

VOL. 9, NO. 11



NOVEMBER 2009

KENTUCKY

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



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“COMMENT”

The new trend in Congress is to overextend the arm of the federal government, whether it is health care, spending on new programs, or energy legislation. Recently, I sat in on a hearing where once again the majority’s ideas did not match those of the American people.

As a member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I attended a hearing on the 37th Anniversary of the passage of the Clean Water Act. This legislation has brought about significant changes in water quality across the country and implemented a system of federal and state regulation over water pollution.

However, Congress is now preparing for the introduction of the Clean Water Restoration Act, which includes numerous proposals to increase the scope of the Clean Water Act and severely hinder the daily lives of millions of Americans.

The most troubling provision would change the phrase “navigable waters” to “waters of the United States” within the Clean Water Act.

What may seem like a small change would give the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corps of Engineers jurisdiction over essentially all wet areas within a state.

This oversight includes groundwater, ditches, pipes, municipal storm drains, gutters, and farmland and would impede agricultural activities and infringe on the rights of private property.

In this difficult economy where a majority of states are facing budget deficits, this proposal imposes additional unfunded mandates on state and local governments.

I strongly oppose removing the word “navigable” from the Clean Water Act and will join my colleagues in rejecting the Clean Water Restoration Act when it comes before the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

In 37 years, the Clean Water Act has drastically improved the quality of water in the United States. However, dramatically increasing the role of the federal government in controlling waters on private property would produce dire consequences for Americans.



Brett Guthrie
CONGRESSMAN
2ND DISTRICT

ON THE COVER:

A SCENE IN EASTERN JEFFERSON COUNTY. PHOTO BY ROGER NESBITT

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

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

KFB's advocacy work on animal care issues was a chief topic of discussion at the annual meeting of the Beef Cattle Advisory Committee. KFB President Mark Haney and First Vice President John C. Hendricks were among the guests at the meeting held at the E.S. Good Barn at the UK College of Agriculture.

Danny Wilkinson, a KFB Director from Adair County, briefed the group on the activities of KFB's Animal Care Issues Task Force. Wilkinson, who is task force chairman, noted the development and distribution of an educational brochure for students, presentations at eight regional teacher conferences and plans for a special conference during KFB's annual meeting.

These efforts drew praise from State Veterinarian Dr. Robert Stout and Dr. Robert Harmon, who is head of UK's Animal Sciences Department. Dr. Stout described the task force's mission as "vital" to the state's animal agriculture industry.

KFB staffer Jeff Harper gave a report on the new Veterinary Loan Forgiveness Program. Among several topics, Dr. Harmon spoke about the Applied Master Cattleman Program and a guide to animal handling that is being updated. Dr. Stout discussed budgetary issues and disease control programs.

Executive Director Dave Maples gave a report on the Kentucky Cattlemen's Association. He said membership was down slightly this year as a result of the poor economy.

Dr. Wade Northington gave a progress report on the Breathitt Veterinary Center in Hopkinsville. He said Murray State University has accepted a recommendation to relocate the facility but that legislative approval would be necessary.

In the discussion about policy, the committee approved language expressing opposition to a requirement that the seller's name be placed on the sales ticket at livestock auctions. Another recommendation supports the creation of a Kentucky Livestock Care Standards Board to establish livestock care guidelines for producers. The group also recommends fully staffing the market news positions at the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

KFB Director Fritz Giesecke of Hart County is chairman of the beef

cattle advisory committee.

Following are brief summaries from other advisory committee meetings:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

This panel met at UK's Center for Applied Energy Research, with Center Director Dr. Rodney Andrews providing an overview of operations and funding sources. AFBF Director of Rural Affairs Sabrina Matteson spoke via conference call about rural development initiatives supported by the organization. This list included broadband access and infrastructure improvements.

Garrard County's Economic Development Director, Nathan Mick, described strategies his community has used to grow its business community. Bruce Harper of KDA then spoke about the Kentucky Proud Program and the Beginning Farmer Loan Program. Brian Thomas of the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy gave an update on efforts to utilize federal economic stimulus funds for on-farm energy efficiency programs. Larry Snell of the Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development discussed the organization's role.

Don Goodin of the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development discussed some state programs. Harold Workman, Executive Director of the Kentucky Exposition Center, gave an update on facility expansion projects and upcoming events.

Turning to policy, the committee approved language supporting university research on processing and transporting biomass products, and to encourage enhanced education and demonstration efforts on energy efficiency in homes, farms and businesses.

KFB Director Alex Barnett of Harrison County is chairman of the Economic Development Committee.

HORTICULTURE

The Horticulture Committee met at the UK Research Farm. KFB staffer Jeff Harper was the first speaker and gave a summary of KFB's Certified Roadside Farm Markets program. He noted that Kara Keeton will continue to oversee the program on a contract basis in 2010.

Mac Stone of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture reported on food safety issues and the state training program for "Good Agricultural

Practices," a farm certification program for those raising produce. Stone also touched on KDA's budget situation and other marketing and promotional initiatives.

