# Rentucky FARM BUREAU NEWS



Derry Christenas



DECEMBER 2011 🔹 VOL. 11, NO.10



## A time for reflection and thanks.



The holidays are a time for giving thanks for the good things and people in our lives. And a time for looking back, as well as forward. For generations Farm Credit Services has been there for farmers, during good times and bad. We plan to be there for farmers for a long time to come – to provide options, ideas and financial products. As we pause to reflect on the past year and all of the farm families we

have done business with, we want to thank you for your business, and your friendship, and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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entucky Farm Bureau wears many hats, but first and foremost is our role as an advocate for farmers. Our mission statement explains that we are "dedicated to serving as the voice of agriculture."

Today, that's a very challenging task. Incredibly, farming has become a dirty word in some circles, with special interest groups continually attacking contemporary agriculture



on a number of fronts. As a result, more and more consumers are posing questions about where their food comes from, how it is raised and whether it is good for their long-term health. Despite the misconceptions created by agriculture's skeptics, those are indeed fair questions and warrant the attention of food producers.

Surveys show that while Americans agree that farming is important, and have a high opinion of farmers, they are split over whether our agriculture industry is going in the right direction. And yet the large majority know little or nothing about farming.

To address this situation, Kentucky Farm Bureau has become part of a group of agriculture interests in a national project aimed at fielding these questions and providing common-sense information about farming practices and science-based research. The one-year-old U.S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance has established a communications network to provide consumers with the opportunity to speak directly with farmers about their concerns, as well as find accurate, timely information about agricultural practices and food safety issues.

This project is focused on listening and answering questions, not on dispensing industry "spin." It gives farmers and ranchers of all shapes, sizes and operations an opportunity to raise their voices. USFRA was founded by farmers and is managed by farmers. It is a broad organization for many voices aligned in an effort to better inform consumers about their food choices.

Farmers and ranchers recognize that consumers have some serious concerns about our food system. They want you to be aware that they share the same values as you on such issues as animal care, environmental stewardship and food safety. They welcome the opportunity to tell you about how they are raising crops and animals.

If you're interested in participating in these discussions visit **www.** fooddialogues.com. For more information about USFRA visit http://usfraonline.org.

MARK HANEY

PRESIDENT

KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TOUR . .



Inset: A good crowd from the Fifth District was on hand for a dinner meeting at the Mercer County Extension Service office in Harrodsburg.

FB's Executive Committee took its annual two-day tour of county offices to the central and north-central area of the state, with stops in Spencer, Nelson, Washington, Marion, Mercer, Anderson and Woodford counties. Along the way KFB President Mark Haney repeatedly delivered a message about what's behind the organization's continued growth.

"We touch lives in a lot of ways," the Pulaski County farmer said. "We are an advocate for them. We provide insurance to protect them. And we have a social element that is very popular."

Joining him in addressing local leaders and agency staff were Second Vice President Eddie Melton, Third Vice President Fritz Giesecke and Executive Vice President David S. Beck, as well as John Sparrow, Vice President for Agency Support and Marketing, and Jeff Koch, Vice President of Product Risk Management.

Among the many participants in the meetings were the County Judge-Executives in Spencer County (Bill Karrer), Washington County (John Settles) and Marion County (John G. Mattingly). Each had praise for KFB.

Karrer said "if it wasn't for your keen eye on legislation, we'd be in worse shape. That background work you do (on issues) is very important to us." Settles thanked KFB for its work on the deadstock removal problem. He noted that he has devoted a lot of time to that issue to provide a site for composting. A new regulation that KFB has advocated will allow farmers to compost deadstock at no fee under their water quality plan.

Marion County's Mattingly, a former Agriculture teacher, complimented the bond between the Federation and Insurance Company. "Your marketing model and appeal is still aimed at families. I appreciate that," he said.

The first day's agenda concluded with a dinner meeting in Mercer County that attracted a good crowd from the Fifth District counties. Mercer County's award-winning agency manager Leon Mayo gave a presentation about the value of providing good service. "We know the values of Farm Bureau," Mayo said in regard to his agency. "We care, and people know we care. They know they can call on us."

The second day featured a lunch meeting at Woodford County's new office plus a visit to the construction site of a new Anderson County office.

At each stop Haney was quick to praise the agency staff for their role in keeping the organization strong.

"When you talk about Farm Bureau you know it stands for hard work and integrity," he said. "We exude the right things."

