

Agricultural News

By: Warden Alexander, FSA Director

Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) ends August 8th

Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman announced the first sign-up for the Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) began nationwide on June 30, 2003 and ends August 8, 2003.

NRCS, FSA and the Forest Service are coordinating implementation of GRP, which helps landowners restore and protect grasslands, range-land, pastureland, shrub land and certain other lands and provides assistance for rehabilitating grasslands. GRP offers producers several enrollment options, permanent easements, 30 year easements, rental agreements

(10, 15, 20 or 30 year duration) and restoration agreements. USDA makes a payment based on the fair market value of the property, less the grazing value.

To participate in GRP, offers must be private land that includes at least 40 acres contiguously. For more information about GRP, contact your local USDA Service Center or Website: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmbill/2002>

Continuing 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-tolerant 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.

Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP)

Producers whose signatures are received after June 1, 2003 and before September 30, 2003 for DCP requests will be considered late filed. The late fee is \$100. The fee is assessed per year and farm.

Crop Disaster Program

On February 20, 2003, the Agricultural Assistance Act of 2003 (the ACT) was signed into law. The ACT provides for Crop Disaster Program (CDP) for losses because of weather-related disasters to agricultural commodities in crop year 2001 and 2002.

Producers filing for losses must provide production evidence or records to substantiate the 35% loss of the crop. Tobacco and pasture are not eligible under CDP. Producers receiving payments on losses must purchase insurance to cover losses for crop years 2004 and 2005.

No deadline for sign-up has been announced.

For more information, contact your local FSA office.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

The FSA office has Farm Storage Facility Loans available to producers who have a need for increased storage. In order to be eligible, a producer must have a satisfactory credit history, have no delinquent federal debt, be a producer of facility loan commodities such as corn, soybeans or wheat, demonstrate the ability to repay the debt and be in compliance with USDA provisions for highly erodible land and wetlands.

Farm Changes

Producers who have purchased or sold land should inform the FSA office of the change. A copy of the deed or land contract sales is required to update FSA records with correct ownership. Producers are also reminded to inform the FSA office of any change of address.

Disaster Lending

Farmers who suffer a burley, tobacco disaster, loss must file a claim with FSA prior to harvest to retain eligibility to lease quota away under the disaster lease provisions. The disaster lease provision was implemented to provide relief to

producers that suffer a disaster loss and are unable to produce and market the farm's effective quota. To be eligible to disaster lease and transfer, the transferring farm must file a crop acreage report, file the FSA-594 Disaster Credit Request, have planted sufficient acreage to produce the farm's effective quota, provide a measurement fee, suffered more than a 20% loss and meet all price support eligibility requirements. If determined eligible for disaster leasing, the measurement fee

will be refunded to the producer.

Remember, if you are a producer whose tobacco is suffering from poor weather conditions, black shank, late mold, root disease, etc. come to the FSA office and file under the disaster provisions PRIOR TO HARVEST.

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, April 8th between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

The FSA office is located on U.S. Hwy. 150. The main RD office is located in Richmond at 2150 Lexington Rd. Suite C and the phone number is 859-624-1990, ext. 4.

County Committee Monthly Meeting

The Rockcastle County Farm Service Committee (COC) will hold monthly meetings 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 Thurs., August 14, 2003.

The COC members are vital to the day-to-day operations of FSA. The COC members help FSA at the local level by deciding the kind of programs their counties will have and they will operate. FSA committee operate within official regulations designed to carry out Federal laws and applying their judgement and knowledge to make decisions.

Important Program Dates

Grassland Reserve Program sign-up ends August 8, 2003
Crop Disaster Program (CDP) sign-up began June 6, 2003
Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) Program sign-up continues
Farm Storage Facility Loan Program sign-up continues
Conservation Reserve Program sign-up continues

"Points East"

(Cont. from A2)

favorite destination and the best tour bargain in Kentucky, and they'd just as soon I didn't tout it too loudly because they like to keep it to themselves.

Ha Ha Ha. Guess where I'm going to be the first weekend in October. I didn't have to be told about the old school that has been turned into a bed and breakfast inn, or the coal miners museum, or the fact that a drive through Benham and Lynch is the best preserved and remarkably still functional example of coal camp life in existence. I didn't need to be told about the architecture of remarkable old buildings that still stand and that history has been captured in real life here. They are part of my life.

But I didn't know about the Swappet Meats, however long it's been going on these last 40 years until just recently. It's a weekend long affair with dozens of local craft presentations—not just for sale but how to make them, lots of music, locally prepared food, and even a play staged at the college.

I'm sure most of the several local motels will soon be sold out, but it's worth finding a place to stay in nearby Harlan, Pineville, Whitesburg, KY or even Appalachia Virginia. Get out an Atlas and look up Cumberland KY and take it from there. Actually staying in Whitesburg you get to drive across Pine Mountain and that's a marvel in itself. You can still, at this writing, get an excellent, preferred room and meal reservations at the Old Benham School Inn (1-800-231-0627) but those are not going to last long in my estimation. However, the proprietors will be glad to steer you on to other accommodation.

commodities if they are booked up. In the meantime, put the first weekend of October on your list of things to do and join me and many more folks in Harlan County to experience and appreciate one of eastern Kentucky's best kept secrets.

"Letters"

(Cont. from A2)

Dear Editor,

I am very glad to see a man of truth and character, Ernie Fletcher, running for Governor of Kentucky. I believe he will be the best leader this Commonwealth has had since Louise Nunn. If I counted correctly, we have had seven most inept Democrats in charge in Frankfort in the past 3.5 decades. I hope this will come to an end on election day. Certainly, Ben Chandler is nothing like his late grandfather, A.B. "Happy" Chandler. If he gets elected, the soap opera in our capital will sadly continue.

