



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

STANLY COUNTY
FARM SERVICE AGENCY

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FSA Office Hours
Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

COUNTY COMMITTEE:

Charles F. Brooks, Chairman
Keith A. Hill, Vice-Chairman
Curtis R. Furr, Member
Betty S. McSwain, Advisor

Committee meets 3rd Monday
of each month at 8:30 am

County Executive Director:
Pamela S. Pollard
Pamela.pollard@nc.usda.gov

Program Technicians:

Karen R. Morris
Jennifer L. Almond

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Farm Service Agency

Stanly County Farm Service Agency

Newsletter

June 2008



COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS
NOMINATION PERIOD ENDS
AUGUST 1ST

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

Committee members are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers who serve on committees help decide the kind of programs their counties will offer. They work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

You may nominate a producer for the Stanly County FSA Committee for 2009. Persons nominated should actively participate in the operation of a farm or ranch and be well qualified for committee work. For the Stanly County 2009 COC election the person must reside in Local Administrative Area III; which consists of Big Lick, Tyson, and Center townships, and be eligible to vote. This LAA is currently represented by Keith A Hill. Please consider a producer who you feel will represent this area well!

Nomination form FSA-699A is included with this newsletter. To nominate someone for the COC Election please complete this form and return it to the Stanly County FSA office at the address to the top left by August 1, 2008.

NOMINATE, VOTE
AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

DISASTER PROGRAMS

July 18th 2008 is the deadline to apply for the **Livestock Compensation (LCP)** Program. LCP provides benefits for livestock producers who suffered feed losses or incurred additional feed costs due to natural disasters.

Applications for the **Crop Disaster (CDP)** Program are still being accepted. CDP provides benefits to producers with insured crops who suffered quantity losses due to natural disasters in 2005-2007. If you have not completed your application(s) please visit the FSA office promptly.

CONSERVATION RESERVE
ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a voluntary land retirement program that helps agricultural producers protect environmentally sensitive land, decrease erosion, restore wildlife habitat, and safeguard ground and surface water.

The program is a partnership among producers; tribal, state, and federal governments; and, in some cases, private groups. CREP is an offshoot of the country's largest private-lands environmental improvement program -- the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

Like CRP, CREP is administered by USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA). By combining CRP resources with state, tribal, and private programs, CREP provides farmers and ranchers with a sound financial package for conserving and enhancing the natural resources of farms.

Farmers in the Yadkin-PeeDee, Neuse, Tar-Pamlico, Chowan, Lumber, White Oak, Cape Fear (including Jordan Lake), Roanoke, and Pasquotank river basins 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.

For more information visit the FSA office or www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/nccrep.pdf.

2008 CROP REPORTS

Farmers should report their planted acreage of corn, cotton, soybeans, grain sorghum, CRP, hay crops, silage crops, and fruits or vegetables for commercial use to the Farm Service Agency by **Monday, June 30, 2008.**

Operators and/or owners are required to report **ALL CROPLAND** acreage to remain eligible for FSA program payments. Producers are also required to report the **date that crops were planted.**

For crops not planted by June 30, producers have 15 days after planting to report these crops.

Prevented planted acreage should also be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final reporting date for the applicable crop.

Failed acreage shall be filed before the disposition of the crop.

MAINTAINING CRP COVER

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 and in accordance with the conservation plan. 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 RECONSTITUTIONS

In 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, a 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. Please report any changes in farm ownership or operation as soon as possible so the farm(s) can be properly constituted. August 1, 2008 is the last day to request reconstitutions for the 2008 crop year.

Dates to Remember

June 30	Crop Reports Due
July 4	Office Closed- Holiday
July 18	LCP Sign up Deadline
August 1	COC Nominations Due
August 1	Deadline to request Reconstitutions
Nov 3	Ballots mailed to eligible voters
Dec 1	Last day to return ballots

WELCOME

The FSA staff and Committee would like to welcome Nathan Lowder to the NRCS office in the Albemarle USDA Service Center. We look forward to working together with Mr. Lowder to serve Stanly County's agricultural landowners and producers.

SODBUSTER REGULATIONS

The term "sodbusting" is used to identify the plowing up of erosion-prone grasslands for use as cropland. Sodbuster violations are unauthorized tillage practices on highly erodible lands that converted native vegetation such as rangeland or woodland, to crop production after Dec. 23, 1985.

Farmers and ranchers should be aware that if they use highly erodible land for crop production without proper conservation measures, **they risk losing eligibility to participate in Farm Service Agency programs.**

BEFORE producers clear, plow or otherwise prepare areas not presently under crop production for planting, they are required to file an AD-1026, indicating the area to be brought into production.

If Natural Resources Conservation Service indicates on a CPA-026 that the area will be highly erodible land, the producer will be required to develop and implement a conservation plan on the affected acreage, before bringing land into production.

****Be sure your highly erodible land determinations and conservation plans are up to date.

NRCS COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Your local Natural Resource Conservation Service office is offering conservation technical assistance as well financial cost-share assistance for the installation of best management practices on eligible agricultural lands in Stanly County. Financial assistance is offered through funds appropriated in the 2002 Farm Bill and eligible to agricultural producers through local Farm Bill programs. Eligible cost-share BMP's may include fencing, watering facilities, grassed waterways, critical area stabilization, water wells, waste storage structures, and others. Contact Nathan Lowder at (704) 982-5114 ext.3 for more details.

PREVENTING FRAUD

The Farm Service Agency has joined with the Risk Management Agency to prevent fraud, waste and abuse in the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. In addition, FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse to RMA.

Producers can report suspected cases to the county office staff, RMA office, or the Office of the Inspector General.

LOANS FOR SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) can make and guarantee loans to socially disadvantaged applicants for buying and operating family size farms and ranches. Funds specifically for these loans are reserved each year. A socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher 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, without regard to their individual qualities. For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, Hispanics, Asians and Pacific Islanders, Alaskan Natives, and American Indians. Contact your local FSA Farm Loan Manager or Loan Officer for more details and assistance in applying.

FAXED SIGNATURES

Certain FSA program applications may be accepted by facsimile (fax) machine if Form FSA-237, Facsimile Signature Authorization and Verification, is on file. This authorization form should be completed, signed and witnessed by the FSA office staff, or notarized.

In addition, producers and the producer's affiliates have to file an AD-1026 with the staff in the administrative or control county office before any farm program payments can be made. The AD-1026 is the producer's signed certification that HELC, as well as wetland conservation, provisions will not be violated.

\$\$ BANK ACCOUNT CHANGES? \$\$

Producers receiving payments need to be sure to file a corrected SF-1099A, Direct Deposit form, any time a change in bank or account number occurs. If the change is not made, your payment will reject, causing delays in receiving your payment.