

Buying Quality Clothing

By: Hazel Jackson
County Extension Agent for
Family and Consumer Science

When buying clothing, a wise consumer will always check the quality as well as price before making a purchase. Here are some checkpoints for quality in ready-to-wear garments.

- * Care Label: Check the label to determine if you are willing to care for the garment the way it directs you to. If the garment needs dry cleaning or special care it will add to the total cost. Will it resist soil, stains, wrinkling or do you mind if it doesn't? Does the garment require little ironing or is it easy care?
- * Fabric: Is the fabric and design of pattern on grain? Do plaids or stripes match at seams, pockets, etc.
- * Seams: Does the thread match or blend with the fabric? Are seam allowances adequate for wear and altering ease? Are there proper seam finishes? Are there 10-12 stitches per inch? Do seams hang straight and are they free from puckers?
- * Zippers: Is stitching even and inconspicuous? Is the zipper and zipper pull covered? Is the zipper

opening flat and pucker free? Is the zipper sturdy and does it slide easily?

- * Closures (buttons, snap, and hooks): Are closures securely attached? Is there a shank or thread shank to provide for bulk? Are there extra buttons inside the garment or at the hemline in case one is lost?
- * Buttonholes: Are buttonhole stitches even, smooth and securely stitched? Are buttonholes even and adequately spaced? Are buttonholes straight and on-grain?
- * Hem: Is the hem a proper and even width for the garment style? Does the hem lie flat, free from puckers and grain pull? Does the hem hang evenly? Is the hem invisible from the outside of the garment?
- * Finish and Details: Lining will add quality and life to skirts and pants. It should lie smooth and free from binding. Topstitching and detailing should be evenly stitched, smooth and contribute to the garment design.

For more information, contact the Extension office at 256-2403.

4-H Variety Show

By John McQueary
Co. Ext. Agent 4-H/Youth Dev.

Now is the time for all 4-H'ers to begin their preparation for the County 4-H Variety Show to be held March 16, 2000, 6:30 p.m., at the Mt. Vernon Elementary School. This event consists of specialty and club acts and is held annually on the county and area level. It provides an opportunity for large numbers of 4-H participants to gain poise and confidence and develop character and sportsmanship while working cooperatively with others.

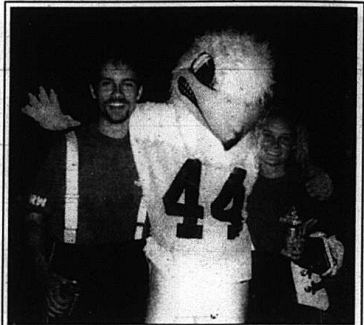
Clubs planning to participate need to carefully read and follow the following rules and guidelines:

1. Specialty acts shall consist of four 4-H participants or fewer and have a time limit of four minutes. A 4-H club may have up to 2 specialty acts. Specialty acts will be divided into junior and senior divisions. Anyone under the age of 14 years of age by January 1, 2000, will be in the senior division.
2. There must be 5 participants or more for a club act. Club acts have a time limit of 8 minutes.
3. Only one person other than 4-H participants, such as a pianist, may accompany the act. Other than the

one accompanist, only 4-H participants may appear on the stage during the act.

4. Variety Show participants may only represent one club and must participate within their own grade and home room.
5. There shall be absolutely no pantomiming in any club or specialty act.
6. Please use good judgement on dance routines.
7. An act exceeding the time limit should be permitted to finish but cannot be awarded Champion.
8. Since participation is of the utmost importance, the combination of clubs for the purpose of presenting a club or specialty act is not permitted.
9. Dramatic readings can be entered as a variety show act.
10. All acts must use the same P.A. system. No act will be allowed to provide their own system.

Winners will participate in the Wilderness Trail Area 4-H Variety Show to be held April 15, 2000 in Knox County. Call the Extension office at 256-2403 for any additional information.



Jonathan Renner, left, a senior at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia made the Dean's List again this fall semester. His GPA was 3.8. Jonathan will be graduating in May with a degree in Graphic Arts. His talent in Graphic Arts was acknowledged when the university accepted his design for the cover of their 2000 yearbook.

Tammy Renner, right, Jonathan's sister, also attends Liberty University and is a sophomore studying Psychology. Tammy and Jonathan were both in the Liberty University Marching Band this fall. Tammy was recently honored to receive an invitation to join the orchestra at the Thomas Road Baptist Church where Rev. Jerry Falwell is the pastor and the services are televised each week.

Wendell and Virginia Renner of Orlando are the parents of Jonathan and Tammy. Both Liberty students are graduates of Rockcastle County High School.

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Farm News

By: Tom Mills
County Extension Agent
for Agriculture

Tobacco News

Last weeks referendum on cross-county tobacco leases has been years in the making and may come at a crucial time when local producers will need to lease in pounds to keep in business. Over the years, some counties have historically had low lease prices and under utilization of quota while others were forced to pay many times more for the opportunity to grow tobacco. With the referendum passage, the thought is that lease prices will level off across Kentucky. This may take some time and current quota cuts may cause extreme reactions which could exaggerate the process.

In general, voting interest was very low with only approximately 41 percent participation. In round numbers, only 71,000 votes were cast out of a possible 174,000. The referendum passed by a wide margin of approximately 42,119 voting yes to 28,826 voting no.

The yes vote means that cross-county leasing will start with the 2000 crop year. Tobacco markets are scheduled to close on February 24, 2000, which means that the Farm Service Agency will likely start leasing in mid-March. Normal leases can be started by either the person leasing in or person leasing

out. FSA Director Hinton announced at the Tobacco Expo that cross-county leases can only be started by the person leasing their quota out. This means the leasing process will start in FSA offices where quotas originate.

Other news focuses on the quota cut which will be finalized by February 1, 2000. Current formula figures show lower company buying intentions, lower exports, and a negative effect from pool stocks. Current predictions are a 44 - 46 percent cut for the 2000 crop. What will this mean to Rockcastle County producers? A 1000 pound quota was cut by 7% in 1998, by 28% in 1999 and the possible 46% cut in 2000 will leave a 358 pound base. Rockcastle County quota was at just over 3.5 million pounds 3 years ago and may reach just under 1.25 million in 2000. The opportunity to lease in quota may help lower this loss. Otherwise, nearly one third of the total farm income will have been lost as compared to 3 years ago.

Farm Income Improvement Grant applications are available at the Extension Office. Farmers are encouraged to apply on February 1, 2000 or soon after.



Tom Mills, Rockcastle County Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources received a USDA Service Award on January 13, 2000. The award recognizes the 20 years of service to the Cooperative Extension Service. Tom was hired in May of 1979 as the 4-H Agent for Rockcastle. Tom transferred to Agriculture Agent for Rockcastle in August of 1981 and currently serves in that position. Above, Cheryl Wit, Wilderness Trail Area Program Director, presents Mr. Mills with his award.

Southeastern Ky. Gun Collectors

Gun & Knife Show

The Center, Somerset, Ky.

January 29th & 30th

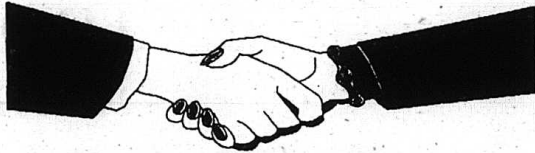
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday

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