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KENTUCKY

F A R M B U R E A U N E W S



AG TASK FORCE TO HOLD REGIONAL FORUMS

The Task Force on the Future of Agriculture has scheduled six regional forums to gather public input on a strategic plan for the state's ag industry.

The primary purpose of the forums, according to task force chair Tony Brannon, is to gather public input on the plan's major elements and to surface ideas from individual farmers and members of the community about what the final report should contain.

"We hope to hear from as many people as possible, and want them to make additional suggestions about challenges or emerging opportunities in agriculture and rural communities," said Brannon, who is director of the Agriculture Department at Murray State University.

The forum schedule is:

*Oct. 10, 8-10 a.m. CDT, Western Kentucky University Agricultural Expo Center, Bowling Green

*Oct. 10, 7-9 p.m. CDT, Daviess County Cooperative Extension office, Owensboro

*Oct. 11, 8-10 a.m. CDT, Murray State University Curris Center, Murray

*Oct. 15, 7-9 p.m. EDT, Center for Rural Development, Somerset

*Oct. 16, 8-10 a.m. EDT, Morehead State University Conference Center, Morehead

*Oct 16, 7-9 p.m. EDT, E.S. Good Barn, University of Kentucky, Lexington

KFB has been actively engaged in the work of the task force over a period of several months, joining with representatives from other farm organizations and

ag agencies to develop recommendations.

KFB President Marshall Coyle is urging members and county leaders to attend the nearest forum and provide input.

"Despite this year's very challenging weather patterns, Kentucky's agricultural economy is continuing to diversify and expand, and we need a long-range strategy to build on that momentum," Coyle said.

Elements of the task force's draft report include ag education and labor requirements, strategies for increasing farm income and improving health care in rural communities, developing a renewable energy industry and promoting economic development in rural regions of the state.

A copy of the draft plan can be found at www.kyagcouncil.org.

AG SCHOOL DAYS...

KFB holds annual event at UK

The annual KFB Day at the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture featured the customary fare of tours, exhibits, socializing and a barbecue lunch.

The day kicked off with a meeting of the state legislature's Interim Joint Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee and Tobacco Task Force. Keith Rogers, Director of the Governor's Office for Agricultural Policy, spoke to the lawmakers about the state's historic agricultural development initiative and the work of the Ag Development Board. There was also a lengthy discussion about the drought's effect on Kentucky agriculture.

Following the meeting tours were held of various college facilities. The guests also could mingle in the exhibit area on the lawn adjacent to the E.S. Good Barn. Many of the college's departments had displays there.

KFB President Marshall Coyle was



a featured speaker during the lunch program. The Bath County farmer addressed the importance of maintaining a good working relationship between KFB, the state's largest farm organization, and the UK College of Agriculture, which administers the cooperative extension service that is so vital to the state's agriculture industry.

The Agricultural Development Board held a regular meeting following the lunch program. That group, of course,

KFB President Marshall Coyle spoke to the group from a stage decorated to mark the season and the location.

oversees the ag development project.

KFB Day is part of Ag Alumni Week at UK. Dozens of events were held as part of the celebration, culminated by a cookout prior to the UK-Florida Atlantic football game. KFB sponsors that event, which traditionally draws a crowd of 1,500 or more.

“COMMENT”

On August 22, 2007, the Kentucky General Assembly passed House Bill 1, a piece of legislation I sponsored which creates what I believe to be a visionary framework for energy policy in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

House Bill 1, which overwhelmingly passed both Houses of the General Assembly, will pioneer new frontiers in jobs and technology for Kentucky, while creating opportunities for private companies and state government to be more energy efficient.

House Bill 1 is also landmark legislation for Kentucky's agricultural industry because it helps biofuel producers, adds tax credits for biodiesel and creates new credits for ethanol.

The bill creates new tax credits of \$1 per gallon for ethanol produced from corn, soybeans, or wheat and for ethanol produced from cellulosic biomass, with each capped at \$5 million per year.

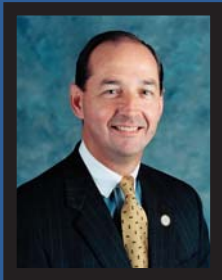
The existing biodiesel tax credit of \$1 per gallon is expanded to include renewable diesel, and the cap on the total tax credit increased from \$1.5 million to \$5 million in 2008, and \$10 million in 2009.

Ethanol, biodiesel and other alternative fuels would be used more frequently by state government under another provision of House Bill 1, which would require the state to increase the use of these fuels in the state fleet as part of its strategy to create a market for renewable fuels and to be more environmentally responsible.

Other measures in House Bill 1 include advancing research and development at the Kentucky Geological Survey and the Center for Applied Energy Research; loan forgiveness for college students majoring in energy-related fields; and deploying Green Building technologies in state facilities.

As my good friend Rep. Tom McKee, chair of the House Agriculture and Small Business Committee, put it during floor debate on House Bill 1, "This bill puts Kentucky's agricultural community in the game as we move toward the national goal of 25 percent alternative energy use by 2025."

Our renewable and biomass energy sources have the potential to supply a significant portion of that energy while revitalizing Kentucky's rural economies and increasing energy independence.



Rep. Rocky Adkins

HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER

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Kentucky Farm Bureau is a voluntary organization of farm families and their allies dedicated to serving as the voice of agriculture by identifying problems, developing solutions and taking actions which will improve net farm income, achieve better economic opportunities and enhance the quality of life for all.

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KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU NEWS

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KFB responding to drought crisis

KFB leaders say this year's drought is among the worst they've ever seen and has delivered a serious blow to Kentucky's farm economy. Moreover, they cite a long-term effect on several segments of Kentucky agriculture, particularly the state's formidable beef cattle industry.

"It's bad, and it's everywhere throughout the state," KFB President Marshall Coyle, a Bath County farmer, said in regard to crop and pasture damage.

"It's the worst I've seen in my many years," said KFB Second Vice President John Hendricks, a Clark County farmer. "It's a serious situation for all of agriculture, but one thing that makes it especially disappointing is that we've spent a lot of our agricultural development money on cattle genetics to improve quality – we're probably going to lose some of those genetics

with these forced sales."

KFB has joined with other farm interests to address the problems. A section of its web site now features a lengthy list of feed supply outlets, as well as feeding program advice from the beef cattle specialists at UK. KFB is utilizing its extensive communications network to provide a variety of information to drought-plagued cattle producers.

Coyle sent a letter on behalf of KFB to the U.S. Department of Agriculture and to the state's Congressional delegation, outlining the situation and requesting federal assistance.

