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KENTUCKY

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

ANNUAL
MEETING
ISSUE



Madison County repeats as "tops"

Eddie Warren, who served as Farm Bureau president in Madison County during 2007, accepted a trophy designating top county at an awards breakfast held during the annual meeting in Louisville.

The top county award was the most prestigious of more than 100 membership, program and insurance awards handed out during the breakfast program.

Madison County, with 5,738 members, also garnered an award as the outstanding county in the largest membership classification, those counties with more than 3,800 members. Union County was named best among the small counties, those with 2,600 members or less, while Marion County was judged best among the mid-size membership group.

In other presentations:

Three growth awards were given to counties with the largest percentage of membership increase over their 2006 totals. Those plaques went to Fayette, Fulton and Simpson counties.

Outstanding county Farm Bureaus were designated in each of 11 districts. The winners were Breathitt, Calloway, Christian, Clark, Fayette, Greenup, Hardin, Logan, Madison, Owen and Pulaski.

Lee County was designated as the most improved county Farm Bureau in 2007.

Pacesetter awards were given to counties in each of the three membership categories that were first to achieve membership gain this year. For small counties, Todd County was the



MADISON COUNTY FARM BUREAU WON TOP HONORS IN A COUNTY FARM BUREAU AWARDS COMPETITION FOR THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR.

winner. Simpson County was the winner for mid-size counties and the award for large counties went to Nelson County.

Allen and Taylor counties shared an award for most consecutive years with a gain in membership. Each of these counties has experienced 45 years of growth.

Eleven counties won honors for having the highest member retention totals in their districts. Those winners were McCracken, McLean, Meade, Green, Nelson, Campbell, Wayne, Jackson, Robertson, Lawrence and Bell counties.

Five awards were given for the most

effective county Farm Bureau information and public relations programs. First place was awarded to Logan County and Information Committee Chair John Alcott. Brenda Stenger with Union County placed second. Third place was a three-way tie among Allen County, with chair Eva Carter; Barren County, chaired by Betty Barrick; and Scott County, and chair Sarah Henry.

Five counties won awards for policy growth and profitability produced by their local Farm Bureau insurance agencies. The winning counties were Union, Adair, Oldham, Mercer and Knott.

KFB LEADS STATES IN MEMBERSHIP GAIN

KFB was first among the states in 2007 in achieving the largest gain in membership, adding 9,371 for a total of 462,494. Kentucky continues to rank third in membership, trailing only Tennessee (629,027) and North Carolina (492,755).

Meanwhile, Farm Bureau membership across the country has surpassed the six million mark for the second consecutive year, with 6,231,176 members. The milestone was passed as state Farm Bureaus reported 30,838 additional members registered in 2007.

AFBF President Bob Stallman said

growth was fueled by recognition of the organization's strong record as an advocate of policy positions developed by its members at the local, state and national levels. The strength of Farm Bureau's many outstanding programs and services designed to boost members' families, businesses and standards of living is another key reason for continued growth.

The membership gain of nearly 31,000 is due primarily to the growth of several state Farm Bureaus in the South. Other highlights of the latest membership report are below:

Joining Tennessee in the 2007 "top

10" Farm Bureau membership states are: North Carolina, 492,755; Kentucky, 462,494; Georgia, 437,734; Alabama, 433,700; Illinois, 419,934; Texas, 404,735; Indiana, 283,483; Ohio, 230,968; and Mississippi, 227,741.

Following the "top 10" states in total membership for 2007 were nine other states with more than 100,000 members, including: Arkansas, 227,383; Michigan, 199,053; Oklahoma, 167,888; Iowa, 153,685; Louisiana, 147,860; Virginia, 146,934; Florida, 143,591; South Carolina, 130,569; and Kansas, 110,069.

“COMMENT”

As a highly technical industry, agriculture relies on statistical information to produce, market and process our food and fiber. From selecting inputs to determining when to sell their commodities, farmers need detailed, statistical information to effectively run their operations.

Information obtained from the Census of Agriculture plays a key role on and off the farm. Taken every five years, the census is a detailed survey of America's farms and ranches and the people that operate them. It is the most complete agricultural data resource available, providing the only source of uniform, comprehensive information for every county in the nation.

This survey paints a geographical picture of American and Kentucky agriculture; the changing crop and livestock patterns, economic conditions, operating costs and the sources of income. Another important piece of information is the count of farms by different categories: size, type, operator characteristics and value of sales.

Census forms should have arrived in farm mailboxes, giving producers an opportunity to have a voice in the future of their industry. I hope our farmers will be diligent in completing this survey and returning them by the February 4 deadline.

The information obtained from the census has a huge bearing on many public policy decisions that can impact a farmer's income and the way he or she does business. The responses can help determine federal support for crucial services that aid rural communities. Policy-makers factor census data into most, if not all, of their decisions concerning agricultural and rural programs. The current deliberations for the farm bill are the perfect example.

