



VOL. 9, NO. 7

JULY 2009

KENTUCKY

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



COUNTY ANNUAL MEETINGS

CHRISTIAN COUNTY

Date: July 9, 6:00 p.m.
Place: W. Ky Fair Convention Center

CLAY COUNTY

Date: October 8, 6:00 p.m.
Place: FB Office

DAVISS COUNTY

Date: August 22, 4:30 p.m.
Place: Yellow Creek Park

FLEMING COUNTY

Date: August 14, 6:00 p.m.
Place: Industrial Park Shelter House

GRANT COUNTY

Date: September 12, 6:30 p.m.
Place: FB Office

LEWIS COUNTY

Date: August 9, 12:30 p.m.
Place: Ruggles Campground

MADISON COUNTY

Date: July 13, 6:30 p.m.
Place: Fairgrounds

McLEAN COUNTY

Date: August 15, 5:00 p.m.
Place: High School

ROCKCASTLE COUNTY

Date: September 18, 6:00 p.m.
Place: Roundstone Elementary School

SPENCER COUNTY

Date: September 28, 7:00 p.m.
Place: TBA

TRIMBLE COUNTY

Date: August 20, 7:00 p.m.
Place: Extension Office

WOODFORD COUNTY

Date: October 10, 6:30 p.m.
Place: 1st Christian Church Family Life Center

Entries urged for awards programs

KFB members and County Farm Bureaus are encouraged to submit their innovative ideas for the Farmer Idea Exchange and the County Activities of Excellence contests. KFB will recognize the state's best entries on December 3 during its annual meeting. These ideas and programs will compete nationally for the opportunity to be presented at the AFBF Convention next

January in Seattle, Washington.

The Farmer Idea Exchange Program encourages Farm Bureau members to share their innovative ideas so other farmers may cut costs, become more efficient, protect or improve the environment and increase their net income. Ideas may be entered in the following categories: Ag Equipment, Workshop, Buildings, Cropping Systems, Marketing/Management, Livestock/Equine, Conservation/Improved Efficiencies, and Safety/Health/Accessibility. Nationally, up to 15 ideas may be selected for poster display. The one entrant judged to be "Best of Show" at the AFBF Annual Meeting will receive during the next year up to 300 hours use of a New Holland TV-145 Bidirectional Tractor. Kentucky has had national exhibitors the past seven years, including

the top prize winner in 2003.

The County Activities of Excellence (CAE) program's purpose is to recognize and share successful county Farm Bureau programs and activities. Fifteen county Farm Bureaus from across the nation will be invited to display their program January 10-11 in Seattle. A county Farm Bureau may enter one of these five CAE Program categories: Education and Ag Promotion, Leadership Development, Member Services, Policy Implementation, and Public Relations and Information.

All entries must be submitted by September 4. For more information, call Ed McQueen, Director of Market Information, at 502/495-5000, extension 7243. Contest rules and entry forms are available at your county Farm Bureau office or online at www.fb.org/programs/.



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FDA can now regulate tobacco

H.R. 1256, the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act, grants the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) oversight of tobacco products. While the new law specifically applies only to the processing and distribution of tobacco products, there is concern FDA will have de facto on-farm involvement through production contracts. The underlying focus is to reduce underage smoking.

Farm Bureau's policy position on FDA regulation of tobacco products states that any FDA involvement should be confined to processing and distribution and should not apply to the farm. H.R. 1256 does contain language in Section 901 that states these provisions "shall not apply to tobacco leaf

that is not in the possession of a manufacturer of tobacco products, or to the producers of tobacco leaf, including tobacco growers, tobacco warehouses, and tobacco grower cooperatives, nor shall any employee of FDA have any authority to enter onto a farm owned by a producer of tobacco leaf without the written consent of such producer."

Among many provisions, the new law creates a tobacco control center within FDA and gives FDA authority to regulate the content, marketing and sale of tobacco products; requires tobacco companies and importers to reveal all product ingredients and seek approval for any new products; allows FDA to regulate the levels of tar, nicotine and other components of tobacco products and requires imported leaf to meet the same product standards as U.S.-grown leaf.

“COMMENT”

Our annual policy development process begins this month with district meetings throughout the state. County Farm Bureau leaders will be reviewing policies and making suggestions for consideration at the state level.

This process exemplifies our grassroots foundation. Although it is not always easy given the diversity of our members, we strive to represent all of our farm families. Our target is to improve the quality of life for all.

The state’s budget crisis and a new administration on the federal level have launched several issues to prominence this year. While tax policies are always important to Farm Bureau members, we will be examining our positions even more closely because the state legislature will be looking for new sources of revenue from the tax code. It’s vital that we establish our priorities.