"USDA is assessing the damage," Coyle said, "and we are in daily contact with our Congressional offices to monitor the process. Obviously this is our top priority at this point. There's no question the economic damage will be extensive. We need to ensure that Kentucky farmers have access to all available assistance programs."

Coyle and Hendricks noted widespread problems that include significant yield losses, water shortages, pastures

that will have to be reseeded, poor tobacco curing conditions, low supplies of hay and eroding markets for cattle, hay and corn.

"The price of hay is going up every day while the price of cattle keeps falling because of these forced sales," said Hendricks. "Pastures are virtually nonexistent. It's the first time in my life I've seen thistles dying in the field. It's just terrible. There's no other way to put it."

Coyle said helping farmers to survive this emergency has both short and long-term implications for Kentucky agriculture.

"We've invested considerable money and effort in expanding our livestock production capacity and in further diversifying our farm economy," he said. "It's important that we do not allow this emergency to derail the progress we've made. We need to keep our livestock sector strong and protect all segments from moving backwards. The most disappointing aspect of this is that we entered this growing season in a good position and with much optimism."

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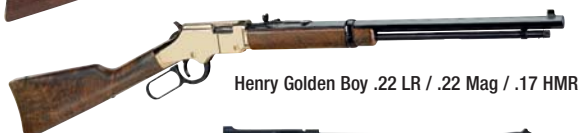
FOURTH DISTRICT CONGRESSMAN GEOFF DAVIS (LEFT) CHATTED WITH KFB DIRECTORS TERRY ROWLETT OF HENRY COUNTY AND DAVID CHAPPELL OF OWEN COUNTY DURING A MEETING AT BRAY'S ORCHARD IN TRIMBLE COUNTY. LEADERS FROM SEVERAL COUNTIES IN THAT AREA WERE ON HAND TO DISCUSS ISSUES WITH CONGRESSMAN DAVIS, WHO WAS VISITING CONSTITUENTS DURING THE TRADITIONAL AUGUST RECESS PERIOD. BRAY'S ORCHARD IS A PARTICIPANT IN KFB'S CERTIFIED ROADSIDE FARM MARKETS PROGRAM. THOSE AT THE MEETING GOT TO SAMPLE SOME OF BRAY'S HIGH-QUALITY ICE CREAM.



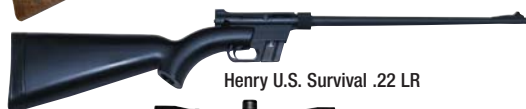
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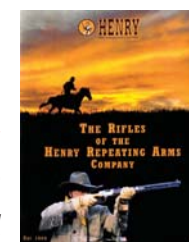
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Advisory Committee Meetings...

KFB's process for developing the policy of its members is in full swing as volunteer leaders have been meeting with representatives from government, industry and academia to examine the status of farm commodities, as well as other issues important to farm families.

These advisory committees make policy recommendations that are moved forward along with the recommendations that surface from the annual meetings of county Farm Bureaus. Following are summaries from some of the recent advisory committee meetings:

Tobacco: A conference call was placed with Hal Teegarden, Director of Agricultural Programs with Philip Morris USA. KFB President Marshall Coyle asked him to give an assessment of this year's burley crop.

Teegarden said he had recently observed Kentucky's burley crop and the quality coming into the receiving stations looked very positive. He said Philip Morris will continue to look at mechanization and ways to improve efficiency with equipment. He said they are researching technology from Europe of a new type of harvester, and will continue to evaluate resources available to growers and the equipment that will help them and to use existing structures in the harvesting of the crop.

UK tobacco economist Will Snell distributed copies of charts showing domestic use and exports. The U.S. has seen growth in burley exports but a decline in the domestic use of burley. A report from the Economic Research Service (ERS) shows that domestic manufacturers are using about two-thirds share of imported leaf in their blends.

Snell said 2007 production should be about equal to 2006, with acres up slightly and an average yield of about 2,000 pounds.

A conference call then was held with congressional staffers: Scott Raab, Legislative Director, and Allison Thompson, Legislative Aide to Senator Mitch McConnell; and Megan Spindel, Legislative Aide to Congressman Ron Lewis. They updated the group on recent actions and proposals of legislation taking place in Congress.

Jay Boyette, Commodity Director, North Carolina FB; and Kirk Wayne, President, Tobacco Associates, Inc., discussed how an export promotion check-off would benefit all tobacco producers nationwide. Wayne explained that Tobacco Associates is a non-profit trade association funded totally by the U.S. flue-cured tobacco producers. The sole mission, since founded in 1947, has been to promote the sale and use of U.S. flue-cured tobacco worldwide. Tobacco Associates does not engage in any buying or selling of tobacco or tobacco products, they are only involved in export promotion initiatives. With the demand for tobacco diminishing in the U.S. and in many of our traditional export markets, new export market opportunities must be identified, Wayne said.

In the discussion about policy, the committee approved language recommending consideration of a national checkoff for export promotion for burley and flue-cured. The group also expressed opposition to

any provision in FDA tobacco regulations that could be detrimental to Kentucky tobacco producers.

KFB Director David Chappell of Owen County is chairman of the tobacco committee.

Natural Resources: This committee, chaired by KFB Director Larry Thomas of Hardin County, expressed the most concern about preserving funding for the state's water quality cost-share program, maintaining the structure of the Conservation District system and combating crop and property damages caused by deer and other wildlife.

The meeting began with Kentucky Division of Conservation Director Steve Coleman giving an update on office restructuring and the goal to maintain a presence in every county. They have worked with State Conservationist Mike Hubbs and Farm Service Agency Director Jeff Hall to develop the restructuring plan, Coleman said.

Coleman said the Division of Conservation is preparing its biannual budget request and wanted KFB to be aware of two priorities: Funding for repair of the state's high level dams and continued funding of the state water quality cost-share program.

According to Coleman, the cost-share program had 2,200 applications this year, with 1,500 approved. \$16 million was requested, \$11.6 million was approved to help farmers stay in compliance with environmental regulations. In the 13 years the program has been in existence, more than \$72 million dollars of cost-share technical assistance has been provided.

Committee member Curtis Kirk stated the Division of Conservation has tracked 183 cases of agriculture water quality problems in 43 counties. The majority of the 127 cases were dairy. The division was able to put approximately \$680,000 into cost-share to help with corrective measures. They continue to track certification plans and as of end of fiscal year ending July, 60,629 certifications are on file, said Kirk, a director of Franklin County FB and an employee of the Kentucky Division of Conservation.

