

FSA News

CRAVEN-CARTERET FSA OFFICE

304 Industrial Drive
New Bern, NC 28562
Phone: (252) 637-3567, Ext. 2

Hours

Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

June 18, 2007

R. Kay Yates, CED

kay.yates@nc.usda.gov

County Committee

David Parker, Chairperson
Robert M. Riggs, Vice-Chairperson
Dietrich Kilpatrick
L. M. Simmons
James Alton Whitford
Rexine Corbett, Advisor

FSA County Committee Election

The election of agricultural producers in LAA 1, which consists of the Dover, Ft. Barnwell and area west of Ernul, and LAA 4, which consists of the Whiteoak Community, to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committee is important to ALL farmers and ranchers with large or small operations. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a direct link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers who serve on committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs their counties offer. Committees provide local input on: Commodity price support loans and payments; establishment of allotments and yields; conservation programs; incentive, indemnity, and disaster payments for some commodities; and other farm disaster assistance.

Election period –The nomination period began June 15, 2007 and ends August 1, 2007. Nomination forms for the 2007 election must be postmarked or received by close of business in the local FSA county office by August 1, 2007.

Nominations – A nomination form (FSA-669A) signed by the nominee is needed to nominate an individual. Nominees should be willing to serve and attend regular meetings. The nomination form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. The nomination form (FSA-669A) is available at your local FSA county office and online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections>

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy for the committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. In addition, organizations representing socially disadvantaged (minorities and women) farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates.

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters in LAA1, which consists of the Dover, Ft. Barnwell and area west of Ernul, and LAA 4, which consists of the Whiteoak Community, by **November 2, 2007**, and must be returned to the FSA county office or postmarked by **December 3, 2007**.

Who Can Vote – Agricultural producers of legal voting age can vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm can also vote. Check with your local FSA office for voting requirements and eligibility.

Crop Reporting

The Craven-Carteret FSA office reminds all farmers that July 2, 2007 is the deadline for reporting tobacco, peanuts, corn, cotton, sorghum, soybeans, fruits, vegetables and all other cropland. Producers participating in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical program (DCP), LDP or MAL must file an acreage report on all the cropland on the farm. All Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) crops that are planted or growing after May 15, 2007 should also be reported.

Planting dates are required for all annual planted crops. This information must be the planting dates furnished to federal crop for crop insurance reporting.

The annual crop certification process is the basis for all program benefits. Federal crop insurance is based on the information found on the FSA-578, Report of Acreage. It is important that all information be reported timely due to the recent increase in late-filed fees.

Appointments for crop reporting will be taken through June 22, 2007. Producers should call the FSA office and schedule an appointment so that maps and forms can be prepared in order to save time when you come in.

Boll Weevil Eradication Program

Producers will continue to report their cotton acreage as in the past to the FSA office. However, NCDA&CS will be sending a billing invoice directly to the producer. Payments will not be accepted at the Craven-Carteret FSA Office. The assessment for the 2007 Boll Weevil Eradication Program has decreased this year to \$2.50 per acre.

Crop Losses

Prevented planting needs to be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date. Reports of **failed acreage** must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.

NAP Coverage Deadline

September 1st is the deadline for producers to apply for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) on several crops, including aquaculture and turf grass. Producers wishing to get NAP coverage must file the application (CCC-471) and pay the service fee by the September 1st deadline. The service fee is \$100 per crop and the fee cannot exceed a total of \$300 per producer per county and \$900 for multiple county producers.

Crop Disaster Program (CDP)

CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses from natural disasters and related conditions that occurred in 2005 and 2006 and for 2007 crops if the crop was planted before February 28, 2007, or in the case of prevented plantings would have been planted before February 28, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year to receive benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple crops as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year.

Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits.

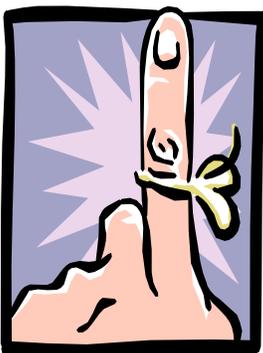
Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP. The payment rate is set at 42 percent of the established price. The payment quantity for quality losses will be equal to the lesser of: (1) the actual production of the crop affected by a quality loss; or (2) the quantity of expected production of the crop affected by a quality loss. The quality loss must be at least 25 percent of the value that all affected production of the crop would have had if the crop had not suffered a quality loss. Assistance, together with any crop insurance or NAP payment received for the same crop and including the value of the crop production not lost, must not exceed 95 percent of the total value of the crop absent the disaster.

Farmers may receive a maximum of \$80,000 in CDP benefits. Producers eligible for CDP can also receive benefits under the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), if eligible.

USDA will announce and conduct sign-up for CDP as soon as possible. Producers will be able to enroll in CDP at their local FSA Service Center.

Farm Loan Program

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. Farm ownership loans, farm operating loans, emergency loans (after disaster declaration), guaranteed loans, rural youth loans, loans to beginning farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are available to qualified producers.



DATES TO REMEMBER	
June 15	COC nominations begin
July 2	Deadline to report crops
July 4	All FSA offices closed
August 1	Last day to return COC nominating petitions
August 3	Last day to enroll in the DCP program for 2007
September 1	NAP application closing date (aquaculture & turf grass) call for closing dates of your NAP crops
To Be Announced	Signup for Crop Disaster Program (CDP)