

All Around Kentucky

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU FEDERATION



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Looking In

TV show explores state's
'backroads' and cityscapes
PAGE 4

FFA convention
returning
to Louisville
PAGE 8



Kentucky celebrating
Lincoln
heritage
PAGE 11



Veterinary
medicine has
family ties for Tabors
PAGE 12

French TV
producer visits her
Kentucky
'home'
PAGE 13



Gardening books
antidote to
winter blahs
PAGE 16



LIFE-LONG FARMER MARK HANEY ELECTED NEW KFB PRESIDENT



Photo by Roger Nesbitt

MARK HANEY, SECOND FROM RIGHT, IS THE NEW PRESIDENT OF KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU. JOINING HIM ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOLLOWING THEIR ELECTIONS IN DECEMBER WERE, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: EDDIE MELTON, SECOND VICE PRESIDENT, AND JOHN C. HENDRICKS, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT. oDAVID S. BECK, RIGHT, IS EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE ORGANIZATION.

By Rachael Kamuf
KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

A career in anything but farming was never a consideration for Mark Haney.

"I never imagined myself in anything else but agriculture," said Haney, a fourth-generation farmer with brother Don on the Pulaski County orchard that has been in their family for 135 years.

Today, Haney also is president of Kentucky Farm Bureau, the largest group representing the agricultural interests

and affiliated with the No.1 property-and-casualty insurer in the state. He was elected in early December to succeed Marshall Coyle of Bath County, who retired after three years as president. (See related story on other officers and directors on Page 18).

After his selection during the Kentucky Farm Bureau annual meeting, Haney said he was "humbled and excited" about leading the 89-year-old grassroots organization to address issues affecting all sectors of Kentucky.

See HANEY, page 19

Lawmakers urged to fuel new 'green' fields of energy

By Rachael Kamuf
KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

Immediate economic outlooks may be bleak, but Kentucky Farm Bureau is urging lawmakers to build on the state's opportunity to be a major player in the development of the biofuels that could yield high rates of return in the future.

To that end, the organization has adopted expanding the renewable fuels industry as one of its priorities when the Kentucky General Assembly begins a short session in early January.

Kentucky farmers already are harvesting

See LAWMAKERS, page 6

KFB's leaders continue commitment to members

KENTUCKY grassroots



MARK HANEY | PRESIDENT | KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

As the new president of our great organization, I am truly humbled by the trust placed in me. I'm honored to follow in the footsteps of Marshall Coyle, an effective leader and a wonderful person.

I realize that this leadership position carries a tremendous amount of responsibility. That's because the dedicated work and commitment from our county leaders has enabled Kentucky Farm Bureau to evolve into a highly influential organization with a broad reach.

We're widely regarded as "the voice of Kentucky agriculture." We have a significant impact on public policy at the local, state and national levels. Our work extends from conducting programs in small rural communities to appearing before a congressional committee in Washington, D.C., to advocate policy affecting thousands of farm families.

And we are affiliated with Kentucky's leading property and casualty insurance company.

I've been told I'm unique in that I'm the first president who specializes in horticulture. My brother, Don, and I grow apples and peaches and operate a roadside market that is enrolled in Kentucky Farm Bureau's Certified Roadside Farm Markets program. Don and I also are beef cattle producers.

Although my farm operation differs from predecessors, my background with Farm Bureau is strikingly similar to many past presidents in that I became involved at a young age and moved through the ranks of our structure. Like the thousands of volunteer leaders who have served our organization over the years, I became active with Farm Bureau because I wanted to be involved in charting a course for my industry.

I, like you, do not want to be a spectator when it's time to resolve problems or decide how to move forward.

The New Year begins with a full plate of activities.

The first order of business is the American Farm Bureau Federation's January annual meeting, where Kentucky delegates will be looking at national policy

issues. Specifically, we're most interested in reforms to health care and farm labor policies. Other topics of interest to our contingent are implementation of the new farm bill, changes in crop insurance requirements and increased oversight of commodity markets.

Meanwhile, the 2009 state legislative session will get underway.

Kentucky Farm Bureau's agenda includes a list of priority issues determined at our annual meeting in December. In light of our state's budget crisis, protecting agriculture's programs and services must be a high priority.

Our agriculture industry has been on the upswing in recent years; it's one of the few bright spots in today's economy. And so we'll be working hard to ensure that Kentucky agriculture continues to have the foundation for growth.

We'll also be pursuing policies for expanding the state's renewable fuels industry. The energy crisis of 2008 opened the doors for such an initiative by bringing to light the need and the vast potential for developing that industry.

Although the health care problem chiefly is national in scope, we will continue to work with our state lawmakers to find measures that can alleviate the high costs of insurance and the decline of accessible services. We'll not only be engaged with this

issue in Frankfort, but a special KFB task force will be continuing its work in identifying problems and developing solutions. Our group has been meeting with industry officials and has forged a valuable relationship with the Kentucky Medical Association and Kentucky Hospital Association.

The state excise tax on tobacco products has been widely reported as a likely target for raising revenues. We have adopted policy expressing a stance that Kentucky's tax rate should not place our tobacco retailers at a competitive disadvantage with surrounding states. The fact that our rate historically has been below other states has boosted tax revenues by sparking increased sales along our borders. A large spike in our rate actually could prove to be regressive.

We hope to be part of the deliberations on this issue.

As always, we will be on guard for attempts to change the provisions for property tax rates. House Bill 44, which limits the growth of property tax revenues to no more than 4 percent annually, has been a staple of Kentucky Farm Bureau policy for many years. This law does not stifle the ability of state or local governments to raise the rate above 4 percent, but it allows citizens to vote on a proposed increase if they petition for a vote. We believe this is a fair approach that not only protects farm families but benefits all property owners.

As you can see, there's a lot of work to do.

I'm excited to have this opportunity to help guide Kentucky Farm Bureau into the future. I'm also pleased that vice presidents John Hendricks and Eddie Melton join me on the executive committee. I've known both for many years and have found them to be a real pleasure to work with.

I look forward to our work in service to Kentucky farm families and all our members.

All Around Kentucky

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NOTICE ANNUAL POLICYHOLDERS' MEETING OF KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY

The annual meeting of the policyholders of Kentucky Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2009, 10:00 a.m. (Eastern), at the home office of the company, 9201 Bunsen Parkway, Louisville, Kentucky, for the purpose of (1) electing directors of the company, (2) to receive the annual report of its officers, and (3) to consider any other business that may come before said meeting.

 Secretary

TV crew takes to 'backroads' to tell Kentucky stories

By Lindsey Coblentz
KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

Kentucky Farm Bureau's video staff is gearing up for the digital age with its sixth season of "Bluegrass and Backroads," which is being shot in high definition.

"We're prepared for 2009," said Bob Shrader, Kentucky Farm Bureau's video production coordinator, referring to the federal Feb. 17 deadline for TV stations to broadcast only in digital format.

