



October 2006

Taylor County News

Taylor County USDA Service Center

Taylor County FSA
1105 S Columbia Ave
Campbellsville Ky 42718
270 465-4651 (phone)
270 789-4574(fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/ky

Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
Robbie Hunt
Howard Whitley
Lewis Weatherford
Clem Haskins
Lavoy Price

County Committee meets
2nd Thursday of month

Staff
Gloria Kreilein
Martha Price
Runita Rice
David Claycomb

Green River CREP Offers Unique Opportunities

Farmers in the Upper Green River watershed have a unique opportunity to participate in Kentucky's only CREP project. CREP is an enhanced version of the Conservation Reserve Program and targets areas with sensitive and unique natural resources. There are currently only 34 CREP areas in the United States.

The upper Green River, from Green River Reservoir dam to Mammoth Cave National Park, is one of the most biologically diverse river systems in the country. This CREP project is designed to protect and enhance the water quality of the Green River.

Land can be eligible for enrollment into CREP contracts in two different ways. Crop land, hay land, or pasture land that lies adjacent to any size stream that drains into the Green River or its tributaries below Green River Lake can be enrolled under the Riparian Buffer practice. Land that is not adjacent to a stream can be enrolled if it has cropping history 4 out of 6 years during the period 1996 thru 2001. In addition, crop land adjacent to sink holes can be enrolled. A revision is expected to be approved this fall that will allow land around sinkholes and karst depressions in pasture and hay fields to be enrolled into CREP.

CREP participants receive annual rental payments from FSA for the life of their contract. Contracts are for 10 to 15 years at the choice of the participant. These rental payments are based on the soil types of the land enrolled. The rental rate is doubled for certain CREP practices. Certain practices receive a \$100 per acre incentive payment when the contract is signed. Federal and State cost share plus

incentives reimburse the landowner for the cost of establishing the conservation cover on the contract acres.

A conservation easement is also an available option for certain practices. It is currently \$650 per acre and is administered by The Nature Conservancy, a private partner in the CREP project.

When a CREP contract is enrolled along a stream that was being used for livestock water, the farmer can receive cost share and incentive payments for installing fence along the CREP acreage and for installing watering tanks for his cattle.

Financially, CREP is the most attractive program offered by USDA in recent history. As with any program, it will not fit every farming operation. If you own farmland in the CREP area, you should take a look at this program to see how it can benefit your farming operation.

Whether you want to increase farm income, provide better cover for wildlife, protect our natural resources such as the Green River and the Mammoth Cave System, or meet the requirements of the Kentucky Clean Water Act by limiting cattle access to streams, you really can't afford not to take a close look at CREP.

FSA County Committee Election

Farmers in LAA-3 will elect a new representative to the Taylor County FSA Committee in December. Howard Whitley has represented LAA-3 for the past 9 years and is not eligible to serve another term of office due to term limitations.

Two candidates were nominated to run for County Committee member. They are Nellie Barnett and Clem Haskins.

Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters in LAA-3 on November 3, 2006. Ballots must be completed and returned to FSA no later than December 4, 2006.

Voters should carefully read and follow the instructions for completing the ballots.

Ballots that are not completed correctly will not be counted. Remember to vote for only 1 candidate and to sign your name in the proper location before returning the ballot.

LAA-3 is the north eastern portion of Taylor County and includes the communities of Mannsville, Merrimac, Wooleyville, Bass Ridge, Spurlington, and Smith Ridge.

New Aerial Maps Coming

As anyone who has filed a crop report or requested an aerial map of their farm knows, our "current" aerial photography of Taylor County is getting quite old. The current maps were flown during the winter of 1993 / 1994, and many changes have taken place since that time.

FSA is currently in the process of replacing the old paper photographs with new digital computer imagery. This process is at various stages across the state.

Taylor County is currently printing new maps for each farm, and will be mailing these to each farm operator and owner later this fall. You will need to look closely at this new map, especially the boundaries.

Corrections should be reported to our office within 30 days of when you receive the map. After 30 days, the maps and acres will be certified as being correct and we will begin using these digital maps instead of the old paper photographs as our official maps.

FSA Farm Loans

FSA's Farm Loan division is set up in a regional concept with one Farm Loan staff serving farmers in several counties. Taylor County is served by the Farm Loan staff stationed in Washington County. A representative is in the Taylor County office on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon.

FSA provides **Direct Loans** for farm ownership, farm operating expenses, or emergency loans. Emergency loans are only available when the area qualifies due to a natural disaster. Direct ownership or operating loans require that the borrower be unable to obtain a loan from a commercial lender.

Youth Loans are an excellent way for youth to learn about the loan process and to begin to establish a good credit history.

These loans are available to youth to establish and operate income producing projects in connection with their participation in 4-H, FFA, or similar organizations.

FSA also has a **Guaranteed Loan Program** where the loan is actually made by a commercial lending institution, but is made possible by a guarantee from FSA.

The Washington County Farm Loan staff consists of:

Paul Clark, Farm Loan Manager; Myron Mattingly, Farm Loan Officer; Diane Bland and Martha Curtis, Program Technicians.

Their phone number is:
(859) 336 – 7775

Record Changes

Remember to report any changes that could affect your farm records to our office. This includes buying or selling farm land or an address change.

If you receive payments from us, be sure to correct your direct deposit information any time your bank account changes.