



**UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE**

FARM SERVICE AGENCY  
Rockingham County

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8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

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**Farm Service Agency**

**Rockingham County Farm Service Agency**

**Newsletter**

June 2008

**IMPORTANT!!!!**

**2008 Crop Reporting Deadline**

Final date to report spring seeded crops is Monday, June 30, 2008. Be sure not to miss out on recording your crops for possible participation in future programs. These crops include tobacco, corn, soybeans, fruits and vegetables and all grassland. Planting dates are also required to be reported. Producers are encouraged to call ahead and schedule an appointment.

**Attention**

**2008 COC Election Information**

**The FSA County Committee is seeking nominations for minority farmers to serve a 3 year term as a member of this USDA Agency Committee.**

**One of Farm Service Agency's responsibilities is to conduct County Committee elections in an open manner that ensures accountability.**

**Enclosed in this newsletter is a nomination form (FSA-669A) for Local Administrative Area 1 (LAA-1), which includes the communities of Madison, Huntsville, New Bethel, and Simpsonville. This LAA is currently represented by Robert "Bobby" Baker.**

**Under-represented farmers and ranchers are encouraged to step up and participate in their county's COC election process. Producers will notice posters and announcements displayed in businesses and other public places. COC election fact sheets can be found online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA> under the News & Events tab on the FSA homepage.**

**The Nomination Petitions must be returned to the FSA Office by August 1, 2008.**

**Deadline for Livestock Compensation Program Announced**

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

**Friday, July 18, is the deadline for the sign up of the Livestock Compensation Program. No late-filed applications will be accepted after that date.**

**New Farm Bill**

The Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 has been enacted into law. While not all of the regulations of this new Farm Bill are yet known, the Farm Service Agency will ensure that the farmers and landowners are kept up to date on important information and deadlines as it pertains to them. We anticipate a grain program sign-up in the fall, and will be getting information to our farmers and landowners as soon as we receive it. As with previous Farm Bills, this will be a learning process not only for the FSA staff, but for the farmers and landowners as well. Please read your newsletters and be mindful of deadlines as they approach.

**Signature Policy for Spouses**

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for Farm Service Agency programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office from either spouse.

There are exceptions to the rule. For example, spouses may not sign Power of Attorney forms (FSA-211's) on behalf of each other. Spouses must have a power of attorney on file or sign personally for claim settlements, such as promissory notes.

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.



**Direct and Guaranteed Loans Available**

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are available now.

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

Loan funds are available now — apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner.

Most of our loan programs have special funding available for minority, female and beginning farmers.

FSA employees will help you complete the necessary application and other forms, and help you understand what information is required, where to find it or who to contact to get it. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

- June 30-----Spring Seeded Crop Reporting Deadline
- July 4-----Office Closed Independence Day Holiday
- July 18-----Livestock Compensation Program Deadline
- August 1-----Nomination Petitions for County Committee Election Deadline
- September 1-----Office Closed Labor Day Holiday
- December 1-----COC Election Ballot Deadline