

Duplin County

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Duplin County FSA
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Hours: Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
Dwight Sholar, Chairperson
Marshall Britt, Vice Chair
Larry Shaw, Member
Sam Boney, Jr, Advisor

Staff

Jerldine M Kenan, CED
Janet W Lanier, CPT
Olivia W Berry, PT
Larry English, PT
Bob Rouse, PT
Rebecca Quinn PT
Valerie Longfellow, PT
Carlton Grady, FLM
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Maxine Norris, PT

D Warren Hepler, DD

Special Accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please contact Jerldine Kenan at (910) 296-2193. The building is also equipped for physical disabilities.

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May 2008 Volume 2

Duplin County News

Upcoming County Committee Election

One of FSA's responsibilities is to conduct County Committee elections annually in an open manner that ensures accountability. FSA will provide local organizations representing socially disadvantaged groups with detailed information about the COC election process. The agency is reaching out to agricultural communities to get equitable representation on their county committees.

Groups representing socially disadvantaged farmers are encouraged to fill out a nomination form and under represented farmers are encouraged to step up and participate in the COC election process. You will notice posters and announcements displayed in businesses, churches, and other public places. COC election fact sheets can be found online at www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

Duplin farmers are now able to take advantage of the CREP program following the expansion of the agreement to include the Neuse, Tar-Pamlico, Chowan, Lumber, White Oak, Yadkin-PeeDee, Cape Fear, Roanoke and Pasquotank river basins. Signup began May 1, 2008.

CREP will reimburse farmers for retiring cropland or pastureland surrounding streams, ponds, and rivers from agricultural production. Participants will receive annual rental payments, cost-share assistance, and other financial incentives for a period of 10-15 years for installing and maintaining filter strips, riparian buffers, tree planting and wetland restoration practices.

Eligible cropland must have been row-cropped 4 of the 6 years between 1996 and 2001. Marginal pastureland is also eligible, but only for riparian buffers, and if the land is adjacent or parallel to streams.

2008 Crop Acreage Reports

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 FSA programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive USDA benefits from certain programs.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. Crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must be reported for all crops insured whether the crop is planted or not.

Report preventing planting acres no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the COC committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.

June 30 is crop report deadline, except small grains (May 15) and crops not planted by June 30 must be reported within 15 days of completing planting and NAP must be reported within 15 days of onset of harvesting or grazing.

Appointment cards are being mailed. Contact the office after May 28 if you have not received your card.

Preventing Fraud

The Farm Service Agency has joined with the Risk Management Agency to prevent fraud, waste and abuse in the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. In addition, FSA will refer all suspected cases to RMA. Producers can report suspected cases to FSA, RMA, or the Office of the Inspector General.

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Farm Loan Programs

FSA offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations and is designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit.

Farm ownership loans/farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans up to \$200,000; and guaranteed loans can reach \$949,000. Emergency loans are always direct loans. Youth Loans and Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA.

Farm Loans for Socially Disadvantaged

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Socially disadvantaged loan applicants do not receive automatic approval. In addition to being members of a socially disadvantaged group, individual applicants under this program must meet all requirements for FSA's regular farm loan program assistance, including:

- Have a satisfactory history of meeting credit obligations
- Be unable to obtain credit elsewhere at reasonable rates and terms to meet actual needs

Have sufficient education; training, or a least one-year's experience in managing or operating a farm within the last 5-years, have participated in the business operation of a farm for 3 out of the last 10 years.

- Be a citizen of the United States (or legal resident alien), including U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, and certain Former Pacific Island Trust Territories.
- Possess legal capacity to incur loan obligations.

Interested farmers and ranchers should contact the FSA county office Farm Loan Program staff for more details about this program and other financial options.

2008 Farm Bill Announced

Congressman Mike McIntyre representing District 7 met with farmers, ranchers and others at the Duplin Commons in Kenansville, Friday May 16 to announce the passing of the 2008 Farm Bill by the House and the Senate.

McIntyre gave a short overview of the Farm Bill emphasizing the Permanent Disaster Relief Program, the Specialty Program, Fresh Fruits & Vegetables and Farmers Markets, Conservation Stewardship Program, Energy bill increasing Biofuels Production, Livestock to provide basic protection for livestock & poultry producers, Commodity bill that continues basic features of the 2002 bill, Nutrition, Rural Water and Wastewater, Producer Grant Program, Pest and Disease Detection and other farm bill initiatives.

Sodbuster/Swampbuster

FSA requires compliance with sodbuster and swampbuster provisions.

Sodbuster provisions require producers to follow an approved conservation system on all highly erodible land planted to an annual crop as determined by NRCS.

Swampbuster provisions state that converting a wetland to make possible the planting of a crop will result in the loss of all USDA benefits.

To avoid these possibilities it is strongly recommended that producers check with NRCS before starting to work in the fields and to be sure to have determinations made on any new land you plan to plant to annual crops.

Maintaining CRP Cover

Conservation Reserve Program cover maintenance is the participant's responsibility and must be done according to the conservation plan. All CRP maintenance activity, such as mowing, hunting and spraying, must be conducted outside the primary nesting season for wildlife. Spot treatment of the acreage may be allowed during the primary nesting season if certain criteria is met.

The primary nesting season in North Carolina is April 15 – September 1.

**FEDERAL HOLIDAY – MAY 26
OFFICE CLOSED**