

Agricultural News

By Wanda Alexander, FSA Director

Tobacco Payments
Hampton Henton, Jr., State Executive Director of the Farm Service Agency in Kentucky, has announced that burley tobacco farmers can apply at FSA for compensation under the Tobacco Loss Assistance Program (TLAP) starting July 31, 2000. USDA will distribute \$340 million to compensate tobacco farmers who suffered a reduction of tobacco quota or acreage for the 1999-2000 crop years. Kentucky's share is \$140 million.

As directed by Congress, farmers of designated types of tobacco will receive a portion of the \$340 million to help defray lost income resulting from declining quotas and allotments. Individual farm payments for burley tobacco will be split three ways between farmers, quota own-

ers, and those in control of the quotas (farm operators). Payments under the second year of TLAP will be based on the 2000 crop quota.

TLAP payments will be made no earlier than Oct. 1st and not later than Oct. 20, 2000. Regulations state beginning Jan. 1, 1999, all federal payments will be made through Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). Therefore, producers signing up for this program who are not signed up for EFT are encouraged to bring a check at the time of signup which can be voided for filing with the SE 1999A Direct Deposit. Producers who do not have a financial institutional account may sign a waiver to receive the TLAP payment by way of check. Sign-up at local USDA Farm Service Agency offices will begin on July 31st and ends on September 1,

2000. Late-filed applications will not be accepted. Payments will reach farmers between October 1-20, 2000.

Disaster Leasing of Tobacco
The lease and transfer of burley tobacco quota after July 1st due to disaster is authorized according to FSA regulations. County offices shall require, as a condition for approving disaster lease and transfer, that the lessor file an FSA 578, Crop Acreage Report, and a FSA 574, Application for Disaster Credit, immediately upon the determination by the producer that production has been reduced by more than 20% in all cases and BEFORE THE CROP IS HARVESTED.

Pork Referendum
People and businesses who owned and sold hogs or pigs or imported hogs, pigs, pork or pork products or imports hog, pigs, pork, or pork products into the US.

Producers voting by absentee ballot may obtain ballot packages from Aug. 18th through Sept. 18, 2000.

Pasture Recovery Program
USDA's Farm Service Agency Administrator Keith Kelly has announced that about \$40 million will be issued to producers under the Pasture Recovery Program (PRP). PRP was established to help farmers whose pastures were severely damaged by drought in 1999 reestablish forage crops. Eligible land included pasture which was normally drought grazed by livestock, but was so damaged by drought that seeding was required to reestablish forage crop.

County FSA offices conducted a sign-up from March 20 to June 23, 2000. Since the producer demand exceeded the amount of funds available by approximately \$14 million, a national factor was applied to all requests. Consequently, producers will receive about 73.5 percent of the amount they qualified for under PRP. Payments will be made by county FSA offices shortly following the re-seeding has been established successfully.

Lamb Meat Adjustment Assistance Program (LMMAP)
As part of the Clinton Administration's three-year, \$110 million assistance plan to help U.S. sheep and lamb farmers, Agricultural Secretary Dan Glickman announced today that sheep and lamb producers during the representative period from August 18, 1999 through August 17, 2000 will be eligible to vote in referendum to determine if producers and importers favor continuation of the Pork Checkoff Program, formally known as the Pork Promotion, Research and Consumer Information Order.

There are three types of eligible voters. One, are people who own and sell hogs or pigs in the US in their own name. The second, is people who import hogs, pigs, pork, pork products, into the US in their own name, and the third is people who are designated to cast the single vote for

a business entity that owns and sells, will receive a total of \$30 million in direct cash payments to help improve their production efficiency and the marketability of lamb meat. Signup for the program began June 19th and ends on October 13, 2000.

During the first year of the program (July, 21, 1999-Sept. 30, 2000) payments may be made for 3 types of payments. The first is a Ram payment. A Ram payment is a payment rate of \$100 per ram purchased during year 1, 90 days or older at the time of purchase, intended for breeding purposes and owned by the operation for at least 90 days. Next, is the Sheep Improvement Program payment which has a payment rate of \$.50 per enrolled sheep and sheep must be enrolled in an authorized sheep improvement program (NSIP). The third payment is the Facility Improvement Payment. This is where

(Cont. on A11)

Lake Linville Open Bass Tournament
Sponsored by Boat Dock
Every Tuesday Night - 6:30 to 11 p.m.
• Entry Fee - \$20 per boat
• 100% Entry Fee Payback
"Big Fish Pot" sponsored by boat dock



Call 256-9696 for further info. & rules

Top left: Kerry Johnson and David Jones took first place 7:18 and at top right: Steve Riley took second place on 7:18.
Bottom left: Williams Masters and Brian Ross won first place 7:11 while Ken Dale Robinson and John Woods captured second on 7:11 (Photo not available)

Roundstone School Pre-Registration For New Students
Tuesday, August 8th
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

You will need to bring the following:

- Physical (must be on Ky. form)
- Immunization Certificate
- Copy of birth certificate (must be certified copy from the state)
- Social Security Card

If you have questions, call 256-2235

Mt. Vernon Elementary
welcomes you to our
OPEN HOUSE

Thurs., August 10 • 4 to 6 p.m.
* Enroll new students—
August 10 - 4 to 6 p.m.
August 11 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
August 14 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

MUST HAVE

- 1) Official state birth certificate
- 2) Social Security card
- 3) Up-to-date immunization record (on Ky. form)
- 4) Current physical form

- Join Parent Teacher Group (PTG)
- Visit classrooms and meet new teachers
- Title I Information • Door Prizes

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