



October 2006

Woodford County News

Woodford County USDA Service Center

Woodford County FSA
182 Beasley Drive
Versailles, KY 40383
859 873-3411(phone)
859-873-9504 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/ky

Hours

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

County Committee Woodford

Bobby Lippert, Chairman
W. Gary Wilson
Henry Graddy Prewitt
Lucy G. Smith, Advisor

County Committee meets
Monthly

Staff

Ronn Pelfrey, CED
Cecelia Adams, PT
Angela Gordon, PT

The issue of whether to relocate the Bluegrass Stockyards, currently in Lexington, to an industrial park located near Interstate 64 just north of the town of Midway is being hotly debated in Woodford County. The regional marketing center could be a boon to the Woodford agriculture community and would provide local producers an ideal place to market their product while cutting some costs such as additional fuel involved for transportation to a more distant center. The hope would be that the center would attract other businesses and service providers for farmers. There are, however, many opponents with legitimate concerns related to the location of the stockyards including odor, noise, pollution and traffic. Approximately 300,000 head of cattle a year are sold through the Bluegrass Stockyard which had a payroll of 1.3 million last year.

The Ag Resource Building, which houses Woodford County FSA, NRCS, the Conservation District Office, the UK Extension Office and an office for the KY Department of Fish & Wildlife, has a resource library that contains over 550 videos and books. There is a wide range of information on soil, water, agriculture and various environmental subjects. Books and videos can be checked out for personal or classroom use. The building is located on Beasley Drive in Versailles.

The Woodford County Farmers Market is winding down its 2006 season with the last day of market being Saturday, October 28th, in downtown Versailles on the Courthouse Square. The market boasts high quality, locally grown fruits, vegetables and flowers in season. Also offered are a wide variety of craft items, honey, eggs, plants and locally raised beef products. One of the

goals each year is to market "full flavor" produce. That is, produce that has been allowed to ripen on the plant to maturity in order to attain its full flavor. Many highly flavorful much sought after heirloom varieties of fruits and vegetables are available.

The weather this year has been sometimes friendly and sometimes fierce for our local producers. Over 6 inches of rain fell within 24 hours one weekend in September causing widespread flooding and damage in all parts of the county. The Weisenberger Mill next to the South Elkhorn creek suffered high waters and some farmers faced the daunting and muddy task of getting their tobacco from the field to the barn.

Nation Brothers, Inc. in Shelbyville has an agreement with Woodford County to pick up dead livestock. The service is provided at no charge to the landowner. This includes horses, cattle, hogs, ostrich, llamas and goats. This also includes deer on county roads. This does NOT include commercial facilities such as vet clinics or stockyards. No sheep will be accepted at any time. Nation Brothers can be reached at 1-800-633-5677.

Woodford County is preparing for the County Committee election for Local Administrative Area (LAA) 1. Ballots will be mailed November 3, 2006 with the last day to return voted ballots being December 4, 2006. The ballot must be signed to be counted. The candidates are: W. Gary Wilson and Lucy G. Smith. Elected committee members and alternates will take office January 1, 2007. All eligible voters are urged to vote. Woodford County needs strong leadership during this time of change in our Farm Service Agency.