

August 2017



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

BULLETIN

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Chatham County, NC FSA Updates

Risk Protection Coverage Options

Chatham County FSA Office

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

Farm Service Agency reminds producers that Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) will be available for the 2018 crop year to producers for individual crop losses. NAP provides financial assistance to producers for losses on **crops that are not insurable** and the **loss is caused by a natural disaster**. An eligible 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. The service fee is \$250 per crop not to exceed \$750 per producer per county.

Upcoming 2018 closing dates are:

September 1, 2017 for: Sage and **Strawberries**

September 30, 2017 for: Barley, Canola, Oats, Rye, Triticale, and Wheat (intended use NOT for grain)

November 15, 2017 for: Alfalfa, **GRASS (Grazing or Hay)**, Lespedeza,

November 21, 2017 for : Apples Blackberries, Blueberries, Caneberries, Grapes, Honey, Peaches, Plums, and Raspberries

Next County Committee Meeting: September 12 9:00 am

Please note that the new crop reporting date for pasture is November 15 of each year. The crop report of acreage is required for NAP coverage. If the crop report is late filed, the late file fee is \$46 PER FARM.

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 higher levels of NAP coverage.

Federal crop insurance covers crop losses from natural adversities such as drought, hail and excessive moisture. 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: <http://prodwebnlb.rma.usda.gov/apps/AgentLocator/#>. Producers can use the USDA Cost Estimator, <https://ewebapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/costestimator/Default.aspx>, to predict insurance premium costs. For more information on NAP, service fees, premiums and sales deadlines, contact the Chatham County FSA office at 919-542-2244 ext. 2 or visit the web at www.fsa.usda.gov/nap.

Microloans

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is offering farm ownership microloans, creating a new financing avenue for farmers to buy and improve property. These microloans are especially helpful to beginning or underserved farmers, U.S. veterans looking for a career in farming, and those who have small and mid-sized farming operations.

The microloan program has been hugely successful, providing more than 16,800 low-interest loans, totaling over \$373 million to producers across the country. Microloans have helped farmers and ranchers with operating costs, such as feed, fertilizer, tools, fencing, equipment, and living expenses since 2013. Seventy percent of loans have gone to new farmers.

Now, microloans will be available to also help with farm land and building purchases, and soil and water conservation improvements. FSA designed the expanded program to simplify the application process, expand eligibility requirements and expedite smaller real estate loans to help farmers strengthen their operations. Microloans provide up to \$50,000 to qualified producers, and can be issued to the applicant directly from the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA). To learn more about the FSA microloan program visit www.fsa.usda.gov/microloans.

Reminders

FOREIGN BUYERS NOTIFICATION

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA. All individuals who are not US citizens, and have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form (FSA-153) could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of their property. County government offices, Realtors, attorneys, and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

OFFICE CLOSINGS

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

SEPTEMBER 4	LABOR DAY
OCTOBER 9	COLUMBUS DAY
NOVEMBER 10	VETERAN'S DAY
NOVEMBER 23	THANKSGIVING
DECEMBER 25	CHRISTMAS DAY
JANUARY 1	NEW YEAR'S DAY

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).