

# Agricultural News

By Wanda Alexander, FSA Director

**County Committee Monthly Meeting** The Rockcastle County Farm Service Commission (FSC) will hold its monthly meeting, open to the public, the first Thursday of each month, beginning at 8 a.m. The meeting will be at the Rockcastle County FSA office, located in the USDA Service Center on Hwy. 150 in Mt. Vernon. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday (February 6, 2003).

The FSC members are vital to the day-to-day operations of FSA. The FSC members help FSA at the local level by deciding the kind of programs their counties will have and how they will operate. FSA commission operate within official regulations, designed to carry out federal laws and applying their judgment and knowledge to make decisions.

**Rural Development (Housing)** Rural Development (low-income housing) is regularly scheduled to be in the Rockcastle County FSA office on the second Tuesday of each month. The next day scheduled for RD is Tuesday, February 11, between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

The FSA office is located on US Hwy. 150, the main RD office is located in Richmond at 2150 Lexington Road, Suite C on the phone number is 859-624-1980, ext. 4.

**IRS Reportable Income (CCC-1099C)** We have been advised that several CCC-1099C's, IRS forms to report payments, were mailed to Kentucky producers with an incorrect Social Security number. The third digit is duplicated and the last digit of the number has been dropped off.

All other information listed on the form is correct and the amount received from Commodity Credit is correct for tax filing purposes.

A revised CCG-1099-1 correction is to be mailed to producers on Jan. 31, 2003 in time for filing with correct social security numbers.

Producers who have an incorrect amount reported, should bring the CCC-1099C to their local FSA office for corrections.

**Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP)** Direct and counter-cyclical payments for 2002 through 2007, will be based on each producer's individual production history. Sign-up for the program began October 1, 2002 and ends July 2, 2003. Program participation is voluntary and producers are responsible for meeting deadlines and complying with rules and regulations.

Those who have questions should contact their local USDA Service Center or county FSA office. More information about the 2002 Farm Bill is available at the website: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/farmbill>.

**USDA Continues Suspension of Burley Tobacco Auction Sales** The Agricultural Marketing Service, Tobacco Programs, has announced it will extend the suspension of auction sales for burley tobacco an additional week. Sales will resume on February 10 and conclude for the season on February 20.

The burley tobacco marketing areas covers auction markets in the states of Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, Ohio and Indiana. Sales of burley tobacco at non-auction stations will not be affected by the sales suspension.

After consideration of weather conditions, lack of significant market deliveries and consultation with affected industry personnel, it has been decided that an additional week recess would be in the best interest of all segments of the tobacco industry.

Inspection and price support services will not be available at designated auction markets during the suspension period.

**Warehouse Designation A Must!** Producers that wish to designate their burley tobacco quota to a different buying point, may do so during the next regular re-designation period. Producers will be limited to designate for the farm one time during each regular re-designation period. Therefore, if a farm has multiple tenants which will market tobacco at separate buyings, the farm operator will need to designate for all those tenants at the same time.

**Feb. 3-Feb. 7, 2003 weard effective Feb. 17, 2003** FSA has a listing for public notice of warehouses, receiving stations and dealers posted on the bulletin board in the county office available through March 31, 2003.

**10% Carry Forward of Effective Undermarketings** Producers have been contacting the county office concerned about the amount of pounds they will be able to carry forward on the 2002 undermarketings.

The 10% rule is applied based on burley sales belt-wide. It is NOT based on the individual farm sales. If the 10% rule applies, then it will affect all farms with effective undermarketings, even if the farm only under-marketed 1 percent. The maximum number of 2002 undermarketings that can be carried forward to crop year 2003 is 32.3 million lbs. (10% of the 2002 basic quota).

At this time, local FSA offices can not guarantee producers the amount of pounds eligible for carrying forward. It is a wait and see situation.

**Applications for New Farm Tobacco Quota** Producers who own land and do NOT have a tobacco quota of any kind in the US may be eligible for a new farm tobacco quota. Eligibility requirements include: owning land suitable for tobacco production, having 2 of the past 5 years marketing history of tobacco and 50% of all household income derived from farming. Producers wishing to apply should contact the FSA office no later than February 18th.

