

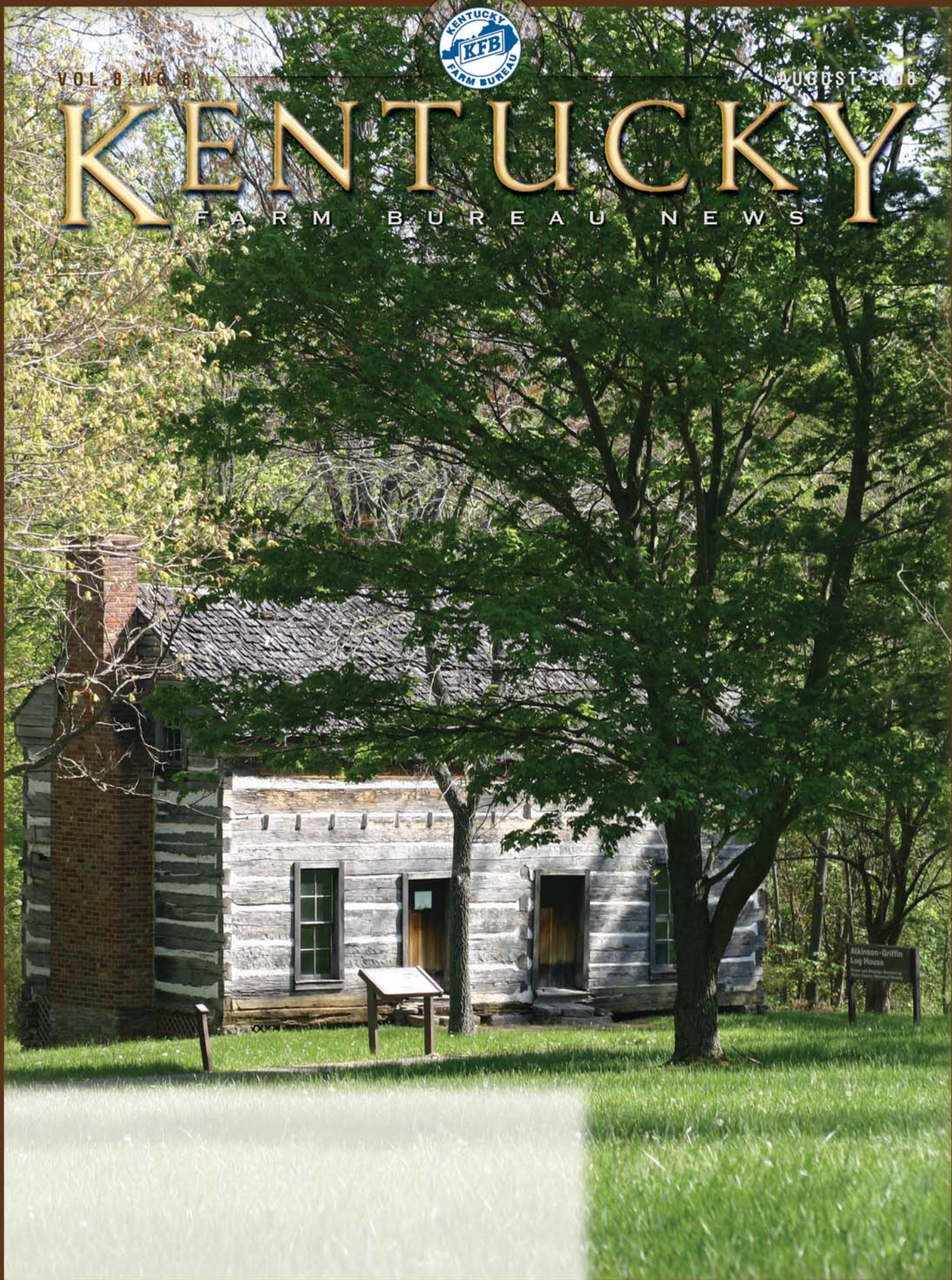


VOL. 8 NO. 8

AUGUST 2008

KENTUCKY

FARM BUREAU NEWS



About farmers\$ and food prices\$...

BY CYNDIE SIREKIS
AFBF STAFF

\$ifting through food price information is a popular way to dig into the subject. The problem is that in addition to advice on savvy shopping and food storage techniques, consumers are frequently served a hefty helping of erroneous information about how farmers reap big profits as retail prices rise.

The reality is that the farmer's share of each retail food dollar, for food eaten at home and away from home, averages just 19 percent. Off-farm costs – for processing, packaging, distribution, transportation and retailing – eat up the other 81 percent.

The 19 percent is an average for all foods. The percentage is much lower for packaged and highly processed foods, and somewhat higher for products that move more directly to your table.

An excellent example is the farmer's share of the retail price of a box of corn flakes, at just two percent. That amounts to a few pennies for the corn grower when an 18-ounce box retails for \$3.79.

The story is similar for bread. About nine percent of the retail price is the farmer's share, but not much goes back to the wheat grower even when a 20-ounce loaf costs \$1.90.

Fresh vegetable and fruit growers take in a small share of the retail food dollar as well, about 25 percent and 30 percent, respectively. Think about that the next time you buy a head of lettuce, which recently averaged \$1.32 per head, or apples, which are at \$1.54 per pound.

Compared to fresh market growers, producers who grow vegetables and fruits that are processed (frozen, canned or freeze-dried, for example) receive a smaller share of the retail food dollar, about 16 percent. Orange juice, which cost \$1.99 for a 12-ounce can of frozen

concentrate in a recent survey, falls into this category.

