

**Columbus County Farm Service Agency**

County Committee  
John Moore Lennon II, Chairman  
T. Calvin Malpass, Vice-Chairman  
Greg Hardee, Regular Member  
Ernie Freeman, Advisor  
P. O. Box 459  
45 Government Complex Drive  
Whiteville, NC 28472  
Office Hours  
8:00AM to 4:30PM  
(910) 642-2196

# Cross County

## FSA News

R. Coke Gray CED

December 21, 2007



**Brunswick County Farm Service Agency**

County Committee  
Jackie Potter, Chairman  
Will Long, Vice-Chairman  
Whitney King, Regular Member  
Linda Robinson, Advisor  
P. O. Box 110  
10 Referendum Drive  
Bolivia, NC 28422  
Office Hours  
8:00AM to 4:30PM  
(910) 253-4448

**COC ELECTIONS** Congratulations to newly elected county committeemen in both Columbus and Brunswick Co. **Ernie Freeman** was elected in Columbus County and **Jackie Potter** was reelected in Brunswick County. County Committee scheduled meeting dates and time: Columbus – 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 8:30AM Brunswick County- 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 9:00AM.

The Staff and COC would like to say a heartfelt thank you to **John Moore Lennon** for his eleven years of service representing the farmers of Columbus County as a member and chairman of the FSA Committee. John completed the maximum continuous length of service as a committeeperson.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR**

The staff and committees of the Columbus and Brunswick County FSA Offices would like to wish you a happy holiday season and a wonderful new year. We thank you for all you do in our community and nation by providing food and fiber for so many around the world.



**CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM LONGLEAF PINE INITIATIVE** signup to run through **December 31, 2007**. This allows landowners and operators of land with a cropping history 4 out of 6 years 1996 through 2001 to enroll in CRP for a contract period of either 10 or 15 years. Participants will receive annual rental payments, a sign-up incentive payment of \$100 per acre, 50% cost share and a practice incentive payment for planting the trees. North Carolina has an allocation of 32,250 acres that can be enrolled in this program. For more information contact the FSA Office.

**CONTINUOUS CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)** is available for landowners interested in taking land out of production, planting it to an approved conservation practice and receiving annual rental payments, signup bonuses, cost share assistance and practice incentive payments. Practices include upland bird habitat, riparian buffers, field borders and shallow water areas for wildlife just to name a few. CRP contracts are for ten to fifteen years. Interested landowners should contact the FSA Office for program details

**2005 HURRICAN DISASTER PROGRAM** signup will run through February 2, 2007. This program allows for benefits to be paid to eligible producers who suffered losses of their fruits, vegetables crop and livestock due to Hurricane Ophelia. **This program does not cover losses of our traditional row crops such as corn, cotton, tobacco, soybeans.**

**PAYMENT LIMITATION AND PAYMENT ELIGIBILITY RULES AND REGULATIONS** govern all FSA programs. Your eligibility must be determined before you can receive payments. The county FSA committee determines your eligibility from the information you provide on form CCC-502 (Farm Operating Plan or Payment Eligibility Review.) Your CCC-502 must be filed in the county office by the deadline established for the program through which you have applied for benefits. Entities such as corporations, trust, limited partnership, etc. are required to provide the county offices with names, addresses and ID numbers of the entity and each member. You are required to inform all members of each entity of the requirements for designating "permitted entities". Spouses may be considered separate "persons" for payment limitation purposes if this determination is requested and the applicable requirements are met. April 1, 2006 is the deadline to file CCC-502 if you are increasing the number of or if you are restructuring your entity. **For 2007 all producer eligibility folders have been flagged as ineligible until their records are updated. We encourage all producers to come in early in 2007 to verify their records accuracy.**

**NONINSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SIGNUP DEADLINE** January 1, 2007 for cabbage and February 28, 2007 for most other crops. The cost is \$100.00 per crop per planting period with a maximum of \$300.00 per county. Multi-county producers have a maximum of \$900.00. This program is designed to offer coverage for crops not eligible for crop insurance. You must suffer a 50% loss to qualify. You are reminded that you will not be eligible to receive assistance in the event of a loss if you fail to purchase coverage. Contact the county office for crop coverage information.

