



**UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE  
FARM SERVICE AGENCY  
CABARRUS-MECKLENBURG  
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**Farm Service Agency  
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Website: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>  
FSA Office Hours  
Monday – Friday  
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

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**Farm Service Agency**

**Cabarrus-Mecklenburg Farm Service Agency**

**Newsletter**

Number 9

September 14, 2007

**EMERGENCY CONSERVATION  
PROGRAM FOR DROUGHT  
AVAILABLE**

A lack of moisture, over an extended period of time, has caused producers in the Cabarrus and Mecklenburg areas to suffer from the effects of severe drought conditions. Farms experiencing severe drought conditions may be eligible for cost-share assistance under the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP). This ECP is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency, which provides cost-share assistance if the damage is so severe that water available for livestock or orchards and vineyards has been reduced below normal to the extent that neither can survive without additional water.

A producer qualifying for ECP assistance may receive cost share not to exceed 75 percent of the cost of installing eligible temporary measures. Cost sharing for permanent measures is based on 50 percent of the total eligible cost. Cost-share assistance is limited to \$200,000 per natural disaster. Approved practices and measures may include:

- o Installing pipelines or other facilities for livestock water or existing irrigation systems for orchards and vineyards.
- o Constructing and deepening wells for livestock water.
- o Developing springs or seeps for livestock water.

Producers who have experienced severe drought conditions requiring outside assistance to provide supplemental emergency livestock water may contact the Cabarrus-Mecklenburg Farm Service Agency. Requests for assistance will be accepted at the Cabarrus-Mecklenburg

Farm Service Agency through **September 24, 2007.**

To be eligible for cost shares, practices shall not be started until a request has first been filed at the Farm Service Agency and an onsite inspection of the problem area has been made by the Farm Service Agency. The Cabarrus-Mecklenburg Farm Service Agency Committee will review the inspection findings when considering the request for cost shares.

**PAYMENT LIMITATIONS**

USDA payments and benefits are subject to producer eligibility and limitation provisions as defined by law. Documents and forms to determine eligibility and limitation once completed are reviewed on an annual basis.

It is the producer's responsibility to report changes in the farming operation that may affect payment eligibility and payment limitation.

The following limitations apply to Direct and Counter-cyclical Program payments for each contract year. For all covered commodities (except peanuts): \$40,000 for direct payments and \$65,000 for counter-cyclical payments. For peanuts: \$40,000 for direct payments and \$65,000 for counter-cyclical payments.

The Environmental Quality Incentive Program has a \$450,000 payment limitation.

The Conservation Reserve Program annual limit is \$50,000 per person.

Entities such as corporations, limited partnerships, trusts and estates are required to provide names, addresses, and ID numbers of their members. These entities should also identify every payment under more than one entity.



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Official Business

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME

Effective through 2008, an individual or entity shall not be eligible for certain program benefits during a crop, program or fiscal year if both of the following apply.

- The three-year average of the adjusted gross income for the individual or entity exceeds \$2.5 million; and
- Less than 75 percent of the average AGI is derived from farming, ranching or forestry operations.

### FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS

Low cost loans for storage facilities are available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including wheat, rice, soybeans and corn.

The seven-year Farm Storage Facility Loans are available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities. Eligible facilities include new conventional-type cribs or bins and new and remanufactured oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures.

All farm storage facility loans are secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85 percent of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to \$100,000, for each borrower.

### COMMODITY LOANS AVAILABLE

Loans on agricultural commodities are available through the Farm Service Agency. To be eligible for a loan, crops must be produced on a farm by a producer who has filed a crop acreage report for 2006, meets conservation compliance and has filed a person determination application.

#### 2007 Loan Rates:

Wheat	2.56 per Bushel
Oats	1.39 per Bushel
Barley	1.65 per Bushel
Corn	2.19 per Bushel
Grain Sorghum	3.70 per Cwt
Cotton	.5390 per Cwt.
Soybeans:	
Cabarrus	5.07 per Bushel
Mecklenburg	5.12 per Bushel

Loans are available on 2007 crops of wheat, barley and oats through March 31, 2008 and for 2007 crops of corn, grain sorghum, cotton and soybeans through May 31, 2008.

The interest rate for loans disbursed in September is 5.75%.

Loans provide immediate cash for farmers and allows them sufficient time to make important marketing decisions, or to hold the grain for feeding later. The program guarantees participating farmers a minimum price, but not necessarily a profit.

### REPORTING CROP LOSSES

If you had any failed crop acres, give serious thought to report them before destroying crop evidence. If Congress authorizes a crop disaster program in the future, proof of failed acreage may be required for your participation.

It's important to report failed acreage not brought to harvest to the county office staff prior to destruction. Ensuring that failed acres are documented could be the determining factor in whether you are eligible for future crop disaster program payments.

If you are experiencing low crop yields, you should keep good production records, but you don't need to report this acreage right now.

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. For losses on crops covered by the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), you must contact the FSA county office staff within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent. Producers with crop insurance should contact their local agent when losses occur and before destroying the crop.