

Local Student Given USDA Youth Loan

Kevonna Johnson, accompanied by her parents Kevin and ShaRhonda Johnson, signed a contract for a \$5000 USDA Youth Loan on Wednesday. Eric Mortimer of USDA Farm Service Agency in Franklin, TX, met with the family at the local Farm Service Agency office to complete the process.

Kevonna, a 5th grader at Vista Academy in Crockett, was all smiles as she picked up the pen to sign the contract. She is currently involved with the local 4-H Club raising pigs for the upcoming 4-H show. With her USDA loan, she plans to purchase heifers to start a cow/calf operation. Kevonna has words of wisdom for other youngsters aspiring to raise farm animals: "Be prepared to feed and water them, check on them, play with them, get them used to you and you get used to them." When asked what she feeds her pigs, she reported a "secret recipe" which her Daddy won't let her tell about.

As a student, Kevonna reported being thoroughly interested in all the subjects taught by her instructors at Vista Academy, including Science, Social Studies, History, and English. She named teachers like Underwood, Lovell, and Logan, among others, who are instrumental in her instructions. Kevonna, along with her parents, are active at New Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, led by Pastor Winston Spencer. Her father, Kevin, is an associate minister there, and Kevonna is involved in Choir, Youth Ushers, and Praise Dance Team. She is also an All-Star on the local Lil' Dribblers team.

Locally, Darvin Collins, CED at Farm Service Agency, provided details of the new USDA Microloan program at a meeting with the Texas Small Farmers and Ranchers, and the Southeast Texas Landowners Association groups on Monday, March 4th. This program includes Youth Loans as well as other opportunities for

landowners/farmers/ranchers and those aspiring to be. Details regarding the loan program are available through the FSA office. Interested persons are encouraged to contact Mr. Collins and his staff right away to obtain necessary information.



Seated: Kevonna Johnson

L to R: Eric Mortimer, USDA/FSA; Franklin Wagner, VP-Texas Small Farmers and Ranchers/Region 2; ShaRhonda Johnson and Kevin Johnson, parents of Kevonna

News article by Vivian Grant, Secretary, Texas Small Farmers and Ranchers/Region 2 (936-204-3749)