Can we (the state) stomach or survive this kind of leadership another four years? Kentucky is behind in many areas such as jobs, education and respectability. Without the Democratic strongholds of Louisville and Lexington, the Democratic Party wouldn't have had the top office all these years anyway.

The rest of the state sees these former governors for what they really are and were. It reminds me of the song title, "Renegades, Rebels and Rogues." If not for the leadership of good men like Danny Ford and Hal Rogers over the past two decades, Rockcastle County and this area would have been in total poverty.

Good luck, Mr. Fletcher. Thanks for giving us a reason to hope for a better future.

Sincerely,
Don Howard

Now Open Mt. Vernon Chiropractic and Pain Center

Dr. Meyer does not only provide exceptional care for patients who suffer from back and neck pain, he also can help many conditions that cause pain and discomfort to various parts of the body. Such as:



Dr. Max Meyer

Stop in or call for an appointment with Dr. Meyer at

606-256-1986.

Walk-Ins Welcome. After hour appointments available.

Open Monday - Wednesday - Friday 9 a.m. to 12:30 and 3 to 6 p.m.

Tuesday 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. (Late Day) - Thursday 8 a.m. to Noon (Early Day)

Saturday - By Appointment Only

We file all insurance for you. Medicare/Medicaid provider.

All Auto-Accidents & Workmen's Comp injuries covered at 100%.

70 School Street • Mt. Vernon (Former KU Bldg.)

606-256-1986

SHEPHERD SUZUKI

Service • Savings • Satisfaction

Monday Friday 9:00 to 8:00

Saturday 9:00 - 5:00

EXIT 87 off the
EKY By-pass

SHEPHERD
SUZUKI

AERIO 2003



0% Financing or \$2000 Cash Back!!!
On All Remaining NEW 2003 In Stock!!!

NEW 2003 SUZUKI AERIO

Auto, Air, CD, Dual Air Bags

7 year/100,000 Mile Warranty!!!

\$199.00 per month

NOT A LEASE! 72 months @ 0% APR W.A.C. Tax & Lic. not included.

SHEPHERD SUZUKI CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED

CARFAX
VEHICLE HISTORY REPORTS

TOO
MUCH
AGAIN

WE GUARANTEE ALL OUR PRICES ARE WELL BELOW KELLY BLUE BOOK!

2002 BUICK CENTURY



Auto, air, tilt, cruise, cash, per winds, per locks, per seats, V-6, remaining factory warranty!
Kelly Blue Book \$13,585
SHEPHERD SUZUKI'S PRICE
\$10995.00

2000 DODGE AVENGER



Auto, air, tilt, cruise, cash, per winds, per locks, V-6, per sunroof, alum wheels, 200 miles, apv.
Kelly Blue Book \$12,279
SHEPHERD SUZUKI'S PRICE
\$9995.00

2002 SUZUKI ESTEEM



Auto, air, cash, air bags, 10K miles, remaining factory warranty!
Kelly Blue Book \$9,585
SHEPHERD SUZUKI'S PRICE
\$7995.00

2001 CHEVROLET CAVALIER



Auto, air, CD, air bags, one owner, local trade, 47K miles, remaining factory warranty!
Kelly Blue Book \$9,225
SHEPHERD SUZUKI'S PRICE
\$7995.00

2001 TOYOTA CAMRY LE



Auto, air, tilt, cruise, cash, per winds, per locks, remaining factory warranty!
Kelly Blue Book \$14,679
SHEPHERD SUZUKI'S PRICE
\$12995.00

2001 BUICK REGAL LS



Auto, air, tilt, cruise, cash, per winds, per locks, per seats, locally new, local trade!
Kelly Blue Book \$12,850
SHEPHERD SUZUKI'S PRICE
\$11995.00

1999 FORD EXPLORER XLT 4x4



Auto, air, tilt, cruise, cash, per winds, per locks, per seats, per sunroof, local trade, 40K miles, excellent condition, local trade!
Kelly Blue Book \$14,849
SHEPHERD SUZUKI'S PRICE
\$12995.00

2000 GMC SONOMA X-CAB 4x4



Auto, air, tilt, cruise, cash, per winds, per locks, 4.3 V-6, bed liner, alum wheels
Kelly Blue Book \$16,229
SHEPHERD SUZUKI'S PRICE
\$13995.00

2002 SUZUKI GR. VIATRA 4x4



Auto, air, tilt, cruise, cash, per winds, per locks, V-6, remaining factory warranty!
Kelly Blue Book \$14,629
SHEPHERD SUZUKI'S PRICE
\$12995.00

2000 TOYOTA MR2 SPIDER (conv)



3 spd, air, cash, per winds, per locks, alum wheels, low miles, hard to find!
Kelly Blue Book \$16,879
SHEPHERD SUZUKI'S PRICE
\$14995.00

2000 FORD RANGER X-CAB 4x4



Auto, air, tilt, cruise, cash, per winds, per locks, bed liner, alum wheels, V-6 engine, 40K miles, excellent condition, local trade!
Kelly Blue Book \$16,379
SHEPHERD SUZUKI'S PRICE
\$13995.00

1997 GMC X-CAB SONOMA



Auto, air, cash, bed liner, alum wheels, 4.3 V-6, 43K miles, excellent condition, local trade!
Kelly Blue Book \$9,249
SHEPHERD SUZUKI'S PRICE
\$7995.00