

July 2017



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

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Chatham County, NC FSA Updates

Chatham County FSA Office

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: August 8 9:00 am

Crop Reporting Reminders

In order to maintain program eligibility and benefits, producers must timely file accurate acreage reports. Failure to file an acreage report by the crop acreage reporting deadline may result in ineligibility for future program benefits. **Please contact the county office to schedule an appointment to report your crop acreages. July 17 is the final crop reporting deadline for the following crops: Corn, Soybeans, Grain Sorghum, Tobacco, CRP, and any other spring planted crops.** If the crop has **not** been planted by July 17, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed. Programs that require a report of acreage include, but are not limited to, ACR/PLC, Commodity Loans and LDP's, NAP, and CRP.

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.

Chatham County FSA Holds County Committee Election Informational Meeting

FSA is hosting an informational meeting regarding the 2017 County Committee Election process on July 18, 2017, at 10:00 am at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center located at 1192 US 64W Business in Pittsboro. Producers, including minority, women and new farmers, are encouraged to attend the meeting and participate in the 2017 election. The county committee nomination period began on June 15, 2017. Nomination forms must be postmarked or received in the Chatham County FSA Office by close of business on Aug. 1, 2017. For election purposes, Chatham County is divided into 3 local administrative areas (LAA). Each LAA nominates and elects one producer to serve a three-year term on the FSA County Committee. Each year, an election is held in an LAA where a committee member's three-year term is expiring. **For 2017 in Chatham County, an election will be held in LAA 1, which includes the townships of Albright, Bear Creek, and Matthews; roughly the western part of the county.**

Farmers and ranchers in LAA 1 are urged to participate in this year's county committee elections by nominating candidates by the August 1, 2017 deadline. County Committees are unique to FSA and allow producers to have a voice on federal farm program implementation at the local level. To be eligible to serve on an FSA county committee, a person must participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA, be eligible to vote in a county committee election and reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate. Farmers and ranchers may nominate themselves or others. Organizations representing minorities and women also may nominate candidates. To become a candidate, an eligible individual must sign an FSA-669A nomination form. The form and other information about FSA county committee elections are available at www.fsa.usda.gov/elections. Nationwide, there are approximately 7,800 farmers and ranchers serving on FSA county committees. These individuals make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other agricultural issues.

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.

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.

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).