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# KENTUCKY

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



# AGRICULTURE INCLUDED IN ENERGY BILL

The “Incentives for Energy Independence Act” that emerged from the special session of the General Assembly offers great opportunities for Kentucky agriculture. The bill contains renewable energy incentives which, if utilized, could enhance the demand for corn and soybeans, as well as plants used for cellulosic ethanol.

The provisions include:

- \*A biodiesel tax credit of \$1.5 million for this year, \$5 million for 2008 and \$10 million for 2009.

- \*A cellulosic ethanol tax credit of \$5 million, effective in 2008.

- \*An ethanol credit of \$5 million, effective next year.

- \*Economic development incentives and tax breaks for renewable fuels facilities with a capital investment of at least \$25 million.

The ethanol and biodiesel tax credits are available annually at a rate of \$1 per gallon. The ethanol incentives could transition between cellulosic and traditional if the \$5 million mark is not totally utilized by one of the blends. The overall annual cap is \$10 million.

The bill’s primary sponsor was House Majority Leader Rocky Adkins, D-Sandy Hook, who sponsored both 2006 legislation that encourages research and development into alternative fuel and renewable energy production plus a follow-up energy bill during this year’s regular legislative session.

Adkins described House Bill 1 as “legislation that will make Kentucky a national leader in the energy arena.”

KFB Public Affairs Director Laura Knoth praised House and Senate leaders for coming together to craft a visionary energy policy for the state. She also noted others who played key roles in championing the measure. Two of those lawmakers were Senator Robert Stivers, R-Manchester; and Rep. Tonya Pullin, D-South Shore. Both lawmakers said they were pleased with the outcome and the bipartisan effort to craft the bill.

“This opens up some new avenues for farmers,” said Stivers. “One aspect that I feel is being overlooked a bit is that the same incentives for these big corporations also are available for the smaller operators. That’s something that farmers

and agribusinesses should look at.”

Stivers, who played a key role in moving the house bill through the Senate, said the ag industry could benefit greatly from the incentives.

“This can add value to agriculture,” he said. “The potential is certainly there. I think our ag community will have to step up and take advantage of the opportunity.”

Rep. Pullin said the bill’s strength is its broad scope.

“It touches all areas of our current energy crisis,” said Rep. Pullin. “I believe if we are going to become independent from our foreign sources we must promote the development of these domestic resources, including our agricultural resources. This bill recognizes all of those resources.”

The bill provides up to \$5 million annually for alternative fuels research, as well as a student loan forgiveness program for engineers, technologists, chemists, geologists and hydrologists trained in Kentucky who work in the state in an energy-related field.

## KFB urging federal assistance for drought-plagued farmers

With a severe drought ravaging crops and pastures, KFB is requesting economic assistance for farmers.

KFB President Marshall Coyle sent a letter to U.S. Agriculture Secretary Michael Johanns, asking him to declare Kentucky a disaster area, thereby making qualifying farmers eligible for low-interest loans and other federal disaster relief programs. KFB also is working with the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and other groups to find sources of hay for livestock producers. The department has a toll free hotline at (888) 567-9589 that lists hay for sale and is listing web sites for out-of-state sources.

In his letter to Secretary Johanns, Coyle wrote: “In April, 2007, Kentucky

farmers experienced severe freeze damage to many crops across the Commonwealth. This freeze resulted in significant damage to forage crops. Farmers across Kentucky now are suffering extreme heat and drought conditions, further exacerbating the already critical forage situation and greatly diminishing yields for grain producers. Due to these conditions, we ask for your support in securing disaster declaration.”

Coyle went on to note that UK’s Agricultural Weather Center reports that 73 percent of the state is in extreme drought condition.

The KFB leader also sent letters to Governor Ernie Fletcher and Kentucky’s Congressional delegation, requesting their support of a disaster declaration. He

told Governor Fletcher that forage losses valued at from \$250 million to \$400 million are possible, and that “even if we get fall rains, we will face a serious shortage of livestock forages well into 2008.”

Coyle suggested that Governor Fletcher direct state and federal agencies to place emphasis on hay and pasture establishment and to encourage the Kentucky Agriculture Development Board to consider funding projects that would rebuild hay and pasture stocks.

Hay prices are soaring as livestock producers scramble to maintain their herds. Many have been forced to sell livestock, as evidenced by Kentucky market reports showing higher volumes and lower prices.

# “COMMENT”

A campaign is spreading throughout the nation to change how farmers raise their animals. This so-called “animal welfare” movement often is more based on emotion than science-based facts.

But make no mistake — ballot initiatives, legal actions and lobbying present a serious threat to the livestock industry. “Humane” groups are active throughout the country with efforts to impose new standards on a business they don’t understand.

In an issue that hits home here in Kentucky, horses have now become a target in the “animal rights” campaign. Congress currently is considering legislation that would prohibit the processing of equine. About 100,000 unwanted, abandoned or unmanageable horses were processed in the United States last year. The byproducts are used for a variety of purposes, including human consumption. Horsemeat, in fact, is regarded as a delicacy in several foreign nations.

If this legislation is passed, the result could be the neglect of many of these affected horses that no longer serve useful purposes. That’s a fate far less humane than euthanasia under veterinary inspection.

