



JUNE ,2008

ROBESON-SCOTLAND COUNTY NEWS

Lumberton USDA Service Center

**Robeson –Scotland
County FSA**
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Hours
Monday- Friday
8:00a.m. – 5:00p.m.

County Committee
Bobby H Britt Jr
David Carmichael
Tommy Gibson
Hinton McColl King Jr
Lycurous Lowery

Staff
Giles B Floyd, CED
Matthew T Pait, CPT
Denita Council
Janet Demery
Matthew Ellis
Agnes Locklear
Janet Mayers
Judy Miller
Linda Phillips
Faye Taylor

County Committee Elections “FSA Counts on You”

Since COC elections only happen 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.

Nominations Candidate nominations for the FSA county committee election will be accepted June 15 through August 1, 2008. Nominations will be accepted only in LAA-1 this year and includes Smith-Prospect, Red Springs – Rennert – Shannon, Lumber Bridge – Parkton, North St Pauls – South St. Pauls and East Howellsville – West Howellsville communities in Robeson County. Producers who are residents in the LAA- 1 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, is available at the county office or may be downloaded from

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=cce>.

Crop Disaster Program Signup Continues

Eligible farmers and ranchers who suffered livestock losses, feed losses, or crop loss damage before December 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, for losses that occurred before the end of the 2007 calendar year. For more information go online at <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>

Farm Reconstitutions In FSA program terminology, farms are constituted to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, farm reconstitution is necessary. The reconstitution – or recon – is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **August 1** for farms enrolled in specific programs.

Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)

The Farm Service Agency has announced that livestock producers have until **July 18, 2008** to enroll in the 2005-2007 Livestock Compensation Program. Signup began on September 10, 2007 and the program provides 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.

Crop Reporting 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 and burley tobacco is June 30. Appointments are currently being accepted. Please call in advance to schedule your office visit.

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 telephone.

Continuous CRP and CREP

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program are private lands environmental improvement programs that allows participants the opportunity to enroll environmentally sensitive acreages in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality and provide wildlife habitat and food sources.

The Continuous CRP program is a voluntary enrollment program. Eligible landowners enter into contracts that range from 10-15 years in length. In return, the landowners will receive annual rental and maintenance payments, incentive payments for certain activities, and cost share for establishment. The CREP program is a joint state and federal program that now includes the Lumber River Basin. This program encourages producers to convert sensitive cropland to conservation practices and includes greater incentives than CRP.

To be eligible for enrollment in the Continuous CRP and CREP, participants and acreage must meet certain requirements. Provided the eligibility requirements are met, FSA will automatically accept enrollments of acreage into Continuous CRP. Landowners may enroll in the program at any time during the year. For more information on Continuous CRP enrollments or local Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) availability, please contact your local FSA Office

FSA Customers are asked to update their name and address records when changes occur. Also if you have an e-mail address and would like to receive information by the net let us know. We are attempting to put together a listing so information can be made available this way. If you are interested in conducting business this way visit www.eauth.egov.usda.gov

The United States 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, or 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, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.