

Agricultural News

By: Warden Alexander, FSA Director

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, July 11, 2002. The COC members are vital to the day-to-day operations of FSA. The COC members help FSA as the local level by deciding 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.

Disaster Leasing

Farmers who suffer a burley tobacco disaster loss must file a report with FSA prior to harvest to retain eligibility to lease quota away under the disaster lease provisions. The disaster lease provision was implemented to provide relief to producers that suffer a disaster loss and are unable to produce and market the farm's effective quota. To be eligible to disaster lease and transfer must file a crop report with FSA, file the FSA 574, Disaster Credit Request, have planted sufficient acreage to produce the farm's effective quota, provide a workman like manner for the crop production, suffer more than a 20% crop loss, pay a measurement fee and meet all price support eligibility.

Remember: If you are a farmer whose tobacco is suffering from poor weather conditions, black shank, blue mold, root disease, etc., please come to the FSA office and file under the disaster provisions PRIOR TO HARVEST!!

Warehouse Designation

As a condition of price support beginning with the 2001 crop year for tobacco; producers were required to inform FSA of the warehouse where they would market tobacco. This is required by completing the form FSA 808, Warehouse Designation, to indicate where the tobacco will be sold. Initial designation will end August 1, 2003. Producers are encouraged to complete this form after all lease and transfers have been updated. After the initial designation period ends producers will be limited to designate for the farm to any one day during the following regular redesignation periods:

- September 30-October 4, 2002, with card effective October 14, 2002.
- October 28-November 1, 2002, with card effective November 11, 2002.
- December 02-December 06, 2002, with card effective December 16, 2002.
- December 27-January 3, 2003, with card effective January 13, 2003.

The warehouse will be indicated with a number on the market card. Therefore, if you decide to market at a warehouse other than the one specified on the card, you must return that card to the FSA office in specific time periods to request another marketing card.

FSA has a listing for public notice of warehouses, receiving stations and dealers reported on the bulletin board in the county office available through March 31, 2003.

Crop Reports A Must!!

Producers with crops such as tobacco, corn, soybeans, hay, pasture, vegetable, etc. may report the planted acres to the FSA office now through July 15, 2002.

All farms with an effective quota greater than zero (0) must file a FSA 578, Report of Crop Acreage, no later than July 1st. Reports filed after the deadline will be subject to a late fee. Marketing cards will NOT be issued without a crop report on file.

Farms with an effective quota that will not plant or lease quota away

from the farm MUST file a zero acreage report, or the farm will be subject to quota forfeiture for the applicable burley marketing quota not established for the farm, unless the State Committee and the County Committee determine that the reduction is not applicable.

We strongly urge producers to contact the office and request an appointment prior to filing the report. You may do so by calling 256-2525 extension 100.

Eligible acreage under 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 with Production Flexibility contracts (PFCs) authorized under AMTA in the 1996 farm bill must continue to follow contract re-

quirements for the 2002 crop year. The deadline to sign or revise a PFC for FY2002 is August 1, 2002. PFC payments for the 2002 crop year will continue to be issued, as requested, until September 30, 2002, provided all eligibility requirements have been met.

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.

Producers are encouraged not to request a payment for the farm if they are considering selling a portion of the entire farm as payment received must be refunded. Changes in your farming operation must be reported timely in order to reflect PFC payments to the current crop year producer. All changes reflected on the CCC-478, Application for PFC Payment, must be signed by August 1.

Important Dates to Remember

- July 1, 2002 - Deadline to sign all Tobacco Leases
- July 1, 2002 - Deadline to report Crops
- August 1, 2002 - Deadline to sign Warehouse Designation
- August 1, 2002 - Deadline to sign

or revise the 2002 PFC contracts.

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 belief, 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, audio, etc.) should contact USDA's Targeted Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Watkins Bldg., 14th and Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202)720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Subscribe to the Signal

BELIEVERS HOUSE OF PRAYER

Sabbath School 10 a.m.
Morning Worship 11 a.m.
Evening Worship 7 p.m.
Wednesday Evening 7 p.m.
Sunday (Bible Study) 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Non-denominational, Bible Believing, Sabbath-Keeping Church located on Hwy. 25N 1.5 miles from Renfro Valley turn left at 18 mile marker

The Ins and Outs of Annuities

By Mark Ragan, Agent - New York Life Insurance

NY, Member - Business Press (606) 666-1969

Annuities are issued by life insurance companies to provide benefits during your lifetime. An annuity in the payout phase provides a guaranteed income that you can elect to have start either immediately after purchase or at a future date. In general, there are two types of annuities: fixed and variable. In both fixed and variable annuities, you do not have to pay income tax on the accumulated earnings until payouts start. But you should keep in mind that withdrawals are taxable, and if you are under age 59 1/2, may be subject to a 10% tax penalty, in addition to your regular income taxes.