At the national level, the Obama administration is seeking significant changes in environmental policies that warrant our close attention. Besides modifications to the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act, the administration is pushing climate change legislation, which is unfamiliar territory for farmers and ranchers. We also must be on guard for new guidelines on our livestock and poultry industries.

Some of the other common themes at these district meetings will concern renewable energy, dead animal removal programs, economic development and tobacco export promotion. Finding answers depends on the commitment of volunteers and staff working through the issues.

County Farm Bureaus are setting the table as they kick off a process that culminates at our annual meeting in December. This is what guides our legislative work in Frankfort and Washington D.C. This is the process that gives Kentucky agriculture a "voice."



John C. Hendricks

CHAIRMAN
RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

ON THE COVER:

A CORN FIELD ON DOUG LANGLEY’S FARM IN SHELBY COUNTY. LANGLEY WILL REPRESENT KENTUCKY IN THIS YEAR’S SOUTHEASTERN FARMER OF THE YEAR CONTEST. PHOTO BY BOB SHRADER

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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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AG SECRETARY VISITS KENTUCKY

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack held a rural community forum in Mercer County to listen to comments and concerns of local residents. Vilsack also highlighted accomplishments since passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

“We want those affected by decisions made in Washington to be part of the process to develop innovative solutions and chart a path for these communities to participate in the new 21st century economy,” Vilsack said during the event at Anderson Circle Farm.

KFB President Mark Haney and Directors Scott Travis and Terry Rowlett were among the farmers who addressed Secretary Vilsack. Later that afternoon Haney and Jefferson County FB Director George Gagel spoke with Vilsack in a Louisville meeting arranged by Congressman John Yarmuth.

During the public meeting Vilsack

noted several American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) efforts that are underway in Kentucky and across the country, including:

- The Farm Service Agency is working to distribute millions of dollars allocated in the Recovery Act for its Direct Operating Farm Loan Program.
- USDA’s Single Family Housing program is actively supporting Kentucky households and as of June 1 had obligated more than \$86 million for 829 families to receive Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loans as well as \$2.8 million for 25 Single Family Housing Direct Loans.
- USDA’s Water and Waste Disposal program is making nearly \$19 million for six Kentucky water and waste disposal projects.
- USDA’s U.S. Forest Service in Kentucky received more than \$3 million for three capital improvement and maintenance projects to improve two facilities and one road project.
- The Forest Service in Kentucky

SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE TOM VILSACK (LEFT) PAUSED FOR A PHOTO WITH KFB PRESIDENT MARK HANEY AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT DAVID S. BECK.

received more than \$1.1 million for three projects to reduce hazardous fuels and restore local habitats.

- USDA has awarded \$4 million for the Fox Creek Watershed project in Fleming County to upgrade the existing flood control dam to meet current hazard dam safety requirements.
- The state received additional funds to support The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). Additional foods valued at more than \$2 million have been ordered by the state for issuance to Food Banks and Community Action Agencies through September.
- The state received more than \$2 million for the purpose of providing equipment grants to schools participating in the National School Lunch Program.

CANADIAN LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL



DRAWS FIRE FROM BURLEY TOBACCO

KFB has asked Kentucky's Congressional delegation to pressure the Canadian government to stop a legislative proposal that would essentially ban all burley tobacco exports from the U.S. to Canada, resulting in far-reaching, negative implications for the burley growing industry.

The original intent of the bill (Canada Bill C-32) pending in the Canadian Parliament was to ban only candy-flavored little cigars. But the measure has been written so broadly that it will apply to all cigarettes and will ban all flavorings used with Kentucky grown burley. That effectively will prohibit the manufacture and sale in Canada of American-blend cigarettes with Kentucky grown burley tobacco.

American blend cigarettes contain

burley tobacco and use certain ingredients to aid in the manufacturing process and to provide the products with their distinct taste.

Unlike the products that are supposed to be targeted by the bill, these American-blend cigarettes do not have a fruity or sweet odor or flavor.

In a letter to Kentucky's members of Congress, KFB President Mark Haney said the bill "would essentially ban American-blend cigarettes, bringing serious implications for burley growers in Kentucky."

Haney went on to write: "This appears to be an overreaching attempt to ban flavors to destroy a legal market in Canada. Given the obvious harm it would bring to Kentucky burley growers, we ask the Canadian Parliament to not move this legislation forward."

Dean Wallace, the Executive Director

of the Council for Burley Tobacco, wrote to Canada's Minister of International Trade to express opposition to this bill.

"C-32 would ban the vast majority of U.S. cigarette exports to Canada and prohibit Canadian companies from manufacturing American blend cigarettes. Additionally, it would deny tobacco farmers an opportunity to sell burley to any company for use in Canadian products," Wallace said in his letter.

Many believe the pending legislation could violate Canada's international trade obligations under the WTO and NAFTA. Congressman Ed Whitfield also wrote to the Canadian government to express concerns that the legislation "could in fact violate trade agreements, including the Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement and NAFTA."