Each episode of "Bluegrass and Backroads" showcases three different Kentucky subjects, with one focusing on agriculture. The interviews and photography are done by Shrader and Kentucky Farm Bureau video specialist and co-producer Matt Hilton. Mike Feldhaus, the organization's director of broadcast services, is the host.

Shrader and Hilton make it a point to seek out unique stories that show the diversity that is Kentucky, and they said the chance to visit unusual sites and meet creative people is one of the perks of the job. "We get to see things nobody sees on a regular basis," Hilton said.

"You get an opportunity to go into so many different businesses and visit, learn and experience so many different parts of Kentucky," Shrader said.

Trooper Island on Dale Hollow Lake is an out-of-the-way place they visited in preparation for the new season. Trooper Island is operated by Kentucky State Police for 10- to 12-year-old boys and girls who may not otherwise have the opportunity to have the experience of a summer camp.

On the schedule this year are features on the Louisville Zoo; the National Quilt Museum in Paducah; Bardstown's "Stephen Foster the Musical;" the Belle of Louisville steamboat; the North American Racing Academy in Lexington, the only college degree program in the country for aspiring jockeys; and the Carroll County Tobacco Festival.

The 2009 season also will highlight Kentucky's agriculture tradition and future with segments on J D Dairy, where milk is

bottled on the farm; the Avalon Farm in Winchester where Joe and Sheila McCord harvest freshwater shrimp; and Jackson's Orchard in Bowling Green.

Segments on the lives and farming operations of the Scottsville couple named the 2008 Kentucky Farm Bureau's Outstanding Young Farm Family Award and two other finalists are planned as well.

Bart and Sara Jones received the first-place award in December and will represent Kentucky Farm Bureau in the national competition in Texas in early January.

Second place was awarded to Jeremy and Joanna Hinton, who operate an orchard and

video feature story at the 2008 American Farm Bureau Federation Public Relations Conference. "To produce a show with just two people producing, writing, shooting and editing that wins such awards means something," Shrader said.

Response for the show has been positive.

"We get e-mails all across the country, from people from California to Florida," Shrader said. "I think the most interesting part of it is getting a call from someone in California, and they're a transplanted Kentuckian."

Hilton and Shrader are always looking for new, unusual features for the show. "It's hard to find the small, interesting story," Hilton said. "Those are the kind of stories we want."

(Comments about the show and sug-

which is carried on Channel 231 on the Dish Network and DirectTV's Channel 379.

In Louisville, the show can be seen on Insight Cable Channel 2 at 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday. WBKI-TV in Louisville and Lexington airs the show at 10 a.m. on Sunday.

In Northern Kentucky, the broadcast time is 9:30 a.m. on Saturday on Insight Cable's Channel 6. Fleming County Cable, which serves Fleming and Lewis counties, carries the Kentucky Farm Bureau show Tuesday and Friday at 7 p.m. on Channel 6. WYMT-TV in Hazard airs the series at noon on Saturday.

In the Central Time Zone, "Bluegrass and Backroads" is available on:

Bowling Green's WBKO/Fox-TV at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday; the Western Kentucky TV market served by WEHT-TV in Evansville, Ind., on

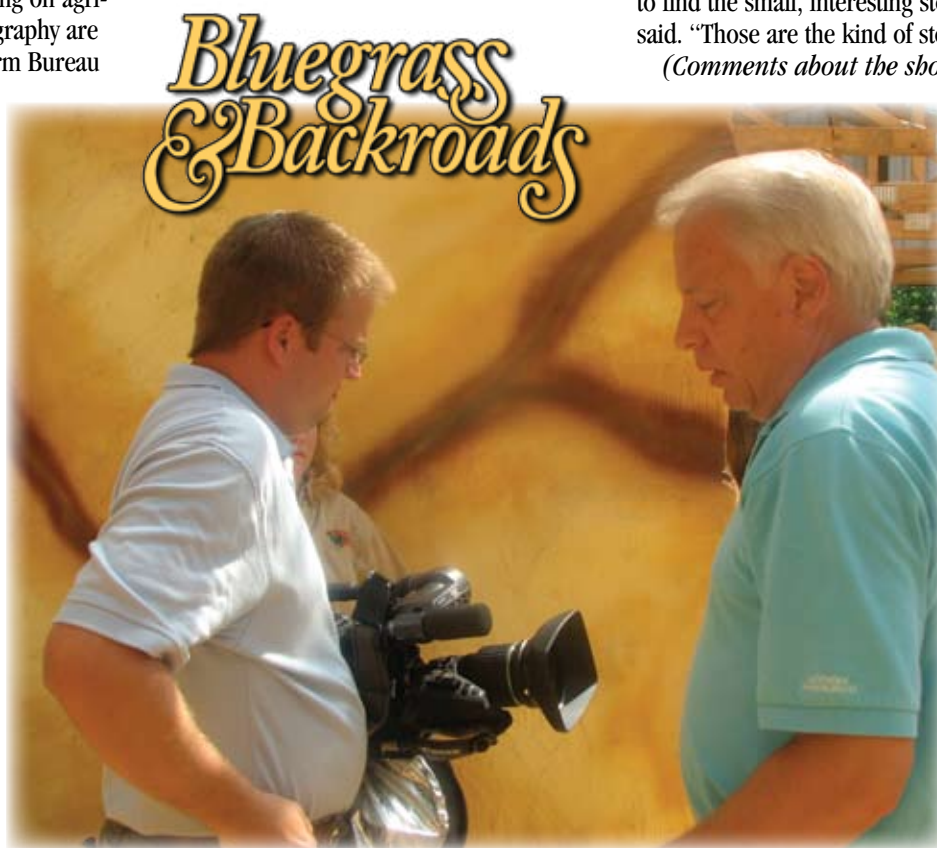


Photo by Lindsey Coblentz

"Bluegrass and Backroads" co-producers Matt Hilton and Bob Shrader travel the state looking for uniquely Kentucky stories to tell in the Kentucky Farm Bureau television series. One of their stops for the 2009 TV season was at Dinosaur World in Cave City, where Hilton handled the camera for a Shrader interview with guide Nicole Randall.

farm market near Hodgenville. The other finalists were Shane and Stephanie Wiseman of Winchester, who raise beef and crops.

The 30-minute "Bluegrass and Backroads," which is broadcast on network affiliates and cable channels throughout Kentucky and nationwide by RFD-TV to satellite TV customers, has garnered awards of its own while building an extensive audience.

Shrader, Hilton and Feldhaus were recognized for best regular program and best

gestions for future feature considerations can be e-mailed to bluegrassandbackroads@kyfb.com.)

With studio production for 2009 wrapping up, Shrader and Hilton look forward to the audience's response to the new high definition format. "It's going to be good," said Hilton. "Tune in."

Satellite subscribers can watch "Bluegrass and Backroads" on Wednesday at 2 p.m. and midnight (E.S.T.) on RFD-TV,

Saturday at 5 p.m.; WKAG-TV in Hopkinsville at 11:30 a.m. Sunday; and in Paducah on WPSD-TV at 5 a.m. Saturday and CW cable channels 9 and 6 at 2 p.m. on Saturday.