Dr. Dewayne Ingram, a UK horticulture production specialist, gave a presentation on production and marketing trends. He and Chairman Dr. Bob Houtz then discussed the work of UK's Horticulture Department.

In policy matters, the committee approved language calling for programs to offer growers assistance on food safety issues and to urge horticulture crop research at UK's Eden Shale farm in Owen County. The group also adopted a recommendation to legalize the marketing of processed deer meat that is processed at a USDA-inspected facility.

KFB Director Russell Poore of Logan County is chairman of the Horticulture Committee.

FORESTRY

The agenda began with Dr. John Obrycki, chairman of UK's Entomology Department, giving an overview of the work of the Forest Health Task Force. He also spoke about problems with the emerald ash borer which has been damaging trees throughout the state.

Leah MacSwords then gave a report on the Kentucky Division of Forestry. A top priority, she said, is a state assessment of forest resources and the development of a strategy for protecting those resources. This is mandated in the farm bill, she added.

Betty Williamson of the Kentucky Woodland Owners Association said her organization was concentrating on forest health and strengthening state laws to protect timberlands. She also reported on the Biomass Task Force appointed by Governor Steve Beshear (KFB President Mark Haney is on that committee).

Doug McLaren of the UK Forestry Department gave a general report. The department, he said, is seeking a new chairperson and hopes to have one on board by the first of the year.

Turning to policy, the committee adopted language stating that owners of forest land should be compensated because their land provides environmental benefits to the public. Another recommendation states that "elected officials" and "regulatory enforcement leaders" should take a "common sense approach"

in regard to making decisions relative to the mountaintop removal of coal.

Chairman of this committee is KFB Director Bige Hensley of Clay County.

EQUINE

This group met at the Kentucky Horse Park, where Director John Nicholson opened the presentations with a report on preparations for the 2010 World Equestrian Games.

David Switzer of the Kentucky Thoroughbred Association spoke about efforts to arrange for farm tours during the Equestrian Games. He also spoke about the downturn in the thoroughbred breeding industry and KTA's work with UK on dead animal disposal methods.

Gene Clabes spoke about the work of the Kentucky Equine Education Project, noting support for 4-H and FFA shows. KEEP's legislative agenda includes removing the tax on thoroughbred auction sales, he said.

Dr. Nancy Cox, Dean of Research for the UK College of Agriculture, reported on an Equine Initiative program involving some 180 students. She also spoke about facilities improvements at the North Research Farm.

State Veterinarian Dr. Robert Stout said his office is working on disease management and surveillance plans for the World Equestrian Games. He also discussed work in combating an outbreak of contagious equine metritis (CEM).

Ginny Grulke of the Kentucky Horse Council reported on trail riding in the state, including a review of the new State Parks program.

The committee approved several policy statements, including: (1) Voicing support for the World Equestrian Games and "The Kentucky Experience" Pavilion that will be on the grounds; (2) Voicing support for UK's equine initiative; (3) recommending that the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources support "reasonable access" of equine trail riders to public land.

SWINE

Warren Beeler of KDA was the first speaker. He said the Swift processing plant in Louisville was under increasing public pressure to relocate away from the city. The committee responded by voting to recommend that the KFB Board of Directors write a letter of support for Swift.

Dr. Jennifer Greiner of the National Pork Producers Council reported on her group's response to the misconceptions

generated from the national outbreak of the H1N1 virus. The misguided concerns about "swine flu" and pork products caused the industry billions of dollars in lost business, she said.

John Hinnners and Erin Dailey of the U.S. Meat Export Federation gave a report on pork exports, which are down this year. Kentucky Pork Producers Association Executive Director Mike Ovesen gave a report on his group's activities and stressed the importance of developing a viable system for addressing animal welfare issues. Concurring was State Veterinarian Dr. Robert Stout, who predicted that animal care issues will be a significant industry challenge in the years ahead. Dr. Stout also spoke about the threat from feral swine.

Committee Chairman Danny Wilkinson, a KFB Director from Adair County, gave an update on the work of KFB's Animal Care Issues Task Force, of which he is chairman. He reviewed plans for a special animal care issues conference at KFB's annual meeting.

Turning to policy, the committee wants language expressing opposition to local governments' implementing regulations on farm production that are more stringent than the state has. The group also supports the creation of an Animal Care Standards Board plus recommends farm credit policy stating "farmers should be able to access credit from available equity, rather than having credit access based on cash flow."

EMERGING AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES

Mac Stone of KDA reported on the certification program for farms raising produce for commercial sales. He said this could be the last year large retailers will accept produce from farms without

a third-party safety audit.

Angela Caporelli, an aquaculture specialist at KDA, gave a report on the industry. Larry Snell then reported on the work of the Kentucky Center for Agricultural and Rural Development, of which he is the director.

Dr. Lee Meyer of UK's Ag Economics Department discussed the work of the New Crop Opportunity Center and UK's new hospitality management program. He also updated the group on the MarketMaker website, a direct meat marketing project and a management program for women farmers.

In the policy discussion, the committee approved statements of support for the Kentucky Aquaculture Association Task Force plus a cooperative effort between the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and the Kentucky Aquaculture Association "to promote a better understanding of aquaculture regulations and practices."

KFB Director Kim McCoy of Cumberland County is chairman of this committee

ROADSIDE MARKETS

Chaired by KFB First Vice President John C. Hendricks, this committee met at Gallrein Farms in Shelby County, one of the most successful participants in KFB's Certified Roadside Farm Markets program. The group had a lengthy discussion about the program's operation, progress and guidelines. Three new guidelines were approved: (1) Maintaining the timeline and early enrollment discounts; (2) Outline guidelines on the use of the program logo and signage; (3) Roadside markets program signage can only be used on the premises of the market.

CANDIDATES FOR KFB DIRECTOR



The following are seeking election to the KFB Board of Directors from the respective districts. This list includes only the candidates who have asked to be listed in this publication.

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|--|
| DISTRICT | 1: | Tripp Furches, 3182 State Rt. 94 W, Murray |
| DISTRICT | 4: | Jay Coleman, 7218 Ole Munfordville Road, Cave City |
| DISTRICT | 5: | John Mahan, 7067 Russell Cave Road, Lexington |
| | | Scott Travis, 1420 Max Rouse Road, Cox's Creek |
| | | Joe Paul Mattingly, 830 Sally Ray Pike, Raywick |

ANNUAL MEETING BEGINS DECEMBER 2

KFB's 90th annual meeting is set for December 2-5 at the Galt House Hotels in Louisville. Priorities include electing leaders, recognizing achievements, setting policy goals for the 2010 state legislative session and establishing a wish list for Congressional action next year.

The state's Outstanding Young Farm Family will be announced, awards will be given for county Farm Bureau achievements and top farm leaders will be recognized for distinguished service.

Numerous extension and agricultural specialists will be on hand for commodity and special interest conferences on December 3. Among the topics are forages, beef cattle, tobacco, horticulture, feed grains, natural resources, ag chemicals, dairy and farm labor. A special conference to conclude the agenda that afternoon will focus on animal care issues and KFB's initiative

to combat attacks on the animal agriculture industry.

Women's leadership activities are showcased at a December 4 luncheon where top county leaders are presented gold star awards for outstanding county-level programs. Youth achievements are also given prominence, with college scholarships awaiting the winners of an Outstanding Farm Bureau Youth contest.

The discussion meet is a popular tradition, with young farmers debating selected agricultural issues. The state champion, which will be determined among the "final four" contestants during the evening program on December 4, advances to the national contest at the AFBF convention in January.

"We look forward to another eventful conference," said KFB President Mark Haney. "We think we have an interesting program planned and, as always, there are many important policy issues to address."

Haney will present his annual address on the morning of the 4th, just prior to the announcement of this year's recipients of the distinguished service awards for Farm Bureau and Kentucky agriculture. The delegates will set policy at the business sessions on the last two days of the convention.

State Senator David Givens, chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, will be the keynote speaker at a December 5 Public Affairs breakfast. The ensuing business session begins with KFB Executive Vice President David S. Beck presenting his annual report on the federation's activities and fiscal condition.

Animal Care Task Force endorses establishment of state standards

KFB's Animal Care Issues Task Force is recommending the creation of a Kentucky Livestock Care Standards Board to establish guidelines for producers. Delegates to KFB's annual meeting next month will be asked to adopt that policy, which also has been proposed by five of the organization's advisory committees, including those representing beef cattle and swine.

Last month's animal care issues task force meeting focused on legislative options for addressing growing public concerns about animal care. Many of those concerns are unfounded, driven by the work of liberal "animal rights" activist groups.

Committee Chairman Danny Wilkinson, a KFB Director from Adair County, said it is widely believed that the establishment of clearly-defined standards for animal care would provide assurance that Kentucky agriculture "wants to do the right thing and won't tolerate bad actors."

State Veterinarian Dr. Robert Stout agreed with the committee, saying "our

current law, in my view, is very lacking. The deficiency in the (animal care) law is that it's vague. It refers to "accepted industry practices" but what is that?"

Enforcement is another problem, according to Dr. Stout.

"The statutes don't give us much authority to do anything," he said.

Another good reason for pursuing a statute, he added, is that it deters radical activist groups from seeking legislation that could be harmful to livestock producers. Ideally, creating a state board would put in place a system for identifying and dealing with problems.

Wilkinson, Dr. Stout and others pointed out that standards already are in place from various commodity groups and the American Veterinary Medical Association. Kentucky, therefore, simply could use those as a guiding point. "We don't have to reinvent good animal care standards," said Wilkinson.

The committee also made plans for a special "animal care" conference at the annual meeting. That conference will be at 3:30 p.m. on December 3.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU FEDERATION --- 2009

Submitted by Woodford County Farm Bureau

Article VI, SECTION 2, now reads:

ARTICLE VI

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION 2. Each director shall be nominated by his own district and elected by the majority vote of the voting delegates of the convention. In case of a vacancy on the Board of Directors of the Federation from any cause, the remaining members of the Board of the Federation may elect his successor to serve until the next annual meeting of the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation.

Article VI, SECTION 2, would be amended to read:

SECTION 2. Each director shall be nominated by his own district and elected by the majority vote of the voting delegates of the convention. Candidates for director shall publicly declare their intention to run at least 45 days prior to the Annual Convention of the Federation by providing written notice to the Executive Vice President who shall in turn advise each County Farm Bureau in the candidate's district. In case of a vacancy on the Board of Directors of the Federation from any cause, the remaining members of the Board of the Federation may elect his successor to serve until the next annual meeting of the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation.

GENERATING IDEAS . . .

ENERGY OPTIONS ARE FOCUS OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE



REPRESENTATIVE ROCKY ADKINS (LEFT) AND SENATOR TOM JENSEN SPOKE DURING A SESSION ON KENTUCKY'S STATUS.

Although the focus was on energy and the environment, the tone of the 33rd annual Governor's Conference on the Environment was strangely similar to a Farm Bureau meeting, with a lot of talk about leadership, public policies and economic opportunities.

The current buzz about greenhouse gases and the need for energy independence has propelled energy policies to the front page of the nation's public agenda. Environmental protection strategies go hand-in-hand with the development of new energy sources.

And so it was that last month's conference in Lexington attracted dozens of industry, government and academic professionals to review and discuss the issues. Agriculture had a minimal role in the agenda, but the issues under discussion have huge implications for farmers.

Governor Steve Beshear has set a goal for Kentucky to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent, increase coal research and create 40,000 energy jobs by 2025. The production of biofuels made from crops like corn, soybeans and switchgrass is part of the picture.

Where does Kentucky stand with this initiative?

Well on the way to success, according to State Representative Rocky Adkins, who was among the presenters in a conference session titled "Kentucky's Energy Landscape."

Adkins, the House Majority

Leader, sponsored three pieces of legislation in recent years to spark energy research and development initiatives. KFB supported all three bills.

In his address, Adkins said: "I am very proud of Kentucky; the legislation we've passed. The Council for State Governments has recognized our legislation as a model for other states to follow. These programs we've created will help us build on the future and be an international leader. We're looking at biomass and biofuels; fossil fuels, wind, solar. Our legislation is working."

He noted that one measure he sponsored authorized funds to the Kentucky Geological Survey for carbon research and that various incentives programs have resulted in more than a billion dollar's worth of energy-related projects throughout the state.

Equally enthusiastic was Senator Tom Jensen, chairman of the Natural Resources and Energy Committee. Speaking just ahead of Adkins, Jensen said "this is an exciting time for all of us. There's all kinds of things going on and many possibilities. I'm a believer that we don't preclude anything."

Presiding over the panel discussion was Hank List, Deputy Secretary of the Energy and Environment Cabinet. A former state legislator and energy industry executive, List framed the discussion, saying: "I think energy will be the area of investment for the U.S. over the next 20 years, but what we will need is leadership to get it done. This

conference is about leadership. You cannot accomplish effective energy policy without good leadership."

During an ensuing session on "New Directions and Opportunities," Kentucky received high praise from the Director of the Southern Technology Council, Scott Doron, who said: "I love what Kentucky's doing. We believe exactly what Representative Adkins says about these opportunities. The current turmoil presents the opportunity of a generation. Power equals economic development. It always has."

More praise came from John Hoekstra, energy sustainability manager for Summit Energy. He said his company appreciates "the networking and cooperation in Kentucky" and advises the state to (1) continue to implement and strengthen end-user conservation programs and (2) engage and encourage individuals and independent power producers to participate in renewable energy goals.

The agenda featured a number of high-profile speakers, including the acting administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency's Region Four office in Atlanta. Stan Meiburg suggested "seven behaviors" to pursue growth and success in the environmental-energy arena. In regard to agriculture, he advised the industry to "look at ways for mutual gains" with EPA. He also acknowledged a history of conflict with farmers, quipping "There are members of the agricultural community who feel EPA is a four-letter word."

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DIRECTORS NAMED IN TWO KFB DIVISIONS

KFB Federation has two new Division Directors.

B. Todd Bright has been named Director of the Communication Division and Jeff Harper, Commodity Department Director for the past six years, is Director of the new Commodity Division that was formed to expand services.

Bright comes to KFB from the law firm of Frost Brown Todd, where he served for more than four years in the role of Marketing Director. Previously he spent six years as the Vice President of Marketing at LeapFrog Interactive. He will oversee the activities of the organization's communications, public relations, publications, broadcast media, and advertising functions. He will execute and manage strategies and programs, which serve to inform members and the general public about programs, products and services, as well as the issues that are important to farmers.

Harper is a native of Mercer County who came to KFB from the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy, where he

was a project analyst. He will continue to serve as a legislative agent on commodity issues. Joining him in the new division are Director of Market Information Ed McQueen, a veteran employee who specializes in market reporting and analysis; and Kara Keeton, who administers the popular Certified Roadside Farm Markets program. Plans are to add another staff member.

The division will serve as the organization's liaison to the various agricultural commodity groups and will work closely with KFB's Advisory Committees that review policies and programs affecting the respective farm commodities. The division also will handle marketing and promotional activities. Other key functions include the KFB Beef Expo and annual tours for Kentucky cattle producers and farm market operators.

KFB Executive Vice President David S. Beck said the Commodity Division "will continue the work we've done but also will expand our reach to better serve the needs of our agriculture industry."



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Cap and Trade Bill Under Fire from AFBF

Speaking at a news conference organized by two Senators, a Texas farmer said cap-and-trade climate change legislation could hike the cost of fuel used for farming to the point that it will have a devastating economic impact on his and similar family-owned businesses.

Texas farmer and cattle producer Richard Cortese said increased fuel prices, on top of other energy-related costs, would deal a sharp blow to farmers and ranchers. Cortese, who farms near Little River, Texas, is a member of the Texas Farm Bureau Board of Directors.

The event, hosted by Senators Kit Bond (R-Mo.) and Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-Texas), highlighted a new report the senators released showing that cap-and-

trade legislation will result in a considerable fuel tax increase on Americans. The report is the first such effort to quantify climate change legislation's effect on fuel costs.

According to the report, under House climate change legislation, America's farmers and ranchers would be hit with \$550 million in higher fuel costs in 2020 and \$1.65 billion in 2050.

"Agriculture is an energy-intensive business," Cortese told reporters. "I use diesel fuel for tillage, planting, harvesting and spraying. And I use gasoline for service vehicles for checking livestock, utility vehicles and small engines. Having a reliable and affordable supply of gasoline and diesel fuel is very important for my operation to continue to make a living for

me and my family."

Cortese explained that the new statistics on fuel costs under cap-and-trade legislation included in the senators' report, raise enormous concerns for America's farmers and ranchers.

"The type of gasoline and diesel fuel cost increases described in this report will make it very difficult for me to continue on the farm," Cortese said. "As a small businessman, I cannot pass along my increased fuel costs to my customers without running the risk of losing them. That means I would have to absorb any increased costs and have it consume my bottom line."

Kentucky Senators Mitch McConnell and Jim Bunning have voiced opposition to the House bill.



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Fayette holds family-friendly annual meeting

A Friday night fish fry with music and a children's play area made the annual meeting of Fayette County FB a family affair.

"We have been looking at ways to draw more people," explained Fayette County FB President John Mahan. "We want to encourage more young families to become involved with Farm Bureau activities."

Years ago the annual meeting attracted as many as 200. This year's festival at the county's ag exposition center boosted attendance slightly from recent years.

A head count at the play area totaled around 35 kids who were enjoying climbing, bouncing and sliding on the inflatables.

KFB Directors Eddie Melton, Scott Travis and Randy Chrisman were among the guests. Melton, who is Second Vice President, made the four-hour drive from his farm in McLean County and returned home that night so he could harvest soybeans the following morning.

In brief remarks, Melton advised the group to actively oppose the "climate change" legislation that has



TOP: MANER FERGUSON (LEFT), WHO IS CHAIRMAN OF THE POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, GAVE A REPORT TO THE FAYETTE COUNTY FB DIRECTORS DURING THE BUSINESS MEETING AT THE SPACIOUS AG EXPO BUILDING.

ABOVE: THREE INFLATABLES WERE SET UP AT THE AG EXPO CENTER TO KEEP CHILDREN ENTERTAINED WHILE THE PARENTS ENJOYED THE FELLOWSHIP OF A FARM BUREAU MEETING.

passed the U.S. House because it would drive up production costs for farmers. "This is a dangerous piece of legislation for agriculture," Melton warned.

Travis (Spencer County) and Chrisman (Anderson County) also spoke following the business meeting.

The evening's only hitch was a delay of the business meeting because

many members were held up in traffic jams created by an accident on one of the main arteries leading to the Ag Expo Center at Masterson Station Park. Melton, in fact, phoned County Extension Agent Nick Carter (who serves on the Fayette board) to get directions on how to avoid the jam as he approached the area from the west.

Halfway to Hazard

PERRY COUNTY AGENCY MANAGER ORGANIZES

STAR-STUDED CHARITY CONCERT



JANET SMITH WITH DIERKS BENTLEY AT THE FESTIVAL.

Janet Smith has a great story about how little ideas can evolve into big things.

Ms. Smith, who is manager of the KFB Insurance agency on Morton Boulevard in Hazard, last year was working on a project for a regional ATV trail while serving as chairman of Perry County's Tourism Board. "One conversation led to another," she recalls, "and Perry County Tourism joined forces with the Abner family and Halfway to Hazard to have a combination trail ride and concert with the proceeds benefiting the Buckhorn Children's Center."

