

Agricultural News

By: Warden Alexander, FSA Director

County Committee (COC) Election

The County committee election ballots for LA#2, Community B were obtained December 7, 2000. Darrell Wayne Whitaker was elected to fill the position for a three-year term, beginning January 1, 2001.

USDA Programs

Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman reminds farmers of pending application deadlines for emergency assistance programs.

"There are many USDA programs that are available to farmers this year to help them through difficult times," said Glickman. "I urge farmers to call or visit their local USDA office to ensure that they know about all the help they may be eligible for and to sign up before the deadline."

Application deadlines for programs previously announced this year are:

1. 2000 Oilseeds Program: \$500 million in payments is available to the more than 600,000 producers of the 200 crops of certain oilseeds. Eligible oilseeds include canola, canola, flaxseed, mustard, rapeseed, sunflower, sesame, soybeans and sunflowers. Application deadline is January 12, 2001.

2. 2000 Crop Year Peanut Market Loss Assistance Program: An estimated \$61 million is available to partially compensate for low commodity prices and increasing production costs. Application deadline is February 1, 2001.

3. Flood Compensation Program: \$24 million is available to producers to help offset losses due to land inundated with flood waters. Application deadline is January 19, 2001.

4. Wool and Mohair Market Loss Assistance Program: Approximately

\$11 million in relief is available for farmers who suffered economic loss due to low prices during the 1999 marketing year. Application deadline is December 29, 2000.

5. 2000 Lamb Meat Adjustment Assistance Program: Approximately \$10 million is available to producers whose lamb carcasses meet minimum grade specifications. Application deadline is August 15, 2001.

Local USDA Farm Service Agency offices also will begin accepting applications soon for the following programs:

1. 2000 Crop Disaster Program (CDP): Funds will be made available to producers who have been affected by crop disaster. The sign-up period will begin January 18, 2001.

2. 2000 Livestock Assistance Program (LAP): An estimated \$438 million is available to producers for grazing losses due to weather related disasters. The sign-up period will begin January 18, 2001.

3. Dairy Market Loss Assistance (DMLA III): Payments to operations that received assistance under DMLA II will be automatically issued to producers later this month. Payments will also be available to new operations and to operations that did not have 12 months of marketing established under DMLA II, and will be based on October 1999-September 2000 marketings. The four-week sign-up period for these producers will begin in late January 2001.

4. 2000 Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP): Up to \$10 million will be available to producers who lost livestock due to natural disaster, fire and anthrax. The sign-up period will begin January 18, 2001.

5. Extension of the 1999 Livestock Indemnity Program/Contact Growers (CG-LIP): Program coverage of last year's CG-LIP will be extended through February 7, 2000. The sign-up period will begin January 18, 2001.

6. Apple Market Loss Assistance: Up to \$100 million will be available to apple producers to help offset low market prices experienced during the 1998 and 1999 crop years. The sign-up period will begin January 18, 2001.

FSA Website

The Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Rural Development agencies announced the availability of a new e-commerce service on the World Wide Web. The address of the new web site is <http://www.sc.gov.usda.gov>. The new web site will be available on December 18, 2000 and will replace other sites for these agencies that provide electronic forms.

The first feature on the new web site is electronic forms (eForms). This service offers access to many of the forms customers most frequently use. To access it, log on to the Internet through your Internet service provider and enter the address above. That will take you to the service center e-commerce home page. Click on the "eForms" icon to go to the page where you can search for forms by number, program area, or agency.

First time users need to download and install a "plug-in" to take full advantage of the services available

on the eForms web site. Installing the plug-in is easy. Connect to the Internet through your Internet service provider. Once you're on-line, type <http://www.sc.gov.usda.gov> in the address and press the enter key. That will take you to the USDA e-commerce homepage. Now click on the eForms icon to go to the eForms page and click on the "help" link. Now click on the "Need help downloading and installing the OmniForms or Adobe Acrobat" link and follow the instructions.

Once the plug-in is installed on your computer, go back to the USDA e-commerce homepage and click on the eForms icon to go to the eForms page. Here you can search for forms either by their numbers or by a program area or an agency's name. When you find the form you want, click on the blue highlighted OmniForm format and it will appear on the screen. Fill it out, print it, and you have a

completed form that's ready for faxing or mailing. Many of the forms are also available in the PDF format for a limited time.

Using the OmniForms version of the forms provides a significant advantage over the PDF version. The forms and information recorded into the OmniForms version can be downloaded and saved on your own computer, giving you access to the forms and information without having to go online. This will permit you to reuse standard information, like your name and address, without having to retype it.

Your FSA, NRCS, or RD service center office will be available during normal business hours to provide any assistance you need in understanding the forms or the information that needs to be recorded. We will continue to be your point of contact for any questions of this nature.

Technical assistance on using the web site and the OmniForms plug-in is available by calling 1-800-457-3642. The technical help service is available Monday through Friday from 5 a.m. to midnight (mountain time) and from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (mountain time) on Saturday and Sunday.

Office Closure

The USDA Service Center will be closed Monday, January 1st in observance of New Year's. The office will reopen on Tuesday, January 2nd.

Subscribe to the Signal



Members of the Zoo Zebra Crew are pictured above, front row from left: Rachel Niceley, Morgan Hunt and Sara Hammond. Back row from left: Courtney Campbell, Kristen Bullock, Allyson Washburn, Brittany Boring. In the back is coach Shane Campbell. Not present was Kayla Carpenter.