## comment

'm honored that Kentuckians overwhelmingly gave me an opportunity to serve another term as their governor. One of my top priorities will be to build on our success in bringing new jobs to the state, including jobs tied to agricultural production.

Fortunately, Kentucky's farm economy has improved dramatically in recent years with a valuable boost from our Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund (KADF). Paired with the hard work and innovative



thinking of our farmers and farm families, the assistance available through the KADF has helped created a wide variety of on-farm opportunities, and as a result Kentucky agriculture is more diverse than ever.

KADF investments have been a key ingredient in Kentucky agriculture's success over the last decade, and those investments will be critical in growing farm income for the foreseeable future.

That's why I pledge to continue fighting to ensure that 50 percent of Master Settlement Agreement funds go toward increasing net farm income.

Over the next four years our administration will be focusing on strengthening the use of these funds by connecting commodity producers with job-creating processing and manufacturing companies, as well as by encouraging growth in the biomass and biofuel industries.

We are also committed to attracting new business by combining the expertise and programs of our Cabinet for Economic Development, the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy, the Energy and Environment Cabinet and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture. Another key player will be Lieutenant Governor Jerry Abramson, who brings a wealth of economic development expertise to this effort.

Our administration is also working with the agriculture community to increase energy efficiencies on our farms and to provide for the proper disposal of deceased farm animals. I recently signed an emergency regulation allowing farmers to employ on-farm composting as a result of an agreement among farm groups, the State Veterinarian's Office, representatives from local governments and our Divisions of Water, Waste Management and Conservation. Knowing that cooperative efforts such as this go a long way toward solving problems, my administration will continue using this approach for addressing the many challenges we

We look forward to building on our partnership with the Kentucky Farm Bureau as we strive to strengthen our agriculture industry.

STEVE BESHEAR

GOVERNOR

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

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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Editor Advertising Asst. **Graphic Designer** 

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Members receive a free home security system installed free of charge, including monitored smoke and fire detectors with a three year monitoring agreement. Offer is subject to credit approval. Call 866-792-7233 for more information.

#### **FORD**

Ford Motor Company is pleased to Kentucky Farm Bureau members can get a \$500 Bonus Cash Savings off vehicle MSRP toward the purchase or lease of any eligible 2010/2011/2012 Ford or Lincoln vehicle. Take advantage of this special \$500 bonus cash offer today. Just visit https://www.fordspecialoffer.com/farmbureau/ky

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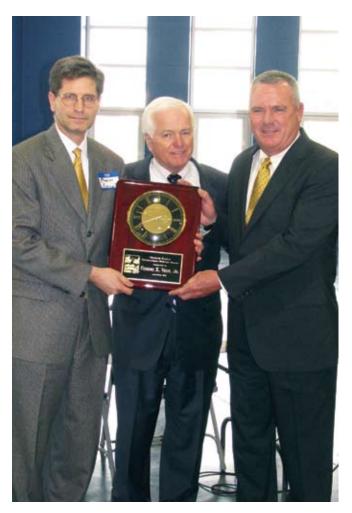
Members receive a 10% discount on over 200,000 maintenance, repair and supply items from Grainger. Grainger also offers special promotions exclusively to Kentucky Farm Bureau members. All Farm Bureau accounts are now coded to receive FREE FREIGHT on <a href="http://www.grainger.com/Grainger/wwg/start.shtml">http://www.grainger.com/Grainger/wwg/start.shtml</a>

#### **CHOICE HOTELS**

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### **FARM-CITY FEAT**

Shelby County FB Insurance Agent Ferenc Vegh Jr.(right) received the Charles Eastin Outstanding Service Award from the National Farm-City Council for his work in organizing an annual Farm-City Banquet in Shelby County. The award was presented at the Council's annual Farm-City Week kickoff luncheon which this year was held at the Fayette County School District's new Locust Trace Agriscience Farm. At left is Charles Eastin Jr. and in the middle is luncheon moderator Al Pell of AgDay. The award is in honor of the late Dr. Charles Eastin of Kentucky, who served on the national council for many years.

#### **INSURANCE ALERT**

If you have a claim to report, please contact your agent yourself, rather than allowing a contractor or repair person to file the claim on your behalf.

#### **AUTO GLASS SOLICITORS**

ost auto glass dealers are reputable, but unfortunately, we have received numerous complaints from Kentucky Farm Bureau members regarding unscrupulous sales-people, who have approached them at their homes, gas stations, car dealerships, or car washes. Often, these individuals inspect the windshield, and then claim there is enough damage to the windshield that replacement is warranted, when in fact the damage is minimal and repairable. There have even been complaints of solicitors recommending the replacement or repair of windshields that had no damage whatsoever.