Producers of fresh meats and milk receive a larger share of the retail food dollar, largely because food products from their livestock and dairy cattle move from the farm to your table with less costly processing.

The producer's share of the retail food dollar for fresh beef products averages 47 percent; for milk it's 43 percent; whole chickens are at 37 percent; and pork comes in around 34 percent. A recent national survey of retail prices found averages of \$3.84 per pound for sirloin tip roast, \$3.88 per gallon for whole milk, \$1.47 per pound for whole chicken fryers and \$3.40 per pound for pork chops.

After nearly three decades of stable retail food prices, paying more at the grocery store is an unpleasant change for Americans. It's an ideal time to take a closer look at what we're buying and what's behind the price tag.

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“COMMENT”

I don't have to tell you that the rising cost of farm inputs is hurting farmers. At the same time, consumers are paying more for food, mostly due to the increasing cost of petroleum and growing demand for protein in the developing world. But many people blame their rising food costs on ethanol and American farm policy. The fact that so many people have bought into these misconceptions reflects an underlying issue just as troubling as those feed, fuel and fertilizer prices.

The vast majority of Americans have no connection to the farm, no first-hand knowledge of how their food is produced. The dramatic demographic shift of the past century is affecting agriculture policy as never before. Here in Kentucky, a largely rural state, the Department of Agriculture suffered a significant cut in its budget for the current fiscal year that started July 1. Even with the budget cut, I felt it necessary to come up with \$400,000 for each of the next two years out of the KDA budget for Kentucky's livestock disease diagnostic laboratories in Lexington and Hopkinsville. The labs are important firewalls against animal disease in Kentucky that could disrupt our food supply. But that means other vital services to farmers and consumers will suffer.

On the national level, the Farm Bill and federal farm programs are under constant attack. People simply don't understand that farmers must have a safety net they can depend on in years of crop losses or depressed markets if they are to continue to provide the food and fiber we all depend on – and many of us take for granted.

It's up to all of us to get that message out – that government spending on agriculture is not a luxury. The Kentucky Department of Agriculture and Kentucky Farm Bureau have enjoyed an excellent working relationship, and I look forward to working with you to set the record straight. People are looking for sources of local food like Kentucky Proud and Farm Bureau roadside markets. They want to buy food from people they can trust. That's the American farmer.



Richie Farmer
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

ON THE COVER:

THE ATKINSON-GRIFFIN LOG CABIN AT THE VISITOR'S CENTER FOR GREEN RIVER LAKE. IT WAS BUILT IN THE 1840S.
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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SETTING THE STAGE

POLICY DEVELOPMENT MEETINGS LAY GROUNDWORK FOR COUNTY PROCESS

KFB's District Policy Development Meetings are known for two things: (1) Plenty of good food; and (2) Plenty of food for thought.

From Paducah to Hazard, last month's meetings followed that tradition.

Staff members from the Public Affairs Division conduct the sessions each July to provide a framework for policy development at the county annual meetings. All topics are open for discussion but the focus is a close examination of priority issues that emerged from KFB's 2007 annual meeting. Participants are given a packet of information on the respective issues. This year's list consists of health care, state and local revenue, retail food prices and supply, water issues, energy and climate change, immigration and farm labor, investing in agricultural research and rising fertilizer and fuel costs. Specialists from the UK College of Agriculture assist in compiling the information.

KFB typically receives hundreds of policy recommendations from county Farm Bureaus and 26 advisory committees that deal with farm commodities and other areas that impact farm families. The organization's Resolutions Committee reviews those submissions

to ensure that they represent a change from existing policy and are feasible. The ideas then move forward for consideration by delegates to the annual meeting in December.

Following are some of the questions that counties are being asked to discuss as part of the policy development process:

- *What can rural communities do to attract health care providers?*
- *Should the General Assembly try to reduce spending rather than increasing taxes? If so, what programs or services should be cut or eliminated?*
- *What factors contributing to food price increases can be controlled?*
- *Is there a "real" food supply issues looming?*
- *What actions are necessary to ensure adequate water quantity for Kentucky's farms?*
- *Will renewable fuels production continue to play a role in energy policy?*

• *Does the H-2A program have the potential to meet the labor needs of agriculture if the U.S. Department of Labor's changes are incorporated into the program?*

• *What role should farmers play in setting research and extension priorities, as well as evaluating their success?*

• *What production practices can be implemented to lessen the impact of higher input costs?*

• *Can domestic production of crop inputs be increased in a cost effective way?*



KFB FIRST VICE PRESIDENT MARK HANEY SPOKE AT THE DISTRICT 5 MEETING. HE IS CHAIRMAN OF KFB'S RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE.



A LARGE GROUP ATTENDED THE DISTRICT 5 MEETING AT THE MERCER COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE.

KFB DAY AT FAIR IS AUGUST 21

KFB Day at the State Fair is scheduled for Thursday, August 21 with plans to beat the heat by keeping events in the air-conditioning of the Exposition Center's South Wing.

The 45th Annual Kentucky Country Ham Breakfast and Auction, a perennial sellout, will be held in South Wing Conference Center, beginning at 7:30 a.m. The grand champion country ham will be auctioned and the proceeds donated to charity. Last year's champion ham from Scott Hams of Greenville fetched \$200,000.

The annual Gospel Quartet Contest will follow the breakfast at 9 a.m. on the South Wing stage. The winning group will represent Kentucky in the National Quartet Contest and will perform at KFB's annual meeting in December.

The picnic moves from the lawn adjacent to South Wing C to the cool indoors of the building in rooms 201-205. The cost is \$10. To register, contact Jennifer Aponte at 502-495-5000.

