Agricultural News

By: Warden Alexander, FSA Director

County Committee Election Coming Soon

Coming August 1, 2001 the local FSA office will begin accepting nominations for the upcoming election to be held December 3, 2001.

Committee members are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA. They help run FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers who serve on committees help decide the kind of programs their counties will have and how they will run. They make FSA agricultural programs fit the needs of local producers.

Nomination forms must be received in the local FSA office by October 29th.

Non-Insurable Crops Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

Authority for NAP is the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 as amended by the Agricultural Risk Protection Act, 2000.

NAP was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to CAT insurance. Statue limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available and is produced for food or fiber. Thus, NAP excludes corn and tobacco.

Producers who wish to file an application for coverage are required to pay a $100 service fee per crop or an amount that is the lessor of $100 per crop per county or $300 per producer per county, but not to exceed a total of $900 per producer. The administrative service fee requirement is waived for limited resource producers. A limited resource produce is a produce with either of the following: an annual gross income of $20,000 or less derived from all sources, including income from a spouse or other members of the household, for each of the prior 2 years OR less than 25 acres aggregated for all crops, where a majority of the producer's annual gross income is derived from such farm or farms, but the producer's annual gross income from all farming operations does not exceed $20,000.

To qualify for assistance under NAP, production losses must be related to a natural disaster that causes catastrophic losses. A natural disaster is damaging weather, adverse natural occurrence, or a related condition which must occur before or during harvest.

Eligible producers must file in the FSA administrative office serving the county or counties where their acreage is located no later than the application closing date. For 2001 crops for which the coverage period could normally have began before or within 60 calendar days after publication of the regulation in Federal Register (FR), a producer must within 30 days after the publication of the FR: (1) submit a 2001 crop application and pay the applicable service fee (2) certify the 2000 crop year production for the crop if available.

Missed the Deadline??

New legislation required all farms with an effective quota greater than zero to file an initial designation of pounds to a specific warehouse, receiving station or dealer with which they intend to market their tobacco form FSA 808 by the deadline of August 1, 2001.

The next designation period for the 2001-2002 marketing season will begin October 1, 2001 and end on October 1, 2001.

Farmers are required to inform FSA of the warehouse number where they will market their tobacco. Please note the FSA 808 will indicate where the tobacco wil be sold. Therefore, if you decide to market at a warehouse other than the one specified on the marketing card, you must return that card to the FSA office and request another marketing card. Remember, the marketing cards are warehouse specific.

Disaster Leasing Eligibility

Some producers of burley tobacco may have suffered a loss in their tobacco crop due to the recent heavy rainfall. If this is your case and you feel you will be at least 20% short we want to recommend you file the FSA 574, Disaster Credit Request, which may enable farms to be eligible for disaster lease and transfer.

Producers who suffer a burley tobacco disaster loss must file FSA 574 immediately upon determination by the producer that production has been reduced by more than 20 percent in all cases. BEFORE THE CROP IS HARVESTED FROM THE FIELD. The producer filing the FSA 574 shall provide deposit to cover the cost of the farm visit. The deposit shall be kept by the County Office until the farm visit and eligibility is determined. The deposit shall be returned to the producer who is deteremined eligible.

Burley tobacco regulations list five eligibility conditions for Burley Tobacco Disaster Lease and Transfer (leases filed after July 1st due to a natural disaster). To be eligible the transferring farm must have: (1) FSA 578, Crop Acreage Report, on file certifying the planted acreage of tobacco for the current year. If the certification was not filed in a timely manner, a late fee will apply. (2) Planted an acreage sufficient to produce the farm's current effective quota. (3) Made reasonable and customary efforts to produce the effective farm marketing quota. (4) In the current year, expected production that is less than 80 percent of the farm's effective marketing quota because of a natural disaster. (5) Met all price support eligibility requirements.

