



March 2008

Martin County News

Martin County USDA Service Center

Martin County FSA
104B Kehukee Park Rd
Williamston, NC 27892
252-792-7197, ext 2 (phone)
252-792-7871 (fax)

Hours
Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
Richard Cannon, Chairman
Joseph C. Leggett, Vice
Chairman
Robert Perry Jr., Reg. Mem.
Lareo Reddick, Advisor
Cindy Bunting, Advisor

Office Staff
Bobby Rose, CED
Carl K. Bond, FLM
Sandra Keel
Lori Wynne
Renee Spivey
Russell Morgan

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulations to **Robert L. Perry Jr.** on being re-elected to the Martin County FSA County Committee for Local Administrative Area (LAA) 1. **Billy "Gerald" Wynn** was selected as first alternate. **Ricky Cannon** will serve as Chairperson, **Joe Leggett** as Vice-Chairperson, and **Robert L. Perry Jr.** as regular member.

AGRICULTURAL FOREIGN INVESTORS DISCLOSURE ACT (AFIDA)

Any foreign investor who acquires, transfers, or holds an interest in agricultural land must submit a completed Form FSA-153 to the Secretary of Agriculture not later than 90 days after the acquisition, disposition, or transfer. FSA 153 forms are available at your local FSA Office. Failure to timely submit the FSA-153 could result in civil penalty of not more than 25% of the fair market value of the land on the date the penalty is accessed.

CONSERVATION COMPLIANCE

All participants in USDA programs are required to have a conservation system in place on all the highly erodible land (HEL) that they operate. Several areas where problems can arise with complying with a conservation system are; renting new cropland, purchasing new land, breaking out additional cropland, planting different crops such as soybeans, and changing or removing existing conservation practices.

It is very important that you contact the FSA office before doing any of the above. Also, it is very important that you contact our office before modifying - tiling, draining, dredging, filling, or leveling - any wetland or drainage ditch. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in loss of all Federal payments and eligibility.

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS

Low cost loans for storage facilities are available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including wheat, soybeans and corn.

The seven-year Farm Storage Facility Loans are available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities. Eligible facilities include new conventional-type cribs or bins and new and remanufactured oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures.

All Farm Storage Facility Loans are secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85 percent of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to \$100,000 for each borrower. A minimum down payment is also required. For details, contact the county office staff. **Loan application APPROVAL by the local FSA county committee must be obtained before any action is taken by an applicant to install a facility. So, complete your application and pay the nonrefundable application fee (\$45.00) before deliveries of any materials or any site preparation and/or construction actions are started.**

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call the FSA staff and we will be happy to make arrangements that are necessary.

BANK ACCOUNT CHANGES

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify their FSA Office staff if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA Office is not aware of updates to your bank account and routing numbers.

SPOUSE SIGNATURES

A husband and wife have the authority to sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse the authority has been provided to the county FSA office. Exceptions to this authority are: WRP easements, CRP easements and claim settlements, such as promissory notes.



NON-INSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The NAP program provides crop loss coverage for crops not eligible for Federal Crop Insurance. NAP covers 50% of the expected production at rate equal to 55% of the crop's average market price. Producers must file an application and pay a nonrefundable fee of \$100 per crop, per county. The maximum fee is \$300 per producer, per administrative county not to exceed \$900 for multi-county producers.

NAP PRODUCTION REPORTING

Production records for individual crops need to be filed with our office to establish an approved NAP yield. If this is the first year you participated in NAP, you can provide production and acreage information from prior years to establish your yield. If you participated in NAP in previous years, you must report your production and acreage on a yearly basis to keep your yield up-to-date. Records submitted must be reliable and verifiable. Records need to show crop disposition. We recommend producers submit 2007 production records as soon as harvest is complete. All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date.

LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION PROGRAM

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced today that producers can begin making applications for the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) which provides benefits to livestock producers who suffered feed losses or incurred additional feed costs directly resulting from the 2007 drought.

To be eligible under LCP, livestock must: be dairy cattle, beef cattle, beefalo, equine, poultry, elk, reindeer, sheep, goats, swine, or deer that have been physically located in Martin County on January 1, 2007. Livestock must have been maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation on the beginning date of the disaster period, not grown under grower contract, and not have been produced and maintained for reasons other than a commercial use as part of a farming operation. Such excluded uses include, but are not limited to, wild free roaming animals or animals used for recreational purposes such as pleasure, hunting, pets, roping or for show.

Eligible producers must have owned livestock on the beginning date of the applicable disaster period and suffered an eligible feed loss from produced or purchased forage or feedstuffs or incurred additional feed cost as a result of an eligible disaster. Livestock producers must submit a completed application in their administrative county FSA Office and provide adequate proof, as determined by FSA, that the feed loss or incurred additional feed costs were for the claimed eligible livestock.

RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY (RMA)

FSA is required to assist RMA and insurance providers in monitoring crop conditions throughout the 2008 growing season. FSA is required to refer to RMA suspected cases of fraud, waste, and abuse of the FCIC Program. Producers may report suspected cases of fraud, waste, and abuse to their local County Office.

FARM AND TRACT MAPS

Anyone who would like to have their tract maps available for home computer use can bring a high quality CD to the Martin County FSA office. We will be glad to burn tract maps on the CD for you as soon as possible. This will surely be a great help to anyone that uses several copies of maps every year.

NORTH CAROLINA DISASTER DECLARATION

The United States Department of Agriculture Secretary declared a natural disaster in the State of North Carolina based on damages and losses caused by drought and high temperatures that occurred from January 1, 2007 and continuing. As a result of this natural disaster, 85 North Carolina counties were declared eligible for Federal disaster assistance, including Farm Service Agency (FSA) emergency (EM) loans for eligible family farmers. Martin County is included as an eligible county for Federal assistance. Emergency Loan applications for physical and production losses caused from this disaster are being accepted now through May 12th, 2008. For more information contact Carl Bond, Farm Loan Manager with the Martin County FSA @ 252-792-7197, ext. 107.

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium, poppies and other drug producing plants.

Thanks to each of you who brought gifts of candy, food & other goodies during the 2007 Holiday season.