

## State cost share program sign-ups

The Rockcastle County Conservation District will be accepting requests for cost-share funding under the Kentucky Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share Program beginning February 1st and extending through February 28.

The Kentucky Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share Program was created to help agricultural operations protect the soil and water resources of Kentucky. The 1994 Kentucky General Assembly established this financial and technical assistance program. The law establishes that annual cost share funds to the program by administered by local conservation districts and the Kentucky Soil & Water Conservation Commission, with priority given to animal waste related problems and agricultural district participants, where pollution problems have been identified. Funding for the program has been provided by the Kentucky General Assembly, Kentucky Department of Agriculture and direct appropriations from the Phase I Tobacco Settlement Funds.

Two new best management practices have been added to the sixteen

practices available for landowners to request for funding assistance under the program. The new practices are: KSW11-Erosion Control on Pasture and Hay Land, to assist landowners in controlling soil erosion, concentrated water flow and water disbursement to reduce pollution potential on pasture and hay land. KSW12-Streambank Stabilization, to assist landowners where the natural streambank has been severely damaged by livestock access, or other activities associated with agricultural operation, to restore or protect the streambank from further damage.

Approval of applications will be done at the state level by the Soil and Water Conservation Commission at the Kentucky Division of Conservation, located in Frankfort and based on available funds. Cost share rates are a maximum of 75 percent of the actual cost not to exceed \$7,500 for agronomic practices and \$20,000 for animal waste concerns.

For more information stop by the conservation district office located at USDA Service Center, Hwy. 150, Mt. Vernon, KY 40456 Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Phone: (606)256-3525 Ext. 3.

## Grant funds available for homeowner septic systems

If you are a homeowner and have a failing septic system or a "straight pipe", you may be eligible for a free septic system. The program is part of the \$9,000,000 "PRIDE Homeowner Septic System Program." In Rockcastle County, the Cumberland Valley R.C.A.D. Council and the Rockcastle County Conservation District are jointly administering the project. The project is being funded by a grant from the Hal Rogers PRIDE program and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

To be eligible for the program the applicant must meet the HUD poverty guidelines and must own the property on which the septic system will be installed. The grant program is for existing homes and is not for new unoccupied homes. If your home is near a municipal or county sewerage line, the grant program will also pay the expenses to hook your home onto the sewerage line.

This program is targeting a known 36,000 straight pipes and failing septic system throughout the 40 county PRIDE area. Pollution from straight pipes and failing septic systems is the

main water pollution problem in eastern Kentucky. Nearly 1/2 the private drinking water wells in Kentucky are contaminated with coliform bacteria, an indication that the wells may be contaminated water. By installing adequate septic systems or hooking on to an existing sewerage line we can all be a part of drastically improving the water quality of eastern Kentucky and Rockcastle County.

In Rockcastle County, applications for the "Homeowner Septic System Program" can be picked up at the Rockcastle County Conservation District office at USDA Service Center, Hwy. 150. The homeowner will complete the grant application, provide proof of income, and proof of ownership of the property on which a septic system is to be installed, along with other documentation as required in the grant administration procedures. For further information regarding these grant funds or to pick up an application, please stop by the Rockcastle County Conservation District Office, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Telephone: (606)256-2525 Extension 3.

## It's Your Money

By Jonathan Miller  
State Treasurer

The results are in...and the launch of Kentucky's Affordable Prepaid Tuition (KAPT) was an unqualified success! Despite a weak economy and the shadow of September 11, we beat even our loftiest projections, as more than 2600 families from over 100 counties across the state "got KAPT," making it much easier to attend a college education for their children.

But there's more good news...KAPT is back! Our spring enrollment period begins February 1 and lasts until April 15, giving Kentucky families another opportunity to help make the future for their children or grandchildren a little brighter.

Over the last few months, I have received phone calls, letters and e-mails from parents and grandparents who missed our fall enrollment deadline, yet wanted to get KAPT for their kids. Now they can, and you can too, simply by calling us toll-free at (888)919-KAPT or checking us out on the web at [www.getKAPT.com](http://www.getKAPT.com).

This spring, I will again be traveling the state, visiting schools, court-houses and community forums, promoting the KAPT for all Kentucky families. By April 15, we will have spread KAPT's message through grassroots efforts in all of Kentucky's 120 counties.

At the same time, I hope to clear up a couple of common misunder-

standings. For one, many parents think that by signing up for KAPT, you are committing to a particular school, or that you will be required to send your child to a Kentucky public university, as is with some state financial aid programs.

But neither assumption is true. Unlike other state programs, your KAPT investment can be used at any institution of higher education, public or private, anywhere in the country. So if your 19 year old had dreams of University of Kentucky, Notre Dame or Harvard, she need not decide now - get KAPT, and her college education becomes much more affordable, whenever she ultimately decides to go.

Still other Kentucky families believe that they cannot afford a college education for their kids, no matter what program they use. But maybe they don't realize that KAPT's Value Plan which guarantees tuition at Kentucky's community and technical colleges can cost as little as \$1 a day for newborns and toddlers. That's less than two cans of Pepsi a day to guarantee a college education!

So if you missed us the first time, you now have a second chance. From now until April 15, call us toll-free at (888)919-KAPT or check us out on the web at [www.getKAPT.com](http://www.getKAPT.com). Let KAPT help you afford a college education for your children or grandchildren.

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**Staff Members of:**  
**Community Based Services,**  
**Comprehensive Care, Family Court,**  
**Dept. of Social Insurance, Health**  
**Dept., Speech, OT, & PT Dept. of**  
**Rockcastle Hospital, Doctors, Nurses,**  
**Rockcastle County Schools, Christian**  
**Appalachia Project, First Steps, All**  
**Children Service Providers**

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**You're**  
**Cordially**  
**Invited**  
**to a**  
**Thank You**  
**Reception**

*In appreciation for all you do for  
Rockcastle County Children,  
you're invited to a reception!*

*Tuesday, February 12, 2002  
3:30 - 5:30 p.m.*

*Mt. Vernon Elementary Library*

*Hosted by  
Rockcastle County  
Preschool Interagency Planning Council*

*R.F.V.P. 256 - 2125, Janet Burke*

**\*\*If schools are closed on Tuesday,  
February 12, 2002 due to inclement  
weather, the reception date will be  
Tuesday, February 19th.\*\***



### Taco Bell

**SPECIAL OF THE WEEK**

**10 Pack Tacos**

**\$5.99**

\*Includes this coupon and requires \$10 off any combo meal. Limited to one per customer. Good at participating locations only.