



September 2007

**Burke County
USDA
Service Center**

Burke-McDowell-Caldwell
FSA Office

130 Ammons Dr.
Suite 1
Morganton, NC 28655

828-439-9727 (phone)
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County Committee

John Cassavaugh-Chair
Brent Fox-Vice Chair
Mavin Carswell
Margaret DeLuca
Eddie Starnes

Alternates

Robert Walker
Joseph Quinn
JB Bowman
Gene Huffman
Steve Dillard

Advisors

Kathleen Cardwell
Shelia Asbury

Program Technicians

Claudia Austin
Janet Dzieszinski

Farm Loan Officer

Gary Guinn
828-765-5049

County Executive

Director
Kim Rumfelt

Burke-McDowell-Caldwell FSA News

HAY ALERT HOTLINE – a source for producers to order available alternative hay and forages from eastern NC through the NC Dept. of Ag & Consumer Services, 866-506-6222. The NC Dept. of Ag & Consumer Services also has a website for information on available hay sources both in NC and nationally at <http://www.ncagr.com/HayAlert/> and agricultural drought resource information can be found at <http://www.ncagr.com/drought/>.

NATURAL DISASTER REPORTING – Natural disasters caused by excessive rains, flooding, tornadoes, hurricanes, freezing temperatures, hail or drought can cause extensive damage to agricultural resources. FSA submits a loss report within 24 hours of a natural disaster. When a crop or planting is affected by a natural disaster please **notify our office immediately** to help us make an accurate report. In the case of drought, make a report as soon as crop losses become apparent. Proper reporting of such events is essential for the activation of certain USDA emergency programs.

CROP DISASTER PROGRAM (CDP) – *Signup begins October 15, 2007* for quantity losses from natural disasters that occurred in 2005, 2006 and for 2007 crops if the crop was planted before February 28, 2007. Producers must have suffered losses in excess of 35%. **Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) will be eligible for benefits.** Again, if your crop was planted before February 28, 2007 and you had the crop covered with insurance or NAP please visit our office beginning October 15, 2007.

NONINSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP) – provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occurs due to natural disasters. Application and service fees must be filed by the application closing date. The service fee is \$100 per crop per county or \$300 per producer per county, not to exceed a total of \$900 per producer with farming interests in multiple counties.

To remain eligible for NAP assistance producers must annually report crop acreage information and production information. Producers must provide verifiable production information in a manner that can be easily understood. When a crop or planting is affected by a natural disaster, you must notify our office within 15 calendar days of the date the loss became apparent to you.

NAP covers the amount of loss greater than 50 percent of the expected production, based on the approved yield and reported acreage. Expected production is the amount of the crop produced in the absence of a natural disaster. FSA compares expected production to actual production to determine the percentage of crop loss.

The 2008 application deadline date for the following crops is soon approaching. Up coming deadlines include: **Sept 30:** Barley, oats, rye, wheat. **November 20:** Alfalfa, apples, blackberries, blueberries, cane berries, grapes, **grazing, hay**, honey, lespedeza, peaches, pecans, plums and raspberries.

Note: Recent legislation on the Crop Disaster Program requires your crops to be covered by NAP or crop insurance. With the drought this year it would have been well worth \$100 to cover hay. Something to think about for 2008!

NATURAL DISASTER DESIGNATION S2584 – Secretarial designation from the drought and high temperatures was approved on September 12, 2007. This designation makes farm operators eligible to be considered for low-interest emergency loans from FSA, provided eligibility requirements are met. Deadline to apply is May 12, 2008. Your Farm Loan Officer is Gary Guinn and he can be reached at 828-765-5049.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Burke-McDowell-Caldwell
Farm Service Agency
130 Ammons Dr., Suite 1
Morganton, NC 28655

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VOTE! VOTE! VOTE IN THE FSA COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Local Administrative Area (LAA) 3, Caldwell County, is up for election which covers the townships of Globe, Wilson Creek, Johns River, Mulberry, Patterson, Yadkin Valley, and parts of Kings Creek, Lower Creek, and Lenoir. Ballots will be mailed November 2, 2007 and must be returned or post-marked by December 3, 2007. Don't forget to sign the label and attach where instructed.

UTILIZING GIS - The Farm Service Agency currently employs a Geographic Information System (GIS), a computer based tool for capturing, storing, mapping and analyzing geographic farm data. FSA uses GIS to replace the old manual system of hard copy maps and aerial photographs. This digital technology is faster and more accurate than the old way, and saves taxpayers money over the long term. The software can automatically calculate the size of each field and is connected to a database that contains cropping history for each particular field. GIS gives us the tools to provide quicker, more accurate information to producers.

WHAT IS CONTINUOUS CRP? The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program allows participants to voluntarily enroll acreage in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality and provide wildlife habitat and food sources.

Eligible landowners enter into 10- to 15-year contracts in return for receiving annual rental and perhaps maintenance, incentive and cost share payments. To be eligible, participants and acreage must meet certain requirements. If eligibility requirements are met, the Farm Service Agency will automatically accept enrollments of acreage into Continuous CRP. Landowners may enroll in the program at any time during the year.

FSA SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS - Proper signatures on Farm Service Agency contracts, applications and forms must be submitted before the document will be considered as filed. All entities, including revocable and irrevocable trusts, corporations, partnerships, estates, etc., **must provide evidence of signature authority** stipulating those individuals who are authorized to represent the entity. FSA cannot accept signatures without such documentation on file. Examples of acceptable evidence include trust agreements, corporate charters or resolutions, partnership agreements and court orders of appointment. Spouses can sign for one another on most program documents unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office staff. Form FSA-211 may be filed to delegate signature authority for FSA program purposes to another individual.

CHANGES – Producers are reminded if they have bought or sold agricultural land or changed bank accounts to please inform our office. These **changes must be updated** in order to maintain eligibility and so payments will be deposited to your bank account timely.

REMINDERS – The FSA office will be closed Monday, October 8, 2007 for Columbus Day.

<p>The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons 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 USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.</p>
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