

January 2018



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

BULLETIN

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Kent County FSA Updates

Kent County FSA Office

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Program Technicians:

Lauren Huber

Carrie Strachar

Jamie Timson

County Committee:

Louis Starkey - Chair

Alfred Moor III - Vice Chair

Frank Hrupsa - Member

Kent County Farm Service Agency Announces County Committee Election Results

Kent County U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced that County Committee elections are over and the ballots have been counted.

Frank Hrupsa of Harrington was elected to represent local administrative area (LAA) 2, Frank will be serving his 3rd term on the Kent County Committee.

County Committee members are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA. They help deliver programs at the county level and work to serve the needs of local producers. All recently elected County Committee members will take office in January 2018, and will be joining the existing committee. Every FSA office is required to have a County Committee, and they are made up of local farmers who are elected by local farmers.

Nearly 7,800 FSA County Committee members serve FSA offices nationwide. Each committee has three to 11 elected members who serve three-year terms of office. One-third of County Committee seats are up for election each year. County Committee members impact the administration of FSA within a community by applying their knowledge and judgment to help

Maria Bobola - Advisor

FSA make important decisions on its commodity support programs, conservation programs, indemnity and disaster programs, emergency programs and eligibility.

County Executive Director:
Maryann Reed

Farm Loan Specialist:
Colleen Reed

County Committee members impact producers through their decision making and help shape the culture of a local FSA office. They also ensure the fair and equitable administration of FSA farm programs in their counties and are accountable to the Secretary of Agriculture. Members conduct hearings and reviews as requested by the State Committee, ensure socially disadvantaged (SDA) farmers and ranchers are fairly represented, make recommendations to the State Committee on existing programs, monitor changes in farm programs and inform farmers of the purpose and provisions of FSA programs. They also assist with outreach and inform underserved producers such as beginning farmers and ranchers about FSA opportunities.

Farm Loan Officer:

Corinne Russell

Farm Loan Officer Trainee:

Carrie Hudson

For more information, visit the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/elections or contact the Kent County FSA office.

Important Dates

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices will be **closed on Monday, February 19, 2018** in observance of Presidents' Day.

Change in Farming Operation

If you have bought or sold land, or if you have picked up or dropped rented land from your operation, make sure you report the changes to the office as soon as possible. You need to provide a copy of your deed or recorded land contract for purchased property. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. Making the record changes now will save you time in the spring. Update signature authorization when changes in the operation occur. Producers are reminded to contact the office if there is a change in operations on a farm so that records can be kept current and accurate.

Breaking New Ground

Agricultural producers are reminded to consult with FSA and NRCS before breaking out new ground for production purposes as doing so without prior authorization may put a producer's federal farm program benefits in jeopardy. This is especially true for land that must meet Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions.

Producers with HEL determined soils are required to apply tillage, crop residue and rotational requirements as specified in their conservation plan.

Producers should notify FSA as a first point of contact prior to conducting land clearing or drainage type projects to ensure the proposed actions meet compliance criteria such as clearing any trees to create new cropland, then these areas will need to be reviewed to ensure such work will not risk your eligibility for benefits.

Landowners and operators complete the form AD-1026 - Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification to identify the proposed action and allow FSA to determine whether a referral to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for further review is necessary.

USDA Farm Service Agency Offers Text Alerts to Kent County Producers

Subscribers Can Receive Important Program Reminders and Updates

Kent County USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director Maryann Reed announced that farmers and ranchers in Delaware now can receive notifications from their county office through text messages on their cell phone.

Whether producers are in the field, on a tractor or even on horseback, this service enables FSA customers and stakeholders to receive notifications while on the go. Producers will receive text messages regarding important program deadlines, reporting requirements, outreach events and updates.

Producers can text **DEKENT** to FSANOW (372-669) to subscribe to text message alerts from Kent County. Standard text messaging rates apply. Contact your wireless carrier for details associated with your particular data plan. Participants may unsubscribe at any time.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Maryann Reed at 302-741-2600 extension 2 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.
