

Agricultural News

By Wanda Alexander, FSA Director

County Committee Monthly Meeting

The Rockcastle County Farm Service Committee (C) will hold its monthly meeting open to the public the first Thursday of each month beginning in 2003. The meeting will be at the Rockcastle County FSA Office located in the USDA Service Center at Hwy. 150 in Mt. Vernon. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 5, 2002.

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

Warehouse Designation

A Must! Producers that did not designate their barley tobacco quota to a buying point during the initial designation period, which ended on August 1st, must wait until the first regular redesignation period. Producers will be limited to designate for the farm one time during each regular redesignation period. Therefore, if a

farm has multiple tenants which will market tobacco at separate buying points, the farm operator will need to designate for all those tenants at the same time.

December 3, 2002-December 6, 2002 with card effective December 16, 2002.

December 27, 2002-January 3, 2003 with card effective January 13, 2003.

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

New Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) Ends December 13th

Jeffery S. Hall, State Executive Director of the Farm Service Agency in Kentucky, wishes to remind farmers that sign-up for the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) for cattle, sheep, goats and buffalo producers will end on December 13, 2002.

Sign-up began on October 1st for producers with livestock headquarters operations physically located in counties that have received a Federal primary disaster designation for drought between January 1, 2001 and

September 19, 2002. "All counties in Kentucky qualify," Mr. Hall said. Payments are based on standard feed consumption data for each eligible type of livestock. Eligible livestock and payment rates, adjusted by these factors include:

Beef, buffalo and beefalo (adult) \$18.00 per head
Dairy Cows \$31.50 per head
Goats and Sheep \$4.50 per head
To date, over \$13 million has been paid to over 27,000 livestock producers in Kentucky. As of today, Rockcastle County has paid 285 producers \$235,254.00.

For more information or to sign up for the program, producers should visit their local FSA County Office. Information is also available on line at: <http://drought.fsa.usda.gov/assistance.asp#LCP>.

Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP)

Direct and counter-cyclical payments for 2002 through 2007 will be based on each producer's individual production history. Sign up for the program scheduled to begin October 1, 2002 and end July 2, 2003. Program participation is voluntary, and producers are responsible for meeting deadlines and complying with rules and regulations.

Producers have been mailed additional information concerning this program. Those who have questions should contact their local USDA Service Center or county FSA office. More information about the 2002 Farm Bill is available at <http://www.usda.gov/farmbill>.

Milk Income Loss Contract

Payments (MILC) MILC payments scheduled for the month of November 2002 will NOT be made at this time. Producers are reminded to continue to bring in their milk weights as available for payment in new software becomes available.

County Committee Ballots To Be Counted

The ballots for the Rockcastle County FSA Committee will be counted Thursday, December 5, 2002. The counting is open to the public.

The Rockcastle Co. FSA Office mailed the CFC ballot November 19, 2002 for the county area of LAAR's Community C. This area is the northeast and southeast section of Rockcastle County bound by General, Madison, Jackson and Laurel County. Highway boundaries are Little Hurricane Road, I-75 and Hwy. 25.

A total of 1227 of farm owners, operators, tenants and shareholders of legal voting age were eligible to vote through December 2, 2002 if they were eligible to take part in any FSA program.

Names of the candidates in order as they appeared on the ballot were: Joe C. Bullen, Pamela Burdette, Thomas W. Coffey and James Hazelwood.

The newly elected County Committee member will take office January 1, 2003.

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, December 10th between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

The FSA Office is located on US Hwy. 150; the main RD office is located in Richmond at 2150 Lexington Road, Suite C and the phone number is 859-624-1980 ext. 4.

Important Program Dates

October 1, 2002 - Sign up for DCP crop year 2002 and 2003 begins. Farm Service Agency Loan Program sign-up continues.

Conservation Reserve Program sign-up continues.

April 1, 2003 - Bidding date for owners to select base and yield options.

June 2, 2003 - Sign up for the 2002 and 2003 DCP ends.

The US 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, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA Target Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 315-F, Whitten Building, Independence Ave., SW Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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Identity Fraud and Theft

By Hazel Jackson
County Extension Agent for
Family and Consumer Sciences



Identity fraud is the number one consumer fraud in the United States. On December 1st of this year, Federal authorities unveiled charges against three men in what they said was the largest identity-fraud case in U.S. history. The ring stole private financial information on people across the United States; 30,000 victims have been identified so far. According to authorities, the thieves used pilfered corporate passwords to electronically access consumer data from all three major credit-reporting agencies.

For many consumers, the theft was the beginning of a nightmare that left their bank accounts drained and a lowered credit score. The thieves' dollars' worth of fraudulent charges in the victims' names. The case underscores the sense that identity theft, already considered the fastest-growing financial crime in the country, has reached epidemic proportions.

Identity thieves use the victim's personal and financial information - both date, Social Security number and bank account number - to make fraudulent credit card purchases, use unauthorized bank accounts and even take out loans in the victim's name. Consumers aren't legally responsible for paying the

fraudulent charges. But they must prove the transactions were fraudulent.

This particular scam started more than two years ago, when one of the men charged worked for a Long Island company that provides software and computer services to help banks and retail stores accept consumer credit reports online from credit-reporting agencies Equifax, Inc., Experian and Trans Union.

The employee allegedly used his position as a computer help-desk employee to purloin passwords used by a variety of customers. With those passwords credit reports could be obtained on thousands of consumers, listing mortgage information, credit card numbers and loan-payment histories. So far the losses caused by this scam have been calculated at \$2.7 million, but it is expected that the total will reach several million more.

To protect yourself from identity theft, check your credit bureau report at least once a year. You can call the credit bureaus at: Experian - 1-888-397-3742; Equifax - 1-800-525-6285; and Trans Union - 1-800-680-7289.

For more information on identity fraud, contact the Rockcastle County Extension Service at 256-2403.

"What Said the Scriptures"

We read in 1 Tim 3:7, "Moreover he must have a good report of them which receive him; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil." Again in 2 Tim 2:26, "And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will." The temptations of the devil is that he is bent on destruction; as Peter said, "Your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may