

Agricultural News

By: Warden Alexander, FSA Director

Phase II Payments

Beginning the week of August 5, applications will be mailed to tobacco farm operations and letters will be mailed to tobacco quota owners about the 2002 fund. These applications, which are exactly like last year's, must be completed and returned promptly postmarked no later than September 16, 2002.

To be considered complete, the application must be signed by all parties involved with each farm. If the same person fits all the roles designated, that person must sign in all sections that pertain to him/her. If there is a significant line, it must be filled in. The application must be signed in ALL places indicated on the form. ANY APPLICATION THAT DOES NOT INCLUDE THE SIGNATURE AND SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER OF THE ELIGIBLE PARTY WILL BE INCOMPLETE AND PAYMENTS WILL NOT BE MADE.

Step-by-step instruction are included with each application. Help is also available at the local FSA office.

By contacting the toll-free help line at 1-877-549-2537 or on the web site at www.kygoelip.com.

Funds are expected to be distributed by the national trustee by December 31, 2002.

FSA Provides Loans to Horse Breeders Affected by MRLS
Jeffery S. Hall, State Executive Director of the Farm Service Agency in Kentucky, has announced a new program that provides low-interest loans to qualified horse breeders who have suffered losses due to mare reproductive loss syndrome (MRLS). The program was enacted on November 29, 2001 as part of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002.

Horse breeders can borrow money to replace mares and foals of disabled by MRLS. Breeders also can borrow money to pay ordinary and necessary expenses related to the horse breeding businesses, purchase or lease pastures when a veterinarian or other expert determines a pasture has the potential to cause MRLS, pay or re-

finance debts directly related to the horse breeding business and local-closing cost.

Breeders should contact their local FSA office to determine if they meet eligibility requirements. Loan applications must be filed at the local FSA office no later than September 30, 2002.

Disaster Lending

Farmers who suffer a barley to 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 produce 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 measurement fee and meet all price support eligibility requirements. If determined eligible for disaster leasing the measurement fee will be refunded.

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

USDA Dairy Program Signup

Belongs August 13
Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman announced that signup for the Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program will begin August 13, 2002. This program, authorized by the 2002 Farm Bill, financially compensates dairy producers when domestic milk prices fall below a specified level.

"USDA continues to work aggressively to implement the new farm bill in an efficient and timely manner," Veneman said while touring dairy operations here and participating in town hall forums hosted by Representative Rob Simmons. "This announcement will allow dairy farmers to begin sign-up so they can obtain program benefits."

Eligible dairy producers are those who produced milk in any state and marketed the milk commercially beginning December 2001. To be approved for the program, producers must be in compliance with highly erodible and wetland conservation provisions and must enter into a contract with USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation to provide monthly marketing data.

MILC payments will occur in months when the price of Class I milk in Boston under the Northeast Milk Marketing Order falls below \$16.94 per cwt. Payment rates will be 45 percent of the difference between \$16.94 and the Boston Class I price for that month. Dairy operations will not receive a payment for months during which the Class I price in

Boston is \$16.94 or higher. A similar payment calculation will be applied from December 1, 2001, through the month preceding the month the producer enters into a contract with CCC.

Program payments, scheduled to begin in October 2002, will be retroactive from December 1, 2001 for eligible production. Payments will be made on an operation-by-operation basis, up to a maximum of 2.4 million pounds of milk produced and marketed by the dairy operation per fiscal year. Producers can select the month they want to start receiving payments for eligible production.

As required by the 2002 Farm Bill, USDA will apply the same definition for a dairy operation as used in previous dairy market loss assistance programs. A dairy operation is any person or group of persons who as a single unit, as determined by CCC, commercially produces and markets cow milk and has production facilities located in the U.S. Producers on dairy operations are not permitted to reconstitute a dairy operation for the sole purpose of receiving additional payments.

For more information and requirements, or to sign up for the program, dairy producers should visit their local USDA Farm Service Agency office.

Rural Development (Housing)
Rural Development (low income

housing) is regularly scheduled to be in the Rockcastle County FSA Office on the second Tuesday of each month. The next day scheduled for RD is Tuesday, August 13th.

The main office is located in Richmond at 2150 Lexington Road, Suite C and the phone number is 859-624-1980 ext. 4.

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