



May - June, 2008



FARM NEWS FROM FSA

Nominations For County Committee

Nominations for a county committee person to serve on the Davidson-Davie County Committee are being accepted through August 1, 2008. Any FSA eligible voter in Davidson or Davie County can nominate an eligible candidate to represent Local Administrative Area 5 which is the area south of Interstate 40 in Davie County. The person you nominate must live or have most of his farming operation in this area of Davie County. You will find a nominations petition with this newsletter. Please complete the petition, have the nominee sign and date agreeing that he/she is willing to serve and return to this office by August 1, 2008.

Crop Reports Due June 30th

Farmers should report all cropland acres to the Farm Service Agency by Monday, June 30, 2008. Producers will be required to furnish the date the crop was planted. All crops on all cropland, including CRP, must be reported by June 30, 2008, except burley tobacco which has a July 15 final reporting date. A late file fee of \$46 per farm will be assessed if reports are filed after these deadlines. Crops not planted by the final reporting date must be reported within 15 days after the planting of the crop is completed on the farm. **Accurate and timely reports are required to receive most FSA program benefits.**

Producers who suffer crop losses due to adverse weather conditions should report the loss prior to the crop's destruction. Prevented planting claims must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date for the crop.



LCP Sign-Up Deadline is July 18, 2008

Livestock owners who suffered feed losses from grazing or increased feed costs on purchased feed due to the drought and abnormally high temperatures of 2007 may be eligible for benefits under the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP).

Eligible livestock include dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, equine (pleasure/show horses are not eligible), poultry, sheep, goats or swine that were physically located in an eligible disaster county on January 1, 2007. Producers will need to complete an application by providing the number of livestock owned on January 1, 2007 in each of the following categories:

1. adult beef or dairy cows and bulls
2. non-adult beef or dairy cows and bulls weighing 500 pounds or more on 01/01/2007
2. all sheep and goats
3. swine less than 45 lbs., 45 to 124 lbs., 125 to 234 lbs., and those 235 pounds or greater
4. poultry – less than 3 pounds, poultry 2 to 7.9 pounds & poultry 8 pounds or more

We will also need the location of the livestock on 01/01/2007, the number of acres and location of each type of pasture, and the number of days each pasture is normally grazed April 1 – November 15, and the percent below normal each type of pasture was in 2007. Producers filing for benefits for increased feed costs must provide acceptable documents of feed purchased in 2006 and 2007.

The deadline to file an application is July 18, 2008.

Lexington USDA Service Center

Davidson-Davie FSA
301 E Center Street
Lexington, NC 27292
336-248-2687 ext. 2 (phone)
336-248-2644(fax)

Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

County Committee:
Brent Barnes, Chairperson
Libby Essick, Vice-Chairperson
Dale Blackwelder, Member
Joe Michael Hege, Member
Daynese Loflin, Member
Leatrice Tatum, Advisor

The County Committee meets the 1st Thursday of each month in the FSA Office unless cancelled and a notice of cancellation is posted on our bulletin board.

Staff:
Lanny Collett, CED
Robin Hudson, Program Tech.
Chris Carter, Program Tech.
Lora Owen, Program Tech.
Jeannie Wagner, Temporary Program Tech.
Melissa Hodges, Farm Loan Mgr.

Outreach
The Davidson-Davie FSA Office is committed to ensuring that all persons are aware of programs and benefits available, whether they are underserved, limited resource, socially disadvantaged, active farmers and ranchers, landowners and community organizations. Representatives are available to present information to civic and community organizations. Upon request, special accommodations will be made for individuals with disabilities, vision or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are requested, please contact us at 336-248-2687

Livestock Incentives Program

Livestock owners who suffered livestock deaths due to the drought/excessive heat in 2007 may be eligible for compensation for their losses. Interested producers should contact this office for complete details. **The deadline to file an application is July 18, 2008.**

2005 – 2007 Crop Disaster Program (CDP)

Producers who obtained federal crop insurance from the Risk Management Agency or Non-Insured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage from FSA, and who suffered at least a 35% loss in expected production, or who experienced significant quality losses on a 2005, 2006 or 2007 crop because of adverse weather conditions, may be eligible for benefits under the CDP. A sign-up deadline has not been announced but interested producers should call the FSA Office for more details.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program and Continuous CRP

Farmers and land owners in Davidson and Davie County may now be eligible to take advantage of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement program (CREP). CREP is a new program for the county that will reimburse farmers or landowners for retiring cropland or pastureland surrounding streams, ponds and rivers from agricultural production. Program participants will receive annual rental payments, cost-share assistance, and other financial incentives for a period of 10 – 15 years for installing and maintaining filter strips, riparian buffers, tree planting and wetland restoration practices. Participants may also receive additional financial incentives for entering into a 30 year or permanent easement contract.

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a private lands environmental improvement program that allows participants the opportunity to enroll environmentally sensitive acreages in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water quality and provide wildlife habitat and food sources. The Continuous CRP is a voluntary enrollment program that allows landowners the opportunity to enter into contracts that range from 10 to 15 years in length. In return, the landowner will receive annual rental payments and maintenance payments, incentive payments for certain activities and cost share assistance for practice establishment.

To be eligible for enrollment, participants and acreage must meet certain requirements. Provided the eligibility requirements are met, FSA will automatically accept enrollments of the acreages in the Continuous CRP. Landowners may enroll in the program at any time of the year. For more information on CREP or Continuous CRP availability, please contact this office.

FSA Farm Loans Available For Beginning Farmers or Ranchers

Beginning farmers or ranchers may obtain a “regular” farm ownership loan through funds set aside especially for them by the Farm Service Agency. These loans finance up to the \$200,000 loan limit, and the term of the loan can be up to 40 years. The interest rate is set the first of each month, and is currently 4.875 percent. The rate for limited resource producers is 5.00 percent. Regular farm ownership loan funds may also be used in joint financing where FSA lends up to 50 percent of the amount financed and another lender provides 50 percent or more. FSA may charge an interest rate of not less than 4.00 percent with terms up to 40 years.

Sodbuster Regulations

The term “sodbusting” is used to identify the plowing up of erosion-prone land for use as cropland. Sodbuster violations are unauthorized tillage practices on highly erodible land that is converted from pasture, hayland, or woodland to crop production after December 23, 1985. Farmers should be aware that if highly erodible land is used for crop production without proper conservation measures, they risk losing eligibility to participate in FSA programs. Before producers clear, plow or otherwise prepare areas for planting, they are required to complete AD-1026 in this office and indicate the area(s) to be brought into production.

Preventing Fraud

The Farm Service Agency has joined with the Risk Management Agency (RMA) to prevent fraud, waste and abuse in the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA will assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. In addition, FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse to RMA. Producers can report suspected cases to the County Office staff, RMA office, or the Office of the Inspector General.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (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 USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD).