

Agricultural News

By: Warden Alexander, FSA Director

COC Election

The County Committee (COC) election usually held in December each year has been postponed until March. The upcoming election will include the Local Administrative Area (LAA), LAA #3 (Community C) which includes Northeast and Southeast sections of Rockcastle County bonded by Garrard, Madison, Jackson, and Laurel County. Highway boundaries are Little Hurricane Rd., I-75 and Hwy. 25. Persons nominated should actively participate in the operation of a farm and be well qualified for committee work. A producer is eligible to

be a County or community FSA committee member if the producer resides in the LAA in which the election is being held, eligible to vote and be willing to serve if elected.

The calendar of events pertaining to the COC election is as follows: Feb. 11th - final date for COC to review, approve and complete slate of nominees.

Feb. 18th - final date for mailing letters to nominees.

Feb. 24th - deadline for mailing ballots.

Mar. 6th - final date for returning completed ballots.

Mar. 14th - final date for tabulating ballots and public notice of election results.

April 1st - COC beginning term. No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs or marital or family status.

Disaster Leasing Extension

The State Executive Director requested that the Tobacco and Peanuts Division extend the Burley Tobacco disaster deadline due to unusually dry curing conditions. The Disaster Leasing deadline for Burley Tobacco is extended from February 15 to February 24, 2000.

Producers who have excess tobacco and wish to disaster lease pounds for their farm for marketing may do so at this time. The bulletin board has a listing of pounds available for lease. Producers who feel they will have a 20% shortage on the current effective quota and wish to

disaster lease may file an ASCS 574, Application for Disaster Credit, as soon as the disaster occurs. Producers shall be notified of eligibility once this form has been filed in the county office. Producers wishing to disaster lease burley tobacco are reminded the deadline for leasing is February 24th.

Livestock Assistance Program (LAP) At An End

Rockcastle County's approved LAP has been extended until close of business February 24th. To be eligible for LAP a producer must have suffered a 40% or greater loss of normal grazing production for three or more consecutive months during the LAP crop year, possess beneficial interest in eligible livestock (beef and dairy cattle, sheep, goats, swine, equine animals used for commercially or kept by owner for food/fiber production, have owned or leased the eligible livestock for at least three months.

In order to complete the application, producers must list the number of eligible livestock head by weight groups and have receipts for purchases and sales for the months of July-November 15th.

Because only a specific amount of money (\$200 million) has been approved for LAP, an additional factor will be determined if application requests exceed the allocated amount of money. This factor will be announced after the end of sign-up.

If you have not signed up for this program: remember the deadline is now February 24th.

Office Closure
Our office will be closed Monday, February 21st in observance of President's Day.

Oilseed Program

On October 22, 1999, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Appropriations Act 2000, authorized the Secretary to use \$475,000,000 of funds of CCC to make payments to producers who planted an eligible oilseed in 1999. In order to be eligible, a producer must have planted

or shared in the production of an eligible oilseed in 1999. Prevented planted oilseed acreage cannot be used to determine 1999 Oilseed eligibility nor can it be used for history or actual yield purposes. 1999 OP payments may be available to producers who planted or shared in the production of the following oilseeds in 1999: soybeans, canola, cramble, flaxseed, mustard seed, rapeseed, safflower seed, sunflower seed (oil and confectionery).

OP applications shall be submitted to the county that controls payment limitation for the producer. KCMO determined the "control" county for each producer in December 1999. The deadline for late reporting oilseed acreage for 1999 OP purposes is February 18, 2000. Sign up for the 1999 OP is February 28th through March 31st.

Crop Disaster Program (CDP)

The Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Appropriations Act 2000, and the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2000, included a total of \$1.386 billion for the Crop Disaster Program (CDP). CDP assistance is for farmers who suffered losses to 1999 crops due to natural disasters. Farmers are eligible for compensation for 1999 crop losses directly attributed to adverse weather and related conditions.

Producers who suffered greater than a 35% loss on insured/noninsured crops such as tobacco and corn and the non insurable crops such as hay, soybeans and vegetables for commercial use are eligible to receive payment.

Payments to farmers will be prorated after all applications are reviewed in order to stay with the program's requirements and budget.

As a condition of receiving benefits under CDP, any producer who elected not to purchase crop insurance on the 1999 crop for which CDP benefits are requested MUST insure that crop for the 2000 and 2001 crop years.

For further information concerning this program, contact the FSA office prior to the deadline of February 25, 2000.

Aid To Dairy Farmers

Agriculture Secretary, Dan Glickman, has announced that USDA is providing \$125 million in direct cash payments to assist dairy farmers who have been hurt by low prices. An additional \$200 million in aid, was distributed last summer.

This assistance is solely needed to help keep many small- and medium-sized dairy producers in business until prices stabilize.

To distribute limited resources equitably among all dairy producers, The Dairy Market Loss Assistance program provides payments based on an operation's milk production in 1997 or 1998, up to the first 26,000 hundredweight of production. All dairy farmers who produced milk during the last quarter of the calendar

year 1998 are eligible for the program.

Eligible dairy farmers who did not participate in the program last summer must sign up at their local FSA office from January 24-February 28, 2000. Farmers who participated in last summer's program will automatically receive payments and do not

need to reapply for assistance. The dollar amount of payments will be calculated after sign-up is complete.

Tobacco Leasing
Leasing for the crop year 2000 will be March 27th through July 1st. This includes cross county leasing. This does not allow sale or purchase of tobacco across county lines.

