

Agricultural News

By Warden Alexander, FSA Director

What is the Farm Service Agency?

Stabilizing farm income, helping farmers conserve land and water resources, providing credit to new and disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, and helping farm operations recover from the effects of disaster are the missions of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA).

FSA was set up when the Department was reorganized in 1994, incorporating programs from several agencies, including the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (now a separate Risk Management Agency), and the Farmers Home Administration. Though its name has changed over the years, the Agency's relationship with farmers goes back to the 1930's.

At that time, Congress set up a unique system under which Federal farm programs are administered locally. Farmers, representing Rockcastle County, who are eligible to participate in these programs elect three person county committees, which review county office operations and makes decisions on how to apply the programs. This grassroots approach gives farmers a much needed say in how Federal actions affect their communities and their individual operations. After more than 60 years, it remains a cornerstone of FSA's efforts to preserve and grow American agriculture.

Changes in Tobacco Program Does Not Limit Carryover Tobacco

Jeffery S. Hall, Kentucky State Executive Director of the Farm Service Agency, wishes to remind farmers that recent changes in the Burley tobacco program do NOT change the amount of physical tobacco a farm can carryover from one crop year to the next. Tobacco that is not sold this season can be carried over as unmarketed tobacco and sold in the 2002-03 marketing season. "Mc Hale said.

Effective with the 2002 Burley tobacco quota, the total amount of under marketings that can be "carried over" as quota additions to farms nationwide, is limited to 10 percent of the national basic quota for the preceding year. In the past three undermarketings could be brought forward and added to the next year's basic quota provided the farm did not exceed the prior year's basic quota plus prior year's leased-in pounds.

Factoring, or the limiting of individual farm under marketings may be required beginning with the 2002 crop year. Hall said, "This will occur if the 2001 crop year, under marketings for the entire Burley belt exceeds 10 percent of the 2001 national basic quota." The new limit is not farm specific. If the limit is to be applied, it will be applied to the under marketings from all farms when the 2002 Effective Quota is determined.

Farmers that carry over unmarketed tobacco are required to report the pounds "carried over" to the local FSA County Office.

For additional information on the Burley Tobacco price support program, contact your local FSA County Office.

Applications for New Burley Tobacco Farm Quotas

Applications for new burley tobacco farm quotas are being accepted through February 15, 2002. Before a new farm quota is recommended it must be determined that each applicant meets all eligibility requirements. Eligibility requirements include the applicant has NO burley tobacco quota, has land suitable for tobacco production, has two of the past five years marketing history of burley tobacco and 50% of all household income is received from farming.

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.

2002 Crop Disaster Program (CDP)

Farmers who suffered crop losses in the year 2000 due to natural disaster are eligible for CDP assistance. CDP covers all crops as follows: insured crops, Uninsured Crops and Noninsured crops.

Signup began January 18, 2001, and ends January 18, 2002. Further information is available at the local FSA Office.

2000 Quality Loss Program (QLP)

Farmers who suffered at least a 20 percent loss in the 2000 crop year due to weather-related disasters are eligible for QLP assistance. QLP covers crops which were produced and harvested in the 2000 crop year and suffered a minimum of 20 percent reduction in production.

Signup began August 13, 2001, and ends January 18, 2002. Further information is available at the local FSA Office.

Rockcastle County Disaster Declaration

On August 16, 2001, President Bush declared a major disaster in Kentucky based on damages and losses caused by severe storms and flooding that occurred on July 27, 2001. This declaration has been amended to include Amendment #1, 2 and 3.

The Kentucky counties declared as disaster areas and eligible for Federal disaster assistance, including FSA Emergency Loan, included Rockcastle County declared as a disaster area under Amendment #3. Applications may be accepted for both physical and production losses, and applications pending on the specific date may be processed and completed when filed by the termination date of April 29, 2002.

2002 Crop Loan Rate Decisions on Hold

With Congress scheduled to reconvene for business after the Martin Luther King Holiday, USDA has postponed the announcement of loan rates for the 2002 crop year until the legislature has had additional time to work on the farm bill proposal. This would suggest that if progress on the farm bill is not evident by planting time, the Secretary of Agriculture would be compelled at that point, to announce the loan rates for the 2002 crops.

