



Farm Service Agency

Pender/New Hanover County News

ISSUE NO. 2

June, 2007

BURGAW USDA
SERVICE CENTER

PENDER/NEW
HANOVER COUNTY FSA

PO Box 697
Burgaw NC 28425

Phone: (910) 259-9123
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Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
Nathan Rivenbark, Jr.
Lewis Boney
Willie Atkinson

Staff
Veronica Bannerman
Priscilla Powell
Kimberly Clark

Farm Loan Manager
Carlton Grady

Farm Loan Officer
Paula Dail

District Director
D. Warren Hepler

County Executive
Director
Barbara P. Cottle

FSA Website:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>



CROP ACREAGE REPORTS: June 30th, 2007, is the deadline for reporting spring and summer seeded crops (tobacco, corn, soybeans, cotton, CRP, etc.) Filing an accurate and timely crop acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of programs including Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments. Crop reports, form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted.

Failed Acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting needs to be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Appointments cards are being mailed. If you do not receive an appointment card or need to reschedule an appointment, please call the office at (910) 259-9123, ext. 2.

Important Note: Failure to file an acreage report by the June 30th deadline will result in a late file fee being charged. This fee is charged by farm and is a **minimum charge of \$46.00 per farm.**

PENDER COUNTY DESIGNATED AS A PRIMARY DISASTER AREA: Pender County has been designated as a primary disaster area because of the crop losses that occurred from the hard freeze April 6th- April 9th. This designation makes farm operators in both **primary and contiguous** counties eligible to be considered for low-interest emergency loans from FSA, provided eligibility requirements are met. FSA will consider each application on its own merit by taking into account the extent of losses, security available, and repayment ability. Please contact Carlton Grady, Farm Loan Manager, and/or Paula Dail, Farm Loan Officer, at the Duplin County FSA Office at 910-296-2193, extension 106 for further information.

2007 DCP SIGN-UP EXTENDED UNTIL AUGUST 3rd: The sign-up for the 2007 DCP (Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program) has been extended until August 3rd, 2007.

Any farm that has a grain base and has land in agricultural use is eligible to participate. The person that will be in control of the cropland enrolled for the 2007 crop year will be the only person that is eligible for the DCP payment. **An entire farm cannot be leased to someone and the landowner receives the DCP payment.**

Eligible producers may request advance payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment rate for each commodity associated with the farm. When you sign the DCP contract you are agreeing to the following:

- File acreage report with respect to all cropland on the farms; and
- Comply with highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation provisions on all of your land;
- Devote acreage equal to the base acreage to an agricultural or conserving use;
- Effectively control noxious weeds and otherwise maintain base acres according to sound agricultural practices;
- Not plant perennial fruits and vegetables or harvest annual FAV's or wild rice on base acres.
- Notify the county office when there is a transfer of or change of interest of a producer.

COUNTY COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS FOR LAA 2 BEGINS JUNE 15TH, 2007: The nomination period for county committee elections for LAA 2, which consists of Lower Columbia, Upper Columbia, Lower Burgaw, and Upper Burgaw, begins June 15th, 2007, and ends August 1st, 2007. Landowners and producers will be receiving Form FSA-669A (Nomination Form for County FSA Election) to nominate candidates for the County Committee. A list of eligible candidates who may be eligible to serve in LAA 2 is available at your local Service Center.

Candidates must be of legal voting age; **live in the LAA holding the election (LAA 2)**; and participate or cooperate in programs administered by FSA.

- Names for candidacy (nominations) are submitted using an official FSA nomination form (FSA-669A). Nomination forms are available at local USDA Service Centers and on the FSA Web site: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.
- Candidates may nominate themselves or be nominated by others.
- Nomination forms must be submitted to the Service Center or be postmarked on or before **August 1st, 2007**.
- **Nomination forms must be signed by the nominee** (whether self-nominated or nominated by someone else).



The voting process will begin in early November.

CONTINUOUS CRP SIGNUP CONTINUES: The Continuous CRP (Conservation Reserve Program) signup continues for the Longleaf Pine Initiative CP36 and The Upland Bird Habitat Buffer CP33. The Continuous CRP program is a voluntary enrollment program. Eligible landowners enter into contracts that range from 10 to 15 years in length. In return, the landowners will receive annual rental including maintenance payments, incentive payments for certain activities, and cost share for establishment. To be eligible for enrollment in the Continuous CRP, participants and acreage must meet certain requirements. Provided the eligibility requirements are met, FSA will automatically accept enrollments of acreage into Continuous CRP. Landowners may enroll in the program at any time during the year. For more information on Continuous CRP enrollments, please contact your local FSA office.

FARM LOAN PROGRAMS: The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$200,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$852,000. Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA. For detail information loan eligibility or the different available loan programs, just contact the county office staff for an appointment with a farm loan officer.

LOANS FOR SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED: The Farm Service Agency (FSA) can make and guarantee loans to socially disadvantaged applicants to buy and operate family size farms and ranches. Funds specifically for these loans are reserved each year. A socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of the group without regard to their individual qualities. For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians and Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, and Asians and Pacific Islanders. Socially disadvantaged loan applicants do not receive automatic approval. In addition to being members of a socially disadvantaged group, individual applicants under this program must meet all requirements for FSA's regular farm loan program. Contact your local FSA Farm Loan Manager or Officer for more details and assistance in applying.



- **June 30th** **Crop Reporting Deadline**
- **July 4th** **Independence Day – Office Closed**
- **August 1st** **Last Day to Submit Nomination Forms**
- **August 3rd** **DCP Sign-up Deadline**