

Anson County Farmers Reminded of Approaching USDA Program Deadline

Anson County farmers have a critical deadline to consider. Anson County USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Acting County Executive Director, Amy Yaklin reminds producers that Friday June 1 is the fast-approaching deadline for Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE), the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) and the Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE).

"It is absolutely crucial that Anson County producers meet the deadline for these programs," said Yaklin, "in order to receive disaster and income support." "Farmers and producers take risks. These programs form a safety net that keeps producers operating after a devastating natural disaster and during times of low market prices."

The SURE program compensates producers for production and quality losses during times of disaster. Producers experienced crop production and/or crop quality losses during the 2010 crop year must apply for SURE program benefits by the June 1 deadline. Eligibility requirements differ between producers located in counties designated as a primary or contiguous disaster county by the Secretary of Agriculture and between producers located in non-disaster counties. In addition to other eligibility requirements, producers must have purchased crop insurance through the Federal Crop Insurance Act or the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) on all crops.

While SURE helps after natural disasters strike, DCP and ACRE provide income support when there is a decline in commodity prices. Eligible DCP participants receive a direct payment and/or a counter-cyclical payment. Direct payment rates are established by statute regardless of market prices. FSA reminds producers that the 2008 Farm Bill does not authorize advance direct payments for 2012. Counter-cyclical payments vary depending on market prices, and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price.

ACRE protects producers from farm market revenue declines when revenue triggers are met for a commodity at both the state and farm level. All owners and operators who will share in the DCP and ACRE payments on the farm must sign up by June 1.

"ACRE elections and enrollment must be completed by the June 1 deadline," said Yaklin. "Late file provisions are not available for ACRE. If elected in a previous year, producers must enroll for 2012 by June 1 to receive payment."

Additional SURE, DCP or ACRE sign-up information is found at the Anson County FSA office, located at 1758 Morven Road in Wadesboro. There telephone number is 704-694-3516 ext 2.

Farm Service Agency Offers Producers a Free Online News Service

Up-to-the-minute farm program news direct to your email account or smartphone

USDA North Carolina Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director, SED Aaron Martin announced that farmers and ranchers in North Carolina now have a more efficient, timely option for receiving important FSA program eligibility requirements, deadlines and related information.

"FSA is now offering free online communications through our GovDelivery electronic news service," said SED Martin. "News will now be sent via e-mail right to your home or farm office or to your Smartphone – allowing you to receive immediate notification of farm program news that is pertinent to your agricultural operation," he said.

Through FSA's GovDelivery electronic news service, producers can establish subscriber preferences by choosing to receive federal farm program information by topic, by state and/or by county. Producers can select as many subscriber options as they want, which allows producers who farm in multiple counties or across state lines to receive updates from each county in which they operate or have an interest.

According to SED Martin, GovDelivery is a one-stop shop for the most up-to-date USDA program information.

"If, after using this online system, producers no longer wish to receive hardcopy newsletters from their local county office, they should contact the office and make their preferences known," said SED Martin. "GovDelivery will enable FSA to keep producers better informed and allow us to conserve resources and reduce taxpayer expenses associated with the preparation, printing and distribution of hardcopy newsletters," he said.

To begin using GovDelivery, subscribe online at www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe or contact your local office for subscription assistance.

Please contact your local FSA office (704-694-3516 x2) if you have questions regarding FSA's GovDelivery electronic news service.

Spring is Time to Protect Young Mouths Say NC Dentists

The flowers are blooming, the grass is green, and kids' sports are again in full swing. And where objects are in flight, children are running full tilt and collisions are frequent, it's time to think preventing injuries to young mouths and teeth.

"Parents are good about buying the latest shoes and other sports equipment for their children, but sometimes they forget about possible oral injuries and the need for mouth protection," says Dr. Scott Cashion, a Greensboro pediatric dentist. "A mouth guard is needed during any activity that might result in a blow to the face or mouth. A properly fitted mouth guard can help prevent broken teeth and injuries to the lips, tongue, face or jaw. Patients often ask which sports require a mouth guard, and my answer is any activity where there is a chance of a blow to the face. That includes a wide range of sports, such as spring football, baseball, hockey gymnastics, and volleyball."

Mouth protectors typically cover the upper teeth and can cushion a blow to the face and minimize the risk of broken teeth and injuries to the soft tissues of the mouth, and even the jaw itself, according to the American Dental Association (ADA).

"If you wear braces or other fixed dental appliance on your lower jaw, dentists may suggest a mouth protector for these teeth as well," said Dr. Cashion. "Children using a retainer or other removable oral appliances should remove them before any activity where a blow to the face or mouth is possible, especially sports."

There are three basic types mouth protectors available that will stay firmly in place and make it easy to breathe and talk:

- Stock mouth guards. These are inexpensive and come pre-formed and ready to wear. Unfortunately, they often don't fit very well and can be bulky, making breathing and talking difficult. Some are hard to keep in the mouth.

- "Boil and bite" mouth guards. These can be purchased from most sporting goods stores and offer a better fit than stock mouth protectors. These are softened in warm water and then inserted to conform to the mouth.

- Custom-fitted mouth guards. These are made by dentists and even though they may be more expensive, they offer a better fit than off-the-shelf protectors.

"Many young athletes own mouth guards, but some neglect to wear them," said Dr. Cashion. "It's important for parents to be sure their children use these important safety devices, just as they do shin guards or helmets."

Accidents can happen during any physical activity. "We see injuries that range from a misdirected elbow in a pick-up basketball game to bicycle spills that can leave a child with chipped or broken teeth, nerve damage or even tooth loss. Parents and young, active adults should consult their dentist and, by all means, purchase and use a mouth guard of some type," added Dr. Cashion.

Additional information on mouth guards can be found at www.ada.org or visit www.ncdental.org for informational links.

The NC Dental Society represents 3,500 dentists throughout North Carolina. The NCDS encourages improvement of the oral health of the public, promotes the art and science of dentistry, sustains high standards of professional competence and practice, and represents the interests of the members of the dental profession and the public which it serves.

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