

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.

Crop Insurance Linkage

In 1994, the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1949 was amended to add the requirement that persons must purchase an amount of catastrophic insurance (FCIC) coverage that equals or exceeds the minimal required to be eligible for price support under that tobacco program.

Subsequent legislation repealed this requirement for tobacco. There-

fore, FCIC crop insurance is NOT an eligibility for price support on tobacco.

2003-04 Marketing Year Penalty Rates for Excess Tobacco

On May 27, 2003, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced the penalty rates that will be charged to producers, dealers, receiving station officials and warehouse operators for marketing excess tobacco (tobacco above the 103% quota) during the 2003-2004 marketing year.

The law requires that USDA collect these penalties. The penalty rate is 75% of the average market price for that kind of tobacco for the pre-

vious year. This statutory provision applies to every kind of tobacco subject to marketing quotas. When the average market price for each kind of tobacco are determined and announced, the penalty rates are then calculated. For burley tobacco, the penalty rate for 2003-2004 marketing year is \$1.48.

Further program information is available by e-mail at: misty.jones@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

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 Extended

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 stated the CRP sign-up-26 from May 5 to May 30, 2003 has

been extended to June 13, 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 operated 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 of 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 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 tolerance 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.

Important Program Dates

June 13, 2003 - Deadline to sign up for CRP sign-up #26

July 1, 2003 - Deadline to sign tobacco leases and/or sales and purchase

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

Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) Program sign-up continues

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program sign-up continues

Conservation Reserve Program sign-up continues

Library News

Our Summer Reading sign-up is going great! You still have time to sign-up! We are so pleased to let you know that more adults have signed up for Summer Reading this year! Bookmobile patrons sign up with Ms. Pam Chaffin on the bookmobile. You do not have to be present at the activities to participate! We are also planning some special scrapbooking classes for the adults. Hazel Jackson from the County Extension Office has agreed to come and teach the scrapbooking classes which will be at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, June 18th and 25th and Monday June 30th. Supplies will be furnished. If you are interested, stop by the library and register so we will have some idea of how many will be attending these classes.

June 9th everyone will begin filling out reading logs! Incentives will be given as you read. Watch The Signal each week for scheduling of events. Next Tuesday, June 10th, Ms. Brenda Saylor from the County Extension office will be on hand during story hour to make a special snack

with the story hour children and parents at 1 p.m. At 3:30, the Intermediate craft time will be focused on constructing and painting a community puppet theatre, also refreshments will be served!

There are several book titles that have been added to the children's and young adult collection. Juvenile fiction books added are as follows: *Crispin: the Cross of Leadby Avi, A Corner of the University by Ann M. Martin, the Princess Diaries Volume III and IV by Meg Cabot, Haunted by Meg Cabot, Surviving the Applewhites by Stephanie Tolan, Pictures of Hollis Woods Patricia Reilly Giff, The Silence Boy by Lois Lowry, Artemis Fowl: the eternal code by Eoin Colfer and King Mac by Dick King-Smith. The most recent Buscar Children, Josie & James and New Adventures of Mary-Kate and Ashley are ready for checkout. Several easy readers have been added as well. We hope you will come on down to the library and check out what we have. Connect @ your library!*

Summer Reading 2003 Reading Expedition

Hosted by: Rockcastle County Public Library and Bookmobile
Summer Reading 2003: June 9th - (July 5th-run in reading log)

Scheduled Programming:

Story Hour: Every Tuesday at 1:00 p.m.
Intermediate Crafts: Every Tuesday at 3:30 p.m.
June 10th at 1:00 p.m. Brenda Saylor will be on hand to make a special snack with the story hour children and parents.
June 18th, 25th, and 30th Hazel Jackson will be teaching a scrapbooking class, register at the library. Make a mini album for your photos! Supplies will be furnished!
June 19th at 4:00 p.m. Storybook Chantiqua Presentations, by Rockcastle County High School students and graduates; draw prizes, drawing for bonnet, and refreshments will be served.
June 26th at 4:00 p.m. Live Animal Show!
July 8th at 1:00 p.m. Closing Program with Ronald McDonald, pizza party, drawing for Handmade basket, prizes awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in each age category. Goodie bags for all the children!

Watch the "Signal" for any updates or changes in scheduling.

There may be more!!!!!!!

If you have any questions call 256-2388

Rockcastle County Library
60 Ford Drive
Mt. Vernon, KY 40456

SRP IS FOR EVERYONE!



Summer Reading Kick-off!

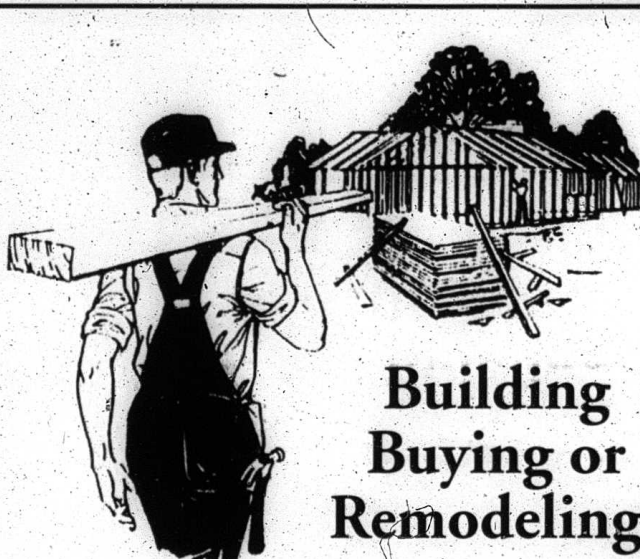
Event: Tuesday June 10th at 1:00 p.m.

*Story Hour with Brenda Saylor from the County Extension Office. We will be making a special snack with the children and parents.

*We will also do a little something for Father's Day during this story hour!

*Intermediate Craft at 3:30 p.m.

Constructing and painting a community puppet theatre! Special refreshments!



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