Agricultural News

By: Warden Alexander, FSA Director

Tobacco

Producers who are leasing the 2003 burley tobacco quota are reminded all producers transferring and receiving must sign by the deadline of July 1, 2003.

Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) The Agricultural Assistance Act of 2003 extended the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP); originally created in 2002, into 2003. The 2003 LCP is an emergency initiative administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) that provides immediate assistance to eligible owners and cash lessees of certain types of livestock for damages and losses due to any natural disaster.

Producers who did not receive assistance under the 2002 LCP and who are in counties that were approved as a disaster area are eligible for LCP.

To be eligible, a producer's livestock operation headquarters must be physically located in a county with a qualifying disaster designation. Eligible livestock are livestock owned or cash leased on or before June 1, 2002 and have been owned or cash leased for a minimum of 90 calendar days and include cattle, sheep, goats and buffalo as well as catfish.

2003 DCO Contracts

Warden Alexander, CED with the Farm Service Agency in Rockcastle County, would like to take this time and opportunity to remind farmers they need to contact their FSA County Office to complete their 2003 Direct and Counter Cyclical Programs as soon as possible.

To date, approximately 85 percent of the farmers in Rockcastle County have completed the necessary program selections and signed contracts.

Program participation is voluntary and producers are responsible for meeting deadlines and complying with rules and regulations.

Information on this and other FSa programs is available at http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/farmbill.

Conservation Reserve Program

USDA Farm Service (FSA) is a voluntary program available to agricultural producers to help them safeguard environmentally sensitive land. Producers enrolled in CRP plant long-term, resource-conserving covers to improve the quality of water, control soil erosion, and enhance wildlife habitat. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years.

FSA will hold CRP sign-up 26 for a four-week period ending May 30, 2003.

CRP sign-up 26 is the first general sign-up to benefit from personal computer-based computing environment (CCE) technology. Through CCE, FSA local offices can, for the first time, enroll producers and calculate eligible acres and rental rates in an automated environment.

To be eligible for CRP enrollment, a producer must have owned or opeated the land for at least 12 months prior to close of the CRP sign-up period; unless:

•The new owner acquired the land due to the previous owner's death

•Ownership change occurred due to foreclosure where the owner exercised a timely right or redemption in accordance with state law; or

The circumstances of the acquisition present adequate assurance to FSA that the owner did not acquire the land for the purpose of placing it in To be eligible for placement in CRP, land must be either

•Cropland that is planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity 4 of the previous 6 crop years from 1996 to 2001, and which is physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity; or

•Certain marginal pastureland that is enrolled in the Water Bank Program.

Continuous CRP Sign-up

Eligible acreage devoted to certain special conservation practices such as riparian buffers, filter strips, grassed waterways, shelter belts, living snow fences, contour grass strips, salt tolgration vegetation and shallow water areas for wildlife may be enrolled at any time under CCC's continuous CRP sign-up. These practices are not subject to competitive bidding. For more information, contact your local FSA office

Power of Attorney Forms

If you currently have a Power of Attorney on file with FSA, it is not valid for the new programs or transactions authorized by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Farm Bill). If you wish to retain an agent to act on your behalf for the new Direct and Counter-Cyclical programs, a new Power of Attorney form is required.

The FSA Power of Attorney, form FSA-211, has been revised to cover programs in the Act (referred to as the Farm Bill). Non-FSA power of attorney forms currently on file are not valid for any new program authorized by the Act, Farmers are cautioned that either an FSA employee or a Notary Public must witness signature on the FSA-211.

Office Closure

Rockcastle County Service Center Offices of FSA and NRCS will be closed Monday, May 26, 2003 in observance of Memorial Day. The offices will re-open on Tuesday, May 27, 2003 at 7:30 a.m.

Important Program Dates

May 16, 2003 - Ending date to sign-up for TOPP

May 30, 2003 - Deadline to sign-up for CRP #26

May 31, 2003 - Deadline to report small grains (wheat)

June 2, 2003 - Signup for the 2002 and 2003 DCP ends

July 15th - Deadline to acreage report (corn, soybeans, tobacco, grass)

Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) Program signup continues

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program signup continues

Conservation Reserve Program signup continues.

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To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Bldg., 14th and Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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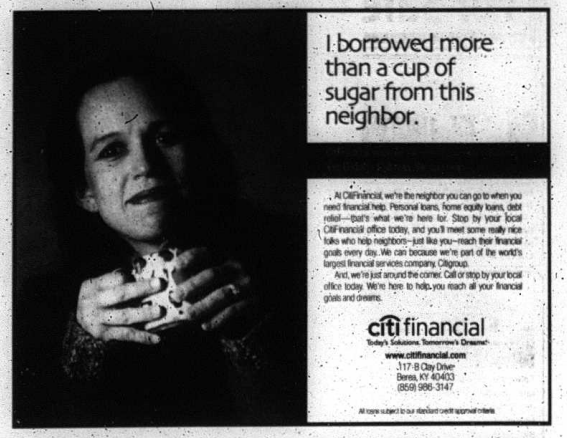

4th Annual Brodhead
Headwaters of the Dix River
Fish Fry Festival

FRIDAY, JUNE 6TH
(Vendors Welcome)

5:00 Survivor contest begins at BES
6:30 Half & Half Band - Main St.
7:00 PUSH (Austin Millr, Collin Williams, Clifton Williams, Eric Vanzant)

SATURDAY, JUNE 7TH

9:30 Survivor Contest Begins
10:00 Horseshoe Tournament - City Park
($5 Single $15 Doubles - 50%-Payback on both)
10:00 Vendors Open
12:00 Story Book Line-up
12:30 Story Book Parade
1:30 Parade Line-up
2:00 Citizen and Teacher Awards
Cloggers
3:00 Parade
4:00 Baby Contest
Survivor Competition Awards
6:40 Queen Coronation
7:00 Auction
8:00 Just In Time - By the Bank
(Paul Rice, Charles Fields, Tom Bentley, Jerry Petrey and Vickie Petrey)

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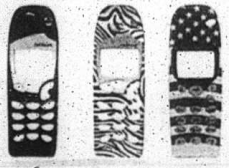

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