



**UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE**

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**OFFICE HOURS**  
**Monday through Friday**  
**8:00 am to 4:30 pm**



**Farm Service Agency**

# Chatham County Farm Service Agency Newsletter

AUGUST 2006



## NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP), will be available for the 2007 crop year to producers for individual crop losses. NAP provides financial assistance to producers for losses on crops that are not insurable. 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. Please contact a crop insurance agent if you have questions regarding the availability of crop insurance in this county. 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 \$100 per crop not to exceed \$300 per producer per county.

**Upcoming 2007 closing dates are:**  
**September 1, 2006 – Sage, Strawberries**  
**November 20, 2006 – Alfalfa, Apples,**  
**Blackberries, Blueberries, Caneberries,**  
**Grapes, GRASS (Grazing or Hay), Honey,**  
**Lespedeza, Peaches, Pecans, Plums,**  
**Raspberries.**

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## OFFICE CLOSING

**The Chatham County FSA Office will be closed,  
Monday, September 4, in observance of  
Labor Day**

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## BEGINNING FARMERS, RANCHERS

Are you a farmer or rancher who has substantially participated in the farming operation for at least three but no more than 10 years? If so, you may qualify for beginning farmer targeted loan funds with Farm Service Agency. The program is designed to assist these farmers by providing direct and guaranteed loans when they are unable to obtain financing from commercial credit sources. If you believe this program could be of benefit to you, please contact Bill Rhodes at 704-788-2107 for more information. Our loan officials will certainly welcome your interest.

## OTHER FSA FARM LOAN PROGRAMS

The Farm Service Agency makes and guarantees loans to family farmers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural production. Loans are designed to help family farmers who are unable to obtain commercial credit. Direct loans are made and serviced by the local FSA loan officer. Guaranteed loans are made and serviced by a local lender and carry a FSA guarantee of up to 90% of the lender's loss. Loans, both direct and guaranteed, must be fully secured. Farm ownership loans are used to purchase and/or improve farm property. Operating loans are used to purchase equipment and/or finance annual crop production. FSA also has youth loans available for youths ages 10- 20 to finance small income producing projects. Loans up to \$5000 are available to those youths who live in rural areas and are involved in FFA, 4H or other organizations. Call Bill Rhodes at 704-788-2107 for details and application.

## SMILE FOR THE MONTH

A woman was getting swamped with calls from strangers because a medical billing service had set up an 800 number that was identical to hers. When she called to complain, she was told to get a new number. "But I've had this number for 25 years," she said. "Can't you change yours?" The company refused, so the woman told them, "No problem. From now on, I'm telling anyone who calls that their bill has been paid in full." The company got a new number the next day.

**Is CREP for You**

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program is another spin off the Conservation Reserve Program that allows farmers and ranchers to voluntarily idle environmentally sensitive land, decrease erosion, restore wildlife habitat and safeguard ground and surface water. CREP is a partnership with federal and state government and is limited to specific geographic areas in NC. Like CRP, CREP contracts require a 10- to 15-year commitment to keep lands out of agricultural production. CREP provides payments to participants who offer eligible land. A federal annual rental rate, including a Farm Service Agency state committee-determined maintenance incentive payment, is offered, plus cost-share of up to 50 percent of the eligible costs to install the practice. Further, the program generally offers a sign-up incentive for participants to install specific practices. Land must be owned or leased for at least one year prior to enrollment to be eligible, and must be physically and legally capable of being cropped in a normal manner. **Land must also meet cropping history and other eligibility requirements.** Enrollment can be on a continuous basis, permitting farmers and ranchers to join the program at any time rather than waiting for specific sign-up periods.



**NEW FORM FOR REQUESTING LDP'S**

A new form has been introduced, the CCC-633 EZ, for requesting loan deficiency payments. The new form is designed to simplify the LDP process by combining the old CCC-633 and CCC-709. The new form will be effective for 2006 and subsequent crop years. One thing that hasn't changed is the statutory requirement that producers request an LDP before beneficial interest in an eligible commodity is lost. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for an LDP even if beneficial interest is regained.

With the new form, producers will be able to indicate their intentions to receive LDP benefits before losing beneficial interest. Once the form has been signed, producers can submit an LDP request at any time during the loan availability period — before or after losing beneficial interest.

The CCC-633 EZ is a three-page form. Page 1 is completed once per crop year for all eligible crops and indicates the producer's intention to receive LDP benefits. To receive an LDP benefit, the producer must complete and submit page 2 to the county office staff. Page 3 is used for cotton LDP's.

**Funding Available for Farmers**

The Chatham Soil and Water Conservation District would like to announce an opportunity for funding of conservation practices through the NC Ag Cost Share Program. The district expects to receive approximately \$110,000 for the 2007 program year which begins July 1, 2006. Landowners and operators of agricultural operations who have a water quality issue on their property and have been in business for three years are eligible for this funding. During this past fiscal year (July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006), 15 producers have completed their conservation plans through the NC Ag Cost Share Program in the amount of \$114,925. By doing so, they have converted 68 acres of cropland to permanent vegetation; installed one incinerator and two waste storage structures to properly dispose of poultry waste and mortality; installed six waste application systems to agronomically land apply waste; and have excluded livestock from 3,809 feet of perennial streams in Chatham County. We look forward to another year of accomplishments. The Chatham Soil and Water Conservation District is currently accepting applications for the 2007 NC Ag Cost Share for Best Management Practices. All applications received will be evaluated and ranked according to District priorities with concern to water quality. To apply for technical and financial assistance for the installation of BMP you may call or come by the Chatham Soil and Water Conservation District office. We are located in the Agriculture Building in Pittsboro; our number is (919) 542-8240. Contact: Sherry Scully.

