



**U.S. Department
of Agriculture**

Anson County FSA
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Office Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

County Committee

Robert Ross
(Chairperson)

William H Waddell, III
(Vice-Chairperson)

George Short
(Voting Member)

William Hall
(Minority Advisor)

Nancy Allen
(Minority Advisor)

Acting CED

H. O'Brian West Jr

Staff

Frances Campbell
Tina Atkins

Farm Loan Officer

Suzanne Simpson

Farm Loan Manager

Mary Myers

Office Closings

Sept. 1 – Labor Day
Oct. 13 – Columbus Day
Nov. 11 – Veteran's Day
Nov. 27 – Thanksgiving
Dec. 25 - Christmas

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FSA Newsletter

August 2008

Issue 3



DISASTER PROGRAM BUY-IN DEADLINE

The Farm Service Agency is accepting "buy-in" fees for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), and other disaster assistance programs. Producers can establish 2008 eligibility for the new disaster assistance programs by paying the buy-in fee no later than **Sept. 16, 2008**, 90 days after the date of enactment, as required by the 2008 Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (the 2008 Act).

The SURE Program will replace the current Crop Disaster Program (CDP) and covers both production losses and economic losses due to fluctuating commodity prices. Producers will be required to obtain at least the catastrophic level (CAT) of Crop Insurance or non-insured crop disaster assistance (NAP) coverage for all crops in all counties in all states in which they have an interest.

THE LFP Program will be available to eligible livestock producers who suffered grazing losses due to drought on either native or improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover or planted to a crop specifically for providing grazing. For 2009 and subsequent years, producers will be required to purchase NAP insurance for grazing land by the applicable crop closing date.

Producers who do not have insurance coverage (CAT or NAP) can "buy-in" for 2008 only. The fees are \$100 per CAT crop up to \$300 per producer per administrative county, or \$100 per NAP crop up to \$300 per administrative county. The maximum fee is \$900 per producer for all counties less any previously paid fees for CAT and/or NAP. Fees do **not** provide the producer crop insurance or NAP coverage; it only affords eligibility for the 2008 disaster programs.

Further program information may be found at www.usda.gov, or by contacting your local FSA office.

NON-INSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

USDA's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides financial assistance to producers of noninsurable crops when natural disasters cause low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting.

Producers are reminded that in order to remain eligible for NAP assistance, the following crop information must be reported annually: name of crop; type and variety; location and acreage of the crop; share of the crop and the names of other producers with an interest in the crop; type of practice used to grow the crop; date the crop was planted in each field; and intended use of the commodity. In addition, the following production information must be provided annually: the quantity of all harvested production of the crop in which the producer held an interest during the crop year; the disposition of the harvested crops, such as whether it is marketable, unmarketable, salvaged or used differently than intended; and verifiable or reliable crop production records (when required). Failure to report acreage and production information may result in reduced or zero NAP assistance.

If a crop or planting is affected by a natural disaster, you must notify your local Farm Service Agency office and complete form CCC-576, Part B (the Notice of Loss portion of the Notice of Loss and Application for Payment) within 15 calendar days of the: natural disaster occurrence; final planting date if your planting was prevented by a natural disaster; date damage to the crop or loss of production becomes apparent to you.

The administrative fees for NAP have increased to \$250 per crop, \$750 per county, and \$1,875 per producer for all counties. Coverage will not begin until the **later** of 30 calendar days after application for coverage is filed for the crop or the date the crop is planted not to exceed the final planting date.

The following **2009** NAP application closing dates have been extended to **December 1, 2008**:

Sage, strawberries, Value Loss crops (Ornamental Nursery, Aquaculture, Christmas Trees, Ginseng, Turf Grass Sod, Mushrooms, Floriculture, Strawberry Rootstock), barley, oats, rye, wheat, alfalfa, apples, blackberries, blueberries, caneberries, grapes, mixed forage & grass (grazing/haying), honey, lespedeza, peaches, pecans, plums, raspberries.

Further program information may be found at www.usda.gov, or by contacting your local FSA office.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Farm Service Agency
Anson County FSA Committee
PO Box 264
Wadesboro, NC 28170-0264

Official Business

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

33 YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

July 31 Betty Lutz retired after 33 years of service with the County Farm Service Agency. Betty led a distinguished career with FSA and played a key leadership role assisting producers of County. We thank her for her contribution to the agency and wish her well in her retirement.

Continuing the agency's efforts to provide quality leadership, we are pleased to announce O'Brian West, Anson County Executive Director will be acting in this capacity. We would like to welcome Brian to the county and thank him for volunteering his time in County.

PAYMENT LIMITATIONS

USDA payments and benefits are subject to producer eligibility and limitation provisions as defined by law. Documents and forms to determine eligibility and limitation are reviewed on an annual basis. It is the producer's responsibility to report changes in the farming operation that may affect payment eligibility and payment limitation.

The following limitations apply to Direct and Counter-cyclical Program payments for the 2008 contract year. For all covered commodities: \$40,000 for direct payments and \$65,000 for counter-cyclical payments. The Environmental Quality Incentive Program has a \$450,000 payment limitation. The Conservation Reserve Program annual limit is \$50,000 per person.

Entities such as corporations, limited partnerships, trusts and estates are required to provide names, addresses, and ID numbers of their members. These entities should also identify every payment under more than one entity.

Adjusted Gross Income - Effective through 2008, an individual or entity shall **not** be eligible for certain program benefits during a crop, program or fiscal year if both of the following apply.

- The three-year average adjusted gross income for the individual or entity exceeds \$2.5 million; and
- Less than 75 percent of the average AGI is derived from farming, ranching or forestry operations.

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 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 to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.