



FRANKLIN COUNTY NEWSLETTER



June 2010

LOUISBURG
Service Center

Franklin County FSA

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Louisburg, NC 27549
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919-496-0324 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov

Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

COC Monthly Meeting

4th Thursday at 9:00 a.m.

County Committee

Edward Wheeler, Chairperson
Henry Nelms, Vice-Chair
Ronnie Jones, Member
Henrietta Renn, Advisor
Alton Richardson, Advisor

County Executive Director

Sheila F. Allen, Acting

Program Technicians

Ava S. Galebach
Paula A. Marshall
Tiffany Howard

Farm Loan Manager

Debbie W. Houston

Farm Loan Officer

Dave Bonnett

Important Dates:

June 30 – Final Date for Reporting all Crops and Other land Uses.

Aug. 2 – Final Date for Filing Nominations for COC Election

2010 FSA COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The election of agricultural producers to 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 critical component of FSA operations. Functioning as a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, county committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws and apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

The election process begins with the nomination of eligible candidates. To hold office as a county committee member, a person must: 1) participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA, 2) be eligible to vote in a county committee election and 3) reside in the Local Administrative Area in which the person is a candidate. Individuals may nominate themselves or others. Organizations representing minority and women farmers or ranchers are strongly encouraged to nominate candidates. With better participation in recent years, there has been a trend of increased nominations of minority and women producers and it is hoped that this will continue.

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign nomination form FSA-669A. This form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. This form is attached for your convenience.

The 2010 Franklin County Committee election will be held in Local Administrative Area 2, consisting of Cedar Creek, Cypress Creek, Gold Mine and Sandy Creek townships. If you or someone you know meets the eligibility requirements and would be interested in being a candidate for the upcoming election, we ask that you submit the attached form FSA-669A. Nomination forms must be postmarked or received in the Franklin County FSA office by close of business on Aug. 2, 2010.

EARLY LAND PREPARATION OF CRP ACREAGE

Beginning July 1, of the final year of a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contract, cover may be destroyed on certain acreage before the contract expires to prepare a seedbed for fall seeded crops. CRP participants must sign CRP-1G, "Addendum, Modification To Allow Early Land Preparation" if they wish to destroy CRP acreage, prior to the CRP Contract expiration date, in order to begin early land preparation.

A CRP general signup may occur in Fiscal Year 2010. If early land preparation activity is performed, the land is not eligible to be offered for the anticipated FY 2010 general signup. However, the CRP-1G may be withdrawn, provided cover has not been damaged or destroyed because of early land preparation. If no early land preparation activity was performed, the land is otherwise eligible to be offered for the anticipated FY 2010 general signup.

COMPLIANCE

Compliance and spot checks will once again be utilized during the 2010 crop year. Instead of locally selecting farms for spot check and review, a nationwide selection of producers is used to achieve the sample of participating producers. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer's participation in Farm Service Agency programs.



Official Business

CROP REPORTING DEADLINE

June 30th is the final date for reporting crops, with the exception of burley tobacco which is July 15th. Crop reports must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted, to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Marketing Assistance Loans and Loan Deficiency Payments. CRP acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments and crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program must also be reported. **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. **Prevented Planting:** Prevented planting acreage should be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

BANKING CHANGES

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. This innovation has cut down on the number of missing and late payments and reduced the time required to move funds. In most cases, direct deposit payments reach your account within 48 hours. To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you make in your financial institutions. If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service. Remember that CRP and DCP payments are scheduled to be issued early this fall.

SODBUSTING

If you plan to use highly erodible land for crop production without proper conservation measures, you risk losing eligibility to participate in Farm Service Agency programs. Before clearing, plowing or otherwise preparing areas not presently under crop production for planting, producers are required to file an AD-1026, indicating the area to be brought into production. If Natural Resources Conservation Service reports that the area will be highly erodible land, the producer will be required to develop and implement a conservation plan on the affected acreage, before bringing land into production.

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.

Reasonable accommodations will be made for individuals with disabilities, vision or hearing impairment.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program (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 to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S. W., Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.