

November 2016



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- [County Committee Election](#)
- [Loans for Targeted Underserved Producers](#)
- [General Reminders](#)

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## Chatham County, NC FSA Updates

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### Chatham County FSA Office      **County Committee Election**

65 E Chatham St      Physical  
P O Box 249      Mailing  
Pittsboro, NC 27312  
Phone: 919-542-2244 ext 2  
Fax: 844-325-6879

**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:** December 7  
9:00 am

USDA encourages farmers and ranchers to make their voices heard by voting in the Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Committee elections. Eligible producers in Chatham County Local Administrative Area (LAA) 2 should soon be receiving their ballot for the 2016 election. LAA 2 includes Center, Gulf, Hadley, and Hickory Mountain townships. Producers must return ballots to the Chatham County Office by the December 5, 2016 deadline to ensure their vote is counted. Mailed ballots must be postmarked no later than December 5, 2016.

FSA County Committee members provide an important link between the local agricultural community and USDA. Farmers and ranchers elected to county committees help deliver FSA programs at the local level, applying their knowledge and judgment to make decisions on commodity support programs; conservation programs; indemnity and disaster programs; emergency programs and eligibility. County committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws.

To be an eligible voter, farmers and ranchers must participate or cooperate in an FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm may also be eligible to vote.

Eligible voters in LAA 2 who have not received a ballot may pick one up at the Chatham County FSA office. Newly elected committee members and their alternates will take office Jan. 1, 2017.

More information on county committees, such as the new 2016 fact sheet and brochures, can be found on the FSA website at [www.fsa.usda.gov/elections](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections). You may also contact the Chatham County FSA office at 919-542-2244 ext. 2.

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# Loans for Targeted Underserved Producers

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or to purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, FSA has provided priority funding for members of targeted underserved applicants.

A targeted underserved applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, targeted underserved groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

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## General Reminders

### Dates to Remember

- The last day to report acreage devoted grazing or hay acres is **November 15, 2016**.
- The last day to apply for NAP coverage on grazing or hay acres is **November 15, 2016**. This coverage works like insurance. If there is a qualifying drought, it will generate a payment on pasture acres. The service fee is \$250 per crop. Please call the county office if you would like more information.
- If you have damage to crops from adverse weather, it must be reported within 15 days of the date of the damage. If you have lost livestock from adverse weather, it must be reported within 30 days of the date of the loss. Please take pictures of the crop damage or the livestock lost as soon as possible
- Deadline for dairy producers to enroll in the Margin Protection Program (MPP) for Dairy is **December 16, 2016**

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

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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).