Congressman Brett Guthrie also sent a letter to Canadian officials.

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Doug Langley selected for statewide award

An affinity for successfully tackling challenges at full bore is among many reasons why Doug Langley is regarded as an excellent farmer. Two notable examples:

*When migrant labor became crucial to his operation, Langley learned how to speak Spanish.

*When he needed additional grain storage but not the debt associated with buying new bins, Langley hired a retired builder to teach him and a small crew how to construct bins and then he purchased old ones and put them on his farm.

Those and many other accomplishments have made the Shelby County farmer the 2009 winner of the Kentucky Farmer of the Year contest administered by KFB. Bill Payne of Stanford and Gregory Ritter of Glasgow were the other finalists in the annual program that recognizes farmers for their commitment to excellence, efficiency in farming practices, sound financial management and leadership in industry and civic organizations.

Langley will represent Kentucky this fall in the Southeastern Farmer of the Year contest, the South's most prestigious agricultural award. The program was started in 1990 by Swisher International and the Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition. Kentucky was added to the program three years ago.

Langley started his first crop of tobacco with six plants when he was five years old in his parent's backyard. When his father retired in 1989, he began sharecropping and with his working relationship and a reputation of proper care and management was able to eventually purchase the land. Langley says this was a turning point because it enabled him to pursue a career in production agriculture.

Over the years Langley and his wife Robin methodically expanded their operation to where they currently work with 5,200 acres, including: 200 acres of burley tobacco; 2,800 acres of corn; 2,400 acres of soybeans and 60 acres of wheat. They also background around 2,000 head of feeder steers annually.

Langley says his father and grandfather inspired him to farm for a living. "I had great respect for both of them; I also wanted to support and raise my

family in a rural community and farming environment. I wanted to provide an opportunity for my children to develop into self-sufficient, hard-working individuals with high morals and standards."

Their three children are heavily involved in the family farm. Last year, Christopher (13) and Elaine (9) had their own sweet corn operation. They've added tomatoes for this year. They spend summer afternoons sitting at their "roadside stand" at the end of their driveway selling sweet corn. Bruce (17), a recent high school graduate, works daily on the farm throughout the year.

Robin is the bookkeeper and troubleshooter.

"She is constantly on call to help in emergency situations with the workers or the equipment," Langley said.

Langley Farms also provides custom services such as tobacco transplants, spraying, planting and harvesting. "This provides us with cash flow during the critical harvest season and allows us to have newer and better equipment," Langley explained.

Another Langley niche is that he grows all the corn used by the Woodford Reserve Distillery.

The Langleys have a close relationship with their migrant workers from Mexico, most of whom have been with them for many years. Not only did Doug learn Spanish (his workers tutored him) so he could have a close and effective working relationship with his H-2A workers, but he and Robin have visited their homes in Mexico.



DOUG LANGLEY IS A LARGE-SCALE ROW CROP AND TOBACCO PRODUCER IN SHELBY COUNTY.

"They are family," he says.

The Langley family has long been big with burley tobacco. They've actually expanded production in response to the end of the quota system. "We just purchased a farm and are building a new tobacco barn, which is virtually unheard of in this area," Langley said. "This will allow us not to depend on rented land so tobacco production could remain the same, but the yield would be 100 percent owned by us. The new barn will improve labor efficiency and the farmland is irrigated, which will reduce risk and improve quality."

Langley is actively involved in agricultural issues at the national, state and local levels. Among many roles, he is a past president and current director for Shelby County FB plus serves on the Shelby County Agriculture Council and Fair Board.

BEEF TOUR

ventures through Great Plains

WHEN NOT VISITING CATTLE FARMS AND BEEF INDUSTRY FACILITIES DURING THE FIVE-DAY TOUR, THE GROUP ENJOYED SOME TOURIST ATTRACTIONS SUCH AS MOUNT RUSHMORE.



KFB's annual Beef Tour expanded to five days this year and landed in

the Great Plains, with visits to facilities, farms and other attractions in Nebraska and South Dakota.

The contingent of 75 Kentuckians saw some sizeable feed lots, a highly efficient cow-calf operation, a huge Cargill meat packing facility and one of the top seedstock businesses in the nation.

Among the highlights:

- A highly diverse operation at Bones Hereford Ranch and Hexad Farms in Parker, South Dakota. Besides cattle grazing on grasslands, there are row crops, alfalfa, a 1,600-cow dairy and a small ethanol processing plant.

- Cargill Meat Solutions in Schuyler, Nebraska is an 850,000-square-foot processing plant for beef, pork and turkey representing over a dozen brand names. It processes about 4,800 head of cattle per day.

