

Agricultural News

By Warden Alexander, FSA Director

Kentucky Tobacco Settlement

Kentucky Tobacco Settlement, for the Phase II monies, which have been mailed to producers this week, are to be completed and returned postmarked no later than September 19, 2003 with all necessary social security numbers and signatures. Tenants are not required to sign forms as their information will be pulled from FSA records.

FSA personnel will assist producers in the completion of these forms. If you have questions, please call 1-877-549-2337.

Disaster Leasing

Farmers who suffer a burley tobacco disaster must file a report 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, the transferring farm must file a crop acreage report, file the effective quota, provide a measurement fee, have 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 by the producer.

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

Poet's Corner

A poem written by the late Bill Hale about Rockcastle County and submitted by Betty Baker

Rockcastle County in many ways,
Is the same as it was in olden days.
We still have our mountains, rocks
and hills,
And some people, who're still tak-
ing pills.

Knife Swappers Corner is still on the
map,
They joke all day and then take a nap.
From delight to sundown they sit
on the square,
And search through the crowd to see
who's not there.

They whistle small shavings and talk
of old days,
Way back in the 30's when life had
no praise,
And still, in appearance, the county's
not changed.

Around the same statue, our
countryside's hinged,
The same pretty mountains, the same
pretty trees,
The same Sunday mornings with
folks on their knees.

Yes, our country is beautiful and our
people stand tall.
So let's keep our friendship and not
let it fall.

For friendship's much greater than
our doctor's pills.
Especially, down here in our
Rockcastle hills.

Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP)

For a commodity to be eligible for a loan or a loan deficiency payment (LDP), the producer must have been eligible for the commodity in addition to other eligibility requirements.

For LDPs, the producer must retain beneficial interest in the commodity eligible from the time of harvest through the date the LDP is requested. For loans, the producer must retain beneficial interest in the commodity from the time of harvest through the date the loan is redeemed or Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) takes title to the commodity.

Changes to the 2002 Farm Bill permit all producers to be eligible regardless if the farm is participating.

For commodities immediately fed during harvest, the producer must complete a CCC-709, Part E within 60 calendar days after the date of harvest.

Commodities must be mechanically harvested. Grazing is not considered harvested and is not eligible for LDP.

All loans or LDPs requested shall be subject to a determination by CCC of such producers eligibility to receive a loan or an LDP, based on a review of any option to purchase or sales contract involving the commodity.

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.

Burley Tobacco Pesticide Information

As a condition of eligibility for receiving price support, all pesticide products (including plant regulators, defoliant and desiccants) used in connection with the production of burley tobacco, must be approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for use on tobacco and that such pesticide products must be applied in accordance with label directions.

For purposes of the pesticide certification program, the term "pesticide" means "any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling or mitigating any pest, and any substance or mixture of substances intended for use as a plant regulator, defoliant or desiccant."

Action to withhold price support on tobacco treated with nonapproved EPA pesticides or when pesticides are not used in accordance with Label directions, was made necessary because their use threatens the domestic and export markets for tobacco.

Samples of tobacco crops will be taken and chemically analyzed to determine whether nonapproved pesticides were used on the crop or pesticides were not applied in accordance with label directions.

dance with label directions.

The County Extension Office can furnish information about acceptable pesticides for use on tobacco.

County Committee Candidates

Rockcastle County Farm Service Agency is accepting nominations for 2003 County Committee elections. Nominations forms can be obtained from your FSA County Office and should be submitted by September 5, 2003.

If you or someone you know has an interest in providing guidance on federal farm program issues - impacting local farmers and ranchers - then the Rockcastle County FSA wants your nomination.

All landowners, operators and tenants of legal voting age are eligible to serve on FSA County Committees and vote in these elections.

Hurry in and submit your nomination TODAY!

For more information, contact your local FSA at 606-258-2525.

Farm Service Agency is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

Important Program Dates

Grassland Reserve Program sign-up ends August 8, 2003

Crop Disaster Program (CDP) sign-up begins June 6, 2003.

Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) Program sign-up 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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