



U.S. Department
of Agriculture

Union County FSA
3230A Presson Road
Monroe, NC 28112-9196

Phone: (704) 233-1621
Fax: (704) 233-0148

Office Hours

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

County Committee

Randy K. Baucom
(Chairperson)

Azalee Long
(Vice-Chairperson)

John A. Ashcraft Jr.
(Voting Member)

Derek C. Phillips
(Minority Advisor)

CED

H. O'Brian West Jr

Staff

Vicky Edwards
Peggy Edwards
Lisa Purser

Farm Loan Officer

Suzanne Simpson

Farm Loan Manager

Mary Myers

Office Closings

July 4

Independence Day

IN THIS ISSUE:

1. Non-Insured Crop Disaster Program
2. Special Accommodations
3. Crop Certification
4. Socially Disadvantaged Loans
5. Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Farm Service Agency

June 16, 2008

FSA Newsletter

Number 2

NON-INSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

USDA's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides financial assistance to producers of noninsurable crops when natural disasters cause low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting.

Producers are reminded that in order to remain eligible for NAP assistance, the following crop information must be reported annually: name of crop; type and variety; location and acreage of the crop; share of the crop and the names of other producers with an interest in the crop; type of practice used to grow the crop; date the crop was planted in each field; and intended use of the commodity. In addition, the following production information must be provided annually: the quantity of all harvested production of the crop in which the producer held an interest during the crop year; the disposition of the harvested crops, such as whether it is marketable, unmarketable, salvaged or used differently than intended; and verifiable or reliable crop production records (when required). Failure to report acreage and production information may result in reduced or zero NAP assistance.

If a crop or planting is affected by a natural disaster, you must notify your local Farm Service Agency office and complete form CCC-576, Part B (the Notice of Loss portion of the Notice of Loss and Application for Payment) within 15 calendar days of the: natural disaster occurrence; final planting date if your planting was prevented by a natural disaster; date damage to the crop or loss of production becomes apparent to you.

The following 2009 NAP applications closing dates:

- **September 1, 2008** - sage, strawberries, Value Loss crops (Ornamental Nursery, Aquaculture, Christmas Trees, Ginseng, Turf Grass Sod, Mushrooms, Floriculture, Strawberry Rootstock)
- **September 30, 2008** - barley, oats, rye, wheat.
- **November 20, 2008** - alfalfa, apples, blackberries, blueberries, caneberrries, grapes, mixed forage & grass (grazing/haying), honey, lespedeza, peaches, pecans, plums, raspberries.
- **January 1, 2009** - beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, chives, cilantro, greens, kale, lettuce, onions, potatoes, rutabaga, spinach, turnips.
- **February 28, 2009** - artichoke, asparagus, basil, beans, Brussels sprouts, cantaloupes, Chinese bitter melon, cucumbers (FH/PR), eggplant, honeydew, Jerusalem artichoke, kenaf, Korean Golden Melon, millet, millet for seed, okra, peanuts, peas, peppers, popcorn, pumpkins, radishes, sorghum, soybeans, sprite melon, squash, sunflowers, sweet corn, sweet potatoes, tomatillos, tomatoes, watermelons.

Further program information may be found at www.usda.gov, or by contacting your local FSA office.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff directly or by phone.



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Official Business

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

CROP CERTIFICATION DEADLINE

June 30, 2008 is the deadline for reporting acres planted to corn, cotton, grain sorghum, soybeans, and those devoted to the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Crop planting dates are required. To be eligible for program payments, acreage reports must account for all cropland on the farm. Please contact your local office to set up an appointment to certify your crops.

Prevented planted acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date. Failed acreage must be reported 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.

All planted acreage must be reported by the deadline. Acreage planted after the deadline must be reported within 15 days of being planted.

LOANS FOR SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) can make and guarantee loans to socially disadvantaged applicants for buying and operating family size farms and ranches. Funds specifically for these loans are reserved each year. A socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of the group, without regard to their individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, Hispanics, Asians and Pacific Islanders, Alaskan Natives, and American Indians. For further information, contact your local FSA Farm Loan Officer.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is currently accepting applications for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). EQIP is a voluntary conservation program that promotes environmental quality and agricultural production. Through EQIP, agricultural producers receive technical help and up to 90% cost share assistance to install or implement structural and management conservation practices on eligible agricultural land. Practices include but are not limited to waste storage structures, mortality incinerators, lagoon closures, stream fencing and watering troughs. Eligibility includes producers engaged in crop or livestock production. For more information please contact Mark Ferguson, District Conservationist, at 704-233-1621 extension 3.

The U.S. 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, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.