



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE PITT COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY

June 2008

Pitt County Farm Service Agency County Committee

C. Mac Whitehurst, Chairperson
John Louis Bailey, Vice-Chairperson
David Wooten, Member
Barbara Mills, Advisor

*Committee meets on the 2nd
Thursday each month at 1:00 pm*

Pitt County Farm Service Agency Office Staff

Dale Leffelman, CED
Jennifer Leggett, CPT
Ricky Forrest, CFT
Crystal Bowden, PT
Toni Strickland, PT
Jennie Jones, PT
Debbie Houston, FLO

Office Hours
Monday thru Friday
8:00am – 4:30pm

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FSA Website:
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

OUTREACH - The Farm Service Agency is committed to informing all persons of the programs that it administers. As part of the Outreach Plan for the Pitt County FSA Office, the County Executive Director will be available to speak to groups upon request.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please contact our office at (252) 752-6112.

EEO STATEMENT - The United States 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 TARGET CENTER at 202-720-2600 (Voice or TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 800-795-3272 (Voice) or 202-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

COUNTY COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORMS

From June 15 through Aug. 1, producers and landowners can nominate eligible peers (or self-nominate) as candidates for election to the Pitt County FSA County Committee. This is an important time for the community because County Committee members make decisions that have significant effects on you and the area's agricultural sector as a whole. Any person may nominate an individual to serve on the COC, however, in addition to agreeing to serve if elected; the nominee must live in Local Administrative Area. LAA 2 consists of Ayden, Farmville, Grifton, Swift Creek, and Winterville townships. It is currently being represented by C. Mac Whitehurst who will be ineligible to represent because of the three term rule. Voting takes place in the fall. Newly elected committee members and alternates take office January 1, 2009. Please use the enclosed FSA 669A to submit your nomination before August 1, 2008. Nomination forms must be signed by the nominee. We encourage you to get involved!



2008 CROP CERTIFICATION

The timely filing of an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a number of programs. **The 2008 deadline has been extended to August 15, 2008.** All acreage on a farm must balance. You will also be required to report the planting date by crop. If you do not file by August 15, 2008 it may result in a late-filed fee.

LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION PROGRAM DEADLINE

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has announced that livestock producers have until **July 18, 2008**, to enroll in the 2005 - 2007 Livestock Compensation Program (LCP). Signup began on Sept. 10, 2007, for the two programs that provide aid to livestock producers who suffered eligible livestock feed losses between Jan. 1, 2007, and Dec. 30, 2007, because of a natural disaster. For more information please contact your local FSA office for program sign-up details.

* 2008 DIRECT AND COUNTER-CYCLICAL PROGRAM*

Sign up for the 2008 DCP program has begun. The signup period will start June 25 and will end September 30, 2008. To be eligible for payments under DCP, owners, operators, landlords, tenants, or sharecroppers must; share in the risk of producing a crop on base acres on a farm enrolled in DCP, and be entitled to share in the crop available for marketing from the base acres or would have shared had a crop been produced; annually report the use of all cropland on the farm; comply with conservation and wetland protection requirements on all of their land; comply with planting flexibility requirements; use the base acres for agricultural or related activities; and protect all base acres from erosion, including providing sufficient cover as determined necessary by the county FSA committee, and control weeds. Please visit our office for further details.



PREVENTED PLANTING AND FAILED ACRES

Prevented Planted acres must be reported on a FSA-578 (crop report) and complete a manual CCC-576 within 15 calendar days after the latter of the occurrence or the end of the planting period for that crop. Failed acres must have been reported as failed before the disposition of the crop; and must have been planted under normal conditions but failed as a result of a natural disaster and not a management decision. For crops covered under NAP, a notice of loss must be provided within 15 calendar days after the disaster occurrence or date damage to the specific crop acreage is apparent to the producer.



EQIP

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) are accepting applications for assistance in fiscal year 2009. EQIP can provide financial assistance to farmers or landowners on many needed water quality practices. The list includes practices that assist with lagoon closures, animal mortality, waste storage, improving water quality, improving soil quality and many others. WRP is looking for landowners who have land/bottomland adjacent to our major creeks and rivers. The program can provide income by purchasing an easement on these non-productive parts of your farm. **If interested in these or other USDA programs through NRCS, contact Tim Etheridge at 252-752-2720 ext. 3.**

REMINDERS

June 25, 2008	DCP signup
July 4, 2008	Independence Day (Office Closed)
July 18, 2008	Final LCP Deadline
August 1, 2008	Final date for dbl cropped beans
August 15, 2008	Final Crop Certification deadline
September 4, 2008	Labor Day (Office Closed)
September 30, 2008	Final DCP signup

Please notify us of any changes in your direct deposit banking information to ensure your payments are deposited in the correct account.

Did You Know...?

One bushel of corn yields about 2.8 gallons of ethanol. North Carolina residents consume about 5.6 billion gallons of petroleum-based liquid fuels per year.

YOUTH LOAN PROGRAM

Remember FSA makes operating loans to individual rural youths age 10 through 20 to establish and operate income producing projects. These projects must be of modest size and be initiated, developed, and carried out by rural youths participating in 4-H Clubs, FFA, or other similar organization. Such youth loans must be with the involvement of a vocational teacher or county extension agent, so that the project is an organized and supervised program of work. It must be planned and operated with the assistance of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. **For more information, call Debbie Houston, Farm Loan Officer at (252) 752-6112, Ext. 111.**

DISASTER SIGN-UP

The Crop Disaster Program provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops from natural disasters. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year to apply for benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year. Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits. Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP. The maximum CDP benefits a person may receive is \$80,000. Producers applying after June 20, 2008, should expect your payments to be delayed due to a software change. Contact the Pitt County FSA county office for more details.

DROUGHT RESPONSE PROGRAM



The Pitt Soil & Water Conservation District and NRCS have been working on a Drought Response Program set up through the State

Division of Soil and Water. Most of you likely received a letter advising assistance was available for pasture renovation, pond renovation, wells, and micro irrigation in response to the drought North Carolina faced last year. Funding is limited and applications will be ranked to address the greatest benefit to water quality and quantity. The Pitt Soil & Water Conservation District and NRCS also can provide technical and possible cost shared assistance to correct soil erosion, nutrient loss, and closure of abandoned waste treatment lagoons. In addition, they can provide assistance with drainage problems and farm planning for conservation issues. **Please contact the Pitt Soil & Water Conservation District and NRCS office at 252-752-2720 ext. 3 with questions or assistance.**