



**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  
James Pope Jr.  
Rex Tippett

**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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**Wake County**



**FSA**

**Farm Service Agency**

**FSA UPDATES**

June 2007  
Newsletter #5

**Reporting Crop Acreage**

The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA office can be referred to as crop reporting, acreage reporting, or crop certification. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments.

Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. Also, crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.

Crop reports, form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. **PRODUCERS ARE REQUIRED TO FILE REPORTS BY JUNE 30 FOR ALL CROPS.**

**Prevented Planting:**

Prevented planting needs be reported no later than **15 calendar days after the final planting date.**

**Failed Acreage:**

Reports of failed acreage must be filed 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.

**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.

Here's how GIS works. Up-to-date aerial photographs of the entire county are scanned so they can be stored in the computer. The photos become the base layer of the GIS. Technicians examine the photos and identify individual farms. They then outline each farm field, creating another layer of data called the Common Land Unit (CLU).

The software stores the shape of the field as a "polygon," and ties it to a specific location using latitude and longitude. The software can then automatically calculate the size of each field. The CLU layer will be connected to a database that contains information about the cropping history for each particular field.

GIS gives us the tools to provide quicker, more accurate information to producers and reduce the amount of time the producer must spend in the FSA office.

**2007 COC Election Information**

One of FSA's responsibilities is to conduct County Committee elections in an open manner that ensures accountability. County FSA Offices will provide local organizations representing socially disadvantaged groups with detailed information about the COC election process. FSA is reaching out to agricultural communities to get equitable representation on their county committees.

Groups representing socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, will be actively solicited for COC election candidates, and encouraged to fill out a nomination form (FSA-669A). Under represented farmers and ranchers are encouraged to step up and participate in their county's COC election process. Producers will notice posters and announcements displayed in businesses, churches, and other public places. COC election fact sheets can be found online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA> under the News & Events tab on the FSA homepage.

**Preventing Fraud and/or Waste**

The Farm Service Agency has joined with the Risk Management Agency (RMA) to prevent fraud, waste and abuse in the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. In addition, FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse to RMA.

Producers can report suspected cases to the county office staff, RMA office, or the Office of the Inspector General.

## ***Emergency Loans***

Wake County is included in a Secretarial declaration for emergency loans due to losses incurred during the period of abnormally low temperatures and freezing conditions occurring April 6 through April 9, 2007. Eligibility includes having had at least a 30% production loss and/or physical losses, operate in the designated county, be an established family farm operator, citizens or permanent residents, acceptable credit, and be unable to obtain credit from commercial sources to continue farming. Loan amount is the amount of actual loss not to exceed \$500,000. Loans will be adequately secured depending on the use of the loan funds and the loan term. Interest rate is 3.7 percent. Applications for emergency loans must be received by January 24, 2008 for the current designation. If you have any questions, please call Sidney Long, Farm Loan Manager in the Nash County FSA Office; telephone number (252) 459-4111 ext. 2.

## ***Maintaining CRP Cover***

CRP cover maintenance is the participant's responsibility and must be done according to the conservation plan. All CRP maintenance activity, such as mowing, burning and spraying, must be conducted outside the primary nesting season for wildlife and in accordance with the conservation plan.

Spot treatment of the acreage may be allowed during the primary nesting season if certain criteria are met. The ending date for the primary nesting season in North Carolina is September 15.

### **Maturing Contracts:**

CRP participants with expiring contract acres in the final year of the CRP-1, who intend to destroy cover for preparation for spring or fall-seeded crops, need pre-authorization from FSA to avoid penalty. Authorization can only be granted after a completed CRP-1G (Modification to Allow Early Preparation) is reviewed and approved by a representative of the Commodity Credit Corporation.

## ***Payment Limitations***

USDA payments and benefits are subject to producer eligibility and limitation provisions as defined by law. It is the producer's responsibility to report changes in the farming operation which may affect payment eligibility and payment limitation. Failure to do so can result in ineligibility for payments for all years affected.

The following payments apply to DCP for each contract year through both direct and counter-cyclical payments. For all covered commodities, except peanuts: \$40,000 for direct payments and \$65,000 for counter-cyclical payments. For Peanuts: \$40,000 for direct payments and \$65,000 for counter-cyclical payments. The Environmental Quality Incentive Program has a \$450,000 payment limitation total for fiscal years 2002 – 2007. The Conservation Reserve Programs annual limit is \$50,000 per person. Marketing loan gains payment limit of \$75,000 per person.

Entities such as corporations, limited partnerships, trusts and estates are required to provide names, addresses, and ID numbers of their members.

## ***Annual DCP Enrollment – EXTENDED DEADLINE FOR 2007***

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 **August 3, 2007**. 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 August 3, 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***

Farmers who would like a guarantee on their crop plantings and land use acreages can make it official by using the FSA measurement service. Producers must file a request with the county office staff and pay the cost of a field visit to have stake and referencing done on the farm. Common Land Unit (CLU) measurement data for the producer's farm may be provided in the FSA office free of charge.

Measurement service guarantees compliance with a program, if the planting is limited to the measured area. Incorrect acreage self-certification can result in reduced program payments, penalty, or loss of eligibility.

## ***Dates to Remember***

- June 15 – COC Election nomination forms accepted at the FSA Office
- June 30 – Last day to report all crops
- July 4 - Independence Day, **OFFICE CLOSED**
- August 3 – Last day to sign up for DCP without a late fee