Check local listings for cable coverage and schedule changes.

Previous seasons of "Bluegrass and Backroads" can be viewed online and can be accessed through www.kyfb.com. The shows airing in 2009 will go online at the same Web address a week after they are broadcast.

AS HEARD ON PAUL HARVEY NEWS

New advanced portable heater can cut your heating bill up to 50%

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A. This advanced heating element was discovered accidentally by a man named John Jones.

Q. What advantages does infrared quartz tube heating source have over other heating source products?

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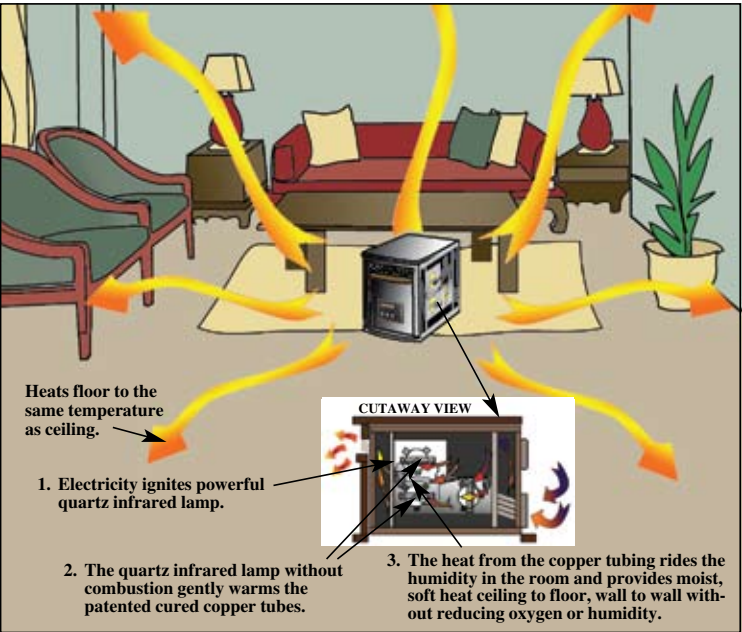
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Lawmakers

Continued from page 1

corn and soybeans that are converted into fuels - proof that they can produce the next generation of biomass power sources that reduce the nation's dependence on foreign oil, said Laura Knoth, Kentucky Farm Bureau's Public Affairs director.

"Our farmers are ready to take on that challenge," Knoth said. "Kentucky is the Bluegrass State. We are already green, so we know that we can grow grains, switch grasses or whatever plants that will take biofuels to the next level."

Another legislative priority for Kentucky Farm Bureau is affordable and accessible medical care - a topic that resonates with businesses and consumers contending with the increased cost of insurance and availability of health care.

"This affects all Kentuckians," not just the 470,934 member families of Kentucky Farm Bureau, said Mark Haney, the organization's new president.

He stressed that health care is a national concern that Kentucky government alone cannot solve. Nonetheless, he said, the legislature can adopt changes in state laws that would encourage more insurers to offer coverage in Kentucky. More competition, in turn, would help to stabilize costs for Kentucky providers and residents, he said.

Health care and new energy sources also are issues that Gov. Steve Beshear has mentioned as he has discussed the upcoming General Assembly in appearances throughout the state.

Speaking at the Kentucky Farm Bureau annual meeting in December, Beshear stressed that farm-based biofuels would be a key element in the energy independence package that he will propose to legislators.

Financing research and development, such as the Eastern Kentucky University pilot project to study nonfood plants and materials mentioned by Beshear in his speech, not only has the potential to improve farm income but would be an investment in the state's financial future while benefiting all consumers of energy, Haney said. "Farms are small businesses (Kentucky's largest

employment base). When small businesses are strong, the state is strong."

In the long term, a commitment to alternative fuels could mean more well paid jobs throughout the state, too.

"The agriculture industry goes well beyond farms and has a potential to be an important employer of our college graduates and expand our rural and urban populations by attracting new businesses and workers to Kentucky," Haney said.

The energy independence goal will run up against the state's finances, which Haney and Knoth said will make the work of the 2009 General Assembly especially challenging.

Adding to the problems that a short session and influx of newly elected legislators traditionally face is the \$456 million budget deficit that is projected before the state's fiscal year ends on June 30. "Even without the budget issues, it is difficult to address complicated issues during the 30-day sessions held in odd-numbered years," Knoth said.

Among the options Beshear is proposing to offset the shortfall are hikes in tobacco taxes, including adding 70 cents a pack to the current 30-cent excise tax.

That would move the tax in Kentucky - the No. 2 tobacco production state - from second-lowest among bordering states to

second highest just behind Ohio at \$1.25. Missouri's 17-cent tax on a pack of cigarettes is the lowest among the seven states that border Kentucky.

Kentucky Farm Bureau will be flexible as farm leaders want to do their part to ease the financial crunch, Haney said, however, they do not support Beshear's tobacco-tax proposal as presented.

"We are opposed to any tax on tobacco products that would put Kentucky at a competitive disadvantage with surrounding states," Haney said.

To do otherwise would be counterproductive to Kentucky Farm Bureau's goal of improving net farm income, he said, because a \$1 tax could reduce the international demand for Kentucky tobacco. Haney said it also could cut into revenues of grocers and other retailers in the counties that border Tennessee, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Virginia and West Virginia.

"We certainly want to be good citizens, but we cannot support anything that adversely affects our members and the business climate in general," he said.

In testimony before the legislative Rural Issues Subcommittee last month, Haney also urged lawmakers to continue the state's commitment to returning half of the income generated by the Master Settlement Agreement to the Agriculture Development Fund. Since 2001, the fund has invested \$265 million to help farmers shift from tobacco production, other rural projects such as water lines and educational and research programs at Kentucky universities.

The ag development program received an important endorsement last month from State Rep. Tommy Thompson, who heads the Banking and Insurance Committee. "We need to make sure those moneys continue to go there, because we've seen the benefits," he said during a speech at the Kentucky Farm Bureau annual meeting.

While budget and energy issues are likely to dominate the 2009 session, Kentucky Farm Bureau also will ask lawmakers to deal with critical livestock issues and environmental concerns and will work to protect private property rights.

Other state legislative priorities include:

Limit local governments' ability to enact farming regulations that are more stringent than state rules.

Reduce wildlife populations to limit crop losses and vehicle-animal collisions and the resulting damage and potential for injury.

Ensure that steep increases in property taxes are subject to voter referendum.

On the national level, Farm Bureau plans to closely monitor the implementation of the new farm bill.

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Couple are 'divine' in ag competition

Staff report
KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

Curt and Carrie Divine of Morganfield will represent Kentucky this month in the American Farm Bureau's Excellence in Agriculture competition in San Antonio, Texas.

The Divines advanced after taking top honors during the Kentucky Farm Bureau annual meeting in December.

The program recognizes part-time farmers involved in ag-related careers.

