

Agricultural News

By Warden Alexander, FSA Director

2001 Burley Tobacco Quota

The Secretary of Agriculture has announced the 2001 national marketing quota for burley tobacco (type 31) is 332 million pounds, of which Kentucky's quota is 164,073 pounds. The 2001 national quota for burley tobacco reflects a 34.4 percent increase from the 2000 crop. The 2001 quota of burley tobacco was allocated to producers from the local FSA office on Thursday, February 8th. Sales after January 25th are not included on these notices. Therefore, if you had sales after January 25th you will receive a corrected notice after March 15th when the office receives late sales listings.

Burley Tobacco Leasing of Quotas

April 2nd is the first date producers shall execute a lease for the 2001 quotas. Leasing will end on July 3, 2001.

Burley Tobacco Referendum Results

Hampson Heaton, Jr., State Executive Director of the Farm Service Agency, today announced the preliminary results of voting by burley tobacco growers in Kentucky on whether to continue poundage-marketing quotas and price support for the next three years. Burley tobacco farmers voted in the final referendum between February 12 and 16. Votes were counted in all local FSA Offices on February 21.

The results for Kentucky show that 85,648 out of the 86,954 eligible producers who voted in the referendum, or 98.5% voted to keep quotas and price support for the next three years.

Warden Alexander, Rockcastle County Executive Director, said farmers voted overwhelmingly to continue the poundage marketing quotas and price support for the next three years. Of those voting, 98% (1013) voted "YES" and 2% (16) voted "NO."

Marketing Cards

Producers who have sold the current year's crop of tobacco are encouraged to return their marketing card to the FSA as soon as possible. Marketing cards not returned as soon as possible could result in producers receiving incorrect information for the 2001 quota, scheduled to be released February 8th.

USDA appoints Hall to Kentucky Post

The USDA has announced the appointment of Jeffrey S. Hall to serve as the state executive director of USDA's Farm Service Agency in Kentucky. Hall, from Louisville, is an advisor to the Dean of the College of Agriculture at the University of Kentucky. He served on the Kentucky Senate Staff of Senator Mitch McConnell from 1988 to 1994 and was with the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation from 1994 to 1998. Hall is a graduate of Purdue University with a degree in Agriculture.

FSA ensures the well-being of American agriculture, the environment and the American public through efficient and equitable administration of farm commodity programs; farm ownership; operating and emergency loans; conservation and environmental programs; emergency and disaster assistance; domestic and international food assistance and international food assistance and international food assistance.

UK's impact reaches across Kentucky in Rockcastle Co.

From health care to business advice, from getting a license to completing post-graduate education, Kentuckians (from Paducah to Pikeville and Covington to Cumberland) feel the impact of the University of Kentucky on their lives during the 1999-2000 academic year. Residents of Rockcastle County also feel UK touch their lives. The county boasts 189 alumni of the state's flagship university, and it has 13 young people currently attending classes on its campus.

national support credit programs.

DMLA-II Sign-Up

Sign-up for DMLA-II will begin February 26 and end on March 30. Producers eligible for this sign-up include the following: Producers paid less than 12 m.o. base production under DMLA I or II, new dairy producers for calendar year 2000 and dairy producers who were eligible for DMLA I or II and never signed up. Producers should be advised the importance of the March 30 deadline. No late filed applications will be accepted.

Kentucky 2001 Crop Review Report

The Risk Management Agency (RMA), which administers crop insurance, and the FSA State Office will conduct a joint effort to carry out crop review inspections throughout Kentucky this year. This combined effort is directed to maintain and improve the integrity of USDA programs that comprise a part of the safety net for agricultural producers. The RMA, Southern Regional Compliance Office and the FSA State Office together will conduct these on-site growing season crop review inspections throughout crop year 2001. Producers who have received crop insurance indemnities through USDA crop-disaster assistance will be selected by RMA for the review. The crop reviews will be conducted both after planting and again before the harvest.

This combined plan identifies the efforts of each agency to continue and eliminate fraud, waste and abuse of USDA programs. The Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 called for joint efforts by RMA and FSA to improve efficiency and integrity of programs.

