



March 2008

Rutherford County News

Rutherford County USDA Service Center

Rutherford County FSA
121 Laurel Drive
Rutherfordton NC 28139
(828) 287-4220 (phone)
(828) 287-8081 (fax)

Hours
Monday - Thursday
7:45 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Fri. - 7:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

County Committee
Larry Bailey, Chairman
Tom Carswell, V-Chair
David Gowan, member
Marilyn Hensley, Advisor
Aaron Martin, District Dir.
Meeting Date: 3rd Tues.
9:00 a.m.

Staff
Dianne Davis, CED
Diane Roper, PT

Special Reminders

**Small grain reporting
deadline May 15, 2008,
all other crops by June 30.**
**Reports required for ALL
programs**

**Livestock Compensation
Program sign-up**

**WELCOME MARILYN
THANKS PAT!**

HOLIDAYS
May 26 – Memorial Day

FSA LOAN PROGRAMS

Because of the disasters of 2007, Rutherford, Polk, Henderson and Transylvania Counties have been approved for the Emergency Loan Program. Emergency loan funds may be used to: Restore or replace essential property, pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year, pay essential family living expenses, reorganize the farming operation, and refinance certain debts. You may be eligible for an Emergency Loan if you suffered at least a 30% loss in crop production or a physical loss to livestock, livestock products, real estate, or chattel property. Acceptable credit history, repayment ability and the inability to receive credit from commercial sources are all required to obtain an Emergency loan. Current annual interest rate for an emergency loan is 3.75%. All applications under this designation must be filed by May 12, 2008. Additional information, loan packets, etc. may be obtained by calling our office or by calling Larry Greene at (828) 693-1406. Larry Greene is this area's loan officer.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM

We had many CRP contracts that expired September 30, 2007 and will have many more that will expire September 30, 2008. Please be aware that we encourage these landowners to continue to conserve the land by using conservation practices on these acres. There may be some continuous CRP practices that landowners could implement on the most conservation sensitive acres and still farm the majority of the land. Continuous CRP rental rates are usually higher than regular rental rates and cost-share rates for some of the practices are high. Check with our office or Albert Moore, NRCS, for more information on Continuous CRP practices.

We would also like to remind all of the CRP participants of the regulations concerning certifying their acreage every year (crop report), and farm maintenance requirements. There is to be no haying and/or grazing of CRP acreage unless it has been specifically designated for the county and prior request and approval has been obtained from the County Committee. Any thinning of CRP trees also must be approved by the County Committee before the thinning is done. All maintenance should be performed according to the signed and approved farm plan that was obtained when the CRP went into effect.

2005/2006/2007 CROP DISASTER AND LCP PROGRAM

Applications are still being accepted for crop losses for 2005, 2006, and 2007 crop years for any producers who had these crops covered under the Crop Insurance or Non-insurable Crop Disaster Assistance (NAP). Losses of 35% or more of historical yields for covered crops for either of these years may be eligible for a disaster payment. These losses include losses for the 2007 crop year from Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2007. The Livestock Compensation Program is also available for livestock producers for the 2007 crop year. Eligible livestock is livestock that was on your farm on either January 1 or April 6, 2007. Even if all livestock has since been sold, they would still be eligible for compensation if they were on hand on one of these dates. Eligible livestock are: beef (cows, bulls, calves over 500 lbs. on hand on 1/1/07 or 4/6/07) dairy (same as beef), sheep and goats (any weight). If you have/had livestock and have not applied for this program, please call the office to set a time to come and make application.



CROP REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Acreage reports are required for all FSA programs and must be made by the applicable reporting date. Small grains must be reported by May 15, 2008. All other crops, including CRP certification and grassland, must be reported by June 30, 2008. The date/s the crops are planted are required when reporting. **It is important that any prevented planting or failed acreage of a crop be reported within 15 days of the final planting date or the date that the crop fails. This record of approved prevented planting/failed acreage can be very important to reports of disaster conditions and disaster aid.**

NON INSURABLE CROP COVERAGE AND CROP INSURANCE

As a reminder to all NAP insured producers: **Production record keeping and reporting is mandatory!** Crop losses must be reported within 15 days of loss event, with all applicable information reported (cause & date of loss, etc.). Final inspection **must** be done by a loss adjuster before a payment can be made. This would be when all harvest of the crop for the intended purpose is complete. Subsequent production, for other than intended purpose, will be counted differently. Please remember that all crops must be reported by June 30, 2008 (or 15 days after planting if planting date is after June 30th) All 2007 production for 2007 covered crops, not previously reported, must also be reported by June 30th. **READ FACT SHEETS DISTRIBUTED FOR ALL RULES FOR THIS COVERAGE.**

CHANGES IN PERSONNEL

We would like to welcome our new COC Advisor, Marilyn Hensley. Marilyn joined the Committee as the new advisor March 1, 2008. We would also like to thank our former Advisor, Pat Mintz, for her dedicated service for the last 9 years. Pat has been a great asset to the Committee and we know that Marilyn will also do an outstanding job. We would also like to inform everyone that Nancy Bradshaw, Program Technician since May 2006, is no longer part of the office staff due to illness. We miss Nancy very much. Everyone who had the opportunity to meet her found out quickly what a special person she is.

CHANGES IN RECORDS

If there are ANY changes in your address, farm ownership/operation, banking information, etc. please let us know so that we can keep our records updated and current.

NO NEW FARM BILL AS YET-----HOPEFULLY SOON!

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