



USDA

Farm Service Agency

July, 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

**.All crops and land uses
must be reported by
June 30, 2006.Reporting
of all cropland acreage is
required for all
programs.**

**Nomination period for
COC LAA 1 is June 15-
August 1, 2007. Please
take time to nominate an
eligible person from this
LAA. Your voice counts!**

HOLIDAYS

Independence Day
July 4, 2007
Labor Day-Sept. 3, 2007

Payment Limitation

Direct payments-\$40,000
Counter-Cyclical - \$65,000
Loan gains/LDP - \$75,000
CRP annual payment-\$50,000
Wool, peanuts, mohair honey-
\$75,000
NAP-\$100,000
ECP-\$200,000 per person/per

COUNTY COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

Nominations for COC representative for LAA 1, communities of Green Hill, Union, Danielstown, Sulphur Springs, Haynes, Caroleen, and Cliffside are being requested this year for the November 2006 County Committee election. FSA-669A, the nomination form, is attached to this newsletter and is being mailed to all eligible voters in the county. Anyone can nominate a candidate for the committee. However, the nominee must reside in one of the above communities and own or operate farmland in the LAA. The nominee must also sign the nomination form stating that they are willing and eligible to serve on the Rutherford County Committee if elected. FSA-669As and COC election fact sheets may also be obtained at the county office or online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections>. The nomination period began June 15th and continues through August 1st. Women and minority nominations are encouraged. It is very important that we have nominations made at the county level. If we fail to receive nominees, Washington DC can help decide who will be making important agricultural related decisions in the county. David Camp is the current COC member from this LAA and will have to go off the committee this December after serving 9 consecutive years.

DISASTER HELP

We all are aware that this year has been a bad growing year for Rutherford County. The frost and freeze at Easter resulted in a complete loss of county peaches and apples. It also damaged small grains, grassland, and small fruits. The winds that followed the next week blew down trees as well as damaged fences, barns, and other buildings. We have also been in the grip of a drought since the middle of March. All of these problems concerning our agricultural community have been reported to the State Office and consequently to Washington. The county was declared a disaster area for the freeze. Congress has passed a disaster bill of which the details are still in the working stages. We have little information to share at this time, and until all the rules and regulations are published all information is subject to change. The way the bill is written at this time, it does not seem that our county will be eligible for much help. However, we are still attempting to inform everyone interested how badly the county crops have been damaged this year. We are taking crop loss reports on any and all crops. Even though we cannot promise help, having the number of acres and degree of loss documented by the individual producers helps strengthen our reports to officials who make decisions. If you feel you have suffered a loss of production on any crop, including grassland, please come by the office and let us help you get it documented.

DIRECT AND COUNTER-CYCLICAL PAYMENT PROGRAM

The application period for the 2007 DCP program has been extended until August 3, 2007. Producers who were enrolled in this program in prior years are encouraged to enroll again for 2007. This is a reminder that this program requires an application be completed every year of the program. 2007 is the final year of this program under the 2002 Farm Bill. The new 2007 Farm Bill may include an extension of this program, but has not been officially announced. Certification of all cropland acreage is required to remain in compliance with this program.

FSA 2007 NATIONAL COMPLIANCE & SPOT CHECK REVIEW

FSA is committed to delivering accurate program payments to America's agricultural producers. The accuracy of payments not only benefits farmers and ranchers, but also maximizes taxpayer dollars and government efficiency.

As part of the 2007 National Compliance Review, FSA's national office is requiring local FSA county offices to conduct compliance reviews and spot checks of certain producers selected by the national office through a statistical sampling method. A statistical sample of FSA employees, County Committee (COC) and State Committee (STC) members have also been selected for review using this same process.

FSA may review a producer's operations in multiple states and counties, depending on the scope of the producer's operations. FSA will review both the accuracy of the representations made by the selected producers in connection with participation in FSA programs as well as the producer's compliance with applicable program requirements. The reviews may need to be conducted at various times throughout the year depending on the FSA programs in which the producer is participating. FSA appreciates the cooperation of its customers as the agency continues to enhance its operations.

FSA's goal is to ensure that program dollars are delivered effectively and efficiently so America's farmers and ranchers can provide safe and abundant food, fiber and fuel for consumers at home and abroad.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM

One of the requirements of compliance for the CRP program is to report all cropland acreage on the farm on a yearly basis. This report must be received in the county office by June 30, 2007. This cropland certification is required even in the final year of the contract. If you failed to get your crop certification completed by July 2, 2007 for the 2007 crop year, please call or come by the office immediately. No annual rental payment can be made if this certification is not complete.

Even though there was no General CRP signup for the 2007 year, Continuous CRP is offered anytime of the year, every year. There are several different uses of Continuous CRP and cost-share is available on most practices. If you have any areas of your farm that you think might benefit from some conservation help, stop by the office so that we can discuss all the practices, and requirements for this program.

Please remember that a CRP contract is a binding contract. Any changes to contract area, ownership, etc. must be reported to the FSA office immediately. Also, written conservation plans pertaining to land maintenance and uses must be adhered to in order to remain in compliance. Grassland must be clipped, sprayed, or burned at intervals determined by the conservation plan, and must be completed outside the nesting period of April 15-September 15. Grassland may not be hayed or grazed. Tree plantation must not be cut or thinned without prior permission of the County Committee and with a thinning plan on file. Failure to comply with these provisions could result in termination of the contract with refund of all CRP payment, interest, and liquidated damages.

NON-INSURABLE CROP INSURANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

NAP coverage is available on all crops that are not insurable through the Federal Crop Insurance Program. The price is \$100 per crop up to \$300 per county or \$900 in all counties. The closing dates for purchasing coverage for 2008 crops are: strawberries-9/1/07; small grain forage-9/30/07; alfalfa, apples, blackberries, blueberries, caneberries, grapes, grass, hay, lespedeza, peaches, pecans, plums, raspberries, -11/20/200; beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, chives, cilantro, greens, kale, lettuce, onions, potatoes, rutabaga, spinach, turnips-1/1/2008. Coverage for all other vegetable crops and soybeans for forage is 2/28/2008. Certification of all cropland by June 30th of the applicable year is a compliance requirement for NAP coverage. Loss reports must be filed with the county office within 15 days of the date of the disaster that caused a loss to the crop. Dates of the disaster and dates the crop damage was apparent are required. Production totals are required to be reported to the county office after all production is harvested. The latest date for reporting production is the June 30th of the next year. If you plant any crops in the county and would like more information on this program, come by the office or call any day of the week.

RECORD CHANGES

It is very important that the FSA office is informed whenever there are changes in your farming operation, address, land ownership, banking information, rental agreements, or other changes that could affect the contracts you have or the payments you might receive from our office. We can serve you much better if all the information we have on you is correct.