



*Washington County FSA Office
Tyrrell-Dare FSA Office
July 2010*



Price Support. - A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available for producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the earlier of the date the loan is repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity. 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 the producer regains beneficial interest. If you contract with Cherry Farms or any other seed dealer, make sure you do not accept advance payments if you want a loan. Once you accept an advance, beneficial interest is lost!

When you are ready to move the commodity under loan, call the FSA office to let them know where you will be delivering the commodity. If you begin moving the commodity on a weekend, contact the FSA office the next workday. A 15 or 30 calendar day delivery period can be issued. A CCC 681-1 will be approved for delivery to a bona fide buyer. Please stress to the buyer that a check for the delivered commodity must be sent to FSA as soon as possible but no later than 15 days after the expiration of the CCC-681-1. **The check must be for the correct amount due. If a refund has to be processed, it could take up to two weeks for it to be made.** In most cases, the refund check will be made out to the buyer, not the producer. FSA will NOT endorse a buyer's check in order for the producer to provide a personal check. If necessary, FSA has the right to require a guaranteed remittance. Final availability date for wool, mohair and peanuts is January 31st of the year following harvest. March 31, 2011 is the final date to request loans for 2010 crop small grains and May 31, 2011 for corn, soybeans, grain sorghum. Call the FSA office if you have any questions regarding loans and/or LDP's.

Elections. Nomination period closes on 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. For Washington County, LAA 1, Roper Township is up for election and for Tyrrell/Dare, LAA 2, Travis, Lake Phelps and Scuppernong communities. Please nominate! Come by the FSA office for a nomination form.

Farm Storage Facility Loans. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL) provides low-interest financing for producers to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. The FSA is authorized to implement the program through USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC). Maximum loan amount is \$500,000 per loan. A 15% cash down payment is required. The loan terms are 7, 10 or 12 years. Interest rate varies each month and depends on the term period. A \$100.00 non refundable application fee is required. For more information, contact our office.

Electronic Services Available - If a producer has Internet access, program participants can access many services from home 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and receive approval and payment by direct deposit within 48 hours. To participate in these services, you must meet all program eligibility requirements. Online services have stringent security measures to protect your private information. To utilize electronic services a producer needs an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires an e-mail address and filling out an online registration form at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/> followed by a visit to the county office for identity verification. If you have more questions, or would like assistance establishing your account, just contact your local USDA Service Center and talk with our trained FSA personnel.

Preventing Fraud - The Farm Service Agency supports the Risk Management Agency in the prevention of fraud, waste and abuse of 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. FSA will continue to refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse directly to RMA. Producers can report suspected cases to the FSA office, RMA, or the Office of the Inspector General.

Special Accommodations - Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

Soil and Water. Tyrrell Soil and Water Conservation District expects to receive cost share allocation from the state for nonpoint source pollution control from agricultural activities. These funds are available to assist farmers to install conservation practices which help decrease the amount of sediment, nitrogen, phosphorus, chemicals and other pollutants in the surface and ground waters of the state. The District expects to receive approximately \$60,000 for program year 2011 which begins July 1, 2010. Landowners and operators of existing agricultural operations may apply for cost share assistance to install conservation practices such as land smoothing, water control structures, long-term no-till, agrichemical handling facilities, nutrient and pest management and many more. Call 252-796-3701 for more information.

Transition Incentives. The Transition Incentives Program (TIP) encourages retired or retiring owners or operators to transition their Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres to beginning or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers. TIP sign-up opened May 17, 2010. If all program requirements are met, TIP provides annual rental payments to the retiring farmer for up to two additional years after the expiration of the CRP contract, provided the transition is not to a family member.

REMINDERS.

- Signup for continuous CRP still underway
- Tree Assistance Program (TAP) - orchardist and tree growers – deadline 7-6-10
- Let FSA know of any changes in farm ownership; farm **operator changes now have to be verified by the landowner before the change can be made**
- A meeting for all beginning farmers, socially disadvantage and limited resource farmers and minorities is scheduled for July 20, 2010 at the Washington County Cooperative Extension Auditorium. We will start at 1:00 pm. NRCS will enlighten you on programs also.
- Failed acres must be reported within 15 days of the apparent loss to receive credit.
- Office hours: Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 4:30 pm. Closed on Federal Holidays.
- Beginning Farmers, Socially Disadvantage/Limited Resource – loans available, contact Paula Nichols at 252-946-1076 for more info.

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