



**U.S. Department  
of Agriculture**

**Union County FSA**  
3230A Presson Road  
Monroe, NC 28112-9196

**Phone:** (704) 233-1621  
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**Office Hours**

Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**County Committee**

Randy K. Baucom  
(Chairperson)

Azalee Long  
(Vice-Chairperson)

John A. Ashcraft Jr.  
(Voting Member)

Clinton Phillips, Jr.  
(Minority Advisor)

**CED**

H. O'Brian West Jr

**Staff**

Vicky Edwards  
Lisa Purser  
Peggy Edwards

**Farm Loan Officer**

Suzanne Simpson

**Farm Loan Manager**

Mary Myers

**Office Closings**

July 4 – Independence Day

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**County Committee  
Election**

**June 15** – Nomination period begins

**Aug. 1** – Last day to file nominations at FSA

**Nov. 2** – Ballots mailed

**Dec. 3** – Last day to return voted ballots to FSA

***Farm Service Agency***

**June 6, 2007**

***FSA Newsletter***

**Number 4**

**EMERGENCY LOAN ASSISTANCE DUE TO APRIL FREEZE**

Union County has been declared an eligible county for Federal disaster assistance due to abnormally low temperatures and freezing conditions that occurred April 6 through April 9, 2007.

Low interest emergency loans from Farm Service Agency are available to producers who own or operate land within a disaster area; are established family farm operators and have sufficient farming experience; are citizens or permanent residents of the United States; have suffered at least a 30 percent loss in crop production or a physical loss to livestock, livestock products, real estate, or chattel property; have an acceptable credit history; are unable to receive credit from commercial sources; and have repayment ability.

Loan requirements include borrowers keeping acceptable farm records; operating in accordance with a farm plan they develop and agree to with local FSA staff; and may be required to participate in a financial management-training program and obtain crop insurance.

Emergency loan funds may be used to restore or replace essential property; pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year; pay essential family living expenses; reorganize the farming operation; and refinance certain debts. Producers can borrow up to 100 percent of actual production or physical losses to a maximum amount of \$500,000.00. All emergency loans must be fully collateralized.

Applications for emergency loans must be received within eight (8) months of the county's disaster date.

Further program information may be found at [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov), or by contacting your local FSA office.

**CROP CERTIFICATION DEADLINE**

Acreage reporting deadlines for corn, cotton, grain sorghum, CRP - **June 30, 2007**. Planting dates are required. To be eligible for program payments, acreage reports must account for all cropland on the farm. Please contact your local office to set up an appointment to certify your crops.

Prevented planted acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date. Failed acreage must be reported before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.

**NONINSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

USDA's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides financial assistance to producers of noninsurable crops when natural disasters cause low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting.

Producers are reminded that in order to remain eligible for NAP assistance, the following crop information must be reported annually: name of crop; type and variety; location and acreage of the crop; share of the crop and the names of other producers with an interest in the crop; type of practice used to grow the crop; date the crop was planted in each field; and intended use of the commodity. In addition, the following production information must be provided annually: the quantity of all harvested production of the crop in which the producer held an interest during the crop year; the disposition of the harvested crops, such as whether it is marketable, unmarketable, salvaged or used differently than intended; and verifiable or reliable crop production records (when required). Failure to report acreage and production information may result in reduced or zero NAP assistance.

If a crop or planting is affected by a natural disaster, you must notify your local Farm Service Agency office and complete form CCC-576, Part B (the Notice of Loss portion of the Notice of Loss and Application for Payment) within 15 calendar days of the: natural disaster occurrence; final planting date if your planting was prevented by a natural disaster; date damage to the crop or loss of production becomes apparent to you.

Further program information may be found at [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov), or by contacting your local FSA office.

