



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

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FSA Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday
8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

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Farm Service Agency

Alamance County Farm Service Agency

Newsletter

Number 5

NOVEMBER 2006

COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Ballots for this year's county committee election being held for Local Administrative Area 2 (LAA2, were mailed to eligible voters on November 3, 2006. Townships included in LAA2 are Graham - Haw River, Melville, Pleasant Grove and Thompson Townships. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Alamance County Farm Service Agency office by the close of business on **December 4, 2006**. Instructions for voting are included with ballot. **If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight December 4, 2006**

The candidates for this year's election are Richard A. Enoch and William Covington.

Eligible voters are persons meeting requirements listed below

- Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as either an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper, or a partner in a general partnership or member of a joint venture that has an interest in a farm as an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper,
- Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm; and
- Is eligible to participate in any FSA program that is provided by law, regardless of the status of funding.

Ballots will be counted on Monday, December 11, 2006 at 11:00 a.m. in the Alamance County Farm Service Agency. The counting of the ballots is open to the public.

RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAM

USDA Rural Development Agency will be sponsoring an information meeting concerning the 2002 Farm Bill's Section 9006 Renewable Energy Program. **The meeting will be held on November 14, 2006 at 1:00PM in the Alamance County Agricultural Service Center's Auditorium located at 209 N Graham Hopedale Road, Burlington, NC 27217.** If you plan to attend this meeting, please call Chuck Sadler at 252-438-3134, ext 4, so he may know how many to expect.

NONINSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides financial assistance to eligible producers affected by natural disasters. This federally funded program covers noninsurable crop losses and planting prevented by disasters.

An eligible producer is a landowner, tenant, or sharecropper who shares in the risk of producing an eligible crop. If you have questions regarding your eligibility, please contact the Farm Service Agency.

Eligible crops include commercial crops and other agricultural commodities produced for food (including livestock feed) or fiber for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is unavailable.

Please contact a crop insurance agent if you have questions regarding whether a crop is insurable in your county. For questions regarding whether a crop is eligible for NAP coverage, please contact the Farm Service Agency.

To apply for coverage you must file Form CCC-471, Application for Coverage, and pay the applicable service fees. The application and service fees must be filed by the application closing date. The service fee is equal to \$100 per crop per county, or \$300 per producer per county, not to exceed a total of \$900 per producer for all counties.

November 20, 2006

- ❖ Alfalfa, Apples, Blackberries, Blueberries, Canberries, Grapes, Grazing (grass/mixed forage), Hay (mixed forage & grass), Honey, Lespedeza, Peaches, Pecans, Plums, Raspberries



Burlington Service Center
Farm Service Agency
Alamance County
209 N Graham Hopedale Road
Burlington NC 27217
Official Business



2007 DIRECT AND COUNTER-CYCLICAL PROGRAM SIGNUP

The enrollment period for the 2007 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) began October 1.

Producers and landowners must sign contracts annually under the DCP.

Producers have until June 1, 2007, to enroll for the 2007 crop year. Late-filed applications will be accepted through September 30, 2007, if accompanied by a \$100 late fee. Producers can opt out of participating in the program any year if they choose.

The 2002 Farm Bill authorizes direct and counter-cyclical payments to enrolled producers. Both payments are computed using the base acres and payment yields established by statute regardless of market prices. Counter-cyclical payment rates, on the other hand, vary depending on market prices.

Counter-cyclical payments are issued only when the effective price (which takes into account the direct payment rate, market price and loan rate) for a crop is below the target price for the commodity

OFFICE CLOSINGS

November 10, 2006 – Veteran's Day



November 23, 2006 – Thanksgiving Day



FARM RECONSTITUTIONS

In program terminology, 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 necessary. 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 current year, recons must be requested by Aug. 1 for farms enrolled in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program.

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

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;

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.

If DCP direct payments have already been issued on a particular farm, the reconstitution will be effective for the next year, unless the payments are refunded.

DIRECT DEPOSITS

Producers receiving payments from our office must file an updated SF-1099A, Direct Deposit forms for any changes to your account(s) resulting in a new financial institution, checking account, savings account and/or routing number. If the necessary changes are not updated, your payment will reject, causing delays in receipt of your payment(s).

ALAMANCE COUNTY SOIL SURVEY MAPPING

Alamance County is in the process of updating its Soil Survey. This document provides valuable resource information to all farmers and landowners. Currently James Lewis of the Natural Resource Conservation Service and Roger Leab of NC Division of Soil and Water Conservation are the two soil scientists doing field mapping in Alamance County. They make soil maps by walking over the land and boring small holes with a soil auger to a depth of about 60 inches to identify different soil types. This information will be available for all landowners to use when making land use decisions for their property.

The soil scientists generally attempt to contact landowners before they map a tract of land, but they are not always able to do so because of the many absentee landowners and people that work during the day. If you have any questions regarding the soil survey contact the Alamance Soil and Water conservation District office at 336-228-1753 ext.3