



**U.S. Department
of Agriculture**

Wake County FSA

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Hours

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

County Committee

Joe Callis
Rex Tippet
James Pope

Advisors to COC

Morris Dunn
Virginia Miller

Staff

Martha Fink
Melenda Perry
Sally Rice
Melissa Weatherly

Loan Officer

F. Sidney Long, Jr.

**County Executive
Director**

Keith Miller

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OFFICE CLOSED

- January 15

Wake County



FSA

Farm Service Agency

FSA UPDATES

January 2007
Newsletter #1

County Committee Elections

Congratulations to James Pope Jr. for being elected to the Wake County FSA County Committee (COC) for Local Administrative Area (LAA) 2. Michael Goodson was selected as first alternate and Teresa Hice was selected as second alternate. We would like to thank each person who took the time to vote.

Agricultural Foreign Investors Disclosure Act (AFIDA)

Any foreign investor who acquires, transfers, or holds an interest in agricultural land must submit a completed FSA 153 form to the Secretary of Agriculture not later than 90 days after the acquisition, disposition, or transfer. FSA 153 forms are available at your local FSA office. Failure to timely submit the FSA 153 could result in civil penalty of not more than 25% of the fair market value of the land on the date the penalty is accessed.

Reasonable Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call the Farm Service Agency county office staff, and we will be happy to make any arrangements that are necessary.

Civil Rights Complaint Procedures

A Civil Rights (CR) complaint may be filed one of two ways, orally or in writing. To file a complaint orally, call USDA, CR by telephone at 1-800-795-3272 (voice) or 202-720-6382 (TDD) during normal business hours from 8 am to 5 pm ET or contact any FSA employee. A complaint in writing should be in the form of a letter and addressed to:

Director Office of Civil Rights
Room 326W, Stop 9410
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington DC, 20250-9410

In writing the letter, the complaint will need to include the following information:

- their name, address, and telephone number
- the name, address, and telephone number of their attorney or authorized representative, if they are represented
- the basis of the complaint
- the dates that the incidents of discrimination that are being reported occurred
- the name of the individuals whom are believed to have discriminated against the employee and the agency or entity receiving federal funds that employs those individuals
- the issues of the complaint.

Annual DCP Enrollment

To participate in DCP, producers are required to **designate shares and sign the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program Contract (CCC-509) on a yearly basis.** The annual DCP sign-up period runs from October 1 to June 1 of the applicable program year. To be considered enrolled timely, the CCC-509 must be submitted by June 1 of the applicable program year. In cases where a farm is reconstituted, all resulting farms will need to enroll (signatures obtained) if the producers intend to participate. CCC-509s with signatures obtained after June 1, but by September 30, will be accepted, but the farm will be assessed a late-filed sign-up fee of \$100. All supporting documentation, such as CCC-502, AD-1026, and CCC-526, must be submitted before payments can be issued. Annual acreage reports indicating uses of all cropland on a farm must be filed by the applicable established reporting dates. Acreage reports filed after the applicable final reporting date may be accepted if all requirements are met and a late-filed fee is paid.

Measurement Service Rates

The North Carolina State FSA Committee (STC) has established a mandatory statewide measurement service rate that applies when a farm visit is required. The STC determined that the statewide rate for performing measurement services will be \$30 basic farm fee for a farm visit. Hourly rates of \$16 for the first hour plus \$8 for every 30 minute increment thereafter will also be applied. There is a one hour minimum charge per farm.

Loans for Beginning Farmers, Socially Disadvantaged

FSA is authorized to assist beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person whom:

- Has operated a farm for not more that 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed. Socially disadvantaged groups are Hispanics, American Indians, African Americans, Asians, Pacific Islanders and women.

Selling Land?

If you're planning to sell farmland, there may be some program consequences you should be aware of. For example, if you're planning to sell land that's enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, the buyer must agree to continue the enrollment. If the buyer doesn't want to continue the CRP contract, you may have to refund all of the payments you've received to date.

Please consider discussing possible program consequences with the county office staff before selling any land.

Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) can soften financial losses caused by natural disasters, but only if you've applied for coverage and paid the application fee. The application deadline date for certain 2006 NAP crops is approaching.

NAP kicks in when natural disasters result in a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop. NAP coverage is equivalent to that provided by Catastrophic Risk Protection Plan (CAT) insurance. It's available for commercial crops or agricultural commodities produced for food or fiber for which CAT is not available. NAP coverage is not available for livestock.

February 28 is the application deadline for the following crops: artichoke, asparagus, basil, beans, Brussels sprouts, cantaloupes, Chinese bitter melon, cucumbers, eggplant, honeydew, Jerusalem artichoke, kenaf, Korean golden melon, millet, okra, peanuts, peas, peppers, popcorn, pumpkins, radishes, sorghum, soybeans, sprite melon, squash, sunflowers, sweet corn, sweet potatoes, tomatillos, tomatoes, and watermelons

Dates To Remember

- January 15 – Martin Luther King's birthday, **OFFICE CLOSED**

The U.S. 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, audio tape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and 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.