



**U.S. Department
of Agriculture**

Harnett County FSA

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Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

D. Keith Parrish
W J McAuley
David M Gardner

**County Executive
Director**

Leamon J Hall
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Staff:

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Farm Service Agency

December 15, 2006

FSA UPDATES

2006 COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Eligible voters in Local Administrative Area (LAA) I, which includes Anderson Creek, Barbecue, Johnsonville and Upper Little River I & II townships elected Van Leaird to the County Committee, James V Stancil as 1st Alternate and W J McAuley as 2nd Alternate. Each of the elected persons will serve LAA I for a three year term that will begin January 1, 2007. We are looking forward to working with these committee members. Thanks to each voter who took the time to cast a vote in this year's election.

CONTINUOUS CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP) SIGNUP

In October 2006, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) unveiled a **CRP Longleaf Pine Initiative Program** designed to reforest up to 250,000 acres of longleaf pine forests in nine southern states. **Signup** for this program began **December 1, 2006 and runs continuously until the 250,000 acre goal is met, or December 31, 2007**, whichever comes first.

Key provisions of the continuous signup enhancements include:

- A one-time up front signing incentive payment (SIP) of \$100 per acre for CRP contracts for 10 or more years, which will be paid by Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) after eligible criteria are met and the CRP contract is approved; and
- A one-time practice incentive payment (PIP) equal to 40% of the eligible installation costs for certain practices on Continuous CRP land. CCC will issue PIP payments after the CRP practice is installed, eligible costs are verified and other payment criteria are met.

Requirements are, but not limited to:

- The offered acreage meets the CRP cropping history requirement (**cropland**) planted or considered planted four out of six years 1996 – 2001);
- The site falls within the Longleaf Pine National Conservation Priority Area (CPA) and meets proper soil and other site conditions, making it appropriate for longleaf planting where necessary and feasible; does not have to meet Highly Erodible Land (HEL) requirements;
- The total acreage for all longleaf pine (Practice CP-36) acreage enrolled in a state does not exceed a state's allocation (The allocation for North Carolina is 32,250 acres);
- Acres offered must be enrolled for 10, but not more than 15 years; and
- Landowners must have owned the offered acreage for at least one year.

Rental rates are based on three predominant soils for land offered for enrollment. FSA bases rental rates on the average value of dry land cash rent for the past three years and adjusts rates to reflect the relative productivity of soils within each county. The maximum CRP rental rate is calculated in advance of enrollment. In addition to the payments described, the CCC will also pay up to 50% of the eligible cost of establishing a permanent cover. Please contact our office or visit the FSA web site at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> for more information.

2007 DIRECT AND COUNTER-CYCLICAL (DCP) SIGNUP

Signup for the 2007 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP) began of October 1, 2006 and will end June 1, 2007. New DCP contracts are required each year and all owners and operators who will share in the DCP payments on the farm must sign the CCC-509, Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program Contract. When you sign the CCC-509 you are agreeing to:

- comply with highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation provisions on your land;
- devote acreage equal to the base acreage to an agricultural or conserving use;
- effectively control noxious weeds and otherwise maintain base acres according to sound agricultural practices;
- **not plant perennial fruits and vegetables (FAV) or harvest annual FAVs (other than lentils, mug beans, and dry peas) or wild rice (Exceptions: double cropping covered**

- **commodities or peanuts with wild rice, fruits or vegetables shall be permitted in any region in which there is a history of this type of double-cropping);**
- file acreage report with respect to all cropland on the farm; and
- notify the county office staff when there is a transfer of or change of interest of a producer.

Producers requesting advance payments will receive only **22%** of the direct payment amount for 2007. This is a big change from the 40% to 50% advance amount in past years of the DCP program.

NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP) SALES CLOSING DATE

NAP provides crop loss coverage for crops not eligible for Federal Crop Insurance. Producers are reminded that **January 1, 2007** is the final sales closing date for Beets, Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Celery, Greens, Kale, Lettuce, Onions, Potatoes, Rutabaga, Spinach, and Turnips. Please visit our office by the deadline if you wish to insure any of these commodities.

NEWS FROM THE NATURAL RESOURCE AND CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)

The signup for the EQIP cost share program has started and will end **January 19, 2007**. Harnett County row crop farmers can use these funds to establish no till farming on cropland for up to 5 years. They can implement nutrient and pest management plans.

The poultry farmer can use the funds as in the past to construct dry stack buildings to take care of poultry waste; install incinerators to take care of their mortality problem. They can use these funds to control roof runoff of poultry houses and help to solve erosion problems around the poultry houses.

Monies are also available to install watering tanks for beef cattle provided they are fenced out of ditches, ponds and streams. Funding as is in the past will be done by a scoring process with national and state resource concerns being priorities. For more information please call the local NRCS District Office at (910)893-7584 or (910)893-5101 ext. #3 and ask for Parks Blake.



OUR OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2006 IN OBSERVANCE OF CHRISTMAS DAY. WE WISH EACH OF YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!!!!

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