He is employed as a wildlife technician by the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife. His wife is director of the Henderson Community College Herron Technology Center.



As state winners, the Divines were presented with a John Deere Gator, courtesy of Farm Credit Services of Mid-America; \$500 from Dodge Truck Division of DaimlerChrysler Corp.; and trip expenses to San Antonio.

Second place in the contest went to Daniel and Alison Smith of Stamping Ground. They were awarded \$300 from Kentucky Farm Bureau.

Daniel Mattingly of Raywick placed third and received \$200 from Kentucky Farm Bureau.

When the Divines compete for top national honors during the American Farm Bureau annual meeting, they will be vying for a 1500 Dodge Ram Quad Cab pickup truck.

Three runners-up in that contest will be awarded \$2,000 U.S. Savings Bonds and Farm Boss chain saws.

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- Remove corns & calluses
- Replace many household cleaners

And that's just the beginning of the over 1000 new and improved hints and tips that you'll get.

50 years ago a daily dose of an apple cider vinegar and honey tonic was used to ease arthritis. During the last 30 years or so, many wonder drugs have replaced this time-tested home remedy. Now vinegar, along with countless other old-time tonics, have new supporters including many medical professionals. *The reason?* Almost everybody has experienced the negative side of some of the powerful new drugs.

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KFB helps bring FFA convention back to Louisville

By Rachael Kamuf
KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

Kentucky Farm Bureau was a key partner with Louisville and state economic development and tourism recruiters in the successful campaign to convince national FFA leaders to return their annual convention to Louisville.

The organization joined forces with state and local officials in the effort soon after FFA cited a shortage of hotel rooms near meeting sites in Louisville, which had hosted seven consecutive conventions, and moved the event to Indianapolis in 2006.

The scope of FFA and its evolving mission made it logical for Kentucky Farm Bureau to take an active role, said David S. Beck, who was a state FFA officer as a teenager and is now executive vice president of Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation.

"Education and the development of future agricultural leaders are important to Kentucky Farm Bureau, and Kentucky Farm



Photo by Roger Nesbitt

David S. Beck, executive vice president of Kentucky farm Bureau, right, and the organization were recognized for their leadership in helping to bring the national FFA convention back to Louisville, beginning in 2013.

would stay in the rotation.

"We know the valuable life-long experience (FFA members) learn as they make new friends," Beshear said, and they and their distinctive blue corduroy jackets "are always welcome in the commonwealth of Kentucky."

Beck became involved in what is considered to be a major economic development win for Louisville and state early in the process, volunteering countless hours to remind the FFA decision makers of the reasons they originally chose Louisville as a meeting site, beginning in 1999.

He was part of the same core team that shaped the campaign that successfully lured the FFA national meeting to Louisville in 1999 from Kansas City, Kan., where it had been held for more than 70 years. "It was natural for us to join forces again," he said. "We work well together and were able to build on what we learned and accomplished then."

After moving to Indianapolis, where the national FFA headquarters are located, the organization put the annual meeting up for bids for 2013 and beyond. Fourteen cities' proposals were considered before the list of contenders was narrowed to Louisville and Indianapolis.

Among the events Louisville held to entice FFA was a surprise breakfast last summer at the Kentucky Expo Center, where many of the convention sessions will be held. The seven members of the site-selection committee expecting a routine inspection of the fairgrounds' expansion were visibly impressed by the reception they received.

As they walked into Freedom Hall they were greeted by an estimated 500 Kentucky FFA members, business and community leaders and a bugler playing the "Call to the Post" as heard before the start of the Kentucky Derby and other thoroughbred races.

"It was impressive," Beck said.

As important as landing the convention is as the culmination of an economic development and tourism effort, Beck said the reason for Kentucky Farm Bureau's involvement are the future leaders — especially Kentuckians — who prefer Louisville over another city.

"It is good business for Kentucky, but — the first of his many FFA conventions as a teenager. "There is the opportunity to make new life-long friends. There is exposure to leadership development and career opportunities. It is a motivational experience."

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Bureau has a long history of supporting FFA," Beck said. "Not everyone has the opportunity to stay on the farm, but there are many opportunities in related careers to be involved in agriculture."

FFA, formerly known as Future Farmers of America, is the largest agricultural leadership development group for high school and college students in the country. Over the years, FFA has expanded its scope beyond farming to promote traditional and high-tech careers in the overall agricultural industry.

The ongoing strength of FFA illustrates that "agriculture is alive and well," Beck said. "There are opportunities for our young people."

Beck and Kentucky Farm Bureau were among the individuals and organizations singled out for their crucial recruiting roles at a press conference to announce that the convention would be rotated between Louisville and Indianapolis every three years through 2027.

The yearly meeting — which routinely draws more than 55,000 people and has an economic impact of \$40 million — will be back in Louisville in 2013-15. It will return three years later, if the city chooses to continue to be the host.

Mayor Jerry Abramson and Gov. Steve Beshear, who took part in the December announcement, predicted that Louisville

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Obama invited to Kentucky's Lincoln birthday bash

By Herb Sparrow
SPECIAL TO KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

Although there won't be a giant cake with 200 candles on it — at least that we know of — Kentucky is doing just about everything else it can to celebrate the 200th birthday of native son Abraham Lincoln. And it is taking two whole years to do it.

The Lincoln bicentennial commemoration officially kicked off last year on an icy Feb. 12, the date of Lincoln's birth near Hodgenville, and will run until Feb. 12, 2010. However, the Great Emancipator's actual bicentennial birthday occurs this year.

Several events have already been held, but the bulk of the activity will occur in 2009.

President-elect Barack Obama has been invited to attend the Feb. 12 ceremonies — or any event on another day; a response to the invitation is not expected until after his inauguration on Jan. 20.

On Feb. 12, the U.S. Mint will unveil a special Kentucky Lincoln penny in Hodgenville and the restored cabin at the Lincoln Boyhood Home will be dedicated. The day will begin with the annual wreath-lay-

ing ceremony at the Lincoln statue downtown and live music from Lincoln's time.

A specially commissioned statue of Lincoln will be unveiled and dedicated in front of

the new Washington County Justice Center in downtown Springfield the same day.

There will be a special commemorative event involving a joint session of the Kentucky General Assembly at the Old State Capitol in Frankfort on Feb. 12, while the Kentucky Historical Society will have a Family Fun Day on Saturday, Feb. 14, at the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History in Frankfort, with an appearance by Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln presenters.

"It should be a lot of fun for families with children," said Laura Coleman, public information officer for the Historical Society. "We will have Clifford the Big Red Dog from KET, dancing by the Berea Folk Dancers and children's programming that reflects the Lincoln era, including hands-on games."

Historian Michael Burlingame will speak about his book, "Abraham Lincoln: A Life," at the history center on Feb. 16. "It is a two-volume set that is really comprehensive," Coleman said. "He used a lot of new scholarly research. He is up and coming."

