



U.S. Department  
of Agriculture

**Forsyth County FSA**  
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Winston-Salem, NC  
27105

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**Hours**  
Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**County Committee**  
Zane Sells  
James Davis  
Lawana Manning

**Committee Advisors**  
James Scales, Sr.  
Bonnie Venable

**Staff**  
Vickie Johnson  
Robin Wilson

**Farm Loan Manager**  
Melissa Hodges

**County Executive  
Director**  
Dan Harrison

## REMINDERS

Office will be closed  
October 9<sup>th</sup>  
for Columbus Day

Farm Service Agency

OCTOBER  
2006

# FSA UPDATES

## COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION AND NOMINATIONS

The nomination period to nominate candidates for the upcoming county committee election closed on August 1, 2006. The election will be held in Local Administrative Area (LAA) #1 which includes the townships of Belews Creek, Kernersville, and North Abbotts Creek. The following persons were nominated by valid public petition and are candidates in this year's election:

James Davis  
Bonnie Venable  
Robert Poindexter

The next action in the election process is the mailing of the ballots, which will begin on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Voters have until December 4<sup>th</sup> to return their ballots to the FSA county office. Newly elected county committee members take office on January 1, 2007.

## TOBACCO TRANSITION PAYMENT PROGRAM (TTPP) CONTRACT TRANSFERS

Transfer of ownership of TTPP contracts is allowed in certain situations. These situations are limited to the following:

1. Family Member Transfers – If the transfer is to a family member of the contract holder, then CCC will issue a new contract to the new contract holder identified on CCC-971.
2. Because of Death - If the transfer is because of death of the contract holder, then upon presentation of a death certificate CCC will issue a new contract to the:
  - surviving spouse without regard to any will or other document prepared by the contract holder.
  - new contract holder identified on CCC-971 by a person allowed under state law to distribute the assets of the deceased contract holder and attest that there is no surviving spouse.
3. Permanent Quota Assignment – A party who had purchased a tobacco quota before October 22, 2004, and had placed the quota on a farm with the owner's consent before October 22, 2004.
4. Dissolved Entity – In the case of an entity dissolved after enrollment, the members will be considered the contract holders for future year payments. The base quota level under contract should be divided among the members based on each member's share of the entity at the time of dissolution. All parties must sign new contracts

Form CCC-971 will be used to process the above mentioned transfers in the local County FSA office where the original TTPP contracts were approved. Except in cases involving death of a contract holder, transfer request submitted to be effective for 2007 must be received in the FSA office by November 1, 2006

## LOANS AVAILABLE FOR BEGINNING FARMERS, SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED

FSA is authorized to assist beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size farm

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed. Socially disadvantaged groups are Hispanics, American Indians, African Americans, Pacific Islanders, Asian Americans and women.

### **REPORTING LOSSES (FAILED ACREAGE)**

If you have any failed crop acres, give serious thought to reporting them before destroying crop evidence. If Congress authorizes a crop disaster program in the future, proof of failed acreage may be required for your participation. It is important to report failed acreage not brought to harvest to the county office staff prior to destruction. Ensuring that failed acres are documented could be the determining factor in whether you are eligible for future crop disaster program payments. The form CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. For losses on crops covered by the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), you must contact the FSA county office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent. Producers with crop insurance should contact their local agent when losses occur and before destroying the crop.

### **2007 DIRECT AND COUNTER-CYCLICAL PAYMENT PROGRAM (DCP) SIGN-UP STARTS OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup>**

Producers enrolled in the 2006 DCP can expect their final direct payment to be directly deposited into their personal bank accounts sometime during the first few weeks of October. Sign-up for the 2007 DCP begins on October 1, 2006. The form CCC-509, DCP Contract, includes base acres, payment acres, payment yields, producer payment shares and signatures of the producers and county office representative. The CCC-509 must be submitted by June 1, 2007, to be considered timely. All owners and operators who will share in the DCP payment on the farm must sign the CCC-509. Forms with signatures that are obtained after June 1, 2007, but before September 30, 2007, will be accepted, but the farm will be assessed a late file fee of \$100. A crop acreage report certifying all cropland on the farm is required before final payments can be made. Farm producers must apply for DCP on an annual basis and can opt out of the program for any year if they so choose.

### **SPOUSAL SIGNATURES AND RELEASE OF AGENCY RECORDS**

A husband and wife may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest unless written notification is provided to FSA denying a spouse this authority. FSA shall not provide Agency records of a producer to that producer's spouse unless written authority to provide such records has been provided to the FSA office.

### **NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT**

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 Ave. 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.



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