

Phase II Tobacco Payments

By: Tom Mills

County Extension Agent for Agricultural/Natural Resources

Kentucky tobacco quota owners and farm operators have been receiving Phase II tobacco payment applications August 5-9. To qualify for this payment, all paper work must be completed and post marked no later than September 16, 2002. If you have not received, or have problems with applications, a toll free hotline is available for assistance at 1-877-549-2537. Your FSA farm number and county number will be helpful.

The Phase II program for 2002, which is the 4th year of a 12 year program, will provide Kentucky producers with approximately 148 million dollars. This is 25 percent greater than last year and will continue at the higher rate through 2008.

Eligible parties are:

- *Quota owners—persons that owned a burley tobacco quota in 2001
- *Growing farms—person that controlled the land used to produce burley tobacco in 1998, 1999, and/or 2000, and shared in the risk of production.
- *Grower/tenant—A person that provided labor to produce burley tobacco in 1998, 1999, and/or 2000,

and shared in the risk of production. Distribution of funds:
 *Quota owner will receive approximately 1/3 or 43.3 million dollars. This will be based on the farms basic quota as of July 2, 2001 at an estimated rate of 19.1 cents per pound.

*Growing farms will receive approximately 43.3 million but this will be based on the average of 1998 effective quota and marketings at approximately 3.1 cents per pound plus the average of 1999 effective quota and marketings at approximately 3.8 cents per pound plus the average of 2000 effective quota and marketings at approximately 7.4 cents per pound.

*The grower/tenant payments will be the same as growing farm. Farmers who have kept records of the 1998-1999 and 2000 effective quotas and marketing averages, may calculate their 2002 Phase II payment, to be received by December 30, 2002. Keep in mind these are only estimates and the final payment rate will not be known until November 15, 2002. Again, the final application deadline is September 16, 2002.



Brad Russell, left, was the State Winner in Sheep Impromptu at the 2002 State FFA Convention.



Eric Adams, left, was second in the state in Agricultural Sales Placement at the 2002 State FFA Convention.



Amber Thacker finished second in the state in Small Animal Impromptu at the 2002 State FFA Convention.

Sponsored by Rockcastle County CSEPP/EMA Office

On Tuesday, August 20, 2002 at 7 p.m., the National Weather Service will be providing a storm spotting and weather safety presentation at Rockcastle High School. Everyone is invited to attend this informative and entertaining presentation. If you ever wanted to read the clouds to determine what type of weather was approaching, or wanted to know how to protect you and your family from the hazards of severe weather, this presentation is for you.

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Tomatoes: A Healthy Summer Food

By: Hazel Jackson

County Agent for Family & Consumer Sciences

Summer is the perfect time to add tomatoes to your diet. Tomatoes are abundant and available at local groceries and the Farmers Market. Tomatoes are a low calorie food. A small tomato contains only 25 calories. Tomatoes contain phosphorus, potassium, vitamin A and trace amounts of other vitamins and minerals.

When choosing tomatoes, select firm, well shaped tomatoes that are bright in color. They should also have no spots, be heavy for their size and give slightly to pressure. Store tomatoes at room temperature and out of direct sunlight. Use ripe tomatoes within three days. You can ripen light pink tomatoes in 3-5

days. To use some of the fresh tomatoes try this recipe:

Easy Salsa
 1/2 pound tomatoes, rinsed and chopped into small pieces...
 1 green pepper, chopped into small pieces

1 clove garlic (optional), peeled and chopped in very small pieces
 1 tsp salt, or salt to taste

1/4 teaspoon sugar (optional)
 Wash ingredients before chopping. Mix tomatoes, green pepper, garlic, and parsley or cilantro together. Stir enough cold water to make mixture sauce-like. Add salt and sugar.

Serve immediately. Refrigerate any leftovers in an airtight container for up to 3 weeks. Makes about 1 cup (16 one tablespoon servings).

Nutrition per serving: 5 calories, 1 gram carbohydrate, 0 gram protein, 0 gram fat, and 146 milligrams sodium.

For more information on preparing, canning, or freezing tomatoes, contact the Extension Office at 256-2403.

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- I will hold public hearings to get your input before I will sign on anything the City Council passes that will have a direct bearing on the general public

I look forward to getting the people in Mt. Vernon and Rockcastle County working together to do the needed services for all of us.

Call me anytime at 606-256-9191 or stop by and see me at 180 School St. I appreciate all your help and support and I want to continue in the service of the people.
 As always, Clarice Renner Kirby

Paid for by Clarice Kirby