

June 2017



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

# BULLETIN

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## Chatham County FSA Updates

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### Chatham County FSA Office **Crop Reporting Reminders**

1192 US 64W Business  
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:** June 27 9:00 am

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit the Chatham County FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report. **Please contact the county office to schedule and appointment to report your crop acreages.**

**July 17 is the final crop reporting deadline for the following crops:**

Corn, Soybeans, Grain Sorghum, Tobacco, and any other spring planted crops.

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the above 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 above 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 to the county office.
- 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 17th.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is

the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

#### **Permitted Revision of Intended use After Acreage Reporting**

##### **Date:**

New operators or owners who pick up a farm after the acreage reporting deadline has passed and the crop has already been reported on the farm, have 30 days to change the intended use. Producer share interest changes alone will not allow for revisions to intended use after the acreage reporting date. The revision must be performed by either the acreage reporting date or within 30 calendar days from the date when the new operator or owner acquired the lease on land, control of the land or ownership and new producer crop share interest in the previously reported crop acreage. Under this policy, appropriate documentation must be provided to the County Committee's satisfaction to determine that a legitimate operator or ownership and producer crop share interest change occurred to permit the revision.

#### **New Terms**

In previous years, cropland that wasn't planted was reported as fallow. Beginning in 2017, "idle" will be used for fields not planted or a balance of cropland within a field which is not planted and does not meet the definition of fallow or skip row.

Fallow will now be used for unplanted cropland acres which are part of a crop/fallow rotation where cultivated land that is normally planted is purposely kept out of production during a regular growing season.

#### **Prevented Planted and Failed Acres**

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers to report prevented planting and failed acres in order to establish or retain FSA program eligibility for some programs. Producers should report crop acreage they intended to plant, **but due to natural disaster**, were prevented from planting. Prevented planting acreage must be reported on form CCC-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.

#### **Filing a Notice of Loss**

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses. The 576 must be filed in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent or 15 calendar days after the normal harvest date.

Producers of hand-harvested crops must notify FSA of damage or loss through the administrative County Office within 72 hours of the date of damage or loss first becomes apparent. This notification can be provided by filing a CCC-576, email, fax or phone. Producers who notify the County Office by any method other than by filing the CCC-576 are still required to file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, within the required 15 calendar days.

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# Poultry Farmers Guide to FSA Loans Workshop

Rural Advancement Foundation International-USA (RAFI-USA) is holding a workshop to help poultry farmers answer any questions they may have about financing their poultry operation through FSA credit programs. This workshop is for producers who are considering trying to obtain FSA credit; producers who already have FSA credit; or just to answer questions you may have about the FSA loan process. FSA Farm Loan specialists will be onsite to answer any questions you may have. **The workshop will be held Tuesday, June 27, from 2-4 pm at the new Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center.** For more information, please call or email Tyler Whitley at 919-621-0534 or [tyler@rafiusa.org](mailto:tyler@rafiusa.org).

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## Emergency Loan Application Deadline

On November 3, 2016, a major disaster was declared in the State of North Carolina based on losses caused by Hurricane Matthew that occurred during October 2016. As a result of this major disaster, several counties were declared eligible for Federal disaster assistance, including Farm Service Agency (FSA) emergency loans (EM) for eligible family farmers. Chatham County has been included in this declaration, making all qualified farm operators in the county eligible for EM loans from FSA, provided eligibility requirements are met. Emergency loans help producers recover from production and physical losses due to natural disasters. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. Producers have 8 months from the date of the declaration to apply for emergency loan assistance, therefore **the final date to apply for an EM loan in Chatham County is July 3, 2017.** For more information about emergency loans, please contact Farm Loan Manager Mike Brown at 910-592-4791 ext 2 or [michael.s.brown@nc.usda.gov](mailto:michael.s.brown@nc.usda.gov) or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in a meeting should contact Claudia A 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).