This is a good example of a misguided effort to ban a legal practice while offering no alternative for what to do with thousands of affected animals. Shelter and rescue facilities are not currently a viable option. At the current average capacity of 30 horses, an additional 2,700 shelters would be needed to absorb the animals impacted by the horse slaughter bill. Existing rescue facilities are full and no interest has been expressed in funding new ones.

Supporters of this legislation do not contend that horsemeat is not safe to eat, or that processing facilities are cruel. Rather, they claim that most people consider horses as pets, and therefore shouldn’t be made available for human consumption.

This issue leaves me – and many others – wondering if sheep and goats will be next. Let’s hope that this horse slaughter bill is left at the starting gate!



**Marshall Coyle**

PRESIDENT, KFB

## ON THE COVER:

A TOBACCO FIELD IN SPENCER COUNTY.  
PHOTO BY ROGER NESBITT

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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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# Tractor-related deaths declining

**A** prolonged effort by agricultural safety professionals to educate Kentucky farmers about the hazards associated with tractor operations is showing positive results.

Kentucky formerly had an alarming rate of fatalities and serious injuries caused by tractor rollovers. In a 1994-95 survey conducted by the University of Kentucky, 443 overturns were reported from 6,063 farms, with 131 of the accidents resulting in injury, including 24 deaths. More recently, there were 34 fatalities during 2001-2004.

Only three fatalities have been recorded in both 2005 and 2006, although both figures are considered preliminary as officials continue to review records, said Larry Piercy, extension safety specialist at UK.

"We're heading in the right direction," said Piercy, who has over 30

years experience in the ag safety field. He attributes the progress to several factors which include "some very good" educational programs and the fact that more and more older tractors have been retired and replaced by newer models equipped with rollover protective structures (ROPs).

Kentucky had one of the highest farm injury rates in the 1990s, which prompted a number of developments to address the problem. The Southeast Center for Agricultural Safety and Injury Prevention was established in Lexington and linked to UK. In the late 1990s, former Agriculture Commissioner Billy Ray Smith implemented a safety program at the Kentucky Department of Agriculture which continues to be active and effective under the administration of Commissioner Richie Farmer. The pro-

gram's safety exhibit, initiated and managed by Dale Dobson, a director of LaRue County FB, has been in every county over the years. And its exhibit for ROPs has been in most counties.

Dobson says his exhibits have become so popular that "we have a waiting list."

For years, UK's extension service, the Lexington-based Southeast Center, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and KFB have stepped up programs and activities to address the problem of tractor rollovers. The key focus is to ensure that tractors have rollover protective structures.

Safe operation of farm machinery is the focus of this year's recognition of National Farm Safety and Health Week. The 64th observation, coordinated through the National Safety Council, is September 16-22, with the theme: "It's Easier To Bury A Tradition Than A Child." That slogan supports the effort to persuade farmers to employ modern safety devices and techniques in operating machinery.

The national safety program now is targeting smaller-sized lawn and garden tractors. These machines often are blamed for tragic accidents, but in many cases the culprit is the way they are operated. And extra riders – particularly youth – are universally at risk.

As harvest time approaches, the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety is reminding drivers to be especially cautious on rural roads. Although only one-fifth of the U.S. population lives in rural areas, three out of five fatal crashes occur there. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration attributes the greater risk to lack of seatbelt use, the greater likelihood of traveling on a roadway with a speed limit of 55 or higher and a great frequency of traveling on a road that is winding.

Farmers are urged to use lights and flashers, replace worn safety emblems and use retro-reflective marking materials on all equipment operated on a roadway. Those driving through rural areas should be on the lookout for farm equipment, should slow down when encountering slow-moving vehicles, should wait for a safe place to pass and avoid using a cell phone while driving.



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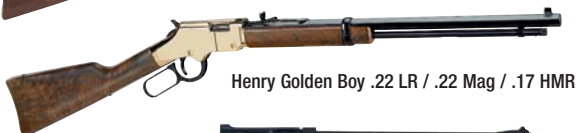
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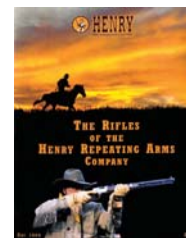
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# POLITICS AND PORK FUEL KFB BREAKFAST...

With elections of the state's constitutional officers only three months away, KFB's 44th annual Country Ham Breakfast was a political extravaganza, headlined by gubernatorial candidates Ernie Fletcher and Steve Beshear. U.S. Senators Mitch McConnell and Jim Bunning, Louisville Mayor Jerry Abramson and Agriculture Commissioner Richie Farmer were among the speakers and the sellout crowd of more than 1,600 included Third District Congressman John Yarmuth and dozens of state officeholders and officials.

The Louisville Courier-Journal described the breakfast as "one of the

season's major political events."

The "headliner," however, turned out to be

MISS KENTUCKY KAITLYNNE POSTEL AND WINNING BIDDER GEORGE OCHS SHOW OFF THE CHAMPION HAM FROM SCOTT HAMS IN THE "OFFICIAL" GROUP PHOTO THAT INCLUDED GOVERNOR ERNIE FLETCHER, AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER RICHIE FARMER AND KFB'S OFFICERS.