Farm Changes

Producers who have purchased or sold land need to contact the local FSA office for proper reconstitutions of farms. Farms enrolled with PFC have until the deadline of June 14 to file for reconstitutions of farms. Farms not enrolled with PFC have until the deadline of July 1st. Remember to bring your deed and/or to notify the county clerk to do so. Also notify this office of any and/or all address changes. REMEMBER: our records are only as current as producers inform our office.

Redesigned Web Site

FSA has announced the introduction of a redesigned FSA web site at www.fsa.usda.gov. The redesign includes user-friendly features and easily accessible online FSA forms.

Producers now receive county loan deficiency payment rates and expanded program information directly from the web site. With the online forms feature, farmers and ranchers can download program and disaster assistance forms when it's most convenient for them.

Dates to Remember

- CDP (Crop Disaster Program) began January 18th.
- Quota Referendum: ballot counting February 21st.
- FCIC: Insurance from other sources begins March 15th.
- Crop Reporting: Small Grains (WHEAT) by May 31st.
- Tobacco Leasing: April 2nd through July 1st.
- Crop Reporting: required for ALL burley tobacco farms by July 1st.

For more information, contact your local FSA office.

and the UK Children's Hospital — for their health care, including 2,571 Rockcastle County residents.

"UK continues to be a powerful force in Kentucky in a variety of ways. The university's professors provide advice to state officials on many diverse subjects of vital importance, ranging from building roads at lower costs to helping revenue officials evaluate tax rates," said Mark Berger, a UK economics professor and advisor to governors.

"UK's impact is so pervasive that people have come to take it for granted. They often don't realize how far UK reaches into their communities, and even into their own homes," he added.

In Rockcastle County, for example, local residents consulted with UK's Cooperative Extension agents on a broad range of issues on 29,786 occasions, seeking information on more healthy dinner recipes, household budgeting and weather precautions important to both farmers and homeowners. Across Kentucky, families using this service — the nation's third largest Extension service — reduced their health-care costs by \$24 million. Meanwhile, farmers saw their revenues rise from \$25 million.

Business people in Rockcastle County made five inquiries for information about better methods of calculating future profits and improving competitiveness. The advice offered by consultants of UK's Small Business Development Centers resulted in an average annual increase of sales by its clients of nearly \$180,000.

Rockcastle County's men and women who work in manufacturing plants may have benefited from increased job opportunities created by improved efficiency and productivity, if their employer used the consulting services of UK's Industrial Extension Service. This program, and UK's Lean Manufacturing Institute, advises nearly 350 companies on ways to heighten profitable operations, and most of these companies are in Kentucky.

UK's future economic impact also will extend into Rockcastle County, as coming generations seek their degrees both on the campus in Lexington and on the Internet via Kentucky's Commonwealth Virtual University. Better earnings, a more educated work force and a higher tax base — the evidence of real prosperity — can be expected.

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Report to the People

By State Senator Albert Robinson

As we are now past the halfway point in the 2001 session of the General Assembly, I want to bring you up to date on what the Senate is doing to make sure that law-abiding citizens are safe from crime and that criminals are punished according to their actions.

Three bills that have recently been debated in the Senate deal with crime and punishment (a fourth bill, one that I introduced, passed the Senate and is now being considered in the House).

I voted for Senate Bill 83 this week, helping it pass the Senate unanimously. This bill will allow prosecutors to charge a person with kidnapping if the kidnapper intends to "raise the child as their own." This new kidnapping law grew out of a 1985 case in Marion County in which a woman stole a baby from a hospital and tried to convince her boyfriend that it was their child. Under current law, that person can only be charged with custodial interference, which is a misdemeanor.

Senate Bill 101 deals with a disturbing problem in our culture: the use of "date rape drugs." This legislation increased the penalty for Rohypnol, known on the street as a "roofie." The drug is not FDA approved, cannot be sold legally in the United States, and is ten times more potent than Valium.

