



FARM SERVICE AGENCY

4407 Bland Road, Suite 175
Raleigh, North Carolina 27609
Tel: (919) 875-4800
Fax: (919) 875-4825



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Keith H. Weatherly
State Executive Director



State FSA Committee

Marshall W. Grant,
Chairperson
John W. Brown
Roger A. Dixon
David L. Rose
Faylene Whitaker

December 12, 2006

HOLIDAY GREETINGS TO ALL FSA EMPLOYEES

We are fortunate to have such dedicated people working for the Farm Service Agency in North Carolina. You always get the job done even under the very difficult and stressful conditions. You are often asked to do the impossible—and then manage to get it done without fail—explains why the efforts of each individual continues to be so important.

The old year is about gone and will come, to everyone of us, moments of reflection. There will be regrets for what could have been done better, but there will be pride in what was done well. In serving FSA faithfully, you serve our farmers in an effective and efficient way, and in preserving and advancing agriculture, you have served all Americans. We appreciate very much your loyalty and support.

To farmers, the headquarters of the farm programs is the county FSA office. There, in the hands of the local-elected-farmer committee, rests responsibility for the administration of farm programs that have worked to give farmers a measure of economic strength and consumers the best food bargain available anywhere in the world.

We will continue to provide efficient and friendly service that the farmers in our state deserve and have come to expect and they get it. Once again, we appreciate the great job and fine service you are providing to farmers and the general public.

For those who have retired from FSA, ASCS, PMA, other predecessor names of the agency, we would like to again thank each of them for their many years of dedication and efforts which have helped shape our agency which continues to be the envy of others. May you and your family have a healthy and a wonderful New Year.

The State Committee, State Executive Director, and State Office personnel wish for each of you and your family a happy holiday season and best wishes for good health, contentment, and a wonderful 2007.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture (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, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

FSA DISPLAY AT NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL FAIR



Pictured above are three of the 39 FSA employees that volunteered to work at FSA's attractive exhibit. Thanks so much to all of them and Warren Hepler who is pictured to the left.

The North Carolina Farm Service Agency participated in the North Carolina Agricultural Fair in Raleigh, North Carolina. Spearheaded by the State Outreach Coordinator, Warren Hepler, the fair exhibit provided thousands of fair attendees information about FSA programs. Warren was assisted by 39 volunteer FSA employees from the mountains to the coast in keeping the display open and available for the 10 day run of the State Fair.

“We really had great participation from the FSA Family” Hepler said. “Staffing a project like this really requires a lot of help and I was very pleased with the response that we received to make this a successful outreach effort.”

HOLIDAY DRIVING

Extra Hazards – Extra Precautions. Last year traffic accidents took a great toll on lives and property damage. Careless, ignorant, or impatient motorists or pedestrians caused most of the accidents. To reduce the number of such accidents, follow these suggestions.

- Make sure your car is in good operating condition.
- Plan your trip carefully in advance, allowing time for delays that will come with heavy traffic. Have a rest period every 100 miles.
- Try to do as much of your traveling in the daytime as possible.
- When you get in your car and before you start, check the mirror, adjust the seat, and fasten the seat belt (or \$75 fine for the front seat and \$10 for the rear seat). Click-it or ticket. Make sure you have enough gasoline.
- Drive defensively.
- Obey traffic signs.
- Remember that the other driver may be on unfamiliar roads. Be extra patient, courteous, and careful.

At dusk, turn your lights on early. If raining, turn your lights on – it is a State law.

FSA EYE-CATCHING AND INFORMATIVE EXHIBIT AT THE SMALL FARMERS EXPO IN LOUISBURG



Pictured left to right are Jesse Alford, Jr., Farm Loan Officer; Melissa Seaman, Farm Loan Officer Trainee; and Jane Williams, County Executive Director for the Franklin County FSA Office. Thanks to Jane, Jesse, Melissa, and others for such an outstanding display. The Small Farmers Expo was held on November 18, 2006, at Vance Granville Community College in Louisburg.

VERY ATTRACTIVE AND MOST INTERESTING MACON COUNTY FAIR BOOTH



Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Rural Development (RD) shared a booth at the fair that won 3rd place in the display category for the fair. Congratulations to FSA and RD persons who assisted in having such a nice display. Enjoy your free lunch you won on your wager with your friends with the Macon County Soil and Water Conservation District.

**LEE COUNTY FSA OFFICE
FANTASTIC WAY TO GET NEEDED RESULTS IN COMMITTEE ELECTION**



Thanks to Amber Waller, County Executive Director for Lee-Moore-Montgomery County FSA Offices, and any others responsible for the bright idea to remind farmers that December 4, 2006, was the last day to return county committee election ballots.

U AND US IN FSA

Brenda Slagle, County Executive Director of the Mitchell-Yancey County FSA Office, retired on December 3, 2006, after 29 years, 4 months of excellent service to the farmers and FSA. We are losing another fine person and employee. She will be greatly missed.

Keith Weatherly, State Executive Director, and Mike Eaves, Administrative Division, attended the 71st Annual Convention of the North Carolina Farm Bureau held in Greensboro on December 3-5, 2006. Senator Elizabeth H. Dole addressed the convention by video. Larry Wooten, NC Farm Bureau President said "The focus of the Farm Bureau policy shifted toward new issues of importance for our farmers and rural residents during 2006: immigration and labor, international trade and energy now dominate much of the focus of our policy evaluation process as work to improve the quality of life for our members continues." Interesting and well planned convention.

CONGRATULATIONS

to Rodney and Carmen Musselwhite on the birth of a handsome son, Andrew Garrett Musselwhite, on November 9, 2006, weighing 8 pounds and 7 ounces and was 21 inches long. Rodney is a Program Technician in the Nash County FSA Office. Mom, dad, and baby are all doing great.

CONDOLENCES

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Mrs. Dorothy Gore who passed away on December 4, 2006. Mrs. Gore was the mother of Teresa Stanley, Program Technician in the Columbus County FSA Office.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family of Mr. Clayton Brown who died on December 2, 2006. Mr. Brown was the father-in-law of Emmett Rogers, County Executive Director for the Pamlico County FSA Office.

We were sorry to hear of the death of Mr. Richard Paul Benton who died on November 28, 2006. Mr. Benton worked in the Compliance Division of the State FSA Office from 1962 to 1973 when he transferred to the USDA Office of Inspector General in Raleigh. Our deepest sympathy is extended to Mr. Benton's family.