

SAMPSON COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY NEWSLETTER

United States Department of Agriculture

County Committee

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Issue No.4

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2008 COC ELECTION INFORMATION

One of FSA's responsibilities is to conduct County Committee elections 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 and ranchers, will be actively solicited for COC election candidates, and encouraged to fill out a nomination form (**FSA-669A**). Underrepresented farmers and ranchers are encouraged to step up and participate in their county's COC election process. Producers will notice posters and announcements displayed in businesses, churches, and other public places. COC election fact sheets can be found online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA> under the News & Events tab on the FSA homepage. This year, LAA 1 consisting of McDaniels, South Clinton, Turkey, South River, Libson, Taylor's Bridge, and Franklin will conduct the election. For your convenience, we have included a nomination form in this newsletter mailing. For more information please contact your local FSA office.

NAP NEWS

- 1) Be sure to provide production records each year for ALL non-insurable crops planted. Producers who file NAP claims for 2008 crops MUST provide the prior year production records before filing a claim or no later than the date you file your crop report. June 30, 2008 is the absolute final date.
- 2) Furnishing your production evidence in the good years helps build your crop APH. The better the APH the better your crop guarantee.
- 3) FSA will conduct random pre-harvest inspections for the 2008 crop year.

- 4) Crops planted and harvested before June 30 must be reported **15 days** prior to harvest due to growing season and pre-harvest inspections.

Dates to Remember

June 30	Final date to report summer-seeded crops and CRP acreage.
June 30	Final date to file 2007 NAP production evidence to be used for 2008 APH computation
July 4	Office Closed: Independence Day
Sept 1	Office Closed: Labor Day

CROP ACREAGE REPORTS

Filing an accurate and timely crop acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a number of programs. Appointments are scheduled through June 19th after that date, it is first come first served.

To avoid late reporting fees file crop acreage reports by June 30, 2008.

FSA SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS

Proper signatures on Farm Service Agency contracts, applications and forms must be submitted before the document will be considered as filed. All entities, including revocable and irrevocable trusts, corporations, partnerships, estates, etc., must provide evidence of signature authority stipulating those individuals who are authorized to represent the entity. FSA cannot accept signatures without such documentation on file. Examples of acceptable evidence include trust agreements, corporate charters or resolutions, partnership agreements and court orders of appointment. Spouses can sign for one another on most program documents unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office staff. An FSA-211 may be filed to delegate signature authority for FSA program purposes to another individual.

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 has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. In addition, FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse to RMA. Producers can report suspected cases to the county office staff, RMA office, or the Office of the Inspector General.

LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths caused by natural disasters. Sampson County is a qualifying county due to excessive heat in 2007. To be eligible for LIP, an owner's livestock or contract grower's livestock must have died in an eligible county as a direct result of excessive heat in 2007. For complete eligibility, payment rate and other details please contact your local FSA office.

FARM LOAN PROGRAMS

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who

have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$200,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$949,000. Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA. For detail information loan eligibility or the different available loan programs, just contact the county office staff for an appointment with a farm loan officer.

MAINTAINING CRP COVER

CRP cover maintenance is the participant's responsibility and must be done according to the conservation plan. All CRP maintenance activity, such as mowing, burning and spraying, must be conducted outside the primary nesting season for wildlife and in accordance with the conservation plan. Spot treatment of the acreage may be allowed during the primary nesting season if certain criteria are met. The primary nesting season in North Carolina is April 15 through September 1.

POLICY

"The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its program on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political belief, and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audio tape, etc.) should contact the, U. S. Department of USDA, Office of Communication at 202-720-7808 (TDD). To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., 20250, or call 202-720-7327 (voice) or 202-720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.