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Cover Photo: An autumn scene on the Kentucky River.

Photo by Jim Lane

www.thephotolane.com

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Kentucky
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As harvest season winds down, KFB's public policy process is in the growth stage.

This is the time of year when we prepare to consider and then, ultimately, establish policy positions to guide us in the year ahead. Our goals, of course, are to improve the economic condition of farm families, as well as the overall quality of life in rural Kentucky.

Policies express our fundamental beliefs on a wide variety of issues that impact communities and farm families. They are the result of a lengthy process in which our members have opportunities on the local and state levels to express their opinions and ideas.

Over the years, our approach has consistently resulted in sound, accurate policies that have served us well.

In a sense, adoption of a Farm Bureau policy is as deliberate a process as moving a bill through Congress or the state legislature. Oftentimes it begins with a casual conversation at a county Farm Bureau meeting. The next step is with the county's resolutions committee. And then it's on to the voting members at the county's annual meeting.

All of the county recommendations are forwarded to the State Resolutions Committee for review. Our group goes over hundreds of proposed resolutions, deciding what should go before the delegates at our annual meeting in December. But that doesn't close the process - other proposals can be brought to the floor at the business sessions.

The process also involves various advisory committees for farm commodities and other special topics (farm labor, natural resources, etc.). These groups can offer recommendations to the resolutions committee.

Our process is admired by many because it is fair and inclusive. After we establish policy, then comes the crucial phase of working through our state and federal lawmakers to put the policies in place.



MARK HANEY

PRESIDENT

KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

ANNUAL MEETING IS DECEMBER 1-4

KFB's 91st annual meeting is set for December 1-4 at the Galt House Hotels in Louisville. Priorities include electing leaders, recognizing achievements, setting policy goals for the 2011 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 2. Among the topics are forages, beef cattle, tobacco, horticulture, feed

grains, natural resources, dairy and farm labor. A special conference to conclude the agenda that afternoon will focus on livestock issues, with special emphasis on dead animal removal options and the new Livestock Care Standards Commission. That's day's Commodity Luncheon will include an address from Ed Maixner, Editor of The Kiplinger Agriculture Letter.

Women's leadership activities are showcased at a December 3 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 3, 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 3rd, 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.

Sixth District Congressman Ben Chandler will be the keynote speaker at a December 4 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.



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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.

| | | |
|-----------------|------------|--|
| <u>DISTRICT</u> | 1: | Randall Heath, 1600 State Rt. 483, Hickory |
| <u>DISTRICT</u> | 2: | Kelly Thurman 643 Barrett Hill Road, Livermore |
| <u>DISTRICT</u> | 3: | Pat Henderson, 2261 Hwy. 2202, Irvington Fritz Giesecke, 3948 S. Jackson Hwy., Horse Cave |
| <u>DISTRICT</u> | 4: | Russell Poore, 158 Keeton Road, Russellville |
| <u>DISTRICT</u> | 5: | Randy Chrisman, 1168 Buckley Lane, Lawrenceburg |
| <u>DISTRICT</u> | 6: | Terry Rowlett, 8222 Carrollton Road, Campbellsburg |
| <u>DISTRICT</u> | 7: | Kim McCoy, 161 Kim McCoy Road, Burkesville Danny Wilkinson, 191 Johnson Cemetery Road, Columbia |
| <u>DISTRICT</u> | 10: | Carroll Amyx, 1710 Sandfield Road, Campton |



The Environmental Protection Agency serves a vital mission in ensuring the safety of the air we breathe and the water we drink. Regulations from EPA in the right dosage help protect our nation's precious natural resources. However, there is growing concern across the countryside that EPA is going too far. Many fear that EPA, in its zeal, will further cripple an already fragile economy. A heavier dose of EPA regulations could well poison America's prosperity. And when prosperity suffers, so does the ability to protect natural resources.



EPA's reach has expanded significantly during the current administration. The agency's budget is more than \$10 billion – the highest it's ever been – and EPA employs more than 17,000 people nationwide. America's farmers and ranchers fear EPA's complex maze of rules and regulations will drive up their costs and make it more difficult to compete in a global marketplace.

EPA has introduced massive new air and water regulations that will do little to help the environment but will create a paperwork nightmare for farmers and ranchers. Nebraska Farm Bureau President Keith Olsen expressed the frustration felt by many when he lamented that EPA officials fail to recognize that farmers and ranchers are America's original environmentalists because their livelihoods depend on high-quality air, water and soil.

"The list of new regulations and requirements is long and extensive. While we understand the desire and charge of EPA to protect the environment, this collection of EPA actions represents an agency that is, quite frankly, out of control," Olsen said.

EPA's new Clean Water Act requirements for pesticide applications are just one onerous regulation that will hit American agriculture hard. And, EPA's decision to regulate greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act is likely to have serious consequences throughout the economy, according to the Office of Management and Budget. Proposed EPA revisions to coarse particulate or dust standards may trigger restrictions on everything from gravel roads to farm field activities.

A congressional solution is required to reign in EPA. Farm Bureau supports a number of bills to temper EPA that need to be passed, if possible, during the lame-duck session of Congress, but a priority of the next Congress must be to loosen the iron grip of EPA on our economy and entrepreneurial spirit.

JOHN HART

DIRECTOR OF NEWS SERVICES

AFBF

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.

