



USDA



Farm Service Agency

HOKE COUNTY FSA NEWS JUNE 2010

Hoke County USDA Service Center

Hoke County FSA
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Extension 2
910-875-2892(fax)

Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Wed. 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 pm

County Committee
C. Neil McKenzie Jr.
Earl B. Hendrix
Edgar V. Edens
Hosea Baldwin, Advisor

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Henry H. Thomason
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RETIREMENT

Dianne Hubbard, after almost 26 years of service to the agency, has decided it is time for her to start enjoying retirement. There will be a floating reception for Mrs. Dianne P. Hubbard in the Cumberland County FSA Office, July 14, 2010 from 2:00 – 4:00 pm. Please plan to come and help us thank Mrs. Hubbard for her dedicated service that she has given to the agency and especially to the farmers of Cumberland and Hoke County.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS FOR 2010

Nominations-Candidate nominations for the FSA county committee election will be accepted June 15 through August 2, 2010. Producers who are residents in LAA1 (McLaughlin and Stonewall) and who participate 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.

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 August 2 or postmarked by midnight August 2, 2010.

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 FSA office staff.

CROP REPORTING/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, whether idle or planted, must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments.

The producer certification deadline for all spring and summer planted crops is **June 30th·2010**. We can take appointments through June 23rd. Please call and make your appointment or you may visit our office at your convenience between now and June 30th to complete your crop reports. Please come prepared to give your planting dates and acres for each crop. **Farmers are encouraged to be prepared to account for all cropland and come with calculated acres to save time during certification.**

Marketing Assistance Loans

Marketing Assistance Loans for crop years 2010 through 2012 are available to producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, you must maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the time of application.

Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan even if you regain beneficial interest.

Commodity loan eligibility also requires you to comply with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, report how you use cropland acreage on the farm and ensure that the commodity meets Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) minimum grade and quality standards. For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan.

Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program to be eligible for commodity loans.

Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans. The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification.

For more details on marketing assistance loans contact your local FSA office

2010 Crop Final Loan Availability Dates:

March 31, 2011 for Barley, Oats, and Wheat
May 31, 2011 for Corn, Soybeans , Grain Sorghum, and
Upland Cotton

2010 Commodity Loan Rates: Barley (\$1.75 per bushel), Wheat (\$1.84 per bushel), Oats (\$1.37 per bushel), Corn (\$2.19 per bushel), Grain Sorghum (\$3.70 per CWT), and Soybeans (\$5.09 per bushel)

OTHER LOAN PROGRAMS

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) Program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

FSA Farm Loans are available for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agriculture operations.

Rural Youth Loans are made to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups.

Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers Program assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans.

2010 Compliance: Compliance and spot checks will once again be utilized during the 2010 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 2010 crop year, a



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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.

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.

REMINDERS:

- **June 25, 2010** is the deadline for submitting applications to NRCS for the Conservation Stewardship Program. For more information contact NRCS at 910-484-8479, Ext 3.
- **June 30, 2010** is the deadline to provide 2009 production evidence for NAP. This information is very important for APH yields in the event of crop losses.
- FSA offices will be closed **July 5th, 2010** in observance of Independence Day.
- Prevented planting is to be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.
- 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.

For more information about FSA and its programs visit the FSA web site at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write to 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.

Note: Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please contact Henry H. Thomason, CED at 910-484-2138, Ext. 2.