



Points East
By:
Ike Adams

Actually I'm writing this column as the sun sinks low on the western horizon (in December 31, 2001). In about seven hours it will be 2002 and along about the first of April I will stop dating checks and legal agreements 2001, then erasing it, and putting in 2002.

It's cold in Paint Lick on this New Year's Eve. And the forecast calls for nothing else for at least a week. High around 36. Low around 15. It's January, for real.

I still don't know what to make of the white wooly worms that were so relatively pervasive back in September and October of 01. I know for sure that the guys at the National Association of Woolly Worm Weather Watchers (NAWWWWWW) were wrong. NAWWWWWWW called for a cold December with a warming trend in January and exactly the opposite seems to be true.

Just when I was about to suggest that global warming had heated up and that perhaps it might be a good idea to start tilling the garden, the cold sets in. I'm not that worried about global warming, by the way. The theory is that the ice caps on the North and South Poles will melt and the ocean will rise and cover, south of Florida, for example.

Sooner or later all the retirement communities would be underwater and all the folks who live there would have to move to higher ground. Which means, of course, that they would gravitate to central Appalachia, along with their money, and our region could finally realize some real economic development.

The downside is that they would drive slow and aggravate the heck out of the younger generation. (A Marshall University student, home for the holiday break, swore to be last week that some alumni were chaining the front axles of their luxury cars to the bicycle parking

stands and taking up like 15 bike spaces when they came to pay homage to the University.) And he was mad.

So that is a potentially serious problem with global warming.

Another one is grapefruit. Most of these retirees want grapefruit several times a day. I have, personally, hated grapefruit all my life and never once eaten it, beyond the required "taste this, you'll love it" spoonful forced upon me by a member of the opposite sex. (There was a time in my life when I'd do anything to win a woman's affection. I once chose bungee jumping off the New River Bridge as an alternative to eating half a grapefruit.) And if you ever have the choice-jump. (But don't do it with a full stomach.)

The fact of the matter is that it would take a huge amount of effort on the part of state and local government agencies to get ready for an influx of new, wealthy inhabitants. Billions of dollars in development costs.

Global warming is a happening thing, folks. But nobody in Kentucky, and most especially not our government, gives a darn because most of our elected officials don't have much sense. They line their bull folds with the big bucks they take from all the special interests, and they go off fat and happy and burping. I, personally, would entrust our state government to the hands of a sixth grade class at (name your favorite elementary school) before I would turn it over to the crooks and dummies we currently send to Frankfort.

I'm not sure what I'm going to do about it in the new year, but I can promise you that I am going to dig out some truths about Lennie Napief and Slick Ed Worley and the trades that have gone on between those two before Spring in my own district and I encourage you to do the same.

both being approximately 50% up to the \$1,000 level or 50% up to the \$2,500 level.

Applications for these programs can be picked up at Adams Feed Supply, Dabney Feed Supply and Rockcastle Feed Supply during the appropriate periods.

The Kentucky Agriculture Development Board has limited any one producer to \$5,000 in cost share payments.

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 card to the FSA office as soon as possible.

Disaster Leasing of Burley Tobacco

Producers wishing to lease tobacco to their farm for the purpose of selling excess tobacco may do so, across county lines under the disaster leasing eligibility provisions. Farms leasing in pounds must have filed a FSA 578 (Crop Report), file a FSA 579 (Statement of Tobacco Production), be eligible for price support and have an approved FSA 575, Lease and Transfer. This year the pro-

ducer must also file an FSA 808, Designation of Burley Tobacco Sales, and Request for Marketing Card. The amount of lease in pounds is limited to 15% of the farm effective quota as of July 1st including late leases.

Producers who wish to lease out tobacco quota due to a natural disaster must have:

- Prior to harvest filed a FSA 574 (Request for Disaster Credit)
- filed a FSA 578 (Crop Report)
- planted sufficient acreage to produce the quota
- made reasonable and customary efforts to produce the effective marketing quota
- have less than 80 percent of the farm's effective marketing quota because of a natural disaster
- meet all price support eligibility requirements.

For additional information on leasing quota under the disaster leasing provisions contact your local FSA office.

Production Flexibility Contract Payments

The Agricultural, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2000, provides producers the option to receive Production Flexibility Contract (PFC) payments for FY 2002, as either: two 50 percent payments or one 100 percent payment prior to August 1, 2002.

Once designated, any changes to the farming operation, including but not limited to, payment shares and change of operations must be reported to FSA, and applicable forms completed by August 1, 2002. Fail-

ure to report and complete changes by August 1, 2002 may result in all producers on the farm being ineligible for payments.

Producers are reminded all PFC payment shares and necessary signatures must be obtained on the PFC and received in the county FSA office by August 1, 2002.

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

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

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Agricultural News

By: Warden Alexander, FSA Director

Meeting Scheduled

Rockcastle County Farm Service Agency Committee members will have their first scheduled monthly meeting at the Rockcastle County FSA Office located on Hwy. 150, in Mt. Vernon on Thursday, January 3, 2002. The meeting is open to the public and begins at 8:00 a.m.

Committee members are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA. They help FSA at the local level by deciding the kind of programs their counties will have and how they will run. FSA committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out Federal Laws and applying their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions. Committees make decisions on:

- Commodity price support loans and payments
- Establishment of allotments, yields and marketing quotas
- Farmer loans
- Conservation programs
- Incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities and
- Other farm disaster assistance.

Rockcastle County FSA Committee monthly meetings, open to the public, are scheduled for the first Thursday of each month.

Phase I Tobacco Funds

Available for Farmers
Rockcastle County farmers are now eligible to share in \$425,000 from the Phase I tobacco settlement funds.

Local farmers are eligible to apply for a Forage Improvement, Genetic Improvement or Cattle Handling Facilities program.

Applications for the Forage Improvement program will start January 21, 2002 and continue through January 31, 2002. The Forage Improvement program provides:

- Pasture improvement at approximately 50% cost share for certified white clove seed, lime and fertilizer according to UK soil test for up to 20 acres of \$1,500.
- Hay improvement at approximately 50% cost share for certified red clove seed, lime and fertilizer according to UK soil test for up to 20 acres of \$1,500.
- Alfalfa improvement at approximately 50% cost share for certified alfalfa seed, lime and fertilizer according to UK soil test for up to 20 acres of \$1,500.

Soil tests should be taken and results available by the January 21, 2002 deadline. Farmers who apply will be notified of approval following February 5, 2002.

Applications for the Genetic Improvement program will start January 15, 2002 and continue through February 15, 2002. The Forage Improvement program provides beef and dairy producers to purchase superior EPD bulls or semen. Cost share will be approximately 50% up to \$1,250 and requires the applicant to attend a two hour FPD meeting prior to approval.

Applications for the Cattle Handling Facilities program will start February 1, 2002 and continue through March 1, 2002. The Cattle Handling Facilities program will assist producers in improving their herd health program. This includes head gates, alley ways, crowding pens, etc. Cost share will be at two levels with

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