



USDA

Farm Service Agency

July 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
William (Bill) Clay
Mavin Carswell-Paige
Eddie Starnes

Alternates

Robert Walker
Joseph Quinn
JB Bowman
Gene Huffman
Steve Dillard

Advisor

Leng Vang

Program Technicians

Claudia Austin
Janet Dzieszinski

Farm Loan Officer

Gary Guinn

County Executive

Director

Kim Rumfelt

Reminder

The FSA office will be closed
July 4, 2008 to observe
Independence Day

COUNTY COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS IN PROGRESS - Nominations for County Committee elections began June 15, 2008. Enclosed you will find a Nomination petition form. Please nominate an eligible candidate and return to the FSA Office by **August 1, 2008**.

Local Administrative Area (**LAA 1, Burke County**), is up for election which covers the areas of Jonas Ridge, Upper Creek, Linville, Quaker Meadows, Lower Creek, Silver Creek, Morganton, and Upper Fork.

Local Administrative Area (**LAA 4, Caldwell County**), is up for election which covers the areas of Granite Falls, Sawmills, Hudson, area east of Connelly Springs Rd and area southeast of Hwy 18. Eddie Starnes is serving this area on the County Committee, but has reached his term limit and must depart from the committee for at least one term.

Committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs their counties offer. They work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers. So, nominate an eligible candidate that is willing to attend the monthly meetings and share their farming experience and knowledge.

LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION PROGRAM (LCP) SIGN-UP ENDS JULY 18, 2008 -

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. The livestock must have been owned or cash leased and maintained for commercial use. Beef cattle have 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. Call for more information before July 18, 2008.

CROP ACREAGE REPORTING DEADLINE EXTENDED - The crop acreage reporting deadline has been extended until August 15, 2008. 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.

CROP DISASTER PROGRAM 2005-2007 (QUALITY LOSSES) - Producers who incurred quality losses in 2005, 2006, or 2007 who had crop insurance or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for the disaster year that the quality loss occurred may sign-up for quality losses beginning **June 23, 2008**. Producers are eligible for CDP assistance for quality losses of at least 25 percent. All crops are eligible except for value loss crops and the following specialty crops: honey, maple sap and turf grass sod.

In determining affected production, participants must supply verifiable production records to substantiate the level of quality loss to the FSA county committee. Verifiable production records must include the quantity of production, indicate level of quality loss and the price. All marketing contracts for a crop must be provided for production sold under a marketing contract. Verifiable production records include, but are not limited to: commercial receipts, settlement sheets, warehouse ledger sheets, or load summaries.

Each farmer may receive no more than \$80,000 in benefits. Adjusted gross income may not exceed \$2.5 million unless 75% or more is derived from agriculture. Contact our office for more information.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

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

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ANNOUNCING 2008 DIRECT AND COUNTER CYCLICAL PROGRAM (DCP) SIGN-UP – The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 was enacted into law on May 22, 2008. The 2008 Act provides for continuing DCP for 2008 through 2012. The 2008 DCP signup period **starts June 25, 2008 and will end September 30, 2008**. A significant change from the 2002 Act is that a producer on a farm may **not** receive payments if the sum of the base acres of the farm is **10 acres or less**, unless the farm is wholly owned by a socially disadvantaged farmer or limited resource farmer. Also, each participant receiving a payment must certify that there has not been a material change in the producer’s Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) that would affect eligibility. If changes have occurred that would affect the financial status of the producer, then a revised CCC-526, dated June 12, 2008 must be filed. The \$2.5 million AGI limitation that applied to the 2007 DCP contract will also apply to the 2008 contract.

Producers and landowners who previously executed FSA-211 or other Power of Attorney authorizing someone to act on their behalf for anything other than “**all current and future programs**”, will need to execute a new FSA-211.

Requests for reconstitutions of farms having base acres of 10 acres or less may **not** be approved except if 1 of the farms undergoes a change in ownership. To qualify for this exception, the owners of each of the farms participating in the new combination must be identical and have identical shares in both farms. Farms participating in DCP must request reconstitutions by August 1, 2008.

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.

WHAT IS CONTINUOUS CRP? The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program allows participants to voluntarily enroll acreage in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality and provide wildlife habitat and food sources. Eligible landowners enter into 10- to 15-year contracts in return for receiving annual rental and cost share payments. To be eligible, participants and acreage must meet certain requirements. If eligibility requirements are met, the Farm Service Agency will automatically accept enrollments of acreage into Continuous CRP. ***CRP is designed to safeguard the nation’s natural resources. The program is a major contributor to increased wildlife populations in many parts of the country because enrolled acreage is planted to resource-conserving vegetative covers. CRP also protects groundwater and helps improve the condition of lakes, rivers, ponds and streams by reducing water runoff and sedimentation. Another benefit is the protection of millions of acres of American topsoil from erosion. In addition, CRP sequesters more carbon on private lands than any other federally-administered program.***

CHANGES – Producers are reminded if they have bought or sold agricultural land or changed bank accounts to please inform our office. These **changes must be updated** in order to maintain eligibility and so payments will be deposited to your bank account timely.

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