COLBY MYERS OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY FFA POSED WITH HIS RESERVE CHAMPION STEER AFTER KFB INSURANCE AND OTHERS PURCHASED THE STEER AT THE SALE OF CHAMPIONS. KFB FIRST VICE PRESIDENT MARK HANEY AND STEVE MCCORMACK, VICE PRESIDENT OF OPERATIONS FOR KFB INSURANCE, REPRESENTED THE COMPANY.

# AT STATE FAIR

THE CHAMPION GOSPEL QUARTET, HIS PRAISE, PERFORMED AT THE PICNIC. FROM LEFT ARE JESSE TEWELL, STEPHEN FRYAR, MARC THOMAS AND DALE LISEMBEE.



be George Ochs of Anchorage, who submitted a winning bid of \$200,000 for the champion 16-pound ham from Scott Hams of Greenville. Ochs represented the T.W. Lewis Foundation, established by his friend, Tom Lewis, a UK graduate who is a property developer in Arizona. The foundation funds UK scholarships for students from Eastern Kentucky.

The foundation has been among the bidders in recent years and was outgunned by record-setters in both 2005 and 2006.

Other bidders were Republic Bank, First Southern National Bank, Brown-Forman Corporation, Stockyards Bank and PNC bank. Miss Kentucky 2007 Kaitlynne Postel raced back and forth among the tables of bidders to display the prized pork, which was on a silver platter and adorned with the blue ribbon.

The picnic on the east lawn was another highlight of the day's activities. The lunch crowd was treated to performances by the three finalists for the Gospel Quartet championship. The winner was His Praise of



Christian County. Runner-up was Calvary Heirs of Lincoln County. Third place went to Higher Call of Russell County.

Laurel County got the "top county" award for sending the most people the most total miles.

KFB Insurance Company was among a group that purchased the reserve grand champion steer at the 4-H and FFA Sale of Champions. The steer, a 1,295-pound cross-bred, was exhibited by Colby Myers of Montgomery County FFA.

Earlier, in the South Wing, an exhibit by Glasgow and Cave City was judged best in the Pride of the Counties display sponsored by

MISS KENTUCKY KAITLYNNE POSTEL, LEFT, CELEBRATES THE WINNING BID WITH GEORGE OCHS, WHO WAS REPRESENTING THE T.W. LEWIS FOUNDATION.

BELOW, GLASGOW-CAVE CITY HAD THE TOP EXHIBIT AT THE PRIDE OF THE COUNTIES SECTION IN THE SOUTH WING. KFB PRESIDENT MARSHALL COYLE AND KFB INSURANCE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT ROGER SIMPSON MADE THE PRESENTATION. ON HAND FROM BARREN COUNTY WERE (FRONT FROM LEFT) ANN STEWART, MARKETING DIRECTOR OF THE GLASGOW-BARREN COUNTY TOURISM COMMISSION; GINA LYON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CAVE CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND (BACK ROW FROM LEFT) VOLUNTEER WORKERS CLIFTON AND BETTY COMPTON, WANDEL STRANGE, PRESIDENT OF THE CAVE CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND BOB HUNT, MAYOR OF CAVE CITY, AND HIS WIFE, LINDA HUNT.

KFB Insurance. The two Barren County communities had separate displays in a shared space.







## FARM PRODUCTION NEWS

# SURVEY REVEALS SHARP RISE IN STATE'S PRODUCE ACREAGE

BY AIMEE NIELSON  
UK COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

**U**niversity of Kentucky College of Agriculture economists have tallied preliminary results from the most recent Produce Planting and Marketing Intentions Survey. Initial results indicate an expected acreage increase for produce crops of about eight percent this year.

"This is the same acreage growth rate as the 2006 estimate," said Jim Mansfield, UK agricultural economist. "Fruit crop acreage will essentially remain the same at an estimated 2,496 acres, while vegetable crop estimates are predicted to be around 9,018 acres, up by 11 percent from the 2006 level."

However, most of the survey responses were submitted prior to the Easter freeze that decimated much of the state's fruit crops. So, Mansfield said actual harvested acreage for 2007, especially for fruit, will be lower.

Mansfield said produce crop expansions appear to include a variety of crops. The largest percentage of

change comes from an expected 225-acre increase in cabbage production.

"Undoubtedly, this is a reflection of Cabbage Inc.," said Tim Woods, UK agricultural economist. "Cabbage Inc. is a produce wholesaler that has begun contracting for fresh and processing cabbage in Kentucky."

Another factor in the wholesale market is a 31 percent decline in jalapeno pepper acreage, which Woods said is a result of decreased contracting of the peppers in western Kentucky.

"The other possible wholesale market-driven acreage change is reflected in a 184 percent increase in field-grown lettuce acres, up from 18 acres to 51 in 2007," Woods added. "This is probably due to contract trial production of romaine lettuce on several central Kentucky farms."

Woods explained that more intensive production techniques for greenhouse lettuce were also estimated to make a large increase of 226 percent, from five acres to 16 acres. This could be in response to Kentucky growers using more high-tunnel production techniques as well as a reflection of an

increased demand for fresh produce for direct markets, such as farmers' markets and community-supported agriculture, he said.

"Other intensive production methods appear to be gaining popularity with Kentucky farmers in the form of greenhouse tomato production, which is showing a 50 percent increase over 2006," Woods added.