It helped that Ms. Smith was a fan of the country music duo of Halfway to Hazard, comprised of Chad Warrick of Jackson and David Tolliver from Hindman. H2H, as the group also is known, has toured with Tim McGraw and Faith Hill. The small group of planners tackled the project enthusiastically, and the community responded. The event turned out to be a smash hit, with about 8,000 in attendance. It raised about \$110,000 for the children's home.

"We never dreamed it would be that big," she says. "We only had food for 1,500 people. Needless to say we ran out

of food early. The event was so successful H2H decided to form a corporation and let the event stand on its own. They asked me to chair the event."

The "H2H Charity Concert and Trail Ride" quickly evolved into a landmark event.

With country music superstars Tim McGraw and Dierks Bentley joining the local heroes and other notables on stage, about 25,000 were on hand at a field near the tiny community of Crockettville. The stage was expanded to 100x40 and was made of cedar, forming an amphitheater.

UK football coach Rich Brooks and NASCAR legend Kyle Petty also were on hand. More than \$200,000 was raised.

"We had people from over 20 states, including California," said Ms. Smith. "Being chairperson was a great honor. This was great for our economy as well."

KFB had a presence as the big yellow hot air balloon was on the property. "It was a big hit," said Ms. Smith.

Plans are already in the works for the 3rd Annual Event.



COW SLAUGHTER HEAVY THIS YEAR

According to USDA's Livestock, Dairy & Poultry Outlook, commercial cow slaughter continues heavy for a second year, relative to January 1 cow inventories. In 2008, drought-motivated beef cow slaughter kept commercial cow slaughter high relative to January 1 inventories. In 2009, cost-driven dairy cow slaughter has kept commercial cow slaughter high. However, the increased dairy cow slaughter has not offset the decline in beef cow slaughter, leaving expected total commercial cow slaughter down by less than one percent for the first nine months of 2009. Beef cow slaughter could increase seasonally over the next several weeks as cow-calf producers cull their herds prior to winter supplemental feeding.

USDA reports that the general economic picture continues to weigh on beef and cattle sectors as reduced retail demand works back through wholesale and live cattle markets. Generally favorable pasture conditions are not enough to improve the price outlook for cattle and beef. USDA projects the 2009 average price for Nebraska Choice steers at \$83.32/cwt or about \$9 lower than the 2008 average. For 2010, USDA has a price range of \$87-94.

U.S. OATS HAVE A TOP YIELD

Oats production in 2009/10 is estimated at 93 million bushels, up four million from 2008/09. The estimated yield from USDA is at a record high 67.6 bushels per acre, up 3.9 bushels from 2008. Compared with last year, yields increased for most states in the western third of the country and for several Appalachian states.

Harvested area of 1.4 million acres is down slightly from last year and is the smallest on record, continuing a steady downward trend. Total supplies for 2009/10 are forecast at 272 million bushels. Ending stocks are projected at 74 million bushels, down from 84 million in 2008/09. The 2009/10 projected oats farm price range from USDA is \$1.85-\$2.15 per bushel, compared with \$3.15 per bushel in 2008/09.

RECORD WORLD SOYBEAN CROP

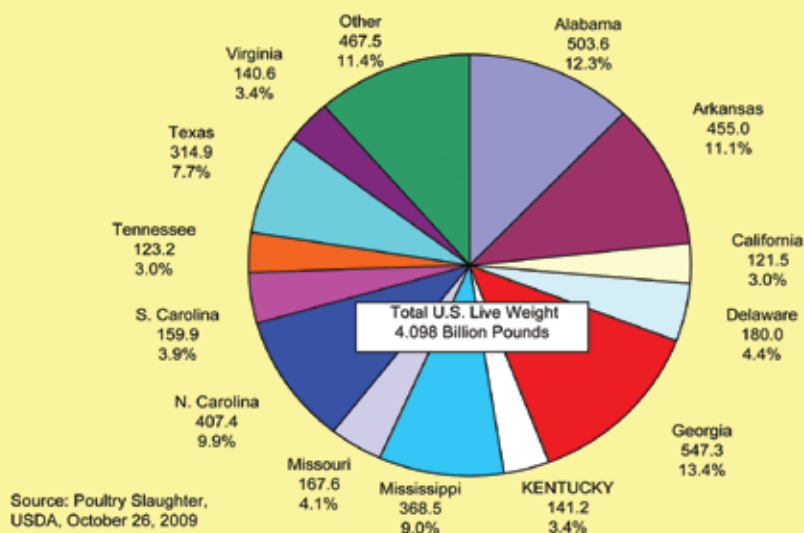
Global soybean production for 2009/10 is forecast by USDA to rise to a record 9.04 billion bushels, compared to 7.74 billion in 2008/09. The production gain is expected to exceed the increase in soybean consumption, with global soybean stocks forecast up 30 percent to 2.01 billion bushels as a result. Soybean production for Argentina in 2009/10 is projected to reach a record of 1.93 billion bushels. The output increase is based on

an anticipated expansion of soybean area to 18.55 million hectares from 18 million last year.

