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## MESSAGE FROM THE SED: BOB ETHERIDGE



Dear North Carolina Farmers and Ranchers,

We recognize that August has been an exceptionally trying month, particularly in light of the devastation caused by Tropical Storm Idalia. As a hurricane, it brought heavy rains, flooding, and damaging winds that have affected many in northern Florida, Georgia, and parts of southeastern North Carolina. Our thoughts are with everyone during this challenging time. The North Carolina Farm Service Agency is fully committed to assisting your recovery and ongoing needs.

Sincerely,

Bob Etheridge  
State Executive Director  
North Carolina Farm Service Agency

# AUGUST HIGHLIGHTS

## 1. Spotlight Story

**[Fridays on the Farm: Rooted in Tradition and Reaching for Innovation](#)**: Meet our North Carolina Farm Service Agency producers, William Augustine Jr. and Phillip Strickland, who are the backbone of All American Produce in Roseboro. These skilled farmers manage over 1,300 acres of farmland and grow an impressive variety of over 25 crops, including broccoli, cabbage, lettuce, cauliflower, and melons. With a focus on sustainable farming practices, William and Phillip have overcome many challenges and have shown remarkable resilience in the face of adversity. They share how the [Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program \(NAP\)](#) through USDA's Farm Service Agency has helped them weather storms and ensure their crops stay healthy and profitable. Their unique insight into sustainable farming is not one to be missed. Click on the link above to read their story.



## 2. Policy Updates

**[USDA To Provide Additional Financial Assistance to Qualifying Guaranteed Farm Loan Borrowers Facing Financial Risk](#)**: Earlier this month, the USDA announced it would begin providing additional, automatic financial assistance for qualifying guaranteed Farm Loan Programs (FLP) borrowers facing financial risk. The announcement is part of the \$3.1 billion to help certain distressed farm loan borrowers through Section 22006 of the Inflation Reduction Act. FSA continues to accept and review individual distressed borrower assistance requests from direct loan borrowers who missed a recent installment or cannot make their next scheduled installment on a qualifying direct FLP loan. For more information, click on the link above.

**[Deep Creek Dam Rehabilitation Plan Available for Review](#)**: The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) seeks input on the draft rehabilitation plan for Deep Creek Watershed Dam No. 19A and Dam 21 in Yadkin County. These significant hazard class dams have provided flood protection for over 50 years but are now classified as high-hazard

structures and do not meet current safety and performance criteria. Residents and interested individuals can review the plan and provide feedback at the Yadkin County library or online until **September 29**. Specific inquiries about this rehabilitation plan can be referred to Jason Walker with the Yadkin Soil and Water Conservation District by phone at (336) 466-1003 or by email at [jwalker@yadkincountync.gov](mailto:jwalker@yadkincountync.gov).

### 3. Program Highlight

**[Inflation Reduction Act Assistance for Producers Who Experienced Discrimination in USDA Farm Loan Programs](#)**: Attention North Carolina farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners! Are you a producer who has experienced discrimination in USDA's farm loan programs? The [Inflation Reduction Act](#) offers financial assistance to help correct these wrongs. With \$2.2 billion in funding available, this program is a step forward in creating a fair and equitable USDA. Don't miss this opportunity to apply for assistance, as the application process is now open and free of charge. The application deadline is approaching soon, so take action and submit your application before **October 31**. For more information, click on the link above or visit [22007apply.gov](https://22007apply.gov).

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## FARMING TIPS & TRICKS

***Stay Prepared: 2023 Hurricane Season Amidst Recovery from Tropical Storm Idalia***: As parts of the U.S. recover from the recent impact of Tropical Storm Idalia, it's crucial to stay vigilant. The 2023 Hurricane Season is not over and lasts through November 30. According to NOAA, this season is expected to be near normal, with up to 17 named storms, including as many as four major hurricanes. The USDA strongly encourages producers to prepare and safeguard their families and agricultural operations proactively. Don't let your guard down; preparation is essential. Visit [Farmers.gov](https://Farmers.gov) and [Ready.gov](https://Ready.gov) to make a plan.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars! You're invited to join us at these exciting events, where our team will be available to answer any questions about the Farm Service Agency. Come meet us in person and learn about the benefits and options we offer to farmers and ranchers like you. Don't miss out on the opportunity to connect with us at these upcoming gatherings. We can't wait to see you there!

