

Agricultural News

By Warden Alexander, FSA Director

December 1st deadline to vote

Rockcastle County Committee election ballots were mailed to producers for voting in LAA #2 on November 18, 2003. Warden Alexander, CED for Rockcastle County, today returns to all farmers on that date, 2003 is the deadline to return voted ballots to FSA.

Producers who wish to vote and did not receive a ballot may request a ballot from the FSA office.

Voters are farmers located in the Rockcastle County area of LAA #2 which is the southeastern area of Rockcastle County bound by Pulaski and Laurel County Highway boundaries are Hwy 70, Hwy 150 and Hwy 25.

The county committees are a direct link between FSA and the agricultural community in which they serve. All eligible producers are strongly encouraged to participate in the election process and cast their vote by December 1, 2003.

Marketing

Producers which have sold all tobacco for the current year are reminded to return the marketing card back to the FSA office. The 2004 is a burley referendum year and cards are needed in the county office as sales are final. Also, this avoids producers misplacing the card.

Remember, when returning the marketing card, if you are a producer who has purchased a tobacco quota in the past 3 years you must furnish the FSA office a sales bill reflecting the monies allocated to each producer along with any expenses (fertilizer, lime, chemicals, etc.).

Warehouse designation

As a condition of price support of burley tobacco producers are required to inform FSA of the warehouse where they will market tobacco. This is required by completing the form FSA-808, Warehouse Designation, to indicate where the tobacco will be sold. Initial designation ended August 1st.

After the initial designation period ends producers will be limited to designate for the farm to any day during the following regular re-designation period December 1-December 5, 2003 with the marketing card being effective December 15, 2003.

The warehouse number will be indicated with a number on the marketing card. Therefore, if a producer decides to market at a warehouse other than the one specified on the card, the producer must return the card to the FSA office in a specific time period to request another marketing card.

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 31st.

Sign-up for 2004 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program

Warden Alexander, County Executive Director, of Rockcastle County Farm Service Agency wishes to inform producers that the enrollment for the 2004 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) begins October 1, 2003 beginning the second year of successful implementation of the 2002 Farm Bill.

Producers must sign DCP contracts annually beginning with the 2003 crop year, which is a change from Production Flexibility Contract requirements under the previous farm legislation.

Producers have until June 1, 2004 to enroll for the 2004 DCP. Producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. Counter-cyclical payment rates, on the other hand, vary depending on market prices.

For sign-up and payment dates contact FSA.

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

"Court"

(Cont. from B2)

Possession/own alcohol beverage container in motor vehicle, \$50 fine.

Regina Zachary: Speeding, license suspended for failure to appear.

Michael A. Sutton: Alcohol intoxication, \$50 fine and costs; Disorderly conduct, 30 days in jail conditionally discharged two years; concurrent and payment of fine and costs; Possession of controlled substance, forfeit and destroy any contraband; Criminal mischief, 30 days in jail conditionally discharged two years/\$100 restitution; Operating on suspended/revoked operators license, \$100 fine and costs; No/expired Ky. registration receipt, \$25 fine; Improper registration, \$25 fine.

update FSA records with correct ownership information.

Producers are also reminded to inform the FSA office of any change of address.

Office Closure

Rockcastle County Service Center offices of FSA and NRCS will be closed Thursday, November 27, 2003-in observance of Thanksgiving Day. The offices will reopen Friday, November 28, 2003 at 7:30 A.M.

County committee meeting

The Rockcastle County Farm Service Agency (COC) will hold their monthly meetings open to the public the first Thursday of each month beginning at 8:00 a.m. The meeting will be at the Rockcastle County Farm Service Agency located in the USDA Service Center on Hwy. 150 in Mt. Vernon. Due to counting the COC ballots, the next meeting has been scheduled for Friday, December 5, 2003. Also, on this date, we will be counting the returned COC ballots.

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 county will have and how they will operate. FSA committees 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. Due November 11th being a National Holiday, RD will not visit Rockcastle County until December 9, 2003.