Community planners often use census data when developing local programs and services. Companies use this data when considering where to locate operations. And farmers generally regard the census report as the encyclopedia of their industry; much like Kentucky farmers view the annual report compiled by the Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service.

The census offers a tremendous value to rural stakeholders. The time it takes to complete the form is well worth the effort. It's a valuable contribution to your industry.

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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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Marshall Coyle

PRESIDENT
KFB

ON THE COVER:

A BIRD HOUSE IN GRAYSON COUNTY.
PHOTO BY MARY BIRD OF LEITCHFIELD.

Funding issues dominate legislative agenda



KFB PRESIDENT MARSHALL COYLE (LEFT) AND FIRST VICE PRESIDENT MARK HANEY PRESIDED OVER THE BUSINESS SESSION. HANEY ALSO IS CHAIRMAN OF KFB'S RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE.

KFB will support funding for important livestock industry initiatives, including incentives for new veterinarians to enter large animal practice, in the 2008 session of the General Assembly.

The organization also will seek approval of maintenance funds to upgrade the 60-plus-year-old FFA Leadership Training Center in Hardinsburg, and will ask lawmakers for improved legal protections against ATV operators who trespass on private property.

Voting delegates adopted dozens of pages of policy statements during the closing session of the 88th annual meeting in Louisville, and the KFB Board of Directors approved condensed lists of priority issues for the year ahead.

On the national level, Farm Bureau will press for completion of the new farm bill, currently being debated in the Senate. And the group voiced support for Congressional action to further promote renewable fuels and to reform a key agricultural guest worker program

known as H-2A.

Public Affairs Director Laura Knoth said the lists of priority issues for 2008 suggest a full legislative agenda for the organization at both the state and national levels.

"These issues go to the very heart of ag public policy and the difficulties being faced by farmers in today's challenging environment," Knoth said.

"In Kentucky, we're coming out of a year that stretched some producers to the economic breaking point. With the combination of drought and record input costs, farmers and agribusinesses alike are feeling the stress and need some help to regain a solid footing."

At the state level, Knoth said KFB will support a range of proposals to encourage a strong recovery and continued growth in agriculture. Those include:

- Full funding for renovation and expansion of livestock diagnostic centers in Lexington and Hopkinsville to provide protection against devastating outbreaks of farm animal diseases.
- Continued allocation of 50 per-

cent of Kentucky's tobacco settlement dollars to fund ag diversification and growth initiatives.

- Funding for a proposed Kentucky Agricultural Heritage Center in Mercer County to showcase the state's rich farming history.

- Changes in health insurance laws to encourage competition, increase consumer choice and allow for association health plans to provide group savings for more families.

- Oppose any changes in current state law that allows a voter referendum to repeal large property tax increases.

- Oppose any legislation to allow inaccurate or misleading labeling on food products.

At the federal level, Farm Bureau's Congressional agenda for '08 is likely to see a continuation of its current year priorities, as many of the group's legislative goals in Washington remain unresolved heading into the Christmas recess.

In addition to the farm bill rewrite and new energy legislation, major farm labor, environmental and tax issues are awaiting action by lawmakers. And several trade agreements worth potentially billions of dollars in future export sales are ready for Congressional consideration.

Kentucky's Congressional delegation has been very supportive of KFB's policy priorities, Knoth said, but political and procedural roadblocks have slowed the process and delayed action on many proposals.

"The second half of the two-year Congressional session will be critical for farm issues," Knoth stressed. "It's going to be a very busy year with a lot at stake for farmers and rural communities."

Coyle re-elected president

Bath County farmer and long-time KFB leader Marshall Coyle of Bath County has been re-elected president of KFB. This will be his third year as head of the state's largest agriculture organization.

Coyle, who has served on Farm Bureau's board of directors for 31 years, raises beef cattle and tobacco on a 700-acre operation near Owingsville.

Mark Haney of Nancy was re-elected first vice president, and John C. Hendricks of Winchester was re-elected second vice president.

Haney, a Farm Bureau director since 1993, and his brother operate an orchard and beef farm near Nancy. Hendricks produces beef cattle, hay and vegetables on a 640-acre family farm near Winchester and has been a Kentucky Farm Bureau board member

for nine years.

Coyle said the organization would be "even more proactive" in meeting the many challenges facing agriculture."

In addition to the executive officers, three new members were elected to the board:

Ryan Bivens of Hodgenville, chairman of the Young Farmers Advisory Committee, Frieda Heath of Hickory, who heads the Women's Advisory Committee, and Jay Coleman of Cave City.

Going off the board were: Al Pedigo of Scottsville; Rodney Kelly of Frankfort; Cathy Pleasants of Stanford, who led the women's group for three years; and Daniel Gaston of Russellville, who completed a one-year term as chairman of the organization's young farmer group.