Mansfield said that while the fruit acreage should remain about the same as 2006, the survey indicates a small decline in apple acreage and a possible 11 percent decline in grape acreage.

"Bramble crops, on the other hand, show a continued expansion of 12 percent each for blueberries and blackberries," he said. "Raspberries appear to be getting more popular, possibly from new and improved varieties becoming available to Kentucky growers."

In addition to planting and marketing intentions, the survey queried growers about changes in their operations from 2003 to 2006. Most indicated they had seen increased sales for the period of between 18 and 35 percent. Those surveyed expect produce sales over the next three years to increase from 16 to 35 percent. Only about 15 percent of respondents expected any kind of sales decline.

The survey also indicated that many producers continue to be relatively small - 56 percent had less than \$10,000 in sales - and emphasized selling through direct market channels.

"Marketing through farmers' markets, direct to restaurants, on-farm retailing, auctions and CSA's all increased in the number of farmers selling at least 10 percent of their produce through these channels," Woods said. "Statewide marketing programs, such as Restaurant Rewards and MarketMaker, remain underutilized, and there remains a strong need to raise awareness of these tools."

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# Weeds a big challenge this season

BY LAURA SKILLMAN  
UK COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

**W**hat makes a weed, a weed? Generally, it is a plant that competes with the crop in a field. This year some of those weeds were not what you might think. They were wheat and corn plants. “I believe this is one of those seasons that is going to stick in the minds of farmers,” said Jim Martin, weeds science specialist with the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture. “It’s been a challenge for people in a lot of different ways and no doubt weed control has had its moments too.”

Martin highlighted some of these challenges during UK’s field day last month at the Research and Education Center in Princeton. One such challenge was in destroying freeze-damaged wheat to replant another crop. Wheat and some grasses can be killed very easily when it is young but becomes more difficult to kill once it has begun tillering. That was the state of Kentucky’s wheat crop when the

freeze took place in April.

Martin said having to kill fields of wheat was not something he’d dealt with before. Some herbicide options worked better than others, he noted, and required patience.

The freeze also killed some cornfields but not every plant in the field, so these also had to be managed in order to replant. For people who followed the strategy of using non-glyphosate resistant corn in their early planted fields, in case of a freeze, that strategy paid off. The field could be replanted with a glyphosate resistant variety then sprayed with the chemical to destroy any of the remaining plants from the first planting.

Farmers who planted resistant varieties had to turn to other options that were not as simple. In many cases the damaged corn didn’t have a lot of growth on it, lessening the chances of some chemicals working effectively. These were more effective if farmers allowed the surviving corn to recover somewhat and begin some regrowth before spraying it with an herbicide.

Other farmers did nothing and felt like they could manage the damaged corn fields simply by having their row cleaners rip out the damaged plants as they replanted the field, Martin said. This strategy did not work as well as some had hoped.

In terms of more traditional weeds, marestail was a problem this year in soybeans. Martin said this could be attributed to the warm February and March that allowed the weed to grow more rapidly than in a more normal year, making it more difficult to combat. Then, if farmers used 2-4D to control it and sprayed close to the April freeze, they probably did not get the control they would have under more spring-like temperatures. Rescue treatments don’t work well in trying to combat this weed.

Wheat goes a long way in managing marestail, Martin said. Putting wheat into the cropping rotation can help alleviate the weed in many fields.

“It’s not a cure-all, but a good stand of wheat goes a long way in suppressing marestail,” he said.

## Trait rotation emphasized for corn

**C**rop specialists are emphasizing trait rotation as farmers plant more corn-on-corn to keep up with the growing ethanol demand.

“We’ve witnessed a historic shift in the Midwest, with total corn acreage increasing by nearly 20 percent over 2006,” says Tracy Mader, marketing manager for Agrisure® Corn Traits, Syngenta. “Many of these new corn acres were planted into last year’s corn crop, which raises the importance of trait rotation to maintain yield potential while optimizing weed and insect control.”

Cultivation is currently the only post-emergent control option for volunteer corn in conventional corn hybrids.

Mader says that makes herbicide-tolerant varieties very desirable for second-year corn—not only for weed control, but also for convenience.

“Agrisure GT, for example, allows for glyphosate application to control non-GT volunteer corn, while Agrisure CB/LL allows for control of conventional or GT hybrid volunteer corn with LIBERTY® herbicide (glufosinate),” says Mader.

Like soybeans, corn can suffer significant yield loss through competition from volunteer corn. In a University of Illinois study, volunteer corn infestation reduced yield of GT and LibertyLink® (LL) corn by 42 percent and 60 percent

at two test locations, compared to GT corn plots treated with glyphosate and LL corn plots treated with glufosinate.

“Because the test plots were uniformly seeded with volunteer corn, these yield losses may be higher than what you might see under field conditions,” points out Aaron Hager, University of Illinois extension weed specialist and coordinator of the study. “In the field, volunteer corn infestations usually include some combination of clump corn, which is not as competitive. But that doesn’t change the take-home message, which is that volunteer corn must be controlled to prevent yield loss in corn-on-corn.”