KACD President Kevin Jeffries, who's also a member of the committee, said KACD wants to maintain an office in every county and is working with elected officials on the issue.

Karen Alexy and Dan Figert of the Department of Fish & Wildlife gave reports concerning deer, elk, bear and turkey populations in the state. Figert said there were 122,000 deer killed in 2006. Kentucky has one of the largest elk populations east of the Mississippi and the state is increasing the number of elk hunting permits. The herd is estimated at about 6,500.

Alexy said there were 24,000 turkeys harvested in 2006, down slightly from 2005. She said that white tail deer damage and deer collisions with autos have been decreasing with Kentucky being lower than surrounding states. The total of collisions for 2005 according to a state police report was 2,841. She also mentioned the provisions of the new captive cervid law and that the department is working on reestablishing quail populations.

KFB Executive Vice President David Beck reported that KFB in 2006 had 5,518 in individual auto claims from deer collisions costing \$12.4 million dollars.

This was down by eight percent from the previous year

NRCS Director Mike Hubbs spoke about his goals for NRCS and work on partnerships and restructuring. He discussed work with farmers on programs such as EQIP and WRP.

Faye Brown of the Farm Service Agency reported on CREP, noting a soil rental rate change. There are 698 approved contracts that cover approximately 14,000 acres.

Dr. Wilbur Frye of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture gave an update on the farm water retention program for irrigation of specialty crops plus reported on the permitting process for hog farms, the Purchase of Conservation Easements program, implementation of the Strategic Animal Response Team program, a new Ag Lime program and continuing education in the pesticide certification process.

Darwin Newton, Coordinator of Public Relations for the USDA ag research lab at Western Kentucky University, discussed various research projects, particularly those relative to nutrient waste management. He said the lab continues to work closely with producers and farms to identify problems associated with waste management.

Among the policy recommendations, the committee recommended language supporting a landowners' right to "manage, maintain and repair existing private dykes and levees." The group also called for FSA and NRCS to retain the administrative functions over their respective farm bill programs, and for Conservation Districts to receive increased resources for office and technical support. Another recommendation asks for support of the use of revolving loan funds to purchase conservation structures.

Farm Labor: Reforms to the federal H-2A program for farmworkers is the major concern of this group, chaired by KFB Director Al Pedigo of Allen County.

Fred Karem, Immigration Specialist in Senator Mitch McConnell's Office, addressed the committee by conference call on current efforts in Washington concerning immigration reform. Karem noted some immigrants are finding it difficult to participate in legal work programs such as H-2A because of more detailed background checks. Migrants with border crossing infractions on their records face potential bans on participation ranging from one to 99 years from the last infraction.

When asked about provisions in the proposed AgJOBS legislation, Karem said there are two different segments. The first relates to migrant workers here illegally that can prove they have worked in agriculture for at least four years. If they commit to work in agriculture for the next three to five years they can earn legal status. The second proposal would streamline and reform the H-2A program.

Jeff Gatewood of the Office of Employment Training, H-2A section, gave an update on the program in Kentucky. The state has 120 more contracts, 755 more farmers and 1,398 more workers participating in H-2A than in 2006. He mentioned that OSHA had changed the rule on field sanitation. Farmers with eleven or more workers in the field have to provide potable water for washing and drinking, as well as

paper cups and bathroom facilities. The fine for non-compliance has been raised to \$30,000.

George Scott, Department of Employment Services, discussed the H-2B program and noted increases in that program similar to the H-2A program. Scott also noted America's Job Bank, a free service to employers, has recently been replaced by a fee-based program. However, he noted Kentucky will provide a free job portal where employers can go on line and list job openings themselves.

Rick Alexander, Commodity Grower's Cooperative, spoke of efforts as an agent for the H-2A program. He noted the co-op worked with 134 growers on 88 contracts supplying 948 H-2A workers. He said 52 percent were first-time users of H-2A and that growers were able to save an average of \$1,040 through the co-op program.

David Beck, Executive Vice President of KFB, related that the Kentucky Agriculture Task Force has asked the Farm Labor Advisory Committee to assist in identifying labor needs for Kentucky. The Task Force wants to identify labor needs by commodity, season and volume.

Turning to policy, the committee recommended the following language:

"Understanding farm labor skills vary by commodity; we urge exploration of potential state and local workforce investment areas to help meet Kentucky's agricultural labor needs."

Political Education: A conference call was placed to Cody Lyons, AFBF's Director of Grassroots and Political Advocacy. Lyons reviewed the FBACT program as the committee watched a PowerPoint presentation which walked the members through the FB organization website and the legislative action program.

The committee met with Secretary of State Trey Grayson in his office at the state capitol building. Secretary Grayson discussed the latest voting machine requirements and his office's effort to showcase the new voting machines designed for voters with disabilities. He also spoke about his support of a paper-based ballot in order to prevent possible computer hacking of the electronic ballots.

KFB Director Tripp Furches of Calloway County is chairman of the Political Education Committee.

Soybean: This committee met in Owensboro in order to tour the biodiesel production facility of Owensboro Grain Company. The farm bill and prospects for soybeans in the alternative fuels market are chief issues on this group's agenda.

UK economist Will Snell gave an update on the farm bill and the possible challenges facing passage of new legislation. He said some of the major factors affecting reauthorization were commodity prices, net farm income, exports, and the favorable debt-to-equity and debt-to-asset ratios. Snell also mentioned there are talks that there may be a \$20 billion reserve over five years if offsets can be identified. However, the House Agriculture Committee Chairman Peterson said most of these dollars will probably go to nutrition and energy programs. One of the top issues is payment limitations and payment eligibility.

There was considerable discussion between committee members and Snell on various aspects of the farm bill process. Concern was expressed about the significant cut in the crop insurance program in H.R. 2419.

Following the meeting the committee toured the Owensboro Grain biodiesel plant.

KFB Director Steve Bollinger of Christian County is chairman of the Soybean Committee.

Cotton: Boyd Barker, who administers a Boll Weevil Eradication Program for several states, offered assistance with the development of state regulations to implement a new law authorizing the eradication program.

Jim Brumley, Executive Director, Southeastern Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation, gave a brief update on sprays and weevil count so far this year in Kentucky.

Becky Hepler, Kentucky representative for the National Cotton Council, encouraged the committee members to join the Cotton Council. She explained that the council spoke with one voice on cotton in Washington and worked with AFBF on the farm bill and other cotton legislation.

Peggy Fleming from the Farm Service Agency explained that the Cotton Research and Promotion Program is up for a referendum. Both John Lindamood and Becky Hepler expressed support for the program and noted no action was necessary for it to continue.

