

# BEAUFORT-HYDE FSA NEWS

Issue 3

155 B Airport Rd

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June 23, 2008

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**FARM PROGRAM INFORMATION** – As you know, the “Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008” is now the law of the land and will serve as our farm program operating guide for the next few years. Details are being worked out by the program and legal specialists in Washington DC. Here is the latest info:

- 1) We anticipate some kind of sign-up for 2008 DCP to be authorized in late July.
- 2) Planting of fruits & vegetables on base acres continues to be restricted.
- 3) Farms involved in recons cannot be enrolled until reconstitutions are completed.
- 4) Shares on your program contract should match the shares on your acreage report. Only those who actually share in the risk of production are eligible to receive payments.
- 5) All producers who share on base acres MUST share in program payments.
- 6) All base acreage should be protected from erosion and weeds should be controlled.
- 7) DCP payments will be prohibited on farms with base acres of 10 acres or less.

**2008 ACREAGE REPORTS** – Your acreage report (FSA-578) is THE most important document in this office and is the basis for determining program benefits. An accurate report is important to you and to us. **Please certify your 2008 crops by MONDAY, June 30.** Like last year, you must also provide your planting date for each field. This should be the same date that you report to crop insurance. Appointments are available thru June 23 by calling Theresa Bright. Producers who report June 24 thru June 30 will be assisted first-come, first-serve. Be sure to ask for producer prints for yourself and your insurance agent.

**CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES** – Program participants convicted under federal or state law of any planting, cultivating, growing, producing, harvesting, or storing a controlled substance are ineligible for program payments and benefits.

## REMINDERS:

- 1) **Your FSA office will be CLOSED for:**  
**Independence Day - Friday, July 4<sup>th</sup>**
- 2) **Deadline to report your 2008 crop acreage is MONDAY, JUNE 30.**
- 3) **Report failed or prevented planting acreages immediately to FSA; ask to file form CCC-576 to ensure proper planted history credit.**
- 4) **Report changes in farm operation, ownership, address or direct deposit banking information.**

**Info Meeting**– Coastal Carolina Gin will sponsor a producer meeting on Wednesday, June 18<sup>th</sup>. Craig Brown, Vice President of Producer Affairs with the National Cotton Council, will discuss the new farm bill and answer your questions. The meeting will be held in the auditorium of the Beaufort County Ag Center and will begin at 9 am.

**RECONSTITUTIONS** - In FSA program terminology, farms are constituted to group all tracts having the same owner under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. The reconstitution process combines or divides farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember, to be effective for 2008, reconstitutions must be requested by **August 1.**

**NAP PRODUCERS** – NAP Producers should turn in 2007 production evidence by June 30, 2008, for determining Actual Production History (APH). If you purchased NAP coverage on a particular crop but did not plant it for 2008, you must submit a “zero” acreage report. **Notices of loss** on NAP crops **should be reported on form CCC-576 to FSA within 15 calendar days after the disaster occurrence** or date damage to the specific crop acreage is apparent to the producer. NAP regulations no longer allow loss notification by phone. We can accept form CCC-576 by fax or mail (postmarked date will be used as the filing date). For prevented planting notice, report within 15 calendar days from the final planting date.

**LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION PROGRAM (LCP)** - Livestock producers have until **July 18, 2008**, to enroll in the 2005-2007 Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). Signup began on Sept. 10, 2007, for the two programs that provide aid to livestock producers who suffered eligible livestock or livestock feed losses between Jan. 1, 2005, and Dec. 30, 2007, because of a natural disaster.

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## COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

This fall, we must bid farewell to Mr. Jimmy Brinn who is currently County Committee Vice-Chairman. He has reached the limit on eligible years of service to the Beaufort-Hyde FSA County Committee. Thanks Mr. Brinn for your loyal service to the farmers of Beaufort and Hyde Counties!

The election of agricultural producers to the FSA County Committee is important to ALL farmers and ranchers with large or small operations. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a direct link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

This year, eligible voters in LAA 1 in Beaufort County will select a representative to the FSA County Committee. LAA 1 consists of Bath and Pantego communities.

Committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers who serve on committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs their counties offer. They work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers. Committees provide local input on: commodity price support loans and payments; establishment of allotments and yields; conservation programs; incentive, indemnity, and disaster payments for some commodities; and other farm disaster assistance.

**Election Period** - Nomination period begins **June 15, 2008** and ends **August 1, 2008**. Nomination forms for the 2008 election must be postmarked or received by close of business in the local FSA county office on August 1, 2008.

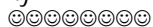
**Nominations** - A nomination form signed by the nominee is needed to nominate an individual. The form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. The nomination form (FSA-669A) is included with this newsletter. The form is also available at your local FSA county office and online at:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections>

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy for the committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. In addition, organizations representing socially disadvantaged (minorities and women) farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates.

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters in LAA 1 by **November 3, 2008**, and must be returned to the FSA county office or postmarked by **December 1, 2008**.

**Who Can Vote** - Agricultural producers of legal voting age can vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm can also vote. Check with your local FSA office for voting requirements and eligibility.



Funding to mail newsletters is limited. Share your email address with us to receive brief, important reminders on farm programs.

**CRP COVER MAINTENANCE** - 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. 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- September 1.

**FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS (FSFL)** - FSFL provides low-interest financing for producers to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. Several types of new cribs, bins and storage structures and new electrical and safety equipment are eligible expenses. The maximum loan amount is \$100,000. A 15% cash down payment is needed and the loan term is 7 years. Loans are repaid in equal amortized installments.

**SOCIALLY-DISADVANTAGED LOANS** - FSA makes and guarantees loans to socially-disadvantaged applicants to buy and operate family-size farms and ranches. Funds specifically for such loans are reserved each year. A socially-disadvantaged farmer 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. For program purposes, socially-disadvantaged groups are American Indians and Alaskan Natives; African Americans; Hispanics; women; and Asians and Pacific Islanders. Learn more from Paula Nicholls, Farm Loan Manager.

**GROWING SEASON INSPECTIONS** - FSA is required to assist the Risk Management Agency (RMA) and insurance providers in monitoring crop conditions throughout the 2008 growing season. County FSA office staff will be performing growing season inspections on selected producers again this year. FSA is required to refer to RMA all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse of the Federal Crop Insurance Program. Anyone wishing to report such acts should contact their local FSA office, RMA or the Office of the Inspector General. The USDA hotline number is 1-800-424-9121.

**OUTREACH** - FSA is committed to informing all persons of the programs that it administers. As part of our Outreach Plan, the CED is available to speak to groups upon request.

### BEAUFORT-HYDE COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE

Carl Cahoon, Jr., Chairperson                      Jimmy Brinn, Sr., Vice-Chairperson  
Andrew Arnold, Member                              Don R. Hill, Member  
R. Ray Tooley, Member                                Edward Lee Clayton, Advisor  
Ida Faye Cutler, Advisor

**Your FSA Committee meets the second Thursday of each month at 9:00 AM in the FSA Office. All meetings are open to the public.**

### FSA STAFF

Mike Boyd    Theresa Bright  
Bonnie Conner                                        Annette Jefferson  
Maggie Marcenelle                                 Rene Perry  
Brenda Phelps                                        Toni Woolard  
Paula Nicholls, FLM                                 Sue Smithwick, FLM  
Jeanie Setser, CED                                 James Davenport, District Director

**Office hours are 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Mon-Fri**

Upon request, reasonable accommodations will be made for individuals with disabilities or vision or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please contact Jeanie Setser, CED at 252-946-1076.

**Visit our website: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)**