



**UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE  
FARM SERVICE AGENCY  
CABARRUS-MECKLENBURG  
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**Farm Service Agency  
Telephone, Fax & Website:  
Cabarrus County: 704-788-2107  
Ext. 2  
Mecklenburg County: 704-333-0023  
FAX Number: 704-720-9221  
Website: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>  
FSA Office Hours  
Monday – Friday  
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

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**Farm Service Agency**

**Cabarrus-Mecklenburg Farm Service Agency**

**Newsletter**

Number 5

May 21, 2008

**REPORTING SPRING CROP  
ACREAGES**

The annual requirement of reporting to the Farm Service Agency can be referred to as crop reporting, acreage reporting, or crop certification. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs.

All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments.

Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. And, crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.

Crop reports, form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. Producers are required to file reports by **June 30** for all crops except small grain crops which should have been reported by May 15. Producers who failed to report small grain will be required to pay a late fee.

**Prevented Planting:**

Prevented planting needs be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

**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.

**YOUTH LOANS AVAILABLE**

Summer's here, are your kids trying to earn some money? If so, they may be able to get help from FSA. We have loans up to \$5000 available to youths ages 10 to 20 for income producing projects. The applicants need to be involved in an organization and have an advisor to help them with their project. If they live in a rural area, a farm related or agricultural project will qualify. The goal of the program is to help young people develop the management skills necessary for farming or any other life venture. They will learn how to apply for credit, project planning, record keeping, bill paying and along with that, will begin to build their credit history. Parents do not have to co-sign for these loans. Please call for more details or pass this information on to any youths.

**CONSERVATION RESERVE  
ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM**

Farmers in the Yadkin-PeeDee basin are able to take advantage of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). CREP will reimburse farmers for retiring cropland or pastureland surrounding streams, ponds and rivers from agricultural production. Program participants will receive annual rental payments, cost-share assistance, and other financial incentives for a period of 10-15 years for installing and maintaining filter strips, riparian buffers, tree planting and wetland restoration practices.

Eligible cropland must have been row-cropped 4 of the 6 years between 1996 and 2001. Marginal pastureland is also eligible, but only for riparian buffers, and if the land is adjacent or parallel to streams.

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture



Concord Service Center  
Cabarrus-Mecklenburg  
Farm Service Agency  
P.O. Box 547  
Concord, NC 28026-0547

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**CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM  
REMINDERS**

-Under certain practices the vegetative cover may be hayed or grazed. You must have a management plan, meet certain requirements and agree to a payment reduction. Managed haying and grazing does not allow for year round haying or grazing. You must contact the Farm Service Agency prior to any managed haying or grazing.

-Trees should not be harvested or sold, or other commercial use be made of trees, including the shearing or shaping of trees for Christmas trees.

-The designated CRP acreage should not be devoted to an unauthorized use.

-You are required to comply with state noxious weed laws.

-The approved conservation practice must be maintained on the designated CRP acreage for the life of the contract.

-Practices should be maintained according to your approved conservation plan.

-All CRP maintenance activity, such as mowing, burning, and spraying must be conducted outside the primary nesting season for wildlife in accordance with the conservation plan. The primary nesting season for Cabarrus and Mecklenburg Counties is April 15 through September 1.

**CRP REMINDERS CONTINUED**

-Annual mowing of CRP for generic weed control is prohibited.

-Periodic mowing and mowing for cosmetic purposes is prohibited at all times.

-A conservation plan is required on all land in which you have an interest.

-Any change in owners or operators of the designated CRP acreage should be reported to the Farm Service Agency.

-Contract participants are required to file an acreage report and conservation compliance report.

-Any change in CRP acreage such as a building of a house, road right-of-way, etc. should be reported to the Farm Service Agency prior to conversion.

-Any questions concerning the CRP contract should be addressed to the Cabarrus-Mecklenburg Farm Service Agency in Concord, North Carolina. The telephone number is 704-788-2107 ext. 2 in Cabarrus and 704-333-0023 in Mecklenburg.

**COMMODITY LOANS AVAILABLE**

To be eligible for a loan, crops must be produced on a farm by a producer who has filed a crop acreage report. Loans or Loan Deficiency Payments on the 2007 crops of corn, grain sorghum, cotton or soybeans are available through May 31, 2008.

**FARM SERVICE AGENCY NOMINATING  
PETITIONS BEING ACCEPTED**

The Cabarrus-Mecklenburg Farm Service Agency (FSA) Committee election will be held this year for Local Administrative Area (LAA) 3 on December 1, 2008. In General, LAA 3 is the area in northwest Cabarrus County.

Organizations representing socially disadvantaged farmers may nominate any eligible candidate and any producer residing in the committee's jurisdiction may nominate an eligible candidate. **Blank petitions (FSA-669A's) may be obtained at the Cabarrus-Mecklenburg Farm Service Agency.**

**IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES:**

Aug. 1, 2008...Last day to file nomination forms  
Nov 3, 2008...Ballots mailed to eligible voters  
Dec 1, 2008....Last day to return voted ballots

Informational meetings will be held in the Cabarrus-Mecklenburg Farm Service Agency to explain the committee nomination and election process at 9:00 am on June 18, 2008 and on July 9, 2008 at 2:00 pm

**FARM SERVICE AGENCY**

**Counts on You:**

**Nominate and Vote!**