

Agricultural News

By: Warden Alexander, FSA Director

Hispanic and Women Farmers and Ranchers Claims Must be Post-marked by March 25th

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today reminded Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they have faced discriminatory practices in the past from the USDA have 45 days remaining in the filing period closing March 25, 2013.

USDA urges potential claimants to contact the Claims Administrator for information and mail their claim packages on or before March 25, 2013.

The process offers a voluntary alternative to litigation for each Hispanic or female farmer and rancher who can prove that USDA denied his or her application for loan or loan servicing assistance for discriminatory reasons for certain time periods between 1981 and 2000. As announced in February 2011, the voluntary claims process will make available at least \$1.33 billion for cash awards and tax relief payments, plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief, to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers. There are no filing fees to participate in the program.

Claimants may register for a claims package (by calling the number or visiting the website) or may download the forms from the website. All those interested in learning more or receiving information about the claims process and claims packages are encouraged to contact the website at any time or call center telephone number Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern Time.

Website: www.farmerclaims.gov
Phone: 1-888-508-4429

Claims Period: September 24, 2012 - March 25, 2013.

Independent legal services companies will administer the claims process and adjudicate the claims. Although there are no filing fees to participate and a lawyer is not required to participate in the claims process, persons seeking legal advice may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider.

Under Secretary Vilsack's leadership, USDA has instituted a comprehensive plan to strengthen the Department as a model service provider and to ensure that every farmer and rancher is treated equally and fairly as part of "a new era of civil rights" at USDA. The claims process provides a voluntary alternative to continuing litigation for Hispanic and female farm-

ers and ranchers who want to use it.

Audio and video public service announcements in English and Spanish from Secretary Vilsack and downloadable print and web banner ads on the Hispanic and women farmer claims process are available at: <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda>.

Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP) - 2013

The American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012, enacted on Jan. 2, 2013, amends the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 and provides for a one-year extension of the Direct and Counter-Cyclical (DCP) program. To be eligible for direct and counter-cyclical payments, producers must enroll their farms in DCP during the sign-up period which began on Feb. 19, 2013 and ends on Aug. 2, 2013.

There are two types of DCP payments: direct payments and counter-cyclical payments. Both are calculated using the base acres and payment yields established for the farm. DCP is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA).

All producers may choose to enroll in either DCP or Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) for the 2013 crop year. This means that producers who enrolled in ACRE for 2012 may elect to enroll in DCP in 2013, or vice versa.

For 2013, no advance direct or partial CC payments are authorized. Producers will receive the entire 2013 direct payment in Oct. 2013.

Final counter-cyclical payments are made beginning October 2014, or as soon as practicable thereafter, after the end of the marketing year for the crop.

For more information about this and other FSA programs please visit your local FSA county office or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

Farmers/ Business Banquet

The 53rd Rockcastle County Farmers/Business Banquet will be held Tuesday,

February 26, 2013, at 6:30 PM at the Rockcastle County Middle School. Tickets can be purchased at the Rockcastle County Conservation District in the USDA Service Center (Hwy 150), Chamber of Commerce at 256-0070 and the Circuit Court Clerk Eliza York's Office or by calling 256-2525 ext. 3. Tickets are \$17.00 and are limited. Get yours today!!

2013 Redbud Trails photography contest

April is Redbud Month in Southern and Eastern Kentucky and TOUR Southern and Eastern Kentucky (TOUR SEKY) is excited to announce the 2013 Redbud Trails Photography Contest. TOUR SEKY is calling all amateur photographers in TOUR's 49 county service region to submit their best Redbud photos. Top entries will be the featured 2013 summer exhibit at The Center for Rural Development in Somerset.

The entry fee is \$15. The fee includes the entry of up to three photos per contestant. Entries must be submitted by April 10, 2013. The photos will be judged on site April 19th at the Redbud Garden Party, 1:00-3:00pm, American Association Building, 2215 Cumberland Ave., Middlesboro, KY. First, second and third place winners will be featured on the tourseky.com website and press releases will be sent to each winner's hometown newspaper.

Photos must be full color and contain a Redbud tree, blossom, branch, or leaf. The photographs must be on a CD and a full color 10x8 (landscape) un-matted and un-framed hard copy of the image is required. For complete contest rules and information on how to submit your photo, contact Maggie Bill, mbill@tourseky.com or 606-677-6093. The official guidelines, entry and release forms can be found on the tourseky.com homepage under downloadable forms and important information.

TOUR SEKY is an award winning initiative of Congressman Hal Rogers. The organization's mission is to educate, expand, develop and market the existing and potential tourism industry throughout southern and eastern Kentucky, while contributing to the economic, cultural growth, health and awareness, and overall quality of life of the region. For additional information about TOUR SEKY visit www.tourseky.com, or call 606-677-6093.



Blast from the Past!!!

