

FSA News

CRAVEN-CARTERET FSA OFFICE

304 Industrial Drive
New Bern, NC 28562
Phone: (252) 637-3567, Ext. 2

Hours

Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

June 4, 2008



R. Kay Yates, CED

kay.yates@nc.usda.gov

County Committee

David Parker, Chairperson
Robert M. Riggs, Vice-Chairperson
Dietrich Kilpatrick
L. M. Simmons
James Alton Whitford
Rexine Corbett, Advisor

County Committee Elections - “FSA Counts on You”

Since COC elections happen only once a year, here is an election refresher. For election purposes, counties are divided into local administrative areas, or LAAs. Each LAA selects one producer to serve a three-year term on the Farm Service Agency County Committee.

Each year, an election is held in an LAA to replace the committee member whose three-year term is expiring. In counties with three LAAs, one seat is up for election. In combined counties in some years, two seats may be up for election. **In Craven County, the election is being held in LAA 2, which consists of the Tuscarora, Cove City, Jasper, Spring Garden and New Bern (west of Trent River) communities.**

Nominations

Candidate nominations for the FSA County Committee election will be accepted June 15 through Aug. 1, 2008. Producers who are residents in the LAA holding the election and who participate or cooperate in an FSA program and are of legal voting age may be nominated to serve on the County Committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers or ranchers may also nominate candidates.

The nomination form, FSA-669A, which is included in this newsletter, is also available at the county office or may be downloaded from <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=cce>

To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated, indicating agreement to serve if elected. The completed nomination form must be returned to the county office by the close of business on Aug. 1, 2008, or postmarked by midnight Aug. 1, 2008.

Voting

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters beginning Nov. 3, and must be returned to the county office by the close of business on Dec. 1, 2008, or postmarked by midnight Dec. 1, 2008. 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. No one can be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

Candidate Eligibility

To hold office as a County Committee member, a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria:

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
- Be eligible to vote in a County Committee election
- Reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate
- Not have been:
 - Removed or disqualified from the office of County Committee member, alternate or employee
 - Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony
 - Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

For additional clarification about County Committee elections, contact your local county office staff.

Sign-up Deadline for LCP and LIP

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has announced that 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.

For more information please contact your local FSA office for program sign-up details.

Crop Disaster Program Signup Continues

Eligible farmers and ranchers who suffered livestock losses, feed losses, or crop loss damage before Dec. 31, 2007, can still apply to receive disaster assistance.

FSA continues to accept applications and make payments for quantity losses under the Crop Disaster Program (CDP), for losses that occurred before the end of the 2007 calendar year.

For more disaster program information go online at: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>

Crop Reporting

The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA office 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.

The certification form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. **The producer certification deadline for all crops except small grains is June 30.**

CRP & NAP Certification

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

Prevented Planting:

Prevented planting is to 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.

2008 Compliance

Compliance and spot checks will once again be utilized during the 2008 crop year. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, deficiency loans, etc. for spot check and review, a nationwide selection of producers is used to achieve a statistical sampling of participating producers. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer's participation in Conservation Reserve Program, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Loan Deficiency Program, etc.

State and County Offices shall view and print their producer spot check lists as posted on the designated web site. If an entity is selected from the national database that is no longer farming or participating in the 2008 crop year, a notation shall be made on the spot check list. For more information about the new spot check selection procedure, feel free to contact your local Farm Service Agency office for additional clarification.

Farm Bill:

The new Farm Bill has been passed, however, FSA still has no information to provide as to sign up dates, program provisions, etc. As soon as we receive any information, we will be getting that information out.