

No relief in site for drought

Mercury Staff Report
The sunny skies aren't bringing a bright outlook for Kentucky's farmhands. Light, spotty, inconsistent rainfall in Nicholas County has provided little relief to farmers. Field work has been nearly impossible as plants are dying in the fields from lack of moisture. Across Nicholas County green grass is limited at best, while livestock feeding and watering is becoming increasingly difficult. The Leaking River, according to one observer, is as low as it has been this early in the summer, while the county's creeks have stopped running in many areas, and in some areas have dried up. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has issued natural disaster declarations for 20 more drought-stricken Kentucky counties, bringing the total to 69 counties, according to U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky. Nicholas County was included in a list earlier this month. Farmers seeking information on the availability of lands in Nicholas County should contact the ASCS office in Carlisle. The declarations allow farmers to use fields set aside under conservation provisions for haying and grazing. The declarations were issued for Anderson, Barren, Bath, Bourbon, Bracken, Clark, Fleming, Franklin, Grant, Hickman, Jefferson, Madison, Marshall, Meade, Meigs, Muhlenberg, Ohio, Powell, Pulaski and Shelby counties. "Soil moisture is as bad as it's ever been at this time of the year," Dave Williamson of the Extension Service in Lexington.

"That in itself wouldn't be bad if it were timely rainfall, but it's difficult for crops. Last year we had timely rainfall in June and July and record corn yields. ... But we are getting to the point fields. The corn crops don't have the good color you expect." He said the markets are reacting with high prices for corn and soybeans. "Timely rains will bring crops out of a last-price-as-moving-up in anticipation," he said. "People are nervous about their crops. They don't know what's going to happen."

Roger Nusselt, a state Department of Agriculture official, said another concern is that drought could create a shortage of livestock feed. Normally, cattle grass pastures until about Thanksgiving.

Jeff Hall, a market analyst with Farm Bureau, noted that while driving through central and western Kentucky "crops were showing stress in the fields. The corn crops don't have the good color you expect." He said the markets are reacting with high prices for corn and soybeans. "Timely rains will bring crops out of a last-price-as-moving-up in anticipation," he said. "People are nervous about their crops. They don't know what's going to happen."

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In the supermarkets the price of beef has been going down, this may be due in part to many farmers selling livestock because of feeding conditions, according to state officials.

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Is this in vain?
Dorothy and Clinton Jones had a hot job at the rear of the tractor as they are busy setting tobacco with husband Paul. He's at the wheel in the hot afternoon sun on their farm on Headquarters Road. The dry weather is making plant growth retarded at best. - Heather Mathes Photo

Kelly has new chair

By Heather Mathes
of the Carlisle Mercury Staff
Thanks to the efforts of those in Nicholas County, Kurt Kelly has a new racing wheelchair. Kelly was fitted for his new wheels in January by Handi-crafted metal. He said, "I went traveled to Clearwater, Florida and was measured for weight and height so the chair could be custom fit."

Water alert issued

By Heather Mathes
of the Carlisle Mercury Staff
Due to a state wide water shortage, the City of Carlisle and the Nicholas County Water District have asked all water customers to conserve as much water as possible. According to water officials, the water situation is "holding its own" on this first

McDonald gets ambulance bid; County has new insurance plan

By Heather Mathes
of the Carlisle Mercury Staff
Ronald McDonald received the contract for the Nicholas County ambulance service. Judge Executive Reese Smoot said to the Nicholas County Fiscal Court at the special meeting held on June 15, 7 p. m. Since the city council agreed to give \$30,000 and the hospital will help handle the dispatching services at a saving of around \$14,000, I believe we should stay with McDonald. When asked about the Superior Care EMS ambulance service company based in Pendleton County, Smoot reported the bid had been withdrawn before the last meeting was held. Jock Canley, Nicholas County Attorney, made the point that, according to the contract offered by McDonald, the fiscal court would be responsible for 24 hours a day, seven days a week coverage of all dispatching services what ever came of the agreement between the hospital and McDonald. The motion was passed with all in agreement with the exception of Melvin Fryman, magistrate, who opposed the motion. "Insurance for the county was another major discussion on the agenda."

Both Kentucky Association of Counties Insurance and Charter House Insurance representatives were present to answer any questions. After much discussion and weighing of the pros and cons concerning each company, the board awarded KACO the contract. Fryman and Orville Atkinson, magistrates, were in opposition. The bottom line premium for KACO is \$11,468.70 on an occurrence basis. This covers everything from property and vehicles to those appointed by the fiscal boards as well as court members. Charter House's premium was \$27,422. However, this figure only involved three liabilities on a claims made policy. When all other coverages were added, the premium totaled around \$44,000. According to magistrates, Floyd Bussell and Earl Planck, and Canley, this is a great savings - approximately \$15,000 for the county.

Warning: Syrup may cause death

By Heather Mathes
of the Carlisle Mercury Staff
The United States Product Safety Commission in Washington has alerted consumers as to a potentially deadly substance in their homes. The substance is Eucalyptus Oil mistakenly labeled by the HUMCO Laboratory as Ipecac Syrup. Many doctors recommended the usage of Ipecac for induced vomiting. Dr. Oates Villafior said, "Ipecac is used when someone accidentally takes an overdose of aspirin, other medical drugs or when some other industrial type of poisoning occurs." However, he strongly urges Ipecac be used after calling the Poison Control Center, toll free, 1-800-728-6722. According to the Consumer Product Safety Alert, the mislabeled HUMCO Ipecac Syrup (Eucalyptus Oil) could remain in a consumer's home for years as Ipecac is only used when poisoning occurs. What are the results of consuming Eucalyptus Oil?

New ambulance

Nicholas County has a new ambulance. The vehicle arrived last Thursday. It will take the place of an ambulance, which has been given to the Nicholas County Fire Department, by Nicholas Fiscal Court. - Heather Mathes Photo

Drought a nationwide problem
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