

**Columbus County Farm Service
Agency**

County Committee
Robert Osbourne, Chairman
Glenn Turbeville, Vice Chairman
Ernie Freeman, Regular Member
P. O. Box 459
45 Government Complex Drive
Whiteville, NC 28472
Office Hours
8:00AM to 4:30PM
(910) 642-2196

Cross County FSA News

R. Coke Gray CED

March 24, 2008



**Brunswick County Farm Service
Agency**

County Committee
Jackie Potter, Chairman
Linda Robinson, Vice-Chairman
Jody Clemmons, Regular Member
P. O. Box 110
10 Referendum Drive
Bolivia, NC 28422
Office Hours
8:00AM to 4:30PM
(910) 253-4448

COC ELECTION Congratulations to Linda Robinson for being elected to the Brunswick County FSA Committee. Linda will represent LAA III consisting of the area around the Northwest and Waccamaw townships. The FSA Committee and staff would like to express its thanks to Will Long who, due to other commitments, has resigned from the COC. Jody Clemmons, the first alternate to Mr. Long will complete the unexpired term. The Brunswick County Committee scheduled meeting date and time is the 2nd Thursday of each month at 9:00AM.

THE AGRICULTURE ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2007 CROP DISASTER PROGRAM (CDP) SIGNUP is underway. The program provides benefits to farmers for crop losses in one of the years 2005, 2006 or 2007. Losses due to the 2007 drought that occurred from January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007 are now eligible for disaster assistance. Only producers who suffered a 35% loss and carried crop insurance or NAP coverage are eligible. FSA will conduct a signup and make payments for quality losses under CDP sometime this spring. More information is available online at: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>. Farmers should contact the office and sign up as soon as possible. **Currently, FSA does not have any information on the signup ending date.**

LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION PROGRAM (LCP) has been amended to include livestock feed losses due to the drought that occurred during 2007. Any livestock producer who lost feed or had to buy additional feed due to the extended 2007 drought may be eligible to receive LCP benefits and should contact the county office to complete an application.

CONTINUOUS CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP) is available for landowners interested in taking land out of production, planting it to an approved conservation practice and receiving annual rental payments, signup bonuses, cost share assistance and practice incentive payments. Practices include upland bird habitat, riparian buffers, field borders and shallow water areas for wildlife just to name a few. CRP contracts are for ten to fifteen years. Interested landowners should contact the FSA Office for program details

MAKE YOUR 2008 CROP REPORTING APPOINTMENTS NOW!!!

FARMERS WHO MAKE APPOINTMENTS OR DO HOME CROP REPORTS FOR 2008 WILL TAKE PRIORITY OVER WALK IN CUSTOMERS. USDA program benefits are an important part of farm income in today's agriculture economy and making an accurate crop report is a requirement in receiving these benefits. Remember all cropland on the farm must be accounted for or your DCP payments will be effected. **Final dates to make crop reports are May 15, 2008 for fall seeded crops (Wheat & Oats) and June 30, 2008 for spring seeded crops.**

HOME REPORTS ARE A GOOD WAY TO COMPLETE YOUR CROP REPORTS

During the past few years more and more farmers have started completing their crop reports at home. They have found they can complete the reports quicker with less chance of errors by completing the packet provided by the office at home. Farmers that are interested in home reporting will receive a package from the office with all their farms information. They complete the reports and return the material to the office where we load the data. Once it is loaded, we notify you to come in and review the reports and sign them. We have found this method to work very well saving time for both the farmer and the office. **Home reports must be completed and returned to the county office by June 20th, 2008 so the report can be entered in the system by the appropriate crop reporting deadline of June 30th, for spring seeded crops. If you are interested, contact our office so a report package can be completed for you.**

2008 MEASUREMENT SERVICE for grain bins, crops and other land use is now being accepted. The cost for the service is \$30.00 per farm visit plus \$16.00 per hour with a minimum of \$46.00 per farm. Measurement service provided in the office is \$15.00 per request plus \$15.00 per hour with a minimum of \$23.00 per farm. Acreage measured by FSA is guaranteed for the program year if planted as staked

POWER OF ATTORNEY (FSA 211) is available for those who find it difficult to visit the county office to transact their business. FSA 211 is unique because it enables you to designate another person to conduct business on your behalf at this office. For crop loans a 211 must be on file for both husband and wife.

FARM LOANS are available for qualified applicants including youth, beginning farmers, and socially disadvantaged persons. For more information call (910) 642-2196 Ex. 2

EMERGENCY LOANS AVAILABLE

Farmers in a county with a disaster declaration who suffered significant damage due to severe weather in 2007 may be eligible for low-interest emergency loans from FSA. These loans carry an interest rate of 3.75 percent. Eligible farmers can also use emergency loan funds to recover a portion of losses on growing crops that were destroyed due to the declared disaster; and also to repair or rebuild essential farm buildings, clean debris or prepare land for replanting, and to replace livestock, supplies and harvested crops on hand or in storage that were lost due to the declared disaster.

COMMODITY LOANS AND LDPs

Farmers need to be aware of the availability of Commodity Loans from FSA. Qualified producers are eligible to receive 9-month non-recourse loans on commodities stored on the farm or an approved storage facility for corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, upland cotton, peanuts, wheat & oats.

FINAL DATE TO FURNISH PRODUCTION FOR 2007 LDP or LOANS on wheat or oats is March 31, 2008. Final date for corn, Cotton and soybeans is May 31, 2008.

Retaining beneficial interest is once again a requirement for receiving a 2008 loan deficiency payment.

PRODUCERS WITH NON-INSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP) coverage must file a notice of loss within 15 days of the damage in order for a loss adjustor to visit the farm and appraise or verify the damage to your crops. **It is important not to destroy any crop before an adjustor has released the crop.**

REQUEST for PREVENTED PLANTING and FAILED ACREAGE credit must be filed within 15 days of the final planting date or harvest date respectively for the COC to consider your request. Evidence of the failed crop must be left in the field for the county office to inspect. Prevented planting request must be made in writing and approved by the COC prior to receiving any credit.

OUTREACH

The Columbus County FSA Office is constantly seeking to provide information to the community about the different programs available. We are seeking to reach the socially disadvantaged and non-traditional farmers. African-Americans, Asian Americans, Native Americans, Females, Hispanics and other minority farmers. If you would like to be added to our mailing list or would like to have us address your group, please contact this office.

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE, Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting, or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium, poppies and other drug producing plants.

FSA APPEAL PROCESS generally allow program participants three choices, an informal review with the original decision maker, an opportunity for mediation, or appeal to the next level of authority within the agency .

Policy: 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, ect.) should contact USDA'S Target Center at (202) 720-2600(voice & TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or(202) 720-6382(TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please call R. Coke Gray, CED, at (910) 642-2196 ext. 2.

**Columbus County FSA Office
P.O. Box 459
Whiteville, N.C. 28472**

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