

Farmers

(Cont. from front)

Moore.

"The largest quota figure should provide additional incentive for strong endorsement of the tobacco program in the upcoming referendum - I hope farmers will take the time to make their voices heard and vote their ballots before the February 16 deadline," he said.

Rockcastle County Ag Agent Tim Mills said that farmers would be pleased with the increased quota, but people should realize by now, just how fast things can change when it comes to the tobacco program.

In 2000, Rockcastle County tobacco farmers were allowed to grow 14 million pounds of burley.

"The 34 percent increase would still leave us about 2 million pounds short of what we were allowed to grow in 1997," Mills said.

"We would need several increases just to get back to even," Mills said. President Moore had praised for U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky.

"The increase in quotas would not have been possible without the assistance of Sen. McConnell and other Kentucky Congressional leaders, who guided through a federal appropriation to eliminate more than 200 million pounds of low-quality tobacco from the quota formula," Moore added.

"At the beginning of the year, most people were predicting a 30 percent decrease in quota, but thanks to the McConnell Miracle that figure has completely turned around," he said.

Moore cautioned that the improved quota situation should be viewed more as breathing space than any kind of permanent turnaround.

"A lot of work needs to be done,

before the patient can be described as cured," he said.

Among the areas that need attention: Improvements in marketing that accommodate the best features of the auction system with the new contracting method.

Improvements in the federal grading service and extension of the grading assessment to contracted tobacco.

Development of a voluntary plan for buying out quotas and moving those allotments into the hands of burley producers.

Evaluation of pricing and import issues to increase usage of Kentucky burley in domestic and overseas manufacturing.

Extension of federal export enhancement assistance to overseas tobacco sales.

Moore says Farm Bureau and other tobacco organizations representing burley and flue-cured leaf are working to develop a consensus plan for tobacco program and marketing improvements.

"The stabilizing of our quotas gives us a chance for a new beginning as tobacco producers," he said. "We must take this opportunity and strengthen the program to ensure that tobacco farmers aren't continually looking down the barrel of a gun like they have been for the past year."

Stabbing

(Cont. from front)

place around 11 p.m., police say that Saylor knocked on the apartment door of Tim and Diane Abrams and asked to use the phone.

Mt. Vernon Police Chief Bill Mink said that Abrams told police that when he let Saylor in, he drew a handgun and cut the phone cord.

The chief said that Saylor then demanded Abrams' wallet and pills.

Mink said that Abrams apparently tried to get the handgun from Saylor and that it discharged, and a bullet struck the bed post where his wife was sleeping.

Mink said that during the altercation, Mrs. Abrams grabbed a kitchen knife and stabbed Saylor four times.

Mink said that Abrams managed to get the weapon from Saylor and Saylor fled on foot.

A short time later, Saylor was located on Tipton Branch Road. He was taken to the Rockcastle Hospital and then transferred to the University of Kentucky Medical Center.

Mt. Vernon police officer Doug Thomas arrested Saylor on Saturday night, after Saylor gave a taped confession.

Saylor is being held on a \$75,000 cash bond.

John C. Cox dies

(Cont. from front)

In June of 1997, Mr. Cox was inducted into the Southeastern Kentucky Firefighter's Association, "Hall of Fame."

An small token of appreciation for his service to the community, Mr. Cox received the Everett C. Brown Memorial Award for Community Service in 1984.

In 1986, he was selected as Mt. Vernon Businessman of the Year and in 1998 he was chosen as Businessman of the Year by the Mt. Vernon Lion's Club.

Mr. Cox also served as a Deacon at the First Christian Church in Mt. Vernon for 40 years.

Mr. Cox was also a member of the Rockcastle Masonic Lodge, he was 32nd Degree Mason, a member of the Disabled American Veterans for 40 years and he received the prestigious Estwing Hardware Industry Award for 50 years of service.

Mr. Cox was born on December 13, 1919, in Mt. Vernon, the son of the late Claude and Amy Proctor Cox. Survivors are one son, James H. Cox and wife Martha of Mt. Vernon.

One sister, Dorothy King and husband, Roy, of Lexington; two grandchildren, Jennifer Mattingly and grandson, Ken and Jamie Cornelius; and husband, Chris, all of Mt. Vernon, and four great grandchildren, Kiley, Kelsey and Ethan Mattingly and John Christopher Cornelius. He was preceded in death by his wife, Frances Brown Cox and one brother, James Stephen Cox.

