

Agricultural News

By: Warden Alexander, FSA Director

Deadline to vote extended

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 wishes to notify all farmers that the deadline to return voted ballots to FSA has been extended until December 15, 2003.

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, bounded 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 15, 2003.

Crop disaster

Jeffrey S. Hall, State Executive Director of the Farm Service Agency in Kentucky, wishes to take this time and opportunity to remind farmers that sign-up for the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) will end on January 30, 2004. CDP provides payments for producers who suffered 2001 or 2002 crop-year losses due to a natural disaster.

"FSA in Kentucky has issued over \$10 million in benefits under the Crop Disaster Program," said Hall. "All qualified farmers are encouraged to take advantage of this assistance."

Under CDP, producers are reimbursed for qualifying crop production and quality losses (other than sugar cane, sugar beets or tobacco) for either the 2001 or 2002 crop years. Payments are issued for losses exceeding 35 percent of expected pro-

duction at:

•50 percent of the established price for crops that were covered by crop insurance

•50 percent of the established price for crops for which crop insurance was unavailable; and

•45 percent of the established

price to producers for crops that could have been insured but were not.

Eligible producers who did not have crop insurance or Noninsured Crop Disaster

Assistance Program coverage during the year of the disaster must agree to purchase coverage for each of the next two crop years.

For more information on CDP and other USDA programs contact the local Farm Service Agency office or the FSA's web site at: <http://fsa.usda.gov/KY>.

Marketing cards

Producers which have sold all tobacco for the current year are reminded to return the marketing card back to the FSA office immediately.

2004 is a buy/sell 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 sale bill reflecting the monies allocated to each producer along with any expenses (fertilizer, lime, chemicals, etc.).

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.

Office closure
Rockcastle County FSA and NRCS offices will be closed: Thursday, December 25th for Christmas. Thursday, January 1st for New Year's. Important program dates.

Return marketing cards when sales are final

Deadline to return voted ballots to FSA-December 15, 2003

Grassland Reserve Program applications being accepted for 2004 funds

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

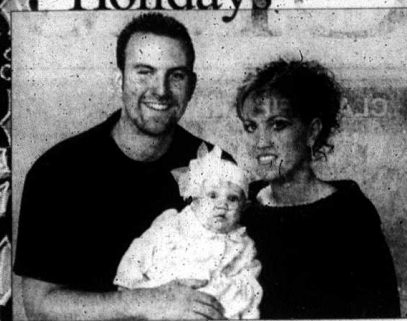
The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination

in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or familial 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.

Happy Holidays



From the Smith family and all the families at Jackson Energy, may the peace and joy of the season be yours.

JACKSON ENERGY
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

An Ordinance Amending the Comprehensive Personnel System for all Departments of the City of Mt. Vernon, as Adopted by Ordinance Number 2-97, as amended Ordinance #12-2003

Whereas, it is the intent of the City of Mt. Vernon to maintain a current and up-to-date personnel policy manual; and

Whereas, from time-to-time circumstances and issues coming before the City warrant a review of current policies, procedures and past decisions; and

Whereas, it is the desire of the City of Mt. Vernon to provide for the health, safety and welfare of its employees through the practice of equitable and reasonable policies.

Now, Therefore, be it ordained by the City of Mt. Vernon as follows:

A. The City's personnel policy manual shall be amended by the city council and may be amended or modified during the annual budget process or anytime during the fiscal year as circumstances may warrant (as amended by Ord. #12-2003).

Section Two: The amendments herein, upon passage, shall be typed in a format consistent with that contained in the personnel manual, Section 1.2 (Administration of the Plan) and inserted appropriately.

Section Three: Pursuant to Kentucky Revised Statute, Chapter 83A.060(7), an emergency is hereby declared. The emergency declaration suspends the requirement for a second reading of this ordinance. The emergency relates to timely submission of the necessary document to the health insurance carrier prior to December 31, 2003. Thus, enabling the City to provide uninterrupted health insurance benefits to its employees.

Section Four: This ordinance shall become effective upon passage and publication as required by law.

Adopted this 8th day of December, 2003.

/s/ Clarice R. Kirby

Date of Reading: 12/08/03



Hardin Gibbons, son of James and Mary Gibbons of Clintax, killed his first bull elk at Wilderness Hunting Lodge in Tennessee, Saturday, December 6th. It weighed 875 lbs. Hardin - We know you had the time of your life.



Stay Singleton killed this 14 point buck in Rockcastle County in November.

News deadline is Noon Tuesday

The Joy Of Giving US MARINE CORP. Toys For Tots

Place new toys in boxes
at local banks & merchants

Applications for toys available
at the Banner Office (West Main St.)
or the Circuit Court Clerk office
(County Courthouse annex 1st. floor)

Toy Store - Dec. 20
RCHS Lobby 9 - 3

For Information call
606-758-9296
or 606-256-9150



NOTICE Rockcastle County Schools Plan For Inclement Weather School Closings Early Dismissal

Every effort will be made to keep parents and concerned citizens informed as to school closings, early dismissals and possibly a delay plan.

The number one concern is the safety of students. After an extensive evaluation of road conditions in the county, taking into consideration all roads, a decision will be made in regard to closing school.

School closings will be announced on radio stations and three television stations. They are as follows: Radio - WRVK (AM 1460), WVLC (FM 93), WBUL (FM 98.1), WMXL (FM 94.5), WLAP (630 AM), WRSL (FM 96.3), WLKT (FM 104.5) WKQQ (FM 109.1) WKDP (99.5). Television - WKYT (Channel 27), WLEX (Channel 18), WTVQ (Channel 36). If possible, the closing will be announced the evening before the closing date. If a determination cannot be made the day prior to the closing date, every possible effort will be made to reach a decision by 6:00 a.m. The announcement will be made no later than 6:30 a.m. This will be conducted the same for the delay plan, if it is concluded the delay plan would be the appropriate plan of action.

Early dismissal of school due to inclement weather will be announced on WRVK. Roads will be closely monitored as school is in session to determine if there is a need for early dismissal. If the need for early dismissal does occur, parents should make arrangements to meet children as they arrive safely.

Parents and students should not call any radio or television stations to inquire about school closings. This could delay the information distribution to the necessary channel by tying up the phone lines.

There may be a time when a few isolated bus routes may not be made or may be delayed while the rest of the bus routes will be made on the regular schedule. These bus routes will be announced only on WRVK radio station.