KFB OFFICERS

| | |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| Mark Haney | President |
| Eddie Melton | 2nd Vice President |
| David S. Beck | Executive Vice President |

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| | |
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| Randall Heath | Hickory |
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| Steve Bolinger | Pembroke |
| J. Fritz Giesecke | Horse Cave |
| Larry Thomas | Elizabethtown |
| Patrick Henderson | Irvington |
| Russell Poore | Russellville |
| Jay Coleman | Cave City |
| Scott Travis | Cox's Creek |
| Randy Chrisman | Lawrenceburg |
| Joe Paul Mattingly | Raywick |
| David Chappell | Owenton |
| Terry Rowlett | Campbellsburg |
| Mark Haney | Nancy |
| Danny Wilkinson | Columbia |
| Kim McCoy | Burkesville |
| Terry Gilbert | Danville |
| David L. Campbell | Stanford |
| Alex Barnett | Cynthiana |
| David McGlone | Grayson |
| Carroll Amyx | Campton |
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| Frieda Heath | Hickory |
| Chris Ragan | Bowling Green |
| Mickey Sirls | Benton |
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| Kevin Lyons | Tompkinsville |

KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU NEWS

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Membership reaches 500,000 level!!

KFB has reached a membership milestone of 500,000, attaining that mark just prior to the end of the membership year. Only two other states – Tennessee and North Carolina – have more Farm Bureau members than Kentucky.

2010 membership easily surpassed the quota of 483,353 and represents a 17,000-member increase from 2009. This marks the 49th consecutive year of mem-

**“Throughout our state,
Kentucky Farm Bureau is
well established and highly
regarded. That’s something
we all can be proud of.”**

bership growth.

KFB President Mark Haney described the achievement as “a clear indication that we are on the right track as an effective service organization.”

The Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation was formed in 1919 as a member service organization. Late in 1943, the decision was made to offer insurance services to members. Throughout the years, the organization has steadily grown as word spread about the high level of service provided to members.

KFB surpassed the 100,000 level in 1970 and celebrated 400,000 members in 1998.

KFB not only has a reputation for protecting the interest of farm families and rural communities, but also is proud to have a highly-successful insurance company that is the top property and casualty insurer in the state.

“We have much to offer our members,” Haney said, “and clearly are benefitting from an exemplary record of service, as well as a good reputation. A lot of business comes from referrals. If you treat people right, they’re going to tell others about it.”

He continued: “Throughout our state, Kentucky Farm Bureau is well established and highly regarded. That’s something we all can be proud of.”



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AG COMMITTEE VISITS HANEY'S APPLEDALE FARM



KFB President Mark Haney and his family recently played host to the state legislature's Interim Joint Committee on Agriculture. After their October meeting at the Mill Springs Battlefield Visitor's Center in Pulaski County, the committee ventured to the nearby Appledale Farm for lunch and a tour of the orchard and market center.

Mark and his brother, Don, have been raising apples and peaches in the Nancy community off KY 80 west of Somerset for more than 40 years. Their roadside market, featuring those fruits, fried apple pies and a variety of other products, has become very successful, attracting customers from throughout the region. It's also a popular spot for school field trips.

The committee's focus for the meeting was on ways to connect farmers with consumers through marketing and educational initiatives. Much of the discussion centered on KFB's Certified Roadside Farm Markets Program, with both Commodity Director Susan Tanner and program coordinator Kara Keeton speaking to the committee and then fielding questions.



Top: The Haney family played host to lunch under a big tent adjacent to their roadside market.

Inset: Senator David Givens (left) and Representative James Comer (right) perused the annual brochure for KFB's Certified Roadside Farm Markets program while Biff Baker of the Legislative Research Commission also listened to testimony about the program. Givens, a Green County farmer and agribusinessman, is co-chairman of the Interim Joint Committee on Agriculture. Comer is on the Board of Directors for Monroe County FB.

Haney also testified, speaking about his business and the various components involved with a successful agritourism enterprise. "We want to deliver an educational portion . . . to tell the story of agriculture," Haney explained. "We want to be accurate and truthful. We want the public to know we raise wholesome products and that we also want clean air, clean water, good roads and good schools. We want to put a face on agriculture."

Representative James Comer, a director of Monroe County FB, noted that the roadside market program has been "a great outlet" for operators,

"One problem farmers have always had is with markets," Comer said. "We can produce, but marketing has been another thing."

He added that Kentucky's agricultural development fund "has made a tremendous difference" in the growth of farm markets throughout the state.

Following the meeting the group had lunch under a big tent adjacent to Haney's market center. That was followed by a tour of the center and adjacent orchards.

Joining Mark and Don in hosting the committee were wives Marlene and Ann and their mother, Oreida.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS



The Poultry Advisory Committee met at the Alltech research farm in Jessamine County.

The series of advisory committee meetings concluded last month to set the stage for the Resolutions Committee meeting that was held November 3-5. Following are summaries:

BEEF CATTLE

State Veterinarian Dr. Robert Stout was the first speaker. He gave a brief update on the status of the new Livestock Care Standards Commission and reviewed the handling of the discovery of a Fleming County cow with TB. He then updated the situation with the animal disease traceability program which has replaced the National Animal ID program. States are now charged with the responsibility of setting up programs.

Dr. Stout noted that effective ID programs were in place for swine, poultry, sheep and goats but that there was much work to do on beef cattle. During various stages of the committee meeting there were lengthy discussions about this issue. Committee Chairman Fritz Giesecke, a KFB Director from Hart County, discussed recommendations stemming from

a national conference that he had attended. Dr. Nevil Speer, an Animal Science professor at Western Kentucky University, also addressed the issue and the national conference, at which he was a moderator.

Steve Mobley of KDA's Division of Shows and Fairs spoke about the Kentucky Proud livestock tag program. A key aim is to entice young people to buy and show the "Kentucky Proud" animals. The program offers premium payments to award winners at Kentucky events, he said.

KDA's Tim Dietrich then spoke about the CPH program. He said around 27,000 head were involved this year, down slightly from previous years.

Dr. Bob Harmon reviewed some of the cattle-related programs at UK, where he chairs the Animal Sciences Department. He touched on research and extension projects, including the Master Cattleman Program and the Kentucky Beef Network.

Becky Bennett of the Kentucky Cattlemen's Association was the next speaker. She voiced KCA's concerns about

the dead animal removal problem in the state now that Griffin Industries has ceased to take cattle. This prompted a lengthy discussion about that issue, with Giesecke injecting that KFB was studying potential solutions.

