

Agricultural News

By: Warden Alexander, FSA Director

County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Clarence Raymond Brown, the newly elected Rockcastle County Committee Member.

Of the 226 ballots returned to the county office to be counted on December 6, 2001, Clarence Raymond Brown received 153 votes, Lloyd Cain received 42 votes; Robert Crawford received 18 votes and Tina Hasty received 13 votes.

Clarence Raymond Brown will serve as the Rockcastle County FSA (COC) Member for three years beginning January 1, 2002.

No P&CP Signup Ending For TLAP00

During October 2000, FSA provided payments through the Tobacco Loss Assistance Program 2000 (TLAP00) to quota holders and producers to help them defray income losses in the 2000 crop year because of quota reductions. One of the eligibility requirements for TLAP00 was that a farm must have received Planted and Considered (P&CP) credit for the 2000 crop year. This statute has been amended to provide that TLAP00 payments may now be made to person(s) who did not have

P&CP credit during the 2000 crop year.

Eligibility requirements include:

- Any person who owned, operated or produced eligible tobacco on a farm for which a quota reduction from the 1999 crop year to the 2000 crop year occurred.

Any farm which was not approved for a payment during the initial TLAP00 signup because there was no P&CP.

Eligible types of tobacco includes burley, type 31; flue-cured, types 11-14; dark fire-cured, type 21 and cigar binder type of 54-55.

Payments will be based on FY2000 information with rate the

same as those in the initial TLAP00 signup. All eligible persons or entities must agree on the division of payments before the application form, CCC-950, can be approved.

REMEMBER: The application signup period ENDS December 14, 2001. Late filed applications will not be approved.

Marketing Cards

Rockcastle County producers who have received marketing cards are reminded to carefully check their card for complete and accurate information. Please compare the farm

number, warehouse number and pounds listed on the card to the information provided on the notification letter mailed with the card. If you find an error return the card immediately to the office for correction(s).

Remember: You are responsible for the information listed on the card. When you have finished your sales of tobacco please return the marketing cards to the FSA office as soon as possible.

Stolen Tobacco

Producers are reminded according to regulations stated in 107B paragraph 941 pertaining to stolen tobacco a police report must be filed within 15 days of the theft and be submitted to the County FSA Office. Filing the police report according to regulations will possibly avoid a penalty or a reduction of the next year's quota.

Farm Changes

Producers who have purchased or sold land need to contact the FSA office for proper reconstitution of farms. Remember to bring your deed and/or to notify the new owner too. Also notify this office of any and/or all address changes.

REMEMBER: Our records are only as current as producers inform our office.



The staff at Stowder Nursing Home showed their support on Veterans Day by wearing shirts that support our troops and in remembrance of the ones who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.

The staff and residents at Stowder Nursing Home would like to take this time to thank David Collins for all his hard work and dedication he has shown us through his many years of service to us.



Landscaping for seasonal decorations

By Max Phelps

As your neighbors flock to stores or sales yards for greenery and decorations, why not use items from your own landscape? There are so many plants that bear lovely berries or colorful foliage. You probably have some of them in your yard. Or you may want to plant at this time for future decorations.

Berry decorations could come from hollies and winterberries (leafless holly), beautyberry, nandina domestica, pyracantha, bayberry, wax myrtle, sea buckthorn, indian hawthorn, sumac, or bitternut.

Evergreen boughs can be harvested from so many of the pines and junipers and so forth. Hemlock boughs with small cones attached are especially cute. The branches of Balsam and Fraser firs perhaps have the best aroma of all. Ivy, honeysuckle, photinia, laurel branches, and some of the exotismous species may not be traditional, but are attractively used as indoor decorations.

Various grasses are wonderful for winter boughs. Combined with a few bare branches, maybe a colored red dogwood or blueberry stem, perhaps a perennial seed head such as leaved or goldenrod. Fern fronds are also used indoors in some lovely arrangements.

Vines can be used in many ways indoors. The traditional grapevine

weath, with greenery and fruit or seeds woven carefully into it is a perfect example of using landscape items indoors for seasonal decorations.

We often landscape to attract birds, bees, butterflies and so forth. Or to screen certain areas. Or plant lovely specimen trees in our yards. This year consider some plantings in your yard which would be attractive anytime—but especially useful for branches and berries to decorate the inside of your home.

Holiday Entertaining

By Hazel Jackson

County Agent for Family & Consumer Sciences

Among the many pleasures of the holidays are the foods and festivities of the season. From the traditional to the exotic, you can celebrate and serve healthier foods. Whether small groups or large, whether casual or more formal, the successful party is a harmonious blend of organization and flair with everyone thoroughly enjoying the occasion—including you. The party tips below will set you on your way to successful entertaining all through the year.

Begin Planning Early: Advance planning is the key to a successful party. Your guests are more likely to be available and there is more time for shopping, cooking ahead and freezing, readying your house and all the other aspects of entertaining.

Be Specific: Write or phone each guest with the important details, such as the date, time, place (including directions), type of party or occasion and sometimes, what to wear.

Select the Menu Carefully: Your time and budget, number of guests, type of party or occasion, guests' food and beverage preferences, ages of guests, season of the year, the oven, freezer and refrigerator space and supplies available are all considerations when planning the menu.

Food, Recipes, and Garnishes Should Complement Each Other: After you have selected the menu, picture it in your mind on a plate. Does it look attractive? Is it

appropriate for the holiday season? Does your menu offer some healthy alternatives?

Pamper Your Budget: You don't have to sacrifice quality, quantity and appearance when you cut costs. Serve punch instead of alcohol or colas; have brunch or lunch instead of a dinner party; serve hors d'oeuvres instead of a full course meal; incorporate grocery stores and seasonal foods into your menu; and borrow rather than rent extra glassware, flatware, serving pieces, tables and chairs.

Use A Checklist: Realistically make a list of how much time you need to prepare for your party. Note which foods can be made ahead and frozen or refrigerated. The week of the party, make a day-by-day agenda. The day of the party, make an hour-by-hour schedule.

Take Inventory: Check your supply of table linens, serving pieces, flatware, glassware and other necessary items to be sure they are adequate and clean.

Arrange for Help if Necessary: Appraise the work to be done. If you cannot gracefully handle everything alone, hire an experienced person or line up a family member or friend to assist you. Passing canapés, pouring punch, clearing tables, serving coffee or cleaning up can be problem spots for the host trying to cope

alone. Relax and enjoy your own party. If you are having fun, your guests will, too!

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