



USDA

Farm Service Agency



December, 2007

Rutherford County News

Rutherford County USDA Service Center

Rutherford County FSA
121 Laurel Drive
Rutherfordton NC 28139
(828) 287-4220 (phone)
(828) 287-8081 (fax)

Hours
Monday - Thursday
7:45 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Friday-7:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

County Committee
Larry Bailey, Chairman
David Camp, V-Chair
Tom Carswell, member
Pat Mintz, COC Advisor
**Meeting Date: 3rd Tues.
9:00 a.m.**

Staff
Dianne Davis, CED
Nancy Bradshaw, PT
Diane Roper, PT

Special Reminders
Disaster sign-up

HOLIDAYS
Christmas Eve – 12/24
Christmas Day – 12/25
New Year Day – 1/1/08
Martin L King – 1/14/08

Payment Limitation
Direct payments-\$40,000
Counter-Cyclical - \$65,000
Loan gains/LDP - \$75,000
CRP annual payment-\$50,000
CDP-\$80,000.00
NAP-\$100,000
ECP-\$200,000 per person/per disaster

Oct. 15-Sign-up for Crop Disaster Program (CDP) for quantity losses for producer's choice of 2005/2006/2007(crops planted before Feb.28, 2007.) Eligible crops must have been covered under crop ins. Or NAP for applicable year.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

Ballots for election for the County Committee representative from LAA 1 were counted on December 6, 2007. We are proud to announce our new County Committeeman is David Gowan. First Alternate to the committee from LAA 1 is David Migala. A big thank you to everyone who was willing to serve and to allow their names to be placed on the ballot. Also, a big thank you to everyone who took the time and interest to vote in this election. The County Committee has much responsibility in the administration of the regulations governing all FSA programs. Mr. Gowan will begin his term of service on January 1, 2008. He will fill the position held by David Camp for the last 9 years. Thanks to David Camp for his time and support for the last 9 years.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM

Under the current law, authority to enroll land in CRP expires on December 31, 2007. This means under the present farm bill, no new contracts, neither general nor continuous, can be approved after this date. If the current authorization expires, if a new farm bill is not in place, no new offers for CRP can be accepted. Hopefully CRP will be reinstated under the new farm bill that should be out early in the New Year. Those that are enrolled in CRP still must comply with rules and regulations as stated in the appendix received when the land was enrolled. Changes to the land, including tree thinning, must be approved by the County Committee before any work is started. Certification that contract acreage is still in the same cover and is still the same acres (cropland certification) is required every year by June 30th. These certifications are usually mailed out to all participants who do not have any other land to report besides what is under the CRP contract. However, it is your responsibility to certify to this acreage every year. If any acreage needs to be removed from the contract, (sale of land, building, etc.) the county office must to be informed so that contracts can be adjusted.

2005/2006/2007 Disaster Programs

CDP (Crop Disaster Program) provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and/or quality losses from natural disasters in 2005, 2006, & 2007 (if the crop was planted before Feb. 28, 2007). We can do applications for each eligible year but producers must choose only one year to receive benefits. Benefits are applicable to multiple crops as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year. **To be eligible for this disaster assistance program, producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 % and have had NAP or Crop Insurance on the damaged crop for the year of application.** Sign-up for this program began October 15th, and no ending date has yet been announced. Farmers may receive a maximum of \$80,000.00 in crop disaster benefits. We encourage every producer who had NAP or Crop Insurance coverage in one of these years, and had a loss, to come in and file a disaster application. Grass for hay is considered to have been planted before Feb. 28, 2007. Therefore, any hay producer who had NAP coverage on their hay for 2007 may be eligible for both NAP and disaster payments. No other help has been announced for the 2007 crop year as yet. We are still hoping that some help will come.

United States Department of Agriculture
Rutherford County FSA
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Rutherfordton NC 28139
Official Business



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NON-INSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

NAP is designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production for an eligible crop. Eligible crops are any crop for which Federal Crop Insurance is not offered. The cost of this coverage is \$100 per crop, not to exceed \$300 per year in a single county or \$900 in multiple counties. **With cuts in disaster programs, and requirements for existing disaster programs, it is becoming imperative for producers to have NAP coverage.** NAP is obtained by making application at the FSA office. Crop Insurance is obtained through a certified crop insurance agent. Remaining application closing dates for 2008 NAP crops are **1/1/08 & 2/28/08. Check with the office to determine the deadline for each crop. It is imperative that all producers who have NAP coverage remember to report 2007 production by June 30, 2008. Your yield (which determines how much loss you must have before you qualify for payment) is established and built by the reporting of yearly production. If production is not reported, a 0 production is calculated for that year.**

CROP REPORTING

Cropland certification for 2008 crops are now being accepted. It is important to report all acreage you are farming. FSA programs require that **all cropland** (this includes pasture and hay land) be reported for each farm that you own or lease to stay in compliance with the program. Dates the crops are planted are required. Small grain reporting deadline is **May 15, 2008**. All other crops, grass, and hay land is **June 30, 2008**.

DIRECT AND COUNTER-CYCLICAL PAYMENT PROGRAM

This program ended with the 2002 Farm Bill. The new Farm Bill will determine if this program will continue or a new program will take its place. Some counter-cyclical payments may still be made in 2008 for 2007 crops. Counter-Cyclical payments are based on market prices for each individual crop.

RECORD CHANGES

Please keep this office informed of any changes in your farming operation. Change of land ownership, rented acreage, address, or banking information should be reported to our office. These changes are important to your receiving mail, being eligible for programs, and having payments deposited into the right account.

OFFICE HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

The county office will be closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Years Day, and Martin Luther King Day.

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