Meanwhile, KFB Insurance Company once again will sponsor the popular "Pride of the Counties" section of the South Wing, where local organizations promote their cities and counties with lively displays. A winning display is named each year during a ceremony at 11 p.m. on KFB Day. KFB Insurance also participates in the FFA/4-H Sale of Champions that afternoon in Newmarket Hall.

The Kentucky State Fair gates will open daily at 7 a.m., with exhibits open from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Adult admission to the fair is \$5 in advance and \$8 at the gate. Children ages 3-12 and seniors age 55 and up will be admitted for \$2 in advance or \$4 at the gate. There also is a \$6 parking charge per vehicle.



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YOUNG FARMERS' SUMMER OUTING



THE MAHANS HAD PICNIC ENTERTAINMENT FOR KIDS AND ADULTS.

THIS GROUP FROM DISTRICT ONE WORKED ON RESOLUTIONS WITH HELP FROM YOUNG LILLIE THORN. HER PARENTS, MISTY AND CHRIS THORN OF CALLOWAY COUNTY, WERE JOINED BY TRIGG COUNTIANS SCOTT BRIDGES AND BRANDON OLIVER.



The Lexington area offered a bounty of interesting things to do and see for a group of nearly 300 participating in KFB's annual summer outing for young farm families. Foremost was an impressive list of agriculture enterprises, including a world-class thoroughbred breeding farm, the largest cattle market east of the Mississippi River, an orchard, sod farm, an agritourism business and a top-quality producer of equine and livestock feeds.

Additionally, the first four rounds of the discussion meet were held, reducing the field from 19 to four contestants, and policy issues were discussed at a breakfast meeting. Mixed in was plenty of fun and

good food, with evening picnics at the Kentucky Horse Park and the scenic farm of John and Jill Mahan, former winners of the national young farm family program.

A wide range of agricultural enterprises were featured in the tours which included Evans Orchard, Bluegrass

Stockyards, UK's horticulture farm, Hallway Feeds, Three Chimneys Farm, a sod operation owned by the Mahans, Todd Clark Farm and an agritourism site in neighboring Woodford County. The group also had opportunities to tour Keeneland Race Course, Waveland State Historic Site and UK's Commonwealth Stadium, where they learned how the turf is maintained.

Following a long afternoon of competition, advancing to the "final four" of the discussion meet are John M. Hendricks of Clark County, Rob Ison of Crittenden County, Rob Cole of Fayette County and Holly Davis of Taylor County. They will compete for the state championship at KFB's Annual Meeting.



MORE THAN 300 ENJOYED A COOKOUT AT THE FARM OF JOHN AND JILL MAHAN.

Finalists also were named for the prestigious Outstanding Young Farm Family award. They are Jeremy and Joanna Hinton of LaRue County, Bob and Sarah Jones of Allen County and Shane and Stephanie Wiseman of Clark County. The winner will be announced at the convention's young farmer awards luncheon.

During the policy breakfast the young farmer committee's annual college scholarship was presented to Mark Thomas of Hardin County, the son of KFB Director Larry Thomas and his wife, Becky, who also is very active with Farm Bureau.

Bryan Alvey, KFB's Director of Policy Development, outlined some of the top issues on the organization's agenda. He reminded the young farmers that they have a strong voice in the process because "we are different from most states in that we allow resolutions from advisory committees such as yours."

He went on to explain the policy development process and to briefly explain the following eight issues: (1) Health Care, (2) Tax Policies, (3) Rising Food Costs, (4) Water Utilization, (5) Energy and Climate Change, (6) Immigration and Farm Labor, (7) Investing in Ag Research, (8) Farm Input Costs.

The young farmers then broke off into meetings by districts to develop resolutions.

Next summer's outing will be in Bowling Green.



ABOVE: YOUNG FARMER COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN RYAN BIVENS (LEFT) PRESENTED THE GROUP'S ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP TO MARK THOMAS OF HARDIN COUNTY.

BELOW: FROM LEFT, GREG HARRIS OF MADISON COUNTY AND LINCOLN COUNTY'S NICK JONES AND ALAN HUBBLE CHECKED THE POLICY MANUAL WHILE CONSIDERING RESOLUTIONS.



FARM PRODUCTION NEWS

TWO BLUEGRASS AREA FARMERS LINK UP IN GOAT CHEESE ENTERPRISE

BY KARA KEETON
KEETON COMMUNICATIONS

Two Central Kentucky farmers who have teamed up in the dairy goat business recently reached a landmark.

Last month, Bourbon County farmer Todd Harp shipped the state's first load of certified goat's milk for cheese processing at the Clark County farm operated by Susan Miller and her husband. Harp, who has been milking goats for several years, received certification in May for a manufacturing grade goat dairy.

Miller, meanwhile, has been making cheese for a couple of years and selling all she could supply at the popular Lexington Farmers' Market.

Harp, who was raised on a dairy farm in Harrison County, bought his first doe in 2001. As his herd grew and began producing milk, he started looking at marketing opportunities for goat milk. The first place he turned for advice was to his fellow dairy goat producers in Kentucky. Much to his surprise, he realized that most dairy goat producers in the state just dumped their milk.

"Me being a penny pincher, I thought that is the dumbest thing I've ever heard in my life," stated Harp. "Here is a perfectly good product that costs time and money to produce, and people were just throwing it away."

He discovered a few farmers who were using their goat milk to raise calves, and that appeared to be the only market for the milk. Harp began feeding the milk he produced to calves, but continued to look for a more profitable market.

