



**UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE**

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**OFFICE HOURS**

**Monday – Friday  
8:00 am – 4:30 pm**

**Farm Service Agency**

**Chatham County Farm Service Agency  
Newsletter**

**April 2008**



**LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION**

**The county office is still taking applications for this program. An ending signup date has not been announced.** The Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) provides benefits to livestock producers who suffered feed losses resulting from natural disasters between January 1 and December 31, 2007. Eligible livestock for this program are: beef cattle, dairy cattle, buffalo, beefalo, pastured poultry, pastured swine, equine, elk, reindeer, sheep, goats, or deer that have been maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation. These livestock are NOT eligible if they are wild animals or animals used for recreational purposes such as pleasure, hunting, pets, roping or for show. To be eligible for LCP, producers must have owned or cash-leased eligible livestock and have suffered an eligible feed loss from forage. If you grazed cattle in Chatham County in 2007, you may be eligible for payment under this program. **Please call the county office at 919-542-2244 ext 2 to set up an appointment to sign up for this program.** When you come for your appointment, please have your cattle numbers by weight. Any animal over 500 pounds as of January 1, 2007 could be eligible for payment. Since FSA makes payments by direct deposit, please bring a check for the account in which you wish to have your payment deposited. This program will require several forms to complete. Please allow at least 30 minutes to complete your application.



**CROP DISASTER PROGRAM**

Sign up is continuing for producers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops from weather disasters. However, only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year to apply for benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year. Farmers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35% to be eligible for CDP. **Please call the county office at 919-542-2244 ext 2, to set up an appointment to sign up for this program.**



**DAIRY DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROG**

Recently, all known dairies in the county were mailed a letter about the Dairy Disaster Assistance Program (DDAP-III). This program compares milk production from 2003 and 2004 with the disaster year of 2007. If there is a loss in milk production, the dairy may be eligible for a payment. To establish a loss, the dairy operation must, to the satisfaction of the County Committee, provide adequate proof of commercial milk marketed in 2003, 2004, and 2007 and average number of cows in the dairy herd during those same years. **Sign up for this program ends May 5, 2008.**

United States  
Department  
Of Agriculture  
Chatham County Farm Service Agency  
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### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

- **May 15**  
Last day to report small grains planted ( wheat, oats, rye, barley)  
Producers should also report acres that were prevented from being planted due to weather and planted acres that failed due to weather.
- **June 30**  
Last day to report all spring planted crops (corn, tobacco, CRP, fruits, vegetables, soybeans, sorghum)  
Also last day to submit production records for NAP yields

### **GENERAL REMINDERS**

- **Report weather losses on crops within 15 days of the date of the loss or when the loss becomes apparent**
- **Report changes in farm operation or farm ownership timely**
- **Report any banking changes affecting direct deposit**

### **FSA Signature Requirements**

Proper signatures on Farm Service Agency contracts, applications and forms must be submitted before the document will be considered as filed. All entities, including revocable and irrevocable trusts, corporations, partnerships, estates, etc., must provide evidence of signature authority stipulating those individuals who are authorized to represent the entity. FSA cannot accept signatures without such documentation on file. Examples of acceptable evidence include trust agreements, corporate charters or resolutions, partnership agreements and court orders of appointment. Spouses can sign for one another on most program documents unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office staff. An FSA-211 may be filed to delegate signature authority for FSA program purposes to another individual.



### **Sodbuster; Swampbuster**

Most Farm Service Agency programs require compliance with sodbuster and swampbuster provisions. These provisions require producers to follow an approved conservation system on all highly erodible land planted to an annual crop as determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Be sure to have determinations made on any new land you plan to plant to annual crops. If you wish to plant a different crop on your current cropland, check with NRCS to assure the new crop will qualify under your conservation plan. Swampbuster provisions state that converting a wetland to make possible the planting of a crop will result in the loss of all USDA benefits. To avoid this possibility it is strongly recommended that producers check with NRCS before starting any type of land clearing for pasture or any other purpose.

### **REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS**

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements

### **EMERGENCY LOANS FOR DROUGHT**

Emergency loans are available for producers who suffer losses from the 2007 drought. Emergency loans carry a 3.75% interest rate and can be used to replace the income you would have gotten from your farm operation. Funds can be used for operating expenses, debt payments and essential family living expenses. The loan terms are from 1 to 7 years. To be eligible you must show a 30% loss in a single enterprise. The standard eligibility requirements for FSA loans apply: demonstrate that you cannot get the necessary credit from conventional lenders, be credit worthy, be a full time family size farmer and not be delinquent on any Federal debts, among other requirements. The last day to apply for Chatham County producers is May 12, 2008. Please call 704-788-2107 for an application or for further information.