# Farm markets have a celebration

**T**he Kentucky Department of Agriculture helped showcase the summer bounty from gardens and farm fields throughout the state by promoting “Kentucky Farmers’ Market Week” during August 4-11. The celebration coincided with a brutal hot spell that brought heat indexes of well over 100 degrees to all parts of the state. Nevertheless, markets from Paducah to Vanceburg staged a variety of customer appreciation events.

In Powell County, the markets in Stanton and Clay City served up a free lunch, including hot dogs and some tasty grilled corn, alongside the fresh produce that was on sale. In Clay City, dozens of citizens stopped by — despite 100-degree heat at lunchtime — to enjoy the good food and fellowship at the market location in the parking lot of the Clay City Baptist Church.

The Powell County market is open 2 ½ days in Clay City and two days in Stanton, the county seat. It is served by about 14 producers, some of whom are former tobacco farmers.

Following the tobacco buyout program, tobacco acreage in the county fell from about 600 to 75, said Mike Reed, who has been Powell County’s agricultural extension agent for 26 years.

In early August the Powell County market sported a variety of homegrown produce such as tomatoes, corn, squash, green beans, melons and several types of peppers, including jalapeno. The market is small, but popular, said Reed.

The county livestock producers group gave a helping hand by providing their grill and a cook, veteran farmer Delmont Neal.

The first-year market in Vine Grove,

SYLVIA WILLOUGHBY, TOP, SHUCKED CORN FOR THE GRILL AT THE POWELL COUNTY MARKET IN CLAY CITY.

BOTTOM LEFT, A WOMAN CHECKED OUT THE MATERS AND TATERS AT THE VINE GROVE MARKET.

a small community in Hardin County, had a morning-long celebration in a city parking lot that featured live music from a group of local musicians who had a “jam session” on an adjacent lawn. The city government organized the market and, after a slow start, has seen “10 to 12” vendors show up on Tuesdays and Thursdays, said Donna Brandenburg, the city’s events coordinator.

“When we started out we went all over the county collecting produce and bringing it in to sell,” she explained. “But then it caught on and we’ve had some good vendors. The corn really sells well.”

To aid the statewide celebration, KDA’s Office of Agricultural Marketing and Product Promotion offered up to \$500 in cost-share funds for registered markets. The theme was “Buy Local; everyone wins.”

KDA reports that the number of registered farm markets in the state has swelled from 83 in 2003 to 112 this year, including seven new ones. There are 77 markets enrolled this year in KFB’s Certified Roadside Farm Markets program.





# Wonders with wool

Don Bowles and his wife, Lanette Freitag, have a truly unique agricultural enterprise at their Lan Mark Farm on the eastern edge of Bourbon County. In an old barn that housed tobacco for decades, they are processing wool with an innovative process that turns out trendy “fiber art” products.

Their wool business has attracted a great deal of attention in recent years and has qualified for grants and loans through several sources, including the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board, USDA and the Kentucky Science and Technology Corporation. The couple are founding members of the Kentucky Wool Society and their farm is enrolled in KFB’s Certified Roadside Farm Markets program.

Before establishing the wool business, Bowles and Freitag were corporate executives specializing in computer

technology. Their analytical skills were put to use in developing a process of sculpting wool that streamlines the production of designs and patterns. Bowles designed a “dry felting” machine that enables producers to sculpt and blend fibers more quickly and creatively. He has applied for a patent and hopes to commercialize the felting machine.

The machine enables customers to create a wool product at varied skill levels to make items like ornaments, hats, place mats, scarfs and even teddy bears. That fun-filled activity has made their wool mill a popular place for school field trips.

The newest addition to their 350-acre farm will be a 2,500-square foot market center that’s currently under construction on a hilltop near the current sales center in the tobacco barn. This project is supported by an agri-tourism grant from the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board. The

two-story log building, with a porch affording a nice view of the surrounding hills and fields, is expected to be ready for the 2007 spring market season, Bowles said.

Besides sheep, they raise cattle and llamas. They also have one alpaca.

Bowles and Freitag participated in the recent summer farm markets tour for participants in the KFB program, visiting several markets in southern Indiana.

LANETTE FREITAG AND DON BOWLES RUN SOME WOOL THROUGH THE DRY FELTING MACHINE HE DESIGNED.

INSET, LAN MARK FARMS’ NEW MARKET CENTER IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY NEXT SPRING, AFFORDING CUSTOMERS MORE SPACE AND A GOOD VIEW OF THE COUNTRYSIDE.



## DROUGHT LOSSES ARE MOUNTING

Kentucky agriculture is suffering from extreme drought conditions. Still growing every day, total financial losses for crop and livestock producers won't be known until after the drought ends. Economists from the University of Kentucky have estimated the value of a 50-percent reduction in forage production for 2007 at \$300 million to \$475 million. Additional drought-related resources from the UK Cooperative Extension Service are available at <http://ces.ca.uky.edu/ces/>

## USDA ANALYZES NITROGEN FERTILIZER MARKET

Nitrogen fertilizers are a major expense for crop producers. The cost of ammonia fertilizer has soared in recent years as the price of natural gas increased. A new USDA Economic Research Service publication, "Impact of Rising Natural Gas Prices on U.S. Ammonia Supply," provides an analysis of the ammonia market, including production data, prices and future implications. Go to research reports at [www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/](http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/). Here are a few highlights from the study:

Natural gas accounts for 72-82 percent of ammonia's production cost. The volatile and upward trend in U.S. natural gas prices from 2000-2006 has led to a 17-percent decline in the nation's annual aggregate supply of ammonia. During the period, U.S. ammonia production declined 44 percent, while U.S. ammonia imports increased 115 percent. Also, the share of U.S.-produced ammonia in the U.S. aggregate supply dropped from 80 to 55 percent. Meanwhile, ammonia prices paid by farmers increased from \$227 per ton in 2000 to \$521 per ton in 2006, an increase of 130 percent.