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

Important program dates

Return marketing cards when sales are final

Deadline to return voted ballots to FSA-December 1, 2003

Warehouse Re-designation sign-up December 1-5, 2003

Grassland Reserve Program applications being accepted for 2004

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

Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) Program-signup continues

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program-signup continues

Conservation Reserve Program-signup continues

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or family status. (Not all prohibited basis apply to all programs) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's Target Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). 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.

Two churches from Louisville complete a mission trip at Christ's Outreach for the Blind

On October 10th, fourteen volunteers from Louisville, KY, arrived at Christ's Outreach for the Blind eager and ready to work. The group was made up of members from Saint Matthew's Baptist Church and Saint Paul's Baptist Church. In addition, Bob Coffey of Scaffold Care, a member of First Baptist Church of Mt. Vernon, participated on Friday.

The weather was beautiful for a fall day, so most of the work was done outside. During the weekend, one of the major projects was creating flower beds in front of the Outreach Building. On Friday, Bob Coffey roto-filled the ground while the ladies of the group planted hundreds of lilies. The lilies were donated through the Christian Appalachian Project's (CAP) Operation Sharing Program.

Reducing the risk of Hepatitis A through proper handling of produce

Kentucky public health officials continue to closely monitor a recent hepatitis A outbreak, which appears to be associated with eating raw or lightly cooked green onions (scallions) in at least two commercial restaurant chains located in Pennsylvania.

In light of these recent outbreaks, the Kentucky Department for Public Health's Food Safety Branch is taking the opportunity to provide consumers with some general information regarding hepatitis A and guidelines for ensuring the safety of raw produce and vegetables prepared at restaurants or consumed in the restaurant setting.

Hepatitis A is a liver disease that usually develops within six weeks of an exposure. In healthy individuals, Hepatitis A is a usually mild disease characterized by jaundice (yellow discoloration of the skin), fatigue, abdominal pain, loss of appetite, nausea, diarrhea, and fever.

Those with a compromised immune system, including the elderly, young children, pregnant women, or organ transplant recipients, and individuals taking medications may be at risk of experiencing more severe symptoms.

The disease is typically spread by an infected person who does not properly wash his or her hands before handling ready-to-eat foods, such as fruits and vegetables. Hepatitis A and other foodborne illnesses can also be spread by fruits and vegetables that have come in contact with contaminated water or soil.

Because of the high temperatures involved, properly cooked foods are of less risk in the transmission of hepatitis A. Cooking minimizes the risk of illness by reducing or eliminating the virus or other pathogens. Contaminated foods that do not undergo cooking, or those that are lightly cooked, such as fruits and vegetables, are often at greater risk of transmitting hepatitis A.

"It's important to remember how Mother Nature designed these foods," said Anita Truesdell, manager of the Food Safety Branch. "These are foods that are typically grown outdoors and, in the case of produce, in the soil."

Consequently, "this environment offers an ideal setting for contamination by a number of foodborne pathogens, including hepatitis A."

Other volunteers could be found in and around the Outreach Building busying themselves. Many of the participants repaired the outside window and door frames. Still others aided in setting toilets in the remaining bathrooms. Yet, many of the men worked in the woods clearing trails.

When asked about the work camp experience, Fred Johnson of St. Paul's Baptist Church responded, "Being from the city, it was a delightful change to be in the open air and to do physical work with fellow believers from St. Matthew's."

If you would like to learn more about Christ's Outreach for the Blind and its mission opportunities, please contact Mike Gates at 806-256-8888 or visit our website at www.blind19.com.

Additionally, given the globalization of our food supply, long-distance transportation offers another avenue for possible product contamination, Travis said.

The Food Safety Branch offers the following suggestions for minimizing microbial contamination on fresh fruits and vegetables:

- Consumers should thoroughly scrub and rinse the outside of all produce before cutting or slicing. In the case of lettuce and other leafy produce items, the outer leaves should be discarded. Remember, particularly if the food will not be cooked, the combination of scrubbing and water under pressure will reduce the number of pathogens that might be on the product.