- Circle 5 Feed Yards near Henderson, Nebraska markets around 35,000 head per year that are fed out at two locations. The intricate feeding program includes distillers grain from a nearby ethanol plant.

- S Diamond Angus near Henderson,

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Nebraska is a 1,200-acre farm with a cow-calf operation of more than a hundred pair of Red and Black Angus.

- Profit Maker Bulls in Paxton, Nebraska is regarded as one of the nation's top seedstock producers. One of its partners is a past president of the American Angus Association.

Tourist attractions also were in the mix as stops included the famous Corn Palace in Mitchell, South Dakota; Badlands National Park; Mount Rushmore and Mahoney State Park in Ashland, Nebraska.

Fritz Giesecke, a Hart County cattleman and KFB Director who chairs the organization's Beef Cattle Advisory Committee, described the tour as "a fantastic experience."

"The two things that really stood

out were the packing plant and the feed lots," he said. "We were amazed at how the plant worked. It was so highly automated; it was like going to another planet. I was surprised that the cutting was still done by hand. But most everything else was automated. And the place was absolutely spic-and-span. They have a third shift for nothing but cleanup. One of the employees told me that when the first shift comes in, the place looks like it's brand new. It was truly amazing.

"The feed lots also were fascinating; obviously because we don't have them in Kentucky. At Circle 5 we saw a couple of pens of Kentucky cattle. It was good to see the end result of our operations."

Another standard, said Giesecke, was ethanol's presence.

"We saw the impact of ethanol everywhere," he said.

KFB added the tour to its annual agenda three years ago in response to the heightened interest in beef cattle production in Kentucky. The industry has moved forward here, particularly with genetics, as a result of the historic agricultural development initiative fueled by tobacco settlement funds.



OHIO FACING ATTACK ON ANIMAL AGRICULTURE

Agriculture interests in Ohio are combating the latest attack on animal agriculture from the Humane Society of the United States. James Kinder, chair of Ohio State University's Department of Animal Sciences, said that the approach to push for animal welfare legislation in Ohio is not an effective means of change.

"They are looking at it from the wrong perspective. Improvements in animal welfare have to be done through education instead of regulation," said Kinder. "It's changing the attitudes and

behaviors of the producers and the animal handlers that, at the end of the day, will have the greatest impact on animal well-being in agricultural production."

For the past several months the Humane Society of the United States has been advocating for animal welfare legislation in Ohio, similar to what was passed in California last year. California's Proposition 2 mandates that as of January 1, 2015, it shall be a misdemeanor for any person to confine a pregnant pig, calf raised for veal, or egg-laying hen in a manner not allowing the animal to turn

around freely, stand up, lie down, and fully extend its limbs.

The HSUS Ohio referendum specifically targets the laying hen and egg production industries, both of which rank second in the nation with a combined estimated value of over \$650 million, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

If such legislation were to pass in Ohio, it would have a profound economic impact on Ohio's agriculture industry, from the livestock sector to field crop production. Luther Tweeten, an Ohio State University agricultural economist, proposes that the costs to the poultry industry would increase by at least 20 percent, resulting in the loss of nearly 8,000 jobs and leaving Ohio uncompetitive in the market. The move would also impact field crop production, diminishing demand for corn and soybeans, since poultry consumes 22 percent of the state's crop production.

"The bottom line is that if change would occur, it would make the cost of production prohibitive in Ohio," said Kinder.

He added that there is more at stake than Ohio's agriculture that is not being factored in.

"The greatest concern to me from a long-term perspective is food security, which includes plentiful amounts of safe food. If the economics are such that we can no longer afford to produce food in our own country, then it will come from someplace else, and then we'll lose control of it from a food security standpoint," said Kinder.

In response to the continuing attacks on animal agriculture, KFB has formed a task force to develop recommendations on how to respond and to address animal welfare issues. The group intends to present its recommendations at KFB's annual meeting in December.

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FARM PRODUCTION NEWS



UK FIELD DAY IS JULY 23



It's time for the biennial showcase in Princeton of the UK College of Agriculture's latest research and extension work - work that is not only conducted on its western Kentucky research station, but throughout the entire college. This year's event is July 23 at the UK Research and Education Center in Princeton.

Tours and exhibits will highlight research in ornamental and vegetable crops, beef, forage, equine matters, grain crops, tobacco, orchards, vineyards and small fruits. The event isn't just about livestock and crops, however. The whole family is invited, and event organizers promise there will be much to interest all age groups. Organizers expect approximately 2,000 people to attend. After a brief welcome ceremony at 8 a.m., guests may participate in tours and demonstrations and view exhibits.