In the fall of 2002, Susan Miller, a freelance food writer, went on a trip to the "New England Cheese Trail" with a friend. They decided to participate in a

cheese-making workshop, and Miller found she enjoyed making goat cheese.

"I came and thought I would just buy some goat milk from a friendly neighborhood dairy goat farmer and start making cheese," said Miller. "I was surprised to find that there wasn't a licensed goat dairy in the state."

Miller decided to get her own goats and produce milk. So she purchase two dairy does, but having never worked with



BOURBON COUNTY FARMER TODD HARP HAS FOUND SUCCESS WITH DAIRY GOATS.

goats before, she went in search of help.

A mutual friend told Miller about Harp's dairy goats, so she contacted him asking if he would be willing to teach her about dairy goats. After her initial visit on the goat farm, Miller realized that she really just wanted to make cheese, not produce the milk.

"When Susan said she wanted to make cheese I thought it was funny, because all I wanted to do was goats," explained Harp. "From that day we began working together on this idea of me producing the milk, and Susan making the cheese."

As it turns out, Miller grew to love her goats and decided to build a herd of her own and use that milk along with the milk she would purchase from Harp for her cheese production.

In February 2003, Harp and Miller had their first meeting with the Milk

Safety Branch to find out what was needed to develop a licensed milking facility for goats. Since there was not a licensed goat dairy operation in the state, it was not a simple process.

"Goats are so much smaller than cows that everything from the manure issues to the milking equipment needs had to be scaled back from a traditional cow operation," explained Harp.

Harp, having had experience with a cow dairy, worked extensively with the Milk Safety Branch representatives to adjust the requirements to meet the needs of a goat operation.

Miller's dream of creating a cheese plant has developed in tandem with her goat dairy parlor. As she and Harp worked through milk safety issues, she was submerged in planning, zoning and the development details of her cheese plant.

"There wasn't anyone around here with experience in this, so I did the research and determined what I wanted the facility to look like," explained Miller. "Then I started working with inspectors, it has been a learn as we go process."

The plant building was completed in 2006, and then Miller spent months assembling the equipment.

Miller began selling her cheeses at the Lexington Farmers' Market and quickly found that there was a huge market for her products.

"After that first day people began coming back, and many Saturdays I was sold out in only an hour or two, she said."

Miller sells her fresh goat cheese under the name of her company, Bleugrass Chevre. The selection of cheeses includes a mix of soft cheeses with herbs, a variety of feta, and her signature cheese, Fleur, which is a white mold-ripened cheese. The farm was among those featured in last summer's Clark County agricultural tour sponsored by Clark County FB.



FARM PRODUCTION NEWS

CATTLE FIELD DAY SET FOR PRINCETON

The UK College of Agriculture and the Kentucky Cattlemen's Association will offer the first ever Beef Bash, a unique field day for Kentucky beef cattle producers, on September 23, at the Research and Education Center in Princeton.

Kentucky has the largest inventory of beef cattle east of the Mississippi River and small commercial cow-calf operations can be found in most every rural landscape in the state. Research and outreach efforts such as the Beef Bash are an important means of providing up-to-date information to cattle producers, said Roy Burris, extension beef specialist.

"With the Beef Bash, we hope to offer a different type of field day that features more hands-on opportunities and more live cattle exhibits than the typical field day," Burris said.

These hands-on demonstrations will give participants an up close look at timely topics such as rotational grazing systems, estrus synchronization in cow herds, alternative feed options and choosing cost-effective fertilizers for pastures.

Burris notes that the Beef Bash will feature meaningful beef cattle research that is practical for Kentucky cow herds and will also have commercial exhibitors featuring new beef cattle related products.

Dave Maples, Executive Vice President of the Kentucky Cattlemen's Association, agrees that the field day will be a great opportunity for beef producers to visit the UK beef research station and talk with the researchers and fellow cattlemen.

"It is going to be very important to be as efficient as possible with today's high input cost. This will be a great chance to pick up some new ideas," Maples said.

Registration begins at 1 p.m. with field exhibits and demonstrations

beginning at 2 p.m. A meal will be available for purchase the day of the event. No preregistration is required.

The UK Research and Education Center is on Kentucky 91 South, 1.5 miles southeast of the Caldwell County Courthouse in Princeton.

For more information contact Roy Burris at 270-365-7541 ext 208, e-mail rburris@uky.edu or a local UK Cooperative Extension Service office. You may also visit <http://ces.ca.uky.edu/beefirm/bash/> for more detailed information on exhibits and demonstrations.

New farm safety group

Agriculture is consistently among the most hazardous occupations in the United States. In an average year, 516 workers die doing farm work and each day 243 workers suffer lost time injuries. Agriculture has a fatality rate that is eight times that of the all-industry average.

The Agricultural Safety and Health Council of America (ASHCA) is working to close the safety gap. The new council is the first of its kind in the United States to pursue a national strategy to reduce disease, injuries and fatalities in American agriculture. AFBF is a charter member of ASHCA. More information is available on ASHCA's Web site: www.ashca.org.



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HISTORY UNFOLDING

FUNDRAISING IS VITAL FOR AG HERITAGE CENTER

BY LINDSEY COBLENTZ
KFB COMMUNICATIONS INTERN

A sign along Highway 127 in Harrodsburg serves as a symbol of things to come for the Kentucky Agriculture Heritage Center (KAHC).

The facility hopes “to create the environment where we can maintain the agricultural heritage of this state,” said Virginia Flanagan, the executive director of the project. “It is so much a part of who we are.”

The idea of an agriculture heritage center is not a new one, said Sam Moore, the past KFB president and vice chairperson of the KAHC board. “We’ve talked about it for 25 to 30 years in Kentucky,” he said.

