



JOHNSTON County News

Johnston County USDA Service Center

Johnston County FSA
2736 NC Hwy 210
Smithfield, NC 27577-7497
(919) 934-7156 Ext. 2
FAX: (919) 934-5170

County Executive Director
Joseph C. Gregory

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

County Committee
Bobby Pope – Chairperson
Tom Vinson – Vice-Chairperson
George Massengill – Regular Member
Kay Boyette – Advisor
David Richardson – Advisor

Staff

County Executive Director:
Joseph C. Gregory

Farm Loan Officer:
Charles Walls

Program Technicians:
Beth Price
Annette Matthews
Nora Surles
Lisa Peedin
Evalena Best
Lois Sasser
Gina Gardner

07 Loan Rates
Wheat - \$2.61/Bushel
Oats - \$1.39/Bushel
Barley - \$1.65/Bushel
Corn - \$2.25/Bushel
Grain Sorghum - \$3.70/HW
Soybeans - \$5.07/Bushel
Cotton – 53.30 cents/Pound

Special Reminders
This office will be closed
Monday, Nov. 12th, 2007 for
the Veterans Day Holiday
and Thurs., Nov. 22, 2007
for the Thanksgiving Day
Holiday.

2007 COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Eligible voters located in Local Administrative Area 3 (LAA-3) consisting of O'Neals, Selma, Micro, Beulah, Pine Level and Boon Hill townships will receive County Committee election ballots by mail beginning November 2, 2007.

Farm owners, operators and sharecroppers of legal voting age can vote if they are eligible to participate in any FSA program. Ballots must be postmarked or delivered to the FSA Office no later than **Monday, December 3, 2007**. Ballots will be tabulated on Thursday, December 6, 2007 at 9:00 A.M. in the Johnston County FSA Office.

The following have been nominated and are willing to serve on the County Committee if elected:

Bobby T. Pope from Kenly has been farming for 43 years. He grows tobacco, corn and soybeans. Mr. Pope currently serves on the Johnston County FSA County Committee. Mr. Pope is a member of the North Carolina Tobacco Growers Association, the Extension Tobacco Advisory Committee, Board of Directors for Beulah Fire District and Kenly Free Will Baptist Church.

Shelvia (Auline) Toler is a landowner from Princeton. Mrs. Toler retired from the Johnston County FSA Office after 30 years of service. Mrs. Toler is a very active member at Princeton Baptist Church. She is also active in the Prison Ministry at Wilson's Mills and the Meals on Wheels program.

Please remember the election ballots will be mailed beginning November 2, 2007 and must be **returned or postmarked no later than December 3, 2007**.

NON-INSURED DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Non-Insured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides coverage from catastrophic losses due to natural disaster. If interested, you must file an application and pay a \$100 administrative fee per crop before the sales closing date for the crop. The sales closing date for alfalfa, blackberries, blueberries, caneberries, grapes, mixed forage, hay, honey, lespedeza, pecans, plums, and raspberries is November 20, 2007. The sales closing dates for most vegetables are January 1, or February 28, 2008. Please call our office for exact dates.

YOUTH LOAN PROJECTS

FSA offers loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience.

FARM LOANS FOR BEGINNING FARMERS

Beginning farmers or ranchers may obtain a "regular" farm ownership loan through funds set aside especially for them by the Farm Service Agency. These loans finance up to the \$200,000 loan limit, and the term of the loan can be up to 40 years. The interest rate is set the first of each month, and is currently 5.75%. The rate for "limited resource producers" is 5.00%.

United States Department of Agriculture
Johnston County FSA
2736 NC Hwy 210
Smithfield, NC 27577-7497
Official Business



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CROP DISASTER PROGRAM SIGNUP

Eligible producers may visit their local FSA Service Center now and sign-up for Crop Disaster Benefits. The Crop Disaster Program (CDP) provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses from natural disasters and related conditions that occurred in 2005 and 2006 and 2007 if the crop was planted before Feb. 28, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in these years must choose only one year to receive benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple crops 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 the loss will be eligible for CDP benefits. Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP. The payment rate is set at 42 percent of the established price. Farmers may receive a maximum of \$80,000 in CDP benefits.

The payment quantity for quality losses will be equal to the lesser of: (1) the actual production of the crop affected by a quality loss; or (2) the quantity of expected production of the crop affected by a quality loss. The quality loss must be at least 25 percent of the value that all affected production of the crop would have had if the crop had not suffered a quality loss.

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.

Note: Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please contact Joseph C. Gregory, CED, at 919-934-7156 Ext 2.
