

BEAUFORT-HYDE FSA NEWS

Issue 2

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DCP INFORMATION – Due to nation-wide software problems earlier this year at FSA, Washington officials have extended the deadline for 2007 DCP contract enrollment beyond the normal date of June 1. In Beaufort and Hyde Counties, we ask that you **complete your DCP sign-up by Monday, July 2, 2007**. Remember, you must enroll your farm each year in order to participate. Producers enrolling farms from August 4 thru September 30, 2007, will be charged a late-filed fee of \$100 per farm. DCP provisions do not permit enrollment on or after October 1, 2007.

Farms that will be involved in reconstitutions cannot be enrolled until recons are completed. Be sure you are renting any farm you enroll and if you plant vegetables or "swap" land, you should hold off on enrolling until you are sure of producer shares on these farms. Shares on your acreage report should match the shares on your DCP contract. Only those persons who actually share in the risk of production are eligible to receive DCP payments. All producers who share on base acres MUST share in direct and counter cyclical payments. The planting of fruits and vegetables on DCP base acreage may affect the 2007 DCP payment with a payment reduction or contract violation. Contact us prior to planting any fruits or vegetables if you have questions regarding the fruit and vegetable provisions. Remember that all base acreage should be protected from erosion and weeds should be controlled throughout the year.

2007 ACREAGE REPORTS – Your acreage report (FSA-578) is THE most important document in this office and is the basis for determining program benefits. An accurate report is important to you and to us. **Please certify your 2007 crops by MONDAY, July 2.** Like last year, you must also provide your planting date for each field. This should be the same date that you report to crop insurance. Appointments are available thru June 22 by calling Theresa Bright. Producers who report June 25 thru July 2 will be assisted first-come, first-serve. Be sure to ask for producer prints for yourself and your insurance agent.

REMINDERS:

- 1) Your FSA office will be **CLOSED** for:
Independence Day - Wednesday, July 4th
- 2) **Deadline to report your 2007 crop acreage is MONDAY, JULY 2.**
- 3) Report failed or prevented planting acreages immediately to FSA; ask to file form CCC-576 to ensure proper planted history credit.
- 4) Report changes in farm operation, ownership, address or direct deposit banking information.

\$\$\$Money Matters\$\$\$ – If you still receive your FSA payments by paper check, please read this section for some important advice. Currently, we have only one printer in this office that will print paper checks. It is very old and unreliable. When it does not work properly, checks must be manually prepared on a typewriter and then mailed. **Payments made by this method are processed last.** This applies to payments from all programs – CRP, CREP, tobacco buyout, DCP etc. **However, there is an easy remedy: sign-up for direct deposit of all your FSA payments.** Direct deposit is the safest and fastest way to receive your money! Funds can be deposited into your checking or savings account and are usually available within 3 business days. Call your FSA Office and ask to file form SF-1199A.

Note: if you're already receiving payments thru direct deposit, please notify the FSA Office of any changes to your account or routing numbers. Thanks! ☺

NAP PRODUCERS – NAP Producers should turn in 2006 production evidence by June 30, 2007, for determining your Actual Production History (APH). If you have a loss in 2007 but submit your 2006 production evidence after June 30, the overall yield used to determine your claim can be substantially lowered, resulting in reduced payments. Don't wait - turn in your 2006 production records this month.

If you purchased NAP coverage on a particular crop but did not plant it for 2007, you must submit a "zero" acreage report. **Notices of loss 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 no longer allow loss notification by phone. We can accept form CCC-576 by fax or mail (postmarked date will be used as the filing date). For prevented planting notice, report within 15 calendar days from the final planting date.

BOLL WEEVIL ERADICATION PROGRAM -

Cotton producers will continue to certify acreage as in the past at the FSA Office. However, NCDA&CS will send billing invoices directly to producers. Payments will not be accepted at your local FSA Office. To avoid late charges, report your cotton acreage by July 2. The assessment for the 2007 Boll Weevil Eradication Program is \$2.50 per acre.

