



**UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE**

*FARM SERVICE AGENCY
Swain/Jackson COUNTY
COMMITTEE*

Jim Rhinehart - Chairman
Verna Kirkland - Vice Chair
Kathy Dugan- Member
Mark Hyatt- Member
Charlie Burgess- Advisor
Rebecca Fortner -Director

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**Swain/Jackson County Farm Service Agency
N e w s l e t t e r**

June 2007



County Committee Nominations in Progress

June 15, 2007 Nomination period begins. Attached you will find a Nomination petition form. Please nominate an eligible candidate and return to the Swain FSA Office by August 1, 2007.

The following LAA's are up for election;

Local Administrative Area 3 which covers parts of the Cherokee Indian Reservation in Swain and Jackson Counties is the LAA up for re-election. Currently, Kathy Dugan is serving her 2nd consecutive term.

Local Administrative Area 5 which covers the Southern end of Jackson Co. including the communities of Wilson Creek, Cullowhee Mtn. Glenville, Cashiers, Caney Fork, Little Canada and Tuckasegee.

Committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs their counties offer. They work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.



Secretarial Major Disaster Declared in the state of North Carolina due to abnormally low temperatures and freezing in early April. Due to this, Swain and Jackson county producers are eligible for Emergency (EM) Low interest Loans now through January 2008. Please contact this office for more information.

DROUGHT MONITORING!

Please contact the FSA Office to report, crop damage, hay shortage and pasture loss due to heat and drought. This information will be compiled to send to Washington to get monies obligated to the counties.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- June 30th - Crop Reporting Deadline
- July 4th - The Office will be closed.
- August 1- Last day to nominate COC Candidate.
- August 3rd - deadline for DCP sign-Up.
- September 1st - Last day to purchase Nap for Strawberries, Nursery and Aquaculture.

United States
Department
Of Agriculture
Swain/Jackson CO Farm Service Agency
P O Box 2331
Bryson City, NC 28713

Official Business

Penalty for Private Use \$300

OFFICE HOURS

Customers are reminded that the Swain/Jackson County FSA Office hours are 7:30 to 4:30 Monday Through Friday.

UTILIZING GIS: The Farm Service Agency currently employs a Geographic Information System (GIS), a computer based tool for capturing, storing, mapping and analyzing geographic farm data. FSA uses GIS to replace the old manual system of hard copy maps and aerial photographs. This digital technology is faster and more accurate than the old way, and saves taxpayers money over the long term. The software can automatically calculate the size of each field and is connected to a database that contains cropping history for each particular field. GIS gives us the tools to provide quicker, more accurate info to producers and as an added bonus, producers can review their farms online from the comfort of their homes.

DCP SIGNUP DEADLINE

The Direct and Counter –Cyclical Payment Program (DCP) provides payments to eligible producers on farms enrolled for the 2002 through 2007 crop years. There are two types of DCP payments—direct payments and Counter-Cyclical payments. Producers may request to receive their direct payments in two installments per year. The first payment would be available in December with the final being made in October. Producers who do not elect to take the first direct payment will receive the entire direct payment in October.

Counter-cyclical payments provide support counter to the cycle of market prices as part of a “safety net” in the event of low crop prices. Counter-cyclical payments for a commodity are only issued if the effective price for the commodity is below the target price.

The signup deadline is August 3, 2007.

Remember, all owners and operators who will share in the DCP payments on the farm must sign the CCC-509. Forms with signatures that are obtained after August 3, but before September 30, will be accepted, but the farm will be assessed a late-file sign-up fee of \$100.

CROP ACREAGE REPORTS

Producers in Swain and Jackson Counties are requested to report their crop acres to the FSA Office as soon as planting is completed.

In addition to traditional row crops, nursery crops, fruits and berries, and ornamentals; producers are also encouraged to report their fields that are in **hay and pasture**.

Participation in many FSA programs require a crop report to be on file with the FSA Office to be eligible.

Remember you must report the date the crops were planted.

The crop reporting deadline is June 30, 2007, however it will not be long before crops are planted and we ask farmers to report their acres as soon as possible.

IF YOU HAVE BOUGHT OR SOLD ANY AGRICULTURAL PROPERTY, OR CHANGED BANKS AND/OR ACCOUNTS PLEASE NOTIFY THE FSA OFFICE, SO THAT WE CAN CHANGE OUR RECORDS.