In the future, a substantial increase in U.S. ammonia imports will likely come from Trinidad and Tobago, and eventually from Venezuela because of their relatively low natural gas prices and large gas reserves. More dependence on imports could make U.S. supplies more susceptible to global competition for nitrogen fertilizers. The structure of the domestic ammonia industry could also change through mergers and plant closings. Minimal inventory adds price risk in the event of supply interruptions.

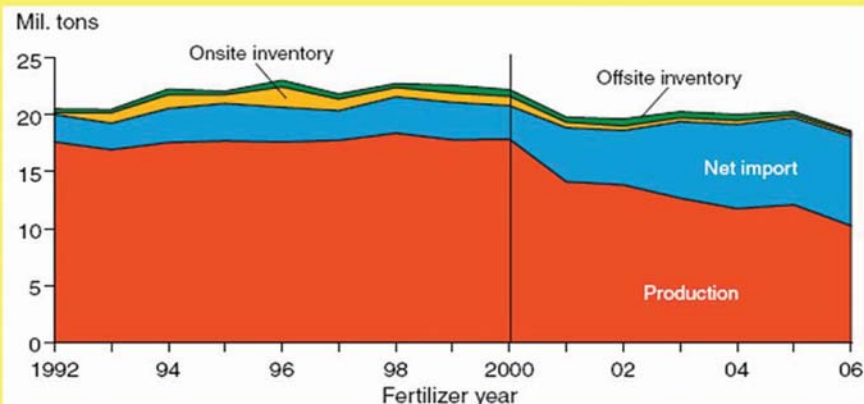
## MEAT CONSUMPTION DECLINING

While 2007 beef and broiler production will decline from 2006, pork and turkey production will increase enough to raise total red meat and poultry production to 90.015 billion pounds, according to USDA forecasts. However, this 0.6 percent increase in production will not keep pace with population growth and higher exports. Therefore, total per capita meat disappearance in the U.S. will drop 1.5 pounds to 220.9

pounds. The 2008 forecast calls for another drop in per capita disappearance of 1.1 pounds.

Per capita beef disappearance is forecast to drop from 65.7 pounds in 2006 to 65.1 pounds this year, and to 63.7 pounds in 2008. A 22.6 percent increase in 2008 beef exports is the main reason for this. The per capita pork estimate jumps 1.1 pounds from 2006 to 2007 as production rises and pork exports slip for the first time in several years.

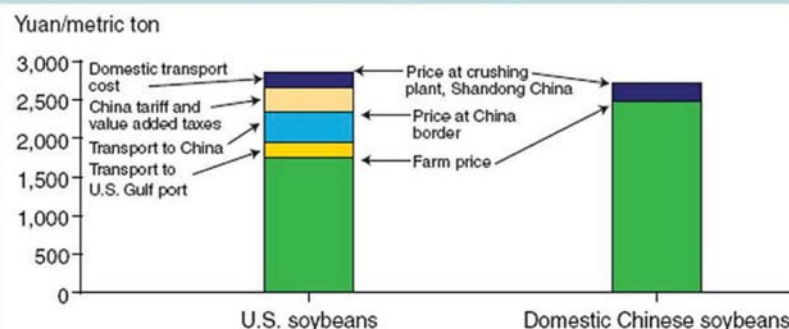
## U.S. Ammonia Supply



Note: Fertilizer year runs from the previous July to June of the year indicated on the chart.

Source: Impact of Rising Natural Gas Prices on U.S. Ammonia Supply, USDA-ERS, August 2007

## Comparison of U.S. and Chinese Soybean Costs to Chinese Crushing Plant



Note: Prices are for January 2007. Dollar values converted to Chinese yuan at an exchange rate of 7.8 yuan per dollar.

Source: China Currency Appreciation Could Boost U.S. Agricultural Exports, USDA-ERS, August 2007





## UK OUTSTANDING IN “FIELD DAY”

*KFB was among the major sponsors of the UK College of Agriculture’s 2007 Field Day at the Research and Education Center in Princeton. The event is held at the West Kentucky experiment station every other year and always draws a big crowd, including some from Illinois, Indiana and Tennessee.*

*The day-long event has something for people of all ages and interest groups, with 4-H and youth activities, consumer science activities and, of course, a wide variety of agriculture exhibits and tours.*

*UK holds an annual field day not only to showcase its experiment stations and extension work, but to educate the non-farm public, as well.*

*“Our main goal is to make Field Day a family activity,” said event chairman Don Hershman, a UK plant pathologist.*

*The huge crowd was about evenly dispersed between the production tours and the exhibit area. The farm agenda covered a lot of ground, literally and figuratively, to include vegetables, fruits, nursery plants, flowers, beef cattle, forages, tobacco and grain crops. Most of the state’s farm commodity groups were among the dozens of exhibitors.*

*As is the tradition for a large agricultural event, no one goes hungry: The Kentucky Pork Producers Association and Kentucky*



*Cattlemen’s Association had plenty of good food available at a reasonable price.*

*KFB’s role encompassed a financial sponsorship plus operating its “Farmers are Good Neighbors” exhibit highlighting how farmers take steps to protect their natural resources.*



## KFB HIRES COMMODITY SPECIALIST

Sandra P. Gardner has been named KFB's director of commodity marketing. Her duties include managing the Certified Roadside Market Program, assisting the 70-plus cooperating markets with statewide promotion and marketing activities.

