

Agricultural News

By: Warden Alexander, FSA Director

Tobacco Leasing
Leasing for the crop year 2000 will be March 27th through July 1st. This includes gross county leasing. This does not allow sale or purchase of tobacco across county lines.

Oilseed Program
On October 22, 1999, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Appropriations Act 2000, authorized the Secretary to use \$475,000,000 of funds of CCC to make payments to producers who planted an eligible oilseed in 1999. In order to be eligible, a producer must have planted or shared in the production of an eligible oilseed in 1999. Prevented planted oilseed acreage cannot be used to determine 1999 OP eligibility nor can it be used for history or actual

yield purposes. 1999 OP payments may be available to producers who planted or shared in the production of the following oilseeds in 1999: soybeans, canola, crabs, flaxseed, mustard seed, rapeseed, safflower seed, sunflower seed (oil and confectionery).

OP applications shall be submitted to the county that controls payment limitation for the producer. KCMO determined the "control" county for each producer in December 1999. The deadline for late reporting oilseed acreage for 1999 OP purposes is February 18, 2000. Sign up for the 1999 OP is February 28th through March 31st.

PRP Announced
Eligible farmers whose pastures were damaged by drought in 1999

can receive payments to help them reestablish forage crops. The Pasture Recovery Program is funded at \$40 million. Established pasture is eligible where livestock are normally grazed and that was so damaged by drought that seeding is required to reestablish the forage crop. No assistance is authorized for hayland.

To be eligible for PRP, producers must meet ALL of the following guidelines: be an owner or operator of eligible land who normally grazes livestock on such land; as owner or operator, be responsible for restoring and maintaining the forage crop on the affected land for the 5-year lifespan of the contract; be approved for payment under 1999 LAP; not have grossed annual income in excess of \$2.5 million; certify that the pasture land was so damaged or destroyed by drought in 1999 that seeding is re-

quired to re-establish the forage crop. There will be two payment rates, one for re-seeding with seedbed preparation and no seedbed preparation. Payment rates will be determined by the Farm Service Agency State committee and will pay for the cost of the seed, seeding and fertilizer, but in general, will not exceed \$75.00 per acre.

Signup for the program will begin March 20 and last until April 14, 2000. Re-seeding conducted before filing an application for PRP assistance will not be eligible for PRP payment.

Small Grains
Producers growing small grains (wheat) must report their acreage by May 31, 2000. If crop acreage is not filed timely and producer applies for a Loan Deficiency Payment, then a charge of \$26.50 will be applied for a late file.

Marketing Cards
Anyone who has not turned in his or her marketing card needs to bring it to the FSA Office as soon as possible.

COC Election
The County Committee election ballots for LAA#3, Community C were counted March 9, 2000. Joe C. Bullen was elected to fill the position for a three-year term, beginning April 1, 2000.

Tobacco Loss Assistance Program Funds
Governor Paul Patton requested today that the United States Department of Agriculture release \$121,645,774 to the Chase Manhattan Bank for distribution to Kentucky tobacco quota holders and growers. The money is Kentucky's share of the Tobacco Loss Assistance Pro-

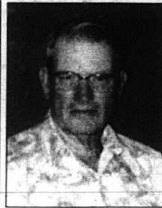
gram, funded by the Agricultural Appropriations bill passed by the U.S. Congress late last year. It will be shared to distribute Phase II payments late last year.

Governor Patton said, "Times have never been tougher for Kentucky's farm families. We want to expedite the distribution of these federal funds

in the most efficient possible way to our tobacco quota holders and growers. Chase Manhattan has the database and the hardware in place to provide this service for a reasonable fee and do it quickly. Our farmers need the money now as they head toward a busy spring planting season."

The Kentucky Tobacco Settlement Trust Corporation, the state entity handling Phase II payments, is also serving as the point for the distribution of the federal funds. Corporation staff indicated that growers would probably see their payments within

the next six to eight weeks. Growers and quota holders who applied for Phase II funds will not have to reapply. Corporation staff is exploring the possibility of offering a grace application period for quota holders and growers who missed the deadlines for Phase II funds. The administrative costs and time involved in conducting such a process are the major questions yet to be resolved. A decision on the clean up application period is expected in the next two weeks.



Celebrates 70th Birthday

James Reppert celebrated his 70th birthday Tuesday, March 7th at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Rex Davidson. Dinner was served including the traditional birthday cake with candles and ice cream. James received a couple of mementos. Everyone had a wonderful time. Those attending were Lloyd and Evelyn Reppert, Hallie Alexander, Jason Rawlins, Rex, Jewell, Jenia and Jeremy Davidson. Uncle, we love you and wish you many more.



Happy Birthday Ashley Stewart
Love - Dad & Mom

Ricky, Ricky,
Man in Blue
This time it's finally
caught up with you!!
Trying so hard
To be clever and slick
But I bet you,
Old Boy,
This will be your last trick!!
Love, "The Trooper"



Hi! My name is Johnathan William Simpson. I celebrated my first birthday December 3, 1999 with my family and friends. My daddy and mommy are Donovan and Janet Simpson of Brothead and my sister is Rachel Leann. My grandparents are Johnny and Brenda Simpson of Crab Orchard and William and Geraldine Thomas of Livingston. My great grandparents are Hulien and Betty Simpson of Crab Orchard and Burgess and Charlotte King of Mt. Vernon. I would like to thank everyone for the nice gifts and for coming to my party. I would also like to send lots of hugs and kisses to my uncle Rodney.



Happy Birthday Buddy
You are only as old as you feel.
Some people say that isn't real,
Just remember you can't hide the wrinkles,
but you can hide the gray.
So please act your age
that's all I will say!
Love, your younger & baby sister,
Lyla Bell



Happy Birthday Sissy Bug
How does it feel to be 51?
To be this age, it could be fun,
please don't fret, because of your age,
don't get mad and go into a rage,
just grin and bear what will be,
just think our brother turns 53!
Love your younger & baby sister
Lyla Bell



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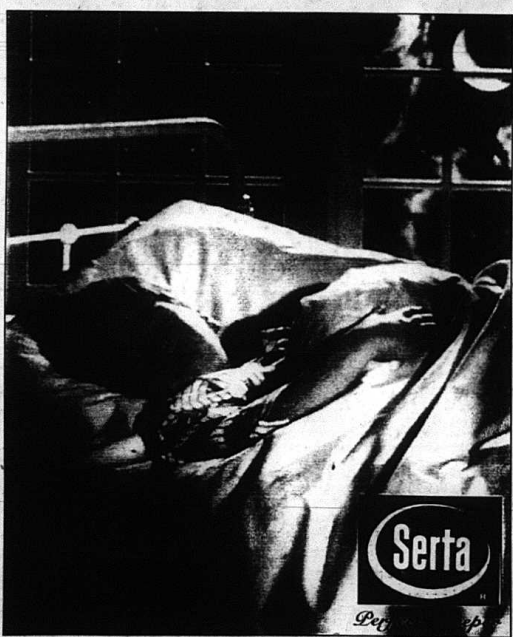
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Tuesday, March 28, 2000 6:30 p.m.
Rockcastle County High School

Tickets: \$50 per person \$500 per table

Featuring:

Bill Page

"America's Favorite Classroom Teacher"



Bill Page relates naturally to his audience. He has a humorous, entertaining, down-to-earth style with a sincere, sensible and profound message. His audiences gain motivation, inspiration, insight and enthusiasm.

Call 256-4346 to reserve your tickets and for information on how your business can purchase a table for this event.

All proceeds go to Rockcastle Incentive Scholarship Trust which benefits Rockcastle County Students.