

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE  
FARM SERVICE AGENCY  
RANDOLPH COUNTY

COMMITTEE

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Wanda Russell-Vice-Chairperson  
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Paul Leon Waddell- Advisor

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Newsletter #5  
June 4, 2010

OUTREACH

The Randolph County FSA Office is committed to ensuring that all persons are aware of programs and benefits available, whether they be under-served, limited resources, socially disadvantaged, active farmers and ranchers, landowners or community organizations.

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The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA's TARGET CENTER at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800)-795-3272 (voice) or (202)720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in FSA events or seek information on our programs. If accommodations are required, please call Lorraine A. Dillard at (336) 629-4449, ext.2.

847 Curry Drive, Ste. 101  
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# RANDOLPH COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY

JUNE 2010



## 2010 FSA COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The Randolph County Farm Service Agency (FSA) Committee election will be held this year for Local Administrative Area (LAA) 1 on December 6, 2010.

LAA 1 includes the townships of: Tabernacle, Back Creek, Concord, Cedar Grove, New Hope, Union and Richland.

Form FSA 669A will be used to nominate eligible nominees. Any eligible voter may nominate themselves or other eligible candidates; however nominees **MUST** be eligible voters located in LAA 1. **Blank petitions (FSA-669A's) will be mailed to all known eligible voters and are included in this mailing or these petitions may be obtained from the county office.**

Persons nominated should actively participate in the operation of a farm or ranch and be well qualified for committee work. A producer is eligible to be a County or Community FSA committee member if the producer resides in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) in which the election is to be held and is eligible to vote. To ensure diversity on county and community FSA committees, the Randolph County FSA encourages nominations from groups representing producers who are fairly representative of agricultural producers in each LAA and the committee encourages nominations from socially disadvantaged groups. Any interested person who would like more information on committee nominations or the committee election process should contact the county office.

Aug. 2, 2010 - Last day to file nomination forms (FSA-669A) at the local USDA Service Center

Nov. 5, 2010 - Ballots mailed to eligible voters

Dec. 6, 2010 - Last day to return voted ballots to the USDA Service Center

Jan. 1, 2011 - Newly elected county committee members take office



## FARM SAFETY

Flowing grain in a storage bin or gravity-flow wagon is like quicksand, it can kill quickly. It takes less than five seconds for a person caught in flowing grain to be trapped.

The mechanical aspects of grain handling equipment, also presents a real danger. Augers, power take offs, and other moving parts can grab you or the clothing you might be wearing.

These hazards, along with pinch points and missing shields, are dangerous enough for adults; not to mention children. It is always advisable to keep children a safe distance from operating farm equipment. Always use extra caution when backing or maneuvering farm machinery. Insure everyone is visibly clear and accounted for before machinery is engaged.

FSA wants all farmers to have a productive crop year, and that begins with putting safety first.

## REMINDERS

- Report all banking changes.
- Please report any prevented planted acres to the County Office and file the applicable paperwork within 15 days of the final planting date.
- Report changes in farm operation or farm ownership timely.

Office Closed Monday, July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010 In Observance Of Independence Day



Live simply, love generously, care deeply and speak kindly.

## FARM LOANS

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,112,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner.

FSA employees will help you complete the necessary application and other forms, and help you understand what information is required, where to find it or who to contact to get it. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact Mary Myers, Farm Loan Manager at (704) 288-2107.

## COLD STORAGE FACILITY LOANS

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program has been amended to allow producers to build cold storage facilities to store their fresh fruits and vegetables. To be eligible, cold storage facilities must have a useful life of 15 years and include:

- new structures suitable for a cold storage facility;
- new walk-in prefabricated permanently installed coolers suitable for storing fresh fruits and vegetables;
- new permanently affixed cooling, circulating and monitoring equipment;
- electrical equipment integral to the proper operation of a cold storage facility; or
- an addition or modification to an existing storage facility.

USDA will not make cold storage facility loans for portable structures, portable handling and cooling equipment, used, or pre-owned structures or cooling equipment or structures deemed unsuitable.

The maximum loan amount for a Farm Storage Facility Loan is \$500,000 per loan, which requires a down payment of at least 15 percent. Applications must be approved before construction can begin. Loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available

depending on the amount of the loan.

Loan applications should be submitted to the administrative FSA county office that maintains the records of the farm or farms to which the application applies. If the commodities are produced on land that does not have farm records established, the application must be submitted to the FSA county office that services the county where the facility will be located.

## CROP ACREAGE REPORTING

The following crop acreage should be reported to the Farm Service Agency by **June 30, 2010**.

<i>Corn</i>	<i>Fruits for Commercial Use</i>	
	<i>Vegetables for Commercial Use</i>	
<i>Grain Sorghum</i>	<i>Hay Crops</i>	<i>Pasture</i>
<i>Silage Crops</i>	<i>Floriculture Crops</i>	
<i>Cotton</i>	<i>Soybeans</i>	<i>Industrial Crops</i>
<i>Turf Grass Sod</i>	<i>Ornamental Nursery</i>	
CRP	Tobacco	

## CONSERVATION LAND PROGRAM OFFERS HOPE FOR YOUNG FARMERS

Landowners who are willing to sell or lease Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres to new farmers can receive additional federal payments with the Transition Incentives Program (TIP). The program was created by Congress in the 2008 farm bill in a bid to help new and socially-disadvantaged farmers (black, Hispanic, women, others) get over one of the biggest hurdles they face – **finding affordable land**.

Owners of land that has been idled under CRP can get two extra years of CRP payments from the USDA if they agree to sell or lease the acreage under a long-term contract to a new or minority farmer. The transition incentive is available retroactively for qualifying deals that took place since the farm bill was enacted in June 2008.

If all program requirements are met, TIP provides annual rental payments to the retiring farmer for up to two additional years after the date of the expiration of the CRP contract, provided the transition is **not to a family member**.

To learn more about the program, producers interested in applying and participating in TIP should visit their USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) county office or [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

To be eligible, TIP requires that the retired or retiring farmer or rancher:

- Have land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) that is in the last year of the contract.
- Agree to allow the beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher make conservation and land improvements.
- Agree to sell, or have a contract to sell, or agree to long-term lease (a minimum of 5 years) the land under CRP contract to a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher by Oct. 1 of the year the CRP contract expires.

## TREE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Orchardists and nursery tree growers can begin applying for benefits under the Tree Assistance Program. The signup began Monday, May 10. The program helps orchardists and nursery tree growers replant and get back on their feet **after natural disasters**. It provides assistance for trees, bushes and vines grown for commercial purposes.

The program has been expanded to include Christmas tree and nursery tree growers that were ineligible before. Trees grown for pulp or timber or not grown for commercial purposes are not eligible.

Eligible losses must have occurred on or after Jan. 1, 2008, and before Oct. 1, 2011.