The committee recommended that checkoffs be a percentage of net sales, instead of a set rate per head, bushel, or pound with the exception of the current cattle and cotton checkoffs, and information should be made available at the point of sale regarding refunds. It also approved language stating: "We encourage actions by KFB and the federal program to improve the cost effectiveness and availability of cotton crop insurance in Kentucky."

Fulton County FB President Glenn Howell is chairman of this committee.

Energy and Transportation:

KFB Director David Campbell of Lincoln County is chairman of this committee. The meeting began with Cam Metcalf of the University of Louisville's Pollution Prevention Center speaking about the Kentucky Rural Energy Consortium (KREC) and the 25X'25 road map. KREC is committed to developing the commonwealth's renewable energy and sponsors research, education and demonstration of energy programs. The 25X'25 program goals are that by 2025 farmers will provide twenty-five percent of the total energy consumed in the United States and still provide food, feed, and fiber, Metcalf explained.

John Wright from Owensboro Grain Company then discussed how agriculture production and Owensboro Grain's facilities have changed over the years. The company is in the process of adding a bio-diesel plant. As of October 1, it will begin operations at the bio-diesel plant. This plant is located within 75 percent of the United States population, placing it in a strategic location to supply fuel, he said.

Marc Williams, Commissioner of Highways for the Kentucky Department of Transportation, gave an update. He said the department has stepped up efforts to maintain roads and keep them clean. He updated the committee on major road improvements underway and the current status of the bridge inspection and improvement program.

Turning to policy considerations, the committee voiced support for the 25'25 program.

Tax: Dr. Greg Kuhns, Vice President of the Kentucky Woodland Owners Association, gave a power point presentation of a survey conducted by the

University of Kentucky identifying forest land assessment methods and how inequities in the land values have affected property tax bills and how they differ from county to county and are reviewed by the PVA in each county.

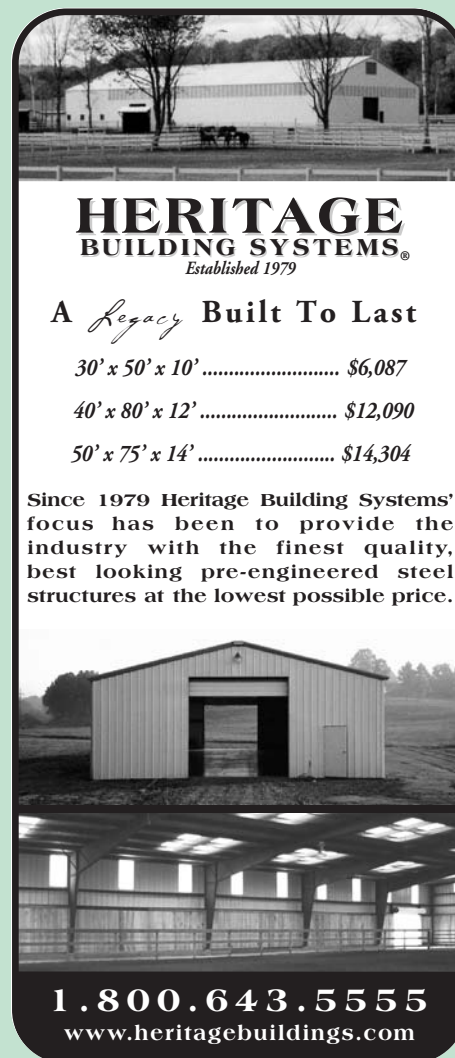
AFBF public affairs specialist Pat Wolff participated in a conference call with the group to update the committee on tax issues.

Elyse M. Weigel, Deputy Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Revenue, gave a report on state tax issues along with Richard Dobson, Executive Director of the Office of Sales and Excise Taxes, Ricky Haven, Director of Sales and Use Tax and Jeff Feese, Branch Manager of the Division of Local Valuations.

Discussion was held concerning the forest land assessment system. KFB Public Affairs Director Laura Knoth noted that there was policy under the Forestry section pertaining to this issue. It was recommended that the issue of encouraging equitable regional farmland and forestland assessments be referred to the Forestry Advisory Committee for their consideration.

In state policy, the committee recommended a change in language for coal severance taxes, expressing the view that counties should receive a 60 percent share and should be permitted to use it for repairing roads and bridges.

KFB Director Charlie Benge of Laurel County is chairman of the tax advisory committee



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FARM PRODUCTION NEWS

Corn stalks are a feeding option



**BY LAURA SKILLMAN
UK COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE**

Grazing corn stalks can be a valuable tool for beef cattle producers looking to stretch their short hay supply through the winter. Grazing the stalks can delay the need to feed hay while retaining much of the nutrients in the field, whereas baling the stalks reduces palatability and removes nutrients.

Kentucky's cattle producers are facing challenges this year because of compounding weather conditions – spring freeze followed by extreme drought. This year also follows a winter feeding season with the lowest carryover in recent memory. All these things together have beef producers looking at the best options for their cattle farm.

“My main concern is that people are baling stalks and a lot of low quality feed, and some are selling it for high prices,” said Roy Burris, UK College of Agriculture beef specialist.

He advises that, instead of going out and buying expensive, low quality feed, farmers should limit feed hay and buy complete feeds or supplements.

“What you need to do is inventory feed, consider culling some cows judi-

PARCHED PASTURES ARE FORCING CATTLE PRODUCERS TO EXAMINE WINTER FEEDING OPTIONS.

ciously and then limit feed hay and make up the difference with supplements.

“If you grow corn, it makes sense to use your corn stalks and the best option is to graze it,” Burris said. “It’s a desirable option and you can do it now if you are feeding hay and have harvested some corn. If you can knock off 30 days of hay feeding by grazing corn stalks, cull those cattle that need to be culled, then you can limit feed hay and use supplements. Then you probably will be able to manage this year’s feeding shortage.”

The stalks work best for cows that are not nursing because they have fewer nutritional needs.

Burris said if fall rains come and allow for some stockpiling of cool season grasses, then there’s a chance of further stretching the hay supply.

Grazing corn stalks has been a common practice for many beef producers in Kentucky, said Garry Lacefield, UK forage specialist. Farmers potentially can get more grazing days by using temporary fencing to limit access to only a few acres at a time.

Work in Missouri using temporary fences to allocate a week’s feed supply

resulted in cattle grazing for 60 days at a cost of five cents per day. Similar work in Iowa showed that each acre of corn stalks could replace one-half ton of hay and provided 33 days of grazing per acre. In this study, using a cost of \$60 per ton for hay, each acre of corn stalks was worth \$30.