Not knowing the basic value of potential crops makes it difficult to decide how much of each crop to plant for 2002. The House of Representatives proposal, HR2646, calls for reducing the soybean loan rate from the current \$52.6 per bushel, to \$4.92 per bushel. Producers might opt to plant fewer acres of beans if the soybean loan rate were adjusted downward to that degree.

Whatever the final content of the new farm bill, or the time frame of its completion, producers can be assured that some form of financial support will be available. Congressional members are aware that agriculture provides significant economic support for the nation's economy, and the economy need to be bolstered during this critical period of recovery. USDA, through the Farm Service Agency, provides financial support for the entire economy when a healthy agricultural sector is maintained.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited basis apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's Target Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

Office Closure

The Rockcastle County FSA Office will be closed Monday, January 21 in observance of Martin Luther King holiday. The office will reopen Tuesday, January 22, at 7:30 a.m.

"District Court"

(Cont. from B-2)

Rita Pobanz: Speeding, paid \$112 total fine and costs.

Kandra Clevenger: Speeding, paid \$104.30 total fine and costs.

Jacquelyn R. Allen: Possession of marijuana, 180 days in jail to serve 5 concurrent balance conditionally discharged two years. Use Possession Drug Paraphernalia, 180 days concurrent.

William S. Harnes: Operating motor vehicle under influence alcohol/drugs, \$350 fine and costs, \$250 service fee, 30 days to serve 12 credit 3 days time served 12 month operator license suspension.

Earl Miller: 3rd degree possession of controlled substance, \$500 fine and costs, 2 months in jail to serve 60 days credit time served fine and balance of jail conditionally discharged two years, possession controlled substance, 12 months to serve 60 days concurrent. Prescription in improper container, 12 months to serve 60 days concurrent.

Joseph H. Browning: Operating motor vehicle under influence alcohol/drugs, \$200 fine and costs, \$250 service fee, minimum operator license suspension time.

Kelly M. Cameron: \$100 fine and costs time suspended on condition.

Sarah F. Lewis: Speeding, paid \$68.50 costs, state traffic school authorized.

Jason Northern: Harassing a witness, 30 days in jail concurrent; Operating motor vehicle under influence

alcohol/drugs, 30 days concurrent; 12 month operator license suspension; Possession of marijuana, 2nd degree Possession of Controlled Substance, 30 days in jail concurrent each count.

Timothy E. Peden: Speeding, state traffic school authorized on payment of costs; Failure to wear seatbelt, \$25 fine.

John Frederick Thiels: Speeding, paid \$129.50 total fine and costs.

Jesse M. Cotton: Alcohol intoxication, paid.

Larry E. Evans: Speeding, state traffic school authorized on payment of costs only.

Johnny G. McClaskey: Speeding, paid in full.

William D. Shoemaker: Speeding, paid.

NEIGHBORHOOD MORTGAGE

in London is proud to announce that **COREY SCOTT**, of the Rockcastle County community, is available to service all your home loan needs. Corey is a graduate of the Eastern Kentucky University College of Business and Rockcastle County High School.

He is now a loan officer at Neighborhood Mortgage, where he can refinance your current home loan for a better interest rate, consolidate your bills for a lower monthly payment or help you to purchase the home of your dreams.

Please don't hesitate to call him to discuss any needs you may have!



Corey Scott invites everyone to contact him for all your financial needs!

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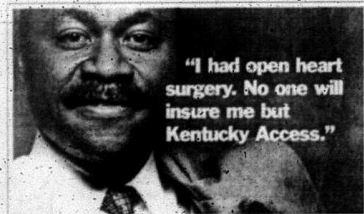
Quality Cancer Care Close To Home.

We can provide you with quality cancer care that is both convenient and compassionate. Our team of medical and radiation oncologists at **Richmond Regional Oncology Center** know that living your life is the most important. Let us provide you with the quality cancer care you deserve.

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