

# Agricultural News

By: Warden Alexander, ESA Director

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

**Marketing Cards**  
Anyone who has not turned in his or her marketing card needs to bring it to the FSA Office before March 29, 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 Program, which was authorized by Appropriations bill passed by the U.S. Congress late last year. It will be shared by tobacco quota holders and growers using the same formula that was used 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 acting 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 re-apply.

**LAP Payments**  
The Livestock Assistance Program payments were made on March 14, 2000. A total of 216 payments, equaling \$77,338, were made to Rockcastle County producers.

**PRP Signup**  
Eligible farmers whose pastures were damaged by drought in 1999 can receive payments to help them re-establish 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 re-establish 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 required to reestablish 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 per acre.

Signup for the program will begin March 20 and last until April 14, 2000. Re-seeding conducted before filling 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 fee.

**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 will be available to producers who planted or shared in the production of the following oilseeds in 1999: soybeans, canola, crambe, 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.



# Farm News

By: Tom Mills  
County Extension Agent for Agriculture  
**Nodding Thistle**  
Robbing Farmers of Pasture Land

A controllable weed is robbing Kentucky farmers of pasture production. The weed, called nodding thistle, can be controlled by attacking them at the right time. The weed produces thousands of seed each year capable of producing thousands of new plants.

The key to controlling the weed is to take measures to control it before it sets seed, which is usually in late May and early June. Once seed has set, it is difficult to control the spread of the seed and farmers will need to wait until fall or next spring to obtain control of even more weeds.

The nodding thistle emerges as a rosette which is a circular cluster of leaves with the growing point close to the ground. The dark green rosette is 6 to 8 inches in diameter. Rosettes appearing in the spring can be sprayed and killed. Herbicides such as 2,4-D and Banvel are more effective when the rosette is small and actively growing. They can be sprayed in the spring as long as daytime temperatures are above 50 degrees. Timing is critical for good control. The weed must be attacked

when it is small if the sprays are to be most effective. This means late April will be the last chance for farmers to get an effective chemical control this spring.

If spraying is delayed until the plant is older, it can be controlled by either mowing the plants or hoeing it out by hand. However, with either method, the weed must be destroyed before it sets seed. Mowing at or after bloom may mean that the seed produced will be scattered to a larger area.

Chemical control is the best means in eliminating seed production. The Department of Agriculture and local Extension Service will be conducting 10-acre demonstrations in April. If you have pasture or hay fields infested with nodding thistle

and would like to participate, call Tom Mills at 256-2403. The Department of Agriculture supplies the chemical and sprayer. The farmer supplies the water and applies the chemical with his farm tractor.

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

## Cast Iron Cookware Needs Special Care

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

Cast-iron cookware provides even heat, won't dent or chip, and can last practically forever. A cast-iron pot or skillet is a good choice for cooking daily family meals or for cooking over a campfire. If you don't take proper care of cast-iron however, you will be disappointed - foods will stick and the pan will rust. Most new cast-iron cookware has a protective coating. You should wash this off with very hot water and a mild soap, and then season the utensil before use.

To season, first wash as above and slowly towel-dry it. Then spread unsalted vegetable shortening or cooking oil on the inside of the pan and its cover. Leave it in a 250-300 degree F. oven for 2 to 3 hours. Every 30 to 40 minutes, remove it from the oven, wipe out the pan with paper towels and re-oil.

Now it's ready to use. The first few times you should avoid cooking vegetables, stews and other high-moisture content foods in it. Start out frying bacon in it and cooking other foods high in fat or grease. Whenever possible, clean the pan by just wiping out thoroughly with paper towels. If you must wash it, stay away from detergents and harsh cleaning pads. Use soap and a gentle scouring pad, such as nylon net. Dry with a dish towel immediately. Don't leave the pan to soak and don't leave it to air dry. That can ruin the finish and open it to rust. Cast-iron cookware should never be put in the dishwasher for cleaning. Many cooks re-coat cast-iron utensils with a thin coating of unsalted vegetable shortening or cooking oil before storage. Cast-iron should be stored without the covers on.

Discolored or sticking food, a metallic taste, and rust, are all sure signs that it's past time to re-season your cookware. Clean it thoroughly and then season it just the way you did when it was new. Cast-iron utensils darken with age. Old cast-iron cookware which has been out of circulation for years needs a thorough cleaning and re-seasoning before you start using it again. New, untreated cookware is often gray and after years of use will turn

completely black. For additional information, contact the Extension Office at 256-2403.

## Pharmacy resign pilot program begins June 1st

Beginning June 1, 2000 (instead of March 1, as was previously announced), eligible uniformed service retirees and their family members age 65 and over living in designated areas of Kentucky, Ohio and West Virginia may enroll in this exciting pilot program.

Delivery of the pharmacy benefit will start July 1 under this program, which could significantly reduce your out-of-pocket costs of prescription medications.

A detailed program brochure and enrollment application will be mailed to you this spring. In the meantime, if you would like more information, call toll free 1-800-941-4501.

## Classified Deadline is Noon Tuesday



Dave Watson presented Melissa Wilson with the second place award for ASA in Valdosta, Georgia March 19th.

## "It is Written"

In the book of Romans we read from the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter: "It is written, there is none righteous, no, not one: there is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable, there is none that doeth good, no, not one. For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." vs. 10-12:23. The problem of sin is a universal problem of humanity. People are born innocent, free from sin, but soon reach an age of accountability and fall into sin, transgression, and rebellion. Paul said we "zone out of the way" not "born out of the way", also he said we are "born unprofitable" not "born unprofitable". Thus the universal need for salvation and redemption. Thank God, he has provided a means for sinful men to be forgiven. As Paul went on to reveal, "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God. To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus." Rm. 3:24-26. Jesus is the ONLY way to find forgiveness, have you turned to him?

### Providence Church of Christ

Dan McKibben - 758-9316, e-mail - Dan.McKibben@Juno.com  
Homepage: www.hypercation.net/providence  
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Nine students constructed garments during 4-H Clothing Projects at Mt. Vernon Elementary March 13-16. Students who did not complete their projects may attend a workshop on April 3 at the Extension Office from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, phone the Extension Office at 256-2403. Those students participating are pictured above, front row from left: Cassie McFerron, Misty Baugh, Morgan Kinser and Westley Miller. Back row from left: Kayla Owens, Tiffany Cox, Kayla Rowe, Nancy Dickerson, and Beverly Miller.

## Family/Estate Protection Seminar to be held March 26th at First Baptist

First Baptist Church of Mt. Vernon will host a family/estate protection seminar on Sunday, March 26th from 5 to 7 p.m. The seminar will be held in the Fellowship Hall of First Baptist Church, West Main Street, Mt. Vernon. The seminar is open to members and friends of the congregation.

Participants will receive up-to-date information on the following subjects: 1) recent changes in state and federal tax laws; 2) wills, who needs one and why; 3) how to avoid probate; 4) estate planning and the role of charitable giving; and 5) how to save on estate taxes and produce additional income.

The seminar will be presented by Dick Carlton of the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children and Mr. Warren Nash of Georgetown College. There is no charge for the seminar and reservations may be made by calling First Baptist Church at (606) 256-2922.