



December 13, 2006

Halifax County News

Halifax USDA Service Center

Halifax County FSA
PO Box 250
Halifax, NC 27839-0250
252-583-4511 (phone)
252-583-1099 (fax)

Hours

Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday, Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

County Committee

Michael Morris
John Branham, IV
Andy Adkins
William Evans
Vergie Johnson

**Committee meets on
the 3rd Tuesday of
each month at 9 a.m.**

Staff

Sophia Floyd
Jill H. McDonald
Carol Peebles
Alice Short
Debbie W. McGee, CED

District Director

Patricia Mabry

PAYMENT LIMITATIONS

DCP Direct	\$40,000
DCP CC	65,000
Peanut	
DCP Direct	40,000
DCP CC	65,000
Price Support	75,000
CRP	50,000
NAP	100,000
CDP	80,000

**FSA Office Closed:
December 25, 2006
January 1, 2007
January 15, 2007**

County Committee Election Results

Ray P. Garner, Jr. was elected to serve on the Halifax County Committee (COC) representing Roanoke Rapids, Weldon, Littleton, and Darlington areas (LAA-3). A. N. Dickens, Jr. was elected as the First Alternate. The Halifax County Office looks forward to working with them and would like to express their appreciation to Michael Morris for his 9 years of dedicated service to the committee, producers, and staff of Halifax County. The Halifax COC continues to meet on the third Tuesday of each month.

Program Payments and Eligibility Updates

The National Office is in the process of conducting audits of county offices across the nation. In preparation for these audits, the county offices have been asked to review 2006 applications for completeness and accuracy. In addition, all 2007 eligibility records have been flagged as not eligible for payments. This means all eligibility records will have to be reviewed and/or new forms completed. This review is mandatory. Extensive second party reviews have been developed which must be completed before any payments can be issued. No additional staffing will be available; therefore, delays of payments are expected. Our office is committed to serving the farmers of Halifax in a timely manner, but these reviews must be performed on each payment before approval. All reviews and second party reviews are required in addition to the normal workload. Your cooperation and understanding will be appreciated.

New Maps

As announced in the October newsletter, our goal was to have all map reviews completed by the end of December. With the development of the mandatory reviews, all map reviews will not be completed by the end of December. Map updates for a farm must be completed before DCP sign-up for that farm number.

DCP

Halifax County is asking that farmers wait until January to begin filing applications for the 2007 DCP Sign-up. **All reconstitutions and map changes must be completed for a farm before enrolling in 2007 DCP.** 2007 Direct Advance Payments will be at 22% versus 40% for 2006 contracts after 2/8/06 and 50% for contracts prior to 2/8/06. 2007 DCP applications need to be filed by June 1, 2007. Applications filed between June 1 and September 30, 2007 will be assessed a \$100 late fee per farm number. All farms enrolled in DCP must file a crop report each year for all cropland. Idle land must also be reported. DCP payment shares must be equal to the crop report shares.

Loans for Beginning Farmers, Socially Disadvantaged

FSA is authorized to assist beginning farmers and/or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person whom:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed. Socially disadvantaged groups are Hispanics, American Indians, African Americans, Asians, Pacific Islanders and women. Contact Bobby Capel at (252) 534-5331 for more details.



Longleaf Pine Initiative Sign-up

Sign-up in 42 North Carolina counties began December 1, 2006 for Longleaf Pine Initiative Program and runs continuously until 32,250 acres of longleaf pines are signed up or December 31, 2007, whichever comes first. Halifax County is one of the designated counties. Acceptable land is cropland that was planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity in four out of six years between 1996 and 2001 and which is physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity. Contracts are for not less than 10 years, nor more than 15 years. Contact Halifax FSA for more details.

Spousal Signatures

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse. There are exceptions to the rule. Spouses may not sign FSA-211s on behalf of each other or sign on behalf of the other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities. Spouses must have a power of attorney (POA) on file or sign personally for claim settlements, such as promissory notes, and on security documents for price support loans. **Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program, Farm Storage Facility Loan documents and Committee Election Ballots.** A spouse's authority to sign documents on behalf of the other spouse does not entitle the spouse to review or receive agency records of the other spouse.

NAP

Two NAP sales closing dates are approaching: January 1, 2007 and February 28, 2007
If you are interested in NAP coverage, please contact this office for further details.

New Measurement Service Rates

Mandatory measurement service rates are effective for any measurement service request beginning October 26, 2006. All county offices shall follow the following:

- Basic Farm Rate: \$30.00
- Plus Hourly Rate: \$16.00 first hour/\$8 every 30 minutes after first hour (1 hour minimum)

Reminders

- Office Closed: Monday, December 25, 2006 for Christmas Day
Monday, January 1, 2007 for New Year's Day
Monday, January 15, 2007 for the Birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- File Farm Changes or Reconstitution Requests timely

OUTREACH AND SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Halifax County FSA Office is committed to ensuring that all persons are aware of programs and benefits available to them. FSA programs are administered to ensure equal opportunity for participation and services for all persons to the fullest extent of the law. Representatives are available to present information to community and civic groups and organizations. Anyone interested in having an official meeting with his or her group should contact this office. Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all of 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 USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or 202-720-5964 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.