Grazing corn stalks helps keep nutrients in the field while baling stalks removes them. UK extension soils specialist Lloyd Murdock said grazing leaves more residue on the field and many of the nutrients consumed by the animals are returned to the soil through their manure.

Generally, about 8,000 pounds of corn residue is left after harvest from a crop yielding 175 bushels per acre. This year, Murdock estimates it will be closer to 4,500 pounds per acre because of the drought or about four bales per acre. Using this figure, he calculated baling stalks results in a loss of \$4.50 per acre in phosphate and \$15 per acre in potash based on current fertilizer costs. As a result, baling the stalks removes \$19.50 in nutrients per acre from the field or about \$5 per bale.

“If you are going to graze corn stalks, remember that founder can occur if animals get too much grain,” Lacefield said. “This is usually associated with spills or piles of corn associated with truck loading areas. Prussic acid can be a problem with johnsongrass along fencerows or other areas where the weed has not been controlled. The most critical time is the first light, non-killing frost. If there is johnsongrass in the field, remove animals before the first frost. Grazing is safe 48 hours after the plants are frozen. Nitrates could be a problem on drought-stressed corn. If in doubt, test.”

For more information on nitrate testing, visit the UK forages Web site and click on “Drought - Forage Issues.”



FARM PRODUCTION NEWS



Nothing can control or eliminate weather-based challenges but better soil management will increase the crop's ability to handle weather-related stress. By using humic-based soil conditioners farmers could notice a difference in the impact weather has on soils, and ultimately their crops, whether they are raising hay, pasture, row crops or fruits and vegetables. These products are designed to rebalance, or create a new mineralization, in soil.

"They work to free up nutrients that are currently bound in unusable forms within the soil profile," according to Dennis Stephens of Monty's Plant Food Company. "Humic technology will create more pore space, improve the organic structure, and boost microbial activity. If applied in the fall, you allow time for maximum effectiveness within the soil profile, allowing results in subsequent seasons."

The inability of soils to adapt to

changing weather conditions relies largely on the ability to process water, air and nutrients; compacted soils can prohibit all of these from occurring. At levels as low as 200psi, according to Certified Crop Advisor Joe Dedman, soils cannot support any but the hardiest of plants. In a drought year, the roots are not able to penetrate deeply enough to access nutrients and moisture that may be available. With the plant roots bound in the upper four inches of the soil profile, even the slightest of droughts can have a big impact.

Compacted soils can also cause crop loss in a wet year because the moisture is trapped between the surface and the hard pan layer. Whether the source of your compaction concerns are chemical or mechanical, products like Monty's Soil Conditioner can help. Using a plow, sub-soiler or similar methods to break through the hard pan does not eliminate the problem; it only moves it deeper into the earth. The latest independent

lab results indicate that Monty's, on the other hand, can lower compaction in a relatively short period of time.

While it is intended to be part of an ongoing program, in most cases Monty's soil conditioner can create a change in the compaction levels. Additionally, it can boost microbial activity which will enhance natural sources of nitrogen and free up sizeable quantities of other nutrients. Once farmland is less compacted, more organic in nature, has freely moving nutrients, and is better able to regulate the flow of water, there's the opportunity to reduce input costs, time spent working the fields and prevented plantings and crop failures. While you cannot change the weather, this fall you can begin tests on your own farm to see the benefits this new technology can provide in controlling the impact of next season's unpredictable crop stresses.



A big drop in tobacco acreage isn't the only change that Clark County's agricultural community has seen in recent years — a traditional “field day” also has been missing.

That is, until this year, when Clark County Farm Bureau stepped forward to renew a custom of bringing farmers together for a look at some of the innovations on local farms.

“We had (county) field days for many years,” explained Clark County FB President John Hendricks, “but it sort of fell through the cracks in the past few years. We decided to start it back up. We think it's a good use of membership money.”

Just east of Lexington in the state's burley tobacco belt, Clark County traditionally had been among the top producing counties, meaning that it receives a sizeable amount of Phase One tobacco settlement money targeted for ag development projects. A lot of that money has been used to boost the county's beef cattle industry. Clark County currently ranks ninth in cattle numbers.

And so it was that the first of three stops during the field day activities focused on hay quality and cattle feeding programs. Despite 96-degree heat, about 20 local farmers were on hand at

CHARLES HOWARD TALKED ABOUT HIS BALING AND STORAGE SYSTEM AS THE CLARK COUNTY FARMERS LOOKED ON. BELOW, THE FIELD DAY INCLUDED AN INTERESTING TOUR OF THE HARKNESS EDWARDS VINEYARDS.

the William B. Guess-Codell Farm to watch alfalfa hay baling and storing demonstrations and to hear extension beef cattle specialist Dr. John Johns offer some advice on feeding decisions to combat this year's critical shortage of hay.

Larry Stewart, who manages the farm, joined with fellow Clark County FB Directors Thadd Taylor and Nick Carter in conducting the forage program. Carter, a former agriculture extension agent, presided while Taylor operated a giant bale wrapper and Stewart explained the advantages of wrapping the 1,600-to-1,800-pound bales.

Charles “Shorty” Howard, who

grows and sells thousands of tons of hay for area horse farms, presided over a demonstration on square bale processing and storage.

Johns offered what Hendricks and others described as some “valuable” advice when he urged the cattlemen to consider alternatives to purchasing high-priced hay to maintain their herds through the drought period.

“Don't get caught up in the frenzy to buy out-of-state hay,” Johns cautioned. “You don't necessarily need to be buying hay; you need to be buying nutrients.”

He went on to suggest corn silage, soybean hulls or gluten as possible options. “Remember, cattle don't have a hay requirement; they have a nutrient requirement,” Johns said. “So why do we use hay? Cause we have it.”

The second stop, just a few miles down the country lane, offered a sharp contrast to the cattle farm. It was a vineyard and winery operated by Harkness and Kathy Edwards. Tractor-pulled wagons took the group on a tour of the dozens of acres of grapes, some new and others that are established and productive, scattered along hillsides. The





COMMODITIES DIRECTOR JEFF HARPER GAVE AN OVERVIEW OF LEGISLATIVE ISSUES.

CLARK COUNTY FB DIRECTORS THADD TAYLOR (LEFT) AND NICK CARTER PARTICIPATED IN THE HAYING DEMONSTRATIONS.

tour ended near a tasting and market center under construction. There, KFB Commodities Director Jeff Harper spoke briefly about KFB's legislative agenda.

