

Agricultural News

By: Warden Alexander FSA Director

Marketing Cards

Producers who have sold the current year crop of burley tobacco MUST return their marketing card to the FSA office as soon as possible. Marketing 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.

Referenda on Marketing

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.

Voting in this referendum is prohibited by proxy, agent or power of attorney. However, a duly authorized officer of a corporation, association, or other legal entity may vote as the organization's representative.

A public meeting for counting the ballots shall be held March 19, 2002 at 8:30 a.m. at the Rockcastle County FSA Office, Hwy. 150, Mt. Vernon, KY 40356.

Federal Crop Insurance

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

Farm Storage Facility Loans

The FSA office has Farm Storage Facility Loans available to producers who have 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, demonstrates the ability to repay the debt, in compliance with USDA provision for highly erodible land and wetlands, and provides all perils 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-tol-

eration 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 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 is sign or revise a PFC for FY 2002 is August 1, 2002.

Agricultural Attrition Continues

The annual report published by USDA's National Agricultural Statistical Service (NASS), provides a yearly update which indicates a variety of agricultural trends. The recent 2001 report NASS released last week confirmed a growing number of farmers and ranchers were liquidating their land assets, resulting in a few number of farms nationwide. Last year alone 0.7 percent of the total number 650,000 farms were eliminated. Some of the acreage was transferred to existing farms but the majority, 1.9 million acres, went for housing or commercial developments. Remaining farms increased in size by an average of only 2 acres each, bringing the national average to 436 per farm. While farmers may not yet be an endangered species, the trend of fewer producers on fewer farm operations is unwelcome.

Of the 23 states that saw their farm numbers reduced, the top three were Illinois, Ohio and Kentucky, each of which lost more than 2,000 farms. Iowa, Indiana and seven other states lost between 1,000 and 2,000 farms. Each of those states converted more than 100,000 acres to non-agricultural uses. This continuous attrition of productive farmland is largely due to urbanization, a result of increasing numbers of people wanting to reside in the growth area of America's heartland. Families will continue to locate in rural communities where businesses can build and expand economically. Workers need financial security and want a safe environment in which to raise their family. That is as much the American dream as the life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness sought by the founders of our great nation. Families and the neighborhoods in which they live are as important to American society as the farmers who provide the food and fiber needed by all.

The suburbs form a transitional zone where city meets country, and how folks get along in these settings has a significant impact on agriculture and the well being of urban households.

Fresh produce at nearby farm markets can be a win/win scenario for local residents as well as farmers. Fruits and vegetables in a natural setting can become a production opportunity for farmers who find themselves tilling the soil near the city limits.

Offering families in the suburbs direct access to agriculture can cultivate new relationships and open doors to new mutually beneficial partnerships between producers and consumers.



The Family Room

By: Dr. Roy Don Whitehead

Cancer Still Sears Us

Dalton had begun his chemotherapy and radiation treatments for "cancer," and he was not feeling well. (All characters are fictitious.) "The side effects have been worse than I expected," he told me. "Have you told the doctor?" I asked. "No," he admitted. "I don't want him to think I am a whiner."

"Dalton is like that," his wife Miriam reported. "He won't say anything even if he is miserable." The doctor told us that there was medication to help with the side effects, but Dalton would never ask for it. I got so frustrated with him."

Dalton was discouraged. "I tried to prepare myself for the side effects but they are worse than I thought. I know I have many more weeks of treatment, and I don't know if I can make it. This weekend has been especially bad. Why do I have to go through this?"

Weekends were the worst. "I expected weekends to be the easiest times, because I don't have my treatments then," Dalton said. "Boy, was I wrong!" On the weekends I feel worse than during the week. I don't want to get up off the couch. I have no energy and no ambition. I'm not sure why, but I have talked to other cancer survivors who have told me that weekends were bad for them too."

County Committee Monthly Meeting

The Rockcastle County Farm Service Committee (COC) will hold monthly meetings open to the public the first Thursday of each month beginning at 8:00 a.m. The meeting will be at the Rockcastle County Farm Service Agency located in the USDA Service Center on Hwy. 150 in Mt. Vernon. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 7th.

The COC members are vital to the day-to-day operations of FSA. The COC members help FSA at the local level by doing the kind of programs their counties will have and how they will operate. FSA committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out Federal laws and applying their judgement and knowledge to make decisions.

little about where our money went. When he was diagnosed with cancer, he started teaching me about everything. I feel good that I now can handle the finances if I have to."

