



June 8, 2010

# WARREN COUNTY NEWS



## WARREN COUNTY USDA Service Center

### Warren County FSA

820 US Hwy 158 Bus W  
P. O. Box 397  
Warrenton, N. C. 27589  
(252) 257-4141 (phone)  
(252) 257-4499 (fax)

### Hours

Monday – Friday  
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

### County Committee

Calvin Seaman - Chairperson  
John Skinner – Vice  
Chairperson  
Raeford Pernell – Regular  
Member  
James E. Davis - Advisor  
Billy Richardson - Advisor  
Brenda Keeter - Advisor

### Staff

Mary Lee H. Bass - CED  
Christeen Crudup - PT  
Cindy Robbins - PT  
Richard Thiele - FLM  
Bobby Capel - FLO

### District Director

Patricia Mabry

### Newsletter No. 3

### DATES TO REMEMBER

#### COC Meeting:

DATE: 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday

TIME: 8:30 a.m.

Place: FSA Office  
820 Hwy 158 Bus  
Warrenton NC

**2010 ACREAGE REPORTS** – Your acreage report (FSA-578) is one of the most important documents in this office and is the basis for determining program benefits. An accurate report is important to you! June 30<sup>th</sup> is the deadline to certify your 2010 crops. Late-filed fees will apply after this date. You must provide your planting date for each field. Report failed or prevented planting acreages immediately to FSA; ask to file form CCC-576 to ensure proper planted history credit. Be sure to ask for producer prints for yourself and your insurance agent, as we will not be able to mail crop reports to agents.

**CRP CERTIFICATION AND CRP COVER MAINTENANCE** – Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported annually to receive annual rental payments. Remember to maintain and manage your CRP acres according to your individual conservation plan. Please make sure you: 1) have adequate approved vegetative cover to control erosion; 2) control weeds and other types of undesirable vegetation; and 3) take control measures outside of the primary nesting season. Mowing for cosmetic purposes is prohibited. Continuous signup for new contracts and practices is available.

**NAP PRODUCERS** – NAP producers should turn in 2009 production evidence by June 30, 2010, for determining your Actual Production History (APH). If you have a loss in 2010 but submit your 2009 production evidence after June 30<sup>th</sup>, the overall yield used to determine your claim can be substantially lowered, resulting in reduced payments. Don't wait – turn in your 2009 production records NOW.

If you purchased NAP coverage on a particular crop but did not plant it for 2010, you must submit a “zero” acreage report. Notices of loss and prevented planting on NAP crops should be reported on Form CCC-576 to FSA within 15 calendar days after the disaster occurrence or date damage to the specific crop acreage is apparent to the producer. NAP regulations do not allow loss notification by phone. We can accept form CCC-576 by FAX or MAIL (postmarked date will be used as the filing date).

**ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME** - USDA has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Internal Revenue Service to establish an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent will be required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to FSA.

The agreement ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs.

Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-927 (Individual) and/or CCC-928 (Legal Entity) to the Internal Revenue Service by June 15 to avoid interruption of program benefits. These forms may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices or online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainervlet>.

**ACTIVELY ENGAGED** - USDA has amended the rules that govern the requirements to be “actively engaged” in farming. These rules apply to eligibility for payments under the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) or Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program administered by FSA.

Normally the stockholder or a member of a legal entity must make contributions of active personal labor and/or active personal management for the farming operation. The contributions are to be performed on regular basis, must be identifiable, and separate from the contributions of others.

The exception to this rule for a stockholder or member of a legal entity only occurs if both of the following apply:

- At least half of the interest in the legal entity is held by stockholders or members who are providing active personal labor or active personal management; and
- The total direct payments received, both directly and indirectly, by the legal entity and each of the members cannot exceed \$40,000.

**FARM LOANS:** Please call Bobby Capel at 252-534-5331, Ext. 2 for more information on Farm Loans.

**SODBUSTER, SWAMPBUSTER** - FSA programs require compliance with sodbuster and swampbuster provisions. These provisions require producers to follow an approved conservation system on all highly erodible land planted to an annual crop as determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Be sure to have determinations made on any new land you plan to plant to annual crops. If you plan to plant a different crop on your current cropland, check with NRCS to assure the new crop will qualify under your conservation system.