The "Beyond the Log Cabin: Kentucky's Abraham Lincoln" exhibit is at the history center through June 6. It will move to the Speed Art Museum in Louisville June 28-Sept. 6

Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln re-enactors will be easy to find in Hodgenville as the community celebrates the bicentennial birthday of its most famous native son. The official celebration will be held on Lincoln's birthday in February and until next year at the Kentucky sites that were a part of his early life and presidency.

and the Highlands Museum and Discovery Center in Ashland Oct. 2-Feb. 19, 2010.

"It has some great artifacts from around the country," Coleman said, "such as the pocket watch and razor he used. There is a special section devoted to Mary Todd Lincoln. The exhibit really addresses the many ways people perceived Lincoln."

Sculptor Ed Hamilton will unveil his statue of Lincoln on Louisville's Waterfront Park on June 4.

On Saturdays in February, the Historical Society will present the 20-minute multimedia play "Abraham Lincoln's Life Through Kentucky Eyes." Coleman described the play as "the best way to get an idea of Abraham Lincoln in 20 minutes, how complex he was."

Other Lincoln-related events, including educational programs, museum exhibits, public art displays, speeches, preservation initiatives and more, will occur in towns around the state.

"Rarely will a month go by without some activity related to the bicentennial," said Tommy Turner, judge-executive of LaRue County, where the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site is located.

"There are many things going on that will afford anyone who has the desire to come and be a part to have the opportunity to witness firsthand the efforts and activities that are here to expand the knowledge of Lincoln," said Turner, who is also vice chairman of the Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission.

A congressionally appointed commission is overseeing the national bicentennial commemoration, which will also include activities in Indiana and Illinois, and a rededication of the iconic Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.

The Kentucky commission's Web site, www.kylincoln.org, has a thorough list of events related to the bicentennial.



Photos courtesy of Kentucky Historical Society



Tabors raise beef and veterinarians

By Lindsey Coblentz
KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

As Marlene and John Tabor Sr. raised their children on a 1,200-acre beef cattle operation in Logan County, they were not surprised when their oldest son, John Jr., decided to become a veterinarian.

John Jr. said he had wanted to care for animals since he was very young; he even dressed up as a vet for Halloween one year. "We had sheep, horses and cattle. . . . As I grew up into that, I just knew that that's what I wanted to do."

While his career choice was expected, his parents were amazed when each of their other three children — Joe, Joanna and Jonetta — decided to follow suit.

All helped on the farm throughout their childhood. "They drove tractors when they could hardly reach the steering wheel," their father said.

John Jr. and Joe worked with veterinarians during their senior year of high school before pursuing animal science majors at Murray State University and eventually enrolling in Auburn University's College of Veterinary Medicine.

Their sisters, also Murray graduates, followed close behind, deciding to become vets in high school, or so John Sr. thought. Looking at an old videotape, he discovered that his daughters may have set their sights on veterinarian medicine at a much younger age.

When Joanna was 6 or 7 years old, the family hosted a seminary student who videotaped some of his time at their home and sent it to the family years later. When the Tabors watched the tape, they saw a grinning Joanna tell their visitor that "I want to be a veterinarian," when he asked her about what she hoped to be as a grown-up.

"It almost brought tears to my eyes," John Sr. said.

Today, John Jr. and Joe are practicing veterinarians, while Joanna, a senior, and Jonetta, a junior, continue their education at Auburn.

Auburn has students and graduates who are the siblings or children of veterinarians, but the school has no records of any other four siblings associated with the program.

John Jr. added another vet to the family when he married his wife, Elizabeth, whom he met at Auburn. They began practicing out of their Western Kentucky home in October 2006, before opening their new office,



Photo courtesy of the Tabor family

Locating help to care for the animals on their Logan County farm is not a problem for John Tabor Sr. (far left) and Marlene Tabor (far right), who have raised a family of veterinarians and soon-to-be vets. Sons John (back left) and Joe (back right) have their own practices. Daughters Joanna (front left) and Jonetta (front right) are studying for their veterinary degrees at Auburn University. The Tabor children also are all graduates of Murray State University.

Cornerstone Veterinary Services, last year in Russellville. After adding baby John William "Will" to the mix, Elizabeth works mainly from home or the office, while John makes house calls.

Joe and wife Madeline, who also met in vet school, live in Horse Cave and began working at a Dover, Tenn., practice in November. With so many vets in the family, Joe wonders if his infant son, Joseph Anthony, might become one himself someday. "He'll get to experience some of the same things I experienced. Maybe some day he'll want to follow in (our) footsteps."

Joanna is in her final year at Auburn and has set caring for large and small animals at a Kentucky practice as her career goal. She is planning a May wedding following her graduation, but she isn't bringing another vet into the family. Fiancé Nick Stallings, who she met while they were students at Murray, is an engineer.

While only a college junior, Jonetta already has hands-on experience in the field. She was selected to participate in the Smith-Kilborne Animal Disease Program at the federal agriculture research lab in Plum Island, N. Y., this past summer, where she studied various animal diseases.

While they all love what they do, all the siblings agree that making it through vet school is no picnic.

For John Jr., being accepted at Auburn — which has an agreement with the state of Kentucky to accept a number of Kentucky college graduates into its program every year — was the hardest part. "The biggest thing was getting through the three years at Murray and keeping my grades up and getting through the interview (for Auburn)," he said.

"You have a lot of years of schooling. You have to set your mind to it. . . . It takes some willpower," Joe added.

Their parents helped them cope with the

difficulties of school by teaching the value of hard work and ethics and by providing plenty of encouragement, the siblings said. One by one, their children give almost the same comment about their parents' commitment to their family: "They've always been there . . ."

John Sr. said he and his wife are impressed with their children's accomplishments. "Being a vet is one of the hardest, if not the hardest, profession out there to get through," he said. "I'm proud of them all."

In the future, John Jr. hopes to expand his practice, and said working with his brother and sisters is not out of the question. "I'm taking it a step at a time."

For now, the Tabor children are working hard at their practices and at school. However, they still find time to spend time with loved ones and work on the family farm that started it all as their proud father pointed out when he said, "When they're not busy, they're still helping out."

French TV producer returns to visit her Kentucky 'home'

By Lalie Dick

SPECIAL TO KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

There we were walking in a light rain on Glen Oak Farm, Fanny Salmon on my left and thoroughbred breeder Bill Dickson on my right, sharing common interests that transcend lives separated by oceans.

When she was growing up in France, Salmon's parents strongly disapproved of her interest in horses and racing, but when she was 15-years-old her grandfather took her to a thoroughbred race track on an early morning.

"It was wonderful," she said. "You heard the horses before you actually saw them coming out of the mists of the morning. I made a promise that I would come to Kentucky, and now I have gone from wanting to see it to missing it when I am not here."

To please her family, she obtained her English degree (with honors) from a French university. To increase her knowledge of horses, she also worked on a farm.

