

Agricultural News

By Warden Alexander, FSA Director

Marketing Cards

Rockcastle County producers who have received marketing cards are reminded to carefully check their card for complete and accurate information. Please compare the farm number, warehouse number and pounds listed on the card to the information provided on the notification letter mailed with the card. If you find an error return the card immediately to the office for correction(s).

Remember: You are responsible for the information listed on the card.

When you have finished your sales of tobacco please return the marketing card to the FSA office as soon as possible.

Warehouse Designation

Producers who have not designated their place of sales of those who have designated and wish to change are reminded they may do so during the next regular redesignation period of December 28, 2001 through January 4, 2002.

Legislation now requires all farms with an effective quota greater than zero to file a designation of pounds to a specific warehouse, receiving station or dealer with which they intend to market tobacco by filling a form FSA 808.

If producers miss this deadline they must wait until the next and last designation period of January 28 through February 1, 2002.

Stolen Tobacco

Producers are reminded according to regulations stated in 10TB paragraph 941 pertaining a stolen tobacco a police report must be filed within 15 days of the theft and be submitted to the County FSA Office. Filing the police report according to regulations will possibly avoid a penalty and/or a reduction of the next year's quota.

Disaster Leasing of Burley Tobacco

Producers wishing to lease tobacco to their farm for the purpose of selling excess tobacco may do so across county lines under the disaster leasing eligibility provisions. Farms leasing in pounds must have filed a FSA 578 (Crop Report), file a MQ 99 (Statement of Tobacco Production), be eligible for price support and have an approved FSA 375, Lease and Transfer. This year the pro-

ducer must also file an FSA 808, Designation of Burley Tobacco Sales and Request for Marketing Card. The amount of lease in pounds is limited to 15% of the farm's quota as of July 1st including last lease.

Producers who wish to lease out tobacco quota due to a natural disaster must have:

- Prior to harvest filled a FSA 574 (Request for Disaster Credit)
- Filed a FSA 578 (Crop Report)
- Planted sufficient acreage to produce the quota

• Made reasonable and customary efforts to produce the effective marketing quota

- Have less than 80 percent of the farm's effective marketing quota
- Natural disaster
- Meet all price support eligibility requirements.

For additional information on leasing quota under the disaster leasing provisions contact your local FSA office.

Office Closure

The Rockcastle County FSA Office will be closed Monday and Tuesday, December 24th & 25th in observance of the Christmas Holiday. The office will reopen Wednesday, December 26th at 7:30 a.m.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Farm Bill Debate Reaches the Senate Floor

This week there are two farm bill proposals ready to be reconciled by the full Senate in an attempt to reach one farm bill which the Senate can back. On December 11th, the Senate began a comprehensive debate of the Democratic-authored farm bill (S-1731), and the alternative bill offered by Republican Senators Thad Cochran (R-Miss) and Pat Roberts (R-Kan). President Bush and Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman have indicated their preference for the Cochran-Roberts bill over the version offered by Senator Tom Harkin (D-Iowa). However, Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-S.D.) and other farm state senators are working hard to garner support for S-1731. To achieve a consensus may require some amendments that will make the proposal acceptable to more constitu-



The Rockcastle County Alternative School recently held a Survivor competition in which all of the students competed. The competition, based on the original SURVIVOR television series, involved the students in physical, emotional and endurance tasks and occurred over a 6-week period. The students began in two teams, but consolidated into one team once there were only ten participants remaining. These ten went on to face even harsher challenges and at every new challenge another person was voted out by their classmates and friends. Russell Jackson, of Mt. Vernon, won first place in the competition and received a trophy and \$75 cash. Shane Cox, of Flat Gap, won second place and a trophy and \$25 cash. Heather Didonato, of Mt. Vernon, received a trophy for her third place finish. Congratulations to these students for successfully completing the game.

ents. A spirit of compromise could result in a bipartisan vote by the Senate that would advance the farm legislation to a House-Senate conference where it would be compared to the House's farm bill proposal.

Whether the farm bill can reach final form before the end of the year is questionable at this point. Some political pundits speculate that the House and the Senate will most likely settle on a farm bill that will be ready for the President's signature sometime in January or February, after Congress has returned from their holiday recess. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has scored both the House bill, and Senator Harkin's bill. The House Bill when compared to the Senate proposal, both carry a ten year price tag of about \$73.4 billion above baseline spending. For the first five years the House proposal increases agricultural expenditures by \$35.8 billion while Harkin's version provides \$40.8 billion over baseline spending. The House's plan during the last five years increases

funding to \$37.6 billion. Harkin's proposal would trim extra agricultural funding during the second five years to approximately \$32.6 billion, effectively offering more money up front and less in later years.