Payoff, when the time comes, may be in one of several forms:

- **Straight Life Annuity:** You receive an income for the rest of your life. However, no payments are made to anyone, even your dependents, after your death. This is sometimes called a "pure" annuity. This type of annuity is often recommended for a person who needs the maximum amount of income and either has no dependents or has taken care of them through other means.

- **Joint and Survivor Annuity:** Payouts are made for as long as either you or your designated survivor lives.

- **Installment Refund Annuity:** Payouts are somewhat less than a straight life annuity, but they will at least equal the amount paid in premiums, regardless of when you die; any refund is paid to your beneficiary in installments.

- **Life Annuity with Period Certain:** Payouts are made to you for your life. However, this type of annuity features a "guarantee" provision. This means that if you die within a certain period after you start receiving income, usually 10 or 20 years, your beneficiary will receive regular payments for the balance of that period. Because annuities have many different features, there are a number of factors to examine before you buy. For example, you should ask if there are charges for early withdrawal. Are there gradually decreasing withdrawal charges over a period of years? How much can you withdraw at any one time without a charge? In addition? If you are considering the purchase of an annuity, you should ask:

- What is the current interest rate on the fixed account and how often does it change?
- What is the minimum interest rate guaranteed in the contract?
- What has the performance been on the variable investment options? (Remember that past performance is not a guarantee of future results.)
- Are there front-end load charges or annual administrative fees? How much are they and how will they affect your return?

Annuities are a popular product, providing an important retirement savings vehicle for many Americans. Consumers should consider carefully their options when purchasing an annuity. An insurance agent or registered representative can provide you with information about the annuity products that may best suit your needs. For more information about insurance and other financial products, write care of:

P.O. Box 1531 • Mt. Vernon, KY 40356 • (606) 256-1969

Summer Reading 2002

Finale Program and Prizes

Guest:

Ronald McDonald

ROCKCASTLE COUNTY

PUBLIC LIBRARY

Event: Thurs., July 11th at 10:30 a.m.

All ages are welcome to come!!

Tuesdays

1:00 p.m. Story Hour for pre-schoolers

Make plans to bring your child for a good time this summer at the Rockcastle County Public Library located at 60 Ford Drive, Mt. Vernon. Special Story Hours for preschoolers, songs, counting, abc's, shapes, and crafts. Snacks will be provided.

website: www.rockcastlelibrary.com

email: repl@kib.net

Children's and YA Librarian: Kathy McKibben

BRITTON

CHEVROLET

BEREA, KY

Home of the "SWEET DEAL"

"A Tradition Since 1955"

US 25 North Berea 1-800-677-3562

986-3169

Hours Mon-Fri 8-7 • Sat 9-6 • Closed Sun



CHEVY



WE'LL

BE THERE™



USED SAVINGS - Many GM Certified Used Vehicles To Choose From

'99 Chevy Lumina V-6, per wnds, per locks, tilt, cruise.....	'8,980	'97 Jeep Grand Cherokee, 4 dr, 4x4, V-6, local trade.....	'12,980
'00 Olds Alero, 2 dr, GLS, leather, roof, V-6, one owner 27K mi.....	'14,980	'96 Olds Cutlass Calais, V-6, low miles.....	'5,980
'01 Ford Focus Stationwagon, 8500 miles, local trade.....	'12,980	'99 Chevy Prism, 4 dr, auto.....	'9,980
'98 Jeep Cherokee Sport, 4 dr, 4x4, local trade, 41, 6 cyl.....	'5,980	'90 Pontiac Grand Am, 4 dr, SE, per wnds/locks, tilt, cruise, local.....	'10,980
'99 Chevy X-Cab, 4x4, Silverado, 5.3 L, V-8, 1 owner, local trade.....	'21,980	'94 Nissan Pathfinder, 4x4, 4 dr.....	'6,980

We have many used 4x4s, Monte Carlos, Impalas, Aleros, S-10

X-Cabs, S-10 Reg Cabs, Saturns, Taurus and many others.

Call or come by for a Truck Load of Savings

*Tax, Title & License Extra. *To Qualified Buyers.

The Most Dependable
Longest Lasting
Trucks.

LIKE A ROCK



CHEVY TRUCKS