Other members of the Farm Bureau

board of directors are:

Randall Heath, Hickory; Tripp Furches, Murray; Kelly Thurman, Livermore; Eddie Melton; Sebree; Steve Bolinger, Pembroke; J. Fritz Giesecke, Horse Cave; Larry Thomas, Elizabethtown; Patrick M. Henderson, Irvington; Russell Poore, Russellville; Paul Hornback, Shelbyville; Scott Travis, Taylorsville;

David Chappell, Owenton; Terry Rowlett, Campbellsburg; Danny Wilkinson, Columbia; Kim McCoy, Burkesville; Terry R. Gilbert, Danville; David L. Campbell, Stanford; Alex Barnett, Cynthiana; David McGlone, Grayson; Charlie Bengel, London; Bige Hensley, Manchester; Terry Patterson, Elizabethtown; Sam Moore, Morgantown; Jerry Little, Danville and Dr. Scott Smith, Lexington.

Women and young farmers have new committee chairs

Ryan Bivens of LaRue County is the new chair of the Farm Bureau Young Farmers Advisory Committee and Frieda Heath of Graves County is the new chairperson of the Women's Advisory Committee. The new vice chair of the young farmers group is Rob McClanahan of Pendleton County and the secretary is Misty Thorn of Calloway County. Phyllis Amyx of Wolfe County was elected first vice chair and Michelle Armstrong of Spencer County was elected second vice chair of the women's committee.

There are 11 members comprising both singles and married couples of the young farmers committee. Those members for 2008, including the officers, are: Chris and Misty Thorn; Jay and Jenny McElwain of Muhlenberg County; Ryan and Misty Bivens; Daniel and Amy Gaston of Logan County; Eric Sweazy of Spencer County; Stephen and Cookie DeBord of Pulaski County; Greg and Contessa Harris of Madison County; Steven Bach of Bath County; Robert McClanahan; Shad and Melanie Baker of Letcher County and John and Jill Mahan of Fayette County.

Members of the Women's Advisory Committee, in addition to the three officers, are: Bettie Wallace of Caldwell County; Betty Farris of Butler

County; Vickie Bryant of Monroe County; Pam Chappell of Owen County; Carol Sullivan of Taylor County; Jeanne Ellis of Robertson County; Margaret Hensley of Clay County; Cathy Pleasants of Lincoln County and Terry Gilbert of Boyle County.



RYAN BIVENS IS THE NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE YOUNG FARMER'S COMMITTEE.

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Union County couple are top young farm family

Ryan and Brooke White of Union County are the Outstanding Young Farm Family contest winners for 2007. They received a Kubota RTV courtesy of KFB Insurance and Kubota, \$1,000 cash from Premier Crop Insurance, a \$500 voucher from Southern States Cooperative, a \$600 voucher from Miles Seed, a \$250 voucher from Valvoline and a portable safe from Misty Morn Safe Company. They also get an expense-paid trip to compete in the AFBF national young farmer finals.

Second place went to Scott and Mary Ann Porter of Fleming County. They received 300 hours free use of a Kubota tractor, \$750 from Premier and a \$300 voucher from Southern States Cooperative. Third place winners were Bart and Sarah Jones of Allen County. They received 100 hours free use of a New Holland tractor, \$500 from Premier plus a \$200 voucher from Southern States Cooperative.

Judging for the contest is based primarily on farm management skills, financial growth plus Farm Bureau and community involvement. Couples and single persons up to 35 years old are eligible.

Following are profiles of the award winners:

Ryan and Brooke White

The Whites farm in a partnership with Ryan's three brothers and their sons, producing 8,000 acres of row crops and beef cattle. Ryan is responsible for a portion of the beef herd, with an 800-head commercial herd. He's also in charge of seed selection, placement and purchasing, as well as some planting and cultivating duties.

"I've been farming since I could walk," he said. "I was given the opportunity to farm if I wanted to work for it, and I did. I started purchasing land at age 13 and have continued to do so. Since I have been farming fulltime, we have been able to purchase six additional tracts of land."

The Whites also do some custom work for other farmers plus, in the summer, haul stockpile coal for a local dock on the Ohio River.

Ryan spends much of his time with the cattle operation, which focuses on slaughter animals and a cow-calf operation. He participated in construction of two feeding barns and a feeding pad. "These facilities have improved herd health and feed efficiency," he said.

"The farm has gone through a huge transition over the past 11 years," he continued. "Our row crop size has more than doubled since I've returned from college. This

means that every partner cannot make every decision. By being in partnership with my brothers, we are able to micromanage on a large scale."

Marketing, he added, is perhaps the biggest challenge.

"Marketing is a year-round job and requires constant attention," he said. "We felt that we were falling short in this area so we hired a marketing consultant to advise us. We've since learned that the more information you can gather, the better off you are."

