



# NEWSLETTER



MAY/JUNE 2011

**New York  
Saratoga County  
FSA Office**  
50 West High Street  
Ballston Spa NY, 12020

518 885-6300 x2 phone  
518 884-9101 fax  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/NY](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/NY)  
email: [steven.ropitzky@ny.usda.gov](mailto:steven.ropitzky@ny.usda.gov)

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

**Saratoga County Office  
Staff:**  
**Farm Programs**  
Steven A. Ropitzky, CED  
Joanne Scoville, PT

**Farm Loan Program**  
Rebecca DeSorbe, FLM  
518 692 9940 x2

**County Committee**  
Albert LaRue, Chair  
Patricia Wood, Vice  
Chair  
Chris Koval, Reg. Mem.

**County Committee  
Meetings**  
Generally the first  
Tuesday of every  
month. Check with  
office to confirm dates.

**State Executive Director**  
James Barber  
315-477-6303

## **DCP FINAL REMINDER**

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Countercyclical Program will end on **JUNE 1, 2011**. DCP payments are computed using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2011, eligible producers may request advance direct payments based on 22% of the total direct payment. Final direct DCP payments will be issued in October of 2011. Please contact Joanne or Steve to make an appointment to sign up.

## **CROP ACREAGE REPORTING**

Timely and accurate acreage reports are required for all past, current and future FSA programs. With the exception of the MILC program, all other FSA programs require that cropland acreage be reported to FSA. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planted acreage, can prevent the loss of FSA program benefits for a variety of programs. The acreage reporting deadlines are as follows:

- **June 15, 2011**- fall and spring seeded small grains such as oats, wheat, barley and rye.
- **July 15, 2011**- corn, soybeans, hay, fruit, and vegetables

Due to the wet spring we have had so far, it is possible that farmers may have prevented planting acreage. To be considered timely, producers who request prevented planting acreage credit must file an acreage report within 15 days after the crop insurance final planting date for the crop. For example, the final planting date for corn and soybeans is June 10, 2011. Prevented planting acreage would have to be reported by June 25, 2011 for corn and soybeans.

We will be sending out postcards with appointments for acreage reporting in the near future. If you are not done planting or cannot keep your appointment, please call Joanne to reschedule. We use appointments to process reporting to make efficient use of your valuable time.

Please be prepared with the following information when you come into file your acreage reports:

- Date the crop was planted-including seedings
- Type of hay, for example –alfalfa grass mix, clover-grass, mixed grasses, etc.
- Intended use of the crop-will corn be picked for grain or chopped for silage

If you are done planting and have not received an appointment, please call Joanne and we will get you in as soon as possible.

## **2011 FSA COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS**

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Committees is important to all farmers. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA County Committees are a link between FSA and the agricultural community. County Committee (COC) members are a critical component of FSA operations. The intent is to have the COC reflect the makeup of the producers and to represent all constituents. This means wherever possible, minorities, women or lower income producers need to be on the Committee to speak for these underrepresented groups. We encourage underrepresented groups in Saratoga County to consider nominations for the 2012 County Committee elections.

County Committees provide local input on:

- Commodity price support loans and payments
- Conservation programs
- Incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities
- Emergency programs
- Payment eligibility

We are currently in the process of accepting nominations for the 2012 Saratoga County FSA Committee elections. This year elections will be held in LAA#2-towns of Saratoga, Stillwater, Clifton Park, Waterford & Halfmoon. **Eligible individuals must submit form FSA-669A to be nominated.** We have included the form with this newsletter. To be nominated and hold office as a County Committee member, a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria as follows: Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA; Be eligible to vote in a County Committee election; Reside in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) in which the person is a candidate.

The **Election Period** is as follows:

**June 15, 2011** - The nomination period begins. Start submitting form FSA-669A

**Aug. 1, 2011** - Last day to file nomination forms (FSA-669A) at the local USDA Service Center

**Nov. 4, 2011** - Ballots mailed to eligible voters

**Dec. 5, 2011** - Last day to return voted ballots to the USDA Service Center

**Jan. 2, 2012** - Newly elected County Committee members take office

Producers interested in the 2012 election process can contact the office for more information.

## **PREVENTED PLANTING**

The wet weather has certainly delayed planting for all spring crops. We want to remind producers that if they are prevented from planting a crop due to wet weather there are some deadlines to file a prevented planting report with FSA. In general, a prevented planting report must be filed with FSA within 15 days of the final planting date of the crop. June 10, 2011 is the final planting date for corn. If you would like to file a prevented planting report with FSA, contact our office for more details.

## **FSA BUDGET ISSUES**

Due to extreme budget shortages in FSA, this will be the last newsletter we will be sending this fiscal year. We would like to use email to send producers reminders about FSA programs. Please call and provide us with your email address and we will try to keep you up to date with FSA programs.

