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FARM SERVICE AGENCY

HERTFORD COUNTY

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Fax. 358-0910

HOLIDAYS – The FSA Office will be closed on Monday, November 12 for Veterans Day and Thursday, November 22 for Thanksgiving Day.

OUTREACH PROGRAM – The Hertford County FSA Office is committed to ensuring that all persons are aware of programs and benefits available to them. FSA programs are administered to ensure equal opportunity for participation and services for all persons to the fullest extent of the law. Representatives are available to present information to community and civic groups and organizations. Anyone interested in having an official meet with his/her group, should contact the Hertford County FSA Office at 252-358-7842.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION FOR 2007 – Ballots in the County Committee election will be mailed the first of November and must be returned, or postmarked, no later than the close of business (4:30 P. M.) on Monday, December 3, 2007. The election this year is for Local Administrative Area (LAA 3) which is comprised of the Ahoskie and St. Johns FSA Communities. We encourage eligible FSA voters in the Ahoskie and St. Johns FSA Communities to mark their ballots and return them immediately upon receipt. Any farm owners, operators or producers who do not receive a ballot, but feel they are eligible to vote, should contact the FSA Office at 358-7842, or come by the office on Tryon Street in Winton.

OFFICE HOURS - The office is open to the public from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday.

DISASTER SIGN-UP DATES ANNOUNCED – The sign-up for the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) began on September 10. Sign-up for the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) began on Oct. 15 for producers who suffered quantity losses to their crop. USDA will announce and conduct CDP sign-up for quality losses in early 2008.

CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006 or 2007 crops from natural disasters if the crop was planted before Feb. 28, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year to apply for benefits. Producers may apply for benefit for losses to multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year. **ONLY PRODUCERS WHO OBTAINED CROP INSURANCE COVERAGE OR COVERAGE UNDER THE NAP PROGRAM FOR THE CROP AND 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. Contact the FSA Office for more details if you feel you might be eligible.

NOTE – THERE IS NO ASSISTANCE FOR THE DROUGHT OF 2007. THE REASON BEING THE CROP MUST HAVE BEEN PLANTED (BEFORE) FEBRUARY 28, 2007. THE ONLY EXCEPTION WOULD BE THOSE CROP(S) THAT WERE PLANTED IN THE FALL OF 2006 TO BE HARVESTED IN 2007.

THE SAME APPLIES TO PASTURE FOR GRAZING. IF THE ONLY LOSS IS DUE TO THE DROUGHT IN 2007, THERE WOULD BE (NO) ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE. IF THERE WAS A LOSS IN 2006 OR 2005 DUE TO DROUGHT, THERE MIGHT BE A POSSIBILITY, BUT WE WOULD NEED TO TALK WITH YOU ABOUT THAT. THERE'S LOTS OF DATA THAT MUST BE PROVIDED IN DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY.

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SIGN-UP FOR THE CROP DISASTER PROGRAM - Our office staff has been reduced to two program technicians, so it will be impossible for us to be available to work on all the programs at the same time. We will do our best to help you as soon as we can, but we need your help. It also might be necessary to ask you to come back later. Crop Insurance has downloaded a list all producers who had insurance in 2005, 2006 & 2007. They have provided us with a record of your production and any payments you might have received. Therefore, we will know in most cases what farms are eligible for the disaster payment. We plan to prepare as much of the application as we can and notify producers when to come to the office. We will do this on an appointment basis, and this is where you can help us. If you will come when notified, we hope this will keep you from having to make multiple trips to the office. We don't anticipate the signing of the application to have any affect on when the payment will be issued.

LOANS AND LDP PAYMENT – Due to the prices received to-date, there have been no LDPs for any of the crops. Those producers who have signed the CCC-633EZ have met the eligibility requirement for LDP, provided they retained beneficial interest in the crop until it was sold, and provided there was an LDP on the date the crop was sold. However, it will be necessary producers bring their production records to the office if they feel they are eligible for the LDP. Producers might want to consider calling the office and finding out whether or not there was a LDP on the date they lost beneficial in the commodity. It might save a trip to the FSA Office.

PEANUT LOANS - The present program requires that producers receive loans on their peanuts as part of their agreement with the buying companies. These loans are disbursed through FSA and normally repaid by the buying companies and they obtain ownership of the peanuts. Although the companies request the loan from FSA, they are acting as agent for the producer, so the producer retains beneficial interest in the peanuts until the loan is repaid. The loan is actually issued to the producer and the producer is responsible for the loan until repayment. Should the company decide not to repay the loan, then it is the producer's responsibility to repay or forfeit the loan.

Companies have begun filing requests for loans. Because of the reduced staff in the FSA Office, chances are the loans will not be disbursed as soon as in previous years. We will do our best, but the turn-around time from day the loan is requested until it is actually disbursed could be several days.

POLICY – The US 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, parental status, familial status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political belief, 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 of Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS – Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please call W. S. Earley at (252)358-7842.