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MESSAGE FROM THE SED: BOB ETHERIDGE



Dear FSA Friends,

Warm July greetings from your North Carolina Farm Service Agency (FSA)! As we embrace the heart of this productive season, I'm thrilled to share how we continue to support our cherished agricultural community.

Our FSA team is committed to empowering North Carolina farmers with a host of robust programs. Whether it's financial assistance, technical expertise, or valuable educational resources, we strive to be your steadfast partner on this agricultural journey.

From our [Microloans](#) designed for small and midsize producers to the [Organic Dairy Marketing Assistance Program](#) (ODMAP) and numerous [conservation initiatives](#), we offer tailored support for diverse farming needs. And remember, we're here to help you navigate these resources and optimize their benefits.

Our dedicated FSA staff works tirelessly to ensure these programs align with your needs, supporting the backbone of our state - our vibrant agricultural community.

For any assistance, don't hesitate to reach out. Here's to a fruitful season!

Best regards,

JULY HIGHLIGHTS

1. Spotlight Story

[Inflation Reduction Act in Action | Farm Loans: Harvesting Resilience – The Redemption Story of a North Carolina Farmer](#): This month, we spotlight James "Jimmy" Stevens, a devoted farmer from Whiteville who triumphed over immense challenges with support from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Among over 20,000 producers who benefitted from the transformational assistance under the [Inflation Reduction Act](#) (IRA), Jimmy's inspiring journey symbolizes resilience and the power of targeted aid. USDA's expedited aid, totaling \$1.1 billion, proved instrumental in securing the future of distressed agricultural operations, including Jimmy's. Learn and be inspired by his empowering story.



2. Policy Updates

[Financial Assistance Application Process Opens for USDA Farm Loan Borrowers Who Have Faced Discrimination](#): Earlier this month, USDA announced the opening of the financial assistance application process for eligible farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners who experienced discrimination in USDA farm lending programs prior to January 2021. Section 22007 of the [Inflation Reduction Act \(IRA\)](#) directs USDA to provide this assistance. Since the law's passage, USDA has worked diligently to design the program in accordance with significant stakeholder input. Click on the headline to explore the initiative and how you can apply.

[Farm Service Agency Now Accepting Nominations for Farmers and Ranchers to Serve on Local County Committees](#): Calling all producers! Participate in your local committee elections by [nominating potential members](#) at your nearest FSA county office. Don't miss out

on having your voice heard on federal farm programs. With USDA's newly launched GIS tool, it's simpler than ever to nominate and elect county committee members who make crucial decisions on farm program administration in your area. Make your nomination and vote count!

3. Program Highlight

[USDA Extends Deadline for Organic Dairy Marketing Assistance Until August 11:](#) Great news for North Carolina's organic dairy producers! The [Organic Dairy Marketing Assistance Program](#) (ODMAP) deadline has been extended to August 11, 2023, providing more than two weeks of additional time to apply for the program. USDA's ODMAP aims to help farmers overcome market volatility, high costs, and unstable feed supply by providing needed assistance. Discover how you can participate in ODMAP.

FARMING TIPS & TRICKS

[Small and Mid-Sized Farmer Financial Resources - Microloans:](#) Looking to finance your dream farm or improve existing farm structures? Our [Microloans program](#) is designed just for you! Catering to the unique needs of small and midsize producers, beginning farmers, and niche or non-traditional farm operations, this program offers essential resources and support. Whether you're part of the local farmer's market, run a CSA, or are innovating with hydroponic or organic methods, our Microloans can boost your capital and help you manage risks better. Explore more about these opportunities today!

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. [Mountain Horticulture Field Day:](#) Don't miss out! The Henderson County FSA Team will be making an appearance at the upcoming event this **Thursday, August 10th**, from 12:30 to 4:30 pm. Stop by our table and hang out with your local team while learning about exciting new programs on the horizon. We can't wait to chat with you and help you discover all the amazing ways the Farm Service Agency can help you succeed.
 2. [2023 Chatham County 4-H Livestock Show:](#) Calling all Chatham County livestock enthusiasts! Don't miss the Chatham County Livestock Show on **Saturday, September 9th**, and make sure to visit our 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!
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PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Summer in Full Bloom. The North Carolina FSA is proud to support the Little Washington Growing Group, a passionate non-profit organization from Goldsboro. Founder Cheryl Alston (far right) created the group to promote agriculture education and sustainability in the community. They're an inspiration to us all!

DEADLINES

- August 1, 2023: Nomination for the [Local County Committee](#)
- ~~July 26~~ *Extended to August 11, 2023:* [Organic Dairy Marketing Assistance Program \(ODMAP\)](#)
- 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](#)

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.

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

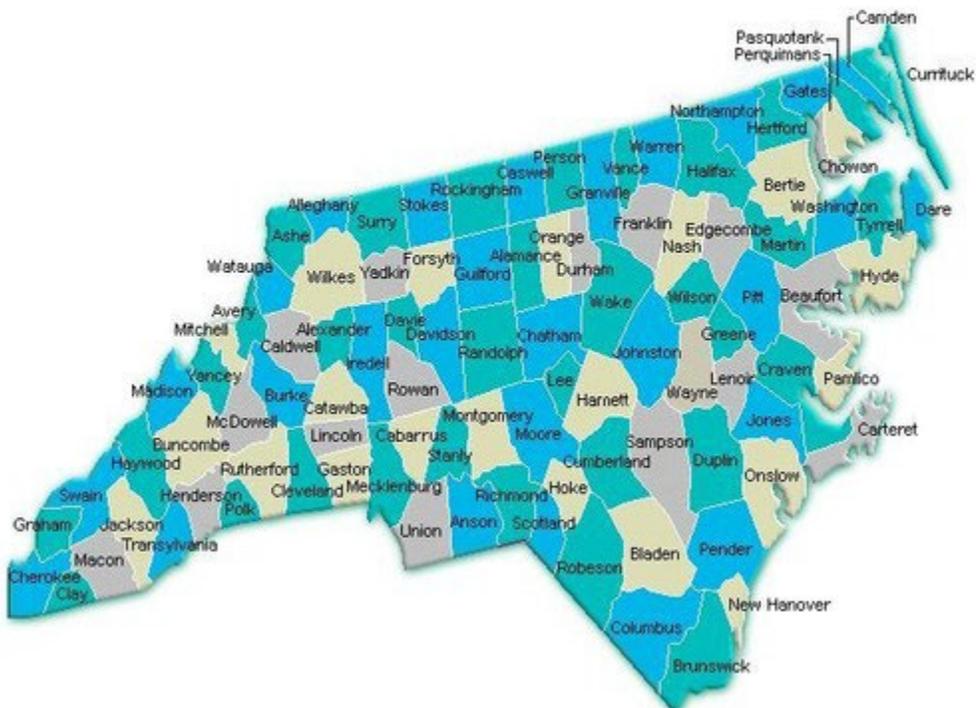
Until our next update, keep thriving and enjoy the fruits of your hard work.

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

FIND YOUR LOCAL FSA SERVICE CENTER

Farm Service Agency

North Carolina Counties



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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