Often one partner handles the money and the other does not know much about the process. This can make for major problems if the one handling the money is ill or dies. "I would recommend to any wife that she learn about the finances," Miriam added, "because some day she may have to handle these on her own."

"We are considering getting some more help too. We've never been much for group things," Dalton told me, "but we have been invited to a support group for cancer survivors and are seriously considering going. I think it would help Miriam and me, too, to talk to other people who have been through this. There is a lot to learn about how to deal with cancer, and we are looking for some help. We plan to go if I feel good enough physically to do it."

"One way I know Miriam needs some help is because she is getting short with me," Dalton added. "I think the strain is beginning to tell on her. I don't think the family of the cancer survivor gets enough attention. Everybody is so concerned about the patient that the needs of the other family members get pushed aside. I know my illness has been hard on her too, and I want her to talk to some other family members to find out how they cope with this."

"I'm willing to go," Miriam joined in. "I've never been much for groups but I know we need some help. All this is just too much to cope with alone. Maybe there is someone in this group who can tell me how to deal with this. It is the hardest thing I have ever had to bear."

Annual
Winter Clearance SALE

**Thursday, Friday, Saturday
Feb. 28, Mar. 1st & 2nd**

50% Off all Clothing
Housewares, Books etc.
Blue Tickets Excluded

Summer Merchandise Arriving Daily
BEREA ATTIC

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A Division of Christian Appalachian Project, Inc.

LEADING THE WAY...

We know it's hard to face the facts about

colon cancer, but here they are:

- Colon cancer claims 55,000 lives every year—enough to fill Rupp Arena twice.
- Colon cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the U.S., just behind lung cancer.
- Your chances of developing colon cancer increase as you get older.

Early detection increases your chances of surviving colon cancer as much as 80 percent.

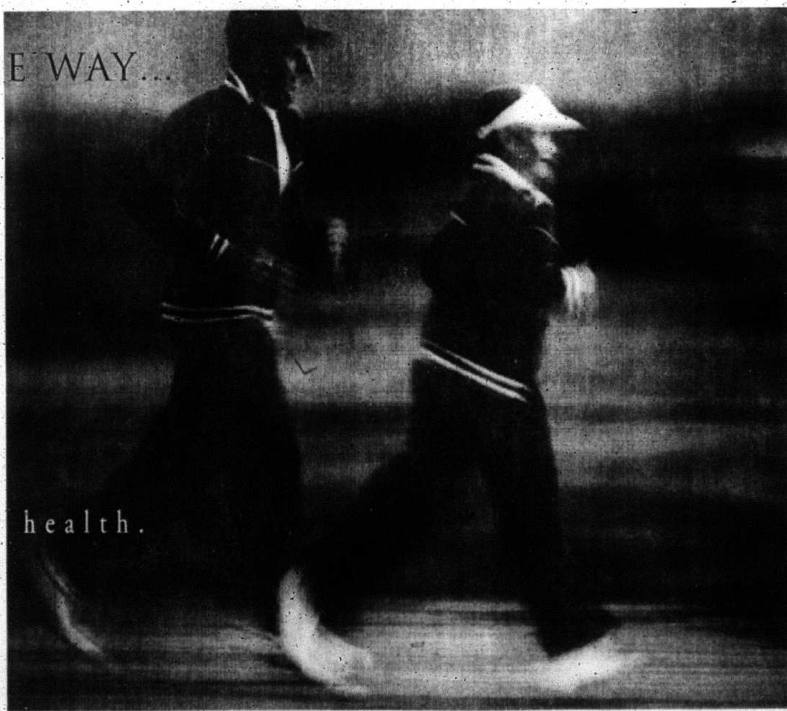
That's why Rockcastle Hospital and Respiratory Care Center has declared March "Colon Cancer Awareness Month."

...for better health.

So stop by the hospital or your local pharmacy to pick up a free colon cancer screening kit, courtesy of us. The results are confidential and mailed directly to your doctor.

ROCKCASTLE
HOSPITAL AND RESPIRATORY CARE CENTER, INC.

Accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations



Free Colon Cancer Screenings.

Just another example of how we're leading the way to better health in our community.