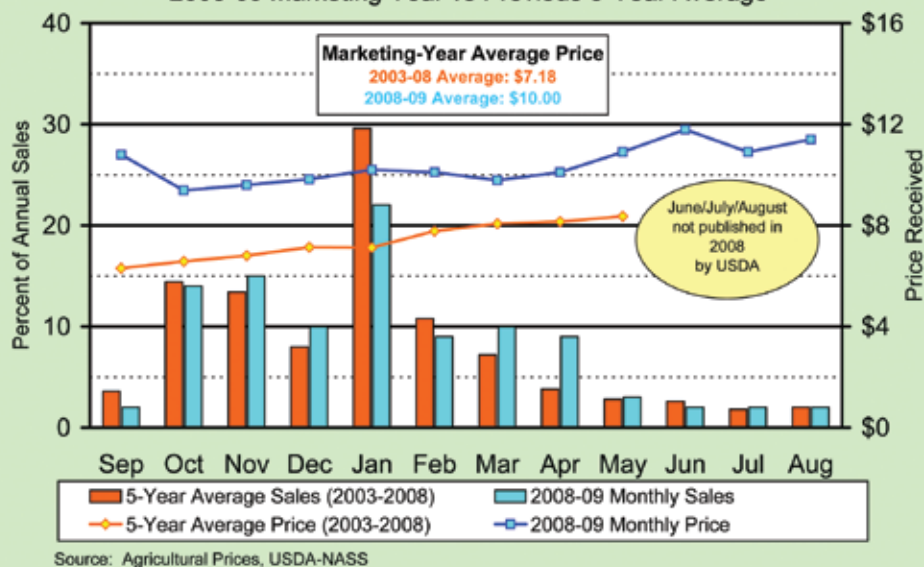
The United States will produce a record-high 3.25 billion bushels of soybeans and have 2009/10 ending stocks of 230 million bushels. USDA expects China to reduce its soybean imports by 44 million bushels, during 2009/10.

In its October WASDE report, USDA put the 2009/10 price range at \$8.00-10.00, compared to \$9.97 for 2008/09 and \$10.10 for 2007/08.

Young Chickens Processed - September 2009 (Live Weight - Million Pounds)



Kentucky Monthly Soybean Marketings 2008-09 Marketing Year vs Previous 5-Year Average



Fall brings farm market festivals!!

Autumn is to farm markets what Christmas is to department stores. Some of Kentucky's top market operators, in fact, would struggle mightily if not for the surge of customers seeking pumpkins, mums and other items that mark the season of Halloween and falling leaves.

Jackson's Orchard just north of Bowling Green long ago figured out how to cash in on this colorful time of year. Like many of its counterparts throughout Kentucky, Jackson's holds "fall festivals" through every weekend in October and enjoys a tremendous response. Thousands of area residents flock to the picturesque grounds atop a hill overlooking a valley of the Barren River. There's something for everyone; particularly kids, who can enjoy a giant slide, inflatables, face painting, hay rides, apple picking, slushies, popcorn, candy and hot dogs, fresh from a New York-style cart.

Hundreds of pumpkins, priced at a modest \$6 each, dot the grounds along with mums, gourds and other seasonal plants. The smell of fresh baked apple pie wafts through the crowded market center. Apple cider and apple slushies are available at an adjacent outbuilding.

"This is a nice way to spend a Sunday afternoon with the family," said Julie Henson of Bowling Green as she was tagging behind her two young boys who were sprinting toward the slide. "It's beautiful up here; we like to pick apples."

"We like the cider and the mums are always nice," said Ellen Shea, also of Bowling Green.

Operated by Bill Jackson and family, Jackson's Orchard and Greenhouse is one of KFB's Certified Roadside Farm Markets. It has been in operation for over 40 years, specializing in apples and peaches from its sprawling orchard atop the hill.



PUMPKINS WERE
PLENTIFUL THROUGHOUT
THE STATE THIS YEAR.



CUSTOMERS HEAD
TO THE ORCHARD
TO PICK APPLES.



THE PLAY AREA WAS PACKED AT JACKSON'S
ORCHARD FOR THE FALL FESTIVAL.

FARM FILE



JOHN MCCAULEY IS NEW FSA DIRECTOR

The Obama Administration announced that John McCauley will serve as Kentucky State Executive Director for the Farm Service Agency. McCauley was the managing member of JWM Consulting Service for seven years and brings two decades of public service to the position. He served as Director of the Division of Pesticide Regulation in the Kentucky Department of Agriculture in the 1990s and has also worked in the Kentucky Labor Cabinet and Kentucky General Assembly.

UNION COUNTY BROADCASTER WINS AWARD

John Robinson, general manager of WMSK AM & FM radio stations in Morganfield, Kentucky, has been named recipient of KFB's 2009 communications award for a broadcaster. He was recognized at the annual conference of the Kentucky Broadcasters Association.

The award which consists of a plaque and \$300 has been presented annually since 1960. Media outlets, county Farm Bureaus, and other agriculture related agencies nominate candidates whose broadcast work creates better understanding of Kentucky's agriculture industry.

