

ASHE/ALLEGHANY COUNTY FSA OFFICE
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 JEFFERSON, NORTH CAROLINA 28640-0624
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 FAX 336-246-3940



COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
 THOMAS ROBERTS, CHAIRPERSON
 THOMAS BARLOW, VICE CHAIRPERSON
 BILL OSBORNE, REGULAR MEMBER
 JOE ROBERTS, REGULAR MEMBER
 ARVIL SCOTT, REGULAR MEMBER
 DEBORAH FISHEL, COC ADVISOR

COMMITTEE MEETINGS ARE HELD THE
 1ST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 9:30
 OFFICE HOURS ARE 8 AM TO 5 PM
 MONDAY – FRIDAY EXCEPT
 FEDERAL HOLIDAYS. THE OFFICE

OFFICE STAFF:
 JULIA W HOUCK, COUNTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
 VICKIE YOUNG, FARM LOAN MANAGER
 PENNY SEXTON, PROGRAM TECHNICIAN
 PATRICIA PARDUE, PROGRAM TECHNICIAN

***ATTENTION* CROP REPORTING DEADLINE**

The deadline to report spring seeded crops such as corn, hay, pasture, fruit and vegetables and tobacco has been extended until **August 15 2008**. Please call to schedule an appointment to make your crop reports, as this will minimize your wait time.

COUNTY COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

LAA's 2 & 5 will be holding elections this year for representatives for these LAA's to the County Committee. LAA 2 consists of Elk, Jefferson, Obids, Old Field, Pine Swamp and West Jefferson. LAA 2 is currently being served by Thomas (Tommy) Barlow. LAA 5 consists of Glade Valley and Cherry Lane. LAA 5 is currently being served by Joe Roberts. Nominating petitions (FSA-669A) are being accepted until August 1, 2008. An FSA-699A's is part of this newsletter and is also available at the FSA office or you may visit <http://intranet.fsa.usda.gov/fsa> to print a nomination petition. The FSA office is actively seeking nominations from socially disadvantaged groups which means a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities. A socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher is a farmer or rancher who is a member of a socially disadvantaged group. **To nominate someone on the attached FSA-669A, please complete the form and also circle either Alexander or Iredell County in Items 6A and 6B depending on the LAA that the candidate lives in.**

LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION PROGRAM (LCP)

JULY 18, 2007 is the deadline to apply for the Livestock Compensation Program. This program pays producers for feed losses due to the drought in 2007. Producers will be paid on the small of the number of livestock or grazing acreage. Please call the office to make an appointment if you have not already signed up in this program.

DIRECT AND COUNTER-CYCLICAL PAYMENT PROGRAM (DCP)

We have been told that sometime in July we will start a signup for the 2008 DCP. We do not have the dates as of yet. As soon as this information becomes available we will let all producers know. One big change in the DCP program is that farms with bases acreages that are 10 acres or less will not be eligible for payment unless the producer is a socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher or a limited resource farmer or rancher.

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS

Low cost loans for storage facilities are available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities such as corn, soybeans, wheat, barley, etc. The seven-year Farm Storage Facility Loans are available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment or remodeling existing facilities. New and remanufactured oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-types structures are also available. All Farm Storage Facility Loans are secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85 percent of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to a \$100,000 for each borrower. A minimum down payment of 15% is required. For details, contact the FSA office.

LOANS TO SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED PERSONS (MINORITIES AND WOMEN)

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes and guarantees loans to approved socially disadvantaged applicants to buy and operate family-size farms and ranches. A socially disadvantaged (SDA) farmer, rancher, or agricultural producer is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as a member of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities. SDA groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)

The Conservation Reserve Program is a great way to receive an rental payment and cost share assistance on land that is devoted to conserving use practices. Under CRP, one of the most popular practices in our area is the marginal pasture land practice. **This practice provides cost share assistance for drinkers, fencing, stream crossings, spring developments and wells.** Under the Continuous Conservation Reserve practices producers can sign up at any time for the many different practices. Due to the year starting out dry, now may be a good time to enroll in the CRP as we can cost share on spring developments and wells that may be needed this summer. . If you are interested in the marginal pasture land practice or to find out about the other practices available under CRP, please contact the FSA office for more information.

FARM BILL INFORMATION ON DISASTER PROGRAMS

The 2008 Act creates a trust fund to meet the supplemental agricultural disaster assistance program obligations. The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program which will cover crop production losses and/or crop quality losses during a crop year and crop insurance or NAP coverage must be carried on the crop. For 2008, producers who do not meet this requirement may have this provision waived if the producer pays a fee in an amount applicable to the NAP fee or CAT fee no later than August 20, 2008. Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) will be available to eligible livestock producers that have incurred livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality because of adverse weather, as determined by the Secretary during the calendar year, including losses because of hurricanes, floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires, extreme heat and extreme cold. Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) will be available to eligible livestock producers who suffered grazing losses for eligible livestock. To be eligible for LFP, the producer must have purchased or obtained the following for the grazing land; a policy or plan under Crop Insurance or NAP coverage. If coverage was not obtained for the 2008 crop year, then the producer must pay a fee in an amount applicable to the NAP fee or CAT plan fee by no later than August 20, 2008. Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (EALHF) Program will provide emergency relief to producers of livestock (including horses), honey bees and farm-raised fish because of losses from adverse weather or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires, as determined by the Secretary. Tree Assistance Program (TAP) is reauthorized, subject to funds be appropriated, to provide assistance to orchardists and eligible nursery tree growers who produce nursery, ornamental, fruit, nut or Christmas trees for commercial sale that lost trees because of a natural disaster as determined by the Secretary. The EALHF is intended to cover disasters that are not adequately covered by any other disaster program. A producer on a farm shall not be eligible for assistance under the SURE program, the EALHF program or TAP if the producer on the farm did not purchase or obtain crop insurance or NAP coverage.

PROGRAM OUTREACH

The Ashe/Alleghany County FSA Office is constantly seeking to reach minority, socially disadvantaged, and nontraditional farmers to make them aware of the FSA programs. All persons who receive this newsletter are asked to share it with others and to contact this office if they know of some individual or group who would like to be added to our mailing list.

The U.S. 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, and 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, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.