



Vance County Farm Service Agency Newsletter

June 14, 2006

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Vance County

USDA Service Center
Vance County FSA
853 S. Beckford Dr., Ste. B
Henderson, NC 27536
(252) 438-3134

Office Hours

Monday-Friday

8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

Bennie Harris, Jr. - Chairperson
George Pegram, Jr. - Vice Chairperson
Dale Reese - Regular Member

Advisors

Arthur Evans
Rachel Garrett

Executive Director

Denise Hight

Farm Loan Officer

Charles Walls

Program Technicians

Fred Coghill
Tammy Dail
Lisa Furlow

Reminders:

County Committee Nominations will be accepted through August 1, 2006.

The office will be closed Tuesday, July 4, 2006, in observance of Independence Day.

The U.S. 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 USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

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.

Committee Nominations Open June 15th

Nominations for candidates to run for the Farm Service Agency county committee election representing producers in Local Administrative Area 2 will be accepted from June 15 through August 1, 2006. Producers who are eligible to vote in LAA 2 and who participate or cooperate 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 may also nominate candidates.

Vance County will be holding an election for a person to represent LAA 2. That position is currently held by Bennie L. Harris, Jr. LAA 2 includes Henderson, Watkins and Kittrell Townships.

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by November 3, 2006, and must be returned to the FSA county office or postmarked by December 4, 2006.

All farmers, ranchers and other agricultural producers are encouraged to participate. The county committee provides local input on commodity price support loans and payments; establish allotments and yields; conservation programs; disaster assistance payments and programs.

More information on the elections, including nomination forms, is available at the county office or online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

New Lien Search Policy

The new marketing assistance loans lien search policy instructs FSA county offices to conduct lien searches and perfect security interests on marketing assistance loan requests that are in amounts greater than \$25,000.

Acreage Reporting

The timely filing of an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a number of programs, including Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Conservation Reserve Program, Non-Insured Crop Assistance Program and marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments.

Producers must file a FSA-578 on all summer seeded crops such as tobacco, soybean, and all remaining cropland no later than Friday, June 30, 2006. If producers are still planting after the final reporting date, they have 15 days after completing planting to certify that acreage with the FSA office.

Conservation Reserve Program

If you have a Conservation Reserve Program contract that expires in 2008, 2009, or 2010, you should have received a letter from the county office explaining your options to re-enroll or extend your contract. To take advantage of the offer, you must respond by the close of business on June 30, otherwise your contract will expire on its stated date.

All CRP participants are **REMIND**ED to comply with the terms and conditions of their Conservation Plan and CRP-1 Appendix. You may not harvest, sell, or otherwise make commercial use of trees or forage or other cover on CRP land. This means you may **NOT** thin your stand of trees, harvest hay from CRP land, or allow animals to graze CRP land without prior approval from FSA. If FSA approves either of these three actions, there will be a payment reduction for that particular year. You may **NEVER** harvest pine straw from CRP land. CRP participants are also required to annually certify their CRP acreage no later than **JUNE 30th** of each year. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

CCC-633 EZ Reminder

Remember, we've switched to the CCC-633-EZ form. It's a one size fits all form you can use to indicate your intention to receive loan deficiency payments for all your crops at the beginning of the crop year, long before you've lost beneficial interest.

The same form is then used to submit a request for an LDP any time during the loan/LDP availability period before or after losing beneficial interest.

For the 2006 crop year, the CCC-633 EZ and eLDP online requests are the only methods available to request LDPs.

Farm Service Agency Direct Loan Borrowers

All Farm Service Agency direct loan borrowers can check the status of their accounts any time, day or night, using the new toll free telephone number **1-888-518-4983**. Initially farm loan borrowers will be prompted to enter specific information associated with the loan as well as entering their zip code. Afterwards the customer will be allowed to create a personal identification number (PIN) to ensure their information remains secure. The number can be utilized in English or Spanish.

**Visit FSA Online at:
www.fsa.usda.gov**

Foreign Landowner Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U. S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property.

County government offices, real estate agents, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.