Robinson was recognized for his coverage of agriculture in local news, for regular presentation of daily farm feature programming and for his community service which include live remotes at local agri-businesses to featuring live interviews at the station with guests ranging from 4-H and FFA leaders to members of the local fair board.

Union County FB nominated Robinson, citing his contributions to better educate the general public about the importance of agriculture. The local farm group collected multiple letters of support for Robinson's nomination.

SHEEP AND GOAT CHECKOFFS APPROVED

Kentucky sheep and goat producers voted in favor of checkoffs to assess themselves at a rate of one-half of one percent (.50%) of the net market price of their animals. In separate referenda held October 1 in Extension offices throughout the state, goat producers approved checkoffs by a 75-41 vote, and sheep producers approved by a 32-12 count. A date when checkoff funds will begin to be collected has not been determined. Ray Bowman, executive director of the Kentucky Sheep and Goat Development

Office, said the start date will be set after consulting with stockyards.

The collection of checkoff funds will be mandatory, but reimbursement of funds paid will be an option to the producer. The Kentucky Sheep and Wool Producers Association and the Kentucky Goat Producers Association will administer the funds in the areas of promotion, consumer information, producer communication, industry information and research.

USDA OFFERS POULTRY, BIRD PHOTO CONTEST

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is inviting amateur and professional photographers to enter their best poultry or pet bird photos in the "Biosecurity For Birds" calendar photo contest. APHIS is interested in photos of all kinds of poultry, gamebirds, wild birds, shorebirds, and pet birds shown in a clean environment and without people in the pictures.

The winning poultry or bird photo

(or photos) will be featured in the 2011 Biosecurity For Birds calendar. Photos will be featured on the Biosecurity For Birds website, and some may be featured as screen savers on the site.

Those interested in participating can go to <http://healthybirds.aphis.usda.gov> for more information and the online entry form. The deadline for submissions is January 31, 2010.

KENTUCKY'S AIR QUALITY IS IMPROVING

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued final area designations for the 24-hour national air quality standards for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). All counties in Kentucky have been designated as attainment/unclassifiable.

"This is continuing proof that Kentucky's air quality is improving even in the face of ever lowering standards," said John Lyons, director of the Energy and Environment Cabinet's Division of Air Quality. Laura Knoth, KFB's

Director of Public Affairs and a specialist in environmental policy, described this development as "a very positive story for Kentucky."

The air monitoring data from 2005 to 2007 showed nine counties in Kentucky were violating the standard based on a three-year average. Upon consideration of 2008 data, those counties now meet the standard for the three-year period of 2006-2008 and will be designated as attainment/unclassifiable.

KDA WINS GRANT FOR SPECIALTY CROPS

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture was awarded a \$237,590 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops. The grant will fund five projects that include hiring a marketing specialist to focus on the promotion and development of specialty crops for sale through Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) producers

and farmers' markets; four research projects to control pests on organic specialty crops; partnering with an educational institution to create or modify recipes for specialty crops and educating at least 200 socially-disadvantaged, small or beginning farmers on growing specialty crops.

Application period begins for vet incentive program

An incentive program aimed at alleviating a shortage of large animal veterinarians and technicians in Kentucky is now accepting applications

Kentucky Farm Bureau's Education Foundation is seeking participants in the Kentucky Large/Food Animal Veterinary Incentive Program which may repay up to \$6,000 annually of student loans for eligible vets, vet technicians or technologists. Recipients must be in the first or second year of practice in Kentucky and working in a practice that devotes at least half of its time to large/food animals.

Applicants must have either a degree in veterinary medicine from an accredited college or university or have completed an accredited two-year veterinary technician or four-year technologist program. Applications can be obtained at kyfb.com and must be

returned postmarked by December 1 to Scholarship Coordinator, KFB Education Foundation, 9201 Bunsen Parkway, PO Box 20700, Louisville, KY 40250-0700.

The 2010 recipients will be announced on January 30.

Kentucky Farm Bureau is administering the program on behalf of the Kentucky Cattlemen's Foundation, which launched the initiative after receiving a \$100,000 donation for the purpose of encouraging large animal practice in the state. The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board later approved a \$1 million investment for the program. Under guidelines approved by the Ag Development Board, the loan forgiveness program will operate for 11 years on the interest earned off the \$1 million, which eventually will be returned. Meanwhile, the Kentucky Cattlemen's Foundation and

other farm groups will seek matching funds for the future operation of the program.

KFB President Mark Haney, who is chairman of a committee overseeing the program, described the initiative as "a viable first step in resolving a serious problem facing our animal agriculture industry."

There's a nationwide shortage of large animal vets as more and more vet school graduates have opted for the more lucrative small animal practices in urban areas. Several areas of Kentucky do not have a local veterinarian to attend to cattle, horses or other farm animals.

Kentucky's General Assembly has addressed the situation by boosting funding for a program to help send students to veterinary schools.

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