In the early 90s, Salmon left her home in Deauville, a French Sister City of Lexington, to travel to the heart of Bluegrass horse country to attend the University of Kentucky as an exchange student on scholarship. At UK, she prepared for her career as an international chronicler of the stories of racing brilliance, especially the often unsung grassroots stalwarts of the Breeder's Cup.

The reporter/producer for her own company — Full Field/MEDIA, which she describes as "capturing the thrill" — Salmon is proud of her days at UK, her determination to improve her English and her passion to carry on her grandfather's love of thoroughbred racing.

She now oversees the live coverage of 100 international events every year for EQUIDIA, the French Racing Channel, and is host, field reporter or producer of equestrian events worldwide.

Bill Dickson built on a career as in his native Kentucky as a mucker of stalls and hot walker and exercise rider in Australia and a keeper of the queen's stallions in England. He worked hard to become a thoroughbred breeder as the seventh-generation in his family to live at Glen Oak Farm, where he is surrounded by 300-year-old trees on gently rolling Bluegrass hills.

On a late fall morning, the mares are turned out of their stalls as Dickson and Salmon talk about bridles and pedigrees

that one day might lead to cheering crowds at Kentucky's fabled Churchill Downs and Keeneland or Longchamp in France — no detail too small.

For now, though, Salmon is working on an EQUIDIA proposal to produce "Racing Across America," a documentary on race courses and horse farms from New York to California, from Louisiana to Florida and, of course, winding it all up in her beloved Kentucky.

She wonders how Dickson manages his breeding establishment of 15 mares and their progeny year-round; there are 45 mares at Glen Oak during the breeding season. "I have one full-time worker and two part-times," he responded.

Laying the groundwork for a future story, Salmon said she's not only interested in horses, but the people who've built the equine heritage around the world.

She said she has a split personality because of her presence in France and Kentucky. "These are the two places where I belong, and I don't feel 'foreign' in either place."

Asked if she would ever consider living in Kentucky permanently, Salmon smiled and said maybe or she could maintain residences in both countries. She has reminders of Kentucky at her home in France now.

When she purchased her grandparent's house, she built a faux stone wall as a wainscoting in her bedroom to provide, as she said "... a feeling of being in Kentucky."

A remarkable thing about this young woman with one foot planted in France and the other in Kentucky is how she quietly relates to Kentuckians and their thoroughbreds.

At one of the Glen Oaks barns on a hill, she stepped inside a stall to run her hand up a filly's face to ears waiting to be rubbed ever so gently.

"Would you like to take her out?" Dickson asked.

Salmon simply says to the young horse, "Come along," and speaks softly to her as they walk the length of the barn and back again together.

Regretfully, Salmon would be returning to France the following day.

At that moment, though, France and the places her work and enthusiasm for racing take her — Australia, Ireland, England, China, Japan, South Africa, Canada, Sweden, Dubai — truly seem far away.

For more information about Salmon and her company, visit her Web site at <http://www.fullfieldmedia.com>.



Photos by Lalie Dick

Fanny Salmon introduced herself to a filly and took the young horse for a walk during the French TV producer's return visit to her Kentucky 'home.'



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Deadline approaching to be certified as a roadside market

Staff report
KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

Feb. 15 is the last day to apply for certification as a Kentucky Farm Bureau Certified Roadside Farm Market and inclusion in the statewide directory.

Meeting the deadline guarantees placement on Kentucky Farm Bureau's Web site and listing in 40,000 brochures and promotion in ads placed in publications throughout the state. Applications are accepted year-round, but the printed version of the directory is compiled annually.

Kentucky Farm Bureau also sponsors tours of established roadside markets in the region to help producers see first-hand how other farmers who sell locally grown produce and plants or homemade foods operate their businesses. An itinerary has not been set for 2009.

Eighty-two markets took part in the program last year, said Kara Keeton, Kentucky Farm Bureau's director of commodity marketing. She expects an increase in 2009 as the number as more consumers have been seeking out sources of fresh foods in recent years — a trend that is expected to continue.

"Shoppers have learned that the Kentucky Farm Bureau certification is a guarantee of quality," she said.

The Kentucky Farm Bureau Certified Roadside Farm Market program began as in 1996 to help farmers sell their fruits and vegetables directly from their farms. Since then, membership has expanded to include such agriculture enterprises as greenhouses, landscape nurseries, Christmas tree farms, vineyards/wineries, and meat/cheese farm markets.

Participating markets are identified by a cornucopia logo and are listed in the Certified Roadside Farm Market Directory.

To qualify, a producer must:

- Be a Farm Bureau member;
- Pay the Certified Roadside Farm Market annual fee;
- Sell from a permanent structure;
- Produce the majority of products sold;
- Comply with federal, state and local health, safety and environmental regulations.

Applications for membership are available on the Kentucky Farm Bureau Web site, www.kyfb.com, or by e-mailing Keeton at kkeeton@kyfb.com. She also can be contacted at 502-495-5106 for more information.

KFB accepting college scholarship applications

Staff report
KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

Applications are now being accepted for Kentucky Farm Bureau's 2009 Education Foundation scholarships.

The foundation annually awards thousands of dollars in scholarships to high school seniors with top scholastic and leadership backgrounds. Scholarships totaling more than \$1.5 million have been handed out since the program began in 1953.

To be eligible, applicants must be the child of a Kentucky Farm Bureau member (only the Leadership in Agriculture and Sam Moore scholarships are limited to children in farming families); have either a 3.5 cumulative grade point average or 23 ACT

score; finish high school this year; and plan to enter college in the 2009 fall semester.

Application forms are available at county Farm Bureau offices or on the Web at www.kyfb.com. All applications must be post-marked by Feb. 28 to be considered or hand delivered to the State Office in Louisville by that date.

Winners will be notified by May 15.

Scholarships can be applied to tuition, housing and books; payments are made directly to the school the students select to attend. Recipients may enter any accredited college but must pursue a four-year course of study.

In addition to the state program, many county Farm Bureaus administer their own scholarship programs. Check with local offices for details.

Free books help Kentucky students and parents plan for college admission – and costs

High school counselors across the state are receiving copies of free books from the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority for students planning and preparing for college.

KHEAA's "Getting In" is a complete guide for high school seniors, providing information about admissions and financial aid, one-page summaries about Kentucky's colleges and universities and the programs they offer and lists of as schools that offer unique majors.

Another publication, "Affording Higher Education," describes nearly 4,300 different financial aid programs specifically for Kentucky students. Included is information on state and federal government programs, programs at individual colleges and by county.

In addition to "Getting In" and "Affording Higher Education," KHEAA publishes online versions of three other books geared to high school students.

"Getting Started" advises freshmen on how to use their high school years to prepare for college. "Getting Set" provides sophomores more detailed information about making the most of high school and financial aid programs available to Kentucky students. For juniors, "Getting Ready" explains the college admissions and financial aid processes, provides a game plan for checking out colleges and lists questions to ask of the colleges being considered.