"To me personally, it's an opportunity for us and this sector to have people from Lexington and other states and surrounds all in one place, share all the many things that are being done and to hopefully make certain that people are aware that the College of Agriculture is about more than traditional agriculture," said Winston Dunwell, UK extension horticulture specialist and field day chairman. "It's about animal science. It's about viticulture and energy from biomass. It's about family and consumers. It's about the fight against obesity. There's an exhibit on ovarian cancer, so it's a very broad sector that should have something for every single person in every single household in Kentucky. They should be able to garner a lot from this and learn something new that's important to their lives."

This year's field day will feature 11 production-related tours focusing on beef cattle, tobacco, forages, weed management in grain crops, fertility management in grain crops, vegetable crops, ornamental crops, grain crops

management, and an orchard, vineyard and small fruits tour. This year, for the first time, there will also be an equine tour. An overview tour will give participants insight into the research extension programs at the Research and Education Center. All tours last approximately one hour and 15 minutes and run continuously throughout the day.

More than 60 exhibitors from the UK College of Agriculture, agricultural associations and organizations, including KFB, will be on hand.

With youth and family and consumer sciences activities also at the field day, the program has something for everyone.

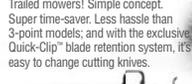
There will be plenty of things for young people of all ages to do, as well. 4-H youth development agents and leaders will conduct hands-on activities, demonstrations and information displays, including sessions on GPS; horticulture identification; herding dog demonstrations; identifying reptiles; horse lab kits and physical fitness. Youth are also welcome to join the adults on the farm tours.

For more information, contact a county office of the UK Cooperative Extension Service or visit the UKREC Web site, <http://ces.ca.uky.edu/wkrec/shrubs>.

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MODEL HIGH WINS ENVIROTHON



Richmond Model High School repeated as champion of the annual Envirothon competition. The 11th annual event was held at the Kentucky Leadership Center near Lake Cumberland, with 10 teams competing. Envirothon is coordinated by the Kentucky Division of Conservation. KFB provided backpacks for the state champions.

The teams rotated among “work stations” to test their knowledge of soils, forestry, aquatic ecology, wildlife and an environmental issue. Each team also gave an oral presentation.

The Richmond Model team of Meghan Hart, Ib Jadoon, Blake Neumann, Mary Ellen Wimberly and Caleb Fligor, along with their coach, Susan Neumann, will represent the state in the Canon Envirothon International competition August 2-8 at the University of North Carolina-Asheville.

Runner-up in the Kentucky event was Fayette County. Oldham County FFA was third.

Rounding out the state finalists were three teams from Southwestern High School (Pulaski County), Louisville Manual, West Carter, Boyle County and Scott County.

The envirothon concept combines the proven concepts of hands-on education with the excitement of competition and the enjoyment of the outdoors.

It is a series of hands-on contests in which the students must solve environmental problems within the respective categories. It encourages changing curricula and helps to build ties between schools, organizations and communities.

TOP: THE CHAMPION RICHMOND MODEL TEAM IS COMPRISED OF (LEFT TO RIGHT) MEGHAN HART, IB JADOON, BLAKE NEUMANN, MARY ELLEN WIMBERLY AND CALEB FLIGOR. THEY WILL REPRESENT KENTUCKY IN THE NATIONAL ENVIROTHON EVENT AUGUST 2-8 AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA-ASHEVILLE.

THE FAYETTE COUNTY TEAM COMPETES IN THE FORESTRY EVENT. THE TEAM HAD THE SECOND-HIGHEST SCORE IN FORESTRY AND WAS THE STATE RUNNER-UP.



KFB supports FFA, 4-H events



KFB had a presence at both the Kentucky FFA Association Convention and

the annual State 4-H Teen Conference last month in Lexington.

The FFA event, held for the first time at Lexington's Convention Center, attracted more than 2,000 members and guests from all parts of the state. KFB's extensive participation included sponsorships of the awards for Star Agribusiness, Extemporaneous Public Speaking, Star in Placement and Parliamentary Procedure. KFB also sponsored a session and had an exhibit at the career show. Staff members helped with contest judging.

KFB Executive Vice President David S. Beck presented the new FFA officers with briefcases at a closing luncheon. Meanwhile, just a couple of miles away at UK's Memorial Hall, KFB National Affairs Director L. Joe Cain presented the new state 4-H officers with briefcases during a ceremony to honor both the incoming and outgoing officers. Cain told the closing assembly that KFB looks at youth groups like 4-H as a source for the development of future agricultural leaders. He noted that he was a 4-Her and has children involved with the organization.

Beck urged the FFA leaders to take advantage of the opportunity to serve the organization. He, too, affirmed KFB's commitment to youth and interest in developing future leaders. Beck was a state FFA officer and often recounts how that led to his career at KFB.