Ms. Gardner comes to KFB following six years as Compliance and Outreach Specialist, market analyst and web coordinator for the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy in Frankfort. She monitored reporting and compliance for the more than 1,500 projects supported by Kentucky's Agricultural Development Fund.

"Sandra's work with the state's ag development funding agency will serve her well in developing an effective commodity marketing program and improving farm income opportunities for Farm Bureau members in the state," said David S. Beck, KFB's Executive Vice President. "The Farm Bureau organization has been in the forefront of efforts to diversify and expand Kentucky's ag economy through an important transition period. Our Roadside Markets program has proved very popular with farmers and consumers alike. With the planned addition of Farm Bureau-branded products in the future, that program is poised for the type of growth that Ms. Gardner is well suited to provide."

Ms. Gardner is a graduate of Shelby County High School and holds a B.S. in biology with an agriculture minor from the University of Kentucky.

## BLUEGRASS LIVESTOCK HIRES JIM AKERS

Jim Akers was appointed by the Bluegrass Livestock Marketing Group's Board of Directors in April to fill the newly created role of Chief Operations Officer. Akers comes to Bluegrass from the University of Kentucky, where he worked closely with the Kentucky Cattlemen's Association and the Kentucky Beef Network on establishing CPH-45 sales and in developing the Southeastern Livestock Network.

A 1985 graduate from UK with a BS in Animal Science, Akers has 20 years of experience in farm/ranch management both as a manager himself and in educational and service roles to the industry. He has also been a vocal advocate for the auction marketing system and small producers locally and nationally on many issues.

As the COO for Bluegrass, Akers is focused on the business side of the operations, working with the individual managers at each location. He is headquartered in the Lexington office where all central bookkeeping and regulatory management is performed for the operations, but with Bluegrass' six sale barns across central Kentucky and a growing internet business as well, don't expect to find

Akers in an office.

"My focus, as it has been from day one, is to look for ways to improve efficiency," said Akers. "So I travel to these markets and work one on one with the managers and staff at each location to see what we can do to make their operation more efficient for the business and the customer."

Akers is also working with the individual managers to develop innovative marketing ideas or alternative programs to offer producers. He sees part of his job as being the one to look two years down the road at what the next attribute the customer will be looking for in the cattle market, and then preparing the markets to provide the marketing opportunities for their customers.

One example of this is the natural market. Bluegrass is aggressively looking at how they can incorporate a natural claim in their operations to provide the ability for customers to take advantage of this niche market. This is a challenge but also an opportunity, once we establish a program that allows the customer to represent cattle as natural with consistency and integrity we will move forward.

## CONSUMERS CONCERNED ABOUT FOOD ORIGINS

Nearly three-quarters of Americans say it's important to them to know the country of origin for all types of products, but 85 percent say knowing where their food comes from is important, according to a recent survey by Zogby Interactive. Further, 94 percent believe consumers have the right to know the country where their food originated.

In addition, 90 percent of the 4,500

individuals surveyed in July said knowing where their food came from will allow them to make safer food choices and 88 percent said they favor mandatory labeling of retail foods. The survey also revealed most Americans want the Food and Drug Administration to hire additional inspectors to examine food imports.

## UK RECEIVES GRANT TO PROMOTE ENERGY EFFICIENCY

The University of Kentucky College of Agriculture was awarded \$175,000 in grants from the Governor's Office of Energy Policy to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy education throughout the state.

The grant will help support an ENERGY STAR circuit rider who travels across the state promoting ENERGY STAR at more than 50 events including home and garden shows and electric cooperative annual meetings, as well as a

large exhibit at the Kentucky State Fair. ENERGY STAR is a voluntary, government-backed program helping businesses and individuals protect the environment through superior energy efficiency. Kentucky became only the fourth state in the nation to be declared an ENERGY STAR partner by the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

This grant helps to educate UK Cooperative Extension agents about

ENERGY STAR and energy-efficient practices. These agents, in turn, will take the energy efficiency message to Kentuckians in almost every county.

In addition, the funding supports UK's Tracy Farmer Center for the Environment to conduct teacher training on energy efficiency. This training will be in collaboration with UK's Center for Applied Energy Research and the Kentucky National Energy Education Project.