2001 Phase II Compensation Plan

The 2001 Phase II Compensation Plan will be based on USDA-FSA records of quota ownership as of July 1, 2000. OR the final lease and transfer date as determined by USDA-FSA, and based on the number of quota pounds owned for crop year 2000.

Compensation for the growing farm and grower/tenant portion will be limited to those individuals who had a vested interest in tobacco production in 1998 and/or 1999 and/or 2000, and defined in previous compensation plans. Compensation from the Trust would be made only for the years in which an applicant had a vested interest in tobacco production, as described under previous compensation plans.

Application should be mailed to crop year 2000 farm operators on or about August 6-10 with the application deadline of September 15th.

UK College of Agriculture has a Phase II Payment Estimator software website at http://www.uky.edu/Agriculture/TobaccoEcon/settlement.html.

Producers who need help in the completion of these forms should contact the local County Extension Office or the Farm Service Agency.

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 flexibility 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.

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

The deadline for accepting applications for GRAZE-OUT is August 31, 2001.

Pesticide Recycling Program kicks off

The Rockcastle County Conservation District recently announced the 2001 kick-off for the Rinse and Return Plastic Container Recycling Program. They encourage all farmers, farm supply dealers and other pesticide users to participate in this exciting recycling program.

The Conservation District has scheduled collection dates and times for this year. The collection dates for Rockcastle will be September 6, 2001 at the USDA Service Center from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Individuals are encouraged to bring in their rinsed plastic pesticide containers where they will be inspected, run through a chipping machine and the material will be shipped to a facility to be reused in the manufacture of new pesticide containers.

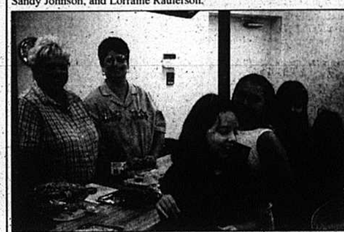
How to participate: (1) Triple rinse or pressure rinse all containers when emptied. Remember, it is best to rinse containers immediately after they are emptied. Some pesticide residues solidify quickly, and become difficult to remove from the container if left in the jug. (2) Dispose of the pesticide caps and remove sleeves and labels from containers. The pesticide caps are made of a different plastic material that cannot be currently recycled. (3) Bring all properly rinsed, five gallon or smaller, plastic containers to the listed collection sites on the dates and times specified for our county. Keep empty containers in a dry, secure place until the collection date. Each empty pesticide container returned will be inspected to ensure it has been properly rinsed. Unrinsed containers will NOT be accepted.

"Proper rinsing of pesticide containers is easy to do, saves money and helps protect the environment," says Sandy Whitaker, local coordinator of the Rockcastle County Container Recycling Committee. "Even during the busy season the few extra minutes it takes to rinse empty containers is time will spent."

The Rinse and Return program was started in 1990 to encourage farmers, retail farm supply dealers, and other pesticide users to recycle their properly rinsed plastic pesticide containers. Last year 87 Kentucky counties participated collecting over 95,000 pounds of plastic chips representing approximately 155,000 plastic containers.

The Rinse and Return Plastic Pesticide Container Recycling Program is a cooperative project between Rockcastle County Conservation District, the Kentucky Fertilizer and Agricultural Chemical Association, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture Division of Pesticides, the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation, and the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service.

Pictured above are children and adults who participated in a quilting class at the Extension office on July 24-26. With the assistance of an adult, each child constructed a quilt top and a pillow cover. Participants were, front row from left: Callie Northern, Andrea Wynn, Pamela Johnson, and Rachel Hopkins. Back row from left: Janet Northern, Phyllis McGuire, Sandy Johnson, and Lorraine Raulerson.



During youth quilting classes held at the Extension office, the children participated in an international foods class at lunchtime. The classes were taught by Brenda Saylor and Patsy Morgan, Nutrition Assistants. The children learned about Mexico, Italy and Japan, and helped prepare food from each country.