Agricultural News

By: Warden Alexander, FSA Director

Required Crop Reports

New legislation requires all farms with an effective quota greater than zero to report acreage planted to burley, including zero acres no later than July 16th. Reports filed after July 16th will be subject to a late file fee.

Marketing cards will NOT be issued without a crop report on file.

Farms with an effective burley quota that will not plant burley or lease quota from the farm MUST report a zero acreage for burley tobacco, or the farm will be subject to quota forfeiture for the applicable burley marketing quota next established for the farm, unless the State Committee and the County Committee determine that the reduction is not applicable.

We strongly urge producers to call 256-2525 ext. 100 and request an appointment.

Burley Tobacco Lease Date

Burley Tobacco Leasing will end on July 2, 2001. Any producer wishing to post their name to the Tobacco Lease In or Lease Out may contact the office in person or by calling 606-256-2525. Producers are reminded all signatures must be obtained and on file by July 2nd for the lease and transfer to be approved.

Loan Deficiency Payment

Producers who retain beneficial interest in a commodity eligible for a loan or a loan deficiency payment (LDP) are eligible for payment if all of the following remain with the producer:

- Control of the commodity
- Risk of loss
- Title of the commodity

FSA realizes that many farmers may begin feeding thus the loss of beneficial interest occurs. Anyone who has lost title, risk and or control of the 2001 crop, has lost beneficial interest and is currently not eligible for benefits.

One of the eligibility requirements for 2001 Loans and LDP's is the crop much have been produced on contract acreage (AMTA), exception to soybeans.

For further information on the LDP program contact the local FSA office.

Grazed 2001 Wheat, Barley, Oats (Graze-Out)

The Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 provides "LDP-like" payments on grazed acreages. Crop year 2001 producers of wheat, oats and barley on a farm with a production flexibil contract who graze the acreage will receive a payment under the same terms and conditions as a producer who harvests a crop and applies for a loan deficiency payment.

Graze-Out is available to producers who: are otherwise eligible for marketing assistance loans and LDP's producers enrolled in the Production Flexibility Program (PFC), graze 2001 crop acreage planted to wheat, barley or oats, do not harvest the same crop on the same acreage.

Applications for Graze-Out begins on the first day of mechanical harvest, May 14th as determined by COC and ends on August 31, 2001. Producers may file an application for Graze-Out anytime during this application period.

Regulations for Graze-out are available on the PSD home page at http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/psd

Employment Standards Administration

The Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (FLSA) as amended, set standards for child labor in agriculture. These standards differ from those for nonfarm jobs.

The FLSA covers employees whose work involves production of agricultural goods which will leave the state directly or indirectly and become part of interstate commerce.

Youth ages 15 and above may work in any farm job at any time.

Youths 14 and 15 may work outside school hours in jobs not declared as hazardous by the Secretary of Labor.

Youths 12 and 13 may work outside school hours in jobs not declared hazardous on farms that also employ their parents or with written parental consent.

Youths under 12 may work outside school hours in jobs not declared hazardous on farms where none of the employees are subject to the minimum wage requirements of FLSA.

Youths 10 and 11 may hand harvest short-season crops outside school hours for no more than eight weeks between June 1 and October 15 if their employers have obtained special waivers from the Secretary of Labor.

Youths of any age may work at any time in any job on a farm owned and operated by their parents.

Minors under 16 may not work in occupations declared hazardous by the Secretary of Labor.

Many states have laws setting standards for child labor in agriculture. When both state and federal child labor laws apply, the law setting the most stringent standard must be observed.

Publication is available for general information at the local FSA office and is not to be considered in the same light as official statement of position contained in the regulations. For more information visit the Wage-Hour website: http://www.dol.gov/dol/esa/public/whd_org.htm and or call the toll free information and help line, available 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in your time zone, 1-866-487-9243.

Dates to Remember

- CDP (Crop Disaster Program) began January 18th.
- Enrolling farm in PFC after reconstitution: 30 calendar days after FSA 476 notice.
- Requesting farm reconstitution for none PFC farms: July 2nd
- Tobacco Leasing: April 2nd through July 2nd.

Crop Reporting for row crops, hay and pasture by July 2nd.

- Crop Reporting: required for ALL burley tobacco farms by July 16th.
- Designating payment shares on PFC and meeting signature requirements- August 1st.
- Designating Burley Tobacco Warehouse for Marketing: June 1st through August 1st.

Give your self a gift: A Retirement Checkup

By: Hazel Jackson
County Extension Agent for Family and Consumer Science

We often see news stories about health and financial checkups around the first of the year. If you procrastinated the first half of this year, now is a good time to give yourself a gift--a retirement checkup to be sure your retirement plans still are on track.