# C O U N T Y

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# A N N U A L

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# M E E T I N G S

**ADAIR COUNTY**

Date: September 18, 2007 7 p.m.  
Place: Cramner Dining Hall, Lindsey Wilson College

**ANDERSON COUNTY**

Date: October 8, 2007 5:30 p.m.  
Place: Alton Ruritan Club

**BATH COUNTY**

Date: September 17, 2007 6:30 p.m.  
Place: Ag Education Center

**BOONE COUNTY**

Date: September 18, 2007 6 p.m.  
Place: Extension Office

**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

**BRACKEN COUNTY**

Date: October 9, 2007 7:30 p.m.  
Place: Watson Community Center

**BREATHITT COUNTY**

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

**BRECKINRIDGE COUNTY**

Date: September 25, 2007 6 p.m.  
Place: High School

**BULLITT COUNTY**

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

**BUTLER COUNTY**

Date: September 11 6:30  
Place: High School

**CALDWELL COUNTY**

Date: September 22, 2007 6:30 p.m.  
Place: UK Research Center

**CAMPBELL COUNTY**

Date: September 30, 2007 2 p.m.  
Place: St. Peter & Paul School Gym, California

**CARROLL COUNTY**

Date: October 8, 2007 7 p.m.  
Place: Farm Bureau Office

**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

**CLINTON COUNTY**

Date: September 13, 2007 6 p.m.  
Place: Fair Building

**ELLIOTT COUNTY**

Date: September 25, 2007 6:30 p.m.  
Place: High School Cafeteria

**FAYETTE COUNTY**

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

**FRANKLIN COUNTY**

Date: October 2, 2007 6:30 p.m.  
Place: Extension Office

**GALLATIN COUNTY**

Date: October 1, 2007 10 a.m.  
Place: Farm Bureau Office

**GRANT COUNTY**

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

**GREENUP COUNTY**

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

**HARDIN COUNTY**

Date: September 14, 2007 6:30 p.m.  
Place: Central Hardin High School

**HART COUNTY**

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

**HENRY COUNTY**

Date: September 27, 2007 6:30 p.m.  
Place: Henry County Middle School

**JACKSON COUNTY**

Date: September 17, 2007 6 p.m.  
Place: Jackson Energy Farm

**KENTON COUNTY**

Date: September 18, 2007 6:30 p.m.  
Place: St. Cecilia's Undercroft, Independence

**KNOX COUNTY**

Date: September 14, 2007 5:30 p.m.  
Place: Barbourville City Park

**LAWRENCE COUNTY**

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

**LOGAN COUNTY**

Date: September 22, 2007 6:30 p.m.  
Place: Logan County High School

**MAGOFFIN COUNTY**

Date: September 24, 2007 6 p.m.  
Place: Teen Scene Building, Salyersville

**MARION COUNTY**

Date: October 8, 2007 7 p.m.  
Place: Masonic Hall

**MARTIN COUNTY**

Date: October 5, 2007 9:30 a.m.  
Place: Farm Bureau office

**MASON COUNTY**

Date: October 2, 2007 7 p.m.  
Place: Extension Office

**MEADE COUNTY**

Date: September 18, 2007 6 p.m.  
Place: Farm Bureau Community Building

**MENIFEE COUNTY**

Date: September 19, 2007 6 p.m.  
Place: Farm Bureau Office

**METCALFE COUNTY**

Date: September 20, 2007 6 p.m.  
Place: Extension Office

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

Date: October 4, 2007 6:30 p.m.  
Place: High School Cafeteria

**MORGAN COUNTY**

Date: October 9, 2007 6:30 p.m.  
Place: Extension Building

**OWEN COUNTY**

Date: October 1, 2007 6 p.m.  
Place: Extension Office

**PENDLETON COUNTY**

Date: September 29, 2007 6 p.m.  
Place: Farm Bureau Office

**PIKE COUNTY**

Date: September 13, 2007 6:30 p.m.  
Place: Landmark Hotel, Pikeville

**PULASKI COUNTY**

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

**ROBERTSON COUNTY**

Date: September 15, 2007 6 p.m.  
Place: Deming High School

**ROCKCASTLE COUNTY**

Date: September 21, 2007 6 p.m.  
Place: Roundstone Elementary School

**ROWAN COUNTY**

Date: October 2, 2007 6:30 p.m.  
Place: Farm Bureau Office

**SHELBY COUNTY**

Date: October 6, 2007 7 p.m.  
Place: Stratton Community Center

**SCOTT COUNTY**

Date: September 25, 2007 6:30 p.m.  
Place: Extension Office

**WASHINGTON COUNTY**

Date: October 11, 6:30  
Place: Extension Office

**WAYNE COUNTY**

Date: September 24, 2007 6 p.m.  
Place: Farm Bureau Building

**WOLFE COUNTY**

Date: September 22, 2007 6 p.m.  
Place: Hazel Green Fire Department

# ROADSIDE



## FARM MARKET

**This sign welcomes you to some of the best farm markets in Kentucky.**

To get your free directory of these KFB Certified Roadside Farm Markets call (502) 495-5000 ext. 7226.  
Or contact: [roadside@kyfb.com](mailto:roadside@kyfb.com)



### NORTH CENTRAL

**Antioch Daylily Garden**  
Lexington • (859) 293-0350

**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**  
Lexington • (859) 264-WINE (9463)

**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

**McGlasston 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

**Alley Farms**  
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

**Christian Way Farm**  
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**  
Richmond • (859) 328-3000

**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

