

ONslow COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY NEWSLETTER

United States Department of Agriculture

County Committee

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DISASTER Sign-up Dates Announced

Sign-up dates for the new Livestock Compensation Program, Livestock Indemnity Program and Crop Disaster Program have been announced. Eligible ranchers and other livestock producers can apply to receive benefits under the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) starting **September 10, 2007**. Eligible farmers can sign-up for the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) beginning **October 15, 2007**, if they suffered quantity losses to their crops. USDA will announce and conduct CDP sign-up for quality losses as soon as possible.

LCP compensates livestock producers for feed losses and/or LIP for livestock losses occurring between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007, due to a natural disaster. Producers in primary counties declared secretarial disaster areas or certain counties declared presidential disaster areas between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007, are eligible as are producers located in counties contiguous to those counties. Producers in a primary (or contiguous) county that received an Administrator's Physical Loss Notice directly associated with a disaster declaration will also be eligible.

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, or, in the case of prevented plantings, for crops that would have been 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. Contact the FSA county office for more details.

COUNTY Committee Elections The election for Local Administrative Area (LAA) 3 will be held soon. The following person(s) is eligible to be elected:

James "Blair" Gillette resides at Belgrade Swansboro Rd, in the Stella/Swansboro area of the county. Blair is

carrying on the family tradition by being the fourth generation farmer. He has been actively involved in the production of corn, soybeans, wheat, sod and tobacco. In addition, he is a proud member of the Midway United Methodist Church. He is eager to serve the local farmers if elected.

The next step in the election process is the mailing out of the ballots, which will begin on November 2, 2007. Voters have until December 3, 2007, to return their properly completed ballots to the county office. Elected committee members and alternates take office on Jan. 1, 2008.

NAP Deadline Approaching The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) deadline for fall seeded crops is approaching. NAP is designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production for an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance.

September 30, 2007 is the final date for producers to apply for NAP coverage in North Carolina on barley, oats, rye and wheat.

Loan and LDP Information Loans or LDPs are available for producers who share in the risk of producing crops. To be eligible, you must maintain beneficial interest in the crop (maintain title, control of the crop) through the time of application. Producers who have contracted the commodity, sold directly off the field or immediately fed the commodity must have filed a CCC-633EZ page 1 to maintain eligibility for an LDP. The CCC-633EZ page 1 must be signed prior to harvest. Producers who deliver grain under a delayed pricing contract lose beneficial interest upon delivery in most cases.

Electronic Loan Deficiency Payments (eLDP) are available to producers who have an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account. The eLDP is an internet based service that allows producers to request certified LDPs online and, in most cases, receive approval and payment by direct deposit within 48 hours.

ELDP services provide greater flexibility to producers by reducing their need to travel to and from county FSA offices. ELDPs are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, except during routine backup and maintenance periods.

Commodities harvested for other than grain (such as hay or silage) are also eligible for LDPs. Applications should be made prior to feeding or selling. The maximum eligible quantity is based on actual production of grain for the farm. Producers who want to ensure the use of their own yield should request measurement service for farm stored commodities prior to feeding. If actual production is not available, the county committee will assign a yield based on three similar farms in your area. Yield for crops that sustained weather damage will be based on the insurance appraisal.

Interest rates vary monthly and are based on the month of approval. Rates are subject to change January 1.

Loan repayment options, include:

- repay the loan, principal plus interest
- repay the loan at the market repayment rate
- deliver the outstanding quantity to a designated warehouse

When commodities are under loan and used as collateral, they may not be moved without prior written consent from the county office. **(You can not do this by phone)**

Select a New Administrative Office Many farming operations today cover more than one county, and producers should be aware that the Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers producers the option to combine their farm records in the FSA office of their choice. Selecting a new administrative FSA office is an option available to producers for the ease of servicing their participation in FSA programs on farms in multiple counties. Selecting one

new administrative office allows a producer to transfer farm records to a neighboring county office if they can document to FSA that the change would be **“significantly”** more convenient. Examples of significantly more convenient would be working in the town, or doing most other farming business in the town. Other reasons may exist.

Ordinarily FSA procedure dictated that farm units were administered in the county office where the land was physically located. That restriction created problems such as:

- Producers had to visit two or more FSA offices for each task they wished to complete.
- Producers needed to keep production separate for LDP purposes, potentially leading to problems and lost benefits.
- Duplication of some tasks by the affected FSA offices and delayed payments as paperwork was transmitted between counties.

Transferring farm records to a new administrative county office for convenience is a one time selection for the current operator and land owner. The operator and land owner must agree to do business in the new administrative county once the records are transferred. However, a new operator would have the option of transferring the land to another county in the future. Additional information on transferring farm records is available at any FSA office.

OFFICE HOURS- Office hours for the Onslow County FSA Office are 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM Monday through Friday.

POLICY

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