



Vance County Farm Service Agency Newsletter

May 16, 2008

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Vance County

USDA Service Center
Vance County FSA
853 S. Beckford Dr., Ste. B
Henderson, NC 27536
(252) 438-3134

Office Hours

Monday-Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

R. Dale Reese. - Chairperson
Joel S. Harris –Vice Chairperson
J. Thomas Shaw, III – Member
Doris Norwood – Advisor
Harold Thompson - Advisor

Executive Director

Denise Hight

Farm Loan Officer

Melissa Seaman

Program Technicians

Fred Coghill
Tammy Dail
Lisa Furlow

Reminders:

COC Meeting: 1st Thursday of each month at 8:30 a.m.

May 15th – Crop Reporting Deadline for Wheat, Barley, Oats and Rye

May 26th - Closed in Observance of Memorial Day

June 30th – Crop Reporting Deadline for all other crops

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Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, contact Denise Hight, CED @ 252-438-3134, ext 2.

New County Committee Advisors Appointed

The Vance County Farm Service Agency would like to welcome two newly appointed County Committee Advisors; Mr. Harold Thompson and Mrs. Doris Norwood. Mr. Thompson recently retired as County Extension Director for Vance County Cooperative Extension Service. He plans to continue farming in the Williamsboro community. Mrs. Norwood is a homemaker. She and her husband Bobby will continue to farm in the Hicksboro community. Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Norwood will be a valuable asset to the Vance County Committee. They were both appointed by the NC State Farm Service Agency Committee to replace Mrs. Rachel Garrett and Mr. Arthur Evans. The Vance County Farm Service Agency would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Garrett and Mr. Evans for their loyal and dedicated service and support towards all the Vance County Farm Service Agency employees, producers, and land owners that they represented throughout Vance County

Non-Insured Assistance Program

If a crop is damaged, the producer must report a Notice of Loss within 15 days of the event of damage even though the intent is to carry the crop to harvest. At no time should the producer destroy a damaged crop without a crop adjuster's inspection. If the crop fails within the planting period, the producer must replant if conditions are practical to do so. The producer's decision to replant or not to replant may affect his eligibility for assistance. Approved yields for producers who do not have records of past production are limited to 65 % of the applicable T-yield the first year the producer and crop are considered for NAP eligibility. Producers must certify production of NAP acreages after harvest is completed and before the subsequent year's acreage reporting date for the crop.

Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) Continues

Applications are still being accepted for the Livestock Compensation Program. This program is available for livestock producers who suffered feed losses or incurred additional feed costs directly resulting from drought and excessive heat in 2005 or 2007. Eligible livestock includes dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, sheep, goats and swine. Eligible livestock must have been physically located in Vance County on the beginning date of the applicable disaster period and maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation. The beginning date of the disaster in 2005 is June 1, 2005. The beginning date of the disaster in 2007 is January 1, 2007.

Acreage Reporting Deadlines

Filing an accurate report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, prevented planting acreage, and CRP acreage can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. **Acreage reports are to be certified by May 15th for wheat, barley, oats, and rye; and June 30th for all other crops and land uses.**

Acreage reports on crops for which NAP assistance may be paid are due in the county office by June 30th, or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported.

Tobacco Buyout Changes

November 1, 2008, is the deadline to correct or transfer TTPP contracts to be effective for the 2009 payment.

USDA and North Carolina Expand CREP Program

As of May 1, 2008, the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) has been expanded to include the Roanoke River Basin. All eligible cropland and marginal pastureland in the Tar-Pamlico and Roanoke River basins of Vance County are now able to take advantage of the CREP. CREP will reimburse farmers 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. Eligible cropland must have been row-cropped 4 of the 6 years between 1996 and 2001. Marginal pastureland is also eligible, but only for riparian buffers, and if the land is adjacent or parallel to streams.

Maintaining CRP Cover

CRP cover maintenance is the participant's responsibility and must be done according to the conservation plan. All CRP maintenance activity, such as mowing, burning and spraying, must be conducted outside the primary nesting season for wildlife and in accordance with the conservation plan. Spot treatment of the acreage may be allowed during primary nesting season if certain criteria are met. The primary nesting season in North Carolina is April 15 – September 15.

Continuous CRP

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program 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 and soil quality and provide wildlife habitat and food sources.

The Continuous CRP program is a voluntary enrollment program. Eligible landowners enter into contract that range from 10 - 15 years in length. In return, the landowners will receive annual rental and maintenance payments, incentive payments for certain activities, and cost share for establishment.

To be eligible for enrollment in the Continuous CRP, participants and acreage must meet certain requirements. Provided the eligibility requirements are met, FSA will automatically accept enrollments of acreage into Continuous CRP. Landowners may enroll in the program at any time during the year.

Visit FSA online at www.fsa.usda.gov

USDA Loan/Grant Energy Program

Loan guarantees and grants are available to agricultural producers and rural small businesses to purchase and install renewable energy systems or to make energy efficiency improvements, through the USDA, Rural Development.

Eligible applicants may seek loan guarantees to cover up to 50 percent of a project's cost, not to exceed \$10 million. Grants are available for up to 25 percent of a project's cost, not to exceed \$250,000 for energy efficiency improvements and \$500,000 for renewable energy systems. USDA Rural Development has invested \$674 million in more than 1,763 renewable energy and energy efficiency projects since 2001. These investments include ethanol, biodiesel, wind, solar, geothermal, methane gas recovery systems and biomass. Details are available at www.usda.gov/farmbill.

Applications must be submitted to the local office no later than 4:30 p.m. on June 16, 2008 located at: **USDA, Rural Development, 853 South Beckford Dr. Henderson, NC 27536**. Assistance with the application and further information on the program, as well as other rural programs is available. Please contact Chuck Sadler at (252)438-3134 ext. 4 or visit USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>