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Low moisture concerns farmers

The short soil moisture situation continues to be the chief concern for most Kentucky farmers. Rainfall totals last week in Kentucky ranged from 0.09 inches to a high of 0.29 inches. All weather stations in Kentucky continue to have below normal precipitation with most stations three to four inches below normal since April 1. Statewide, soil moisture was rated 95 percent short and seven percent adequate.

With 31 out of 61 days suitable for fieldwork last week, farmers were planting corn, watering tobacco beds, beginning alfalfa harvest and preparing remaining land for planting. Limited amounts of soybean and sorghum planting were also accomplished.

Corn planting progress continues to be ahead of normal. As of May 4, 68 percent of the intended acreage

had been planted compared with 50 percent last year and the average of 31 percent.

Dry conditions and extremely variable temperatures have caused delayed emergence in some fields. Only a minimal amount of replanting has occurred so far. About 40 percent of the planted corn has emerged. Most emerged corn with visible freeze damage from the previous week was beginning to come back.

Soybean planting did get underway in some areas. Statewide, planting was five percent complete compared with one percent for both last year and average.

Many growers continued watering their plant beds last week. In the Bluegrass there were several reports of growers re-seeding beds. Ap-

proximately 80 percent of the plants in emerged beds are less than two inches tall with 15 percent two to four inches tall and the remaining five percent larger than four inches. Seeding had begun in only a few areas and is generally one to two weeks away from beginning in most areas. Blue Mold is not a problem in tobacco beds.

Freeze damage to barley has been extensive in some areas. Most wheat is in fair to good condition. Approximately 25 percent of the wheat was cut for silage last week.

About a third of the hay and pasture crops are riled poor. Moisture is critically short in many areas and the first cutting of hay will be short. The average expected date for the first cutting of alfalfa is May 10.

* See Low moisture, page 11



Stirring up the dust

Mrs. Gayle (Ann) Liver of Carlisle moneys her tractor in the outflow class of the Fish and Game Club's ATV and Garden Tractor pull Sunday afternoon. Bob Fisher, at left, owns and built the

tractor, and was co-sponsor of the pull. Shown in background are 11-year-old Brian Ockerman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Ockerman, on the pullback tractor, and Tony Fryman. More photos page 4.

Burley quotas cut; other restrictions put on crop

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has cut burley tobacco quotas by 4 percent for the 1986 crop, and at the same time, is standing firm on reducing loans 4.3 percent that would be paid to producers under the price support program for tobacco going to cooperatives.

The national basic quota this year is 853.3 million pounds. The effective quota, or actual '86 quota after surpluses added in 1985, have been subtracted, is 843 million pounds.

Quotas for Kentucky and other individual states will not be available until about May 10, according to burley officials. Kentucky's basic quota, however, is expected to drop from 311 million pounds in 1985 to about 300 million pounds this year. The state's effective quota is expected to be slightly less than 300 million pounds.

Individual farm quotas are expected to be mailed to producers about May 15.

It is the fourth consecutive year quotas have been reduced. They also were cut 2 percent in 1983, 10 percent in 1984 and 10 percent in 1985, for a total of 33 percent during the four-year period. The 40-million-pound effective quota is 46 percent lower than the record 841.9 million pounds set in 1981, and is the lowest effective in the modern history of the tobacco program.

This year's reduction in quotas is the first one based on a new formula included in the recently enacted Con-

solidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985.

Under the new amendments to the Agricultural Act of 1956, burley quotas for 1986 and future years will be based on three factors, intended purchases by cigarette manufacturers, prevailing buyer average annual exports, and supplies needed

to maintain minimum reserve stocks. Quota reductions will be limited to 4 percent each year through 1989, and a maximum of 10 percent per year from 1990 through 1993. Other modifications to the tobacco program include: the amount of burley marketed without penalty is reduced from 100 percent to 105 percent of the effective farm marketing quota; buyers and growers will equally share market cost assessments; and trading support prices at the 1985 level of \$14.80 per hundred pounds. In future years, support levels will be based on 5-year market prices and on a cost-of-production index.

All these reductions in quotas and prices do not necessarily spell doom and gloom for the producer, said Joe McDaniel, president of the Burley Tobacco Growers Cooperative Association.

"Freeing supports this year, after a 30-cent per pound cut in 1985, should continue to make U.S. burley more competitive in the world market place," McDaniel said. "Also, the 4.3 percent reduction in support prices paid under the Gramercy-Holman-Holdings Act should make prices of burley held by cooperatives more attractive to buyers and help lower costs to producers under the lowest cost amendment."

McDaniel said cuts in quotas should help lower surplus supplies and strengthen sales prices at the warehouse auction market.