**Veneman announces additional steps to facilitate farm bill sign-up** Significant progress being made on farm bill sign-up.

Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman has announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture is taking additional actions to assist farmers in completing sign-up for the Direct and Counter-cyclical programs in the 2002 Farm Bill.

Under the new provisions, producers who did not own eligible land in prior years and/or did not farm the land and cannot obtain historical production evidence, the county committee now can establish a yield. The yield will be based on similar farms in the local farming community or the LDP records for the specific farm. The assigned yield from the similar farms cannot exceed the county average yield.

"We have seen considerable progress during the past month on farm bill sign-up," said Veneman. The steps we are taking today should help those producers who have had difficulties obtaining some of their records due to circumstances beyond their control."

The Secretary said that today's actions should assist those landowners who are unable to obtain production evidence to prove yields for their program payments. The inability to obtain this information may be because the landowner has recently purchased a farm or part of a farm and historical production evidence cannot be obtained from the previous producer.

This change is effective immediately and will be applicable to

counter-cyclical yields for those producers electing to update their bases for eligible commodities, and for direct payment yields for oilseeds.

Prior to these revisions, producers applying for these programs would have had to accept 75 percent of the county average yield. Those farmers who have already accepted the 75 percent county average may also take advantage of this new procedure by contacting their local USDA Service Center.

Veneman noted that as of today, sign-up for these programs was at 33% of eligible farmers, up nearly 20% from one month ago. The sign-

up average for the major grain and southern states, which represents more than half of the total number of eligible farms nationwide, is 41%. At the current rate of sign-up, USDA would reach more than 60% of eligible farmers signing up nationwide (and more than 80% of the major grain/southern state farmers) by the April 1, 2003 deadline. USDA expects that approximately 30% of landowners will choose to retain their existing yields and roll their historical program flexibility contract base and yield numbers forward.

to participate in Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, owners must make the base and yield selection by April 1, 2003. Producers must sign the direct and counter-cyclical program contract by June 2, 2003. Producers who do not want to accept the program's default base and yield option must complete sign-up at the county office before April 1, 2003.

**USDA Announces Provisions of the 2003-Crop Burley Tobacco Program and No-Net-Cost Assessment**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced the provisions of the 2003 burley tobacco program. The national marketing quota for the 2003 crop is 287.8 million pounds, down from the 2002 quota of 324.2 million pounds and is based on the following:

**Million Pounds --** Purchase intentions by domestic cigarette manufacturers 184.9; Unmanufactured exports (3 year average) 137.9; Reserve stock adjustment -35.0; Discretionary adjustment 0.0.

The price support level for the 2003 crop is \$1.849 per pound, up 1.4 cent from 2002, up 1.4 cent from 2001.

For each farm, the 2003 basic quota will decline approximately 11.1 percent from 2002.

The effective quota is expected to be about 320.2 million pounds, or 29.1 million pounds below 2002.

The burley tobacco no-net-cost assessment will be 2 cents on each pound of 2003-crop burley tobacco that is marketed. USDA set the no-

net-cost assessments at 1 cent per pound for the producer and 1 cent per pound for the purchaser for crop year 2003.

Further program information is available from Dan Stevens, telephone 202-720-5291, e-mail address: [DanielStevens@wdc.fsa.usda.gov](mailto:DanielStevens@wdc.fsa.usda.gov)

## Winter Bible Study

Helping Your Church Stay On Course  
Studies in I Corinthians

## Maretburg Baptist Church

Sunday evening Feb. 9th thru

Wednesday Feb. 12th

7 p.m. each evening

Dr. Maynard Head will be teaching

EVERYONE INVITED TO COME

Wayne Harding, pastor

## Waffle House Coupon

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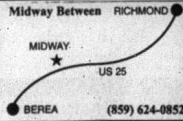


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**To Whom It May Concern**  
Notice is hereby given that the Felburn Foundation, owner of the Saltpeter Cave Preserve, is dedicated to Preservation and Conservation. There will be no timbering on this property which is leased and managed by the Great Saltpeter Cave Committee.

Offenders will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Ellie Schiller  
Executive Director • Felburn Foundation

Felburn Foundation • PO Box 109 • Tuckersville, Florida 34488