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

**June 1, 2011-Deadline for DCP signup**

**June 15, 2011-Deadline for Acreage Reporting-small grains**

**July 4, 2011-Office Closed-Independence Day**

**July 15, 2011 – Deadline for Acreage Reporting-corn, hay and other crops**

FSA-669A  
(03-31-11)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Farm Service Agency

## NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION

This form allows individuals to nominate themselves or any other person as a candidate. If additional forms are needed, this one may be copied or may be obtained at the County FSA Office or obtained electronically at <http://www.sc.egov.usda.gov>. Each form submitted must be:

- A. Limited to one nominee.
- B. Signed and dated by the nominee in Item 3. Nominee must sign if willing to have his/her name placed on the ballot and agrees to serve if elected.

**Note:** Name shown on ballot will appear exactly the same as in Agency records.

- C. Delivered to the County FSA Office or postmarked no later than August 1, 2011.
- D. Signed and dated as a write-in candidate if elected as a member and willing to serve on the COC.

The County FSA Committee is responsible for reviewing each form to determine the eligibility of nominees. A person who is nominated on this form and is found ineligible will be so notified and have an opportunity to file a challenge.

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 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.

This is a non-salary public service position. A small stipend is provided to offset expenses.

Federal regulations may prohibit County FSA Committee members from holding certain positions in some farm, commodity, and political organizations if such positions pose a conflict of interest with FSA duties. The positions include functional offices such as president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer; and positions on boards or executive committees. Conflict of interest restrictions also apply to employees, operators, managers, and majority owners of tobacco warehouses. Questions concerning eligibility should be directed to the County FSA Office.

A candidate has the option to request that all voted ballots for an individual county committee election be returned to the respective State Office in lieu of being returned to the county office. This request must be in writing and submitted to the local County Executive Director prior to the announced end of the nomination period.

The duties of County FSA Committee members include:

- A. Administering farm program activities conducted by the County FSA Office.
- B. Informing farmers of the purpose and provisions of the FSA programs.
- C. Keeping the State FSA Committee informed of LAA conditions.
- D. Monitoring changes in farm programs.
- E. Participating in county meetings as necessary.
- F. Performing other duties as assigned by the State FSA Committee

*The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of 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, political beliefs, genetic information, 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, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (800) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 677-8339 (TDD) or (800) 377-8042 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

FSA-669A  
(03-31-11)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Farm Service Agency

**NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION**

1. NAME OF NOMINEE ( <i>Type or Print Nominee's Full Name</i> )		<b>TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE</b>	
2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE		4. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE RECEIVED	
		5. COUNTY	
3. NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION:  <i>I hereby agree to have my name placed on the ballot, that I will serve if elected, and if there is a conflict of interest, I will resign such position.</i>		6. LAA	
		7. STATE	
<input type="checkbox"/> I DO want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee. <input type="checkbox"/> I DO NOT want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.		8. NOMINATOR'S CERTIFICATION:  <i>If this nomination is by other than self, the following eligible voter or representative of a community based organization hereby nominates the afore-named person to be a candidate in the next County FSA Committee election for the county.</i>	
3A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE	3B. DATE	8A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINATOR	8B. DATE
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if nominee is a write-in candidate.		(If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required).	

**9. TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINEE**

**VOLUNTARY INFORMATION FOR MONITORING PURPOSES:** The following information is requested by the Federal Government in order to monitor FSA's compliance with federal laws prohibiting discrimination against program participants on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, handicapped condition, or age. You are not required to furnish this information, but are encouraged to do so. This information will not be used in evaluating your nomination or to discriminate against you in any way.

<b>ETHNICITY</b>	<b>RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable)</b>	<b>GENDER</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino	<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African-American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM**

Complete the form as follows:

- ITEM 1** Type or Print the nominee's full name. The nominee must be:
  - A. Eligible to vote in the designated County FSA Committee election.
  - B. Eligible to hold the office of County FSA Committee member.
  - C. Willing to serve if elected.
- ITEM 2** Enter the nominee's current address.
- ITEM 3** The nominee must check one of the boxes to indicate a preference regarding the settling of tied votes.
- ITEMS 3A & 3B** The nominee must sign and date.
- ITEMS 8A & 8B** The nominator must sign and date. (*If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required.*)
- ITEM 9** Completing this item is voluntary.

**ALL FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE COUNTY OFFICE OR POSTMARKED BY AUGUST 1, 2011.**

**NOTE:** The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552e - as amended). The authority for requesting the information identified on this form is the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-246). The information will be used to obtain nominees for election to the County FSA Committee. The information collected on this form may be disclosed to other Federal, State, Local government agencies, Tribal agencies, and nongovernmental entities that have been authorized access to the information by statute or regulation and/or as described in applicable Routine Uses identified in the System of Records Notice for County Personnel Records, USDA/FSA-6. Providing the requested information is voluntary. However, failure to furnish the requested information will result in a determination of ineligibility for nomination for election to the County FSA Committee.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0560-0229. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The provisions of appropriate criminal and civil fraud, privacy, and other statutes may be applicable to the information provided. **RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.**