KFB Commodities Director Susie Tanner gave a report on the Veterinary Loan Forgiveness Program.

In the policy discussion nothing new was suggested as the committee approved a couple of minor language recommendations.

POULTRY

This committee assembled at the Alltech Research Farm in Jessamine County, touring the company's research facilities for aquaculture, equine and beef cattle before conducting the meeting. Afterward members toured Alltech's elaborate headquarters and 60,000-square-foot Nutrigenomics Center.

Dr. James Pierce hosted the tours and began the meeting with a presentation about the company. UK Poultry Production Specialist Dr. Tony Pescatore

then reported on joint nutrition research projects with Alltech plus the various research facilities at UK. The partnership with Alltech has helped UK develop “some of the finest research facilities in the country,” Dr. Pescatore said.

Dr. Pescatore gave a report for the Kentucky Poultry Federation on behalf of Executive Director Melissa Miller, who couldn't attend because she was busy attending to the group's annual convention which was beginning in two days. A record number of Kentucky producers have applied for federal grants for energy-conservation projects, according to Dr. Pescatore, who also noted that audits have revealed that growers are spending more on energy costs than ever before. “We are wasting too much energy,” he said.

The Kentucky Poultry Federation will be holding grower seminars on December 1 in Murray, December 2 in Madisonville and December 3 in Somerset. Each is a ½-day program.

Sue Blair of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture provided an overview of grants programs and her work regulating small flocks.

Turning to policy, the committee recommends language supporting the work of the Kentucky Livestock Care Standards Commission, cost-share funding for energy research plus research “that will help stabilize nitrogen and other elements in poultry litter and its environmentally safe and efficient land application.”

KFB Director Jay Coleman of Barren County is chairman of the Poultry Advisory Committee.

TAX

The meeting began with Pat Wolff, AFBF's Director of Public Policy, providing a conference call update on the status of federal tax issues under debate in Congress. Richard Dobson, Executive Director of the Office of Sales and Excise Taxes for the State Department of Revenue, then spoke on Kentucky's estate tax and the sales and use tax law. He reviewed sales and use tax regulations for agriculture.

Gayle Fields of the State Office of Income Taxation reviewed changes to the new home tax credit and the energy efficiency products tax credit.

Turning to state policy, the committee adopted several cosmetic changes to policy statements plus recommends language calling for the permanent repeal of

Kentucky's estate tax. The group also suggests a change in income tax policy that would remove a 30-day requirement for reinvesting dividend income. On national policy the committee recommends policy for balanced federal budgets beginning in 2019, tougher restrictions on supplemental security income, term limits for federal elected officials and repeal of Form 1099 requirements that would require payments to incorporated vendors.

KFB Director Charlie Bengé of Laurel County is chairman of the Tax Committee.

EDUCATION

This committee, chaired by KFB Director Terry Gilbert of Boyle County, met at Morehead State University and toured the university's Space Science Center. Ag Science Department Chairman Dr. Mike Phillips gave an overview of the department before the meeting was convened.

KFB President Mark Haney addressed the committee and then Mrs. Gilbert spoke about AFBF's Foundation for Agriculture. KFB staffer Scott Christmas gave a presentation on ag education programs.

The committee requested that KFB explore the possibility of forming an “Ag Outside the Box” committee to address ag literacy issues for young students.

EMERGING AG ENTERPRISES

KFB Director Joe Paul Mattingly of Marion County is chairman of this committee. The first speaker was GOAP Executive Director Roger Thomas, who provided updates on several projects, including Kentucky agriculture's role with the World Equestrian Games. He described WEG as “a signature event for Kentucky and Kentucky agriculture.” Thomas also spoke about a grants program to encourage energy efficiency projects and the County Ag Investment Program.

Mac Stone of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's Marketing Division spoke about various initiatives, including the Kentucky Proud program, commodity beef program, dairy value-added training program, roadside markets, agritourism, aquaculture, viticulture and organic certification. He also noted the growth in Community Supported Agriculture ventures.

Executive Director Larry Snell gave an

update on the Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development. He reported that about 70 percent of the businesses KCARD started with eight years were still in operation. KCARD, which is partly supported by the Ag Development Fund, advises agribusinesses on planning, management, marketing and other business principles.

Dr. Ken Andries of Kentucky State University's Agriculture Department spoke about KSU's mobile processing unit for meat, poultry and aquaculture.

Dr. Mike Phillips then gave a report on programs at Morehead State University's Department of Agriculture. He said that only MSU's nursing program has enjoyed greater growth in enrollment than the Ag School. He spoke at length about the veterinary technician program. He also noted growth in the equine science program.

Dr. Lee Meyer provided a report from the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture. He addressed the Food Sciences Innovation Center and “Kentucky Farm Start” which offers training to beginning farmers. It's a two-year, 12-session program for those with less than 10 years experience in farming. About 150 are enrolled this year from 26 counties, Dr. Meyer said.

Elaine Wilson of the Kentucky Department of Tourism spoke about “adventure tourism” and agritourism. The department is encouraging land use agreements with farmers for “adventure” activities such as hiking, biking and horse riding, she said.

In the policy discussion, the committee recommended a number of statements, including that restaurants be required to post the country or origin on aquaculture products and that food safety standards be developed for small-scale meat, poultry and aquaculture processors. The group also proposes policy supporting research to help small processors reduce their costs, as well as support for the Department of Tourism's efforts to promote agritourism.

FORESTRY

Steve Kull of the Kentucky Department of Forestry was the first speaker. He stated that the division just completed a Statewide Assessment of Forest Resources and Strategy, which was required by USDA. The document addresses five primary issues: forest

health, water quality and quantity, forest loss and fragmentation, forest management, and funding. Kull then discussed the first-time presence of Thousand Cankers Disease in the eastern United States.