Health and Lifestyle of U.S. Children

By: Hazel Jackson
County Extension Agent for Family and Consumer Science



U.S. adolescents were less likely to exercise frequently, and less likely to have a good diet than were students in other countries, according to a new report issued by the World Health Organization (WHO). The report is based on findings of a 1997-98 survey of more than 120,000 students in 26 European countries, Canada, and the U.S. The survey looked at 11, 13, and 15-year old children's attitudes and experiences concerning a wide range of health related behaviors and lifestyle issues.

Here are some of the findings of the study:

* **SMOKING AND ALCOHOL USE:** Smoking on a daily basis is common in the youth of all countries in the study and increases dramatically between ages 11 and 15. However, the U.S. has 12 percent of 15 year olds smoking daily. Austria, France, Germany, Hungary and Greenland report the highest smoking rates, with more than 25 percent of 15 year olds smoking daily. U.S. students ranked in the middle for alcohol consumption. About 23 percent of U.S. 15 year olds reported drinking weekly. The percentage of children who reported having been drunk at least twice in their lives was 34 percent in the U.S.

* **FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS:** Only 64 percent of U.S. students reported living with both parents—lower than for all other countries except Greenland. In addition, along with youth in two other countries, U.S. youth at all three ages were among those most frequently reporting that they have difficulty talking to their mothers. In all countries, children were more likely to report not talking to their fathers than to their mothers.

* **SCHOOL RELATIONSHIPS:** Regarding their relationship with their schools, students in the U.S. were among those least likely to feel that they took part in decision making at school. Expectations and demands by teachers and parents were not considered excessive by the majority of U.S. students, even though U.S. students were most

likely to feel a lot of pressure from their school work. U.S. students were among those least likely to feel that their fellow students were kind and helpful.

* **PHYSICAL FITNESS:** Students in the U.S. were less likely to exercise frequently than were students in most other countries, with about two-thirds of U.S. students exercising two or more times a week or for more than two hours a week. For the most part, U.S. students were less likely to have a good diet than were children in other countries. U.S. students were less likely to eat fruit and vegetables each day than were students in the majority of other countries. They also were more likely to eat potato chips and French fries than were students in most other countries. For students ages 15, the U.S. ranked among the top three countries for consuming sweets, chocolate, and soft drinks every day. U.S. students were more likely than students in any other country to report that they were dieting or to feel that they should be on a diet (almost half of 11 year old U.S. girls were on diets of U.S. 15 year old girls).

For an entire copy of this report you can go to the WHO website at <http://www.who.int/diet/body> or you may call the Extension Office at 256-2403.



Broadcast - Seeder For Rent Mounts on to your ATV!

The Rockcastle County Conservation District has a Broadcast-Seeder for rent.

Rental Rate is \$20 per day

Call 256-2525 ext. 3 today to reserve the Broadcast Seeder



Tye No Till Seeder FOR RENT:

The Rockcastle County Conservation District has a Tye no-till seeder for rent to Rockcastle County farmers. The purpose of this service is to reduce soil erosion, improve pastureland and hayland, and to promote the use of no-till in Rockcastle County.

RENTAL INFORMATION:

*\$6.00 per acre - minimum of \$30.

*Payment due on completion of work.

For further information, contact...

Rockcastle Farm Supply at 256-2241

Rockcastle County Conservation District at 256-2541.

Christian Life & Witness Course!

SPONSORED BY THE
ROCKCASTLE
ASSOCIATION OF
KENTUCKY BAPTISTS



Looking For That Certain Something To Give A Recharge To Your Spiritual Life? Ever Thought There Just Had To Be More To The Christian Life Than You Were Experiencing? Ever Felt Like There Was Something More You Should Be Doing For The Lord? Ever Desire To Share Your Faith In Christ - But Wasn't Just Quite Sure How To Go About It?

Then Have We Got Some GOOD NEWS For You!

The Churches of the Rockcastle Association of Kentucky Baptists are hosting an event called *Celebrate Jesus 2000!* As part of that Celebration we will be Sponsoring a County Wide Crusade to be held at the Rockcastle County Middle School Gym on May 14 - 19, 2000. We would like to invite all the Churches in Rockcastle County to join us in the Crusade Effort!

In conjunction with this Crusade we are offering a Course prepared by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Team called *The Christian Life and Witness Course!* This is a four week course that will help in Strengthening your Walk with Jesus Christ. It will also enable you to serve as a Counselor during the Celebrate Jesus Crusade - if you feel that God would be leading you to help in that capacity.

In order to serve as a Crusade Counselor - these Classes are a **MUST!**



Proclaiming
JESUS as KING
of Kings &
LORD of Lords!

Just imagine the Thrill of leading a individual to their own personal knowledge of Jesus Christ as the Lord and Savior! These Classes will help you do just that... Designed by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Team and used prior to every Billy Graham Crusade - these classes have helped countless numbers of people share their Faith In Christ - One on One with others who desire to know HIM as Lord and Savior!

These Classes are being offered FREE of Charge and will be taught by Dr. Jim Coldiron who works with both the North American Mission Board of the S.B.C and with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. There are a total of 4 Classes and they will be taught at the Rockcastle County High School Auditorium.

The **First** Class will be on Monday - February 21, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. The **Second** Class will be on Monday - February 28, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. The **Third** Class will be on Monday - March 6, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. The **Fourth** Class will be on Monday - March 13, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. In order to serve as a Counselor during the Crusade you **MUST** attend all 4 Classes!

If you would like more information you may call the Associational Office at 256-4571 or E-mail them at: rockbaptist@kih.net - or you may call Bro. Mark Whicker - the Crusade Chairman - at 758-8313 or E-mail him at: mawhicker@kih.net

Again, we extend an Invitation to all the Churches in Rockcastle County Area to help make this *Celebrate Jesus 2000 Crusade* a Success by Joining Us in the Christian Life & Witness Courses as well as the main Crusade Event in May!