Sign up period May 5-16

The USDA ASCS office will be accepting bids for the second Conservation Reserve Program sign-up period from May 5-16, according to Gary Partin, manager.

Producers may submit a bid for either the 1986 or 1987 crop year. The program provides farmers an opportunity and incentive to take highly erodible land that has been owned by at least two years during the 1983-85 cropping seasons out of production.

Eligible land would be put into trees or grass for a period of 10 years. During this time the erodible cannot be used as pasture or harvested as hay. The cover must also be clipped periodically to control weeds.

ASCS will cost-share for 50 percent of the cost required to establish a cover on eligible land. An annual rental payment will also be made to the farmer for each of the 10 years that the land is in reserve.

ASCS will accept sealed bids from producers as to how much they are willing to take per acre to take eligible land out of production.

Rental payments, which will be made after Oct. 1 each year the land is under contract, will either be a dollar or negotiable commodity certificate.

The Soil Conservation Service and Forest Service will determine eligibility of land. The application must be made at the ASCS office located in the old armory building across from the courthouse.



FHAers attend meeting

FHA members who attended the state meet in Louisville April 24-26 are, front row: Annetta Hunt, Melody Hammons, Mary Susan Dotson and Janet

Kennedy, back row: Carol Snapp, Cynthia Fisher, Anna Loville and Pam Kirby.

Karen Whitaker graduates May 30 at School for Deaf



KAREN WHITAKER

Karen Lee Whitaker, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Whitaker, of 280 Main Street, is among the 23 students who will complete their studies at the Kentucky School for the Deaf in Danville this spring. Graduation exercises will be held at Thomas Hall on campus, Friday, May 30 at 3:30 p.m.

She has been a member of the Sign Language Choir, Girl Scout troop and Future Homemakers of America club. She has played basketball four years and on the track and field team 3 years. She was football manager this year and cheerleader one year. She received the 100 percent award in basketball in 1984 and has been on the honor roll several semesters. She plans to attend vocational school in Northern Kentucky this fall.

Superintendent of Public Instruction Alice McDonald will be the commencement speaker. Rev. Robert Baker, pastor of the Leaning Arrows Baptist Church, will give the invocation.

An awards program for the upper school students will be held that morning at 10:30. Recognition will be given for academic, vocational, citizenship and extracurricular excellence. A parent-teacher-cottage parent meeting is scheduled for 11 noon as parents come to take their children home that day.

State Homemakers Degree given two; others get recognition

Future Homemakers of America members from Nicholas County were among the 1200 junior and senior high school students attending their 41st annual state meeting at the Galt House in Louisville, April 24-26.

The State Homemaker Degree was conferred upon Pam Kirby and Anna Loville at the meeting. Cynthia Fisher and Carla Snapp will also receive state degrees this year.

Attending from here were Carla Hill, Pam Kirby, Melody Hammons, Pat Tucker, Annetta Hunt, Anna Loville, Mary Susan Dotson, Gretchen Judge, Janey Keeney, Tammy Mott, Rhonda Carras and Bonnie Metcalfe and Martha Taylor, chapter advisers, and Carolyn Dotson, chapter mother.

Theme of the meeting was "FUTUREHO - Leaders of a New Generation."

Rev. Charles Finney, chaplain for the state, addressed the opening session. State officers presented the theme presentation using three ideas and qualities of future leaders.

Alice McDonald, Superintendent of Public Instruction, presented the awards for the STAR (Students Taking Action for Recognition) event. Mary Susan Dotson was awarded a three star in the junior division of FUTUREHO facts. She was also the state winner in this category.

Melody Hammons was awarded three stars in Girl Scout Invention Job Interview. Annetta Hunt received two stars in Foods and Nutrition Seminar. Division and Janet Kenney was awarded two stars in Job Interview and Junior Division.

Twelve scholarships were presented to outstanding members who plan to major in home economics at a Kentucky college or university. The scholarship project was begun in 1982 and is supported by fund raising activities of the chapters in the state.

Four adults were recognized for weather conditions.

* See State Homemakers, page 11



Band members

The Nicholas County Elementary School sixth and seventh grade band participated in the Cooper Band Festival at Morehead State University on April 26. The band received a 'good' rating. Members of the band are, front row: Kristi Fryman, Tammy Washburn, John Wells, Keene Bryant, Chris



Four Seasons

Lyle Stone of Mt. Sterling carefully counts 'Four Seasons' on the door of the recently opened dress shop on Locust Street.

What producers should report even if their crop failed due to weather conditions.



James, Chris Fryman and Mike Corbin, back row: Pam, Kristi Fryman, Jennifer Hardin, Kami Lurgan, Greg Gilvin, Matthew Smith, Timmy Dooly, Billy Clemens and band director Danny Baker.