Youth 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 agricultural groups. 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.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- be 10 years to 20 years of age
- comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people
- be unable to get a loan from other sources
- conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- demonstrate 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.

Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Verification

Compliance with the Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) limitations is an eligibility requirement to receive benefits under many programs administered by the FSA & NRCS. A data-sharing process has been developed with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to verify producers AGI compliance. Each producer receiving benefits will be required to submit a consent form directly to the IRS. Individuals will give consent on form CCC-927 and CCC-928 will be used by entities. Failure to submit these forms will result in a refund of payments.

Farm Record Changes

If you have bought/sold land or picked up/dropped rented land from your farming operation, make sure you report those changes to the county office. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties.

2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

Signup will begin for the SURE Program for 2009 crop losses on January 10, 2011, and end July 29, 2011.

To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to participate in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) except for grazed acreage. However, crop insurance or NAP coverage is no longer required for crops that are not of economic significance or those where the administrative fee required to buy NAP coverage exceeds 10% of the value of the coverage.

Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher are exempt from the risk management purchase requirement.

The following are the conditions that trigger SURE payments:

- At least one crop of economic significance must suffer a 10% production loss due to an eligible disaster condition
- Crop of economic significance is a crop that has contributed or would have contributed at least 5% or more of the total expected revenue from all crops on the farm
- Producers in counties declared disaster counties by the Secretary of Agriculture, or in contiguous counties, or those who show proof of an individual loss of at least 50% are eligible to receive SURE payments for crop production or crop quality losses. Losses are measured with consideration to the whole-farm revenue, which includes crop insurance indemnities and commodity program payments, so that producers are not paid more than once for the same loss.

Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact your local FSA for more information.

Changing Bank Accounts

In order to receive FSA payments timely, you need to notify the office if you change or close a bank account.

FSA Financial Services Website

Registered producers may view summary & detailed information about specific payments, collections, outstanding debt, & CCC-1099-G issued from FSA. Producers may enter their own information to assign a payment to a third party, request that a payment be made jointly or route their payments to their financial institution account.

Producers are eligible for this service if they have internet access & have registered for e-Authentication Level 2 at an FSA office.

How do you obtain an e-Authentication Level 2 account?

1. Signup for a Level 2 account by going to the www.eauth.egov.usda.gov website.
2. After submitting your customer profile, you will receive a confirmation e-mail, and you must respond to it within 7 days to activate your account.
3. Go to a local USDA Service Center & present a photo ID, such as your driver's license to complete the "Identity Proofing".

To access the FSA Financial Services website go to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/fmi>.

CRP Maintenance

CRP participants are reminded of their responsibility to perform annual CRP maintenance as specified in their Conservation Plan of Operations (CPO). A major problem in this area is the invasion of undesirable plants and trees that adversely impact the permanent grassland cover. Absentee operators/owners are strongly encouraged to have a local contact who is willing to monitor the CRP acreage and notify the absentee operator/owner of maintenance needs and/or upcoming deadlines.

FSA conducts annual inspections of CRP acreage to determine contract violations. Contracts can suffer payment reductions or may be terminated depending on the severity of the violation. Termination of the contract requires repayment of all annual payments, cost-share to establish stand, interest & liquidated damages.

Dates to Remember

March 15	Final date to obtain NAP coverage on course grains
May 31	Final date to report small grain acreage
June 1	Final date to sign up for DCP & ACRE
July 29	Final date to apply for 2009 SURE
August 1	Final date to report all other crop acreages
August 1	Final date to report CRP acreage
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)