Efforts to find and contain Emerald Ash Borers are still ongoing, Kull said. The committee also discussed the sometimes conflicting interests of forestry and coal mining, efforts to reintroduce the American Chestnut tree, forest certification, Division of Forestry nurseries, fire prevention, and the geographically disproportionate distribution of state foresters.

Kull also reported the Division of Forestry has lost 18 percent of its work force since 2007 due to budget cuts.

Betty Williamson gave a report for the Kentucky Woodland Owners Association, stating one of their primary goals is to get owners to know their land and actively manage it. Some of their recent activities include efforts to get the Forest Health Task Force re-established on a permanent basis, and to increase enforcement of the bad actor laws. She said the ultimate solution to timber theft and arson is the formation of a dedicated law enforcement unit, but startup costs for such a unit

would be approximately \$2 million.

Billy Thomas, UK Extension Forester, presented a video program containing introductory remarks from the Department of Forestry's new chair, Dr. Terrell "Red" Baker. Dr. Baker reviewed some of his goals for the department and then summarized the department's current projects.

Turning to policy issues, the committee recommends a language change that maintains stating support for increasing the number of state foresters, but adds: "with an emphasis on the Appalachian Region of Eastern Kentucky."

KFB Director Bige Hensley of Clay County is chairman of the Forestry Committee.

SHEEP & GOAT

Warren Beeler of KDA was the first speaker, giving a summary of industry developments in the state. He noted the closing of a stockyard in Bullitt County and a new processing facility in Garrard County.

Assistant State Veterinarian Dr. Sue Billings reviewed the formation of the Livestock Care Standards Commission and also addressed the problem of dead

animal removal.

UK specialist Dr. Terry Hutchens reported on various projects relative to marketing, co-grazing, breeding and cheese making.

Dr. Ken Andries gave a report for Kentucky State University's goat herd improvement program and pasture research. Kathy Meyer, president of the Sheep & Wool Producers Association, touched on several topics, including the first annual Sheep and Fiber Festival which proved to be successful, and publication of a newsletter for members.

In regard to policy, the committee approved language expressing support for the Livestock Care Standards Commission and the work of UK's Food Systems Innovation Center. Under "marketing," language was recommended stating that "livestock producers have access to competitive markets for price discovery that accurately determines the value of their products."

KFB Director Carroll Amyx of Wolfe County is chairman of the sheep and goat committee.

SAFETY & RURAL HEALTH

Chaired by KFB Director Randy Chrisman of Anderson County, this committee met at the Shelby County FB office so it could later observe a farm safety week program sponsored by KFB and other groups at Shelby County High School.

KFB Public Relations Director Dan Smaldone reported on the organization's safety program. Various committee members responded to his request for information on local activities. Several mentioned CPR classes, which prompted the committee to make a staff recommendation to explore the possibility of CPR training during KFB's annual meeting.

Ken Blum then gave a report on Kentucky Life Line Screening. KDA Safety Specialist Dale Dobson spoke about department programs and activities.

The committee recommends that KFB continue to work with Anthem on providing tetanus shots at KFB's annual meeting.

In the policy review, the committee suggests language supporting efforts of medical schools to train additional nurse practitioners and physical assistants. Another recommendation calls for USDA and FDA to report all food and drug recalls to the public. Under national policy, the committee recommends support for the SNAP and WIC programs to encourage the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables plus health meat.

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EDDIE MELTON RECEIVES MURRAY'S AG ALUMNI AWARD

KFB Second Vice President Eddie Melton received the 2010 Outstanding Ag Alumni Award from Murray State University. The Webster County row crop and cattle producer graduated from MSU in 1980 with a degree in Agriculture. He has been on KFB's Board of Directors for 12 years.

"It's quite an honor; I was very surprised," said Melton, who was presented with the award at a luncheon during MSU's homecoming celebration.

Melton raises corn, soybeans and beef cattle. He has been involved with Farm Bureau for many years, serving as a county president and young farmer committee chairman before being elected to the state board. He also holds leadership position with the Kentucky Corn Growers Association and Southern States Cooperative.

He's the second member of KFB's Executive Committee to receive the prestigious recognition from Murray State University. Executive Vice President David S. Beck previously was honored.



Murray State University Agriculture Department Director Tony Brannon presented the award to KFB Second Vice President Eddie Melton.

KFB OFFERS REWARDS FOR CRIME SOLVING



KFB OFFERS A PROGRAM TO DETER VANDALS from damaging or stealing the property of its members. Members can obtain "Reward" signs to post on their property, serving as a warning to those who would commit theft, arson or vandalism. The sign notes that KFB will pay a reward of \$5000 to any person, other than a law enforcement officer, who provides information which leads to the arrest and conviction of any person or persons responsible for the loss or damage to a member's property caused by the acts of theft, arson, vandalism, or insurance fraud.

To claim the reward, contact the County Farm Bureau office for an affidavit. After assisting with the completion of the affidavit and receiving the required court documents (Offense Verification Report and Judgment of Conviction and Sentence), the County Farm Bureau office will sign the affidavit affirming that a reward sign was posted and approving the payment of \$5000.

Kentucky's poultry industry flying high



By Walt Reichert

NOW THE LEADER IN CASH RECEIPTS

When Melvin and Lavada Samples got into the chicken farming business in December 1990, they were pioneers in what became a burgeoning industry. They had spent most of their life on a tobacco and dairy farm in Carlisle County, but signed on with Seaboard Farms (now Pilgrim's Pride) when the company recruited growers to supply a processing plant in Graves County. They built two houses and raised 28,000 to 31,000 broilers in each, seven or eight times a year.

"It's been good for us, it really has," Melvin said.

While the Samples were early entrants into the state's poultry industry, they are now among the approximately 750 poultry farmers in the state, according to Kentucky Poultry Federation numbers. Those farmers own 2,800 chicken houses

in 42 counties, most in western and southern Kentucky.

