

**Columbus County Farm  
Service  
Agency**

County Committee  
Robert Osbourne, Chairman  
Ernie Freeman, Vice Chairman  
Glenn Turbeville, Regular Member  
P. O. Box 459  
45 Government Complex Drive  
Whiteville, NC 28472  
Office Hours  
8:00AM to 4:30PM  
(910) 642-2196

# Cross County FSA News

R. Coke Gray CED

June 11, 2010



**Brunswick County Farm Service  
Agency**

County Committee  
Richard Clemmons, Chairman  
Linda Robinson, Vice-Chairman  
Jody Clemmons, Regular Member  
P. O. Box 110  
10 Referendum Drive  
Bolivia, NC 28422  
Office Hours  
8:00AM to 4:30PM  
(910) 253-4448

**MAKE YOUR 2010 CROP REPORTING APPOINTMENTS NOW!!!**

**FARMERS WHO MAKE APPOINTMENTS OR DO HOME CROP REPORTS FOR 2010 WILL TAKE PRIORITY OVER WALK IN CUSTOMERS.** USDA program benefits are an important part of farm income in today's agriculture economy and making an accurate crop report is a requirement in receiving these benefits. Remember all cropland on the farm must be accounted for or your DCP or ACRE payments will be effected. **Producers doing home reports must complete and return the report to the county office by June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010 so the report can be entered in the system by the appropriate crop reporting deadline of June 30<sup>th</sup>, for spring seeded crops. If you are interested in doing home reports, contact our office so a report package can be completed for you.**

**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.

**NOMINATING PETITIONS FOR CANDIDATES TO SERVE ON THE COUNTY COMMITTEE WILL BE ACCEPTED THROUGH AUGUST 1, 2010.** This year's election for Columbus County is in LAA III consisting of Bogue, Waccamaw, Bolton, Ransom, Lees communities. Robert Osbourne currently represents LAAIII in Columbus County. Brunswick County election will be for LAA III that includes the area in and around the communities of Waccamaw and Northwest. Linda Robinson currently represents LAA III. Election ballots will be mailed by November 5, 2010 and must be returned to the County Office by December 6, 2010. Candidates for COC must be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm in the LAA, where the election is being held, as an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper. Petitions are enclosed.

**SURE SIGNUP CONTINUES:** The 2008 Farm Bill includes a new disaster program known as the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program. SURE will pay for losses due to natural disasters. Highlights of the program include: SURE is available in secretarial declared disaster counties or if a producer has a 50% production loss on the farm.

Producers must have purchased crop insurance or NAP coverage on all crops of economic significance (ES) on their farm (ES is a crop that contributes at least 5% to the farms expected income). The purchase of buy up insurance will increase the amount of SURE coverage. Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher are exempt from the risk management purchase requirement.

**A FARM is the sum of all crop acreage, in all counties planted or intended, for harvest for sale. SURE coverage is based on the farms revenue not the crop insurance unit as in past disaster programs. Losses are measured with consideration to the whole-farm revenue, which includes crop insurance indemnities and commodity program payments, so that producers are not paid more than once for the same loss.**

**Producers will need to contact our office to set up an appointment to sign up for SURE. Verifiable production records for all crops produced for 2008 will need to be furnished to FSA to complete the application.**

Other requirements such as adjusted gross income requirements, conservation compliance, crop reporting, sharing in the risk of production and ownership of the crop must be met to be eligible.

**REQUEST for PREVENTED PLANTING credit must be filed within 15 days of the final planting date. FAILED ACREAGE must be filed within 15 days of the date the crop failure occurred for the COC to consider the request. Evidence of the failed crop must be left in the field for the county office to inspect. Prevented planting request must be made in writing and approved by the COC prior to receiving any credit.**

**CONSENT TO DISCLOSURE OF TAX INFORMATION FORM (CCC-927)**

**TO BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE USDA PROGRAM PAYMENTS FORM CCC-927 THAT ALLOWS THE IRS TO VERIFY AVERAGE ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME FOR USDA ARE REQUIRED TO BE COMPLETED, SIGNED AND RETURNED TO THE IRS BY THE PROGRAM PARTICIPANT NO LATER THAN JUNE 15<sup>TH</sup> 2010. THE IRS WILL NOT PROVIDE USDA WITH ANY OF THE ITEMS OF THE RETURN INFORMATION SPECIFIED ON THIS CONSENT FORM USED TO PERFORM THE AGI CALCULATIONS. FORMS CAN BE PICKED UP FROM YOUR LOCAL FSA OFFICE.**

**FARM LOANS** are available for qualified applicants including youth, beginning farmers, and socially disadvantaged persons. On March 18, 2010, Secretary Vilsack declared a natural disaster in the State of North Carolina based on losses caused by excessive rain and flooding that occurred from November 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009 for 13 counties. Brunswick and Columbus counties are contiguous counties, therefore these counties are eligible for FSA emergency (EM) loan assistance. Dean Sasser, Farm Loan Manager, said that effective March 18, 2010; farmers in Brunswick and Columbus counties may apply for EM loans for production losses. **November 18, 2010 is the deadline for filing an application.** Dean said that any farmer who suffered a production loss should contact his/her office for additional information. The telephone number is 910 642 2196 ext. 2.

**RMA/FCIC PROGRAM INTEGRITY:** As a requirement of the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000, FSA will be assisting RMA and insurance providers in monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste, and abuse about the Federal Crop Insurance Program to RMA. Producers are encouraged to report suspected cases of fraud, waste, and abuse to their local county office, RMA, or OIG. The USDA hotline to report such cases is 1-800-424-9121.

**OUTREACH: The Columbus and Brunswick County FSA Office is constantly seeking to provide information to the community about the different programs available. We are seeking to reach the socially disadvantaged and non-traditional farmers. African-Americans, Asian Americans, Native Americans, Females, Hispanics and other minority farmers. If you would like to be added to our mailing list or would like to have us address your group, please contact this office.**

**COLUMBUS COUNTY COMMUNITY FARMERS MARKET** located at 132 Government Complex Road, Whiteville, NC is available to rent for functions such as family reunions. In addition the market has a newly installed government inspected kitchen that may be rented for the purpose of canning and preserving fruits and vegetables. For more information call Carol Shuman (910) 642-3789

**CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP) FUNDING AVAILABLE**

Natural Resources Conservation Service announces that farmers in Columbus County are invited to apply for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). CSP offers payments to producers who maintain a high level of conservation on their land and who agree to adopt higher levels of stewardship. Eligible lands include cropland, pastureland, rangeland and non-industrial forestland. The deadline to be considered for the next ranking and funding period is June 21, 2010. Applicants will compete within state-identified ranking pools. CSP is offered in all 100 counties. Eligible producers may submit an application to enroll eligible land in CSP on a continuous basis. Potential applicants are encouraged to use the CSP self-screening checklist to determine if the new program is suitable for their operation. The checklist highlights basic information about CSP eligibility requirements, contract obligations and potential payments. It is available from local USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offices or on the NRCS Web site at [http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/new\\_csp/csp.html](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/new_csp/csp.html). CSP offers payments for adding conservation practices and maintaining and managing existing conservation practices. For more information about CSP, please visit your local NRCS office, call 910-642-2196 x 3 or visit the NRCS in North Carolina, visit us on the Web at [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov).

**The office will be closed July 5, 2010 in observance of Independence Day.**

**Policy:** 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, ect.) should contact USDA'S Target Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice & TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, 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 or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please call R. Coke Gray, CED, at (910) 642-2196 ext. 2.