Ryan attended the University of Kentucky and Brooke earned an education degree from Western Kentucky University. She is an elementary school guidance counselor. The couple have two children, ages five and two.

Ryan has served on the board of directors for Union County Farm Bureau for seven years and for three years was chairman of the county young farmer committee. In 1992 he was the state winner in Kentucky Farm Bureau's "outstanding youth" program. He was an officer for both FFA and



4-H. He's also active in the county beef cattle and corn growers' associations.

Scott and Mary Ann Porter

The Porters farm 1,058 acres with a variety of forages and a large cattle operation consisting of some 150 brood cows, 400 dairy heifers and 400 calves that are backgrounded. The couple are sole owners.

Scott said he decided to concentrate on cattle after finding a market for quality dairy heifers. Over the past few years he has moved from a cow-calf operation to stockers.

"The amount of land a cow occupies in contrast to a stocker calf is much higher," he said. "The marketing options are more limited, and time in which you can turn your money is usually much longer. The big advantage to purchasing in a cow herd is tax depreciation. I have found this to be a valuable tool in managing to protect equity."

His main goal, he said, has been to improve efficiency and preserve natural resources.

"We have largely focused on improved pasture management such as establishing a higher legume content," he said. "We also have improved rotational grazing practices and water sources. The way we operate today is not at all like when we started. Experience has given us a better understanding of the need to control costs and risk. One must develop a proactive mindset."

Scott says he never wanted to do anything else for a living.

"My personal background is completely intertwined with farming," he said. "From a very young age I knew where my interest was. My brothers and I spent most of our time working on the family farm. The time was invaluable to me, providing the foundation for who I am today."

Scott served on the Fleming County Farm Bureau board of directors for six years and currently is the county young farmer committee chairman. He's on the advisory board to Farm Credit Services and the local board of Southern States Cooperative. He received a beef cattle proficiency award from the Kentucky Young Farmer Association.

As for the future, Scott says: "I want to see my acreage growing with my children. I hope in the future to own enough land for my children to partner with me if they choose. In the future I can see my family involved in a farm-based or non-farm based business venture. I know today's decisions affect tomorrow's opportunities."

Mary Ann is an elementary school teacher. The Porters have three young children.



THE PORTER FAMILY

Bart and Sarah Jones

The Joneses produce cattle, swine, tobacco and hay with an 850-acre operation. Bart was raised on a farm specializing in purebred swine seedstock and went on to earn a degree in animal science from Oklahoma State University, which has one of the nation's top programs. Sarah was raised on a dairy farm and as a youth was very involved with 4-H, FFA and Farm Bureau activities.

Their Red Hills Farms consists of 120 purebred sows, 180 Red Angus and Simmental cows and 80 acres of burley tobacco. The swine operation provides breeding stock to customers throughout the United States, and some foreign countries, as well. They produce high-quality cattle for a sale each March and have expanded burley production from six acres in 1998 to the current 80 acres in response to the abolishment of the production quota program.

Bart manages the daily operation and has four fulltime employees. He also uses seasonal migrant labor to work with the tobacco. Sarah, a certified public accountant who holds an accounting degree from Western Kentucky University, manages the farm's financial records. She also has an accounting practice.

Bart said he emphasizes customer relations.

"We have learned from the swine business the value of customer relations and are also assisting cattle customers in feed contracting, herd health programs and retained ownership. We also assist customers with their feed commodity contracting needs. These services benefit our operations because customers continue to purchase from us."

Bart also cures country hams for friends, neighbors and family. His annual sale of bulls and females, initiated two years ago, quickly has become a successful event. "We showcase our cattle, serve lunch and educate our fellow cattlemen on the progressive breeding program and the services we provide," Bart said.

The business has expanded dramatically in recent years with the addition of a swine breeding facility and a greenhouse for producing tobacco plants. Plans are to build a tobacco barn next year and to purchase a new transplanter.

"We enjoy farm life and have a strong desire to make a life in agriculture," Bart explained.

Bart has been a director of Allen County Farm Bureau since 1998 and the couple currently co-chair the county's young farmer committee. Sarah also serves on the women's committee.

Bart also serves on the promotions and budget committees for the Kentucky Pork Producers Association and is a director for the Kentucky Red Angus Association. While at Oklahoma State, Bart was on a national championship meat judging team. He and Sarah won numerous awards at 4-H livestock shows. Sarah was a regional finalist in the FFA's prestigious "Star Farmer" program.

They have a nine-month-old son.



THE JONES FAMILY



UK ECONOMISTS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR 2008

BY LAURA SKILLMAN
UK COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

Kentucky's farm economy is likely to see record cash receipts in both 2007 and 2008, but farmers' profits may not attain such lofty levels, say agricultural economists with the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture.

Farm receipts for 2007 could reach a record \$4.22 billion despite freeze and drought conditions that impacted several sectors of the farm economy. Barring any major weather or disease problems in 2008, receipts could grow to \$4.29 billion, said UK ag economist Will Snell.