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Funding to mail newsletters is limited. Share your email address with us to receive important, and brief, reminders about farm programs.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

This fall, we must bid farewell to two of our long-serving committee members: Chairperson Steve Griffin and Vice-Chairperson Glenn Spencer. Both gentlemen have reached the limit on eligible years of service to the Beaufort-Hyde FSA County Committee. We thank them for their dedication to the farmers of Beaufort and Hyde Counties!

The election of agricultural producers to the FSA County Committee is important to ALL farmers and ranchers with large or small operations. 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.

This year, eligible voters in LAA 2 in Beaufort County and LAA 5 in Hyde County will select representatives to the FSA County Committee. LAA 2 consists of Washington and Long Acre; LAA 5 includes Scranton, Fairfield, Ponzer, Grassy Ridge and Sladesville.

Committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers who serve on committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs their counties offer. They work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers. Committees provide local input on: commodity price support loans and payments; establishment of allotments and yields; conservation programs; incentive, indemnity, and disaster payments for some commodities; and other farm disaster assistance.

Election Period - Nomination period began **June 1, 2007** and ends **August 1, 2007**. Nomination forms for the 2007 election must be postmarked or received by close of business in the local FSA county office on August 1, 2007.

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 (FSA-669A) is printed on the back of this newsletter. The form is also available at your local FSA county office and online at:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections>

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy for the committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. 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 and LAA 5 by **November 3, 2007**, and must be returned to the FSA county office or postmarked by **December 4, 2007**.

Who Can Vote - Agricultural producers of legal voting age can vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. 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.

CRP COVER MAINTENANCE - Remember to maintain your Conservation Reserve Program (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. As always, mowing for cosmetic purposes is prohibited.

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS (FSFL) - FSFL provides low-interest financing for producers to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. Several types of new cribs, bins and storage structures and new electrical and safety equipment are eligible expenses. The maximum loan amount is \$100,000. A 15% cash down payment is needed and the loan term is 7 years. Loans are repaid in equal amortized installments.

SOCIALLY-DISADVANTAGED LOANS - FSA makes and guarantees loans to socially-disadvantaged applicants to buy and operate family-size farms and ranches. Funds specifically for such loans are reserved each year. A socially-disadvantaged farmer is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of the group. For program purposes, socially-disadvantaged groups are American Indians and Alaskan Natives; African Americans; Hispanics; women; and Asians and Pacific Islanders. Learn more from Paula Nicholls, Farm Loan Manager.

GROWING SEASON INSPECTIONS - FSA is required to assist the Risk Management Agency (RMA) and insurance providers in monitoring crop conditions throughout the 2007 growing season. County FSA office staff will be performing growing season inspections on selected producers again this year. 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.

OUTREACH - FSA is committed to informing all persons of the programs that it administers. As part of our Outreach Plan, the CED is available to speak to groups upon request.

BEAUFORT-HYDE COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE

Steve Griffin, Chairperson	Glenn Spencer, Vice-Chairperson
Jimmy Brinn, Sr., Member	Carl Cahoon, Jr., Member
Shawn Harding, Member	Lemmie Blount, Advisor
Charles Slade, Advisor	

Your FSA Committee meets the first Wednesday of each month at 9:00 AM in the FSA Office. All meetings are open to the public.

FSA STAFF

Mike Boyd	Theresa Bright
Bonnie Conner	Annette Jefferson
Maggie Marcenelle	Rene Perry
Clint Rideout, FLOT	Paula Nicholls, FLM
Sue Smithwick, FLM	Jeanie Setser, CED
James Davenport, District Director	

Office hours are from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

Upon request, reasonable accommodations will be made for individuals with disabilities or vision or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please contact Jeanie Setser, CED at 252-946-1076.

Visit our website: www.fsa.usda.gov