Swampbuster provisions state that converting a wetland to make possible the planting of a crop will result in the loss of all USDA benefits. To avoid this possibility it is strongly recommended that producers check with NRCS before starting to work in the fields.

**COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS** – The election of a county committee-person, in LAA-2, which consists of Hawtree, Judkins, River and Sixpound townships, to the county committee is important to ALL farmers and ranchers with large or small operations. LAA-2 is currently represented by John L. C. Skinner. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a direct link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. They work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers. Committees provide local input on many programs offered by FSA.

**Election Period** – The nomination period begins June 15, 2010 and ends August 2, 2010. Nominations may be submitted now. Nomination forms for the 2010 election must be postmarked or received by close of business in the local FSA county office by August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Nominations** – A nomination form signed by the nominee is needed to nominate an individual. The form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. The nomination form is included in this mailing, is available at your local FSA county office and online a [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program and resides/farms in the LAA holding elections may be nominated for candidacy for the committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers are encouraged to participate. In addition, organizations representing socially disadvantaged (minorities and women) farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates.

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters in LAA-2 by November 5, 2010, and must be returned to the FSA county office or postmarked by December 6, 2010. Who can vote – LAA-2 agricultural producers of legal voting age can vote if they have an interest in a farm, participate or cooperate in any FSA program. FSA POA cannot vote as authorized signature. A person who is not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm can also vote. Check with your local FSA office for voting requirements and eligibility. No one can be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

**2010 CROP LOANS** – As a marketing tool, farm-stored and warehouse-stored crop loans are available to producers. To place a crop under loan, beneficial interest must be maintained until the loan is repaid. CCC will take a lien on the crop at the time of the loan, and you must request prior authorization to move the crop when you need to deliver and sell the crop to repay the loan. Loans mature 9 months after the month of disbursement. Since April 15, 2009, FSA began using an improved and more stable system for determining loan repayment rates and loan deficiency payment (LDP) rates for wheat, feed grains, oilseeds and pulse crops. The new method reduces the effects daily market volatilities have on loan repayment rates and provides more certainty for producers. The loan repayment rate may now be determined as the lesser of the loan rate plus interest or a rate based on: 1) average market prices during the previous 30 days, or 2) average market prices during the preceding 5 days. This new method replaces the previous method of repayments based on daily market rates.

**2010 CROP LDP'S** – Be sure to complete a Page 1 of Form CCC-633EZ now which serves as your statement of intention to FSA to request and receive LDP benefits for all of your 2010 crops. Page 2 is used for grains and Page 3 for cotton and these are completed at the time you request your LDP. As harvest time approaches, watch the market rates for availability.

**GROWING SEASON INSPECTIONS** – County FSA office staff will be performing growing season inspections on selected producers again this year for both Federal Crop insured crops and NAP crops. FSA is required to refer to RMA all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse of the Federal Crop Insurance Program. Anyone wishing to report such acts should contact their local FSA office, RMA or the Office of the Inspector General. The USDA hotline number is 1-800-424-9121.

**HONEY LOANS** – To be eligible for a loan, the producer must have produced honey in the United States during the calendar year for which the loan is requested, and extracted the honey on or before December 31 of the applicable crop year and have continuous beneficial interest in the honey through date of repayment of the loan. Producers are responsible for maintaining the quality of farm-stored honey during the term of the loan. The containers must be marked with the producer's name, type of honey, number of containers and net weight. Pre-loan inspections are required before the loans can be disbursed.

**OUTREACH** – The Warren County FSA Office is committed to ensuring that all persons are aware of programs and benefits available to them. FSA programs are administered to ensure equal opportunity for participation and service for all persons to the fullest extent of the law. Representatives are available to present information to community and civic groups and organizations. Anyone interested in having an official meeting with his/her group should contact this office.

**SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS** – Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff directly or by phone.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable sex, marital status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Person with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (TDD), USDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider.