

**IREDELL/ALEXANDER
COUNTY FSA OFFICE
444 BRISTOL DRIVE
STATESVILLE, NC
28677
PHONE 704-872-5061
OR 828-632-2044 EXT 2
FAX 704-873-0225
OFFICE HOURS 8 AM –
4:30 PM MONDAY –
FRIDAY EXCEPT
FEDERAL HOLIDAYS**

**COMMITTEE
MEETINGS ARE THE
2ND TUESDAY OF EACH
MONTH AT 9:30 AM**

**SEPTEMBER 2007
NEWSLETTER**

**COMMITTEE
MEMBERS:**
BECKY SMITH – CHAIR
LARRY GALLIHER –
VICE CHAIR
NEWELL JOHNSON –
REGULAR MEMBER
GLADYS PIERCE –
REGULAR MEMBER
JERRY TURNER –
MINORITY ADVISOR
JULIA HOUCK –
COUNTY EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR – EXT 115
ED HALL – FARM LOAN
MANAGER – EXT 117
SUNNY ESTES – FARM
LOAN PROGRAM
TECHNICIAN – EXT 119
CRYSTAL DILLARD –
FARM PROGRAM
TECHNICIAN – EXT 116

**CROP REPORTING
DEADLINES:**
WHEAT, BARLEY, OATS
AND OTHER FALL
SEEDED CROPS – MAY
15, 2008
CORN, SOYBEANS,
COTTON, TOBACCO
AND OTHER SPRING
SEEDED CROPS – JUNE
30, 2008

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DISASTER PROGRAM

Due to the drought that producers have experienced this summer the Iredell/Alexander County Food and Agriculture Committee (FAC) met in August and submitted the required documentation to the NC State FAC. The State FAC then sends the documentation to the Governor and it is his discretion to have the counties declared a disaster by the President. As of this time we do not have a disaster program for the drought; however we will be having a sign up starting **October 15, 2007** for benefits to producers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006 or 2007 crops from natural disaster 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 benefits 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 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.

REPORTING LOSSES

If you had 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's important to report failed acreage not harvested 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. If you are experiencing low crop yields, you should keep good production records, but you don't need to report this acreage right now. The 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 office staff within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent. Producers with crop insurance should contract their insurance agent when losses occur and before destroying the crop.

LOANS TO SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED PERSONS (MINORITIES AND WOMEN)

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes and guarantees loans to approved socially disadvantaged applicants to buy and operate family-size farms and ranches. A socially disadvantaged (SDA) farmer, rancher, or agricultural producer is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as a member of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities. SDA groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

PROGRAM OUTREACH

The Iredell/Alexander County FSA Office is constantly seeking to reach minority, socially disadvantaged, and nontraditional farmers to make them aware of the FSA programs. All persons who receive this newsletter are asked to share it with others and to contact this office if they know of some individual or group who would like to be added to our mailing list.

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS

Low cost loans for storage facilities are available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities such as corn, soybeans, wheat, barley, etc. The seven-year Farm Storage Facility Loans are available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment or remodeling existing facilities. New and remanufactured oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-types structures are also available. All Farm Storage Facility Loans are secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85 percent of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to a \$100,000 for each borrower. A minimum down payment of 15% is required. For details, contact the FSA office.

LANDOWNER WORKSHOP

There will be a landowner workshop on Saturday, September 29, 2007 from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm with check in at 9:00 am at Grayhouse Farms, in Stony Point, NC. Participants will learn how to: 1) Chufa – turkeys and waterfowl, 2) forest management – thinning, burning, herbicide, 3) Stream restoration, 4) Quality deer management discussion, 4) Farm Bill programs to benefit landowners, 5) Quail management and 6) Food plot planting and preparation. The cost is \$5 with participants receiving a Hunting Heritage Club membership. Members will receive 2 issues/yr of Get in the game magazine, decal and membership card. Lunch will be served. For more information you can contact the Iredell Soil and Water Conservation District at 704-872-5061 ext 3, Dowd Bruton at 336-957-5023 or Jimmy Gray.

USDA-FSA
Iredell/Alexander County FSA Office
444 Bristol Drive
Statesville, NC 28677-2942

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COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

BALLOTS FOR THE COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS WILL BE MAILED BEGINNING NOVEMBER 2, 2007 AND MUST BE RETURNED BY DECEMBER 3, 2007.

WELCOME TO CRYSTAL DILLARD

Crystal Dillard started on August 6, 2007. Crystal is a graduate of NC State University. Crystal is a resident of Wilkes County and raises beef cattle. She was a Park Ranger for the State of North Carolina before coming to FSA.

UPDATED PHOTOGRAPHY

We have finally been given permission to use the 2006 aerial photography for our maps. This fall and winter we will be updating the maps to reflect added and deleted cropland. If you have purchased or sold any land, please let our office know so that we can correct your farm while we are making changes.

PAYMENT LIMITATIONS

USDA payments and benefits are subject to producer eligibility and limitation provisions as defined by law. Documents and forms to determine eligibility and limitation once completed are reviewed on an annual basis. It is the producer's responsibility to report changes in the farming operation that may affect payment eligibility and payment limitation. The following limitations apply to Direct and Counter-cyclical Program payments for each contract year. For all covered commodities: \$40,000 for direct payments and \$65,000 for counter-cyclical payments. The Environmental Quality Incentive Program has a \$450,000 payment limitation. The Conservation Reserve Program annual limit is \$50,000 per person. Entities such as corporations, limited partnerships, trusts and estates are required to provide names, addresses, and ID numbers of their numbers. These entities should also identify every payment under more than one entity.

NORTH CAROLINA AG. COST-SHARE PROGRAM SIGN-UP

Funds are now available and sign-up is under way through the Iredell Soil and Water Conservation District for the North Carolina Agricultural Cost Share Program. These funds are offered to assist agricultural landowners in placing best management practices on their property to protect water quality. All agricultural landowners in Iredell County are eligible for the Cost Share Program. Several measures are available for assistance, including but not limited to: grassed waterways, stream buffers, long term no-till, livestock watering systems, and waste management measures. All of these are designed with the intent of keeping sediment, nitrogen, phosphorous, chemicals, and other pollutants out of our surface and ground water. The state of North Carolina will pay up to 75 percent of the average cost of these measures as an incentive. This is a great chance to help your neighbors by protecting our water resources, and help yourself by better managing your land. If you are interested in the cost share program please call or stop by our office. The phone number is (704) 873-6761, ext. 3, and our office is located in the Iredell County Agricultural Resource Center at 444 Bristol Drive, Statesville. ***This program and services are available without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, or handicap.***

NONINSURABLE CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

NAP coverage is available on crops that are not insurable by crop insurance. The cost is \$100/crop with a maximum of \$300/county. The following are sales closing dates for some of the NAP crops: **11/20/07** – alfalfa, hay, pasture, blackberries, blueberries, cane berries, grapes, honey, raspberries, lespedeza; **1/1/08** – broccoli, cabbage, potatoes; **2/28/07** – beans (green), cantaloupes, cucumbers, millet, peppers, popcorn, pumpkins, squash, sunflowers, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, watermelons. To be eligible for a NAP payment the crop must have suffered a loss greater than 50 percent, a crop report must be timely filed and a notice of loss, if applicable, must be filed within 15 days of the loss being apparent. Losses must be caused by a natural disaster.