

United States Department of Agriculture
Wilson County Farm Service Agency Newsletter

County Committee Members

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Newsletter #5



County Executive Director

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June Newsletter

2007 COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The Wilson County Farm Service Agency Office will begin accepting nominations for candidates to serve on the Farm Service Agency County Committee from eligible voters in **LAA-2** (Gardners, Saratoga, Stantonsburg and Wilson Townships) on **June 15th, 2007 through August 1st, 2007**. An eligible voter is an individual that is of legal voting age with an interest in a farm or ranch or if not of legal age then the individual must supervise and conduct the farming operations for the entire farm and must be eligible to participate in any FSA program that is provided for by law. In addition, an individual may only vote in his or her designated LAA. The election of responsible agricultural producers to the FSA County Committee is important to all participants. The Wilson County Farm Service Agency Office encourages all eligible participants, especially Socially Disadvantaged Producers to become involved in this important election process. In FY 2007, each Farm Service Agency Office is required to provide a copy of the FSA-669A nomination form to all producers throughout the County as part of an increased effort to improve Outreach participation. For more information or for a copy of the FSA-669A-Nomination form contact the Wilson County Farm Service Agency Office or go online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/> and click on the News and Events icon.

DIRECT AND COUNTER-CYCLICAL PROGRAM (DCP) ENROLLMENT DEADLINE EXTENDED

USDA's Farm Service Agency Administrator Teresa Lasseter announced the extension of the sign-up deadline for the 2007 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) to **August 3rd, 2007**. Problems with the web-based computer system caused agency officials to extend the deadline in order to ensure adequate opportunity for all producers to participate in the sign-up. While the sign-up deadline is extended, the cut-off for participation remains **September 30th, 2007**. Those producers failing to sign up by **August 3rd, 2007**, will pay a late-file fee of \$100 per farm. The Wilson County Farm Service Agency reminds all Farm Owners and Operators that it is **their responsibility to carefully review the DCP Contract shares to ensure that the shares accurately reflect their interest in the DCP base acres**. Every Producer/Owner must have control of enough acreage (reflected on the FSA-578 Crop Report) to support their share claimed on the DCP Contract. **DCP Contract shares can be revised any time prior to the DCP deadline of September 30th, 2007**. Also Producers, Owners and/or Operators must have supporting documentation on file to determine their eligibility to receive Farm Program Payments such as: **AD-1026, CCC-502, CCC-526 and FSA-578**. Producers are also encouraged to ask for a copy of the **CCC-509 Appendix**, which explains in more detail the terms and conditions of the DCP Contract, if one is not provided at time of enrollment.

2007 CROP ACREAGE CERTIFICATION REPORTS

The Wilson County Farm Service Agency Office continues accepting FY 2007 Certified Crop Acreage Reports from Farm Operators and Producers. All crops (**Corn, Cotton, CRP, Fruit and Vegetables, Grain Sorghum, Peanuts, Soybeans and Tobacco**) as well as **all remaining cropland** must be certified by **July 2nd, 2007**. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) requires that all cropland acreage on a farm **must be reported timely** in order to maintain eligibility for program benefits such as: Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payments, Loan Deficiency Payments, Commodity Loans and Crop Disaster Payments. All crops must have a **planting date and crop shares** and both **must be reported exactly the same at both your local FSA Office and at your local Crop Insurance Agent's Office**. Any differences may affect crop insurance indemnity payments. If producers are still planting crops after the final reporting date, they have 15 days after completing planting to certify that acreage with their local Farm Service Agency Office. The Wilson County Farm Service Agency will provide **Home Certification Packages** to Producers to report their FY 2007 crops. Farm Operators and Producers interested in requesting a **Home Certification Package** should contact the Wilson County Farm Service Agency as soon as possible.

NORTH CAROLINA DISASTER DECLARATION

The United States Department of Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns declared a Secretarial Major disaster for the state of North Carolina due to abnormally low temperatures and freezing conditions experienced throughout the State on April 6th through April 9th, 2007. As a result of the declaration, 47 primary and 46 contiguous counties in North Carolina are eligible for Federal disaster assistance including Farm Service Agency Emergency Loans (EM Loans) to eligible family farmers. **Wilson County is one of the 46 contiguous counties eligible for Federal assistance. Emergency Loan applications for physical and production losses caused from this disaster are being accepted now through January 24th, 2008.** For more information contact Mr. Charles Walls, Jr., Farm Loan Officer with the Wilson County Farm Service Agency at 252-237-5147, ext.2.

2007 LOAN DEFICIENCY PAYMENT PROGRAM (LDP)

The Wilson County Farm Service Agency has mailed all Producers/Farm Operators a **CCC-633EZ**, Loan Deficiency Payment Agreement and Request form to apply for LDP payments for FY 2007 commodities. The **CCC-633 EZ** (Page 1) allows the individual to indicate their intention to receive a loan deficiency payment for all crops at the first of the crop year in order to protect the individual's beneficial interest in each eligible commodity. The **CCC-633 EZ** will also be used to submit a request for LDP benefits (Page 2, 3 or 4) before losing beneficial interest. Operators and Producers will continue to be required to provide acceptable production records on each applicable commodity. An LDP payment is based upon the difference between the posted county loan rate for each covered commodity and the daily CCC-determined value for these commodities. **Producers are reminded to submit all commodity weight tickets to the Wilson County Farm Service Agency in the event an LDP rate was available.**

2007 BOLL WEEVIL ERADICATION PROGRAM

The Wilson County Farm Service Agency will again assist the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) with the Boll Weevil Program for FY 2007. Producers must certify their cotton acreage by **July 2nd, 2007**. The FY 2007 Boll Weevil Assessment Fee will be **\$2.50 per acre**. A "Filed-Late Fee" of \$3.00 per acre will be assessed for any cotton acreage certifications made after July 1st, 2007. All Billing and Collection of Cotton Acreage Assessments will be made by NCDA&CS.

COST SHARE FOR CONSERVATION PRACTICE INSTALLATION

The Wilson County Soil and Water Conservation District will again offer funds to agricultural landowners to assist in the installation of conservation practices to reduce sediment, fertilizer, pesticide and other pollutants into surface and ground waters. Conservation practices that are eligible for funding include: long-term no-till, grassed waterways, field borders, cover crop, lagoon closures, nutrient management and many others. For more information contact the **Wilson County Soil and Water Office at 252-237-5147 ext.3** or visit their Office located at 1806 Goldsboro Street.

REMINDERS

- **FCIC/RMA Program Spot-Checks-** The Wilson County Farm Service Agency will assist the Risk Management Agency (RMA) with Crop Monitoring and Inspections for FY 2007. Farm Service Agency representatives will make required spot-checks and report any fraud, waste and abuse of the Federal Crop Insurance Program (FCIC) to the Risk Management Agency. USDA has a hotline to report suspected cases of Crop Insurance Fraud: **1-800-424-9121** or contact your local Farm Service Agency Office.
- The Wilson County Farm Service Agency Office will be closed **Wednesday, July 4th, 2007** in observance of the **Independence Day Holiday**.
- **Measurement Service Rates-**The NC State Farm Service Agency Committee established the following rates for all NC Farm Service Agency Offices for FY 2007: Measurement Service is **\$30.00 basic fee per farm, plus \$16.00 hourly fee (one hour minimum) and \$8.00 fee for each additional half hour increment**. This service includes measurement of grain bins and late-file fees for crop acreage reports.
- **Office Hours:** 8:00 am – 4:30 pm Monday through Friday.
- **Monthly Committee Meeting:** The Wilson County Farm Service Agency County Committee meets the first Tuesday of every month at 8:30 am.

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