

January 2018



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

# BULLETIN

**GovDelivery**

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

- 
- [Sussex County Farm Service Agency Announces County Committee Election Results](#)
  - [Change in Farming Operation](#)
  - [Breaking New Ground](#)
  - [USDA Farm Service Agency Offers Text Alerts to Sussex County Producers](#)

## Sussex County FSA Updates

---

### Sussex County FSA Office

21315 Berlin Road, Unit 1  
Georgetown, DE 19947

Phone: 302-856-3990  
Fax: 855-401-1964

**Program Technician:**  
Jamie Argo

Lisa Ell

Harry Hudson

Tina Moore

### County Committee:

Clay Vincent

Matthew Smith

Mark Adkins

### Sussex County Farm Service Agency Announces County Committee Election Results

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

**Matthew Smith** of Bridgeville was elected to represent local administrative area (LAA) 1, Matthew will be serving his 3rd term with the Sussex 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

Janice Arney

**County Executive Director:**  
Caitlin Sheffer

**Farm Loan Specialist:**  
Colleen Reed

**Farm Loan Officer:**

Corinne Russell

**Farm Loan Officer Trainee:**

Carrie Hudson

**Important Dates**

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

FSA within a community by applying their knowledge and judgment to help FSA make important decisions on its commodity support programs, conservation programs, indemnity and disaster programs, emergency programs and eligibility.

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.

For more information, visit the FSA website at [www.fsa.usda.gov/elections](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections) or contact the Sussex County FSA office at 302-856-3990.

---

## 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 Sussex County Producers

### Subscribers Can Receive Important Program Reminders and Updates

Sussex County USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director Caitlin Sheffer 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 **DESUSSEX** to FSANOW (372-669) to subscribe to text message alerts from Sussex 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 [Caitlin Sheffer](#) at [302-856-3990](tel:302-856-3990) extension 2 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

---