



March 2008

Perquimans – Chowan FSA Newsletter

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For more information about FSA programs, please visit the FSA website at:
www.fsa.usda.gov

Important Dates

May 15, 2007
Deadline to report plantings of small grain

May 26, 2007
Memorial Day
FSA Offices Closed



Crop Disaster Program

The Crop Disaster Program (CDP) signup is underway. The program provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006 or 2007 crops. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year to apply for benefits. Participants may apply for loss benefits on multiple commodities the same crop year. Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits. **A policy change since the last newsletter extended the disaster period to include all 2007 crops.** Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP. For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact your local FSA office.

Disaster Assistance for Livestock Producers

The Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) provides benefits to livestock producers who suffered feed losses as a direct result of the 2007 drought. If you owned livestock on January 1, 2007 and suffered an eligible feed loss, you may be compensated. Eligible livestock include cattle, poultry, sheep, goats, and swine that are maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation. To file an application, producers must furnish the following information:

- * Number of livestock, by type, owned on 1/1/07
- * Acres of Pasture by type
- * Number of days pasture is normally grazed per year
- * % of grazing loss

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths caused by natural disaster. Producers who lost livestock due to extreme heat in 2007 must provide adequate proof that the eligible livestock deaths occurred as a direct result of extreme heat.

Farm Bill Legislation

The 2002 Farm Bill provided funding for the Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) through September 30, 2007. With the expiration of the 2002 Farm Bill, the authority for FSA to enroll, approve and make payments for DCP has also expired. **Currently, there is no DCP program or similar payment program authorized.** As Congress continues to work out the details for a new farm bill, we have very limited program availability. At this time, we are authorized to administer the various disaster programs (CDP, LCP and LIP) and the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program. We will also continue to accept crop reports. Details of the new farm legislation will be publicized as soon as we have them.

Loans for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers

Loans are available for operating expenses and to purchase or improve farms. While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, FSA has priority funding for Socially Disadvantaged applicants. A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities. For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders. Please contact a member of the Farm Loan Team in Perquimans County for additional information.

2008 Crop Certification

Producers are reminded that the crop reporting deadline for small grain crops is May 15, 2008. The reporting date for all other commodities is June 30, 2008.

County Committee Election Results

County Committee elections were held in December. J. C. Nixon, Jr. was re-elected to the Chowan County Committee and will serve as the chairperson. Johnnie D. Hollowell, Jr. was re-elected to the Perquimans County Committee and will serve as the chairperson.

Farm Records Changes

Owners and operators are reminded to update their farm records in a timely manner. Landowners who purchase or sell land and producers who have changes in their farming operations (adding/dropping farms) should notify the county FSA office as soon as possible. Changes of address and direct deposit information should also be reported.

Reconstitutions

Requests for farm and tract combinations and divisions are now being accepted. All owners must sign the FSA-155 for any regular farm combination. The methods of division in priority order are: 1) Estate, 2) Designation by Landowner, 3) DCP cropland (for tract divisions), and 4) Default (applies to base acres for farm divisions only). The Designation of Landowner method is the division of bases in the manner agreed upon by the parent farm owner and the purchaser or transferee. To use the landowner designation method, the land being sold must have been owned for at least 3 years and a memorandum of understanding (MOA) must be signed by all involved parties as to the division of bases. A deed is NOT a MOA. Reconstitution requests should be filed by April 15, 2008.

Signatures

- ♦ Spouses may sign **most** FSA documents on behalf of each other unless written notification to the contrary is filed with the FSA office. Spouses must have FSA-211 Power of Attorney on file to sign promissory notes on behalf of each other.
- ♦ Faxed signatures will be accepted for all applicable program forms or other documents approved for faxed signatures if all other signature requirements are met. While most FSA forms are approved for faxed signatures, **several FSA forms are not approved for faxed signatures.**

Crop Shares

It is very important that producer shares are the same on all of the farm records for the crop year. Shares reported for FSA programs and acreage reports should also be used for crop insurance records, crop contracts and marketing records. Discrepancies in shares may cause benefits to be jeopardized or lost.

Foreign Investors of Agricultural Land

Foreign investors of agriculture land who have bought or sold agricultural land in North Carolina are required to report the transaction within 90 days to the Farm Service Agency. The report is required by the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA). Failure to submit the AFIDA report could result in a civil penalty of up to 25% of the fair market value of the interest held in the agricultural land.

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