Harkness Edwards Winery plans to open its tasting center in December and will significantly expand production to reflect the increase in the volume of grapes it is growing, said Mrs. Edwards.

Last stop was Miller Trust Farm, a scenic spot surrounded by heavy woods where owner Susan Miller produces

goat milk and cheese from a herd of about 35 head. In a brief tour that preceded a cookout dinner, she told the group that her cheese is so popular she can't meet the demand.

Harkness Edwards Winery plans to open its tasting center in December and will significantly expand production, said Mrs. Edwards.

Carter, who helped organize the event, said the intention was "to put together a day mixed with traditional

enterprises and diversification agriculture. I think it's an interesting mix."

Hendricks, who is KFB's Second Vice President and chairman of the beef cattle advisory committee, said the field day was especially useful in light of the drought.

"It's a serious situation; our farmers need information at times like this," he said.

MARKETS

COMPILED BY

ED MCQUEEN,

DIRECTOR OF MARKET INFORMATION

SHEEP AND GOAT INDUSTRIES HONORED IN OCTOBER

October is Goat and Sheep Development Month. "Kentucky's sheep and goat industries have made great strides in recent years," Agriculture Commissioner Richie Farmer said. "Our goat industry is ranked fifth in the nation at 74,000 head. Our sheep industry has a rich tradition in Kentucky history, and now it is making a comeback. Many Kentucky farmers have turned to sheep and goat production to offset the loss of tobacco income."

The Kentucky Goat Producers Association will hold its annual meeting October 20 at the Boyd County Extension office. The Kentucky Sheep Producers Association will meet October 27 at the Clark County Extension office.

In 2006, the groups formed the Kentucky Sheep and Goat Development Office to promote their industries, and have since named Ray Bowman, a Franklin County goat producer, as its executive director.

Prices at Kentucky's goat auctions are on a par with those of the largest sales in the nation. Kentucky has developed graded sales and Tel-O-Auctions which other states emulate.

Kentucky had 37,000 sheep and lambs as of January 1, an increase of 5.7 percent over 2006.

For more information, visit www.kysheepandgoat.org.

BIODIESEL TO USE 20% OF SOYBEAN OIL

The 2006/07 soybean crush through July 2007 was a record-large 1.66 billion bushels. For 2007/08, soybean crushing is expected to rise to 1.825 billion bushels, according to USDA.

In July, demand for soybean oil eclipsed all previous monthly totals, as both domestic use and exports were robust. Domestic use of soybean oil for 2006/07 was forecast 450 million pounds higher this month to 19.05 billion pounds. The biodiesel industry has been responsible for all of the increase in domestic use. Use of soybean oil for biodiesel is forecast at 2.85 billion pounds in 2006/07, compared with 1.56 billion in 2005/06.

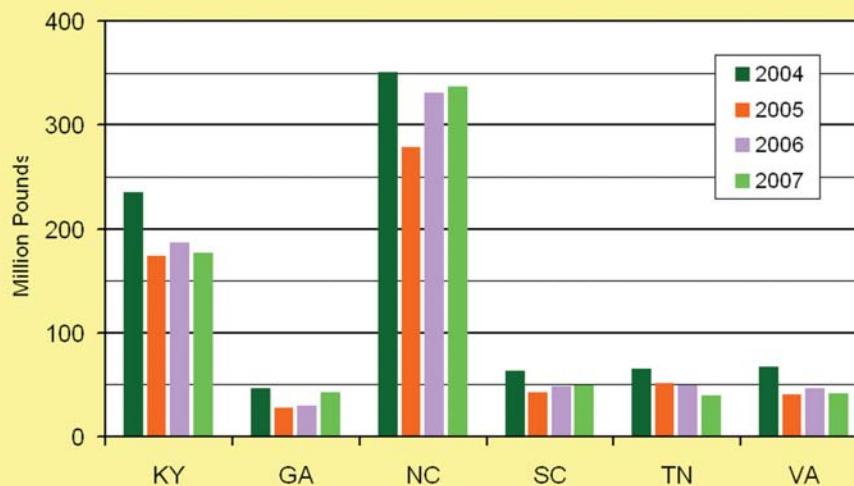
Although biodiesel demand is likely to slow in 2007/08, that sector is still projected to expand soybean oil use by 40 percent to 4.0 billion pounds. If realized, biodiesel would account for 20 percent of all the soybean oil consumed. The average price for 2007/08 is forecast at 33-37 cents per pound, up from 31 cents in 2006/07.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE IMPORTS RISE

Rising imports of fresh fruit and vegetables play a critical role in increased U.S. consumption of fresh produce, according to USDA's Economic Research Service. By farm-weight basis, the average American annually consumed 13 pounds more of commercially grown fresh fruit and 50 pounds more of fresh vegetables (excluding potatoes, sweet potatoes, and mushrooms) in 2003-05 than in 1983-85. Between these two periods, fresh fruit consumption increased from 88.7 pounds to 101.2 pounds, and fresh vegetable consumption rose from 123.2 pounds to 173.5 pounds.

Tobacco Production

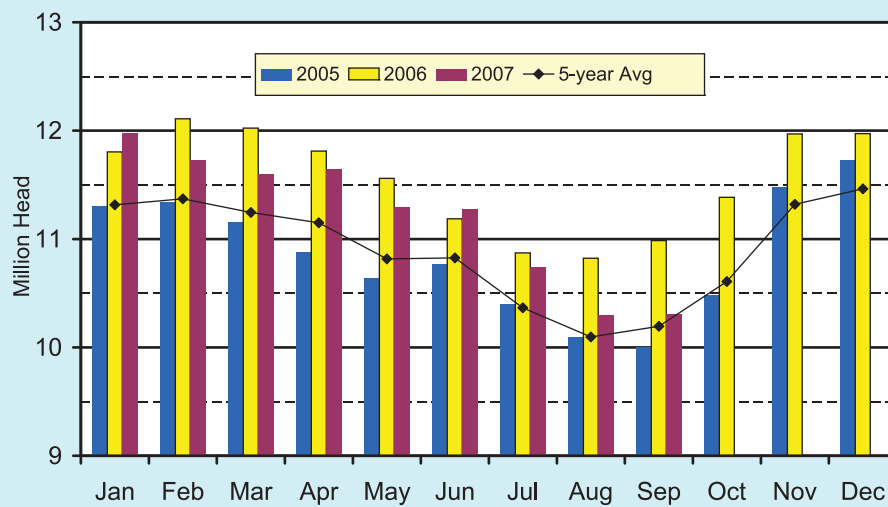
2004-06 Actual and 2007 Forecasted



Source: Crop Production, USDA-NASS, September 12, 2007

U.S. Cattle on Feed

Lots Over 1000 Head



Source: Cattle on Feed, USDA-NASS

A "cash cow"...