Last year, poultry became the state's leader in cash receipts, soaring over the equine industry. According to government statistics, all poultry, including broilers, was worth \$911 million in receipts. That's 21 percent of the state's total farm receipts. Horses fell to second at \$780 million, followed by soybeans at \$527 million; corn at \$524 million; cattle and calves at \$484 million and tobacco at \$328 million.

The largest segment of Kentucky's poultry industry is broiler production. The state produced 1.6 billion pounds of broilers in 2009, a nearly 300 percent increase since the industry moved into the state in the late 1980s.

Kentucky also produces its share of eggs. CAL-Maine, the nation's largest egg pro-

Tyson operates a hatchery in McLean County to supply its growers with chicks.



KENTUCKY'S POULTRY INDUSTRY

The following numbers were provided by the Kentucky Poultry Federation, based in Winchester. The Federation, founded in 1957, has 300 members. It provides grower education and lobbies on behalf of the state's poultry industry in Frankfort.

- Poultry was the number one agriculture commodity in the state in 2009, producing \$911 million in cash receipts.
- Kentucky ranks 8th nationally in broiler production
- The state's poultry industry includes 750 poultry farms with 2,800 houses spread over 42 counties.
- The state's poultry industry employs about 7,000 workers who earn about \$134 million in wages and salaries.
- Over 50 percent of poultry farms were tobacco farms.
- The average poultry farm consists of fewer than five houses.
- The state's poultry industry uses 29 percent of Kentucky's corn crop and 32 percent of state soybean production.

ducer, has two operations in the state – in Muhlenberg and Logan counties. The farms, which include chicken houses and feed mills, had 4.5 million chickens that produced 1.1 billion eggs in 2007, according to Census of Agriculture numbers.

Kentucky is home to the world's largest broiler breeder operation – Cobb Vantress in Monticello. The company produces a large percentage of the nation's and the world's parent stock for broiler hatcheries -- in other words, the chickens that produce the chickens that make the chicken dinners.

So over the past two decades, the state has moved from a nearly-negligible poultry producer to a major player.

Catching chickens

Presiding over this remarkable development from the start has been UK Poultry Extension Specialist Dr. Tony Pescatore, with more than two decades in that position.

"If it has a feather on it, we're involved," he said.

Pescatore said the state became a target of poultry processing companies in the late 1980s and early 1990s for several reasons.

One is that the traditional broiler belt – Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas and North Carolina – was getting saturated, he said. Processing companies eyed the creation of a new broiler belt that included parts of Texas, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Missouri and Kentucky.

Pescatore said Kentucky had several advantages in attracting poultry processors to the state.

"You had a large number of small farms, which they like," he said. "You also have a large amount of grain grown here and plenty of water."

It didn't hurt, too, he said, that beginning in the late 1990s and early 2000s, many of the state's farmers started to look for ways to diversify from tobacco production. According to the Kentucky Poultry Federation, about half of the farmers who ended up with chicken operations are/were tobacco farmers.

Seaboard Farms was the first processor to move into the state in the late 1980s. In the early years, the company was processing about 860,000 birds per week supplied by growers like Samples. Now the company, called Pilgrim's Pride and owned by the Brazilian firm JBS, has 531 broiler houses on 167 farms, 80 breeder houses on 42 farms and 40 pullet houses



UK Extension Poultry Production Specialist Tony Pescatore (seated) has been instrumental in the industry's growth in Kentucky. Here, he works on a presentation at the recent meeting of KFB's Poultry Advisory Committee. Assisting him is Dr. James Pierce of Alltech, which hosted the meeting at its research farm in Jessamine County and works with Dr. Pescatore on research projects.

on 23 farms, according to Gary Rhodes, spokesman for Pilgrim's Pride. In all, the company has 1,400 employees, including those who process about two million birds per week at its processing plant in Mayfield.

Pescatore said the success of Seaboard in the early 1990s captured the attention of then-Cagle-Keystone Company, which set up a feed mill and hatchery in Simpson County and a processing plant in Clinton County. The company is now known as Equity.

Also in the early 1990s, Avian Farms was looking to move its broiler breeder operation to Kentucky. Avian Farms produces the parent stock for broiler operations and is now known as Cobb Vantress and has its breeding farms on four counties in south central Kentucky.

"We worked with them to find them a place in Kentucky," Pescatore said. "They wanted to be near the I-75 corridor, and they ended up in Wayne County."

Then in the mid-1990s, Ohio County officials made a push to attract the poultry industry and landed Perdue, which set up a processing plant in Cromwell, a live production office in Beaver Dam and a feed mill in Livermore. Lynde Hughes, live production manager for Perdue, said

the company was initially attracted to Kentucky because of the large number of small farmers in the state and the amount of grain grown here.

"It's the farthest west our company has ventured," Hughes said.

Perdue has 140 producers in eight counties who have 502 chicken houses producing about a million broilers per week for the company's processing plant in Cromwell, Hughes said.

Poultry producer Tyson also has a strong presence in the state. The company has a processing plant in Robards, in Henderson County. Growers in west central Kentucky also produce chickens for Tyson's plant in Corydon, Indiana, and growers in far western Kentucky produce for Tyson's plant in Union City, Tennessee.

In sum, the state's broiler growers produce for six processing plants, four in-state and two out-of-state, and the industry is supported by four broiler feed mills and five broiler hatcheries. The entire poultry industry in the state today employs about 7,000 workers who earn about \$134 million in wages per year, according to the Kentucky Poultry Federation.

Though company contracts vary slightly, farmers sign on with a processor for a

number of years, usually long enough to pay off the cost of the broiler houses, Pescatore said. The company pays the farmer a set per-pound price, provides the feed and the chicks. Some, but not all, companies provide the fuel for the broiler houses. The company also hires the “chicken catchers” who come take the birds off to slaughter.

