

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CHEROKEE-CLAY-GRAHAM AREA FSA OFFICE**

**225 Valley River Ave., Suite J
Murphy, NC 28906**

June 2007

Phone: (828) 837-2721, ext. 2 or Graham Co. 479-4108, ext. 2

TO: Cherokee, Clay & Graham Farmers, Other Agencies and News Media

FROM: County Office Staff: Marsha Mashburn, CED
Barbara Tatham, PT & Anita Solesbee, PT
Area Committee: Lee Ferguson, Crystal Davis, Gerald Phillips
Jerry Anderson & Wendell Moore
Minority Advisors: Reba Davis & Nancy Brooks

REPORT LOSSES

You need to call or come by the FSA office and let us know the percentage of loss your crops, including hay land and/or pastureland, is suffering from the drought conditions. If Congress authorizes a crop disaster program in the future, proof of a loss and/or failed acres may be required for your participation. It is also very important that you keep all production records on the crops when harvested.

FOREIGN INVESTMENT DISCLOSURE (AFIDA)

The American Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires any non-citizen to report all farmland ownership interests. This can be done at all Farm Service Agency Offices. Failure to do so might result in fines up to 25% of the value of the farmland in question. Please refer all foreign owners to FSA.

ACREAGE REPORTING

Acreage reports are required if you want to be eligible for FSA programs. An acreage report for all small grain crops must be filed by June 30th and for all other crops by July 15th. If the normal planting date for a crop is after these dates, you have 15 days after planting to report those crops to your FSA Office.

CONTINUOUS CRP

The continuous CRP is a private lands environmental improvement program that allows participants the opportunity to enroll acreages in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality and provide wildlife habitat and food sources. To be eligible for enrollment participants and acreage must meet certain requirements. If eligible you would enter into a contract for 10-15 years. In return you would receive annual rental and maintenance payments, incentive payments for certain activities, and cost share for establishment. Landowners may enroll in the program at any time during the year. If interested contact FSA or NRCS for more information.

CHANGES IN FARM RECORDS/OPERATIONS

If there are any changes in your farming operation for 2007, please report this to your FSA Office as soon as possible. First of all we need any updated contact information for you. If your name, address, phone numbers, email or any other personal information has changed please let us know. Also if you have bought or sold any farmland, leased any new land, or dropped any land which you formerly tended, please make us aware of all changes. We can serve you more quickly and efficiently if you keep us up to date on all farm or personal changes.

FARM LOAN FUNDS AVAILABLE

Funds are presently available for ownership loans, operating loans, youth loans, socially advantage loans, and/or guaranteed loans. If you are in need of loan assistance you may contact Elaine Hodgins at (828) 524-3175

COC ELECTION NOMINATIONS

From June 15 through August 1, farmers from Graham County only will nominate candidates for election to the Farm Service Agency County Committee. This is an important time for Graham County because county committee members make decisions that have significant effects on you and the area’s agricultural sector as a whole. Producers who are eligible to vote and who participate or cooperate in an FSA program and are of legal voting age may be nominated to serve on the county committee.

The FSA Office will be closed July 4, 2007.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, & marital status. Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs. Persons with disabilities who require alternate means of communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA, Office of Communications at 202-720-5881 (voice) or 202-720-7808 (TDD). To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, US Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250, or call 202-720-7327 (voice) or 202-720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.

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