Mason County farm thrives with "custom" dairy heifers

FROM KCARD

Editor's Note: KFB is among the KCARD cooperators. KFB First Vice President Mark Haney serves on the KCARD board.

Harold and Shannon Burton don't see themselves as entrepreneurs, but acknowledge that their family farming operation is not traditional.

The Burtons started milking 30 to 40 cows on their Mason County farm and eventually expanded to about 250 Holsteins. While running the dairy and raising tobacco, Harold decided to branch out by selling and feeding heifers.

"I always had extra feed and I enjoyed selling and buying heifers and I guess it got in my blood," he explained. "Then it expanded and more dairies wanted me to raise some of their calves and send back, and that is how the custom side got going."

In about 1998 the Burtons sold their last dairy herd and began custom-raising heifers fulltime. In the beginning they were running about 500 to 800 head. This level grew slightly over the years, but Harold knew the opportunity was there.

"The dairies up north have to get permits for the number of cows on an operation, so if they have a 1,000 cow permit they only want 1,000 cows that are milking," explained Harold. "So I knew they were looking for growers like me to raise their heifers until they are ready to milk."

In 2005 Harold learned about the opportunity for financing the expansion with Agricultural Development Funds (ADF). Burton's Livestock applied for and received \$430,000 in ADFs to build a feeding facility. The Burtons also received a \$967,000 loan from the



AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER RICHIE FARMER AND GOVERNOR ERNIE FLETCHER PRESENTED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO SHANNON AND HAROLD BURTON. THE FUNDING WAS A COMBINATION OF A MATCHING GRANT AND A LOW-INTEREST LOAN.

Kentucky Ag Finance Corporation though a coordinated value-added program to help with covering the cost of feed and other operating costs.

"There is no way I would have grown this quickly without the funds," explained Harold. "I could have gone to the banks, but with me already financing each head that comes through here it would have been difficult."

As the operation began growing, Shannon decided to leave her off-farm job and return to the family farm to work full-time as the bookkeeper. What she quickly discovered is that the growth in the business would require a new way to handle the books, not only from an accounting standpoint but from a tracking standpoint.

"I met with Nathan (Routt) from KCARD and we began looking at ways we could use the computers to help with the bookkeeping and tracking," said Shannon. "Then KCARD gave me a chance to attend a special training for Quicken."

KCARD worked with Shannon and the accountant for Burton's Livestock to set up Quicken as the bookkeeping software to meet the needs of the business. Also, Routt worked with Shannon to evaluate the cattle tracking needs of the operation and established a tracking system for the calves in Microsoft Excel.

"Their assistance is completely free and the continuing support has

been wonderful," said Shannon. "It would have taken a while for me to know which way to go on this if we hadn't had their help."

Harold and Shannon are surprised at how quickly the operation has grown in the last year.

"We thought it would take us two years to reach 6,000 head of cattle and yet here we are here only seven months after we finished our feeding facility," said Harold. "If this growth continues we are expecting to be at 20,000 in about two years."

Burton is picking up the two- to three -day -old calves from dairies twice a week. He has six different calf growers that raise the calves until they are about 10 weeks of age. The calves are then brought back to the main farm for about a month, after which they go back out to one of the additional 35 farms in the area that feed the heifers until they reach about 800 pounds. Finally the heifers are AI breed and fed out until they check seven months pregnant, then they are shipped back to their home dairies.

"We have over forty farms that we work with in the operation, and we have 11 employees," explained Harold. "As the business continues to grow we are going to be able to work and provide opportunities for more farm families in the area."

FARM FILE

FARM MARKETS PROGRAM HAS CUSTOMER INCENTIVES

KFB's Certified Roadside Farm Market Program is now offering Roadside Rewards. Customers will get their membership card stamped one time for every \$20 spent at any participating market. Once the card is filled with ten stamps, customers will receive a free collector's series burgoon mug from Louisville Stoneware, courtesy of KFB, while supplies last.

The program will run through August 31, 2008. For more information, contact Sandra Gardner, Director of Commodity Marketing, at 502-495-5000 or sgardner@kyfb.com.

DEER VIRUS SPREADING TO CATTLE

An insect-borne virus cited for killing hundreds of deer in the state has spread to some cattle herds, officials said. Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease, or EHD, has been detected in west Kentucky by the Breathitt Veterinary Center in Hopkinsville and reported by a cattleman in Green County, according to published reports.

The disease is spread to deer or cattle by gnats or flies. Mature cattle generally survive the virus but can be sick for a week or more with symptoms including fever, diarrhea, nose or mouth lesions and stiffness. There is no vaccine to prevent the virus. Horses do not appear to be susceptible, officials said.

AG CENSUS INFORMATION ON THE INTERNET

Information on the 2007 Census of Agriculture is available at www.agcensus.usda.gov. The new Web site is a clearinghouse created by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) to provide farmers, ranchers and the rest of the agricultural community with the latest news and information about the upcoming census.

The Census of Agriculture, conducted by USDA every five years, is expected

to commence at the end of this year. NASS will mail out census forms on December 28 to collect data for the 2007 calendar year. The mailing will include instructions on how to log in and respond to the census via a secure Web connection. Whether they choose to respond online or by mail, producers are asked to return their completed census forms by February 4, 2008.

STALLMAN APPOINTED TO TRADE COMMITTEE

AFBF President Bob Stallman has been appointed to the White House's Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations (ACTPN). Members of the ACTPN, which is administered by the U.S. Trade Representative, advise the president and Congress on the potential effects of proposed trade agreements. The ACTPN is at the top of a multi-tiered system of committees that advise the president and Congress on trade matters.

"I am pleased I have been selected

to represent the interests of America's farmers and ranchers on the president's Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations," Stallman said. "I look forward to advancing the interests of American agriculture and making the most of opportunities for agriculture in international trade. We must increase and improve our international trading relationships to ensure agricultural prosperity and future economic growth."

SOME FARMS SHIFT PRODUCTION TO MEXICO

The growing labor shortage has caused an increasing number of U.S. agricultural producers to shift production to Mexico, where they do not worry about problems with immigration-related paperwork. Lower land prices and year-round growing are additional reasons cited by those who have shifted production south of the border.

