



BOARD BULLETIN

May 23, 2008

Farm Bill Update

Last week, a new \$290 billion farm bill passed in the US Congress. This new legislation has the potential to have a profound impact on rural North Carolina.

Across the nation, the five-year legislation will boost farm subsidies, increase funding for food stamps and pay for environmental and land conservation measures. In rural North Carolina, the Farm Bill's impact is likely to be measured by its \$150 million-a-year rural development provisions. These include, increased support for bioenergy development and production, a focus on fruit and vegetable growers, continued support for rural water and sewer systems, and the creation of a small business loan program exclusively for rural ventures with fewer than 10 employees.

Additionally, the legislation establishes a Southeast Crescent Regional Commission (SCRC). The SCRC is one of three federal-state economic partnerships included in the Farm Bill's passage. The new commission will work to increase the availability of financial resources to enhance social and economic opportunity and alleviate poverty in distressed eastern and central portions of North Carolina. The Southeast Crescent Regional Commission will be modeled after the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), which serves 29 North Carolina mountain counties.

911 Director Resignation

The County's current 911 Director, Connie Wilhoit, has announced her intention to resign effective June 13. Connie has worked for the County for close to 10 years, and she played a critical role in upgrading the County's 911 telecommunications infrastructure to a fully integrated, computer assisted dispatch (CAD) center.

As a result of this attrition, Management will be assessing the current position requirements, organizational structure, chain of command, etc. in order to make a recommendation for filling the position to the Board in early June.

Illegal Immigrant Detention

The U.S. House of Representative overwhelmingly approved legislation that will expand reimbursements to local governments for detaining illegal immigrants in pre-trial custody. Currently, the Federal government via the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) only reimburses localities for the cost associated with housing convicted aliens.

Under the new legislation, the County of Anson would be entitled to cost reimbursement for housing pre-trial illegal aliens as well as those who have been convicted. Although Anson County has not experienced a large number of incarcerated illegal aliens, the new legislation would provide additional financial assistance.

Anson County Fly In

The Anson County Airport will hold a traditional fly-in on Saturday, May 31 beginning at 11:00 AM. The fly-in will include airplane displays and exhibits as well as a flight simulator.

The fly-in will hopefully increase awareness of our aviation amenities in Anson County and encourage aviators and the general public to visit the new terminal and runway at the Anson County Airport.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

County Offices Closed	Monday, May 26 Memorial Day
Regular Board Mtg. & FY 2009 Budget Public Hearing	Tuesday, June 3 6:00 PM Courtroom #1
Budget Workshops	- <i>Tentatively Set</i> - June 5, June 10 and June 12 5:30 PM Room #31 - Courthouse
Regular Board Mtg.	Monday, July 7 6:00 PM Courtroom #1