- Proper hand washing remains one of the most effective tools in the prevention of foodborne illness. Food contamination by unclean hands is a common cause of foodborne illness. Persons preparing food should always thoroughly wash their hands (brisk scrubbing and rinsing for at least 20 seconds under warm water) before preparing ready-to-eat foods, including fruits and vegetables. Hands should be washed after using the restroom, after handling uncooked meat, poultry or fish, and after any other activity that contaminates the hands.

- If stored in the refrigerator, fresh fruits and vegetables should be stored in a manner that prevents contamination from the juices of raw meat, poultry and fish. Cleaned fruits and vegetables should not be stored with fruits and vegetables that have not been washed.

- Produce should not be cut on the same cutting board or cutting surfaces as raw meat, poultry or fish. A separate cutting board or surface should be used for clean, rinsed fresh fruits and vegetables.

Persons who are experiencing symptoms that could be hepatitis A should consult their health care providers or their local health department.

note
for quality Child Care
call COUNTRY CARE
859-4105
www.countrycare.org



St. Paul's group Ernest McGaha, Fred Johnson, Jose Lambert, Willie Thompson and Chester Watkins teamed up with St. Matthew. Both churches are from Louisville. St. Matthew's group included Orion and Barbara Bell, Janice and George Dunn, Allen and Linda Durand, Eleanor Bowers, Alice Seymour and James Leeper.



Linda Durand, Eleanor Bowers, Alice Seymour, Barbara Bell and Janice Dunn worked forever on planting bulbs. They are from St. Paul's of Louisville.



Working on the landscape are Jose Lambert and Chester Watkins.

"IT IS WRITTEN"

In 2 Tim 4:2-4 we read, "Preach the word, be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." Notice we have people who have itching ears - They don't want sound doctrine, the truth, they want someone to tickle their ears. They want teachers to teach things that will "please" them, thus the idea of "Pleasure Doctrines." Preachers are to preach the word; being instant in season, out of season. Which someone has said, preach when they like, and preach it when they don't like it! You are not going to help a man having a heart attack by giving him a bottle of placebos, and tell him to go home, you will feel good as new tomorrow. Yet, false teachers are telling folks who are spiritually and spiritually sick, all kinds of erroneous doctrines to please itching ears. Folks don't want to hear repentance, change your ways, clean up your life, when they are wanting to continue in their sins. No, no, it's a "Pleasure Doctrine" to please our itching ears. We want to hear smooth words, that will please us. Beloved, we should be striving to please the Almighty, not ourselves! The word of truth is what we really need, to bring about spiritual health, sound doctrine. The word sound means, whole, healthy. I want the truth that will make me whole and healthy. I know sometimes medicine tastes bad and applying medicine to a wound, makes it sting, but it's the only kind that will help.

Providence church of Christ

Dan McKibben-758-9316 - E-mail: Dan.McKibben@juno.com

Web Site: www.WhatSaiTheScriptures.com

Time of Services: Sunday 10am Bible Study, Worship 10:40 & 6:00pm; Wednesday 7:00pm Radio program, Sunday 8am, 1460 AM

KENTUCKY MUSIC HALL OF FAME & MUSEUM

presents

Ricky Skaggs
& Kentucky Thunder
in Concert

Renfro Valley, Kentucky

February 20, 2004, at 8:00pm

Tickets on sale TODAY

The concert will follow the 2004 Kentucky Music Hall of Fame Induction & Awards ceremony that will be held on February 19, 2004, at the Civic Center in Frankfort, Kentucky. Tickets are available for this event as well. The 2004 Hall of Fame Inductees are Ricky Skaggs, Jerry Chesnut, The Coon Creek Girls, Howard & Vestal Goodman, Boots Randolph, J.D. Crowe & Billy Vaughn. For more information on the concert and induction ceremony, call 1-877-356-3263.

www.KyMusicHallOfFame.com