Pescatore said there is no way to estimate the farmer’s profit from a broiler operation because so much depends upon management skills. The farmer not only has to pay careful attention to the details of the operation, but also has to be a good money manager, Pescatore said.

But he said the poultry business has an advantage over some enterprises farmers may consider.

“With chickens, you have the cost of the house, but you don’t have the cost of stock or feed like you will with cattle or hogs,” he said. “And with cattle, you have those upfront costs and will wait several years to get a return.”

Hughes, with Perdue, said another advantage to farmers who have company contracts, is they do not have to deal with the ups and downs of the market for chicken since they get paid an agreed-upon price.

“This industry has been rough at times, and we absorb that,” he said.

Dan Flanagan and his wife, Virginia, were attracted to the poultry industry 11 years ago.

Flanagan said he worked with the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and



Dan Flanagan of Taylor County is among those who turned to broiler houses when burley tobacco began its decline.

then-Commissioner of Agriculture Billy Ray Smith to find ways to diversify his grain, tobacco and retail/wholesale produce operation near Campbellsville. Flanagan decided that chickens offered an attractive option and would complement the grain, tobacco and produce. He ultimately built six chicken houses that hold between 22,000 and 23,000 birds at a time. He raises the birds up to a weight of five-and-a-half to six pounds before they head to slaughter, allowing him five to six batches of birds per year.

“We’ve been very pleased with it,” Flanagan said. “It has worked quite well for us.”

An abundance of fertilizer is another

advantage to raising chickens, Flanagan said. He spreads the litter from the broiler houses on his fields and has practically eliminated the need to buy fertilizer, except for an occasional shot of nitrogen. And while the state has been in the grips of a drought this past summer, Flanagan said the chicken litter helped him harvest surprisingly high yields of soybeans.

“I’m convinced that it’s the result of that organic matter in there,” Flanagan said. “I could sell all of it I want to. I have people waiting in line for it.”

Over in West Kentucky, Samples said the summer’s heat has been a challenge for his operation too.

“The biggest worry in this business is too much heat,” Samples said. “But we didn’t lose many birds this year.”

At 75, Samples said he appreciates the easy routine of the broiler operation.

“We just walk through the barns once of a morning and evening, checking for any dead chickens and making sure the water and fans are working,” he said.

Samples said the hardest part of the operation is sitting up at night getting ready for the chicken catchers. The feed has to be shut off in the evening and it takes a team of catchers four to five hours to clear a house of nearly 30,000 birds.

“I know one thing, it’s sure easier than the dairy business,” he said.

KENTUCKY’S POULTRY INDUSTRY

| Year | Broilers (millions) | Cash Receipts (millions \$) | Total Poultry & Eggs (millions \$) |
|------|------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1990 | 1.5 | 1.8 | 25.4 |
| 1995 | 64.5 | 82.5 | 142.9 |
| 2000 | 230 | 379.5 | 473.7 |
| 2005 | 297.8 | 704.2 | 813.9 |
| 2009 | 307 | 757.6 | 911.6 |



From left, GOAP Executive Director Roger Thomas and Governor Steve Beshear met with David and Janet Dennison and KFB Director Pat Henderson following the check presentation ceremony.

Edmonson County FB President plays host to governor's event

Edmonson County FB President David Dennison and his wife Janet welcomed Governor Steve Beshear and other political dignitaries for an agricultural development program ceremony at their roadside farm market.

Governor Beshear presented a ceremonial check for \$86,415 to the Edmonson County Cattleman's Association from the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund (KADF). The funding is to provide cost-share for on-farm improvements through the County Agricultural Investment Program (CAIP). Also on hand at the Dennison's Mammoth Cave Transplants, Greenhouse and Nursery

were State Representative Dottie Sims of Horse Cave, GOAP Executive Director Roger Thomas and KFB Director Pat Henderson of Breckinridge County, who serves on the Ag Development Board.

CAIP is designed to provide farmers with incentives to improve current production practices and assist in diversifying farming operations. It has 11 investment areas. Edmonson County is one of 104 counties that have offered this program to farmers.

Within the 11 investment areas a wide variety of agricultural enterprises are available, including commercial production of aquaculture; bees and honey; equine; forage; fruit; livestock; mushrooms; ornamental horticulture; poultry;

rabbits; timber; and vegetables, as well as agritourism business development; commercial kitchens; energy efficiency and production; and on-farm water enhancement. Last year, most of Edmonson County farmers receiving cost-share through this program invested in cattle handling facilities, fencing improvement, forage improvement and hay storage/handling.

More than \$334 million in Kentucky Agricultural Development Funds have been invested in an array of state, regional and county projects. Over the last decade, Edmonson County has been allotted nearly a million dollars.

AGRICULTURE SHINES



KFB sponsored the pavilion featuring Kentucky food and beverage products plus arts and crafts.



Top: The pavilion featured an eye-catching display about Kentucky agriculture.

Bottom: Former KFB Public Relations Director Angela Blank coordinated the Kentucky Proud Products Pavilion which the organization sponsored. She now works for the Governor's Office for Agricultural Policy.

An eye-catching exhibit area co-sponsored by KFB helped to give Kentucky agriculture a high profile at the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games. The Kentucky Proud Products Pavilion coordinated through the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Kentucky Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet and the Kentucky Artisan Center showcased food and beverage products along with arts and crafts.

The spacious pavilion also featured an attractive display about the history and accomplishments of Kentucky agriculture.

Angela Blank of GOAP coordinated the pavilion, describing the project as "a really good thing for everyone involved."

There was quite an audience on hand during the 16-day run of the event: Officials said total attendance exceeded 500,000 and included visitors from about 50 foreign nations plus all 50 states. To enter the pavilion visitors had to pass through a beautiful gardens area created by acclaimed designer Jon Carloftis of Louisville. One area of the pavilion was used to promote beverage products. The remaining area featured Kentucky-made food products such as jams and jellies, meats, spices, candy and sauces, along with arts and crafts.