Today, the project is in the planning stages, with most of its focus geared toward fundraising. “We are just at the beginning of the activities,” Flanagan said.

The state legislature allotted a \$10 million bond issue for the venture and Governor Steve Beshear last month presented a check for that plus an additional \$1 million for a marketing study. The KAHC board plans to work with Global Advancement of Lexington to create a comprehensive campaign to collect private funds for the facility.

The board’s other priority is creating an enjoyable visitor experience, said Flanagan.

KAHC has hired Peckham Guyton Albers & Viets, Inc. (PGAV), designers of Bass Pro Shop and the St. Louis Science Center, to design the 300,000 square foot facility.

Future visitors to the center will be able to tour a museum featuring agriculture artifacts and interactive exhibits as well as a working farm.

Plans also include an auditorium, meeting facilities and a restaurant with indoor and outdoor seating.

The building itself will be unique because of its sustainable, or “green,” design. The structure, the first of its kind in Kentucky, will produce 100 percent of the energy required to power itself by using wind turbines and solar panels.

While it will initially cost more to build such a structure, KAHC will save money in the long run, said Flanagan. “Within seven years or so, we will recoup the additional cost. Plus, the money factor and sustainability factor goes way, way down.”

Flanagan hopes the center’s use of renewable energy sources will inspire Kentucky farmers to utilize these resources to decrease their own energy costs. “If that (renewable energy) can work for us, it can do it particularly for agriculture.”

The KAHC board hopes to have parts of the facility open in time for the World Equestrian Games in 2010, but that date is tentative. For more information about the KAHC, visit www.kyagheritage.org or call (859) 733-0701.

A SIGN MARKS THE SPOT FOR THE AG HERITAGE CENTER OFF U.S. 127 IN MERCER COUNTY.



MERCER COUNTY FARM HAS BEEF AND VEGETABLES

BY LINDSEY COBLENTZ
KFB COMMUNICATIONS INTERN

Josh and Joni Horn of Salvisa started farming in 2003 on 17 to 20 acres and have expanded to 440 leased and owned acres. They primarily raised tobacco and cattle with a small plot of vegetables until changing their focus to vegetables and beef sales. Joni said they ultimately gave up tobacco farming because “everything has gone up so much with marketing costs and fuel.”

They now raise a variety of vegetables on one and a half acres. “About every vegetable that can be grown in Kentucky, I’ve got it,” Joni said.

The Horns sell everything from eggplants to corn to artichokes regularly at the Mercer County farmers’ market. They also sell USDA approved beef produced from cattle raised on their farm. The market operates on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

For more information about the Horns’ farm and products, visit www.hornfamily-farm.com or call (859) 865-1239.



Fare Opportunity . . .



MEADE COUNTY FB STAGES A SUCCESSFUL COUNTY FAIR BREAKFAST

While attending KFB's traditional Country Ham Breakfast at the State Fair, it dawned on Meade County FB Director Fred Sipes that his county had the ingredients to stage a similar event. The Meade County Fair draws big crowds. The Farm Bureau has a large "community building" on the fairgrounds property. The county has a highly active Farm Bureau and other agriculture advocates to put together such an event, Sipes recalls thinking.

That brain flash came to fruition last month when nearly 400 Meade County residents enjoyed the initial "Meade County FB Fair Breakfast." The event, which probably will become an annual occasion as a result of the large turnout, served as a salute to both the fair and the county's agricultural heritage.

There wasn't a champion country ham to auction nor a string of political leaders at the podium. But the crowd enjoyed a 50-cent breakfast of scrambled eggs, sausage, biscuits, gravy and baked apples plus heard some interesting remarks from featured speaker Rodger Bingham of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, who's better known as "Kentucky Joe" from the TV show "Survivor."

A good time was had by all. Sipes and his Meade County FB comrades were delighted with the outcome. "With our county fair

being so popular and our Farm Bureau so involved in the community, it just made sense to do something like this to promote agriculture and Farm Bureau," said Sipes, who serves on the young farmer committee. "This became a true community event."

Farm Bureau women and members of the county's homemakers' club did the cooking. The agricultural extension office, FFA and 4-H joined their Farm Bureau friends in planning and conducting the breakfast.

Area Program Director Matt Ingram designed the colorful program featuring graphics detailing the food dollar breakout and how farmers' production costs have been rising. KFB's tabletop unit focusing on the food dollar breakout was among several displays inside the spacious community center.

The Meade County FB lineup included President Tom Benock as host, Director Terry Miller to introduce the guest speaker, Insurance Agent John Beavin manning the sound system and Agency Manager Greg Beavin handling numerous duties, including a last-minute trip to the supermarket to fetch milk.

County Extension Agent Andy Mills, a native of Meade County, gave the closing address about agriculture's importance to the county.

Also lending support were the Meade County Fair Board and the Soil Conservation office.



TOP: NEARLY 400 ENJOYED A HEARTY BREAKFAST AT THE FARM BUREAU COMMUNITY CENTER.

MIDDLE: AGENT JOHN BEAVIN HANDLED THE SOUND SYSTEM FOR THE BREAKFAST.

BOTTOM: THE KFB "FOOD DOLLAR" DISPLAY WAS ON LOAN TO MEADE COUNTY FB.



MARKETS

COMPILED BY

ED MCQUEEN,

DIRECTOR OF MARKET INFORMATION

SHEEP AND LAMB TRENDS DIFFER

Since July 1, 2007, the U.S. sheep and lamb inventory has decreased while the goat herd has grown.

The sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on July 1 totaled 7.35 million head, down three percent from 2007, and five percent below 2006. Breeding sheep inventory at 4.42 million head was down three percent from last year. Market sheep and lambs (including newborns), at 2.93 million head, were down four percent from last July. The 2008 U.S. lamb crop is expected to total 3.97 million head, down two percent from 2007. About 88 percent of the lamb crop was born in the first half of 2008.

The all goat inventory totaled 3.73 million head, up four percent from July 2007. Breeding goat inventory totaled 2.81 million head, up four percent from 2007 and up nine percent from 2006. On July 1, 2008, meat and all other goats totaled 3.15 million head, up five percent from 2007. Milk goat inventory was up four percent, increasing to 350,000 head, while angora goat numbers fell 12 percent, to 230,000 head. The 2008 kid crop is expected to total 2.03 million head, up five percent.

U.S. CATTLE NUMBERS DROP AGAIN

USDA's mid-year update shows all cattle and calves in the United States totaled 104.3 million head, or one-half percent below a year earlier.

All cows and heifers that have calved, at 42.4 million, were down slightly from the 42.5 million on July 1, 2007. Beef cows totaled 33.15 million head, down 200,000 from the year-earlier estimate. The only report category showing an increase was milk cows. Milk cows, at 9.25 million, were up 100,000 head. The 2008 calf crop is expected to be 37.25 million, down 0.3 percent from last year.

Other class estimates are as follows: Beef replacement heifers, 4.6 million, down 2.1 percent; milk replacement heifers, 3.9 million, unchanged; steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 14.7 million, down 1.3 percent; bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.1 million, unchanged; calves under 500 pounds, 28.6 million, down 0.3 percent; cattle on feed for slaughter, 11.7 million, down 4.9 percent.

HAY ACREAGE EXPECTED TO FALL

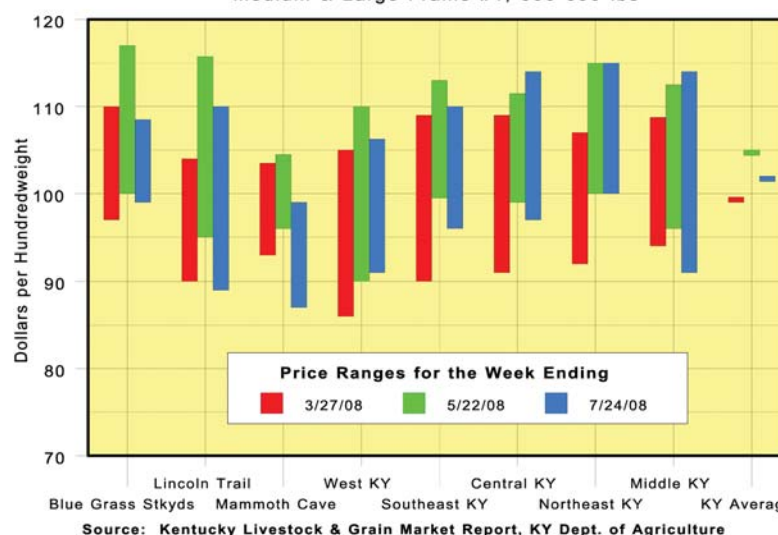
Producers expect to harvest 60.4 million acres of all hay in 2008, down two percent from 2007. Expected harvested area of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures, at 20.8 million acres, is down four percent from 2007, and for all other types of hay is at 39.7 million acres, down one percent from 2007.

Harvested area of all hay is expected to decrease from last year throughout the Great Plains and the West. Increased

acres are expected to be harvested along the East Coast. Acreage of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures decreased in the Corn Belt, the Southeast, and most of the western U.S., while acreage increases are expected in the Rocky Mountain States and portions of the Northeast. Lower harvested acreage of other hay is expected in the West Coast, Southwest, and Southern Great Plains regions, while increased acreage is expected along the Atlantic Coast, northern Rockies, and northern Great Plains.

