

March 2014



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Chatham County FSA Updates

Chatham County FSA Office

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County Executive Director:
Claudia A Austin

Program Technicians:
Vonetta S French
Lori E Andrews

Farm Loans:
Bill Rhodes 704-788-2107 ext
115

County Committee:
Clarence L Durham, Chair
John S Glosson, Vice-Chair
Billy Fitts, Member
Barbara Pugh, Advisor

County Committee Election Results

County committee elections are over, the ballots are counted and the results are in: John S Glosson was elected to represent LAA 2. Elected county committee members serve a three-year term and are responsible for making decisions on FSA disaster, conservation, commodity, and price support programs, as well as other important federal farm program issues. County committee members are a valuable asset because they are comprised of local producers who participate in FSA programs themselves and have a direct connection to farmers and ranchers in the community. All recently elected county committee members and alternates took office on February 18, 2014, and join the existing committee. For more information about county committees and the election process, please contact the Chatham County FSA Office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

County Committee Advisor

The Chatham County Committee would like to welcome Barbara Pugh as a new Advisor. Mrs. Pugh is an active livestock producer raising Kahtadin sheep. The Committee and office staff is looking forward to working with Mrs. Pugh!

Beginning Farmer Loans

FSA assists beginning farmers to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

§ Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years

§ Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm

§ Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored

by FSA

§ Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's median size.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available from Bill Rhodes, Senior Farm Loan Manager, 704-788-2107 ext 115. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

Adjusted Gross Income

The 2014 Farm Bill makes the Livestock Indemnity Payments (LIP) a permanent program and provides retroactive authority to cover eligible livestock losses back to Oct. 1, 2011. LIP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to **adverse weather** and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law, including wolves and avian predators. Livestock owners should record all pertinent information of livestock death losses due to adverse weather and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law. The documentation of the number and kind of livestock that have died should be supplemented, if possible, by such items as:

- * Photographs or video records to document the loss, dated if possible
- * Purchase records, veterinarian records, production records, bank or other loan documents
- * Written contracts, records assembled for tax purposes, private insurance documents, and other similar reliable documents

Farm Storage Facility Loans

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFLP) allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. New loan terms of seven, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the U.S. Treasury Department. Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount. Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin. For more information about FSFL please visit the Chatham County FSA office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

National Ag Day March 25

USDA State Farm Service Agency (FSA) encourages everyone to take a moment to appreciate the hard working farmers and ranchers in State on March 25, National Ag Day. This year's theme is "**Agriculture: 365 Sunrises and 7 Billion Mouths to Feed.**" USDA is proud to stand behind the producers who rise before dawn 365 days a year in order to put food on the table for 7 billion people. The agricultural economy has remained strong and at its best. Looking ahead, the U.S. has seen a trend towards aging farmers; however, according to the recent Census of Agriculture, the nation is beginning to reverse that trend. There is an increase in the number of farmers under the age of 35. And although the agriculture industry promises a bright future, many farmers and ranchers are still recovering from natural disasters that occurred this year, including the continuing drought. Fortunately, these producers were still able to grow the commodities that Americans rely on in order to remain a food-secure nation. Our farmers and ranchers have also continued their legacy of protecting natural resources and environmentally sensitive land through the use of conservation programs. Please join FSA in celebrating America's farmers and ranchers – a selfless group of individuals who make up less than two percent of the world's population. They feed our country and make our nation secure. And, they supply quality foods to the rest of the world's seven billion people. From the clothes we wear, the foods we eat, the fuel we burn and the agricultural byproducts we use daily, American agriculture adds to the quality of our lives. None of the contributions of U.S. farmers and ranchers should be taken for granted, because no one can live without

agriculture. Ag Day is a project of the Agriculture Council of America. For further Ag Day information and events visit www.agday.org. For information on programs administered by FSA, please contact the Chatham County FSA office or visit us online at www.fsa.usda.gov.

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