



July 2007

Martin County News

Martin County USDA Service Center

Martin County FSA
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Williamston, NC 27892
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Hours
Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
Robert L. Perry Jr., Chairman
Richard D. Cannon, Vice
Chairman
Joseph Leggett, Reg. Mem.
Lareo Reddick, Advisor
Cindy Bunting, Advisor

Office Staff
Bobby Rose, CED
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2007 LOAN DEFICIENCY PAYMENT PROGRAM (LDP)

The Martin County Farm Service Agency will again be mailing all Producers/Farm Operators a CCC-633EZ, Loan Deficiency Payment Agreement and Request form to apply for LDP payments for FY 2007 commodities. Signing the first page of the EZ form allows the producer to indicate their intention to receive LDP benefits for all crops at the first of the crop year.

A key point to remember is that page 1 of the EZ form must be signed by the producer and submitted to the county office before beneficial interest in the commodity is lost. Once beneficial interest is lost, the commodity is ineligible for an LDP even if beneficial interest is regained. This one page covers all counties and all eligible harvested commodities for the entire crop year for the individual, joint operation or entity identified on the form. All producers are encouraged to submit page 1 of the EZ for each crop year whether or not they plan to subsequently request a loan or LDP.

The producer can submit an LDP request by completing page 2 for all harvested commodities, except cotton; page 3 for cotton; or page 4 for wool, mohair and unshorn pelts. Operators and Producers will continue to be required to provide acceptable production records on each applicable commodity.

An LDP payment is based upon the difference between the posted county loan rate for each covered commodity and the daily CCC-determined value for these commodities. **Producers are reminded to submit all commodity weight tickets to the Martin County Farm Service Agency Office in the event an LDP rate was available.**

2007 COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

Nominations for individuals to serve on the COC began on June 15, 2007. The final date to accept nominees will be August 1, 2007. The 2007 COC election is being held in LAA -1 (Local Administrative Area), which consist of Bear Grass, Griffins and Crossroads Township areas. A producer is eligible to be a County FSA committee member if he/she resides in LAA-1 and is eligible to vote. Individuals may nominate themselves or any other person as a candidate. The elected individual will be required to serve a three-year term. Please contact the Martin County FSA office for further details regarding the 2007 COC election.

NON-INSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops that are affected by natural disasters. NAP producers are reminded to timely apply for NAP coverage by completing a CCC-471, Application for Coverage, and pay the applicable service fee. The service fee is \$100 per crop per county, or \$300 per producer per county, not to exceed \$900 per producer for all counties. NAP crops should be planted as timely as possible and good farming practices should be used to bring the crop(s) to harvest. In addition, NAP crop acreage must be reported accurately and timely. **When NAP crops are affected by a natural disaster, notification of this loss must be completed in writing on a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, within 15 days of the damage. Further, if the affected crop will not be harvested, all eligible acres reported on the notice of loss must be left intact until the crop acres have been appraised or released by an FSA loss adjuster.** Production evidence for the previous year's crop(s) should be provided by the crop acreage reporting deadline. Contact the Martin County FSA office for particular crop application, acreage and production reporting deadlines and further information regarding the NAP program.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CP-33 and CP-36)

The Martin County Farm Service Agency would like to remind all farm owners and operators about the CP-33-Northern Bobwhite Quail Habitat Incentive Program and the CP-36 Longleaf Pine Initiative Program. The CP-33 program benefits both farm operators and Bobwhite Quail by enhancing the Bird Habitat Buffers. The program is a continuous signup; contracts are for 10 years and offer a one-time signing bonus of approximately \$100 per acre enrolled as well as annual rental payments. The CP-36 program supports the planting of up to 32,250 acres of longleaf pine forests in 42 NC designated counties including Martin County. Signup began December 1, 2006 and runs continuously until the acreage goal is met or December 31st, 2007. Eligible land must meet basic CRP requirements as well as be located in one of the 42 NC counties and be planted or considered planted 4 out of 6 years (1996-2001). Contracts are for not less than 10, nor more than for 15 years and rental rates are based upon three pre-dominant soil types. A one time signing incentive payment (\$100 per acre-on approved contracts) and a one time practice incentive payment (40% of eligible installation cost-after the practice is installed) will be issued.

2008 NAP Program

Final dates to purchase NAP coverage:

09/01/07 - Strawberries, Sage

09/30/07 - Fall seeded small grains (wheat, oats, rye and barley for grazing or for hay).

11/20/07 – Alfalfa, Apples, Blueberries, Blackberries, Caneberries, Grapes, Grass/Mixed Forage & Hay (Grazing), Honey, Lespedeza, Peaches, Pecans, Plums and Raspberries

OUTREACH

FSA is committed to informing all persons of the programs it administers. As part of the Outreach Plan for the Martin County FSA Office, the County Executive Director will be available to speak to groups upon request.

FY 2007 FARM PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

As a result of the Improper Payments Information Act of 2002 review, the National Farm Service Agency Office elected to reset the eligibility determination/certifications for all producers nationwide to "Not-Filed". All producers are currently ineligible for program payments until eligibility forms on file can be reviewed by each local Farm Service Agency County Office and if necessary new eligibility forms can be correctly completed and signed by the Producer. Martin County Producers will be contacted to visit the County Office if necessary to update required eligibility documents such as: AD-1026, CCC-502, CCC-526 and CCC-441. Individuals and Permitted Entities that receive program payments are subject to payment limitations. Under the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act, "Persons" are limited to the following: \$40,000 per person, per year for Direct Program Payments, \$65,000 per person, per year on Counter-Cyclical Program Payments, \$50,000 per person for Annual CRP Program Payments, \$75,000 per person, per year on Commodity Market Loans or LDP's, \$100,000 per person, per year on Non-Insured Crop Disaster Program Payments (NAP) and \$80,000 per person for Crop Disaster Program (CDP).

CREP & CONTINUOUS CRP AVAILABLE

Secretary of Agriculture, Mike Johanns, has recently announced there will be no general signups scheduled for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in 2007 or 2008. The President's FY 2008 Budget assumed no available funding for CRP general signups. However, environmentally sensitive acreage qualifying for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) or Continuous CRP will still be eligible for enrollment. These targeted programs will remain funded, and continue to provide a heightened environmental benefit on select areas.

LOANS AVAILABLE FOR BEGINNING AND SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS

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 whom:

- 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

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

USDA e-AUTHENTICATON SYSTEM

The USDA e-Authentication System allows producers to access USDA web-based applications, forms and services via the internet. You must activate either a Level 1 or Level 2 account through your local FSA office to use this new technology. A Level 2 account permits you to enroll your farms in DCP (eDCP) or request Electronic LDPs (eLDP). For more details, check out the following website: www.eauth.egov.usda.gov or contact the Martin County FSA office @ 252-792-7197, ext. 2.

FARM LOAN PROGRAM:

The Farm Loan Program has the following loans available: Operating Loans; Direct and Guaranteed Loans; Farm Ownership Loans; Youth Loans and Emergency Loans when designated. Contact Carl K. Bond, Martin County Farm Loan Officer, at (252) 792-7197 ext. 107, for more information.

UPDATE banking information as necessary for direct deposit of payments.

SPOUSAL SIGNATURE AUTHORITY

A husband & wife can sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA & CCC programs in which either has an interest unless written notification denying this authority has been provided to the county office.