



# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## PITT COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY

SEPTEMBER 2007

### **Pitt County Farm Service Agency County Committee**

C. Mac Whitehurst, Chairperson  
Charlie Manning, Vice-Chairperson  
John Louis Bailey, Member  
Barbara Mills, Advisor  
David Wooten, Advisor

*Committee meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Thursday each month at 1:00 pm*

### **Pitt County Farm Service Agency Office Staff**

Dale Leffelman, CED  
Jennifer Leggett, CPT  
Ricky Forrest, CFT  
Crystal Bowden, PT  
Toni Strickland, PT  
Jennie Jones, PT  
Debbie Houston, FLO

**Office Hours**  
Monday thru Friday  
8:00am – 4:30pm

**Telephone: (252) 752-6112**  
**Fax: (252) 752-1504**  
**FSA Website:**  
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

**OUTREACH** - The Farm Service Agency is committed to informing all persons of the programs that it administers. As part of the Outreach Plan for the Pitt County FSA Office, the County Executive Director will be available to speak to groups upon request.

**SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS** will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please contact our office at (252) 752-6112.

**EEO STATEMENT** - The United States 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, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA TARGET CENTER at 202-720-2600 (Voice or TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 800-795-3272 (Voice) or 202-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

### **County Committee Elections**

Nominations for the county committee election were due in the county office by August 1, 2007. 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. Discrimination Prohibited - No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status. If you have any questions about your voter eligibility, please contact your county office staff.

### **Expect Final DCP Payments for 2007 to Come in October**

Enrolled producers can expect their final direct payment to be directly deposited into personal bank accounts sometime during the first few weeks of October. Producers who did not elect to receive an advance direct payment will receive their entire direct payment for the year in one lump sum after the end of the fiscal year (September 30). The direct payment for a crop equals 85 percent of the farm's base acreage times (x) the farm's direct payment yield times (x) the direct payment rate. If there are any unearned advance counter-cyclical payments, Commodity Credit Corporation will automatically subtract those amounts from the final Direct and Counter-cyclical Program payments.

### **2007 Program Payment Eligibility Requirements**

Producers wishing to receive payments must review all eligibility forms. These forms include CCC-502 (payment limitation information), AD-1026 (highly erodible/wetland information), FSA-526 (adjusted gross income information), FSA-570 (crop insurance information). While none of these forms or this information is new, we are required to review these forms for corrections and changes each year. If you are involved in a corporation, joint venture or partnership, you will need to bring us a copy of your papers showing us who shares in your entity and what their share of the entity is.

### **USDA Polls Cotton Producers on Program Referendum**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced that beginning today and continuing through Nov. 30, 2007, cotton producers can request a referendum on whether to continue the 1991 amendments to the Cotton Research and Promotion Program. Cotton producers may submit their requests at local FSA service centers. FSA is polling cotton producers on behalf of USDA/AMS.

### **Environmental Quality Incentives Program**

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary conservation program that assists with the installation of conservation practices which benefit the environment. The program provides financial and technical assistance for the implementation of structural and management practices on eligible agricultural land. Applications are being taken in the NRCS office. All applications received by November 1, 2007 will be ranked against each other with the highest ranking applications being funded first. The second batching period will end on February 15, 2007. There are special funds available for small, limited resource or beginning farmers. Call the **NRCS Office at 252-752-2720 ext. 3** or visit the following website for more information: <http://www.nc.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/EQIP/index.html>



Pitt County FSA Office  
 403 Government Circle, Suite 1  
 Greenville, NC 27834-0371

### Reporting losses

If you had any failed crop acres, give serious thought to report them before destroying crop evidence. If Congress authorizes a crop disaster program in the future, proof of failed acreage may be required for your participation. It's important to report failed acreage not brought to harvest to the county office staff prior to destruction. Ensuring that failed acres are documented could be the determining factor in whether you are eligible for future crop disaster program payments. If you are experiencing low crop yields, you should keep good production records, but you don't need to report this acreage right now. The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. For losses on crops covered by the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), you must contact the FSA county office staff within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent. Producers with crop insurance should contact their local agent when losses occur and before destroying the crop.

### Farm Loan Programs

FSA makes direct and guaranteed loans to socially disadvantaged applicants, enabling them to buy and operate family-size farms. Direct loans may be made to qualified applicants for both farm operating and farm ownership purposes. Guaranteed loans also may be made for ownership or operating purposes, and may be made by any lending institution guaranteed by FSA. FSA typically guarantees 90 or 95 percent of a loan against any loss incurred if the loan fails. Socially disadvantaged 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 Farm Service Agency's regular farm loan program. For details, call Debbie Houston, Farm Loan Officer at (252) 752-6112, Ext. 111.

### Did You Know...?

-If all of the cotton produced annually in the U.S. were used to make one product, such as blue jeans, it would make 5 Billion pair.

-One bale of cotton can produce 1,217 men's t-shirts or 313,600 one-hundred dollar (\$100) bills.

### Dates to Remember

September 30, 2007	DCP Participation Deadline
September 30, 2007	NAP Application closing date for barley, oats, rye, and wheat
October 8, 2007	Columbus Day (Office Closed)
November 12, 2007	Veterans Day (Office Closed)
November 22, 2007	Thanksgiving Day (Office Closed)
December 25, 2007	Christmas Day (Office Closed)
January 1, 2008	New Years Day (Office Closed)

### 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 Pitt County FSA county office for more details.