



January 2008

# USDA



## Farm Service Agency

### Issue Number 1

### Plymouth USDA Service Center

**Washington County FSA**  
128 E. Water Street  
Plymouth, NC 27962  
252-793-3870, ext 2 (phone)  
252-793-5303 (fax)

**Hours**  
Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**County Committee**  
Lee T. Swain  
Tim Griffin  
Guy Davenport

**Acting Director**  
Kevin P. Wooten

**Staff**  
Lillian Perry  
Denise Landino

**Farm Loan Manager**  
Paula Nicholls

**District Director**  
James Davenport

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#### 2007 COUNTY COMMITTEE (COC) ELECTION

The Washington County FSA would like to thank everyone that participated in the 2007 COC election process. Congratulations go out to Mr. Tim Griffin on his re-election to the Washington County FSA COC. Mr. Griffin did an outstanding job representing the producers and landowners in the Roper community during his last term. We look forward to working with him during his next term on the COC.

#### 2007 DECEMBER PRODUCER MEETING

The Washington County FSA would like to thank everyone who attended this year's December producer meeting at the Vernon James Center in Roper, NC. Your outstanding participation made the meeting a great success. The Washington County FSA office has already begun preparing for next December's meeting in hopes that participants will again enjoy a great meal, good fellowship, and gain useful information to help bring value to your farming operations.

#### FSA PROGRAM AUTHORITY

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act (Farm Bill) of 2002 provided funding for the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) through September 30, 2007. **With the expiration of the 2002 farm bill, the authority for FSA to enroll, approve, and make payments for DCP has also expired. Currently, there is no DCP program or similar payment program authorized.** New agriculture legislation will hopefully authorize some type of program payments. Please know that the 2007 commodity loan and LDP program is currently available. FSA also has authority to accept and process new conservation contracts through March 15, 2008. We thank you for your patience while new agriculture legislation is being developed.

#### CROP DISASTER PROGRAM (CDP)

Signup for the 2005/2006/2007 CDP began on October 15, 2007. Producers who suffered quantity losses of 35% or more on crop(s) planted in 2005, 2006, or 2007 may be eligible for CDP benefits. **Just announced, the 2007 CDP program has been extended. CY 2007 crops planted by December 31, 2007, are now eligible to enroll in CDP. An additional signup for these crops will be announced in 2008.** Producers who incurred a qualifying loss in any of these crop years must choose one year to apply for benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple crops as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year. Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits. Please contact your local FSA office for more details.

#### RECONSTITUTIONS

A farm reconstitution is a change in the land constituting a farm as a result of combining or dividing tracts or farms. When part of a farm is sold, owners may request a division to reallocate base acreage. There are several methods of dividing a farm. One method is owner designation. The designation by landowner method is the division of base acreage in a manner agreed in writing by the parent farm owner and purchaser or transferee. Other criteria apply to divisions by landowner designation. Please contact your local FSA office for information regarding this method or other inquiries concerning combining and dividing tracts and farms.

#### 2008 CROP CERTIFICATION

The Washington County FSA is now accepting 2008 crop reports. Producers are reminded that the crop reporting deadline for small grain crops is May 15, 2008. The reporting date for all other commodities is June 30, 2008. Producer may contact our office to schedule a certification appointment or visit our office to complete your 2008 crop certification.

#### 2007 AGRICULTURE CENSUS

North Carolina's farmers and ranchers will have the opportunity to participate in the 2007 Agriculture Census. On December 28, 2007, the National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS) mailed out census forms to collect data from the 2007 calendar year. Completed forms are due by February 4, 2008. Producers may either return their completed forms by mail or may fill out the Census online. For further information, please contact the NASS North Carolina field office at (800) 437-8451 or visit [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov).

**AGRICULTURAL FOREIGN INVESTORS DISCLOSURE ACT (AFIDA)**

Any foreign person 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 date of 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 penalty is assessed.

**NON-INSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)**

The NAP program is designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production for an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Producers who had NAP may choose to continue coverage on the same crops for 2008, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new form CCC-471 is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop(s). Producers who choose to add or delete a crop from the previous year's coverage or change crop shares must file a new CCC-471 and pay the applicable service fee. **Producers are reminded that the following NAP crops have a sales closing date of February, 2008: Artichoke, Asparagus, Basil, Bean, Brussels Sprouts, Cantaloupe, Bitter Melon, Cucumber, Eggplant, Honeydew, Jerusalem Artichoke, Kenaf, Golden Melon, Millet, Okra, Peas, Peppers, Popcorn, Pumpkin, Radish, Sprite Melon, Squash, Sunflower, Sweet Corn, Sweet Potato, Tomatillos, Tomato, and Watermelon.**

**WETLAND SYMBOLOGY-CLU MAPS**

FSA's migration from 660 paper maps to CLU maps using GIS technology has caused concern with several farm organizations and other individuals regarding the method currently being used to represent NRCS wetland determinations. The blue dot method is being used until NRCS has completed a wetland layer. In response to these concerns, the wetland symbol legend has been revised and a disclaimer will be placed on all FSA maps. The following symbols will be used for wetland determinations: Red-Octagon-Restricted Use, Yellow Triangle-Limited Restrictions, and a Green Square-Exempt from Conservation Compliance. The following disclaimer will also be present on the CLU maps: "Wetland identifiers do not represent the size, shape, or specific determination of the area. Refer to your original determination (CPA-026) for exact wetland boundaries and labels, or contact NRCS."

**SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS**

Special accommodations will be made available upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please call Kevin Wooten at 252-796-3870 ext. 2. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, 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, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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