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DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

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Next County Committee Meeting

September 8, 2015

Farm Service Agency

Chatham County Farm Service Agency Newsletter

JULY 2015



COC NOMINATION DEADLINE

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to farmers and ranchers. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to ensure FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers. FSA county committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions. **The COC nomination period runs through August 3, 2015.** The area electing in 2015 is the east end of the county: Baldwin, Cape Fear, New Hope, Oakland-Haw River, and Williams townships. The nomination form is available at the Chatham County FSA Office and online at www.fsa.usda.gov. Beginning and underserved farmers are encouraged to seek a position on the county committee.



CROP REPORTING

Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers to report planted, prevented planted, and failed acres in order to establish or retain FSA program eligibility. All producers are encouraged to visit the Chatham

County FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by July 15 on spring planted crops. These crops include: Corn, Soybeans, Grain Sorghum, Tobacco, CRP and all other spring planted crops and/or land uses. The following exceptions apply to acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the applicable acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
 - If a producer acquires additional acreage after the applicable acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided.
 - If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of "cover only," "green manure," "left standing," or "seed," then the acreage must be reported by July 15th.
- Producers must also report crop acreage they intended to plant, but due to natural disaster, were prevented from planting. Prevented planting acreage must be reported on form FSA-576, Notice of Loss, no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date as established by FSA and Risk Management Agency (RMA). If a producer is unable to report the prevented planting acreage within the 15 calendar days following the final planting date, a late-filed report can be submitted. Late-filed reports will only be accepted if FSA conducts a farm visit to assess the eligible disaster condition that prevented the crop from being planted. A measurement service fee will be charged. Additionally, producers with failed acres should also use form FSA-576, Notice of Loss, to report failed acres. Failed acres are planted acres but failed due to adverse weather. Please contact the Chatham County FSA Office at 919-542-2244 ext. 2 to schedule an appointment to file a Crop Acreage Report, Notice of Loss or for questions regarding crop certification. **The final date for a timely filed crop report is JULY 15.**

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**

NEWSLETTERS BY EMAIL

Due to budget constraints, most newsletters are being emailed. The county office will be able to mail newsletters only 1 time 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. If we do not have your email address, please forward it to: vonetta.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.

DIRECT LOANS

FSA offers direct farm ownership and direct farm operating loans to producers who want to establish, maintain or strengthen their farm or ranch. FSA loan officers process, approve and service direct loans. Direct farm operating loans can be used to purchase livestock and feed, farm equipment, fuel, farm chemicals, insurance and other costs including family living expenses. Operating loans can also be used to finance minor improvements or repairs to buildings and to refinance some farm-related debts, excluding real estate. Direct farm ownership loans can be used to purchase farmland, enlarge an existing farm, construct and repair buildings, and to make farm improvements. The maximum loan amount for both direct farm ownership and operating loans is \$300,000 and a down payment is not required. Repayment terms vary depending on the type of loan, collateral and the producer's ability to repay the loan. Operating loans are normally repaid within seven years and farm ownership loans are not to exceed 40 years. Individuals who are interested in applying for a loan or would like to discuss other farm loan programs available should contact Bill Rhodes at 704-788-2107 ext 115.

ARC/PLC ENROLLMENT

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that eligible producers may now formally enroll in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs for 2014 and 2015. The enrollment period will end Sept. 30, 2015. The new programs, established by the 2014 Farm Bill, trigger financial protections for agricultural producers when market forces cause substantial drops in crop prices or revenues. Nationwide, 96 percent of soybean farms, 91 percent of corn farms, and 66 percent of wheat farms elected ARC. For data about other crops and state-by-state program

election results go to www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc. Covered commodities under ARC and PLC include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium grain rice (which includes short grain and sweet rice), safflower seed, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat. Upland cotton is no longer a covered commodity. Producers are reminded that even though the enrollment period runs through September 30, the crop reporting date ends July 15 and all ARC/PLC farms must have a timely crop report. Chatham County ARC eligible for payment farms should have received a yellow postcard informing the farm operator of the enrollment period. Please feel free to call the county office if you have any questions.



OFFICE CLOSINGS

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

| | |
|-------------|----------------|
| SEPTEMBER 7 | LABOR DAY |
| OCTOBER 12 | COLUMBUS DAY |
| NOVEMBER 11 | VETERAN'S DAY |
| NOVEMBER 26 | THANKSGIVING |
| DECEMBER 25 | CHRISTMAS DAY |
| JANUARY 1 | NEW YEAR'S DAY |

