



**UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE**

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PHONE 919-542-2244 ex 2
FAX 919-542-4868
FLM phone 704-788-2107
WEBSITE www.fsa.usda.gov
Email: claudia.a.austin@nc.usda.gov

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**OFFICE HOURS
Monday through Friday**

8:00 am to 4:30 pm

Farm Service Agency

Chatham County Farm Service Agency

Newsletter

September 2007



CROP AND LIVESTOCK LOSSES

Producers who have experienced crop and/or livestock losses are encouraged to put a summary of the losses in writing and mail, fax, deliver or email the summary to the county office. Please include your name, address, crop(s) or type of livestock that has experienced the loss and what weather condition caused the loss. For example, a statement such as "In the month of August I have lost (number) beef calves due to excessive heat" or "My total corn crop of (number) acres is at a 50% loss due to the drought and excessive heat. So far, there is no program for losses due to 2007 drought or excessive heat. The Farm Service Agency is trying to get actual numbers or percentages of losses in order to support any disaster assistance program that may be proposed.

OFFICE CLOSING

**The Chatham County FSA Office will be closed,
Monday, September 3, in observance of
Labor Day**



CROP DISASTER PROGRAM

Sign up begins October 15, 2007 for producers who suffered quantity and quality losses from weather disasters to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops that were planted before February 28, 2007. However, only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year to apply for benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year. Farmers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35% to be eligible for CDP.



SMILE FOR THE MONTH

A man saw a distraught teenager weeping beside her car. "Do you need some help?" he asked. She replied, "I knew I should have replaced the battery to this remote door unlocker. Now I can't get into my car. Do you think they (pointing to a distant convenience store) would have a battery to fit this?" "Hmmm," he said. "Do you have an alarm, too?" "No, just this remote thingy," she answered, handing it and the car keys to him. As he took the key and manually unlocked the door, he replied, "Why don't you drive over there and check about the batteries. It's a long walk."



**EMERGENCY LOANS FOR APRIL
FREEZE**

Emergency loans are available to producers in Chatham County who suffered freeze damage to crops on April 7-9, 2007. To be eligible you must show a 30% loss in a single enterprise. Then, the standard Farm Service Agency eligibility requirements apply. You will have to demonstrate that you cannot get the necessary credit from conventional lenders, be credit worthy, be a full time family size farmer, and not be delinquent on any Federal debt, among other requirements. The last day to apply for an emergency loan is January 24, 2008.

DCP PAYMENTS

Participants in the Direct & Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) will be receiving the 2007 final payments around October 15. Also the annual CRP rental payments will be issued around the same time. Please keep in mind that Farm Service Agency payments are sent by direct deposit. When you receive your statement that the payment has been issued, please wait 3 business days before checking with your bank to ascertain that the payment is in your account.

**TOBACCO BUY-OUT CHANGES DEADLINE
FOR 2007**

If a quota holder or producer is deceased and the Tobacco Transition Payment Program (TTPP) contract and payment needs to be changed into an heir's or spouse's name, the forms must be completed in the county office by November 1, 2007, in order to receive a 2008 TTPP payment. Tobacco buyout payments will be issued annually in January. Also, FSA reminds tobacco quota holders and producers that they have until November 1, 2007, to sell their remaining seven annual payments to a successor in order to receive a lump-sum payment. Certain requirements must be met to qualify for lump-sum payments. More information on lump-sum payments is available online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/tobacco/Default.htm> or by calling the National Tobacco Processing Center at 1-800-673-2331.

CONSERVATION FUNDS AVAILABLE

The Chatham Soil and Water Conservation District would like to announce an opportunity for funding of conservation practices through the NC Ag Cost Share Program. Last year the District received over \$123,000 to help farm owners and operators improve water quality in Chatham County, and this year the District expects to receive approximately the same amount. Landowners and operators of agricultural operations who have a water quality issue on their property and have been in business for three years are eligible for this funding. During this past fiscal year (July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007), 12 producers participated in the program and began installing practices such as: converting 21 acres of crop land from conventional cropping to No-till cropping; exclude livestock from streams and ponds; and provide 6 farmers the equipment needed to agronomically apply waste. In addition to these success stories, the funding from NC Ag Cost Share Program is helping to install the first gasifier in the county, a new technology (similar to an incinerator but uses less fuel and has less of an impact on air quality) used to safely dispose of animal mortality. We look forward to another year of accomplishments. The Chatham Soil and Water Conservation District is currently accepting

applications for the 2008 NC Ag Cost Share allocation for Best Management Practices. All applications received will be evaluated and ranked according to District priorities with concern to water quality. To apply for technical and financial assistance for the installation of Best Management Practices you may call Kathryn Morris at 919-542-8240 or come by the Chatham Soil and Water Conservation District office located in the Agriculture Building in Pittsboro.



CATTLE PRODUCERS

Cattle producers who are in need of hay or have hay to sell should email or fax this information to the Chatham County Extension Service or to the Farm Service Agency. You should put your name, address, telephone number and an estimated number of rolls of hay you will need or have available for sale. Both agencies are compiling these lists in order to assist farmers in finding hay. Also the NCDA is also researching trucking hay into North Carolina for cattle farmers, so they need to have correct hay tonnage needs. Please be aware that any hay trucked in by NCDA will be expensive. The fax for FSA is 919-542-4868 and email is claudia.a.austin@nc.usda.gov. The fax for the Extension Service is 919-542-8246 and email is sam_groce@ncsu.edu. Also NCDA has a website to help hay buyers/sellers to find each other. The website is: <http://www.ncagr.com/HayAlert/>