"This is very impressive," said Mary Barnett, a visitor from Sydney, Australia. "It's interesting to see the variety of food products from your state. A lot of work must have gone into this."

AT EQUESTRIAN GAMES

NOVEMBER { KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU NEWS



Above: Visitors check out the Kentucky products on display in the spacious exhibit.

Right: "The Alltech Experience" was a popular display in the exhibit area, showcasing the company's products and projects.



“Just like the green fields of Clark County, it will continue to grow.”

So wrote Winchester Sun columnist Lisa Johns after attending this year's Clark County Ag Day sponsored by Clark County FB. More than 120 farmers, guests and political dignitaries attended.

The tour included stops at a popular 11-acre corn maze that is a venture involving KFB Director Shane Wiseman; plus the Beech Springs Market operated by the family of the late John C. Hendricks, a KFB Executive Committee member. The group also saw equipment demonstrations and a product presentation from the Kentucky Beef Council.

A list of speakers included State Senator R.J. Palmer and State Representative Don Pasley. Palmer praised the event for affording an opportunity to highlight industry developments. Pasley noted that agriculture continues to be a significant part of the county's economy.

Also supporting the event were the Clark County Extension Office, Clark County Soil Conservation District and the Clark County Cattlemen's association.

Clark County Ag Day event rolls on



Above: State Senator R.J. Palmer (left) and KFB Director Shane Wiseman listen to one of the presenters at the Clark County field day.



Left: State Representative Don Pasley, a fourth-generation farmer in Clark County, addressed the group.



Above: Gary Reivel of Walnut Knoll Farm Supply spoke about mowing equipment. At left is young farmer committee co-chairman Jeremy Jones.

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Soybean demand outlook is mixed

U.S. soybean demand in 2010/11 may not maintain last year's record pace according to USDA's October Oil Crops Outlook. While U.S. soybean exports are forecast to reach 1.52 billion bushels, which eclipses the 2009/10 record of 1.498 billion, the domestic market may not consume as much as last year. The domestic crush may decline five percent to 1.665 billion bushels due to steady domestic use and smaller exports of soybean meal. Domestic soybean meal use of 30.6 million short tons is nearly the same as 30.5 million tons in 2009/10. However, soybean meal exports may drop from 11.15 million tons in 2009/10 to 9.1 million tons this year. Because of high prices for other feeds, soybean meal in 2010/11 may average close to 2009/10's \$311.27 per short ton; USDA's forecast range is \$290-330.

Food inflation will accelerate

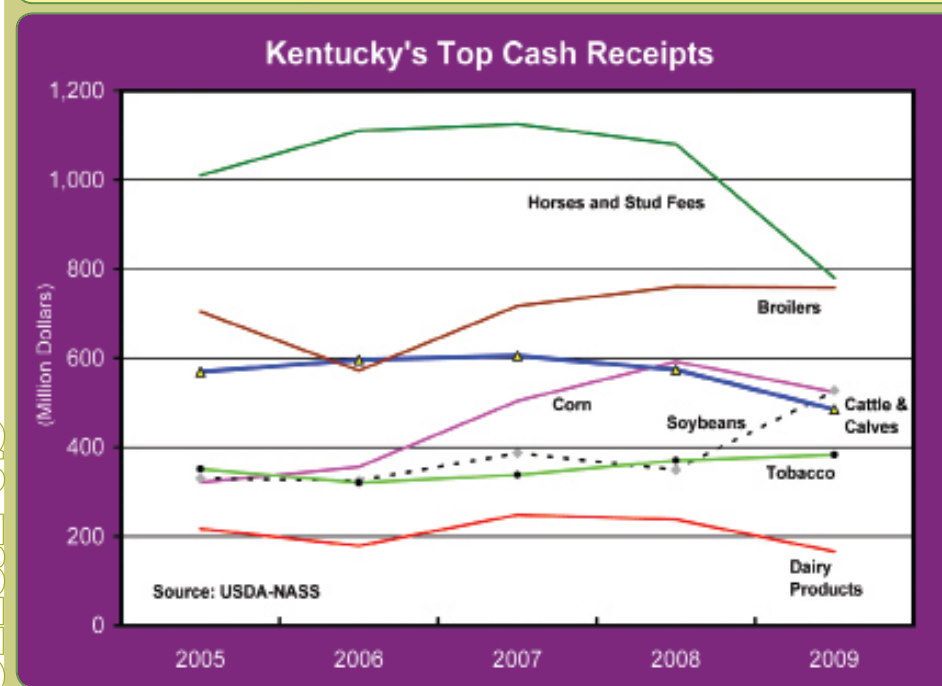
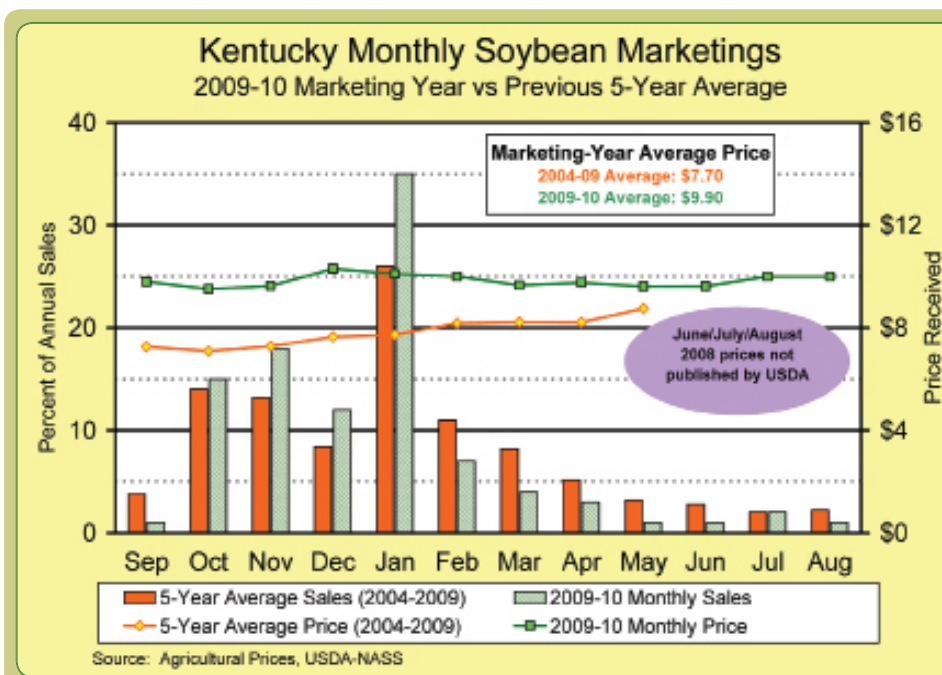
Although inflation has been relatively weak for most of 2009 and 2010, higher food commodity and energy prices are now exerting upward pressure on wholesale and retail food prices. USDA economists predict food inflation will accelerate from now through the first half of 2011, leading to a forecast of two to three percent food price inflation in 2011.