TOP: KFB EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT DAVID S. BECK (RIGHT) AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR SUSIE TANNER (LEFT) POSED WITH THE NEW STATE FFA OFFICERS. LEFT TO RIGHT, THEY ARE SENTINEL CORY DODDS OF LIVINGSTON CENTRAL, VP TANNER FLOYD OF FLEMING COUNTY, VP CLAIRE HARDESTY OF UNION COUNTY, STATE VP NICK FLEITZ OF OLDHAM COUNTY, STATE REPORTER AMANDA CONLEY OF SCOTT COUNTY, VP SAMANTHA CLARK OF TAYLOR COUNTY, PRESIDENT BRIAN JARVIS OF MARSHALL COUNTY, STATE SECRETARY KAITLIN WHITTLE OF EDMONSON COUNTY, VP CALLIE HOBBS OF MEADE COUNTY AND TREASURER DUSTIN JOHNSON OF ROCKCASTLE COUNTY.

BOTTOM: KFB'S L. JOE CAIN PRESENTED BRIEFCASES TO THE STATE 4-H OFFICERS. FROM LEFT, THEY ARE PRESIDENT ANNA CARMAN OF JESSAMINE COUNTY, VP QUADE ADAMS OF JESSAMINE COUNTY, SECRETARY COURTNEY CRUME OF NELSON COUNTY AND TREASURER DERICK OPERLE OF McCRACKEN COUNTY.

POULTRY VALUE UP IN 2008

The combined value of U.S. production from broilers, eggs, turkeys, and the value of sales from chickens in 2008 was \$35.9 billion, up 11 percent from the \$32.2 billion in 2007. The recent USDA report shows 64 percent was from broilers, 23 percent from eggs, 12 percent from turkeys, and less than one percent from chickens.

The value of broilers produced during 2008 was \$23.1 billion, up seven percent from 2007. The total number of broilers produced in 2008 was 9.01 billion, up one percent. The total amount of live weight produced was 50.4 billion pounds, up two percent. The 2008 average price on a live weight equivalent basis was 45.8 cents per pound, compared with 43.6 cents in 2007.

By comparison, Kentucky produced 306.1 million broilers, up one percent from 2007. The amount of live weight produced fell about one percent to 1.65 billion pounds. Using an average value of 45.0 cents per pound, Kentucky broiler production was valued at \$743.8 million, up four percent from 2007.

The value of all U.S. egg production in 2008 was \$8.23 billion, up 22 percent from the \$6.72 billion in 2007. Egg production totaled 90.2 billion eggs, down one percent. In 2008, all eggs averaged 109.0 cents per dozen, compared with 88.5 cents in 2007.

In Kentucky, egg production dropped nearly three percent in 2008 to 1.14 billion eggs. Kentucky eggs averaged 137.0 cents per dozen, up 11 percent from 2007, and totaled \$130.4 million in production value.

SOYBEAN EXPORTS ARE SOARING

U.S. soybean ending stocks for 2008/09 are forecast to fall to 110 million bushels due to upward revisions in exports and domestic use. If realized, it would be the smallest carryout since 1976/77 and the ratio of soybean stocks to total use would be a record-low 3.6 percent. This small carryover may only be viable because of abundant stocks held in China, the world's top soybean buyer. U.S. exports for 2008/09 are forecast to reach a record 1.25 billion bushels.

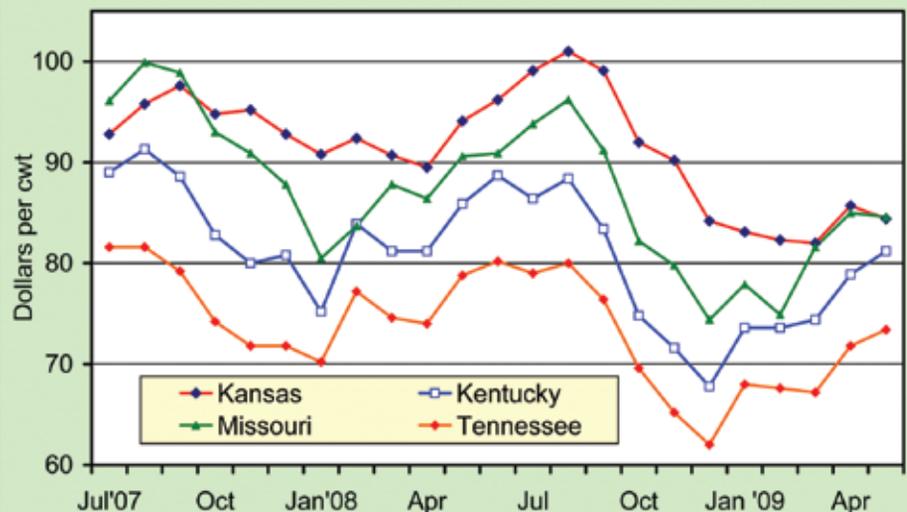
BEEF EXPORTS EXPECTED TO DIP

USDA economists expect U.S. beef exports to decline about eight percent this year to 1.744 billion pounds. Year-over-year changes by country vary widely. Aided by a stronger Japanese yen, exports to Japan have increased 19 percent year-to-date through April and continued to be higher than last year through May. However, some of the nation's largest export markets remain

well below last year. Mexico and Canada, which accounted for 55 percent of U.S. exports in 2008, have been down 19 percent and 15 percent, respectively. Exports to South Korea have continued to decline from the beginning of the year.

