

United States Department of Agriculture
Wilson County Farm Service Agency Newsletter

County Committee Members

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Newsletter #6



County Executive Director

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September 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 to Wilson County Producers under the 2007 ACT are the Crop Disaster Program (**CDP**). 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. The payment quantity for quality losses will be equal to the lesser of: (1) the actual production of the crop affected by a quality loss; or (2) the quantity of expected production of the crop affected by a quality loss. Assistance, together with any crop insurance or NAP payment received for the same crop and including the value of the crop production not lost, **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 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 COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The Wilson County Farm Service Agency received two nominations to be placed on the ballot for the upcoming County Committee Election. One candidate will be elected to serve on the Farm Service Agency County Committee from eligible voters in **LAA-2** (Gardners, Saratoga, Stantonsburg and Wilson Townships). **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 will be elected to serve a three-year term beginning in January 2008. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters in LAA-2 by **November 2nd, 2007**. All ballots **must be returned to the Wilson County FSA Office or postmarked by December 3rd, 2007**. Ballots will be tabulated at the Wilson County FSA Office on **December 10th, 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 FSA 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.

DIRECT AND COUNTER-CYCLICAL PROGRAM (DCP) ENROLLMENT DEADLINE

The Wilson County Farm Service Agency reminds all eligible producers and farm operators of the final sign-up deadline of **September 30th, 2007** for the 2007 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP). Producers will be required to pay a late-file fee of \$100 per farm to enroll their farm(s) into the DCP program. 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**. 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 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 2007 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 September 30th, 2007** for Barley, Oats, Rye and Wheat.

USDA POLLS COTTON PRODUCERS ON PROGRAM REFERENDUM

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced that beginning **September 4th, 2007** and continuing through **November 30th, 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.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP)

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a federal program to help private land users address environmental problems such as soil erosion, wildlife habitat and water quality problems associated with both livestock and agricultural chemicals. Incentives are offered for practices such as long term no-till, buffers, fencing to keep livestock from streams, watering facilities for livestock and lagoon closures. Applications must be submitted to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). For more information contact the **Wilson County Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) at 252-237-5147 ext.3** or visit their Office located at 1806 Goldsboro St.

REMINDERS

- The Wilson County Farm Service Agency Office will be closed **Monday, October 8th, 2007** in observance of the **Columbus 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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