



May 2010

Burke-McDowell-Caldwell FSA News

Burke County USDA Service Center

Burke-McDowell-Caldwell FSA Office

130 Ammons Dr.
Suite 1
Morganton, NC 28655

828-439-9727 (phone)
828-439-8183 (fax)

County Committee

William Clay-Chair
Henry Ramseur-Vice Chair
Mavin Paige
Rick Starnes
Margaret DeLuca

Alternates

Brent Fox
Lester McClure
JB Bowman
Regan Hudson
John Wike

Program Technicians

Claudia Austin
Janet Dzieszinski

Farm Loan Manager

Vickie Young

County Exec. Director

Kim Rumfelt

COC Meeting Time

3rd Wednesday @ 9:00 a.m.

Reminders:

The FSA office will be closed **Monday, May 31** to observe Memorial Day.

2010 FSA COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers, whether beginning or long-established, with large or small operations. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

County Committee (COC) members are a critical component of FSA operations. The intent is to have the COC reflect the makeup of the producers and to represent all constituents. This means wherever possible, minorities, women or lower income producers need to be on the committee to speak for these underrepresented groups.

County committees provide local input on:

- Commodity price support loans and payments
- Conservation programs
- Incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities
- Emergency programs
- Payment eligibility

FSA county committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions

Nominations - June 15, 2010 – August 2, 2010. To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign nomination form FSA-669A. The form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. For your convenience nomination form (FSA-669A) is enclosed. You may also request nomination forms from the FSA office or obtain online at:

http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa0669a_committeeelectform.pdf

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy for the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Additionally, organizations representing minority and women farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates. Nomination forms are filed for the county committee of the office that administers a producer's farm records. Nomination and election dates are as follows:

Aug. 2, 2010 - Last day to file nomination forms (FSA-669A) at the FSA Office

Nov. 5, 2010 - Ballots mailed to eligible voters

Dec. 6, 2010 - Last day to return voted ballots to the USDA Service Center

DCP SIGNUP UNDERWAY - Signup has started for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program for farms with base acres. Signup will continue until June 1, 2010. The June 1, 2010 deadline is mandatory for all participants. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications.

FSA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2010, you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. FSA will issue advance direct payments later this month. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price.

Producers who are eligible for the DCP Program will also be eligible to enroll in the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program.

CROP REPORTING

The annual, timely and accurate reporting of acres 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 Load Deficiency Payments.

Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. And, 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 need to file their acreage reports by May 15th for small grains, June 30th for all other crops with the exception of burley tobacco which is July 15th.

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.

NOTIFICATION OF DECEASED PRODUCERS

When a person is receiving FSA payments, in particular, Tobacco Transition Payment Program (TTPP) payments, please notify our office following a death so a transfer of payment can be completed. If a payment goes to a deceased person then the payment will have to be refunded before a transfer can be initiated. There is no way our office can know when someone is deceased unless the survivors notify us.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Burke-McDowell-Caldwell
Farm Service Agency
130 Ammons Dr., Suite 1
Morganton, NC 28655

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FARM LOAN PROGRAMS

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,112,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner.

FSA employees will help you complete the necessary application and other forms, and help you understand what information is required, where to find it or who to contact to get it. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE (IRS) FORM- The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to establish an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent will be required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to USDA. The agreement ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs.

Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-927 (Individual) and/or CCC-928 (Legal Entity) to the Internal Revenue Service by June 15 to avoid interruption of program benefits. These forms may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices or online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/efoms/mainse/vlet>. Participants who choose not to submit a completed CCC-927 or CCC-928 will be determined non compliant with AGI limitations for the 2009 and 2010 crop programs and fiscal years (FY's). This may require participants to repay all payments received for 2009 and 2010.

NONINSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP) – provides financial assistance to producers of noninsurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occurs due to natural disasters. Application and service fees must be filed by the application closing date. The service fee is \$250 per crop per county or \$750 per producer per county, not to exceed a total of \$1875 per producer with farming interests in multiple counties.

To remain eligible for NAP assistance producers must annually report crop acreage information and production information. It benefits producers to report crop acreage shortly after planting to ensure reporting deadlines are not missed and coverage is not lost. Producers must provide verifiable production information in a manner that can be easily understood. When a crop or planting is affected by a natural disaster, you must notify our office by completing Part B, Notice of Loss, on Form CCC-576, Application for Payment, within 15 calendar days of the date the loss became apparent to you.

Application closing dates are as follows: **05/01/2010**-Ornamental Nursery, **09/01/2010**-Canola, Sage-herb, Strawberries, Aquaculture, Christmas Trees, Ginseng Turf Grass Sod, Mushrooms, Floriculture, Strawberry Rootstock, **09/30/2010**-Barley, Oats, Rye, Triticale, Wheat, **11/20/2010**-Alfalfa, Apples, Blackberries, Blueberries, Caneberries, Grapes, Grass for Grazing/Hay, Honey, Lespedeza, Peaches, Pears, Plums, Raspberries, **01/01/2011**- Beets, Broccoli, Carrots, Cauliflower, Celery, Chinese Bitter Melon, Chives, Cilantro, Greens, Kale, Lettuce, Onions, Rutabaga, Spinach, Turnips, **01/31/2011**-Potatoes, **02/28/2011**-Artichoke, Asparagus, Basil, Beans, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cantaloupes, Corn, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Honeydew, Kenaf, Korean Golden, Leeks, Millet, Okra, Peanuts, Peas, Pecans, Peppers, Pumpkins, Radishes, Sorghum, Soybeans, Sprite Melon, Squash, Sunflowers, Sweet Potatoes, Tomatillos, Tomatoes, Watermelons.

TREE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TAP)– Orchardists and nursery tree growers can begin applying for benefits under the Tree Assistance Program from now until July 6, 2010. TAP provides disaster assistance to eligible orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate trees, bushes, and vines that were lost or damaged because of an eligible natural disaster. TAP applies to orchardists and nursery tree growers who sustain tree deaths in excess of 15 percent after adjustment for normal mortality. TAP authorizes payments to eligible orchardists and nursery tree growers who actually replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes, and vines and who produce nursery, ornamental, fruit, nut, or Christmas trees for commercial sale. To be eligible for TAP an owner of the crop **must** have been located in an administrative county affected by an eligible natural disaster. Eligible tree losses must have occurred on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011. The trees, bushes, and vines that are eligible for TAP, **except for Christmas trees and nursery**, are **not** required to have a policy or plan of insurance or NAP; however, a crop from the tree, bush, or vine **must** be covered to meet Risk Management Purchase Requirements (RMPR).

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, audiotape, 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.