In 2010, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for all food is projected to increase 0.5 to 1.5 percent - the lowest annual food inflation rate since 1992. Food-at-home (grocery store) prices are also forecast to increase 0.5 to 1.5 percent, while food-away-from-home (restaurant) prices are forecast to increase one to two percent. The all-food CPI increased 1.8 percent in 2009.

State's hay production down 14 percent

U.S. all-hay production increased from 147.4 million tons in 2009 to 152.3 million tons this year thanks to a 3.2-percent rise in yield at 2.55 tons per acre. The total harvested area for 2010/11 decreased to 59.7 million acres from 59.8 million last year. Roughage-consuming animal units (RCAU) in 2010/11 are projected to be 69.5 million, down from 70.2 million in 2009/10. Hay supply per RCAU is 2.49 tons in 2010/11, up from 2.41 tons in 2009/10.

Kentucky all-hay production was forecast at 5.4 million tons, down 14 percent from 2009. Alfalfa hay production at 560,000 tons would be 27 percent below last year on an average yield of 2.8 tons per acre. Other hay production was forecast at 4.84 million tons, down 12 percent from last year.





State Veterinarian is honored

State Veterinarian Robert C. Stout was honored as the Kentucky Veterinarian of the Year by the Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association. Dr. Stout was named Kentucky state veterinarian in February 2004. He joined the Kentucky Department of Agriculture in July 2003 as homeland security coordinator. He served on the disaster preparedness committee with the Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association, for which he was secretary-treasurer for 12 years.

He is a graduate of the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture and the veterinary school at The Ohio State University. He has been an equine and cattle practitioner in Versailles since 1974.

The Office of the State Veterinarian enforces state and federal regulations on livestock movement; maintains animal health records, livestock dealer licenses and other records; supervises and inspects livestock dealers, cattle assembly points and livestock service providers; and performs other duties.

State FFA supervisor honored

Curt Lucas, Kentucky's State Supervisor for FFA and a KFB Director-At-Large, received the 2010 Outstanding Member Award from the National Association Supervisors of Agricultural Education (NASAE). Lucas has been in the position since 2001 and was a state advisor from 1993-2001. He also serves on the National FFA Board of Directors and the Kentucky FFA Foundation.

"Curt is truly deserving of this recognition," said KFB Executive Vice President David S. Beck, a former State FFA Officer. "He is extremely dedicated to the development of our young people. He provides effective leadership to FFA and has moved the organization forward."

Roadside Markets program is in enrollment stage

KFB is currently accepting enrollments for the 2011 Certified Roadside Farm Market program. Markets certified through this program are identified by the cornucopia logo and are listed in the Certified Roadside Farm Market Directory. The program provides collective advertising, promotional items, educational tour opportunities, and other marketing benefits.

Roadside Market members represent a wide variety of agricultural enterprises: greenhouse plants, landscape nurseries, produce, u-pick/u-cut, organic, grapes/wine, Christmas trees, Kentucky meats and cheeses, and a variety of agritourism destinations. The 2011 annual fee is \$310.00; however, markets that join before November 15 will receive a \$75 discount. The deadline to guarantee inclusion is December 30.

Farm program payments are issued

Farm Service Agency State Executive Director John W. McCauley announced that USDA would distribute approximately \$1.6 billion in annual Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) rental payments and \$3.8 billion in final 2010 direct payments to America's farmers and ranchers.

Kentucky producers holding 18,052 CRP contracts on 9,799 farms were to receive an average of \$104.35 per acre in CRP rental payments. Producers earn an average of \$4,073 per farm enrolled in CRP. Kentucky producers will receive \$39,910,032 in rental payments.

Currently, total national CRP enrollment stands at 31.3 million acres, making CRP the largest public-private partnership for conservation and wildlife habitat in the United States.

Beginning October 12, final direct payments for the DCP and ACRE programs were to be made to more than 1.1 million producers enrolled in these programs across the nation. Participants in DCP or ACRE had the option of receiving a 22 percent advance direct payment when the farm was enrolled or delaying the direct payment until after the end of the fiscal year. ACRE revenue payments are scheduled to be made at a later time.

Large animal vet shortage continues

Animal health experts continue to express concern about the shortage of large animal veterinarians and worry about the expected vacancies at key federal agencies responsible for protecting the nation's food supply.

The American Veterinary Medical Association estimates that more than 1,300 counties in the U.S. don't have a large animal veterinarian. From 1998 to 2009, the number of small animal vets climbed to 47,118 from 30,255, while the number of large animal vets dropped to 5,040 from 5,553, according to AMVA. Half of the large animal vets are older than 50, while only 4.4 percent are younger than 30.

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