A farmer from California said he has spent considerable sums of money to establish lettuce production in Mexico, where he adheres to the same regulations

and food-safety procedures he would use back home. In related news, farmers across Colorado are complaining about a worker shortage, and some farmers have planted fewer acres as a result. The shortage and increasingly strict immigration enforcement measures appear to be the reasons a record number of Colorado farmers are applying for workers through the federal H-2A guest worker program, according to the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment.

COUNTY ANNUAL MEETINGS

BOURBON COUNTY

Date: October 18, 2007 6:30 p.m.
Place: American Legion Park

BOYD COUNTY

Date: October 22, 2007 6:30 p.m.
Place: Extension Office

BREATHITT COUNTY

Date: October 12, 2007 6 p.m.
Place: LBJ School Cafeteria

CARTER COUNTY

Date: October 22, 2007 6:30 p.m.
Place: Farm Bureau Office

CASEY COUNTY

Date: October 11, 2007 6:30 p.m.
Place: Ag Expo Center

FAYETTE COUNTY

Date: October 11, 2007 6:30 p.m.
Place: Extension Office

GREENUP COUNTY

Date: November 5, 2007 5 p.m.
Place: Farm Bureau Building

HART COUNTY

Date: October 13, 2007 7 p.m.
Place: Farm Bureau office

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Date: November 8, 2007 7:30 p.m.
Place: County Office

LAWRENCE COUNTY

Date: October 16, 2007 6 p.m.
Place: Front Porch Restaurant

PULASKI COUNTY

Date: October 11, 2007 6:30 p.m.
Place: Pulaski County High School Cafeteria

ROADSIDE



FARM MARKET

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Or contact: roadside@kyfb.com



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Atwood Village Family Farm
Independence • (859) 803-4992

Ayres Family Orchard
Owenton • (502) 484-5236

Beech Springs Farm Market
Winchester • (859) 749-0484

Benton Farms U-Pick
Walton • (859) 485-7000

Boyd Orchards
Versailles • (859) 873-3097

Bray Fruit
Bedford • (502) 255-7296

Bray Orchard & Roadside Market
Bedford • (502) 255-3607

Callis Orchards
Bedford • (502) 255-3316

Caludi's Fields
Lexington • (859) 275-2374

Cheek's Produce
Taylorsville • (502) 477-1277

Chrisman Mill Vineyards
Nicholasville • (859) 881-5007

Chrisman Mill Winery, LLC
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Country Corner Greenhouse & Nursery, Inc.
Shepherdsville • (502) 955-8635

Evans Orchard & Cider Mill
Georgetown • (502) 867-3044

Farmer Bill
Williamstown • (859) 823-1058

George Gagel Truck Farm
Louisville • (502) 447-6809

Gallrein Farms
Shelbyville • (502) 633-4849

The Greenhouse in Gertrude
Brooksville • (606) 782-0033

Interstate Greenhouse & Nursery
Carrollton • (800) 830-6429

Kinman Farms
Burlington • (859) 689-2682

Lan Mark Farm
Sharpsburg • (859) 383-4454

Lavender Hills of Kentucky, LLC
Brooksville • (606) 735-3355

McGlasson Farms
Hebron • (859) 689-5229

Michels Family Farm
Sparta • (859) 643-2511

"R" Farm Pumpkins & More, LLC
Maysville • (606) 742-2429

Reed Valley Orchard
Paris • (859) 987-6480

Ridgeview Greenhouse & Nursery
Shepherdsville • (502) 543-7317

Sandyland Acres Haunted Hayride
Petersburg • (859) 689-4283

Thieneman's Herbs & Perennials
Louisville • (502) 491-6305

Tower View Farm & Nursery
Jeffersonton • (502) 267-2066

Turnpike Gardens
Cox's Creek • (502) 538-8025

Yuletide Tree Farm & Nursery
Winchester • (859) 771-4729

EAST

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Louisa • (606) 483-1326

Bennett's Mill Covered Bridge
South Shore • (606) 932-9334

Bramble Ridge Orchard
Mt. Sterling • (859) 498-9123

Imel's Greenhouse
Greenup • (606) 473-1708

Townsend's Sorghum Mill and Farm Market
Jeffersonville • (859) 498-4142

WEST

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Hopkinsville • (270) 269-2434

The Country Barn
Elkton • (270) 885-4843

D & M Produce
Ledbetter • (270) 898-6312

Father's Country Hams
Bremen • (877) 525-4267

Garrett Farms
Paducah • (270) 366-1110

Gateway Nursery & Florist
Benton • (270) 527-1884

Lost Valley Farms
Bremen • (270) 525-9720

Turner Valley Produce
Russellville • (270) 726-3983

Wurth Farms, LLC
Paducah • (270) 554-1403

Wyatt Farms, Inc., Greenhouse & Nursery
Benton • (270) 527-2855

Zook's Produce
Herndon

SOUTH CENTRAL

Acres of Land Winery
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Britt's Market
Glasgow • (270) 590-0722

Burton's Garden Center
Campbellsville • (270) 789-1239

Chaney's Dairy Barn
Bowling Green • (270) 843-5567

Dennison's Roadside Market
Horse Cave • (270) 786-1663

Double Hart Farm
Corbin • (606) 523-0465

Fairview Pumpkin Farm
Harrodsburg • (859) 734-2701

Frenchvalley Farms
Jamestown • (270) 343-5052

Gold City Flower Farm
Franklin • (270) 776-6584

Haney's Appledale Farm
Nancy • (606) 636-6148

Hillcrest Garden Center
Richmond • (859) 623-9394

Hillcrest Nursery
Richmond • (859) 623-9394

Hinton's Orchard & Farm Market
Hodgenville • (270) 325-3854

Jackson's Orchard & Nursery, Inc.
Bowling Green • (270) 781-5303

Kenny's Farmhouse Cheese
Austin • (270) 434-4124

Lee's Garden Center
Hodgenville • (270) 358-9897

McQuerry's Family Farm Herbs-N-Heirlooms
Paint Lick • (859) 792-8268

Mammoth Cave Transplants
Brownsville • (270) 597-2533

Maple Hill Manor
Springfield • (859) 336-3075

Mariner's Rest Produce
Danville • (859) 319-3508

O'Daniel Farms
Bowling Green • (270) 782-3932

Old Crow Inn
Danville • (859) 236-1775

The Old Milk Barn
Salvisa • (859) 865-2043

Sinking Valley Vineyard & Winery, Inc.
Somerset • (606) 274-0223

Three Springs Farm
Elizabethtown • (270) 360-0644

Village Farms Produce & Hay
Perryville • (859) 613-3969

Warren Farm Greenhouse
Richmond • (859) 328-7005



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