

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit the Anson County FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

The following acreage reporting dates were/are applicable for Anson County:

- January 17 - Apples, Barley, Blueberries, Grapes, Oats, Peaches, Wheat, and all fall seeded small grains
- May 15 - Cabbage, Fresh Market Beans, and Potatoes
- July 17 - Corn, Soybeans, Tobacco, Cotton, Peanuts, Grain Sorghum, CRP, and all other crops and land uses
- September 15 - Cabbage and Beans Planting Period 2

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.
- If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of "cover only," "green manure," "left standing," or "seed," then the acreage must be reported by July 15th.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins. For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact the Anson County FSA office at (704) 694-3516.

USDA Announces Farm Service Agency Cooperative Agreements

Expands education for minority, women, new, military veteran and urban producers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced cooperative agreements with 46 partners to educate producers, including those who have been historically underserved by USDA programs, about Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs that provide financial, disaster or technical support. Nearly \$2.5 million will go to nonprofits and universities that will provide training and access to FSA programs, financial resources and other information.

"We're always innovating to find new ways for our programs to reach more producers and create more jobs in agriculture," said FSA Administrator Val Dolcini. "The organizations selected as part of this effort share USDA's priority of helping more Americans build successful farms and ranches."

Cooperative agreements totaling nearly \$2.5 million and encompassing 24 states, will range from \$25,000 to \$99,999 each. This additional investment builds on the \$2.5 million in cooperative agreements awarded in 2016. A list of awardees can be found at www.fsa.usda.gov/cooperativeagreements.

Over the past eight years, USDA has taken big, bold steps to forge a new era for civil rights and ensure all Americans who come to USDA for help are treated fairly, with dignity and respect. Through coordinated outreach and consistent engagement, USDA is forming new partnerships in diverse communities and regaining trust where it was once lost. Learn more about our progress during the Obama Administration to increase access to opportunity for all Americans, and to create a more equal and inclusive USDA in Chapter 8 of our yearlong results project: The People's Department: A New Era for Civil Rights at USDA.

Grasslands Conservation Program Now Includes Small-Scale Livestock Producers

Helping dairy, beef and other producers protect working grasslands in 43 states

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) Administrator Val Dolcini announced that USDA will accept over 300,000 acres in 43 states that were offered by producers during the recent ranking period for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Grasslands enrollment with emphasis placed on small-scale livestock operations. Through the voluntary CRP Grasslands program, grasslands threatened by development or conversion to row crops are maintained as livestock grazing areas, while providing important conservation benefits. Approximately 200,000 of the accepted acres were offered by small-scale livestock operations.

"Producers of all sizes are interested in USDA's Conservation Reserve Program," said Dolcini. "This latest round of CRP Grasslands enrollment, where much of the acreage comes from small-scale livestock operations, shows that our nation's family farmers and ranchers can have a big impact on environmental conservation."

The most recent ranking period closed on Dec. 16, 2016, and included for the first time a CRP Grasslands practice specifically tailored for small-scale livestock grazing operations to encourage broader participation. Under this ranking period and for future periods, small-scale livestock operations with 100 or fewer head of grazing cows (or the equivalent) can submit applications to enroll up to 200 acres of grasslands per farm. Larger operations may still make offers through the normal process. USDA met its goal of 200,000 acres under this small-scale initiative. The new practice for small-scale livestock grazing operations encourages greater diversity geographically and in all types of livestock operations. Visit go.usa.gov/x9PFS to view the complete list of acres accepted by state.

Participants in CRP Grasslands establish or maintain long-term, resource-conserving grasses and other plant species to control soil erosion, improve water quality and develop wildlife habitat on marginally productive agricultural lands. CRP Grasslands participants can use the land for livestock production (e.g. grazing or producing hay), while following their conservation and grazing plans in order to maintain the cover. A goal of CRP Grasslands is to minimize conversion of grasslands either to row crops or to non-agricultural uses. Participants can receive annual payments of up to 75 percent of the grazing value of the land and up to 50 percent of the cost of cover practices like cross-fencing to support rotational grazing or improving pasture cover to benefit pollinators or other wildlife.

