Agricultural News

By: Warden Alexander, FSA Director

2002 Burley Tobacco Program Provisions Announced

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced the provisions of the 2002 burley tobacco program and no-net-cost assessments.

The national marketing quota for the 2002 crop is 324.2 million pounds, a decrease from the 2001 quota of 332.0 million pounds. For each farm, the 2002 basic quota will decline approximately 2.3 percent from 2001.

The effective quota is expected to be about 344 million pounds, a decrease of 24 million pounds from 2001.

The price support level for the 2002 crop is $1.835 per pound, up nine cents per pound from 2001.

The burley tobacco no-net-cost assessment will be two cents per pound of the 2002 crop burley tobacco that is marketed by direct sales or through a price support loan. USDA set the no-net-cost assessments at one cent per pound for the producer and one cent for the purchaser for crop the producer and one cent per pound for the purchaser for crop year 2002.

Referenda on Mandatory Grading of Burley

The Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2002 requires the Secretary to conduct referenda, no later than March 31, 2002, among producers of quota tobacco to determine whether producers favor mandatory grading of tobacco by USDA including burley tobacco. Burley (type 31) Mandatory Grading Referendum period is March 11-15, 2002.

If a majority of the producers voting in a referendum favor the mandatory grading of that kind of tobacco, USDA will ensure that kind of tobacco is graded at the time of sale for the 2002 and subsequent marketing years.

Applications For New Burley Tobacco Farm Quotas

Applications for new burley tobacco farm quotas are being accepted through February 15th. 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, had two of the past five years marketing history of burley tobacco and 50% of all household income is received from farming.

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 MQ 99 (Statement of Tobacco Production), be eligible for price support and have an approved FSA 375, Lease and Transfer. This year the producer 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's effective quota as of July 1st including late leases. Disaster leasing will end February 15th.

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 natural disaster
- meet all price support eligibility requirements.

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

Burley Designation is Open

As of January 21 producers do not have to file an FSA-808, Designation of Burley Tobacco Sales and Request for Marketing Card, with the county office to market tobacco at a different warehouse. Any type of marketing card will be valid at any location the producer chooses for the remainder of the 2001 burley season.

Marketing Cards

Producers who have sold the current years crop of burley tobacco are encouraged to return their marketing card to the FSA office as soon as possible. Markings recorded on the cards are compared to sales recorded for accuracy. Failure to return the marketing card promptly delays correct information for the 2002 crop year data.

Federal Crop Insurance

Producers wishing to purchase Federal Crop Insurance (FCIC) must do so by the deadline of March 15th. Crops eligible for insurance in Rockcastle County are corn and tobacco. FCIC insurance is only available through private companies.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

The FSA office has Farm Storage Facility Loans available to producers who has a need for increased storage. In order to be eligible a producer must have a satisfactory credit history, has no delinquent Federal debt, is a producer of facility loan commodities such as corn, soybeans or wheat, demonstrate the ability to repay the debt, in compliance with USDA provisions for highly erodible land and wetlands and provide all peril insurance on insurable crops. For more information please contact the FSA office.

Continuous CRP Sign-Up

Eligible acreage devoted to certain special conservation practices such as riparian buffers, filter strips, grassed waterways, shelter belts, living snow fences, contour grass strips, salt tolerance vegetation and shallow water areas for wildlife may be enrolled at any time under CCC's continuous CRP sign-up. These practices are not subject to competitive bidding. For more information, contact your local FSA office.

FY 2002 PFC Reminder

Producers who wish to receive their 2002 PFC (Production Flexibility Contract) payments early must sign a form for what month you wish to receive your 2002 payment.

Do not request a payment for your farm if you are considering selling a portion or the entire farm. Changes in your farming operation must be reported timely. The deadline to sign or revise a PFC for FY2002 is August 1, 2002.

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Loans For Socially Disadvantaged

Jeffery Hall, State Executive Director of the Farm Service Agency in Kentucky, wishes to remind farmers that funds are reserved each year to make loans to socially disadvantaged applicants to buy and operate family-size farms. A socially disadvantaged farmer: one group whose members have been subject to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of their individual qualities. For the purpose of this program, socially disadvantaged groups have been defined as women, African Americans, American Indians and Alaskan Natives, Hispanics and Asians and Pacific Islanders.

Individuals, partnerships, joint operations and cooperatives primarily and directly engaged in farming on family-size operations may apply for the loan. A family size operation is considered to be one that a family can operate and manage itself.

Operating loans may be used for various short and cooperatives primarily and directly engaged in farming on family-size operations may apply for the loan. A family size operation is considered to be one that a family can operate and manage itself.

Operating loans may be used for various short and intermediate-type credit needs, such as the purchase of livestock and equipment and annual operating expenses. Farm ownership loans may be used for the purchase and/or improvement of farmland and buildings.

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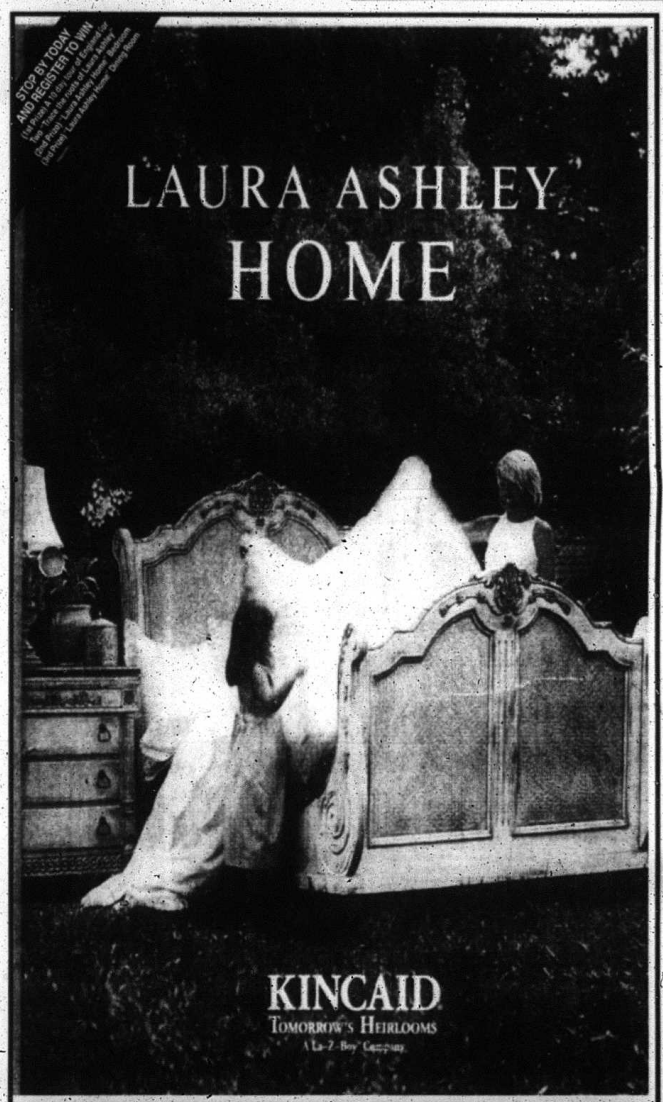

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