### September 2016



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**Guaranteed Loan Program** 

<u>Marketing Assistance Loans and Loan Deficiency Payments</u>

## **Chatham County, NC FSA Updates**

# Chatham County FSA Office

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County Executive Director: Claudia A Austin

#### Farm Loan Manager: Mike Brown

**Program Technicians:** Vonetta S French Lori E Andrews

#### **County Committee:**

Clarence Durham, Chair Billy Fitts, Vice-Chair Johnny Glosson, Member Barbara Pugh, Advisor

Next County Committee Meeting: October 11 9:00 am FSA guaranteed loans allow lenders to provide agricultural credit to farmers who do not meet the lender's normal underwriting criteria. Farmers and ranchers apply for a guaranteed loan through a lender, and the lender arranges for the guarantee. FSA can guarantee up to 95 percent of the loss of principal and interest on a loan. Guaranteed loans can be used for both farm ownership and operating purposes.

Guaranteed farm ownership loans can be used to purchase farmland, construct or repair buildings, develop farmland to promote soil and water conservation or to refinance debt.

Guaranteed operating loans can be used to purchase livestock, farm equipment, feed, seed, fuel, farm chemicals, insurance and other operating expenses.

FSA can guarantee farm ownership and operating loans up to \$1,399,000. 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.

Please contact your lender for more information on guaranteed loans.

## Chatham County Producers Urged to Consider Risk Protection Coverage before Crop Sales Deadlines

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers to review available crop risk protection options, including federal crop insurance and Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage, before the planting of fall-seeded crops. Federal crop insurance covers crop losses from natural adversities such as drought, hail and excessive moisture. NAP covers losses from natural disasters on crops for which no permanent federal crop insurance program is available, including forage and grazing crops, fruits, vegetables, mushrooms, floriculture, ornamental nursery, aquaculture, turf grass, ginseng, honey, syrup, bioenergy, and industrial crops. An eligible NAP 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.

#### Upcoming 2017 closing dates are:

September 30 for: Barley, Oats, Rye and Wheat (intended use NOT for grain) **November 15 for: Alfalfa, GRASS (Grazing or Hay), and Lespedeza** November 21 for: Apples, Blackberries, Blueberries, Caneberries, Grapes, Honey, Peaches, Pears, Plums, and Raspberries.

USDA has partnered with Michigan State University and the University of Illinois to create an online tool at <u>www.fsa.usda.gov/nap</u> that allows producers to determine whether their crops are eligible for federal crop insurance or NAP and to explore the best level of protection for their operation. NAP basic coverage is available at 55 percent of the average market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of expected production, with higher levels of coverage, up to 65 percent of their expected production at 100 percent of the average market price available, including coverage for organics and crops marketed directly to consumers. Crops intended for grazing are not eligible for additional NAP coverage. Federal crop insurance coverage is sold and delivered solely through private insurance agents. Agent lists are available at all USDA Service Centers or at USDA's online Agent Locator: <a href="http://prodwebnlb.rma.usda.gov/apps/costestimator/Default.aspx">https://prodwebnlb.rma.usda.gov/apps/costestimator/Default.aspx</a>, to predict insurance premium costs.

For more information on NAP, service fees, premiums and sales deadlines, contact the ChathamCounty FSA office at or visit the web at <u>www.fsa.usda.gov/nap</u>.

## Marketing Assistance Loans and Loan Deficiency Payments

Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL) and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) provide financing and marketing assistance for wheat, feed grains, soybeans, and other oilseeds, pulse crops, rice, peanuts, cotton, wool and honey. MALs provide producers interim financing after harvest to help them meet cash flow needs without having to sell their commodities when market prices are typically at harvest-time lows. FSA is now accepting requests for 2016 MALs and LDPs for all eligible commodities after harvest.

Before MAL repayments with a market loan gain or LDP disbursements can be made, producers must meet the requirements of actively engaged in farming, cash rent tenant and member contribution.

LDP's are triggered when the county price of commodities falls below the county loan rate. Now, the county price is less than \$1.00 greater than the loan rate for wheat, barley, oats, corn, or grain sorghum. To be considered eligible for an LDP, producers must have form <u>CCC-633EZ</u>, Page 1 on file at their local FSA Office before losing beneficial interest in the crop. A producer retains beneficial interest when control of and title to the commodity is maintained. Pages 2, 3 or 4 of the form must be submitted when payment is requested.

Before MAL repayments with a market loan gain (MLG) or LDP disbursements can be made, producers must meet the requirements of actively engaged in farming, cash rent tenant and member contribution. AGI provisions state that a producer whose total applicable three-year average AGI exceeds \$900,000 is not eligible to receive an MLG or LDP. Producers must have a valid CCC-941 on file to earn a market gain or LDP.

For more information and additional eligibility requirements, please contact the Chatham County FSA Office or FSA's website <u>www.fsa.usda.gov</u>.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Claudia A Austin at 919-542-2244 extension 2 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).