To learn how to plan and prepare for higher education, visit www.GoHigherKY.org. For more information about Kentucky scholarships and grants, visit www.kheaa.com; write KHEAA at P.O. Box 798, Frankfort, Ky. 40602-0798; or call (800) 928-8926, extension 7381.

For information about low-cost student loans, visit www.studentloanpeople.com; write The Student Loan People, P.O. Box 24328, Louisville, Ky. 40224-0328; or call (888) 678-4625.


NOTICE ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING OF THE FB INSURANCE COMPANY

The annual meeting of the stockholders of The FB Insurance Company will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2009, 2:00 p.m. (Eastern), at the home office of the company, 9201 Bunsen Parkway, Louisville, Kentucky, for the purpose of electing directors of the company and to consider any other business that may come before said meeting.

 Secretary

NOTICE ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING OF KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of Kentucky Farm Bureau Insurance Agency, Inc. will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2009, 3:00 p.m. (Eastern), at the home office of the company, 9201 Bunsen Parkway, Louisville, Kentucky, for the purpose of electing directors of the company and to consider any other business that may come before said meeting.

 Secretary

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Books are handy guides for novice and seasoned gardeners

By Jeneen Wiche

SPECIAL TO KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

Whe landscaping and garden section in bookstores reflects gardening's burgeoning popularity in America. The options seem endless, making it more difficult for a novice or seasoned gardener to make a selection, whether looking for practical advice in starting or expanding plots of flowers and vegetables.

Winter is perfect for planning and enduring the dreadful weather outside. The Internet can be a good source of information, but I prefer books, which can be quicker resource when Internet service is slow or someone else has claims on the household computer when you need answers.

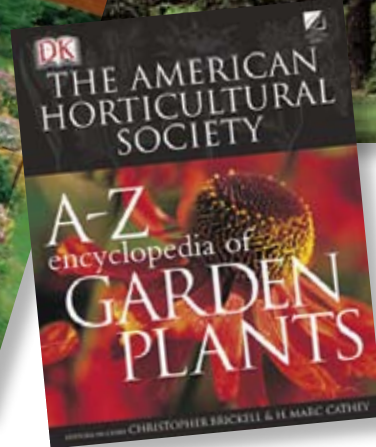
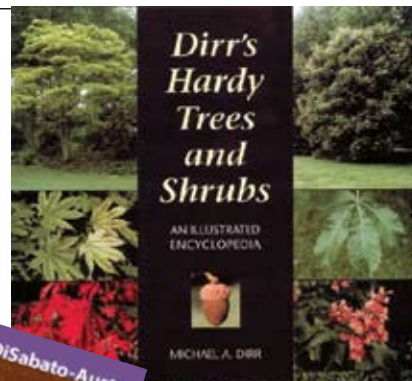
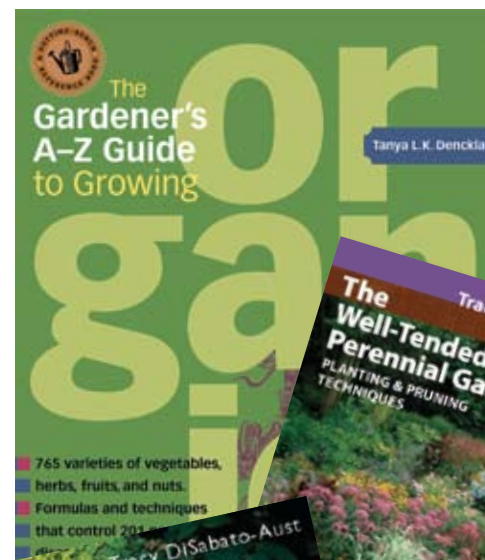
A well stocked library helps us answer the what, when and how of vegetable and ornamental gardening. I have a handful of books that never really rest on the shelf because they are used so frequently.

So, if advice is what you seek, consider some of these gardening books and spend the winter honing your skills doing a little research the old-fashioned way.

My primary reference book for all garden plants is the "Royal Horticultural Society's A to Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants" (DK Publishing). Of all the encyclopedic collections, this one is arranged in the most user friendly way. Plants are listed alphabetically; there is clear information on culture, care and hardiness; and loads of pictures and cultivars listed so you are sure to find what you seek. (The American Horticultural Society has its own edition, as well.)

For serious tree and shrub enthusiasts, there is great detail in Michael Dirr's "Manual of Woody Landscape Plants" (Stipes Publishing). The book includes plant classification, Latin nomenclature, a syllabus of terms and lists of thousands of plants in detail, including the genus and related species. Each listing also has information on care, culture, pests, bloom, fruit, fall color and anecdotal notes about performance under extreme conditions. Dirr never hesitates to include his opinion, good or bad, about a plant's garden worth.

Most homeowners would do well just to invest in Dirr's "Hardy Trees and Shrubs" (Timber Press). Photos, notes from the



author and descriptions of some of the best landscape trees and shrubs are included.

Allan Armitage is the name to look for if you fancy herbaceous perennials.

Armitage has worked for years amassing "Herbaceous Perennial Plants: A Treatise on their Identification, Culture, and Garden Attributes" (Stipes Publishing). The third edition was published last year and includes thousands of perennials with notes from the author; I have always enjoyed Armitage's work because he brings a real gardener's perspective that masks the scholarly nature of the book.

Traci DiSabato-Aust has some of the best advice on perennial garden design and

maintenance. Her books "The Well-Tended Perennial Garden" and "The Well-Designed Mixed Garden" (both by Timber Press) are great references for putting together an overall landscape design.

DiSabato-Aust also gives expert advice on how to care for the perennial garden. For example, her lesson on pruning teaches us to sculpt, delay bloom, remove a pest, encourage additional bloom or make room for something more beautiful. Many of her ideas have shaped my own perennial gardening philosophy.

In the vegetable garden I cannot live without Tanya Denckla and Barbara Damrosch.

In "The Gardener's A-Z Guide to Growing Organic Food" (Story Publishing), Denckla offers an easy-to-use reference on how to manage vegetable, nuts and fruits in an organic fashion. The mantra of this book is basically "feed the soil and the plants will thrive." If there is a problem, Denckla has practical solutions laid out in a clear and comprehensive way.

She starts from the ground up with each vegetable, fruit, herb and nut. Each has its own chapter explaining the details of germination, air and soil temperature, water requirements, pests, diseases, allies and companions. This book sits out on the table in my office all summer, ready to answer any question I may have about our edible crops.

Damrosch's "Garden Primer" (Workman Publishing), a classic first published 20 years ago, was revised and brought up-to-date in 2007. She takes the organic gardener through every step: Improving soil structure; the most efficient tools; small or large vegetable garden design; perennials for dry soils; controlling pests; fruit for the backyard ... and more throughout 820 pages.

I believe that some of our best lessons come from experiencing a little failure from time to time. I also believe we can learn from the mistakes of others. These authors have been at it much longer than me, so I trust that they can pass on some very good advice.