Snell, along with fellow economists Lee Meyer, Kenny Burdine and Tim Woods, presented an overview and outlook of the Kentucky farm economy as part of KFB's annual meeting.

Snell noted increasing production costs and lower government payments could more than offset the increase in cash receipts, resulting in less net farm income than the record set in 2005. That being said, Snell noted that net income will still be very strong this year and next compared to historical standards. Kentucky's net farm income was fueled in 2005, and to a lesser extent in 2006, by a large number of lump sum payments from the federal tobacco buyout program, he said.

Leading the way is the state's live-

stock sector which represents nearly two-thirds of the state's 2007 cash receipts. Estimated at \$3 billion, this is a 10.9 percent increase from the past year and livestock receipts are expected

tobacco production have dropped in eastern Kentucky.

Due to poor growing conditions, Kentucky's cash receipts from crops are down 6.5 percent. Bucking that trend is higher cash receipts from corn, reflecting a significant increase in acreage in 2007 coupled with higher prices. The state's receipts from fruit and vegetable crops also were reduced somewhat by a spring freeze and drought.

Snell said there's a lot of excitement and enthusiasm in the farm sector, but in the back of people's minds there's a nagging feeling of having been here before only to see the cycle change and prices decline. Helping to fuel the

farm economy are strong demand from exports, due in part to the low dollar, and the renewable fuels push. But challenges and uncertainties that can play a role include the outcome of U.S. energy policy and oil markets on grain economies, the long-term impact of the renewable energy boom on the livestock sector, declining tobacco buyout money, trade policy, future government farm payments and policy, immigration reform and production costs.

"Not only are we looking at the all-time high prices for a lot of our commodities, but we are also looking at the largest increase in production expenses and that's certainly a concern as we look at what direction the future of Kentucky's agricultural economy may take," Snell said.



UK COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE DEAN SCOTT SMITH SPOKE AT THE OUTLOOK CONFERENCE, FLANKED BY ECONOMISTS (FROM LEFT) WILL SNELL, LEE MEYER, KENNY BURDINE AND TIM WOODS.

to climb again in 2008. Horses, poultry and cattle registered significant gains. Equine was the biggest contributor at \$1.1 billion.

The growth in cash receipts is not evenly distributed across the state. Growth has taken place primarily in the west with strong grain markets, growth in the poultry industry, and the movement of tobacco from the Bluegrass and eastern Kentucky regions to west Kentucky, Snell said. Whereas cash receipts driven by lower



FARM PRODUCTION NEWS

TEST PLOTS CAN UNTANGLE MYSTERIES

BY LAURA SKILLMAN
UK COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

Getting as much information about products through company and university research is an important tool for farmers but oftentimes farmers wonder how well that research translates to their specific operations. If properly done, farmers can conduct their own on-farm test plots to determine how specific products perform on their farm.

“On-farm field plots can help to answer very common questions,” said Chad Lee, grains specialist with the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture.

These questions can include how much nitrogen to apply to corn, how many soybean seeds to plant per acre, what variety of soybean to plant and whether to use row cleaners. With the high costs surrounding crop production

today, finding the optimum products and applications for a farm can have a significant impact on a farmer’s profitability.

With this year’s crop behind them, farmers have time this winter to consider whether or not they want to do some of their own farm test plots. As they consider this, it is important to properly set up the tests to get comparable data.

Using soybean seeding rates as an example, Lee noted UK research has indicated that seeding rates can be lowered from current recommendations.

“If you are a farmer, you could argue that your farm and planting equipment are very different from our small plot equipment,” he said. “These are important factors to consider and even more reason to conduct on-farm research.”

If a farmer wishes to accurately compare soybean seeding rates, everything else in the study should be as similar as possible. In general, splitting

a field in half is not a good comparison, Lee said. The best comparison is multiple passes or strips of each seeding rate across the same field. Averaging yields across all the strips with the same populations generally provides a better estimate of yield. It is also important to know the limitations of the test. For example, was it a dry year or wet one? Would the results be different in a different year?

“Compare the data with replicated research conducted by UK and other institutions,” he said. “By conducting good on-farm comparisons, and comparing the data from those comparisons with data from other research, a farmer can make good decisions about their farming operation.”

Farmers who’d like to conduct their own on-farm research should contact their local office of the UK Cooperative Extension Service for details on how to conduct the tests in order to get the most accurate results.



MILES FARM SUPPLY HAS TEST PLOTS OF CANOLA IN DAVIESS COUNTY.

Jeff Nalley honored for service to ag



JEFF NALLEY AND HIS WIFE, ROBIN, RECEIVED THE AWARD FROM KFB PRESIDENT MARSHALL COYLE (LEFT) AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT DAVID S. BECK.

Farm broadcaster Jeff Nalley of Owensboro was named winner of KFB's award for distinguished service to agriculture.

