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Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)

- [FSA County Committee Nomination Period Now Open](#)
- [USDA's Building Blocks for Climate Smart Agriculture & Forestry](#)
- [Producers Must Report Prevented Planting and Failed Acres](#)
- [Farm Loans Available for Beginning and Targeted Underserved Producers](#)
- [FSA Unveils Monthly Webinar Series](#)
- [2016 Acreage Reporting Dates](#)
- [Dates to Remember](#)

Ohio FSA State News and Updates

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FSA County Committee Nomination Period Now Open

The nomination period for the FSA county committee began on June 15, 2016. Nomination forms must be postmarked or received in the County FSA Office by close of business on Aug. 1, 2016.

County Committees are unique to FSA and allow producers to have a voice on federal farm program implementation at the local level.

To be eligible to serve on the FSA county committee, a person must participate or cooperate in an agency administered program, be eligible to vote in a county committee election and reside in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) where they are nominated. All producers, including women, minority and beginning farmers and producers are encouraged to participate in the nomination and election process.

Producers may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Organizations representing minority and women farmers and producers may also nominate candidates. To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign form [FSA-669A](#). More information about county committee elections is available online at www.fsa.usda.gov/elections or at your FSA County office.

**Production Adjustment,
Compliance and Risk
Management Chief:**
Matt Kleski

Elected county committee members serve a three-year term and are responsible for making decisions on FSA disaster, conservation, commodity and price support programs, as well as other important federal farm program issues. County committees consist of three to 11 members.

State Committee:

Bob Boggs, Chairperson
Bob Cole, member
Bruce Long, member
Jim Rex, member
Jim Zumbrink, member

FSA will mail election ballots to eligible voters beginning Nov. 7. Ballots are due back in the County Office by mail or in person no later than Dec. 5, 2016. All newly elected county committee members and alternates will take office January 1, 2017.

For more information about county committees, please contact your [FSA County Office](#).

Visit Ohio FSA website for additional information at: www.fsa.usda.gov/oh

Please contact your [FSA County Office](#) for questions specific to your operation.

USDA's Building Blocks for Climate Smart Agriculture & Forestry

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced a comprehensive and detailed approach to support farmers, producers, and forest land owners in their response to address the causes of climate change in April 2015. The framework consists of 10 building blocks that span a range of technologies and practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase carbon storage, and generate clean renewable energy through mitigation.

USDA's strategy focuses on climate-smart practices designed for working production systems that provide multiple economic and environmental benefits in addition to supporting resilience to extreme weather, reduced emissions and increased carbon storage.

Through this comprehensive set of voluntary programs and initiatives spanning its programs, USDA expects to reduce net emissions and enhance carbon sequestration by over **120 million metric tons** of CO2 equivalent (MMTCO2e) per year – about 2% of economy-wide net greenhouse emissions – by 2025. That's the equivalent of taking **25 million cars** off the road, or offsetting the emissions produced by powering nearly **11 million homes** last year.

For more information on the Building Blocks for Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry click the following link: <http://www.usda.gov/documents/climate-smart-fact-sheet.pdf> . For additional information on ways to consider greenhouse gases when managing land, refer to the USDA Climate Hub webpage: <http://www.climatehubs.oce.usda.gov/>.

Producers Must Report Prevented Planting and Failed Acres

FSA reminds producers to report prevented planting and failed acres in order to establish or retain FSA program eligibility.

Producers must report crop acreage they intended to plant, but due to natural disaster, were prevented from planting. Prevented planting acreage must be reported on form FSA-576, Notice of Loss, no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date as established by FSA and Risk Management Agency (RMA).

If a producer is unable to report the prevented planting acreage within the 15 calendar days following the final planting date, a late-filed report can be submitted. Late-filed reports will only be accepted if FSA conducts a farm visit to assess the eligible disaster condition that prevented the crop from being planted. A measurement service fee will be charged.

Additionally, producers with failed acres should also use form FSA-576, Notice of Loss, to report failed acres.

For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, producers must file a Notice of Loss within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent. Producers of hand-harvested crops and certain perishable crops must notify FSA within 72 hours of when a loss becomes apparent. Producers must timely file a Notice of Loss for failed acres on all crops including grasses.

Please contact your [FSA County Office](#) to schedule an appointment to file a Notice of Loss.

Farm Loans Available for Beginning and Targeted Underserved Producers

FSA has funding to assist beginning farmers and members of targeted underserved groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans.

FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years;
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm;
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA;
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average farm size; and
- Also, the applicant must meet the loan eligibility requirements of the program to which he/she is applying.

Targeted underserved applicants are one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of their identity as a member of the group without regard to their individual qualities. Targeted underserved groups are Women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Certain FSA loan funds are targeted to beginning farmers and underserved groups.

Note: All applicants for direct farm ownership loans must have participated in a business operation of a farm for at least three years.

To find out more about loans for beginning farmer and targeted underserved groups contact your [FSA county office](#) to setup an appointment with a loan approval official.

FSA Unveils Monthly Webinar Series

The FSA Outreach and Education Division will host a series of webinars each month to inform producers about FSA programs and initiatives. To register for any of the below listed webinars, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/outreach and click on **“Outreach Webinars.”**

July 19 @ 2 p.m. EDT

Understanding Receipt for Service

To ensure that all USDA customers and potential customers are being served properly in local offices, the 2014 Farm Bill requires that a receipt be provided. Learn more about Receipt for Service, how it affects you and what you can expect when you visit a local Farm Service Agency county office.

Aug. 9 @ 2 p.m. EDT

Need Commodity Storage? The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) Can Help

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program provides low-interest financing so producers can build or upgrade permanent or portable facilities to store commodities. Learn how this program may be able to help your operation.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in these webinars should contact Tanya Brown at 202-690-1700 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 at least three business days prior to the webinar.

The webinars will be recorded for future viewing and can be accessed on www.fsa.usda.gov/outreach.

2016 Acreage Reporting Dates

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit the Blank County FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable:

July 15, 2016 --- Report all your Burley Tobacco, Cabbage (Planted 3/19/16-5/31/16), Corn, Grain Sorghum, Hybrid Corn Seed, Spring Oats, Popcorn, Potatoes, Soybeans, Sugar Beets, Tomatoes and all other crops.

Aug. 15, 2016 --- Report Cabbage (Planted 6/1/16-7/20/16).

Sept. 30, 2016 --- Report Aquaculture.

Dec. 15, 2016 --- Fall Barley, Fall Wheat, and all other Fall-Seeded Small Grains.

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting dates:

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

- If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of “cover only,” “green manure,” “left standing,” or “seed,” then the acreage must be reported by July 15th.

Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact your [FSA County Office](#).

Dates to Remember

June 15 -- County Committee Nomination Period began.

July 4 ----- Independence Day Holiday. **FSA Offices Closed.**

July 15 ---- Final certification date to report burley tobacco; cabbage planted through May 31; corn, grain sorghum, hybrid corn seed, spring oats, potatoes, popcorn, sugar beets, tomatoes and other crops.

Aug. 1 ---- **Last day** to file County Committee Nomination forms.

Sept. 5 ---- Labor Day Holiday. **FSA Offices Closed.**

Oct. 1 ----- Deadline to obtain 2017 NAP coverage for Winter Wheat, Rye, Barley and Speltz.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).