



NEWSLETTER



South Carolina State FSA Office

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Attention

**Due to budget
constraints, this
newsletter is mailed to
one recipient per
address. Please share
with others concerned
in your household.**



**Laurie C. Lawson, State Executive Director,
South Carolina Farm Service Agency**

For most of South Carolina, spring has been good. Some counties have experienced hail and others are experiencing drought. But, considering the tornadoes and other bad weather in the South, we have much to be thankful for. I hope that we will have a productive growing season for our crops, pastures, and that all of our livestock fares well.

Please pay particular attention to the "Dates to Remember" on this page of the newsletter.

Our friendly, well trained, efficient staff looks forward to serving you in all of our thirty-six locations throughout South Carolina.

NAP Application Closing Date

Producers in need of insurance coverage for 2012 crops for which catastrophic level of insurance is not available through FCIC may apply under the Noninsured Crop Assistance Program (NAP) by the NAP Application closing date. Late filed applications will **not** be approved.

DCP Eligibility - To be eligible for payments in the Direct and Counter Cyclical Payment Program (DCP), producers must provide changes in their prior year farming operations such as: renting new land, canceled rental agreements held last year, and change of shares in Joint Operations and other Entities (corporations, LLC, LLP, etc.) and/or deceased members. In the current year any producer planting on or in control of DCP base acres must share in DCP contract payment. On Cash rented land DCP producers themselves must provide active personal labor or active personal management and equipment sufficient to produce the crop, to be eligible for DCP payments.

NAP Production Reporting Requirements

To remain eligible for the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) assistance, producers must annually report production information by the subsequent year crop acreage reporting date (Production Reporting Date). This production information will be used to calculate the Actual Production History (APH) from which your coverage guarantee will be based for yield based crops. Prior year production data furnished after this date will not be used in the current year APH. **Failure to report prior year production data will result in reduced coverage.**

Continuous Conservation Reserve Program Signup

The Farm Service Agency accepts applications for applicable practices offered under the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program. Such practices include Longleaf Pine Restoration, Upland Bird Habitat Buffers, and State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement. Contact your local county office for details.

Dates to Remember

June 1, 2011	Final date to enroll in the Direct and Counter Cyclical Payment Program (DCP). Farms with DCP bases (wheat, corn, cotton, peanuts, grain sorghum, soybeans, etc.) may be enrolled at your local FSA County Office.
June 1, 2011	Final Acreage Reporting Date for Spring Fruits and Vegetables. Producers with spring fruits and vegetables are required to provide a complete and accurate acreage report to be remain eligible for FSA programs like NAP and SURE. A fee will apply for late filed acreage reports.
June 15, 2011	COC Election nomination period begins.
July 15, 2011	Final Acreage Reporting Date for Spring and Summer Seeded Crops. Producers with corn, cotton, tobacco, peanuts, soybeans, grain sorghum, rice, orchards, vineyards, all other NAP crops, hay/pasture and CRP are required to provide a complete and accurate acreage report to remain eligible for FSA programs like DCP, NAP, SURE, and CRP. A fee will apply for late filed acreage reports.
July 29, 2011	Ending Date for the 2009 SURE Program - Deadline for producers with 2009 crop losses to sign up for the 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE). Late filed applications will not be approved.
August 1, 2011	Deadline to submit COC nomination forms
August 1, 2011	NAP Application Closing Date - Strawberries and Bulb Onions
September 1, 2011	End of Primary Nesting Season - Producers enrolled in CRP can begin required management and maintenance activities on CRP land after September 1, 2011 in accordance with your approved conservation plan. Penalties may apply if required management activities are not performed.
September 1, 2011	NAP Application Closing Date for Floriculture, Aquaculture, Turf Grass Sod, Christmas trees, mushrooms, Cilantro, and Parsley
September 15, 2011	Final Acreage Reporting Date for Fall Fruits and Vegetables. Producers with fall fruits and vegetables are required to provide a complete and accurate acreage report to be remain eligible for FSA programs like NAP and SURE. A fee will apply for late filed acreage reports.
September 30, 2011	NAP Application Closing Date for small grains, canola, flax, garlic, and triticale
November 4, 2011	COC Election Ballots are mailed to eligible voters.
November 20, 2011	NAP Application Closing Date for alfalfa, apples, blackberries, caneberries, blueberries, grapes, all perennial grasses for hay or grazing , honey, kiwifruit, lespedeza, nectarines, peaches, pears, pecans, plums and figs
December 5, 2011	Deadline to return completed COC Election ballots to the FSA County Office.
December 31, 2011	Closing Date for Livestock Forage Program: Chesterfield and Marlboro Counties have been approved for 2010 - 2011 season small grain grazing losses under the Livestock Forage Program. Contact the Chesterfield or Marlboro County FSA Office for more details.
January 2, 2012	Newly elected county committee members take office.

County Committee Elections

County 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 county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to ensure FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

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.

For election purposes, counties are divided into Local Administrative Areas, or LAAs. Most counties are divided into three LAA's, and combined counties may have up to five LAA's. This year's election is for LAA 1, and for Abbeville/Greenwood/McCormick, it is LAA 1 and LAA 4.

For more information on the election, who can vote, who can hold office, or other general COC election information, please contact your local FSA County Office or you can visit us at the following website: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/sc>. You can also visit the FSA elections website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>.

MAY 2011 INTEREST RATES

Farm Operating	2.625%
Farm Ownership	5.000%
Farm Ownership – Beginning Farmer Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency – Actual Loss	3.750%

Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,119,000. Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA.

For additional information, please contact your local FSA office.

Livestock Indemnity Program

Producers with livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather events must file a notice of loss with the local county FSA

office within 30 days of when the livestock loss is apparent to be eligible for assistance. Contact your local county office for details.

Emergency Livestock, Honeybee and Farm Raised Fish Assistance Program

Producers with livestock feed, honeybees and farm raised fish losses due to adverse weather events must file a notice of loss with the local county FSA office within 30 days of when the loss is apparent to be eligible for assistance. This program covers losses not covered by LFP, LIP, or SURE. Contact your local county office for details.

Assuming a Conservation Reserve Program Contract

If CRP land changes ownership, or if there is a death of a CRP participant, the new owner or estate representative must assume the CRP contract within 60 days or the contract will be terminated. **Penalties may apply if the new owner does not assume the contract.** Contact your local county office for details.

Tree Assistance Program

In the event of an adverse weather event that damages orchard or vineyard crops, producers are required to provide a notice of loss within 90 days of the disaster event to be eligible for assistance under the Tree Assistance Program. Trees for timber are not covered under this program.

Prevented Planted Provisions

Producers should report prevented planted acreage to their local FSA Office when the crop acreage is not planted due to a natural disaster. To be considered timely, producers who request prevented planting acreage credit must report the acreage within 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

Please visit our website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/sc>

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The SC State FSA Newsletter is published and distributed by the SC State FSA Office at 1927 Thurmond Mall, Suite 100, Columbia, SC 29201-2375. The phone number is (803) 806-3830.