



Newsletter #4

July 2, 2008

LOUISBURG Service Center

Franklin County FSA
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Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

County Committee

Carvel Cheves, Chairperson
Henry Nelms, Vice-Chair
Edward Wheeler, Member
Henrietta Renn, Advisor
Alton Richardson, Advisor

County Executive Director

Sheila F. Allen, Acting

Staff

Ava S. Galebach
Hattie D. Jordan

Farm Loan Officers

F. Sidney Long, FLM
Melissa S. Seaman, FLO

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Farm Service Agency

FRANKLIN COUNTY NEWS

SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM YOUR RETIRING CED

As of June 6, 2008, after 40 years and 10 months service with Farm Service Agency, I've decided to take some time to improve my health, so I can begin to enjoy another phase of my life. My official retirement date will be November 3, 2008. It has been an honor and pleasure serving as your County Executive Director. Thanks for your support and cooperation given me throughout the years. It was greatly appreciated. Should you wish to contact me, my home address is 603 Cedar St., Louisburg, NC 27549, or you can reach me by my personal email: janej_williams@hotmail.com.

AUGUST 15th – THE FINAL DATE FOR CROP CERTIFICATION

The final date for certifying crops for the 2008 crop year is August 15th. Any crops reported after this date will be assessed a late-filed fee. Any crops **planted** after August 15th must be reported within 15 days of completion of planting, in order to be considered timely filed.

Producers are reminded that all crop acreages, crop shares and planting dates must be reported exactly the same at both the FSA Office and the Crop Insurance Agent's Office.

DIRECT AND COUNTER-CYCLICAL PAYMENT PROGRAM (DCP)

The sign-up period for the 2008 DCP program began June 25, 2008 and will end September 30, 2008. The 2008 DCP will be administered exactly like the 2007 DCP, **except** that a producer on a farm may **not** receive direct or counter-cyclical payments if the sum of the base acres on the farm is 10 acres or less, **unless** 1 of the following exceptions is met: 1) the farm is wholly owned by a socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher, 2) the farm is wholly owned by a limited resource farmer or rancher. For the 2008 crop, form CCC-509 must be submitted by Sept. 30, 2008. All owners and operators who will share in the DCP payments on the farm must sign the CCC-509. Also, a certification of the acreage of all cropland on the farm is required.

SIGNUP DEADLINE FOR LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION PROGRAM (LCP)

Livestock producers have until **July 18, 2008**, to enroll in the 2005 – 2007 Livestock Compensation Program (LCP). Signup began on Sept. 10, 2007, to provide aid to livestock producers who suffered eligible livestock or livestock feed losses between Jan. 1, 2005, and Dec. 30, 2007, because of a natural disaster. **Franklin County was only approved for crop year 2007.**

CROP DISASTER PROGRAM (CDP) – QUALITY LOSSES

Benefits are now being provided to farmers who suffered quality losses (as well as quantity losses) from natural disasters and related conditions to 2005, 2006 or 2007 crops. Producers who incurred qualifying losses, must choose only one year for which to receive benefits. In order to qualify for payment, the value of quality-affected production must have been reduced by at least 25 percent compared to its value if the crop had not suffered a quality loss. 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 the level of quality loss and the price. All marketing contracts for a crop must be provided for production sold under a marketing contract.

CANDIDATE NOMINATIONS FOR FSA COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

Each year an election is held in a Local Administrative Area (LAA) to replace the committee member whose three-year term is expiring. This year's election will be held in LAA-1, consisting of Franklinton, Hayesville and Louisburg townships. Candidate nominations for the election will be accepted June 15 through August 1. Producers residing in the LAA holding the election and who participate or cooperate in an FSA program and are of legal voting age may be nominated to serve on the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers may also nominate candidates.

The completed nomination form must be returned to the county office by the close of business on August 1, 2008 or be postmarked by midnight August 1st, and must be signed by the person being nominated, indicating agreement to serve if elected. The nomination form, FSA-669A is attached.

CRP & NAP CERTIFICATION

Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. And crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.

BANKING CHANGES

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. This innovation has cut down on the number of missing and late payments and reduced the time required to move funds. Payments issued by Direct Deposit can be deposited in your account within 48 hours. In order to keep the system running smoothly, it is critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions. If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

POWER OF ATTORNEY

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc, FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information.

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