Unnecessary glass repair or replacement can result in higher insurance premiums for all insured members. If you suspect an individual of fraudulently recommending the repair or replacement of your windshield, please contact your Kentucky Farm Bureau agent.

#### ROOFING CONTRACTORS

hile most roofing contractors conduct business with dignity and integrity, we have received many complaints regarding manmade damage to roofs. This can occur when a roofer asks a member if they would like to have their roof inspected, free of charge. If the roofer is dishonest, he or she may intentionally cause damage to the roof during the inspection. The damage will often mimic wind or hail damage, but mechanical or man-made damage is often identifiable upon close examination.

In order to prevent this type of fraud, it is necessary that you monitor the inspection of your roof. It is not recommended that you climb onto the roof, but rather, stand on the ground at a distance where you can see the roof and watch the activities of the roofing contractor. If you observe the roofer lifting shingle tabs and bending them back to the point where they are creased, or see the roofer gouging shingles with a tool or coin, it is likely that they are purposely causing damage to your roof in hopes of being hired to repair the damage they have created.

Insurance fraud can result in higher premiums for all insured members. If you observe fraudulent activity, please contact your Kentucky Farm Bureau agent.

### ID theft protection for KFB members

dentity theft is the fastest growing crime in America and topped the list of complaints filed with the Federal Trade Commission for the 11th straight year in 2010. According to Javelin Strategy and Research, a group that studies identity theft statistics, there were 10 million victims of identity theft in the U.S. in 2008 and one out of every ten U.S. consumers had been affected by identity theft.

According to a CNN/Money report, an identity theft victim can spend anywhere between 30 and 600 hours restoring their credit. That is between four and 75 full workdays!

As part of the many benefits included with your KFB membership, you now have access to Identity Theft Consultation and Restoration Services\*. All family members in your household are covered and the service is included in your annual membership dues.

#### How does the program work?

- If you suspect that your identity has been compromised, call 1-866-827-4355 to report the breach to a trained Member Service Specialist
- A thorough assessment of your unique situation will be performed to determine the nature and extent of the breach
- Once a determination has been made that your identity has been compromised, you will be assigned a Personal Recovery Advocate and a case file will be opened
- Utilizing a Limited Power of Attorney, the Personal Recovery Advocate will work on your behalf to restore your identity to pre-theft status
- The Personal Recovery Advocate will remain assigned to you for as long as it takes to restore your identity to pre-theft
- The case file is kept for three years in the event that additional issues arise from the original identity theft



Ford Motor Company is pleased to offer Kentucky Farm Bureau members: \$500 Bonus Cash\* savings off vehicle MSRP toward the purchase or lease of any eligible 2010/2011/2012 Ford or Lincoln vehicle.

With this valuable offer, you can enjoy savings on the vehicle of your choice from our exciting new lineup of hard-working and technologicallyadvanced cars and trucks - including the Ford F-150 with its impressive power, fuel efficiency\*\* and best-in-class trailer towing capacity.\*\*



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- Program #33466. \$500 Bonus Cash offer exclusively for active Michigan, Missouri, Kentucky and Tennessee Farm Bureau members who are residents of the United States. Offer is valid from 1/4/2011 through 1/3/2012 for the purchase or lease of a new eligible 2010/2011/2012 model year Ford or Lincoln vehicle excluding Mustang Shelby GT/GT500, Edge SE AMD, F-150 Raptor and Taurus SE This offer may not be used in conjunction with other Ford Motor Company private incentives or XVZD-Plans. OxtoD-Plans. O

## FARM BILL RANKS HIGH ON POLICY AGENDA

FB concluded the annual meeting with voting delegates adopting policy for 2012 and the Board of Directors approving condensed lists of priority issues.

Federal legislative issues such as farm

commodity programs, environmental regulations and farm labor laws were prominent on the list.

Kentucky's largest farm organization has placed a high priority on the federal farm bill which is on the Congressional agenda for 2012. Kentucky farmers are calling for a policy that will continue to provide an economic safety net for agriculture with an emphasis on crop insurance, conservation, rural development and research and education.

KFB continues to advocate health care reform that will stabilize the market, encourage competition and increase consumer choice. KFB also continues to place a high priority on reforming the H-2A program for migrant farm workers.

At the state level, the list of priorities includes maintaining the funding level for Kentucky's historic agricultural development initiative that utilizes tobacco settlement funds and maintaining sales tax exemptions for production agriculture.

