

United States Department of Agriculture  
**Wilson County Farm Service Agency Newsletter**

**County Committee Members**

Bradley Nichols – Chairperson  
Marion Pridgen, Jr. – Vice Chairperson  
David Blalock– Member  
Gary High – Advisor  
Janet Wilkinson-Advisor

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**Newsletter #7**



**County Executive Director**

John David McBryde II

**Farm Loan Officer**

Charles M. Walls, Jr.

**Program Technicians**

Vickie Hinnant

Suzie Flood

Elaine Morris

Danny Tharrington

Denise Atkinson

**November Newsletter**

**USDA ANNOUNCES SIGN-UP PERIOD FOR CROP DISASTER PROGRAM (CDP)**

The United States Troop Readiness, Veteran's Care, Katrina Recovery and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act of 2007 (**2007 ACT**) authorized disaster assistance for both Producers and Ranchers. Disaster programs that are available for Wilson County Producers under the 2007 ACT are the Crop Disaster Program (**CDP**). Enrollment of eligible Producers for **CDP began October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007**. CDP provides the following benefits to eligible Producers who suffered quantity and quality losses to **2005, 2006, or 2007 crops from natural disasters if the crop was planted before Feb. 28, 2007, or, in the case of prevented plantings, for crops that would have been planted before Feb. 28, 2007**. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 **must choose only one year** to apply for benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple commodities **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. Producers must have suffered quantity losses **in excess of 35 percent** to be eligible for CDP. The payment rate will be 42% of the established price. Assistance, together with crop insurance or NAP payments received for the same crop, must not exceed 95 percent of the total value of the crop absent the disaster.

**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 6<sup>th</sup> through April 9<sup>th</sup>, 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 24<sup>th</sup>, 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 COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS**

The 2007 Wilson County Farm Service Agency County Committee ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters in **LAA-2** (Gardners, Saratoga, Stantonsburg and Wilson Townships) beginning **November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2007**. There are two candidates on this year's ballot: **Marion L. Pridgen, Jr.**- Marion resides at 4231 Tartts Mill Road, Wilson, NC. Marion has farmed for over 38 years. **Angela E. Jones**- Angela resides at 1312 Fikewood Street, Wilson, NC. Angela is a farm owner. The candidate elected will serve a three-year term beginning in January 2008. All ballots **must be returned to the Wilson County FSA Office or postmarked by December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2007**. Ballots will be tabulated at the Wilson County FSA Office on **December 10<sup>th</sup>, 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 assigned LAA. The Wilson County Farm Service Agency Office encourages all eligible participants to be involved in this important election process. For more information about the COC election process contact the Wilson County Farm Service Agency Office or go online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/> and click on County Committee Elections under the Related Topics icon.

### **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. An LDP payment is based upon the difference between the posted county loan rate and the daily CCC-determined value for each covered commodity.

### **FY 2008 NON-INSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)**

The Wilson County Farm Service Agency would like to remind all eligible Producers of the requirements for filing a Notice of Loss under the **Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)**. A Notice of Loss application (CCC-576) must be; **Timely Filed- Within 15 calendar days** after the latter of the occurrence of prevented planting or the end of the planting period, **Properly Filed-** A Notice of Loss can only be accepted on CCC-576 forms, telephone notification is not acceptable, **For Each Disaster Event-** A Notice of Loss must be filed for each qualifying disaster event, **Each Crop and Type Verified-** Each crop and type affected must be properly documented. If Producers that file a Notice of Loss elect not to harvest the crop, **all eligible acres and crop units** in which an application for payment is filed must be left intact until each unit is appraised and released by the Loss Adjuster. The next closing date for FY 2008 NAP coverage is **November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007** for **Alfalfa, Apples, Blackberries, Blueberries, Caneberries, Grapes, Hay, Honey, Lespedeza, Peaches, Pecans, Plums and Raspberries.**

### **USDA POLLS COTTON PRODUCERS ON PROGRAM REFERENDUM**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced that beginning **September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007** and continuing through **November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007**, cotton producers can request a referendum on whether to continue the 1991 amendments to the Cotton Research and Promotion Program. Cotton producers may submit their requests at local FSA service centers. FSA is polling cotton producers on behalf of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS). The Cotton Research and Promotion Program instituted a non-refundable assessment on all U.S. Upland cotton and authorized the collection of assessments on imported cotton and imported cotton textiles. Producers should make requests in the FSA service center that services the county where the producer owns or rents land or to their "control" FSA service center. No action is necessary if a referendum is not desired.

### **COST SHARE FOR CONSERVATION PRACTICE INSTALLATION**

The Wilson County Soil and Water District currently have funds to assist agricultural landowners 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: three or five year conservation tillage, grassed waterways, field borders, cover crop, lagoon closures, cropland conversion, livestock fencing and watering systems 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, SW Wilson, NC.

### **ANNUAL WILSON COUNTY FARM CITY WEEK BREAKFAST**

The Wilson County Agri-Business Committee will host the Annual Farm City Week Celebration Breakfast on **Thursday November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at 7:30 am** in the Wilson County Agricultural Center Auditorium. This year's scheduled guest speaker will be Mr. Larry Wooten, President of the NC Farm Bureau. Contact the Wilson County Cooperative Extension Service at 252-237-0111 for more information.

### **REMINDERS**

- The Wilson County FSA Office will be closed on **Monday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007 in observance of Veterans Day.** Remember those individuals that have bravely served their county both past and present.
- The Wilson County FSA Office will be closed on **Thursday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2007-Thanksgiving Day Holiday.**
- **Office Hours:** 8:00 am – 4:30 pm Monday through Friday.
- **Monthly Committee Meeting:** The Wilson County FSA COC meets the first Tuesday of every month at 8:30am.

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