## OUTREACH PROGRAM

Farm Service Agency makes direct and guaranteed loans to socially disadvantaged applicants, enabling them to buy and operate family-size farms and ranches. Direct loans may be made to qualified applicants by FSA for both farm operating and farm ownership purposes. Guaranteed farm loans also may be made for ownership or operating purposes, and may be made by any lending institution subject to Federal or state supervision and guaranteed by FSA. Socially disadvantaged loan applications do not receive automatic approval.

Further program information may be found at [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov), or by contacting your local FSA office.

## NONRECOURSE MARKETING ASSISTANCE LOANS

The Union County Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers nonrecourse marketing assistance loans (commodity loans) for covered commodities to producers of wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, soybeans, sunflowers and upland cotton.

Eligibility requirements include:

- Comply with conservation and wetland protection requirements;
- Report how they use their cropland acreage on the farm (all acreage on the farm must be reported);
- Have beneficial interest in the commodity on the date the loan is acquired, as well as retain beneficial interest while the loan is outstanding;
- Ensure that the commodities meet Commodity Credit Corporations (CCC) minimum grade and quality standards

The commodity must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition, be merchantable for food, feed or other use as determined by CCC, and not contain mercurial compounds, toxin producing molds, or other substances poisonous to humans or animals.

The 2007 loan rates are as follows: **Wheat** - \$2.56 per bushel; **Barley** - \$1.65 per bushel; **Oats** - \$1.39 per bushel; **Corn** - \$2.24 per bushel; **Grain Sorghum** - \$3.70 per cwt.; **Soybeans** - \$5.07 per bushel; **Sunflowers (Oil Type)** - \$6.39 per cwt..

For 2007 crops, producers may request loans on wheat, oats, barley and other small grains through March 31, 2008; for corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, sunflower seed, and upland cotton through May 31, 2008. Loans mature on the last day of the ninth calendar month following the month in which the loan is approved. Producers who receive a commodity loan will be ineligible to receive a Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) on the same commodity under loan. All loans will be disbursed via direct deposit.

Further program information may be found at [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov), or by contacting your local FSA office.

## FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOAN PROGRAM

The USDA Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL) offers low-interest financing for producer to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. An FSA farm storage facility loan must be approved by the local FSA county committee before any site preparation and/or construction can be started. The following are eligible types of facilities and upgrades that can be paid for with farm storage facility loans:

- New conventional type cribs or bins designed and engineered for whole grain storage having a useful life of at least 10 years.
- New oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures designed for whole grain wet storage having a useful life of at least 10 years.
- New flat-type storage structures, with permanent floors and bulkheads, designed and primarily used to store whole grain for the loan term.
- New electrical equipment integral to the proper operation of the grain storage and handling equipment, excluding the installation of electrical service to the electrical meter.
- New safety equipment, as required by CCC and meeting the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Organization (OSHA) requirements, such as interior and exterior ladders and lighting.
- New equipment to improve, maintain, or monitor the quality of stored grain, such as cleaners, moisture testers, and heat detectors, in conjunction with a proposed storage facility.
- New concrete foundations, aprons, pits, and pads, including site preparation, labor and material, essential to the proper operation of the grain storage and handling equipment.
- Re-manufactured oxygen-limiting storage structures built to the original manufacturer's design specifications using original manufacturers rebuild kits designed for whole grain storage or other than whole grain storage and having a useful life of at least 10 years.
- Renovation of existing farm storage facilities, under certain circumstances, if the renovation is for maintaining or replacing items that have a useful life of at least 10 years.
- New permanently affixed grain handling and grain drying equipment determined by CCC to be needed and essential to the proper operation of a grain storage system (with or without a loan for the storage facility).
- New structures that are bunker-type, horizontal or open silo structures, with at least 2 concrete walls and a concrete floor, designed for whole grain storage or other-than-whole-grain storage and having a useful life of at least 10 years.

Further program information, such as equipment not eligible, eligible cost items, eligibility requirements, security requirements, maximum loan amounts, facility loan terms, associated loan fees, and required signatures may be found at [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov), or by contacting your local FSA office.