Jeneen Wiche writes a weekly syndicated garden column and covers gardening topics for radio and television stations in Louisville. She and her husband, Andrew Smart, care for Swallow Rail, the home and horticultural farm. Jeneen's father, the late Fred Wiche, built and began planting in 1979. You can contact her at JWiche@aol.com or write to her at 2340 Connor Station Road, Simpsonville, Ky. 40067.

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New officers elected to lead Kentucky Farm Bureau

Staff report

KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

Mark Haney's election as president of Kentucky Farm Bureau following the retirement of Marshall Coyle means other changes on the organization's executive committee.

Voting delegates at Kentucky Farm Bureau's annual meeting last month elected John C. Hendricks of Winchester to succeed Haney as first vice president. Eddie Melton of Sebree was chosen second vice president, a position Hendricks had held for three years. (For more on Haney, see related story on Page 1.)

Hendricks, a Kentucky Farm Bureau director since 1998, heads Kentucky Farm Bureau's Health Care Task Force and Beef Cattle Advisory and Large Animal Veterinarian committees. He also is president of Clark County Farm Bureau and is a member of the Clark County Soil Conservation board of directors, Cattlemen's Association and Ag Development Council.

On the national level, Hendricks has been appointed to the American Farm Bureau

Federal Deficit Task Force to determine ways to balance the U.S. budget.

He produces beef cattle, hay and vegetables on his family farm near Winchester.

Hendricks and his wife, Mary Beth, are the parents of two sons.

Melton, a former president of Webster County Farm Bureau, is a corn, soybean and beef farmer.

He is chairman of Kentucky Farm Bureau's Feed Grains and Wheat Advisory Committee and led the Kentucky Farm Bureau Farm Bill Task Force, which conducted forums and sought the opinion of Kentucky farmers on provisions of the 2008 farm bill.

Melton also is a Corn Growers Promotion Board director and vice chairman of the Southern States Cooperative board of directors.

He and his wife, Regina, have a daughter.

Coyle - who has been a Kentucky Farm Bureau director since 1976 and was elected to his first one-year term as president in 2005 - will remain on the board as immediate past president.

Four new members were elected to the organization's 32-member board: Carroll

Amyx, Campton; Randy Chrisman, Lawrenceburg; Kevin Lyons, Tompkinsville; and Greg Harris, Richmond.

Going off the board were past president Sam Moore, Morgantown; Paul Hornback, Shelbyville; Ryan Bivens, Hodgenville; and Jerry Little, Danville.

Other members of the Farm Bureau board of directors are: Randall Heath, Hickory; Tripp Furches, Murray; Kelly Thurman, Livermore; Steve Bolinger, Pembroke; J. Fritz Giesecke, Horse Cave; Larry Thomas, Elizabethtown; Patrick M. Henderson, Irvington;

Russell Poore, Russellville; Jay Coleman, Cave City; Scott Travis, Taylorsville; David Chappell, Owenton; Terry Rowlett, Campbellsburg; Danny Wilkinson, Columbia; Kim McCoy, Burkesville; Terry R. Gilbert, Danville; David L. Campbell, Stanford;

Alex Barnett, Cynthia; David McGlone, Grayson; Charlie Bengé, London; Bige Hensley, Manchester; Terry Patterson, Elizabethtown; Frieda Heath, Hickory; Deborah Anderson, Frankfort; and Dr. Scott Smith, Lexington.

Experts on farm tourism will share expertise in Bowling Green

Staff report

KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

Farmers interested in exploring the state's growing agritourism industry have an opportunity to learn how to market themselves to the public at the second annual Kentucky Farms are Fun Conference.

The two-day meeting in Bowling Green will bring together business operators, industry leaders, policy makers, suppliers and academics to share information and exchange ideas.

Conference topics will include marketing, business development and personnel management.

The conference will be held Jan. 15-17 at the University Plaza Hotel and Conference Center in Bowling Green.

Early registration fee is \$75. After Jan. 31, the cost will be \$125.

To find out more about the conference or agritourism in Kentucky, visit www.kentuckyfarmsarefun.com.

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HANEY

Continued from page 1

"I believe in the way we accomplish things," said Haney, whose grandfather served on the Kentucky Farm Bureau board of directors in the 1950s. "When we have 470,000 voices singing from the same page – that is powerful."

As president, Haney said he will represent the interests of all members rural and urban alike. Doing so, he said, is critical to the overall economic wellbeing of Kentucky.

"The message is that what affects Mark Haney the farmer affects residents of small towns and large metropolitan areas," he said. "It goes full circle: It takes a thriving agriculture industry to have a strong economy, and it takes a strong economy to have a thriving agricultural industry. We've got to make our small town neighbors and urban friends understand what it takes to farm."

Haney is active in economic development efforts in the Somerset area and is an experienced farm leader on local, state and national levels.

He is a former president of the Kentucky

Center for Cooperative Development, the Kentucky Horticultural Society and Pulaski County Farm Bureau. He has a decade of experience on the Kentucky Farm Bureau executive committee and served as first vice president after Coyle's election to his first one-year term in 2005.

He and wife Marlene, a veteran Pulaski County educator, have two sons and a daughter.

Mark and Don Haney produce apples and peaches and raise beef cattle near Nancy outside Somerset. They sell fresh produce from their orchards – as well as cider, jellies and other products – at a Kentucky Farm Bureau Certified Roadside Market located on the farm.

The brothers have worked together since childhood and formed a business partnership in 1970. Don Haney, who is four years older than his 58-year-old brother, oversees

the day-to-day operations of the businesses, but both "share the ups and downs together," he said.

When Mark Haney expressed an interest in young farmers groups and Farm Bureau leadership roles years ago, his brother said they made a decision on how to handle their farming operations to allow both to pursue their interests. "Farm Bureau is so important that we think that it is just the right thing to do."

When he is not traveling on behalf of Kentucky Farm Bureau, Mark Haney works alongside his brother on the farm and roadside market, which their father opened in

the early 1960s. "I've done about every job you can think of," including working with cattle, picking apples and helping with the family tobacco crop as a youngster as well as an adult, Mark Haney said.

The business has evolved over the years, Don Haney said.

The Haney's stopped raising burley tobacco following the 2004 tobacco settlement to compensate

farmers for giving up production quotas, ending a tradition that started when their ancestors left Europe for the New World in 1621. They also have reduced the size of their orchards to concentrate on direct sales instead of selling their crops to grocers and wholesalers.

Don Haney said the business has benefited from information brother Mark has absorbed because of his involvement in Kentucky Farm Bureau and other organizations. "He is more attuned to issues affecting all parts of the state and elsewhere. We adjust all the time to changing conditions."

His support for the new Kentucky Farm Bureau president is unwavering.

"Mark is very level headed, and he sees the big picture really well," Don Haney said. "The first step to correcting a problem is identifying the problem, and he is very good at that. Not everybody has that ability."



Photo by Kara Keeton

Brothers Mark and Don Haney are partners in a farming operation that includes orchards and a roadside market located at their Pulaski County farm. Mark Haney, left, also is the new president of Kentucky Farm Bureau.



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