

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE  
FARM SERVICE AGENCY  
ALAMANCE COUNTY

ALAMANCE COUNTY COMMITTEE

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FSA OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday  
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM  
Wednesday  
8:00AM – 1:00PM

OUTREACH

The Alamance County FSA Office is committed to ensuring that all persons are aware of programs and benefits available, whether they be under-served, limited resources, socially disadvantaged, active farmers and ranchers, landowners and community organizations.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (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 the USDA's TARGET CENTER at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800)-795-3272 (voice) or (202)720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in FSA events or seek information on our programs. If accommodations are required, please call Carrie LaVerne Burnette at (336) 228-1753, ext.2.

# ALAMANCE COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY

## Newsletter No. 3

June 2010

### 2010 CROP CERTIFICATION

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 following crop acreage should be reported to the Farm Service Agency by Wednesday, June 30, 2010:

Corn, Fruits for Commercial Use, Vegetables for Commercial Use, Grain Sorghum, Hay Crops, Pasture, Silage Crops, Idle Land, Floriculture Crops, Cotton Soybeans, Industrial Crops, Turf Grass Sod and Ornamental Nursery.

Crop reports are mandatory to remain eligible for Program benefits such as, Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP), Commodity Loans. **Burley Tobacco** is to be reported Thursday July 15.

### CRP & NAP CERTIFICATION

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 to remain eligible for payment. **Acreage reports must account for all cropland on the farm**

**NAP producers are also reminded to provide 2009 production data to the county office by June 30, 2010. This information will be used to update the actual production history for the crops for which NAP coverage has been purchased. If you are a new 2010 NAP producer in Alamance county, you will need to furnish production records for at least previous 4 years. If production information is not furnished, a yield will be assigned using 65% of the T-yield, which is an estimated yield equal to the county expected yield which is established by the NC State FSA Committee and approved by Deputy Administrator of Farm Programs (DAFP).**

### PREVENTED PLANTED /FAILED ACREAGE

Producers are also reminded to report prevented planting and failed acreage. Prevented planting occurs when a crop cannot be planted during the established planting period because of a natural disaster. Producers who request prevented planting acreage credit must report the acreage on FSA-578 and complete CC-576, Part B within fifteen days after the final planting date. COC must make a

determination of eligibility on each request for prevented planting acreage. COC must be satisfied that:

- the prevented planting acreage was reported according to regulations
- The producer intended to plant the crop acreage for harvest
- Other producers in the area were similarly affected the reason the crop could not be planted
- was because of a natural disaster and not a management decision

The 2010 final planting dates for Alamance County according to Risk Management (RMA) are as listed below:

Crop	Final Planting Date
• Barley	10/31/2009
• Corn	05/20/2010
• FC Tobacco	06/15/2010
• Grain Sorghum	06/15/2010
• Oats	10/31/2009
• Wheat	11/10/2009

Prevented planted credit has to be approved by COC and is not automatically given at producer's request.

Producers are advised to report failed acreage within fifteen days of the disaster event. Failed acreage is acreage that was timely planted with the intent to harvest, but because of disaster related conditions, the crop failed before it could be brought to harvest. Producers requesting failed acreage credit shall prove to COC's satisfaction that:

- the crop was planted with the intent to harvest using farming practices consistent for the crop and area
- the acreage failed because of disaster-related conditions.

### CROP DAMAGE

Producers are asked to report crop damage to the FSA office immediately. This includes damage as a result of frost/freeze, wind, hail, excessive rain, etc. This information will assist the County Emergency Board (CEB) for the agricultural department in compiling a "Loss Report" which is forwarded to our national office via our NC State FSA office. Information is reviewed by national office to determine whether or not our county should be declared a disaster for federal assistance.

FSA WILL BE CLOSED FRIDAY, JULY 5, 2010, IN OBSERVANCE OF THE JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> HOLIDAY





Farm Service Agency  
Alamance County FSA Office  
209 N Graham-Hopedale Road  
Burlington, NC 27217  
Official Business

**2010 FSA COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS**

Beginning June 15 through August 2, 2010 farmers can nominate eligible peers from the townships of Albright, Newlin and Patterson, as candidates for election to the ALAMANCE County Farm Service Agency County Committee. The nomination form is attached to this newsletter.

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers, whether beginning or long-established, with large or small operations. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. County Committee (COC) members are a critical component of FSA operations. The intent is to have the COC reflect the makeup of the producers and to represent all constituents. This means wherever possible, minorities, women or lower income producers need to be on the committee to speak for these underrepresented groups.

County committees provide local input on:

- Commodity price support loans and payments
- Conservation programs
- Incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities
- Emergency programs
- Payment eligibility

FSA county committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

**Election Period**

- June 15, 2010 – The nomination period begins. Request nomination forms from the local USDA Service Center or obtain online at:  
[http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA\\_File/fsa0669a\\_committeelectform.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa0669a_committeelectform.pdf)
- Aug. 2, 2010 - Last day to file nomination forms (FSA-669A) at the local USDA Service Center
- Nov. 5, 2010 - Ballots mailed to eligible voters

- Dec. 6, 2010 - Last day to return voted ballots to the USDA Service Center
- Jan. 1, 2011 - Newly elected county committee members take office

**Who Can Hold Office:**

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 more information about county committee elections, contact the county office staff.

**Nominations**

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign nomination form FSA-669A. The form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. This form is available at USDA Service Centers and online at:

[http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA\\_File/fsa0669a\\_committeelectform.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa0669a_committeelectform.pdf)

Nomination forms for the 2010 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 2, 2010. Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy for the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Additionally, organizations representing minority and women farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates. Nomination forms are filed for the county committee of the office that administers a producer's farm records.

**Who Can Vote**

Agricultural producers of legal voting age may be eligible to 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 of an entire farm may also be eligible to vote. More information about voting eligibility requirements can be found in the FSA fact sheet titled "FSA County Committee Election - Eligibility to Vote and Hold Office as a County Committee Member." Producers may contact their local USDA Service Center for more information

**SODBUSTING**

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.

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.