Nalley, 44, has earned a reputation as one of the nation's top farm news broadcasters during a 24-year career with Owensboro stations. He currently is the farm broadcaster for Cromwell Radio Group, which consists of several stations in the region. In 2004 he was elected president of the National Association of Farm Broadcasters.

Nalley was raised on a family farm in the Owensboro area. At age 19 he left college to return home to help with the family farm. As a state FFA officer, he worked with a local radio station on promoting several FFA events. That led to his interest in broadcasting.

"Everyone in agriculture listens to and respects Jeff," said Kevin Riecke, station manager for the Cromwell Radio Group. "One of the things that Jeff does so well is to be the liaison between the agricultural community and the community at large. His ag reports not only provide the most up-to-date and accurate facts, they also put everything in terms that have relevance to everyone."

Nalley also is regarded in Kentucky agricultural circles as one of

the industry's most effective ambassadors. He is in great demand as a speaker for a wide range of farm and non-farm events. For years he has emceed the annual "Ag Expo" event in Owensboro that attracts hundreds of farmers from several states. Most recently, he coordinated the highly-publicized groundbreaking ceremony for Owensboro Grain Company's biodiesel plant. For 15 years he served as chairman of the Greater Owensboro Chamber of Commerce Farm City Breakfast, an event that usually attracted around 500 people.

One of his favorite duties is conducting motivational seminars at the Kentucky FFA Leadership Training Center.

Daviess County Farm Bureau nominated Nalley for the award and the application included many letters of recommendation from prominent civic and agricultural leaders, including State Senator and former Agriculture Commissioner David E. Boswell, State Representative Tommy Thompson,

Daviess County Judge-Executive Reid Haire and Bill Kuegel, Sr., a Daviess County farmer who was last year's recipient of the Distinguished Service to Agriculture award.

Senator Boswell said Nalley "always has had an absolute passion for American agriculture and has been the voice of Kentucky agriculture in our region for years."

Representative Thompson described Nalley as "most effective and skilled at conveying the importance of agriculture and farm families to our economy and our communities."

"If there ever has been a servant of agriculture and the farmers of Kentucky, it is Jeff," wrote Kuegel.

Nalley has moderated several national radio and television broadcasts on agricultural issues, including a panel discussion on ethanol at the National Press Club which was broadcast by C-SPAN. In 2003 he organized a series of national broadcasts titled "A Voice for Agriculture" which focused on farm issues. The series culminated at the NAFB annual convention, where Nalley discussed pressing issues with members of Congress.

Nalley and his wife, Robin, have four children: Will, 9; Rob, 7; John, 5; and Grace, 3.

Gene Lanham wins KFB award



Marion County farmer Gene Lanham was named winner of the annual award for Distinguished Service to Farm Bureau.

Lanham, 74, has served Farm Bureau and the state's dairy and beef cattle industries for many years. He had a purebred Holstein dairy operation on his farm near Gravel Switch for 40 years before getting out of the business in 1992 to focus solely on beef cattle production. He served on the Kyana Milk Producers Board of Directors for nearly 20 years and also was a director for the National Milk Producers, Southeast United Dairy Industry Association and Kentucky Dairy Association.

Lanham has been an active Farm Bureau leader for 20 years, including 10 years as president of Marion County Farm Bureau. He served a two-year term on the Kentucky Farm Bureau Board of Directors and was vice-chairman of the organization's Fifth District. He's the only farmer in Marion County to have twice received the Chamber of

Commerce's "outstanding farmer" award.

As the county Farm Bureau president he encouraged farmers to join the Marion County Chamber of Commerce and play active roles with community functions. He was instrumental in the development of a highly popular Farm, Home and Garden Show held each summer in Lebanon. He's also been active with various extension service events, the Marion County Cattlemen's Association and the very successful "Ham Days" fall festival.

"He puts in more volunteer hours than anyone I know," Marion County Extension Agent Edward L. Lanham Jr. remarked in a letter endorsing Lanham's nomination for the prestigious award. "He is highly respected by everyone he works with."

For many years Lanham has organized an annual breakfast to bring together local farmers and political officials, including state and federal lawmakers. He and his wife, Montrude,

GENE AND MONTRUDE LANHAM (RIGHT) WITH DAUGHTER KAY, SON-IN-LAW ALEX JOHNSON, GENE'S SISTER, DAISY BERRY AND GRAND-DAUGHTER KAYLEE.

annually host a dinner meeting where Marion County Farm Bureau directors develop public policy recommendations to present to the state organization.

Lanham also convinced Marion County Farm Bureau to sponsor a member in the "Leadership Lebanon" program and was instrumental in the establishment of the organization's college scholarship program.

He currently is president of the Marion County Cattlemen's Association, a director and agriculture committee chairman of the Marion County Chamber of Commerce, president of the Marion County 4-H Leaders Association and a director of the Kentucky Beef Council.