Perhaps the scariest thing about the drug is its ability to render a victim unconscious for up to eight hours with just one small tablet, which is usually below \$5. This legislation increases the penalty against sexual predators who use Rohypnol to a Class D felony and increases the penalty for trafficking in the drug to a Class-C felony. Both offenses are currently misdemeanors.

Another bill that is long overdue, and one I have long supported, is Senate Bill 157, also known as the "wrongful death" bill. This bill will allow the recovery of damages whenever the death of a person results from an injury inflicted by the negligence or wrongful act of another.

In this new law, "person" is defined as any living human from fertilization onward. This will give family members legal recourse in the event that their child is killed due to negligence. The bill received bipartisan support in the Senate and will now go to the House for consideration.

It is important that the citizens of the Commonwealth are safe from crime.

The passage of these bills allows us to protect our citizens and charge those who violate the law with tough penalties.

Along those same principals, I am currently watching closely the fate of my bill, already passed in the Senate, that will more severely punish those who steal flowers and other items from gravesites, and those that actually dig up a body for the purposes of stealing something of value.

One of my chief objectives during every session of the General Assembly is to bring the concerns of my

constituents to Frankfort, certainly, protecting the rights of the grieving is something that's been on the minds of many of you because of several high profile incidents in recent weeks regarding gravesite theft. That legislation is in the House of Representatives now, and I am doing all I can to make sure it becomes law.

As always, your input is important to me. Feel free to contact me at the state capitol, Frankfort, Kentucky, 40601. You can also email from the Legislative Research Commission's website: www.lrc.state.ky.us or you can also call a toll free number, 1-800-372-7181, and leave a message for me.

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Walk-Ins Welcome

Announcement of a SECOND PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

TO REVIEW ALTERNATIVE CORRIDOR LOCATIONS FOR A PROPOSED NEW CONNECTOR HIGHWAY BETWEEN US 150 IN LINCOLN OR ROCKCASTLE COUNTY AND I-75 NEAR CONWAY IN ROCKCASTLE COUNTY.

TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2001
SECOND PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING
6:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.
CRAB ORCHARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
HIGHWAY KY 39
CRAB ORCHARD, KENTUCKY

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet has scheduled a Public Information meeting to review alternative corridor locations for a proposed new connector highway between US 150 in Lincoln or Rockcastle County and I-75 near Conway in Rockcastle County. The purpose of the meeting is to inform the public of the planning study, discuss various environmental and technical issues concerning the corridors under consideration, and solicit ideas and opinions that will help the Cabinet make decisions about the study. Anyone having an interest in this planning study is urged to attend this meeting.

This open public meeting will have a brief presentation at 6 p.m., followed by an open exhibit area where officials will be prepared to answer questions and/or receive public input. The exhibits will display the alternative corridor locations.

The exhibits will also be available for viewing from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. local time for fifteen (15) days after the meeting at the Kentucky Department of Highways District 8 Office, 1660 South Highway 27, Somerset, Kentucky.

Both written and oral statements will be accepted at the meeting. A recorder will be made available to those who desire to make oral statements and a comment sheet will be distributed to make it more convenient to provide written comments. Written statements will be accepted at the meeting and for a period of fifteen (15) days after the Public Information meeting. Written statements should be addressed to Annette Coffey, P.E., Director, Division of Planning, 125 Holmes Street, Frankfort, Kentucky 40622, or returned using the postage-paid comment sheet. All recorded and written statements will become part of the official record. Once compiled, the summary of this meeting and other supporting documentation will be made available for review and copying only after an Open Records Request has been received and approved. All Open Records requests must be submitted to the Transportation Cabinet, Department of Administrative Services, State Office Building, Frankfort, Kentucky 40622.

In accordance with the "Americans with Disabilities Act", if you have a disability for which the Transportation Cabinet needs to provide accommodations, please notify us of your requirements by August 17, 2000. This request does not have to be in writing. Please contact Roger Coffey, Chief District Engineer, District 8 - Somerset, U.S. 27, PO Box 780, Somerset, Kentucky 42501 or call 606-677-4017.

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