

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

CHATHAM COUNTY
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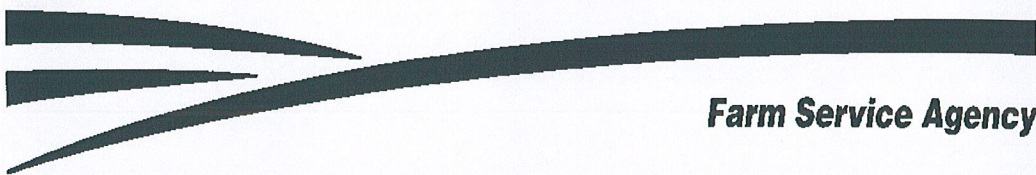
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OFFICE HOURS

**Monday - Friday
8:00 am - 4:30 pm**



Farm Service Agency

Chatham County Farm Service Agency

Newsletter

AUGUST 2012



NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) will be available for the 2013 crop year to producers for individual crop losses. NAP provides financial assistance to producers for losses on crops that are not insurable and the **loss is caused by a natural disaster**. An eligible producer is a landowner, tenant, or sharecropper who shares in the risk of producing an eligible crop. Eligible crops include commercial crops and other agricultural commodities produced for food (including livestock feed) or fiber for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is unavailable. To apply for NAP coverage you must file an application for coverage, CCC-471, and pay the service fee and these actions must be taken by the crop application closing date. The service fee is \$250 per crop not to exceed \$750 per producer per county.

Upcoming 2012 closing dates are:

September 4, 2012 for: Sage and Strawberries

October 1, 2012 for: Barley, Oats, Rye and

Wheat (intended use NOT for grain)

November 20, 2012 for: Alfalfa, Apples, Blackberries, Blueberries, Caneberries, Grapes, **GRASS (Grazing or Hay)**, Honey, Lespedeza, Peaches, Pecans, Plums, and Raspberries.



NEWSLETTERS BY EMAIL

Due to budget constraints, newsletters are beginning to be emailed and no longer sent by regular mail. The county office was able to mail newsletters only 2 times this fiscal year, and the next fiscal year may bring less than that. If you wish to continue to receive these newsletters, the county office will need your email address. The office will soon start to email newsletters monthly. If we do not have your email address, please forward it to yonetta.french@nc.usda.gov or lori.andrews@nc.usda.gov or you can call or stop by the county office and give it to us. If you do not have email, please feel free to call or visit the office for any program updates.

**HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND INITIATIVE
SIGN-UP**

The Highly Erodible Land Initiative sign-up under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) began July 23, 2012. The purpose of the initiative is to protect up to 750,000 acres of the nation's most high erodible land (HEL) croplands. Producers may enroll at the FSA office. Enrollment will continue until the 750,000 acre limit has been met. CRP is a voluntary program designed to help farmers, ranchers and other agricultural producers protect their environmentally sensitive land. Through this HEL Initiative, eligible landowners receive annual rental and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource conserving covers on eligible cropland for 10 years. Croplands with an erodibility index of 20 or greater are eligible for enrollment. Established CRP enrollment requirements, such as cropping history, still apply. For more information, please contact the Chatham County FSA office or visit FSA's website at www.fsa.usda.gov/erp.

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.

OFFICE CLOSINGS

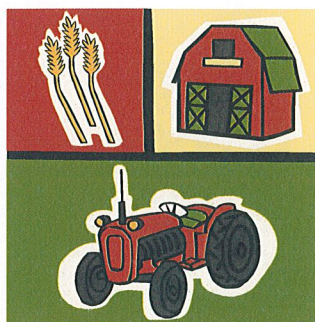
The Chatham County FSA Office will be closed for holidays on the following days:

SEPTEMBER 3	LABOR DAY
OCTOBER 8	COLUMBUS DAY
NOVEMBER 12	VETERAN'S DAY
NOVEMBER 22	THANKSGIVING DAY
DECEMBER 25	CHRISTMAS DAY
JANUARY 1	NEW YEAR'S DAY

United States
Department
Of Agriculture
Chatham County Farm Service Agency
P O Box 249
Pittsboro, NC 27312-0249

PRESORTED STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID

Official Business



GENERAL REMINDERS

- **Report losses on NAP crops or any other crops within 15 days of loss**
- **Report changes in farm operation or farm ownership timely**
- **Report any banking changes affecting direct deposit**

SMILE FOR THE MONTH

A lady at work was seen putting a credit card into her floppy drive and pulling it out very quickly. When someone inquired as to what she was doing, she said she was shopping on the Internet and they kept asking for a credit card number, so she was using the ATM "thingy."

RURAL YOUTH LOANS

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

Contact Bill Rhodes at 704-788-2107 ext. 115 for help in preparing and processing the application forms.

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS

Loans are available to producers of wheat, corn, soybeans, hay and other commodities for the construction or upgrade of farm storage and handling facilities. Loans may be made only for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed handling equipment or the remodeling of existing facilities. New loan terms of 7, 10, or 12 years are available depending on the amount

of the loan and all loans must be secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum principal amount of any farm storage facility loan is 85 percent of the net cost of the applicant's needed storage or handling equipment up to \$500,000. A minimum down payment representing the difference between the net cost of the storage facility and the amount of the loan shall be made by the loan applicant to the supplier or contractor before the loan is disbursed. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department. The interest rate for each loan will remain in effect for the term of the loan.

FARM SAFETY

Flowing grain in a storage bin or gravity-flow wagon is like quicksand, it can kill quickly. It takes less than five seconds for a person caught in flowing grain to be trapped. The mechanical aspects of grain handling equipment, also presents a real danger. Augers, power take offs, and other moving parts can grab people or clothing. These hazards, along with pinch points and missing shields, are dangerous enough for adults; not to mention children. It is always advisable to keep children a safe distance from operating farm equipment. Always use extra caution when backing or maneuvering farm machinery. Ensure everyone is visibly clear and accounted for before machinery is engaged. FSA wants all farmers to have a productive crop year, and that begins with putting safety first.