



# USDA

## Farm Service Agency



# Orange-Durham County

**JUNE  
2010**

### Orange-Durham County USDA Service Center

#### Orange-Durham FSA Office

306 B-Revere Rd  
Hillsborough, NC 27278  
Phone: 919-732-4301  
Fax: 919-732-7559  
www.fsa.usda.gov

#### County Committee

John H. Pope, Jr.,  
Chairperson  
Wm H. Sparrow, Sr.,  
Vice-Chairperson  
James Ellis, Member  
Russell Hall, Member  
James Clayton Lloyd,  
Member  
John Rainey,  
COC Advisor  
Marianna Thompson,  
COC Advisor

#### County Executive Director

Phyllis A. Ruth, CED

#### Program Technicians

Karen Beneville, PT  
Tina Sturdivant, PT  
Shannon Coleman, PT

Linda Riley, IT Specialist

Debbie Houston,  
FLP Manager  
Dave Bonnett,  
Farm Loan Officer

#### OFFICE HOURS

8:00am – 4:30 pm  
Monday – Friday  
**Closed (to the public)**  
Wed. 12:00pm – 4:30pm

#### 2010 FSA COUNTY COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

The election of agricultural producers to FSA county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers, whether beginning or long-established, with large or small operations. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the USDA. County Committee (COC) members are a critical component of FSA operations. The intent is to have the COC reflect the makeup of the procedures and to represent all constituents. This means wherever possible, minorities, women or lower income producers need to be on the committee to speak for these underrepresented groups. County committees provide local input on: • Commodity price support loans and payments • Conservation programs • Incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities • Emergency programs • Payment eligibility FSA county committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

Producers and landowners who reside in LAA 2 in Orange Co. and in LAA 5 in Durham County are eligible to be nominated to serve on the FSA County Committee. **LAA 2** in Orange Co. includes **Cheeks, Bingham,** and **Chapel Hill** townships. **LAA 5** in Durham Co. includes **Rougemont** and **Bahama** townships. Candidate nominations for the FSA county committee election will be accepted **June 15** through **Aug. 2, 2010**. A nomination form is attached to your newsletter but there will also be additional forms available at your local FSA office at 306-B Revere Rd. Hillsborough, NC. The election of agricultural producers to the FSA County Committee is **IMPORTANT** to ALL farmers and farming communities. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters on **Nov. 5** and must be returned to the county office by the close of business **Dec. 6** or postmarked by midnight **Dec. 6, 2010**.

#### 2010 CROP REPORTING

Crop reports must be filed for all cropland, whether idle or planted, on any farm from which USDA benefits are being received. **Deadline for reporting the following: Corn, Tobacco, Soybeans, CRP, Hay, Pasture, and all other land uses is June 30.**

**The deadline for reporting Burley Tobacco is July 15.**

If crops are reported after this date and if you wish to remain in compliance with the Farm programs, you will be charged a fee to report.

#### TREE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TAP)

Tree Assistance Program (TAP) signup for orchardists and nursery tree growers began May 10, 2010, at local FSA offices. TAP provides help to orchardists and nursery tree growers who produce trees, bushes and vines for commercial purposes, to replant or rehabilitate trees, bushes and vines damaged or destroyed by natural disasters. The 2008 Farm Bill expanded eligibility to include Christmas tree and nursery tree growers that were ineligible under prior legislation. Trees grown for pulp or timber are not eligible. To be eligible producers must have suffered more than a 15 percent death loss due to the natural disaster after adjustment for normal mortality. TAP is a cost-reimbursement program, with payments covering up to 70 percent of replant costs and 50 percent of pruning, removal and other salvaging costs for replacing or salvaging damaged trees. Producers can receive assistance for up to 500 acres of trees, bushes or vines. Producers must also have purchased a policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), or for 2008, obtained a waiver of the risk management purchase requirement through the buy-in provision. Eligible losses must have occurred on or after Jan. 1, 2008, and before Oct. 1, 2011. For more information, please contact your local FSA office.

## COMPLIANCE

Compliance and spot check will once again be utilized during the 2010 crop year. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, deficiency 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, Loan Deficiency Program, etc. FSA will be assisting RMA and AIP's in monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste, and abuse about the Federal Crop Insurance Program to RMA. Producers may report suspected cases of fraud, waste, and abuse to their local FSA office, RMA office, or OIG. FSA will provide producer information to RMA and AIP's to assist in claim audits, inspections, and quality control reviews.

## NONINSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP) CLOSING DATES

USDA's Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides financial assistance to producers of noninsurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occurs due to natural disasters. The application and service fees must be filed by the application closing date as established by the producer's FSA State Committee. The service fee is the lesser of \$250 per crop or \$750 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of \$2250 per producer with farming interest in multiple counties. **The next closing date is Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> for strawberries, ornamental nursery, aquaculture, turf grass, floriculture, and mushrooms and Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> for small grains.**

## 2010 CROP WHEAT LOAN RATES

The 2010 National Average Loan Rate for Soft Red Winter Wheat is \$1.87/bushel. If you have storage you may want to inquire.

## NAP CROP PRODUCTION

Production records for individual crops need to be filed with our office to establish an approved NAP yield. If this is the first year you participated in NAP, you can provide production information from prior years to establish your yield. If you participated in NAP in previous years, you must report your production and acreage on a yearly basis to keep your yield up-to-date. Records submitted must be reliable and verifiable. Records need to show crop disposition. We recommend producers submit 2009 production records as soon as harvest is complete. **All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date.**

## ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME

The USDA has a Memorandum of Understanding with the IRS to establish an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent will be required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to USDA. The agreement ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs. Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-927 (Individual) and/or CCC-928 (Entity) to the IRS by **June 15** to avoid interruption of program benefits. These forms may be obtained from your local FSA or NRCS office.

## TOBACCO TRANSITION PAYMENT PROGRAM (TTPP)

If you are an owner of a tobacco contract, please make your family aware that you have been receiving annual payments so that in the event of death your family may contact the FSA office to make the proper transfers. If you had a family member who recently died and was receiving tobacco buy-out payments in the past year, contact this office for further information. The next payment will be issued in January 2011.

## BANKING CHANGES?

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. This innovation has cut down on the number of missing and late payments and reduced the time required to move funds. If you have changed accounts or banks, which might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

## LAND OWNERSHIP CHANGES?

In order to keep our records as accurate and up to date as possible, we ask that you report to us any land ownership changes that would affect your farm. If a reconstitution is needed, then it must be requested by **August 2, 2010**.

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## DATES TO REMEMBER

- **June 30** – Deadline to report crops
- **July 5** – Independence Day –CLOSED
- **Aug. 2**– COC nomination deadline

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## SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call the FSA county office staff, and we will be happy to make any arrangements that are necessary.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (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 to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.