



U.S. Department  
of Agriculture

**Wake County FSA**

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**Hours**

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

**County Committee**

Joe Callis  
James Pope Jr.  
Rex Tippett

**Advisors to COC**

Morris Dunn  
Virginia Miller

**Staff**

Martha Fink  
Melenda Perry  
Sally Rice  
Melissa Weatherly

**Loan Officer**

F. Sidney Long, Jr.

**County Executive**

**Director**

Keith Miller

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**Wake County**



**FSA**

Farm Service Agency

# FSA UPDATES

November 2007  
Newsletter #7

## **Crop Disaster Program Signup**

The Crop Disaster Program (CDP) provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity losses to 2005, 2006 or 2007 crops. CDP signup began **October 15, 2007**.

Losses from natural disasters may qualify for financial assistance if the crop was planted before February 28, 2007, or, in the case of prevented plantings, for crops that would have been planted before February 28, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year to apply for benefits. Participants may apply for loss benefits on multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year.

**ONLY PRODUCERS WHO OBTAINED CROP INSURANCE COVERAGE OR COVERAGE UNDER THE NON-INSURED 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. For more information on this and other programs contact this USDA Farm Service Agency office.

## **NAP Deadline Approaching**

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) deadline for fall seeded crops is approaching. NAP is designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production for an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance.

**November 20, 2007** is the final date for producers to apply for NAP coverage in North Carolina on alfalfa, apples, blackberries, blueberries, caneberries, grapes, grazing, hay, honey, lespepeza, peaches, pecans, plums, and raspberries.

Producers who had NAP coverage may choose to continue coverage on the same crops for next year, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new form CCC-471, Application for Coverage, is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crops.

Producers who choose to add or delete a crop from the previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471, with signatures, and pay the applicable service fee. Producers with NAP coverage are required to 1) file a Notice of Loss within 15 days of when a loss is apparent; 2) timely file acreage reports; and 3) keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods.

## **Voting for County Committee Begins**

Ballots for this year's county committee election were mailed to eligible voters on **November 2, 2007**. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on **December 3, 2007**. Mailed ballots must be postmarked by midnight **December 3, 2007**.

The candidates in this year's election are:

- Beverly Currin of Zebulon
- Terry Jackson of Zebulon

Eligible voters in Local Administrative Area (LAA) 2 who have not received a ballot should contact the FSA county office staff.

**Voter Requirements:** Persons meeting requirements in 1 or 2, plus 3, below, is eligible to vote:

1. Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as either of the following:
  - an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper, or
  - a partner in a general partnership or member of a joint venture that has an interest in a farm as an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper; or
2. Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm; and
3. Eligible to participate in any FSA program that is provided by law, regardless of the status of funding.

**Discrimination Prohibited:** No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

## ***Cotton Producers Polled on Referendum***

Beginning in early September and continuing through **November 30, 2007**, cotton producers can request a referendum on whether to continue the 1991 amendments to the Cotton Research and Promotion Program.

The 1991 amendments instituted non-refundable assessments on all U.S. Upland cotton and authorized the collection of assessments on imported cotton and imported cotton textiles. This implemented the 1966 Cotton Research and Promotion Act which required USDA to review and determine whether a referendum on continuing these amendments was needed. USDA published a decision in the March 6, 2007, in the Federal Register, stating that a referendum was unnecessary. Such a decision requires an opportunity for cotton producers and importers to request a referendum.

To hold a referendum, 10 percent of the cotton producers who voted in the last referendum, or 4,622 producers, would have to request a referendum. No more than 20 percent of all requests can come from one state or from importers.

Producers should make requests at the FSA service center that services the county where the producer owns or rents land. If the producer owns or rents land in more than one county, the producer should make requests to their "control" FSA service center. No action is necessary if a referendum is not desired.

For more info on Cotton Research and Promotion, visit: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/Cotton/r&pguide.htm>.

## ***Farm Record Changes***

If you have bought, sold or are renting different land, make sure you report the changes to the staff at your local Farm Service Agency county office as soon as possible so farm records can be updated.

For farm ownership changes you will need to provide a recorded deed or recorded land contract. All landowners must furnish their tax ID numbers. Remember, failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and fines if you are participating in farm program.

## ***Dates to Remember***

- November 2 – COC Election Ballots mailed
- November 12 – Veteran's Day Holiday – **OFFICE CLOSED**
- November 20 – NAP deadline
- November 22 – Thanksgiving Holiday – **OFFICE CLOSED**

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