Other state legislative priorities include: \*Funding for Murray State University's Breathitt Veterinary Center in Hopkinsville.

- Continued funding of the Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost-Share Program.
- Ensure that steep increases in property taxes are subject to voter referendum.
- Support for the state's career and technical education programs.

In regard to national farm policy, KFB will be working to protect from budget cuts conservation programs on working farmland along with other federal programs that directly impact farm production. And it joins with American Farm Bureau Federation in opposition to the U.S. Labor Department's proposed changes to youth farm labor regulations. The proposal, which currently is under review, could prohibit many youth from working on a farm.

KFB also is hoping to preserve full funding for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQUIP) that provides financial and technical assistance to help farmers reduce soil erosion and protect water and air quality. The popular program is administered through the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

## NOTICE ANNUAL POLICYHOLDERS' MEETING OF KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY

The annual meeting of the policyholders of Kentucky Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company will be held on Tuesday, March 13, 2012, 10:00 a.m. (Eastern), at the home office of the company, 9201 Bunsen Parkway, Louisville, Kentucky, for the purpose of (1) electing directors of the company, (2) to receive the annual report of its officers, and (3) to consider any other business that may come before said meeting.



## NOTICE ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING OF THE FB INSURANCE COMPANY

The annual meeting of the stockholders of The FB Insurance Company will be held on Tuesday, March 13, 2012, 1:00 p.m. (Eastern), at the home office of the company, 9201 Bunsen Parkway, Louisville, Kentucky, for the purpose of electing directors of the company and to consider any other business that may come before said meeting.



## NOTICE ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING OF KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of Kentucky Farm Bureau Insurance Agency, Inc. will be held on Tuesday, March 13, 2012, 2:00 p.m. (Eastern), at the home office of the company, 9201 Bunsen Parkway, Louisville, Kentucky, for the purpose of electing directors of the company and to consider any other business that may come before said meeting.



## MARK HANEY RE-ELECTED AS KFB PRESIDENT

ulaski County farmer Mark
Haney was re-elected president of Kentucky Farm Bureau
(KFB) on the concluding day
of the organization's 92nd
annual meeting. Also re-elected were
Webster County's Eddie Melton as First VicePresident and Hart County's J. Fritz
Giesecke as Second Vice-President. They
comprise KFB's Executive Committee along
with Executive Vice President David S. Beck.

Haney has served on the Executive Committee for 13 years and has been a state director since 1993. For years he chaired the State Resolutions Committee. He is a past president of the Kentucky Center for Cooperative Development and the Kentucky Horticultural Society. A former President of the Pulaski County FB, Haney and his brother, Don, produce apples and peaches near Nancy, KY, where they also raise beef cattle.

Melton, a former President of Webster County FB, is a row crop producer. He is chairman of KFB's State Resolutions Committee and Health Care Task Force. He also was chairman of KFB's Farm Bill Task Force, which conducted statewide forums and sought input from Kentucky farmers on provisions of the 2008 farm bill. Melton serves in leadership positions with the Corn Growers Promotion Board and is chairman of the board of the Southern States Cooperative.

Giesecke serves as the chair of KFB's Beef Cattle Advisory Committee and is a member of KFB's Farm Labor Advisory Committee and Health Care Task Force. He also serves on the executive committee of the U.S. Meat Export Federation. Giesecke has been an active member of the Hart County FB for over 30 years where he has served in a variety of leadership positions, including county president. He also served 25 years as county supervisor for the local soil conservation district. He farms 190 acres, raising cattle, tobacco and hay.

The board has three new members for 2012. Brent Cornett of Laurel County

joins the group as the new chairman of the Young Farmers Advisory Committee. Mary Kate Kordes of Central City was newly elected to serve the Second District. Brandon Davis of Hardin County will represent the agriculture education sector, replacing the retiring Curt Lucas.

### A complete list of the Board of Directors is on Page 5.

Phyllis Amyx of Wolfe County was reelected as chairperson of the 13-member Women's Advisory Committee. Joining her on that group are Vickie Bryant of Committee are Chris and Kendra Ammerman of Grant County, Jonathan and Becky Brown of Logan County, Josh and Miranda Brown of Lincoln County, Shawn and Shannon Brumfield of Hopkins County, Stephen DeBord of Pulaski County, Matthew and Amanda Gajdzik of Shelby County, Colby and Sarah Beth Guffey of Clinton County, Michael and Laura Highbaugh of Hardin County, Scott and Shea Lowe of Calloway County, Jason and Hannah McGlone of Carter County and Damien Smithers of Bracken County.



