

NASH COUNTY FSA NEWS

Issue 3

1006 Eastern Avenue, Room 103

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Nashville, NC 27856

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DCP INFORMATION – Due to nation-wide software problems earlier this year at FSA, Washington officials have extended the deadline for 2007 DCP contract enrollment beyond the normal date of June 1. We ask that you ***complete your DCP sign-up by Monday, July 2, 2007.*** Remember, you must enroll your farm each year in order to participate. Producers enrolling farms from August 4 thru September 30, 2007, will be charged a late-filed fee of \$100 per farm. DCP provisions do not permit enrollment on or after October 1, 2007.

Farms involved in reconstitutions cannot be enrolled until recons are completed. Be sure you are renting any farm you enroll and if you plant vegetables or “swap” land, you should hold off on enrolling until you are sure of producer shares on these farms. Shares on your acreage report should match the shares on your DCP contract. Only those persons who actually share in the risk of production are eligible to receive DCP payments. All producers who share on base acres MUST share in direct and counter cyclical payments. **The planting of fruits and vegetables on DCP base acreage may affect the 2007 DCP payment with a payment reduction or contract violation. Contact us prior to planting if you have questions regarding these provisions.** Remember that all base acreage should be protected from erosion and weeds should be controlled throughout the year.

CRP COVER MAINTENANCE – Remember to maintain your Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres according to your individual conservation plan. Please make sure you: 1) have adequate approved vegetative cover to control erosion; 2) control weeds and other types of undesirable vegetation; and 3) take control measures outside of the primary nesting season. As always, mowing for cosmetic purposes is prohibited.

REMINDERS:

- 1) Your FSA office will be *CLOSED* for: Independence Day on Wednesday, July 4th and for Labor Day on Monday, September 3, 2007
- 2) Report failed or prevented planting acreages immediately to FSA; ask to file form CCC-576 to ensure proper planted history credit.
- 3) Report changes in farm operation, ownership, address or direct deposit banking information.
- 4) Share your email address with us to receive important, and brief, reminders about farm programs.

2007 ACREAGE REPORTS – Your acreage report (FSA-578) is one of THE most important documents in this office and is the basis for determining program benefits. An accurate report is important to you and to us. **The deadline to certify your 2007 crops is MONDAY, July 2.** Like last year, you must also provide your planting date for each field. This should be the same date that you report to crop insurance. Producers who report June 25 thru July 2 will be assisted first-come, first-serve. Be sure to ask for producer prints for yourself and your insurance agent, as we will not be mailing reports to agents as in prior years due to regulation changes.

BOLL WEEVIL ERADICATION PROGRAM - Cotton producers will continue to certify acreage as in the past at the FSA Office. However, NCDA&CS will send billing invoices directly to producers. Payments will not be accepted at your local FSA Office. To avoid late charges, report your cotton acreage by July 2. The assessment for the 2007 Boll Weevil Eradication Program is \$2.50 per acre.

NAP PRODUCERS – NAP Producers should turn in **2006 production evidence by July 2, 2007**, for determining your Actual Production History (APH). **If you have a loss in 2007** but submit your 2006 production evidence after July 2nd, the overall yield used to determine your claim can be substantially lowered, resulting in reduced payments. Don't wait - turn in your 2006 production records this month.

If you purchased NAP coverage on a particular crop but did not plant it for 2007, you must submit a “zero” acreage report. Notices of loss and prevented planting on NAP crops should be reported on Form CCC-576 to FSA within 15 calendar days after the disaster occurrence or date damage to the specific crop acreage is apparent to the producer. NAP regulations no longer allow loss notification by phone. We can accept form CCC-576 by fax or mail (postmarked date will be used as the filing date).

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities or vision or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please contact Suzanne Murray at 252-459-4111

Funding to mail newsletters is limited and unless additional funding is received this will be the last newsletter until after September. **REMEMBER THESE DEADLINES!**

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The election of a new county committee-person, in **LAA-2, which consists of Castalia, Mannings and Nashville** townships, to the Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committee is important to ALL farmers and ranchers with large or small operations. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a direct link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. They work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers. Committees provide local input on many programs offered by FSA.

