



Casey County News

January 2008

Liberty FSA Service Center

28 Liberty Square
Liberty, KY 42539
606-787-6581 (phone)
606-787-2378 (fax)

Kyliberty-fsa@one.usda.gov
(email)

www.fsa.usda.gov/ky

Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

County Committee

Paul Sayers
John D. Shugars
Danny W. Helm
Advisor -- Tracy Clements

County Committee meets

First Thursday of each month

Staff

Barry L. Turpen, CED
Anita Beal-Hayes, PT
Anita M. Salyers, PT
Stephanie Patterson, TO
Magan Byrd, TO

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CASEY COUNTY FSA ELECTION

The Casey County FSA Office held their County Committee Election in December 2007 for LAA-2, Middleburg and Ellisburg areas. Danny W. Helm was elected to the county committee beginning January 1, 2008 for a three year term.

EQIP SIGNUP

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is accepting applications for Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) at your local USDA Service Center or conservation district office.

Landowners may apply for EQIP at any time. Applications that were received by December 16, 2007 will be considered for this (federal fiscal year 2008) program year. Applications received after December 16, 2007 will be held until the next evaluation period.

EQIP applications are evaluated and ranked using criteria set forth by local work groups to determine which applications provide the best environmental benefits and address the resource concerns of their local area.

EQIP allows cost-share assistance to persons engaged in livestock or agricultural production on eligible land. Cost-share rates vary by practice and generally range from 30 to 75 percent. Cost-share rates for beginning farmers and limited resource producers are 75 percent and 90 percent respectively for all eligible practices.

All conservation practices are subject to NRCS technical standards adapted for local conditions. For applications selected for funding, an EQIP plan of operations will be developed with the landuser to identify appropriate conservation practices. EQIP practices in Kentucky include, but are not limited to: critical area planting; pipeline and watering facility; grassed waterway; diversion; and fencing.

Additional information may be found at <http://www.ky.nrcs.usda.gov/programs>. To apply for EQIP, or for more information, please contact your local NRCS or conservation district office at 20 Liberty Square, Liberty, KY or call 606-787-2017, extension 3.

WHIP SIGNUP

USDA'S Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is accepting applications for the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) signup. Landowners may apply for WHIP at anytime. WHIP provides landusers an opportunity to improve wildlife habitat. The program provides financial incentives for installing eligible practices on land they own or control. The landuser must devote at least 10 acres to eligible wildlife practices.

In Kentucky, the primary focus of WHIP is to improve early successional and forestland habitats for declining species and other wildlife. Restoring remnant prairies, planting native grasses, shrubs, and trees, implementing wildlife beneficial forest stand improvements, and creating shallow water areas are some of the eligible practices for the program. Excluding livestock from sensitive streams and woodlands is also an important focus under Kentucky's 2008 WHIP. Since WHIP focuses on improvement to wildlife cover, food plots are not eligible under the program. WHIP applications are evaluated and ranked to determine which applications provide the most beneficial habitats.

To apply for WHIP, please contact Richard Davis, District Conservationist, USDA Service Center at 606-787-2017 or Chris Mason, Biologist with the Ky. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Resources at 270-465-2839.

CONSERVATION DISTRICT COST SHARE PROGRAM

The Casey County Conservation District will be accepting requests for cost share funding under the Kentucky Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share Program through January 25, 2008. The sign up period for 2008 State Cost Share will end January 25, 2008.

The Kentucky Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share Program was created to help agricultural operations protect the soil and water resources of Kentucky. The annual cost share program is administrated locally by the Casey County Conservation District with priority given to district participants where pollution problems have been identified.

Funding for practices applied for will be approved by the Soil and Water Conservation Commission at the Ky. Division of Conservation, located in Frankfort, as funds are available. For more information, stop by the Conservation District office located in the Liberty Square shopping center. Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. MON-FRI. Phone number is 606-787-2017, extension 3.