He and Montrude have three adult children: Terry, Kay and Sandra, all of whom are college graduates.

Scenes from the business sessions...



KFB PRESIDENT MARSHALL COYLE GREETED U.S. SENATOR MITCH MCCONNELL, WHO SPOKE AT THE CLOSING BUSINESS SESSION.



LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR DAN MONGIARDO WAS A FEATURED SPEAKER.



DELEGATES STUDIED THE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THICK BOOKLETS.

Outstanding youth are selected



OFBY CONTESTANTS STAGED AN IMPRESSIVE PERFORMANCE.

Kelsey Watson, Murray, and Aaron Harned, Paducah, were selected winners of the Outstanding Farm Bureau Youth contest. They won \$2,000 college scholarships and trips to Washington, D.C. on the 2008 Congressional Tour.

Runners-up in the contest were Alesha Compton, Columbia and Alex Meredith, Glendale. They received \$200 cash awards and digital cameras. Congeniality awards, which were voted by their fellow contestants, were won by Jesslyn Long, Stanford and Aaron Harned, Paducah.

The award winners were selected from 21 district finalists out of more than 150 young people who competed in county and district contests over the

past several months. Judging for the contests was done in personal interviews conducted during afternoon annual meeting sessions. Points were awarded for contestants' leadership record, conversational ability and scholastic achievement.

Other contestants among the finalists were Celeste Anne Laurent, Princeton; Whitney Elizabeth Pack, Vine Grove; Cameron Lee Lile, Hardyville; Kayla Brianne Powell, Lexington; Rebekah Rose Bess, Owenton; Kendall Corbin, Flemingsburg; Whitley Shae Hill, Grayson; Mallory Kate Garrison, Manchester; Benjamin Charles Lane, Princeton; Stephen T. Burysek, Rockfield; Tyler Brooks Peavler,

Harrodsburg; Tyler Miller, Science Hill; Dustin Tyler Johnson, Mt. Vernon; Zachary Schwartz, Flemingsburg; Christopher Aaron Nickell, Grassy Creek and Ethan Taylor Hamblin, Gays Creek.

Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield provided luggage sets for the winners, cameras for the runners-up and luggage pieces for all 21 contestants.

KFB Federation gave watches to the winners and cash awards to the runners-up. The organization also sponsored the winners' scholarships and Washington tour expenses, as well as \$100 awards to the congeniality winners and \$75 for each contestant for winning district competitions.

Jay McElwain wins Discussion Meet

Jay McElwain of Belton claimed first place in the discussion meet, earning a spot in the national competition this month at the AFBF annual meeting. He also won the choice of a Kawasaki Mule or ATV donated by Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Co., \$500 from the Dodge Truck Division of DaimlerChrysler Corp. and Kawasaki accessories from Jacobi Sales Inc.

Runner-up was Roger Miller of Lancaster, who received \$1,000 from KFB.

Two other finalists in the state-level contest were Rob Cole of Lexington and Brad Brammell of Ashland. Each received \$200 from KFB.

The competition tests entrants on their basic knowledge of critical farm issues and their ability to respond in a panel setting to differing points of view. The topic debated by the four finalists asked, "What is the public perception of the family farm and how does that perception impact future agricultural policy discussion?"

PARTNERS FOR FAMILY FARMS TO HOLD JANUARY 27 MEETING

Partners For Family Farms will hold its annual meeting January 27 at Spindletop Hall, Lexington. Keynote speaker will be Sergio Pallaroni, founder of the Basic Initiative program based at the University of Texas who is a world-renown specialist in sustainable communities and development. Sue Weant will be honored for her years of service as the Executive Director of Partners For Family Farms. The registration fee, which includes dinner, is \$30 and should be sent to Bonnie Tanner, 328 North College Street, Harrodsburg, Ky., 40330.

STATE HORTICULTURE EXPANDING

The farm production value of U.S. horticulture crops is forecast by USDA's Economic Research Service to reach \$73.9 billion by 2017, up from \$53.8 billion in 2007, a 37 percent increase. The annual growth is an average three percent over the next decade. By crop group, vegetables continue to rank first in production value over fruits and greenhouse/nursery crops. In 2007, the production values for vegetables, nursery, and fruit crops were \$19.8 billion, \$17.5 billion, and \$17.2 billion, respectively. These grow to \$26.7, \$24.7, and \$21.8 billion by 2017. Annual growth over the next 10 years is expected to be most rapid for fruits and tree nuts at 3.5 percent, followed by vegetables at three percent and nursery crops at 2.4 percent.

The volume of farm production of horticultural crops is projected to rise annually at 1.1 percent, which is slightly higher than U.S. population growth of 0.9 percent through 2017. Total vegetable production volume is projected to grow at one percent annually and fruit production volume is forecast to rise on average by 1.3 percent in the next decade. By weight or volume, vegetable production is about twice as large as fruit and nut production.