USDA selects offers for enrollment based on six ranking factors: (1) current and future use, (2) new farmer/rancher or underserved producer involvement, (3) maximum grassland preservation, (4) vegetative cover, (5) environmental factors, and (6) pollinator habitat. Offers not selected in a ranking period are rolled over into the next ranking period.

Small livestock operations or other farming and ranching operations interested in participating in CRP Grasslands should contact their local FSA office. The Anson County FSA office is located at 1758 Morven Road in Wadesboro, 704-694-3516. To learn more about FSA's conservation programs, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation.

Throughout the Obama Administration, USDA has generated thousands of critical partnerships to conserve and protect our natural resources on working landscapes, while enrolling a record number of acres in conservation programs. Seventy-percent of the nation's land is owned and tended to privately, and America's farmers, ranchers and landowners have willingly stepped up to address the growing impacts of a changing climate. With USDA's support, they work to implement voluntary practices that improve air and water quality, prevent soil erosion and create and protect wildlife habitat. Since 2009, USDA has invested more than \$29 billion to help producers make conservation improvements, working with as many as 500,000 farmers, ranchers and landowners to protect land and water on over 400 million acres nationwide. Read more about USDA's record conservation outcomes under this Administration at Caring for our Land, Air and Water: Preserving Precious Natural Resources for Tomorrow.

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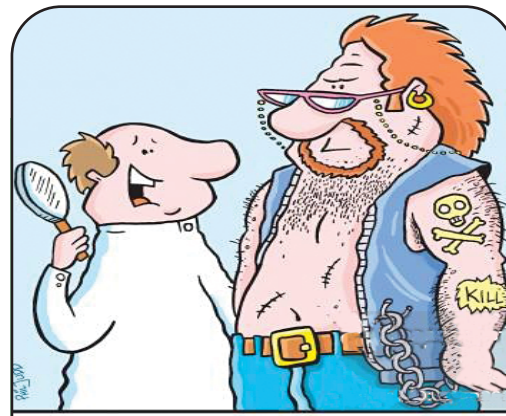
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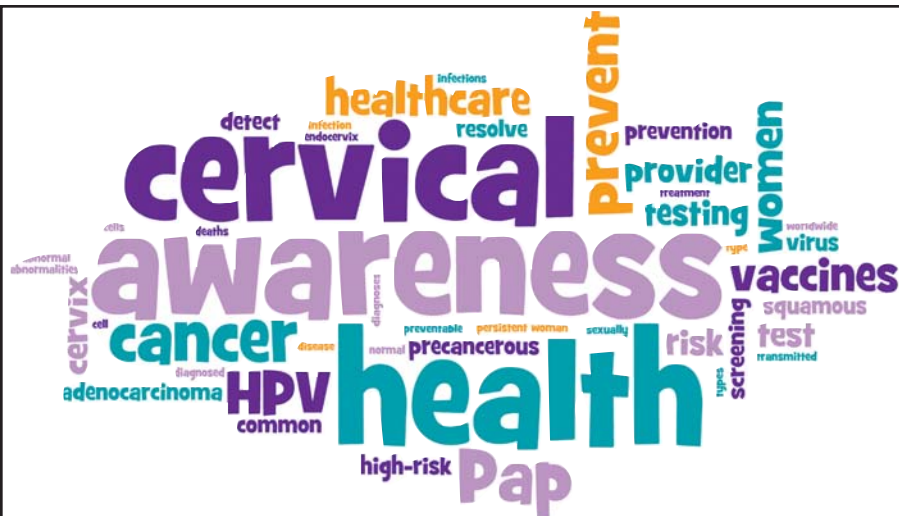
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January is the month for Cervical Cancer Screening

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Funded by the Title X Federal Project Grant.

Call or visit the Anson County Health Department
110 Ashe Street in Wadesboro • 704-694-5188