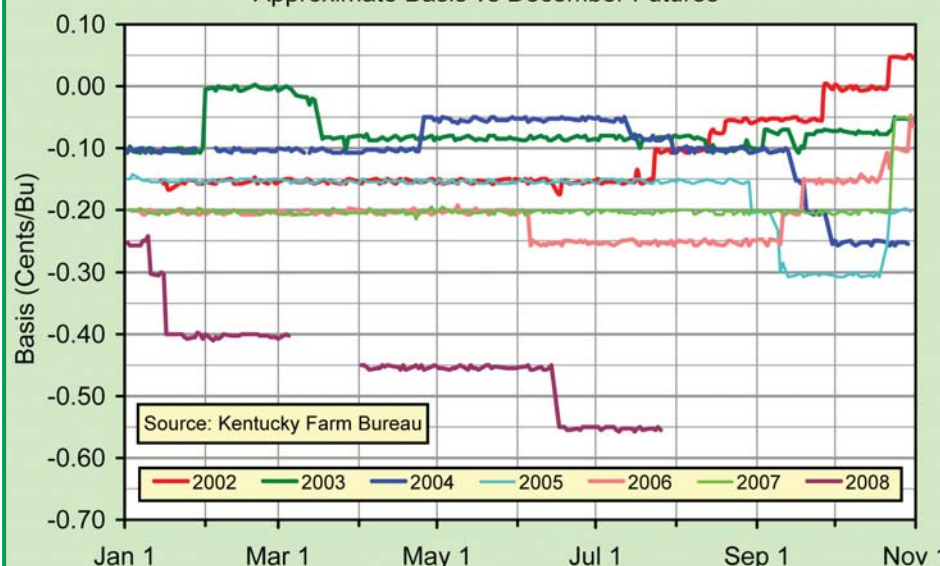
Kentucky Feeder Steer Price Ranges

Medium & Large Frame #1, 600-699 lbs



Hopkinsville New Crop Corn

Approximate Basis vs December Futures



C O U N T Y A N N U A L M E E T I N G S

ANDERSON COUNTY

Date: October 13, 2008 • 5:30 p.m.
Place: Alton Ruritan Club

BATH COUNTY

Date: September 19, 2008 • 6:30 p.m.
Place: Ag Marketing Center

BELL COUNTY

Date: September 25, 2008 • 6:00 p.m.
Place: Farm Bureau Office

BOONE COUNTY

Date: September 9, 2008 • 6:00 p.m.
Place: Extension Office

BOURBON COUNTY

Date: October 16, 2008 • 6:30 p.m.
Place: American Legion Park

BOYD COUNTY

Date: October 20, 2008 • 6:30 p.m.
Place: Extension Office

BULLITT COUNTY

Date: September 20, 2008 • 6:00 p.m.
Place: Extension Office

CALDWELL COUNTY

Date: September 27, 2008 • 6:30 p.m.
Place: UK Research Center

CALLOWAY COUNTY

Date: September 2, 2008 • 7:00 p.m.
Place: Farm Bureau Office

CAMPBELL COUNTY

Date: September 13, 2007 • 5:00 p.m.
Place: Alexandria Community Center

CARROLL COUNTY

Date: October 13, 2007 • 7:00 p.m.
Place: Farm Bureau Office

CLAY COUNTY

Date: October 9, 2007 • 6:00 p.m.
Place: Farm Bureau Office

CLINTON COUNTY

Date: September 11, 2008 • 6:00 p.m.
Place: Fairgrounds

DAVISS COUNTY

Date: August 16, 2008 • 6:00 p.m.
Place: Apollo High School

ELLIOTT COUNTY

Date: September 23, 2008 • 6:30 p.m.
Place: Sandy Hook Elementary School

FAYETTE COUNTY

Date: October 2, 2008 • 6:30 p.m.
Place: Extension Office

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Date: October 7, 2007 • 6:30 p.m.
Place: Extension Office

GRANT COUNTY

Date: September 20, 2008 • 6:30 p.m.
Place: Farm Bureau Office

GREENUP COUNTY

Date: November 3, 2008 • 6:00 p.m.
Place: Farm Bureau Building

McCRACKEN COUNTY

Date: September 20, 2008 • 5:00 p.m.
Place: Knights of Columbus Hall

HENRY COUNTY

Date: September 4, 2008 • 7:30 p.m.
Place: Farm Bureau Office

HOPKINS COUNTY

Date: August 15, 2008 • 6:30 p.m.
Place: Fairgrounds Activity Bldg.

KENTON COUNTY

Date: September 16, 2008 • 6:30 p.m.
Place: St. Cecilia Church

LAWRENCE COUNTY

Date: October 16, 2008 • 6:00 p.m.
Place: Front Porch Restaurant

LOGAN COUNTY

Date: September 20, 2008 • 5:30 p.m.
Place: Logan County HS Cafeteria

McCRACKEN COUNTY

Date: September 20, 2008 • 5:00 p.m.
Place: Knights of Columbus Hall

McCREARY COUNTY

Date: September 18, 2008 • 6:00 p.m.
Place: Old Country Café

MERCER COUNTY

Date: September 8, 2008 • 6:00 p.m.
Place: Extension Office

METCALFE COUNTY

Date: October 16, 2008 • 6:00 p.m.
Place: Extension Office

MONROE COUNTY

Date: September 27, 2008 • 6:30 p.m.
Place: High School Cafeteria.

MORGAN COUNTY

Date: October 9, 2008 • 6:30 p.m.
Place: Extension Building

OWEN COUNTY

Date: October 6, 2008 • 6:00 p.m.
Place: Extension Office

PENDLETON COUNTY

Date: September 20, 2008 • 6:30 p.m.
Place: Farm Bureau Office

PERRY COUNTY

Date: August 12, 2008 • 5:30 p.m.
Place: Buckhorn State Park Lodge

POWELL COUNTY

Date: October 14, 2008 • 7:00 p.m.
Place: Farm Bureau Office

ROBERTSON COUNTY

Date: September 20, 2008 • 6:00 p.m.
Place: Deming High School

ROCKCASTLE COUNTY

Date: September 19, 2008 • 6:00 p.m.
Place: Roundstone Elementary School

ROWAN COUNTY

Date: October 7, 2008 • 6:30 p.m.
Place: Farm Bureau Office

RUSSELL COUNTY

Date: September 5, 2008 • 6:00 p.m.
Place: Veterans Fairgrounds

SCOTT COUNTY

Date: September 23, 2008 • 6:30 p.m.
Place: Extension Office

SHELBY COUNTY

Date: October 2, 2008 • 6:30 p.m.
Place: Extension Office

SIMPSON COUNTY

Date: August 19, 2008 • 6:30 p.m.
Place: Community Park

SPENCER COUNTY

Date: September 29, 2008 • 7:00 p.m.
Place: Extension Office

TRIMBLE COUNTY

Date: August 28, 2008 • 7:00 p.m.
Place: Farm Bureau Office

WARREN COUNTY

Date: August 30, 2008 • 5:30 p.m.
Place: Warren Central High School

WHITLEY COUNTY

Date: September 9, 2008 • 6:30 p.m.
Place: Bashears Grocery

WOODFORD COUNTY

Date: October 4, 2008 • 6:30 p.m.
Place: 1st Christian Church Life Center

FARMERS' ALMANACS AVAILABLE



FBF is taking orders for the
2009 Farmers' Almanac, which
can be customized with county

Farm Bureau logos and information. The
minimum order is 100 for generic and 500
for customized Almanacs, with prices of
\$55 per each bundle of 100 generic and
\$300 per each bundle of 500 customized
(shipping price not included). For generic
Almanacs go to www.fb.org/orders. For cus-
tom printing go to jdesjardins@geiger.com.