In 2010, exports are expected to increase just over nine percent to 1.905 billion pounds as foreign demand will likely improve as the global economy recovers from the current recession.

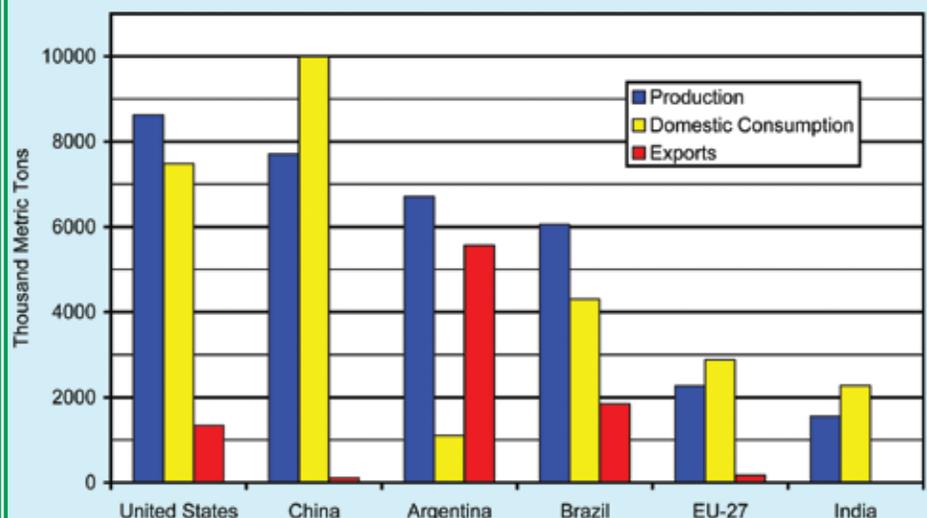
Average Price Received for Steers & Heifers
500 Pounds and Over



Source: Agricultural Prices, USDA-NASS

World Soybean Oil

2009/10 Production, Domestic Consumption and Exports



AFBF and counties' group join forces to fight radical environmental proposal

The nation's county governments and farmers are partnering to oppose legislation to significantly expand the federal jurisdiction of The Clean Water Act (CWA).

The National Association of Counties' (NACo) and AFBF are concerned that the Clean Water Restoration Act (CWRA) would needlessly expand the federal reach of CWA and result in significant negative impacts on farmers, ranchers, local governments and local economies without improving protections of the nation's critical water resources.

Both organizations stressed that they support current CWA provisions and enforcement of state and local environmental protection laws. The groups have expressed their concern to Congress that eliminating the word "navigable" from the definition of "Waters of the United States" would result in an unprecedented expansion of federal authority.

NACo President Don Stapley, supervisor, Maricopa County, Ariz., said that NACo supports CWA provisions that protect wetland habitats and rivers and streams of the U.S., but does not support federal efforts to change the definition of the Clean Water Act from navigable waters to "waters of the United States." In addition, NACo opposes federal efforts to further expand the authority and responsibilities of the federal agencies in regard to these waters.

"The legislation would drastically expand federal clean water jurisdiction and create significant bureaucratic obstacles and lead to increased costs to counties without necessarily enhancing environmental protections of waterways and wetlands," Stapley said.

AFBF President Bob Stallman called the bill "regulatory overkill" which largely disregards the positive conservation role farmers and ranchers are playing.

"By replacing 'navigable waters' with 'all intrastate waters,' the federal government would have control of structures such as drainage ditches, which are only wet during rain events," Stallman said. "Rather than restore the Clean Water Act, it just brings a new truckload of restrictions for the people who do most to protect our water."

Stapley said counties have similar concerns. The bill would require that counties obtain a federal permit before any project of any size could move forward if it affects any wet area.

"If the term 'navigable' is removed, it is possible that ditches, pipes, streets, gutters, manmade ponds, drainage features, desert washes and other features could be regulated," Stapley said. "Additionally, activities such as mosquito and fire abatement prohibitions to regulating rain gutters beside homes could also be regulated. This would be extremely problematic and costly to counties."

NACo and AFBF pledge to work with the bill's sponsors to ensure that any proposed changes to the CWA are both effective and workable for farmers and local governments.