**Final dates to make crop reports on fall seeded crops are May 15, 2007.**

**DCP CONTRACTS FOR 2007** be completed by June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007 or be assessed a late file sign up fee of \$100 per farm. Farmers who want to receive their DCP payments prior to July 1, 2007 must get all owners' signatures on the contract; have a lease signed by the participating farm owners or sign with a POA. Those receiving payments after July 1, 2007 can use an operator statement in lieu of signatures if they farmed the farm the prior year. **LANDOWNERS WHO CASH RENT THEIR FARMS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE DCP PAYMENTS; THE PAYMENTS MUST GO TO THE FARMER WHO IS PRODUCING THE CROPS.**

- DCP Checklist:**
1. Farms that will be reconstituted for 2007 should not be signed up until after the combination or division is completed.
  2. **Under new Farm Bill – Crop report must be completed for all cropland on all tracts of a farm to be eligible for payments.**
  3. Planting of Fruits and vegetables (FAV) on DCP farms are limited to the non DCP acreage unless the farm has a history of planting fruits and vegetables of the producer has a history of planting the specific fruit or vegetable. In those cases payments would be reduced by the number of base acres planted to the FAV

**A HUSBAND AND WIFE CAN SIGN DOCUMENTS ON BEHALF OF ONE ANOTHER FOR FSA AND CCC PROGRAMS** in which either has an interest unless written notification denying a spouse the authority has been provided to the county office. Documents excluded under this rule are 1) Power of Attorney, 2) WRP Easements, 3) CRP Easements, and 4) claims settlements, such as promissory notes.

**COMMODITY LOANS** Farmers need to be aware of the availability of Commodity Loans from FSA. Qualified producers are eligible to receive 9-month non-recourse loans on commodities stored on the farm or an approved storage facility for corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, upland cotton, peanuts & wheat.

**FINAL DATE TO FURNISH PRODUCTION FOR 2006 LDP or LOANS on wheat or oats is March 31, 2007. Final date for corn, Cotton and soybeans is May 31, 2007, peanuts is January 31, 2007.**

**Retaining beneficial interest is once again a requirement for receiving a 2007 loan deficiency payment. Signing one CCC-633 will cover all crop LDPs, however a farmer must designate how each crop's LDP will be paid by initialing page 2 or 3 of the CCC 633 prior to loss of beneficial interest.**

**DEADLINE TO REQUEST A RECONSTITUTION;** Farmers wanting to combine or divide farms to be effective for the 2007 crop year should request the reconstitution before planting crops for 2007. The County Committee encourages farmers to request their reconstitutions prior to April 1, 2007.

**Operators of farms that are comprised of tracts with separate ownership must be in control of that farming operation. Failure to be in control can cause the farms to be in violation of program provisions.**

**ALL FOREIGN INVESTORS** who acquire, transfer, or hold interest in U. S. agriculture land must prepare an Agriculture Investment Disclosure form no later than 90 days after acquisition. Failure to report could incur a civil penalty of up to 25% of the fair market value of such land. Forms are available at the FSA Office.

**FARM LOANS** are available for qualified applicants including youth, beginning farmers, and socially disadvantage persons. For more information call (910) 642-2196 Ex. 2

Natural Resource Conservation Service reminds farm operators that applications received by January 19, 2007, will be considered for this year's Environmental Quality Incentives Program. This program provides cost share assistance for producer to install conservation practices on their farm. Additional information may be found at <http://www.nc.nrcs.usda.gov/programs>.

**The Division of Soil and Water, through the Conservation District's, makes available cost share money to improve water quality by reducing non-point source pollution. Cost share monies are available to help farmers decrease sediment, nitrogen, phosphorous, chemicals, and other pollutants in surface and groundwater. Applications are now being taken. Land owners may apply for assistance for projects such as no-till, livestock exclusion, cropland conversion to grass or trees, grassed waterways, animal waste management systems, as well as other practices. To receive more information or to apply for cost share funds, call the district office at (910) 642-2196, Extension 3. A technician will visit your farm and discuss solutions for protecting water quality.**

**FSA CUSTOMERS ARE ASKED TO UPDATE THEIR NAME AND ADDRESS RECORDS WHEN CHANGES OCCUR. ALSO IF YOU HAVE AN E-MAIL ADDRESS AND WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE INFORMATION BY THE NET LET US KNOW. WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO PUT TOGETHER A LISTING SO INFORMATION CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE THIS WAY.**

If you are interested in conducting business this way visit [www.eauth.egov.usda.gov](http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov).

**OUTREACH:** The Columbus County FSA Office is constantly seeking to provide information to the community about the different programs available. We are seeking to reach the socially disadvantaged and non-traditional farmers. African-Americans, Asian Americans, Native Americans, Females, Hispanics and other minority farmers. If you would like to be added to our mailing list or would like to have us address your group, please contact this office.

**The Columbus and Brunswick County FSA Offices will be closed Monday December 25, 2006 in observance of Christmas Day, Monday January 1, 2007 for New Years Day and Monday January 15, 2007 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.**

**Policy:** USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, ect.) should contact USDA'S Target Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice & TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please call R. Coke Gray, CED, at (910) 642-2196 ext. 2.

**Columbus County FSA Office  
P.O. Box 459  
Whiteville, N.C. 28472**

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