Monroe County, Mary Jayne Cannon of Fleming County, Pam Chappell of Owen County, Betty Farris of Butler County, Sharon Furches of Calloway County, Terry Gilbert of Boyle County, Frieda Heath of Graves County, Margaret Hensley of Clay County, Sue Litkenhus of Anderson County, Cathy Pleasants of Lincoln County, Carol Sullivan of Taylor County and Bettie Wallace of Caldwell County.

Joining Brent Cornett and his wife, Rhonda, on the 13-member Young Farmers

The Women's Committee is comprised of (back row from left) Sharon Furches, Sue Litkenhus, Bettie Wallace, Pam Chappell, Margaret Hensley, Phyllis Amyx, Betty Farris, Terry Gilbert and (front row from left) Vicki Bryant, Carol Sullivan, Frieda Heath, Mary Jayne Cannon and Cathy Pleasants. The gentleman in the center is Scott Christmas, KFB's director of women's programs.

## MARION COUNTY IS TOPS



A group from Marion County assembled with KFB President Mark Haney and Executive Vice President David S. Beck to celebrate after the awards presentation.

Marion County FB President Larry Ener is holding the trophy.

bers and a variety of successful service programs, was also honored as the Top County in the membership category for counties with 2,601 to 4,200 members. Fayette County (12,551 members) received recognition among the counties with more than 4,200 members and Butler County (2,174 members) won top honors among counties with 2,600 or fewer members.

Marion County, which has 3,635 mem-

In other award presentations:

Outstanding County Farm Bureaus were designated in each of 11 districts. The recipients were: Butler, Calloway, Carter, Clark, Laurel, Logan, Madison, Marion, Muhlenberg, Owen and Taylor Counties.

Bath, Fayette and McCreary Counties received Top Growth Awards for having the largest percentage of membership gain from 2010.

Pacesetter Awards were given to counties in the three membership size classifications that were the first to achieve a

membership gain during the year. The large county award went to Whitley County, followed in size by Lewis and McCreary Counties.

Eleven counties won honors for having the highest member retention totals in their districts. Those winners were: Breckinridge, Jackson, Lewis, Lyon, Magoffin, Monroe, Owsley, Scott, Spencer, Wayne and Webster Counties.

Allen and Taylor counties were honored for having 49 consecutive years of membership growth.

Marshall County was recognized as the Most Improved County Farm Bureau.

Three awards were given for most effective county Farm Bureau information programs. Union County won first place, Mercer County was second and Calloway County was third.

Five counties won awards for policy growth and profitability produced by their local Farm Bureau insurance agencies. These counties – Jackson, Martin, Monroe, Shelby and Union – came closest to the growth goal set for that county.

arion County FB was selected "top county" for 2011 in a program to measure the overall effectiveness of a county Farm Bureau. The "Top County" announcement headlined more than 100 membership program and insurance honors presented during an awards breakfast at the annual meeting.

### OUTSTANDING YOUTH ARE SELECTED

mily Drury of Anderson County and Austin Cole of Warren County were awarded top honors in the 2011 Outstanding Farm Bureau Youth contest, sponsored in part by AT&T. Drury and Cole were selected from 22 district finalists out of approximately 200 young people who competed in county and district contests over the past several months. Judges met with finalists for personal interviews during the annual meeting, awarding points for the contestants' leadership record, conversational ability and scholastic achievement. KFB gave both Drury and Cole a \$2,000 college scholarship, an expensepaid trip to Washington, D.C., on the KFB Congressional Tour in February 2012, a luggage set and watch for winning the contest.

Runners-up in the contest were Chelsea Daugherty of Butler County and Brian Chism of Meade County. They each received a \$200 cash award and digital camera from KFB. Congeniality awards, which were voted on by their fellow contestants, were won by Ms. Drury and Ryan Halligan of Franklin County. KFB awarded both of them with \$100 cash prizes for the honor.

The 22 district finalists who competed in the state final were Brittany Osborne, McCracken County; William Wood, McCracken County; Jacey Gill Caldwell County; Vaughn Reed, Muhlenberg County; Chelsea Daugherty, Butler County; Brian Chism, Meade County; Stephanie Mattingly, Barren County; Austin Cole, Warren County; Emily Drury, Anderson County; Austin Jaggers, Spencer County; Mary Wood, Franklin County; Ryan Halligan, Franklin County; Brittany Gaddis, Taylor County; Christopher Hooten, Casey County; Britini Vandervort, Jessamine County; Brian Wray, Boyle County; Allison Ratliff, Clark County; Stefan Fink, Clark County; Katie Coldiron, Greenup County; Dakota Lester, Pike County; Marissa Alley, Clay County; Jeremy Ball, Clay County.