Season 6

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WBKI-TV - Broadcast Channel 34
Louisville, Lexington, Central and Southern Kentucky

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Fleming Co. Cable - Channel 6
Fleming County

RFD-TV - Satellite, National Coverage
DirecTV Channel 345
Dish Network Channel 231

Insight Cable - Cable Channel 2
Louisville and Oldham County

WPSD-TV - Broadcast Channel 6
Paducah

Insight Cable - Cable Channel 6
Northern Kentucky (Boone, Kenton, Campbell, Gallatin, Grant, Pendleton)

WYMT-TV - Broadcast Channel 57
Beginning April
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FARM FILE

AFBF TOUTING BROADBAND

AFBF has sent comments to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on the development of a national broadband plan by the FCC. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 passed by Congress and signed by President Barack Obama earlier this year requires the FCC to develop a comprehensive broadband plan by February 17, 2010.

“In the 21st century, broadband Internet access is a necessity, not a luxury,” said AFBF President Bob Stallman. “To be economically viable, rural communities must have high speed Internet connections for people to access everything from medical records to weather reports to online videos. It is vital for rural residents who want to telecommute to a job in the city and for rural students to complete their class assignments.”

AFBF urged the FCC to consider location when determining broadband availability and to consider price or marketplace competition in determining access to broadband services. AFBF also said broadband should be designated as a “supported service” eligible to receive support directly from the Universal Services Fund. AFBF said broadband deployment should be increased through any technology, including wireless.

SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM SETS RECORD

The number of U.S. schoolchildren receiving free or reduced-price lunches is at an all-time high. According to the Food and Nutrition Service, which administers the program through USDA, nationwide enrollment in free school lunch programs is up 6.3 percent compared to a year ago, to 16.5 million students. Participation in reduced-price lunch programs has also increased, with 3.2 million students.

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR FSA COMMITTEES

Farmers may nominate candidates for Farm Service Agency County Committees through August 3. A producer is eligible if residing in the local administrative area in which he or she is a candidate, participates or cooperates in a program administered by FSA, and is of legal voting age. A producer who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm also may vote. Producers may nominate themselves or others, and organizations representing minorities and

women may nominate candidates.

Nomination forms must be postmarked or received in a local USDA Service Center by August 3. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters beginning November 6. Voted ballots must be submitted to the county office by mail or in person by December 7. Elected committee members and alternates will take office January 1.

Nomination forms and other information are available at county FSA offices or on the FSA Web site at www.fsa.usda.gov/elections.

SHEEP, GOAT REFERENDUMS ARE OCTOBER 1

Kentucky sheep and goat producers may vote on checkoffs in separate referenda scheduled to be held October 1 in county extension offices throughout the Commonwealth, Agriculture Commissioner Richie Farmer has announced.

The referenda ask whether sheep and goat producers wish to assess themselves at a rate of one-half of one percent (.50%) of the net market price of their animals. If the checkoff is approved, the Kentucky Sheep and Wool Producers Association and the Kentucky Goat Producers Association would administer the funds in the areas of promotion, con-

sumer information, producer communication, industry information, and research.

Voting will be open from 8 a.m.-noon and 1-4:30 p.m. local time. Persons directly involved in the production of sheep and goats will be eligible to vote in their respective referenda in their county of residence. Producers will be required to provide identification and complete a certification attesting that they are eligible to vote. Corporate producers and eligible producers who reside outside of Kentucky may vote only in the county where their farm is located. Eligible producers may vote by absentee ballot.

UNION COUNTY RECEIVES EDUCATIONAL GRANT

Union County FB was among 23 recipients of \$500 mini-grants from a program administered by the AFBF Foundation for Agriculture, in cooperation with the Women’s Leadership Committee. The grants will be used to fund new projects or extend current agricultural education efforts. The funds will enable Union County to expand its “Bushels for Books” program to provide

materials enhancing agricultural education at local libraries. The program has received national recognition from AFBF.

“Through the mini-grant program, counties and states are assisted in their efforts to educate students about the many facets of today’s modern production agriculture,” said Dan Durham, director of program development and coordinator of the AFB Foundation for Agriculture.

“FARM FACTS” BOOK IS AVAILABLE

The 2009 edition of Food and Farm Facts (formerly Farm Facts), a publication of the AFBF Public Relations Department, is now available to order online. The updated 32-page book features charts and graphs with facts about today’s agriculture; food costs, consumption and safety; ag terminology; and historical highlights. An “America’s Bounty” poster included with each book shows production areas

including the commodity belts (corn, cotton, soybeans, rice, etc.). New pages on how farmers and ranchers care for animals and ways consumers can stretch their grocery dollars are included.

Also available to order online are updated versions of the Food and Farm Facts pocket guide, lesson plans, PowerPoint CD-Rom and pencils. County and state Farm Bureaus may be invoiced for orders.

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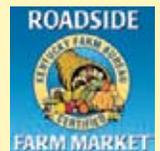
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