This week's photograph is of the L&N Railroad Depot at Brodhead. If you have a photo for Blast From The Past contact David Owens at scoopowens24@yahoo.com or (606)256-9870.

Shop and Share Day benefits domestic violence shelters

Shoppers who went to Kroger recently were most likely met at the door with a grocery list. It wasn't a list of items to take home, but a list of items to leave at the store.

First Lady Jane Beshear's annual Shop and Share Day brought in over \$500,000 in much-needed items for domestic violence shelters across the Commonwealth. Locally, Kroger patrons donated over \$10,000 in goods from the Corbin, London, Middlesboro Kroger and Food City stores—enough household items to keep the Family Life Abuse Center stocked for yet another year.

Community and Court Advocate for the Family Life Abuse Center, Dana Brown, had a small army of volunteers helping her at Kroger on Falls Road in Corbin. Volunteers, working with Brown, met Kroger patrons at the door with a shopping list that included

items necessary to run the center—baby wipes, paper towels, canned goods, laundry detergent and other miscellaneous household necessities.

Kentucky's 15 domestic violence shelters have come to depend on the Annual Shop and Share Day, now in its thirty-second year, as a way to meet the needs of those who find themselves in a domestic violence situation.

"We just now ran out of the items we collected last year," Brown said. "Shop & Share Day is always right on time for us and we are so grateful to the first lady and those who partner with her each year."

Brown's work with the Family Life Abuse Center places her, and her colleagues, under many hats as advocates for domestic abuse victims. They are caregivers, fundraisers, transportation specialists, safety educators, housing associates and so much

more.

The Family Life Abuse Center staff is involved in ongoing educational efforts to get the word out that abuse can happen to anyone—and does. From physical abuse to mental and emotional abuse to sexual abuse, the Center stands ready to help those who need them.

The Family Life Abuse Center, although located in Mt. Vernon, serves domestic violence victims in Knox, Whitley (including Corbin and Williamsburg), Laurel, Bell, Clay, Harlan, Rockcastle and Jackson counties. The Center is funded in part by Christian Appalachian Project and in part from federal and state funds provided by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services through a contract with the Kentucky Domestic Violence Association (KDVA) and in part through a grant from the Department of Justice (VOCA).

Those who find them-

selves in domestic violence situations can refer themselves or be referred by local law enforcement or community agencies. All services provided by the Family Life Abuse Center are free of charge for those in need.

Organizational partners for 2013 Shop & Share include the First Lady's Office, KDVA, Kroger, Food City, the Kentucky Commission on Women, the General Federation of Women's Clubs, the Girl Scouts of Kentuckiana, the Girl Scouts of Wilderness Road Council and the Kentucky Drug Court.

If you or someone you know could benefit from the services of the Family Life Abuse Center or need safe shelter, please call the Center's 24-hour crisis line at 1-800-755-5348. Brown encourages law enforcement to use the Center as a source of referral for those they feel are in need of services.

Free booklet helps college freshmen in first year

Kentucky students headed to college in the fall have a free resource to help them through their first year on campus.

Surviving College, a guide to students' first year, is now available free from the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA).

The 36-page booklet includes the following sections:

- Majors and class schedules;
- Staying healthy and safe on campus;
- Learning styles and study tips;
- Campus life; and
- Financial basics.

To order a copy of Surviving College, email publications@kheaa.com or use the order form on www.kheaa.com.

To learn how to plan and prepare for higher education, go to www.gotocollege.ky.gov. For more information about Kentucky scholarships and grants, visit www.kheaa.com; write KHEAA, P.O. Box 798, Frankfort, KY 40602; or call (800) 928-8926, ext. 6-7372.

Kentucky Auto Exchange

Public Auto Auction Every Saturday and Tuesday at 7 p.m.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Dealers Welcome!



Located on Exit 38 in London on Hwy. 1006

(606) 878-7815

Saint Joseph Berea KentuckyOne Health™

2nd Annual Saint Joseph Berea Talent Show

March 8, 2013
7:30 p.m.

Berea College Phelps Stokes Chapel
161 Chestnut Street, Berea, KY

All ages welcome!

1st Prize \$1,000
2nd Prize \$500
3rd Prize \$250

No entry fee, however donations will be taken at the door. All proceeds support colon cancer awareness.

MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENTER:
chrisschweighardt@catholichealth.net
859.986.6521

March is Colon Cancer Awareness Month. Stay Healthy. Get Screened.

Colon cancer can be prevented if caught early. When found at its earliest, most treatable stage, colon cancer has a 90 percent survival rate. Early detection is critical since colon cancer often produces no symptoms during early stages. The American Cancer Society recommends that everyone get tested for colon cancer beginning at age 50. People should talk to their doctor about testing earlier if they have a family history of colon cancer or have a personal history of chronic inflammatory bowel disease, such as Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis.