



May 2008

Burke-McDowell-Caldwell FSA News

Burke County USDA Service Center

**Burke-McDowell-Caldwell
FSA Office**

130 Ammons Dr.
Suite 1
Morganton, NC 28655

828-439-9727 (phone)
828-439-8183 (fax)

County Committee

Brent Fox--Chair
Margaret DeLuca-
Vice Chair
William Clay
Mavin Carswell-Paige
Eddie Starnes

Alternates

Robert Walker
Joseph Quinn
JB Bowman
Gene Huffman
John Wike

Advisor

Leng Vang

Program Technicians

Claudia Austin
Janet Dzieszinski

Farm Loan Officer

Gary Guinn

County Executive

Director

Kim Rumfelt

Reminders:

The FSA office will be closed **Monday, May 26, 2008** to observe Memorial Day.

Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) Sign-up

The Livestock Compensation Program provides benefits to livestock producers who suffered feed losses or incurred additional feed costs resulting from natural disasters occurring between Jan. 1, 2007 and Dec. 31, 2007. To be eligible the livestock must be: dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, equine, poultry, elk, reindeer, sheep, goats, swine or deer. The livestock must have been owned or cash leased and maintained for commercial use. Beef and dairy cattle must have weighed **500 pounds or more on either January 1, 2007 or April 6, 2007**. Producers will choose either April 6, 2007 (start date of the freeze) or January 1, 2007 (start date of the drought).

Information needed includes:

1. **List all your farming interests:** If you have not been to our office to update your farming interests such as; acquiring farmland, leasing/operating a new farm then bring deed(s) if you have bought a farm. If land is leased bring the lease agreement if applicable. If operating as a partnership, or corporation bring articles of organization/incorporation. Bring a **voided check** for direct deposit.
2. **Know number of acres grazed, what type of grass and how many days grazed.** Also, need to know where the livestock was physically located on January 1, 2007 and where they are now.
3. **Livestock kind, type and weight range:** For beef and dairy cattle there are 2 categories of weight ranges; **non-adult weighing 500 lbs. or more and adult cows & bulls**. Calves are not eligible. Sheep and goats have no weight range category, so count all. Poultry count all weighing 8 pounds or more.
4. Also need to know if livestock was removed as a direct result of the disaster.

Applications will not be accepted until all documentation is on file. We don't want you to make several trips to have a completed application, so give us a call if you have any questions prior to coming in to sign-up. No deadline has been set at this time for taking applications. Get your information together. Call if you have questions. See you soon.

Acreage Reports - Acreage reporting time is **now**. Please remember that filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of a disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acreage reports are to be certified by **May 15 for small grains** and **June 30 for all other crops**. All crops selected for NAP coverage must have an acreage report filed. If crop was not planted, a zero report is required.

When A Natural Disaster Strikes – When a crop or planting is affected by a natural disaster please notify our office **immediately**. Natural disasters caused by excessive rains, flooding, tornadoes, hurricanes, freezing temperatures, hail or drought can cause extensive damage to agricultural resources. Proper reporting of such events is essential for the activation of certain USDA emergency programs.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Burke-McDowell-Caldwell
Farm Service Agency
130 Ammons Dr., Suite 1
Morganton, NC 28655

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) – provides financial assistance to producers of noninsurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occurs due to natural disasters. Application and service fees must be filed by the application closing date. The service fee is \$100 per crop per county or \$300 per producer per county, not to exceed a total of \$900 per producer with farming interests in multiple counties.

To remain eligible for NAP assistance producers must annually report crop acreage information and production information. It benefits producers to report crop acreage shortly after planting to ensure reporting deadlines are not missed and coverage is not lost.

Emergency Loan Program – Burke, McDowell and Caldwell counties have been approved to implement the Emergency Loan Program due to drought and high temperatures that occurred in the 2007 crop year. Emergency loan funds may be used to:
* Restore or replace essential property * Pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year * Pay essential family living expenses * Reorganize the farming operation * Refinance certain debts. You may be eligible for an Emergency loan if you suffered at least a 30-percent loss in crop production or a physical loss to livestock, livestock products, real estate, or chattel property. You must have acceptable credit history, repayment ability and be unable to receive credit from commercial sources. The current interest rate for Emergency loans is 3.75 percent. **Applications must be filed by May 12, 2008.** The FSA loan officer for Burke, McDowell and Caldwell counties is **Gary Guinn**. He is headquartered in Mitchell County and can be reached at 828-765-5049.

Farm Operating Changes – Owners and operators are reminded to update their farm records in a timely manner. If you pick up or drop a farm, please let the FSA office know as soon as possible. If you have a written lease for leased land we will need a copy of it. If you buy or inherit new land we will need a copy of the deed or will. This will enable the office to better serve you when applying for farm programs and benefits.

Direct Deposit – Producers are reminded that if they have changed bank accounts to please inform the FSA office. Direct deposit information must be correct for the monies to be deposited into your account.

Complaint Process – After a FSA official makes a decision on your request for USDA services or applications, you will be sent a letter informing you of the decision and options you can pursue if you disagree. Generally, program participants have three choices – an informal review with the original agency decision-maker, an opportunity for mediation and appeal to the USDA National Appeals Division. (NAD).

<p>The United States 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 programs.. (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, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.</p>
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