Visitation will be after 6:00 p.m. Thursday (today) at Cox Funeral Home.

Services will be Friday, February 9, at the funeral home with Bro. Eddie

Hammock and Bro. Wendell Romans officiating. Burial will follow in the Elmwood Cemetery.

Fallacians will be the Mt. Vernon Volunteer Firemen.

Renovation

(Cont. from front)

also means they are still alive for the next two levels, which does provide state funds.

Towery told the council that the targeted area was both sides of Main Street.

The city also committed \$5,000 in the project, which will be used to set up a board and pay expenses involved with the application process for phase two.

The council also discussed again a new fire house with members of the local volunteer department.

The council again took no action on the matter.

Asst. Fire Chief Gary Hansel said after the meeting that the city had committed \$20,000 a year to the fire department last year, and that the department was considering using that money to possibly pay a mortgage on the new building.

Hansel said the fire department was considering borrowing the money at a local institution, if the city council would go along with it.

The proposed new fire house would be located on the city's vacant lot on Main Street next to the Rockcastle courthouse.

Labonte

(Cont. from A8)

rage in Phoenix during the next-to-last race of the 1994 season when Joe Gibbs came up and asked for his telephone number. Within a few days, Gibbs called Labonte and hired him to replace Dale Jarrett, who moved to Robert Yates Racing.

He won three races (including his first Winston Cup victory in the Coca-Cola 600 at Charlotte) in his first year with Gibbs and finished 10th in the points standings. From 1996-98, Labonte and his team won four times. In 1999, he finished second behind Dale Jarrett, with five wins and 21 top 10 finishes.

As the 2000 season progressed it became more and more apparent that Labonte and the Joe Gibbs team were on a track that would lead to the championship.

Everybody gave 100 percent and some weeks they gave 110 percent," Labonte said. "I think we had an a-plus season. Having a teammate like Tony Stewart didn't hurt either. Can we do it again? I don't know."

All teams start off the season with zero points. Anything can happen. We could start the season off really good or not fare so well. We really don't know. We had a great season last year and we're looking forward to this year. We know we've got a great race team and we're going to start with the same great attitude we had last year."

WILL DODGE BE A FACTOR THEIR FIRST SEASON?

Can Ray Everham do for Dodge what he did for Jeff Gordon and the Hendricks Racing program?

While both Everham and the Dodge program will be on hand for this year's Daytona 500, many unanswered questions remain among the five teams.

Dodge Motorsports officials say they're on schedule in making preparations for the manufacturer's return.

But several teams have said there is a shortage of Dodge engines.

Three teams - Bill Davis Racing, Penny Enterprises and Chip Ganassi Racing - tested the engines at Kentucky Speedway.

"No good driver will tell you they're really ready," Everham said. "But with the time left until the Daytona 500, we're in a really good place."

All teams are doing the basic things they would do with any brand-new car and engine. A couple teams had problems with engines, while others didn't. I think all teams would like to have more engines than they have at present, but Dodge is addressing that, and come Daytona, I'm sure each team will have several.

The development of the engine is really a search for speed and endurance.

"We're working to find a balance between the two."

NASCAR has approved the Dodge Interop body.

In December, there was a major upheaval in Dodge's parent company, DaimlerChrysler, but officials said it would not affect their 2001 NASCAR racing program.

Weekend Racing: NASCAR kicks off the 2001 racing season with the Budweiser Shootout, a 70-lap non-points race at Daytona International Speedway. Starting time: 12 noon (ET/PT). TV: Fox.

Daytona Track Facts: 2.5 mile superspeedway; Degree of banking in corners: 31 degrees, frontstretch: 1,900 feet; Length of backstretch: 3,000 feet.

Racing Trivia Question: How many Winston Cup championships has Rusty Wallace won?



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Boil Water Advisory Lifted

Rockcastle Water Assoc. wants to inform the public that the "Boil Water Advisory" for the complete water line coming from Jackson County Water HAS BEEN LIFTED. The chlorine residuals are adequate and there is no need to boil the water. This includes all main and side roads. If you have any questions, please contact Jo Cook at Rockcastle Water at 256-5480.

Randal Corry, General Manager

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