Election Period - Nomination period began **June 1, 2007** and ends **August 1, 2007**. Nomination forms for the 2007 election must be postmarked or received by close of business in the local FSA county office on August 1, 2007. **Nominations** - A nomination form **signed by the nominee** is needed to nominate an individual. The form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. The nomination form is included in this mailing, available at your local FSA county office and online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections>

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program and resides/farms in the LAA holding elections may be nominated for candidacy for the committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. In addition, organizations representing socially disadvantaged (minorities and women) farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates.

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters in **LAA-2** by **November 3, 2007**, and must be returned to the FSA county office or postmarked by **December 4, 2007**. **Who Can Vote** – **LAA 2** agricultural producers of legal voting age can vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm can also vote. Check with your local FSA office for voting requirements and eligibility.

GROWING SEASON INSPECTIONS – County FSA office staff will be performing growing season inspections on selected producers again this year for both Federal Crop insured crops and NAP crops. FSA is required to refer to RMA all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse of the Federal Crop Insurance Program. Anyone wishing to report such acts should contact their local FSA office, RMA or the Office of the Inspector General. The USDA hotline number is 1-800-424-9121.

Visit our website: www.fsa.usda.gov

2007 CROP LOANS– As a marketing tool, farm-stored and warehouse-stored crop loans are available to producers. To place a crop under loan, beneficial interest must be maintained until the loan is repaid. CCC will take a lien on the crop at the time of the loan, and you **MUST** request prior authorization to move the crop when you need to deliver and sell the crop to repay the loan. Loans mature 9 months after the month of disbursement. If you are interested in this, please contact Suzanne Murray.

2007 CROP LDP'S – **Be sure to complete a Page 1 of Form CCC-633EZ** which serves as your statement of intention to FSA to request and receive LDP benefits for all of your 2007 crops. **Page 2** is used for grains and **Page 3** is used for cotton and these are completed at the time you request your LDP. As harvest time approaches, watch the market rates for availability.

Emergency Loans - Nash County is included in a USDA declaration for emergency loans due to losses incurred from the low temperatures and freezing conditions occurring in April. Eligibility includes having had at least a 30% production and/or physical losses, operate in the county, be an established family farm operator, citizens or permanent residents, acceptable credit, and be unable to obtain credit from commercial sources to continue farming. Loan amount is the amount of actual loss not to exceed \$500,000. Loans will be adequately secured depending on the use of the loan funds and the loan term. Interest rate is 3.75 percent. Applications for emergency loans must be received by 1-24-08. Call Sidney Long, Farm Loan Manager, for assistance.

\$\$\$Money Matters\$\$\$ – If you still receive your FSA payments by paper check, please read this section for some important advice. Payments made by this method are processed last. This applies to payments from all programs – CRP, CREP, Tobacco Buyout, DCP etc. **However, there is an easy remedy: sign-up for direct deposit of all your FSA payments.** Funds can be deposited into your checking or savings account and are usually available within 3 business days. You will receive a payment transaction statement in the mail when the payment is disbursed. Call your FSA Office and ask to file form SF-1199A.

Note: if you're already receiving payments thru direct deposit, please notify the FSA Office of any changes to your account or routing numbers. Thanks! ☺

OUTREACH – FSA is committed to informing all persons of the programs that it administers. As part of our Outreach Plan, the CED is available to speak to groups upon request.

NASH COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE

Kathryn Tyson, Chairperson Bobby Joe Fisher, Vice-Chairperson
Richard S. Brantley., Member Calvin Barrett, Advisor

Your FSA Committee meets the first Wednesday of each month at 9:00 AM in the FSA Office. All meetings are open to the public.

FSA STAFF

Suzanne Murray, CED Sidney Long, FLM
Kathy M. Rains Trudy G. Morris
Rodney Musselwhite Anne Strickland
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