

# FARM SERVICE AGENCY STOKES COUNTY NEWS

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## ANNUAL DCP ENROLLMENT

To participate in DCP, producers are required to **designate shares and sign the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program Contract (CCC-509) on a yearly basis.** The annual DCP sign-up period runs from October 1 to June 1 of the applicable program year. To be considered enrolled timely; the CCC-509 must be submitted by June 1 of the applicable program year. In cases where a farm is reconstituted, all resulting farms will need to enroll (signatures obtained) if the producers intend to participate. CCC-509s with signatures obtained after June 1, but by September 30, will be accepted, but the farm will be assessed a late-filed sign-up fee of \$100. All supporting documentation, such as CCC-502, AD-1026, and CCC-526, must be submitted before payments can be issued. Annual acreage reports indicating uses of all cropland on a farm must be filed by the applicable established reporting dates. Acreage reports filed after the applicable final reporting date may be accepted if all requirements are met and a late-filed fee is paid.

DCP payments are calculated by taking 85 percent of the base acres, multiplied by the farm yield, times the applicable payment rate, times the producer share. Producers may receive an advance of the direct payment, beginning on December 1 of the program year. Final direct payments will be made on or after October 1 following the contract period. Counter-cyclical payments may also be authorized for one or more covered commodities, depending on the projected and actual market prices. Producers may elect to receive up to two counter-cyclical payments per year: (1) the first partial payment, if any, is available

after the first six months of the marketing year, and (2) final payment, if any, is made after the end of the marketing year for each eligible crop. Producers who do not elect to take the first advance payments will receive the entire counter-cyclical payment at the end of the marketing year. The amount of a counter-cyclical payment is dependent upon the average of the actual prices received by farmers during the marketing year.

## ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP)

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is taking applications for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). This program provides technical and financial assistance to install certain conservation practices on agricultural land. Typical practices include: fencing cows out of the creek, installing alternative watering systems, converting cropland to grassland, long term no-till planting, stabilizing areas used frequently by livestock with suitable material, installing stock trails to keep livestock out of sensitive areas, installing grassed waterways and field borders to control erosion on cropland. Eligible participants may receive 50 to 75 percent cost share assistance for installing these practices.

Applications must be received by January 19, 2007 to be considered for 2007 funding. Applications are ranked according to the proposed environmental benefits. If you are interested, call the NRCS office at 593-2846 for more information.

## FY 2007 MILCX OPTION

Because the selection of October and November were not an option at the time of signup when MILCX program was first announced, several applicants selected December as their FY 2006 production start month, or did not change their FY 2007 production start month by September 14, 2006.

Although the option to change their production start month was available, many producers assumed that their production start month for FY 2007 would begin with October 2006, which is the first month of FY 2007 with a payment rate in effect.

Relief is now authorized through close of business December 14, 2006, for eligible dairy operations to change their FY 2007 production start month selection from December to either of the following: October 2006 or November 2006.

***The relief provision is only authorized for FY 2007 changes from December 2006, to either October or November 2006.***

Additional information on the selection changes is available at the local FSA county office.

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### DATES TO REMEMBER:

<b>December 25, 2006</b>	<b>Christmas Day Holiday – All federal offices closed.</b>
<b>January 1, 2007</b>	<b>New Year's Day Holiday – All federal offices closed.</b>

**Farm Service Agency  
Stokes County FSA Committee  
PO Box 40  
Danbury, North Carolina 27016  
Official Business**

### **LOANS FOR BEGINNING FARMERS, SOCIALY 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 that 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.

### **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 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 and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.

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.

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 a 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, 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.

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please call Nita Grove at 336-593-8128 ext. 2.