



**UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE**

**FARM SERVICE AGENCY
Rockingham County**

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Neil S. Burnette
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Thomas A. Simmons
Farm Loan Manager

**Phone Number: 336-342-0460
Ext. 2**

FAX Number: 336-361-0062

Website: www.fsa.usda.gov

**FSA Office Hours
Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

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Farm Service Agency

Rockingham County Farm Service Agency

Newsletter

April 2008

2008 Crop Reporting Deadlines

Producers have until Thursday, May 15, 2008, to report all fall seeded crops. This includes wheat, barley, and oats. Producers have until Monday, June 30, 2008, to report all spring-seeded crops. These crops include tobacco, corn, soybeans, fruits and vegetables and all grassland.

Tobacco Measurement Service and Grain Bin Measurement Service

The cost for tobacco and grain bin measurement service will be a flat rate fee of \$30.00 per farm plus an hourly charge of \$16.00. The total cost per farm will be calculated to the nearest half hour.

EMERGENCY LOANS AVAILABLE

Rockingham County farmers who suffered significant damage due to the drought and excessive high temperatures in the 2007 Crop Year may be eligible for low-interest emergency loans from the Farm Service Agency if they are unable to get financing from any other source. These loans carry an interest rate of 3.75 percent.

For production losses, eligible farmers can also use emergency loan funds to recover a portion of losses on growing crops that were destroyed.

For physical losses, eligible farmers can use emergency loan funds 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.

Loan applications will be accepted at your local FSA office through May 12, 2008.

Please contact Thomas Simmons, farm Loan Manager at 336-342-0460 Ext. 2, for more information regarding the Emergency Loan Program.

Livestock Compensation Program Sign-Up Ongoing

The Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) compensates livestock producers for feed losses occurring between January 1, 2005, and December 31, 2007, due to a natural disaster. Producers incurring a loss in more than one of the 2005, 2006 or 2007 calendar years must choose only one year for which they want to apply for benefits. To be eligible under LCP, livestock must be dairy cattle, beef cattle, sheep, or goats, that have been physically located in an eligible county on the beginning date of the applicable disaster period; have been maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation on the beginning date of the disaster period; and not have been produced and maintained for reasons other than commercial use as part of a farming operation.

Recent disaster legislation has added 2007 as an eligible year to apply for grazing losses.

Many livestock producers have already applied for losses from either 2005 or 2006. Since this program pays losses on the lesser of the grazing loss or the number of animals multiplied by a per head payment amount, producers should primarily look to apply for whichever year they owned the most livestock. If you had more cattle on your farm in 2005 or 2006 and have already applied for that year, there is no benefit in applying for 2007.

To apply for benefits, producers need to know the number of livestock on their farm on the applicable date for the following years:

- June 1, 2005 for the 2005 Year
- March 1, 2006 for the 2006 Year
- January 1, 2007 for the 2007 Year

A deadline for this program has not yet been announced.



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Farm Reconstitution Provisions

In Farm Service Agency language, farms are *constituted* to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm *reconstitution* is called for. The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon. Remember, to be effective for the 2008 Crop Year, recons must be requested by August 1, 2008.

Estate Method — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;

DCP Cropland Method — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;

Default Method — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

Designation of Landowner Method — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;

**FARM RECONSTITUTIONS
(Combining or Dividing Farms)**

Producers who wish to combine or divide farms should request and complete the necessary paperwork by August 1, 2008, in order to be in effect for the 2008 crop year.

Producers who have farms that are in farm combinations, but will not be planting tobacco or other crops on those farms should consider a farm reconstitution.

Foreign Investors of Agricultural Land

Foreign investors of agricultural 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 (FSA). The report is required by the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA)

IMPORTANT DATES

May 15-----Small Grain Crop Reporting Deadline

May 26----- Office Closed Memorial Day Holiday

June 30-----Spring Seeded Crop Reporting Deadline

July 4-----Office Closed Independence Day Holiday



Policy for Spouses and Agents

A spouse's authority to sign documents on behalf of the other spouse does not entitle a spouse to review or receive agency records of the other spouse.

If you would like for your spouse to be able to obtain your FSA records, please mail us a written statement indicating that you give your spouse permission to do so. You may also stop by the FSA Office to sign a statement. This also applies to anyone acting as your agent.

**Attention Socially Disadvantaged
Farmers**

FSA is authorized to assist beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person whom:

Has operated a farm for not more that 10 years; will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm; agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA; and does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed. Socially disadvantaged groups are Hispanics, American Indians, African Americans, Asians, Pacific Islanders and Women.