1. ***2023 Chatham County 4-H Livestock Show***: Calling all Chatham County livestock enthusiasts! Don't miss the Chatham County Livestock Show on **Saturday, September 9**, and make sure to visit our **Chatham County FSA** team's table. Say hello to our knowledgeable staff and discover the agency's many livestock programs and services. We look forward to seeing you there!
2. ***Unlock the Potential of Your Farm with the USDA Farm Service Agency***: Calling all aspiring farmers and ranchers in the Hispanic community of Jefferson! The **Ashe/Alleghany County FSA Office** is proud to host a bilingual session, offering a unique opportunity to come and learn all about our top-notch programs and services! Join us at the AgriHub Conference Room located at 134 Law Enforcement Drive, in Jefferson, on **Wednesday, September 13**, at **6 p.m.**, and experience our warm, welcoming atmosphere of friendly faces and expert knowledge. Our staff will share important information about financial assistance options and valuable conservation practices to help you maximize your farming success. Don't miss out on this

opportunity to connect with the Ashe/Alleghany County FSA Office and take a step toward your farming dreams!

3. **Wayne Regional Agricultural Fair:** Attention all fairgoers! The **Wayne County FSA Service Center** is bringing the farm to the fair at their booth presentation at the Wayne Regional Agricultural Fair starting **September 28**. Get ready to experience the exciting world of modern agriculture and meet the experts behind the scenes. Our team of specialists will be on hand to answer your questions about our programs and services used in the farming industry today. You won't want to miss this opportunity to engage with our staff and start transforming your farming game!

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## PHOTO OF THE MONTH



**Secretary Vilsack and North Carolina Farmers Talk Relief Funds: Sowing the Seeds for a Bigger Harvest.** U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack visited North Carolina farmers for a roundtable discussion earlier this year. The topic of discussion was Section 22006 of the IRA, which provides \$3.1 billion in relief funds for certain FSA direct and guaranteed loans. The roundtable provided an excellent opportunity for Secretary Vilsack to hear first-hand the concerns and struggles of local farmers and to assure them that they have the support of the USDA in difficult times.

With the USDA continuing to provide guidance and support, we can ensure that our agricultural communities continue to thrive for generations to come.

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# DATES & DEADLINES

- October 31, 2023: [Organic Certification Cost Share Program \(OCCSP\)](#)
- October 31, 2023: [Discrimination Financial Assistance Program](#)
- January 31, 2024: [Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops Program](#)

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# JOIN OUR TEAM

Are you ready to take on a new and exciting challenge in the agricultural industry? Look no further because the North Carolina Farm Service Agency seeks enthusiastic individuals to fill our open vacancies! Whether you have experience in financial management or agriculture conservation practices, we have the perfect opportunity for you. The North Carolina Farm Service Agency aims to provide top-notch services and programs to producers, farmers, and ranchers. We seek passionate individuals to join our team and help us make a difference in the North Carolina farming community. To apply, visit [USAJOBS.gov](https://USAJOBS.gov) and submit your application today!

- [Administrative Specialist](#), Raleigh

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# WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Your voice matters to us! Whether it's to share your farming story, an outreach idea, or feedback about our services or programs, we're all ears. Reach out to Linda Gerron, the State Outreach and Public Affairs Coordinator at [linda.gerron@usda.gov](mailto:linda.gerron@usda.gov).

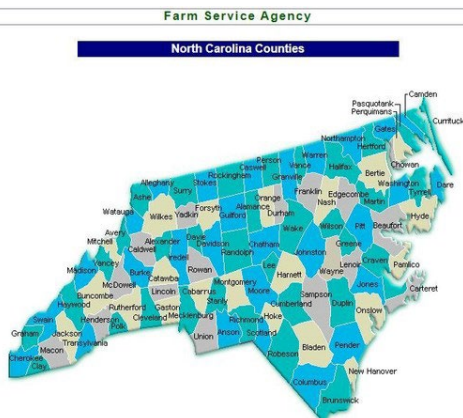
Remember, we at the North Carolina FSA are here to support you through every season.

Until our next update, keep thriving and enjoy the fruits of your hard work.

P.S. Loved this newsletter? Share it with your farm-loving friends. Together, we grow stronger!

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# FIND YOUR LOCAL FSA SERVICE CENTER



Find your nearest FSA service center by visiting the [USDA Service Center Locator](#)! The website is a one-stop-shop for all the information you need, including addresses and contact details of local offices. Click on the image or visit the [website](#) to get started.

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