Zebras on top in Zoo Crew

Submitted

One of the first books we learned to read from as children was the book about the little engine who thought he could. "I think I can, I think I can." The story, of course, is a lesson about not giving up and keep on trying. That was the motto of the 2000 version of the Zebras in the Little Lady Rocket Zoo Zebra basketball league featuring second and third graders. The Zebras were probably the youngest team featuring all second graders but one.

During the season the team won only one game and that by only one point. Many of the parents of the Zebras expected to play one tournament game and be done for the year. To their surprise, the Zebras defeated the Frogs 12-9 and advanced to the semi-finals to meet the Kangaroos, a team that had beaten them by a score

of 16-0 during the season. With great determination and a lot of luck the Zebras won 11-10, setting up a championship game with the top team during the league, the Blue Jays. The Zebras finished in sixth place, next to last, and had been beaten by the Blue Jays three times. From the words of half-of-fame broadcaster the game was a "Titanic struggle" in which defense prevailed. The Zebras jumped out to a 4-0 lead and held on to win the championship 4-2. Worst to first in the same year. Congratulations coach Shane Campbell and the 2000 Zebras, King of Beasts among the Zoo Crew, well known commercial says PLAY (Participate in the Lives of America's Youth), and for good reason. The kids learned much more than the skill of basketball, they learned to keep on trying, never give up and you can accomplish great things if you think you can.



Every year students at Roundstone Elementary School participate in raising money for cancer research. This research is conducted at the St. Jude's Hospital for children in Memphis, Tennessee. This year 29 students took part in the annual Math-a-Thon. All together they raised over \$1,800 for children's cancer research. Each child received a certificate of participation and various other prizes depending on the amount of money collected. All students were treated to an ice cream sundae party by the coordinator Lois Cameron. The most important thing they received was the idea that they can help make a difference in the world by using their time and talents. Those students who participated are pictured above, front row from left: Katie Cope, Patrick Lowery, Aaron Edister, Justin Clark, Jennifer Hackworth, Megan and Macie Lou Allen, Amanda Doan, and Nache Owens. Second row, from left: Nicky Shelton, Pam Johnson, Laura Dollins, Johnna Ballard, John Lawson, Jesse Coffey, and Thomas Spencer. Third row, from left: Yancey Burchette, Blade Rader, Cole Abney, Shawnee Burchette, Krys Stancil, Nicole Locklear, and April Johnson. Not all were present. Grand prize winner was Nache Owens, above, who worked especially hard and completed 220 problems correctly and collected \$401. Nache received a personal portable CD player, a sports bag, a t-shirt and a certificate. A great big thank you for all the students, parents, and friends who helped.

"Obituaries"

(Cont. from A-3)

Hurles Pace

Hurles Eugene Pace, 73, died December 26, 2000 at his home in Somerset. He was born August 28, 1927.

He is survived by: his wife, Betty Pace; five children, Larry Pace of Round Rock, TX, Jeanie Helm of Leander, TX, Peggy Patterson of Mt. Vernon, Susan Votaw of Crowley, TX, and Jimmy Pace of Johnson City, TX; three brothers and two sisters, Hubert Pace of Farmington, MO, Homer Pace of Piedmont, MO, Val Pace of Mt. View, AR, Mac Clifton of Columbia, IL, Nell Clayton of Florissant, MO. 12 grandchildren and five great grandchildren also survive plus a host of spiritual brothers and sisters and friends. He was preceded in death by one daughter, Bonnie Pace.

Memorial services were held at Walnut Grove Church of Christ on Wednesday, December 27th at 9 p.m. Funeral services will be held in Dexter, MO at Watkins Funeral Home in Dexter, MO on December 30th.



Russell Owens

Russell R. Owens, beloved husband of Lucy Jane "Sis" Owens (nee Price), devoted father of Barney Owens, Glenda Linder, sisters-in-law Betsy Blanton and Clara Jones grew up in his home, loving brother of Eva Wheat and Loreita Belcher. Also survived by six grandchildren and six great grandchildren. He was a longtime resident of West Chester, Ohio.

Visitation will be Thursday (today) from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Shorten and Ryan Funeral Home, 400 Reading Rd., Mason, Ohio. Funeral services will be at the Sharonville Church of Christ, 11560 Lippelman Rd., Sharonville, Ohio.

Cards of Thanks

Thank You

I would like to express my gratitude to all the road crew who clear the roadways and a special thank you to Jackson Energy Electric workers for restoring the electric at Orlando recently after a storm. Thank you to all the hard workers who help make our lives more comfortable.

Freda Worf

Luther Cox

The family of Luther Cox would like to express our thanks to everyone for their comfort and kindness during the loss of our loved one. We appreciated all of the flowers and other gifts. We would especially like to thank Bro. Marvin Cromer for the comforting words and to Tim Cameron for the beautiful song. We would also like to thank the staff of the Rockcastle Hospital, the EMTs, the staff of St. Joseph's Hospital and to Cox Funeral Home.

Jeffrey T. Burdette and the staff of the Rockcastle County Attorney's office would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a

HAPPY NEW YEAR



County Attorney Jeffrey T. Burdette



Julie Adams and Kathy Robinson



Goldie Pickard and Patty Hayes



Deanna Carpenter and Daisy Amanda Collins