



June 2007

Orleans County News

Farm Service Agency

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Hours

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

County Committee

Scott Birch, Chair
Brad Maxwell, Vice-Chair
Doug Lawson, Voting Member
Donna Hammond, Minority Advisor

COC meets 2nd Wednesday of
each month.

NRCS District

Karen O'Donnell, Clerk X18
Marybeth Whitten, ARS X22
Dee Nault
Paul Daniels, Chair
Betsy Inkel, Vice Chair
Richard Delfavero, Treasurer
Burton Strong
William Ryan
Darryl Mongeon

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Brock Columbia, PT X26

COC Election Nominations

Since this only happens once a year, here is an election refresher. For election purposes, counties are divided into *local administrative areas*, or LAAs. Each LAA contributes one producer to serve a three-year term on the Farm Service Agency county committee.

Each year, an election is held in an LAA to replace the committee member whose three-year term is expiring. In counties with three LAAs, one seat is up for election.

The three steps in the election process are the call for nominations, the election and installing the new committee member.

Election Timetable

June 15 Nomination period begins.
Aug. 1 Deadline to submit nomination forms.
Nov. 2 Ballots are mailed to eligible voters.
Dec. 3 Deadline to return completed ballots to FSA county office.
Jan. 1, New committee members and
2008 alternates are installed.

Nominations Open June 15

Nominations for candidates to run for the Farm Service Agency county committee election representing producers in a Local Administrative Area will be accepted from June 15 through Aug. 1, 2007.

Producers who are residents in the LAA holding the election and who participate or cooperate in an FSA program and are of legal voting age may be nominated to serve on the county committee.

Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers or ranchers are encouraged to nominate candidates.

A nomination form, FSA-669A, is included in this newsletter. Additional forms and details may be picked up at the FSA county office or downloaded from

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections>.

Eligible voters can nominate as many candidates as they wish. To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated, indicating agreement to serve if elected, and returned to the FSA county office by the close of business on Aug. 1, or postmarked by midnight Aug. 1.

Election

The county committee election is held by mail. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters beginning Nov. 2, and must be returned to the FSA county office by the close of business on Dec 3, or post-marked by midnight Dec. 3, 2007.

Who Can Vote

Agricultural producers of legal voting age can vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm can also vote. No one can be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status. If you are unsure of your eligibility, contact the staff at the county office.

Orleans County LAA #3

Nominations for candidates to run for the Farm Service Agency county committee election representing producers in Local Administrative Area 3 (LAA#3) will be accepted from now, through August 1, 2007. LAA #3 includes the towns of Derby, Holland, Morgan, Charleston, Brownington and Westmore.

Producers who are residents in LAA#3, who are eligible to participate or cooperate in an FSA program, and are of legal voting age may be nominated to serve on the county committee.

Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

If you are a farmer or rancher who has participated in a farming operation for at least three but no more than 10 years, you may qualify for beginning farmer targeted loan funds with the Farm Service Agency.

The program is designed to assist these farmers by providing direct and guaranteed loans when they are unable to obtain financing from commercial credit sources.

If you believe this program could be of benefit to you, please contact the county office staff for more information. Our loan officials will welcome your interest.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program 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 USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to 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.

CROP REPORTING - 1st Deadline: July 2, 2007 For Small Grains

It goes by different names — crop report, acreage report, crop certification — but regardless of what you call it, filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. **ALL** cropland on the farm (including ALL HAY reports) *must be reported* to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP), Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs), and NAP (Non Insured Crop Disaster Program). Conservation Reserve Program acreage *must be reported* to receive annual rental payments. And, crop acreage that is enrolled in Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must be reported.

Crop reports, form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle/fallow or planted. Producers are required to file reports by **July 2nd** for small grains and **July 16th** for all other crops.

We are asking that you have your crop reports completed and into the office by July 1st. This will allow time for office staff to enter all the data on the computer system, send you the computer generated reports which require your signature and then have the report signature date properly entered in the system to meet strict handbook deadline timeframes.

Youth Loan Projects

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 youth organizations. 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
- Live in the open country or in a town of less than 10,000 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.

Stop by the county office. We'll help prepare and process the application forms and answer any questions you may have about the program. Remember, FSA is an equal opportunity lender.