The distribution of the proposed funding is the primary source of contention because the version originating in the Senate will provide more

money for conservation, which means lower payments for commodity support. As you might imagine, this may not satisfy the perceived needs of the large grain producers. The Harkin proposal also calls for expanding the Conservation Reserve Program from 36.5 million acres to 41.1 million acres over the next ten years, which favors the administration's policies and principles. The new farm bill will be forged in heated debates, and the final product will be aimed at the needs of both consumers and producers alike.

Phase I tobacco funds

By Tom Mills
Co. Ext. Agent for Agriculture/
Natural Resources

Doug Smith, president of the Rockcastle Beef Association and Roy Reynolds, president of the Rockcastle Agriculture Development Council are pleased to announce that local farmers will be eligible to share in \$425,000 from the Phase I tobacco settlement funds.

Three proposals from the Kentucky Agriculture Development Board have been approved as projects local producers can apply for. They include a Forage Improvement program, Genetic Improvement program and Cattle Handling Facilities.

Applications for the Forage Improvement program will start Wednesday, January 2, 2002 and continue through Thursday, January 31, 2002. Applications will be available at Adams Feed Supply, Dabney Feed Supply, and Rockcastle Feed Supply during normal business hours.

The Forage Improvement program covers three areas. Pasture improvement, which provides reimbursement at approximately 50% for certified white clover seed, lime and fertilizer according to U.K. soils test. Limits are 20 acres or \$1,500. See the application for complete details.

Hay Improvement, which provides reimbursement at approximately 50% for certified red clover seed, lime and fertilizer according to U.K. soils test. Limits are 20 acres or \$1,500. See the application for complete details.

Alfalfa Improvement, which provides reimbursement at approximately 50% for certified alfalfa seed, lime and fertilizer according to U.K. soils test. Limits are 20 acres or \$1,500. See the application for complete details.

The Kentucky Agriculture Development Board has limited any one producer to \$5,000 in cost-share payments.

application for complete details. Forage Improvement programs or combinations can not exceed the total limit of \$1,500 of Phase I

money. Soils test should be taken and results available by the January 31, 2002 deadline. Applications will require producers social security number and FSA farm number for fields being seeded. Farmers applying will be notified of approval following the February 5, 2002 work session.

The Genetic Improvement program will allow beef and dairy producers to purchase superior EPD bulls or semen. Applications will be available January 15 through February 15, 2002. All applicants will be required to attend a 2-hour producer meeting on EPD's prior to approval. Cost-share will be approximately 50% up to \$1,250 Phase I money. See application for complete details.

The Cattle Handling Facilities program will assist producers in improving their herd health program. This includes head gates, alley ways, crowding pens, etc. Cost share will be at 2 levels with both being approximately 50% reimbursement. At the first level, producers are required to become Beef Quality Assurance certified by attending a two hour producers meeting. This qualifies for the \$1,000 level. Producers who complete Beef Quality Assurance, plus market a group of CAP-3 calves, will qualify for the \$2,500 level. See application for complete details.

The Kentucky Agriculture Development Board has limited any one producer to \$5,000 in cost-share payments.

Christmas Play

Berea Gospel Tabernacle

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Saturday, December 22 • 7 p.m.

"No Room In The Inn"

Refreshments in the basement after play

Pastor Ralph Chasteen & church welcomes everyone!

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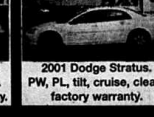
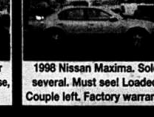
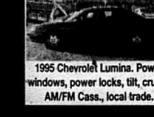
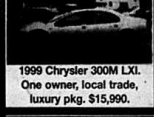
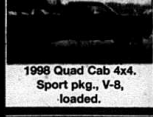
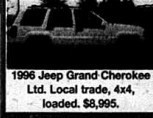
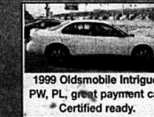
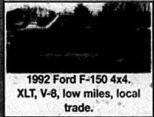
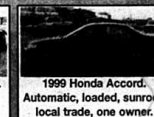
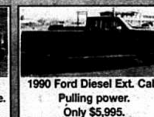
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