Examine the financial resources you'll have at retirement such as work-related and personal retirement accounts, regular investment accounts, and Social Security. You probably receive a regular statement listing the balance in your employer retirement and personal investment accounts.

Don't forget to include the Social Security statement of expected benefits based on your work history. You can obtain this statement from several sources including Social Security Online (Official Web Site of the Social Security Administration) at http://www.ssa.gov or by calling 1-800-772-1213 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. (Eastern or Eastern Daylight Time) Monday through Friday, or by contacting your local Social Security office, which is listed in the Federal Government Services section of your local telephone book.

Think about your financial needs in retirement and how much you need to save each month, or annually, to meet these needs. One way to do this is to keep track of your monthly expenses now. Make adjustments for changes when you retire such as contributions to retirement accounts and work-related expenses. Internet sites and magazines articles are among the occasional providers of planners or calculators to help you determine if you can meet your financial needs in retirement. These include investment Web sites such as http://www.fool.com and http://www.troweprice and financial publication sites such as http://www.kiplinger.com and http://www.money.com and financial management sites such as http://www.quicken.com. Also check the special "retirement" issues of financial magazines such as "Money," and "Business Week," and other publications like "Family Money" and "Kiplinger's Retirement Report."

You might need to reallocate resources in your employer plans, Individual Retirement Account, or individual investment account to meet your retirement financial needs. Within each investment, you can move funds from one place to another to increase the return or change your investment level.

If you decide to make some changes in your retirement investments contact the benefits office or br r who manages your accounts to discuss the changes you want to make. To help you make informed decisions, resolve to become more investment literate. After all, you're the one who's ultimately in control of your future retirement funds.

Do an annual check-up on your retirement resources to determine if you need to re-allocate to remain on track for your retirement plan.

Several years before you plan to retire, review the types of investments in all your retirement accounts. As you move closer to retirement, you might want to change some of the portfolio to less volatile instruments to meet financial needs during retirement. You also need to become familiar with the disbursement options of employer retirement plans to help you plan retirement income. The four general options are to leave the money in place after you retire; take your full amount in cash; use an annuity to provide regular income for a specific period of time; or directly role over your plan into an IRA with no tax withholding, no tax penalties and few hassles. Be sure to check on any fees associated with these options and remember that whatever choice you choose, you must begin to take withdrawals when you reach 70 and one-half years of age.

Careful planning ahead of time will help you have a smooth and wise financial transition into retirement. Remember, whether you live the retirement of your dreams or of your nightmares will depend upon how well and far in advance you plan for it.

For more information, contact the Extension Service at 256-2403.

Golden Burley

By: Tom Mills
County Extension Agent for Agriculture/Natural Resources

Golden yellow burley tobacco is a natural occurrence farmers see each fall as the crop nears harvest. But what is causing Kentucky's number-one cash crop to turn yellow only a few weeks after transplanting?

Extension agents and specialists are seeing a very unusual yellowing of the tobacco bud in fields all across Kentucky. The yellowing is occurring in fields where chemical weed control was applied as well as those where no weed control was used. This unusual problem is occurring in many different locations throughout the state as well. Because of the wide occurrence, Extension tobacco specialist feel this is an environmental condition related to nearly two weeks of cold rainy and cloudy weather.

Why such and unusual occurrence? Some say that plants were not hardened off or conditioned to face the cold weather we have experienced recently. Plants have grown during one of the hottest springs on record, not to mention the 3rd driest spring on record. The unusual growing conditions, followed by cold nights and rainy, cloudy days, are being sited as the culprit.

What will happen from here with this years crop all depends on the degree to which the bud has been affected. Tobacco plant buds develop growth hormones just as all plants. These naturally occurring chemicals determine when plants set flower buds as well as controlling bud break or suckers.

Some plants have been conditioned to develop seed or what is called premature blooming. Farmers have seen this condition before to a small degree and know that yields are lowered. The degree to which premature blooming occurs may be much greater in 2001 as well as more wide spread.

Some plants will develop suckers. Farmers who have set float plants which experienced cold shock to the bud, know ground suckers will develop. Again, the degree to which suckers will develop on this years crop, will be controlled by bud damage.

Farmers are struggling with decisions on what to do. Recent heavy rains prevented field work for over two weeks. Replacement plants are in short supply and re-seeding green houses means setting tobacco in mid July. Unfortunately, with these factors at play, the only choice is to wait and see.

If further developments occur the Extension Service will keep farmers advised.