FARM FILE



NEW FARM VEHICLE BOOKLET AVAILABLE

Farmers with traffic regulation questions can find answers in the revised version of the “Farm Vehicle Regulations” booklet, published by KFB’s Public Affairs Division.

The new edition contains about four additional pages of information and updates of information included in the original booklet. One of the new features is a “frequently asked questions” section. Another new item is a sample of the annual vehicle inspection report.

The booklets have been distributed to area program directors and will be distributed to county offices that request them.

FOUR KENTUCKIANS IN FFA LEADERS PROGRAM

The National FFA Organization selected 40 outstanding young people to participate in the 2008 New Century Farmer Program, including Kentuckians John Bell of Hodgenville; Lauren Omer of Sturgis and Quint Pottinger of New Haven. The program develops young men and women who are committed to pursuing a career in production agriculture.

Participants will learn from each other and industry experts during a series of workshops and sessions, on topics ranging from the global marketplace to farm financing, demographic trends to risk management. The New Century Farmers will hear from motivating and informative keynote speakers who will educate them on the risks and rewards involved with agriculture production. In addition to classroom learning, students will be exposed to the latest developments in agricultural technology, field tours, sessions on personal and professional development and team building.

FARMERS CAN BUY INTO DISASTER PROGRAM

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will allow producers who would otherwise be ineligible for the new disaster assistance programs to become eligible by paying a fee. The farm bill requires producers who wish to participate in the new disaster programs to have crop insurance or non-insured crop disaster assistance (NAP) coverage for the land for which assistance is being requested, and for all farms in all counties in which they have an interest. Since the farm bill was enacted after the application periods had closed for those programs, producers who did not have such coverage could not comply with this requirement in order to be eligible for the

new disaster programs. However, the farm bill authorizes a waiver that allows producers to pay a “buy-in” fee to be eligible for this new disaster assistance.

Every producer whose crops, including grazing lands, are not fully covered by crop insurance or NAP may take advantage of this one-time opportunity. The buy-in fee is due no later than September 16, 2008. Those who miss this opportunity will not be eligible for disaster assistance. USDA also reminds producers that payment of the applicable buy-in fee does not afford the crop insurance or NAP coverage; just eligibility for the 2008 disaster programs.

MCCAIN, OBAMA ADDRESS FB PRESIDENTS

The presumptive presidential candidates, Sens. John McCain (R-Ariz.) and Barack Obama (D-Ill.), separately addressed AFBF’s Council of Presidents meeting by telephone, with both pledging continued support for American agriculture. Each took questions from the group.

McCain stressed his support of open markets for American agriculture and emphasized his support of the Colombian Free Trade Agreement. He called for the first \$10 million of an estate’s worth to be exempt from the estate tax so farms can be passed from one generation to the next. He also heralded his “Lexington Project” to make the U.S. energy independent, adding that all energy sources are needed: alternative fuels, nuclear, offshore drilling, wind, solar and biofuels,

including ethanol. Regarding immigration, McCain said a temporary worker program remains critical.

Obama emphasized his support of the 2008 farm bill, noting he voted for the legislation while McCain voted against it. The Illinois senator said additional reforms were needed in the bill, but on balance it does more good than bad. He mentioned conservation and efforts to fight hunger as important components of the new farm bill. He pledged his support for ethanol and biodiesel and said he will continue to fight for a strong safety net for producers. Obama said he hopes to have comprehensive immigration reform in place by the end of his first year in office.

USDA WILL STEP UP “RECALL” ACTIVITIES

Beginning this month, the Agriculture Department will begin listing on its Web site the names of retail stores that have received meat and poultry products involved in Class I recalls, which pose the most serious threat to public health. According to USDA, posting the names of retail stores that have received recalled products will improve public health by providing more information to consumers.

USDA’s Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) will post a list of retail stores that receive products subject to

Class I recalls, the highest risk category, within three to 10 business days after the recall is issued. Retail stores include supermarkets or other grocery stores, convenience stores, meat markets, wholesale clubs and supercenters.

Distribution centers, institutions and restaurants that have received products subject to Class I recalls will not be identified, as they prepare food for immediate consumption without packaging that is identifiable or available to consumers, according to FSIS.

LIKE YOU, FARMING IS IN ITS DNA.

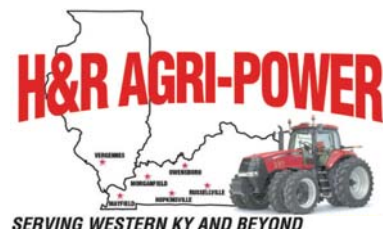
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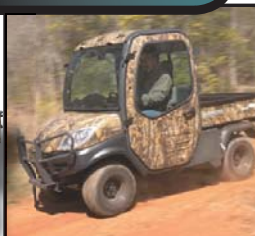
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- The Greenhouse in Gertrude**
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- Thieneman's Herbs & Perennials**
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- Tower View Farm & Nursery**
Jeffersontown • (502) 267-2066
- Turnpike Gardens**
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- Purnell Farm & Stables**
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Elizabethtown • (270) 360-0644
- Warren Farm Greenhouse**
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