

BEAUFORT-HYDE FSA NEWS

Issue 3

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DISASTER PROGRAMS – FSA is currently offering a variety of disaster assistance. Two such programs are related to losses incurred during Hurricane Ophelia of 2005. The Livestock Incentive Program (LIP) pays livestock owners and growers for livestock deaths during the period of Sept 11-Nov 10, 2005. The deaths must have been caused by Hurricane Ophelia. The Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) provides benefits to livestock producers who suffered feed losses or incurred additional feed costs directly resulting from Hurricane Ophelia.

Coming in mid-October, the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) will compensate growers with crop insurance or NAP coverage for quantity and quality losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007. The 2007 crop must have been planted by February 28, 2007, so CDP will cover wheat damaged by the 2007 Easter freeze. Producers must choose only one year to receive benefits and may apply for losses to multiple crops as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year. Quantity losses in excess of 35% are eligible for CDP. The payment rate is set at 42% of the established price. Quality losses must be at least 25% of the value that all affected production of the crop would have had without suffering a quality loss. CDP payments will be held to the "95% CAP", meaning the total of proceeds from any production sold, crop insurance or NAP payments, and CDP payments cannot exceed 95% of the total value of the crop in a normal year. Maximum assistance is set at \$80,000 per person. We hope to receive CDP training prior to the program's opening date. More information is available on the FSA website (<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>); click on "Find FSA Fact Sheets" and search under the topic "Disaster Assistance".

Some have asked about losses caused by the 2007 drought. On September 12, 2007, the Secretary declared a natural disaster in NC based on damages caused by drought and high temperatures. Beaufort County is included under this declaration. If you suffered a production or physical loss due this summer's drought, please contact Paula Nicholls to apply for an Emergency Loan by May 12, 2008.

REMINDERS:

- 1) **Your FSA office will be CLOSED for:**
Columbus Day – Monday, October 8th
- 2) **Report failed or prevented planting acreages immediately to FSA; ask to file form CCC-576 to ensure proper planted history credit.**
- 3) **Report changes in farm operation, ownership, address or direct deposit banking information.**

Commodity Loans\$\$\$ – FSA continues to offer commodity loans. The commodity pledged for loan can be stored at the warehouse or on your farm and you must keep the grain clean and safe from damages. Also, you must have produced the commodity and maintain "beneficial interest" in it. FSA will file a lien on the pledged grain with the NC Secretary of State. Once the commodity is under loan, you are required to obtain authorization from FSA before moving it. Commodity loans must be repaid by the last day of the 9th month after the month in which the loan is received. Loan rates are listed on the back of this newsletter.

\$\$\$DIRECT DEPOSIT\$\$\$ – What is the safest and fastest way to receive your FSA payments? DIRECT DEPOSIT!! 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.

DCP INFORMATION – You can expect to receive your final 2007 direct payments during the first few weeks of October. Producers who did not elect to receive the 22% direct advance will receive their entire direct payment for 2007 in one lump sum. The direct payment for a crop equals 85% of the farm's base acreage *times* the farm's direct payment yield *times* the direct payment rate *times* your share of the payment. 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.

ALL PRODUCERS – Notices of loss on insured and 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 notices, report within 15 calendar days from the final planting date.



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, 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. On the ballot, eligible voters will find candidates Andrew Arnold and Donnie Rogers for LAA 2 and candidates Edward Lee Clayton and Ray Tooley for LAA 5.

Committee members help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level and 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.

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.

NEW EMPLOYEES - We are delighted to introduce two additions to our local FSA family! Rene Perry transferred from Washington County FSA in May and has 3 years experience with FSA. She resides in Jamesville with husband, Kevin, and their two children. In addition to greeting and assisting you at the counter, Rene works with DCP. Pamela Hill joined as a temporary at the first of this month. She lives in Chocowinity with husband, Don, on their family farm. Pam does all office filing and helps out wherever needed. Welcome Rene and Pam! ☺☺☺

2007-CROP LOAN RATES

Beaufort

Corn	\$2.22/bushel
Soybeans	\$5.07/bushel
Cotton	\$0.5330/pound
Virginia Peanuts	\$355.32/ton

Hyde

Corn	\$2.20/bushel
Soybeans	\$5.07/bushel
Cotton	\$0.5330/pound

September 2007 Interest Rates

Commodity Loans	5.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	4.625%
Operating Loans	5.5%
Farm Ownership Loans	5.75%
All interest rates subject to change monthly.	

A NOTE FROM NRCS - Several times this year, producers have requested wetland determinations after the land had already been cleared. This makes the job more difficult for NRCS. In some instances, the landowner had cleared the land before the producer was aware of their actions. We certainly realize that you cannot control landowner actions. However, the Farm Bill Wetland Conservation compliance provisions still require you to avoid making commodity crop production possible on wetlands. Please help NRCS help you by requesting wetland determinations before land is logged or cleared. If you have questions, contact Rodney Woolard, District Conservationist, at 946-4989 ext 3.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP)

- Beaufort and Hyde producers may apply for 2008 EQIP through NRCS. Major practices include long-term no-till and nutrient and pest management as well as water control structures. Applications must be tract-specific and, if involving rented land, require a lease agreement for the lifespan of the practices requested. Applications received by NOVEMBER 1, 2007, will be ranked and considered first. For more info, please call NRCS at 946-4989 ext 3 or 926-4195.

EMERGENCY LOANS - On May 24, 2007, Ag Secretary Johanns declared a Secretarial Major disaster in the state of North Carolina due to abnormally low temperatures and freezing conditions that occurred from April 6-9, 2007. As a result farmers in the designated counties may apply for Emergency Loans for physical and production losses. January 24, 2008, is the deadline for filing an application. Learn more from Paula Nicholls, Farm Loan Manager.

SMALL GRAINS INSURANCE - RMA reminds you that September 30, 2007, is the final date to apply for crop insurance on wheat, barley or oats in NC. Current policyholders have until September 30 to make changes to their policies. Price elections for 2008 are: \$4.20/bu for wheat; \$2.80/bu for barley; and \$2.25/bu for oats.

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	Pamela Hill
Annette Jefferson	Maggie Marcenelle
Rene Perry	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