MILK PRODUCTION IS UP

Due to more cows with more milk, milk production in 23 major states during November totaled 13.8 billion pounds, up 3.8 percent from November 2006. Production per cow in the major states averaged 1,654 pounds for November 2007, 40 pounds above last year.

This year's high milk prices have encouraged herd expansion. The number of milk cows on farms in the major states was 8.36 million head, 101,000 head more than November 2006, and 8,000 head more than October 2007.

Kentucky's dairy industry has not followed the national trend in herd expansion, but it was not alone. Of the 23 major states, seven had herd reductions, and five states only held steady. USDA estimated our state's number of milk cows at 87,000 head, down 8,000 head from November 2006.

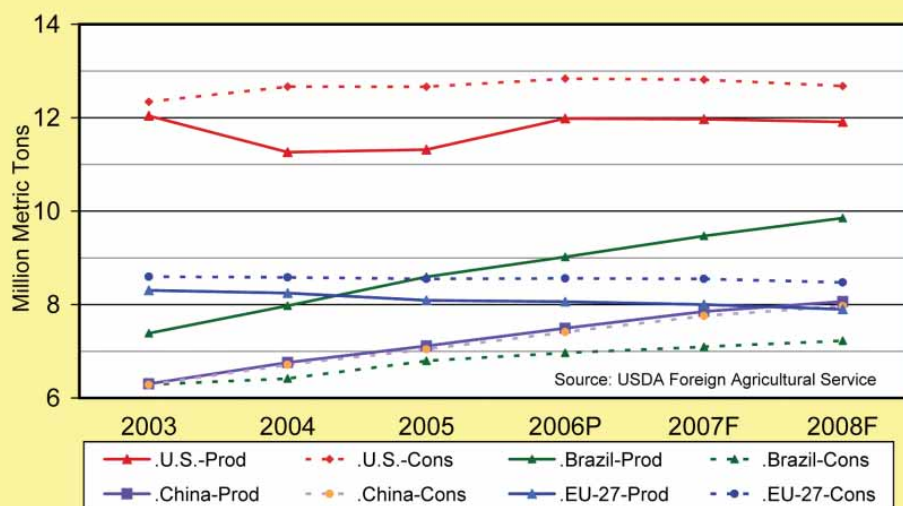
BEEF GETS A BOOST

According to USDA statistics, beef producers have seen an increase in their share of choice beef's retail value. Through November, the producer's share for 2007 averaged 47.5 percent. This is up from 47.2 percent in 2006, 46.9 percent in 2005, and 45.2 percent in 2004. During this decade, the largest share of retail value that producers received was 48.4 percent in 2003.

In contrast, the beef packers have

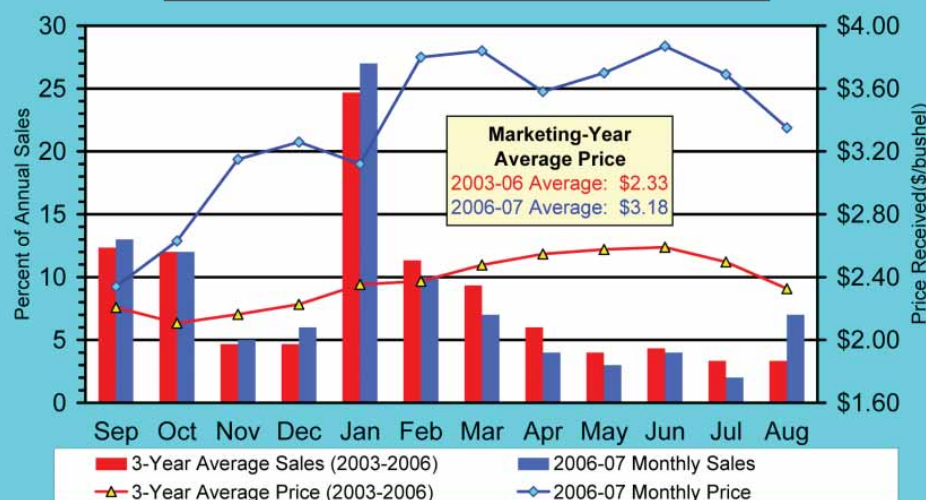
seen a sharp drop in their gross margins in recent months, as indicated by the USDA-calculated farm-to-wholesale beef price spread. During 2006 and the first half of 2007, this spread averaged 40.4 cents per pound of choice beef (retail equivalent). However, in the July-November period, the farm-to-wholesale price spread has averaged 26.2 cents per pound. During the same five months, the wholesale-to-retail price spread averaged \$1.94 per pound, compared to \$1.77 in the first half of 2007.

Beef Production & Domestic Consumption Top 4 Countries



Kentucky Monthly Corn Marketings

2006-07 Marketing Year vs Previous 3-Year Average





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