Agricultural News

By: Warden Alexander, FSA Director

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 burley referendum year and cards are needed in the county office as sales are final. Also, this avoids producers misplacing the card.

Remember, when retuning 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 (fertilize, lime, chemicals, etc.)

Crop Disasters

Jeffery 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 production 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.

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.

Spousal Signature

Spouses may sign on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written denial is on file in the FSA office.

Office Closure

Rockcastle County FSA and NRCS offices will be closed: Thursday, December 25th for Christmas Thursday, January 1st for New Years

Important Program Dates

Return marketing cards when sales are final

Grassland Reserve Program applications being accepted for 2004 funds

Crop Disaster Program (CDP) signup began June 6, 2003

Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) Program-signup continues

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program-signup continues

Conservation Reserve Program-signup continues

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Rockcastle County Attorney Jeffrey T. Burdette spoke to members of Jr. Girl Scout Troop 100 from Roundstone about the importance in voting and what voting means.

Posing with the County Attorney are members of Jr. Girl Scout Troop 100 from Roundstone, front row from left: Andrenna Lowery, Amber Lamb; Kelly Anderkin and Jaole Lewis. Second row from left: Hannah Eaton, Taylor Anderkin, Sarah Pigg, Savannah Lamb, Kelsey Jett and Kayla Knuckles. Back row from left: Jade Taylor, Kara Canterbury, Katelyn Blair, Miranda Harding, Mr. Burdette, Samantha Damrell and Cassie Taylor.

DAR News

The Rockcastle Chapter of the Daughters of American Revolution met at Sweet Betty's in Berea for their December meeting. Fourteen members and two guests were present. Chapter members were especially delighted that Mrs. Nancy Lambert Williams, the oldest member of the chapter, was able to attend this meeting.

Mrs. Laura Durham provided a Christmas progam which included a history of Christmas customs, poetry, and music. Everyone participated in the program by reading parts of "Christmas Around the World", the poem "Jest 'Fore Christmas, and singing both Christmas carols and secular songs. The group was then entertained by a medley of Christmas songs sung by Laura Durham and Holly Brown, the lovely granddaughter of Carolyn Gregory Brown. After the program the group enjoyed the buffet offered by Sweet Betty's.

No meeting will be held in January. The February meeting - Women's Health Issues by Lindsey Gabbard - will be held on the second Tuesday at First Christian Church.

News deadline is Noon Tuesday

Troop 100 from Roundstone posed at their booth during the Bittersweet Festival with County Judge Executive Buzz Carloftis.

Depression bipolar support group now open in Berea

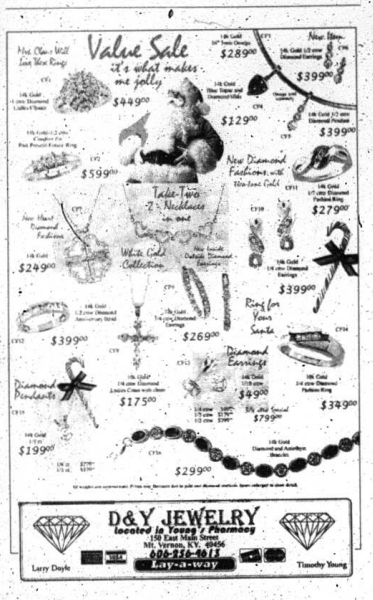
"We've Been There We Can Help"

It is the Christmas season, a time of "peace on earth and good will", yet there are some of us who are leading lives of quiet desperation. We may want to just stay in bed and sleep the day away. This is the face of depression. The winter months and holidays are harder for some people to cope with says Gail Livesay of Berea Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance.

The Berea DBSA is a newly formed depression and bipolar support group which is affiliated with DBSA of Chicago, IL, with over 1,000 chapters across the country. Gail said we do have professional advisors, but our support group is for the members and is peer run. It is free of charge and is open to the members and their friends and families.

"Belonging to a support group is a way of self-help because you talk to people that have been there and understand the problems you are dealing with. It helps you learn coping skills. Feeling low about yourselves is hard enough without the added sting of isolation. A support group cannot replace medicine or therapy, but it can help you on your road to recovery.

For more information please call Gail Livesay at 859-986-1952 (e-mail: BereaDBSAlliance@aol).



"How Much Is That Doggy In The Window?

Christmas Pups Available

For Sale - Livestock Protection Dogs

Italian: Maremma - Abruzzese

"Good with cows, sheep, goats, horses & kids"

Great Family Companion

Call Doug Brock

606-758-8621 Days or 606-256-3171 Nights

Parents are working dogs on Brock's North Hill farm