

Duplin County

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8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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Marshall Britt, Vice Chair
Larry Shaw, Member
Sam Boney, Jr, Advisor

Staff

Jerldine M Kenan, CED
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Farm Service Agency

June 2008 Volume 3

Duplin County News

Make a Difference: Nominate & Vote

Attention Farmers, Ranchers, Beginning Farmers and Ranchers, and Socially Disadvantaged Farmers:

Though the calendar may not say summer, now is the time to think about our fall county committee elections.

Each year, an election is held in a Local Administrative Area (LAA) to replace the committee member whose three-year term is expiring. LAA-3 will be holding the election which covers Faison, Wolfscrape, Glisson, Albertson, and Smith Townships.

From June 15-August 1, you can nominate a candidate to serve on your local USDA Farm Service Agency County Committee.

The FSA committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on the committee help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in the county. The committee makes important decisions about disaster and conservation programs, commodity price support loans and payments, emergency programs and other agricultural issues.

Producers who are residents of LAA-3 and who participate or cooperate in an FSA program and are of legal voting age may be nominated to serve on the county committee. You can even nominate yourself.

If you are interested or know someone who is interested, complete the attached nomination form and return or postmark by August 1 to the FSA office address shown on the form.

Groups representing socially disadvantaged farmers are encouraged to fill out a nomination form and beginning farmers and ranchers and other under represented farmers are encouraged to step up and

participate in the COC election process.

You will notice posters and announcements displayed in businesses, churches, and other public places.

Additional nomination forms and COC election fact sheets can be found online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> under News & Events/County Committee Elections.

Sign-up Deadline for LCP and LIP

The Farm Service Agency has announced that livestock producers have until July 18, 2008 to enroll in the 2005-2007 Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). Sign-up began on Sept 10, 2007 for the two programs that provide aid to livestock producers who suffered eligible livestock or livestock feed losses between Jan. 1, 2005, and Dec. 30, 2007, because of a natural disaster.

Crop Disaster Program Sign-up Continues

Producers who suffered crop losses in 2005-2007 and who obtained insurance coverage or coverage under the noninsured crop disaster program (NAP) are still eligible to apply for production loss benefits under the Crop Disaster Program.

2008 Compliance

Compliance and spot checks will once again be utilized during the 2008 crop year. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, loans, etc. for spot check and review, a nationwide selection of producers is used to achieve a statistical sampling of participating producers. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer's participation in Conservation Reserve Program, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Marketing Assistance Loan Program, etc.

During these spot checks, FSA county office staff will visit your farm to check the land, crop, bins, etc.

Announcing Preliminary 2008 Farm Act Provisions

On May 22, 2008, the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Act) became law. Following is an overview of some of the very basic provisions of the 2008 Act and is not inclusive of the 2008 Act.

In general for Conservation, the 2008 Act provided authority to continue CRP operations under previous authorities through September 30, 2008, provided new authority for the Farmable Wetlands Program, cost-share for thinning trees, transition incentives and updated certain CRP provisions.

The 2008 Act amended the Trade Act of 1974 to create an agricultural disaster relief trust fund and supplemental agricultural disaster assistance programs which includes Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Tree Assistance Program (TAP) and Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (EALHF). Federal regulations and program policies and procedures are currently being developed and will be finalized over the next several months.

The 2008 Act, also, provides for continuing Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) for 2008 through 2012 and authorizes an Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program for 2009 through 2012.

The 2008 Act made changes to the provisions for payment eligibility, payment limitation, and adjusted gross income (AGI). Under the Act, the actively engaged in farming requirements remain applicable, the 3-entity rule is eliminated; payments are limited through direct attribution to the individual and entity, instead of by 'person' as previously defined, and the AGI limitation is changed. The majority of these changes will be implemented for the 2009 and subsequent program years. For 2008 programs, the current rules for payment eligibility, and payment limitation, and AGI remains.

Controlled Substances

Program participants convicted under federal or state law of any planting, cultivating, growing, producing, harvesting or storing a controlled substance are ineligible for program payments and benefits.

Convictions consisting of the distribution (trafficking) of a controlled substance shall, at the discretion of the court, be ineligible for any or all program payments and benefits :

- Up to 5 years after the 1st conviction
- Up to 10 years after the 2nd conviction
- Permanently for a 3rd or subsequent conviction

Convictions for the possession of a controlled substance shall be ineligible, at the discretion of the court, for any or all program benefits:

- Up to 1 year upon the 1st conviction
- Up to 5 years after a 2nd or subsequent conviction

Farm Loan Programs

Farm Service Agency makes direct and guaranteed loans to family sized farmers who are temporarily unable to obtain

commercial credit for their farming operation. FSA loans can be used for crop expenses, purchase equipment, construct buildings, purchase land and make other farm improvements.

Please contact Carlton Grady, Farm Loan Manager or Paula Dail, farm Loan Officer at 910-296-2193 to discuss your situation in more detail.

For additional information on our various loan programs you may also visit our website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> and click on Farm Loan Programs under Browse By Subject on the lower left side of the page.

Tidbits:

1. Crop reporting extended from June 30 to August 15
2. CDP-Quality signup began June 23
3. 2008 DCP signup started June 25
4. Office Closed July 4th – Independence Day
5. August 1 final date to request Reconstitutions
6. 2008 Boll Weevil Eradication fee is \$1.25 per acre
7. Continuous Conservation Programs signup ongoing
8. Producer meetings held once sign-up announced

Outreach – FSA is committed to informing all persons of the programs that it administers. As part of our Outreach Plan, the CED is available to speak to groups upon request. Call FSA at (910) 296-2193.