All 22 contestants received luggage pieces and \$100 for winning district competitions.



## SIERRA ENLOW WINS DISCUSSION MEET

ierra Enlow of LaRue County won first place in the final round of the Discussion Meet, a debate-styled competition for young farmers that relies on an individual's skill in reasoning and logical discussion of issues. Enlow, a graduate student in agricultural economics at the University of Kentucky, bested 16 other entrants in the event, winning a Kawasaki MULE donated by Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company



and Jacobi Sales. She also won a trip to the national finals as part of the American Farm Bureau Federation's annual meeting. Winners of the national contest will win their choice of either a 2012 Chevrolet Silverado or a 2012 GMC Sierra while the other three finalists will receive a Case IH Farmall 55A tractor.

Runner-up in the meet was Kirby O'Donoghue of Breckinridge County who received \$1,000 cash from KFB.

The two other finalists in the state-level contest were Curt Divine of Union County and Jonathon Shell of Garrard County. They each received \$200 cash awards from KFB.

KFB's Discussion Meet tests entrants on their basic knowledge of critical farm issues and their ability to respond in a panel setting to differing points of view. The topic debated by the four finalists asked, "Have farmers and ranchers effectively utilized social media to educate and influence the public? What strategies can be implemented to expand the interaction between producers and consumers?"

## WASHINGTON COUNTY COUPLE WIN OYFF AWARD



"We have a strong desire to raise our children on the farm in hopes of instilling in them a strong work ethic..."

ichael and Nora McCain of Washington County are winners of this year's "Outstanding Young Farm Family" award. They won a Case IH Scout courtesy of KFB Insurance and Case IH, an Apple iPad2 from Republic Bank & Trust, \$1,000 cash from Premier Crop Insurance, a \$750 Dyno-Gro seed voucher from Crop Production Services, a \$500 voucher from Southern States Cooperative, a portable handgun safe from Misty Morn Safe Company, and a voucher for 16 bags of seed corn from Pioneer Seed. They also received an expense-paid trip to compete in the American Farm Bureau Federation's

national young farmer contest next month.

Winners of the national contest will win their choice of either a 2012 Chevrolet Silverado or a 2012 GMC Sierra. Each of the four national runners up will receive a Case IH Farmall 65A tractor from CASE IH.

The second place distinction went to Joel and Carrie Cook of Simpson County. They received 250 hours free use of a Kubota tractor, an Apple iPad2 from Republic Bank & Trust, \$750 cash from Premier Crop Insurance, a \$500 Dyno-Gro seed voucher from Crop Production Services, a \$300 voucher from Southern States Cooperative, and a voucher for 12 bags of seed corn from Pioneer Seed.

The third place winners were Jerry and Brandi Whitaker of Henry County. They won 100 hours free use of a New Holland tractor, an Apple iPad2 from Republic Bank & Trust, \$500 cash from Premier Crop Insurance, a \$250 Dyno-Gro seed voucher from Crop Production Services, and a \$200 voucher from Southern States Cooperative, and a voucher for 8 bags of seed corn from Pioneer Seed.

#### Michael and Nora McCain

The McCains are row-crop producers, raising approximately 4,200 acres of corn and soybeans plus another 16 acres of burley tobacco. They own 190 acres and rent the remaining land that they farm.

Michael was raised on a beef cattle and tobacco farm and holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Kentucky in agricultural economics. Nora's family owns and operates a small grocery store in Meade County. She has a degree in marketing from Western Kentucky University and works part-time in the circuit clerk's office. Today, Michael is responsible for the daily operations and labor on the farm while Nora handles finances, recordkeeping and public relations.

"We have had to build this business from the ground up," said Michael. "Our farming operation has been established by building an acreage base through rental arrangements. Basically, we started by renting the small tracts of land that were either difficult to access with large equipment, too small for established operations or had fertility issues. In other words, we tried to get our feet in the door by farm-

ing land that nobody else wanted."

The McCains plan to continue growing the farm into a 6,000-acre operation.

"We have worked to increase production on these farms and have gradually been able to lease larger and better tracts of land," added Michael. "We are still in an expansion mode."

The couple has also launched a few secondary enterprises over the past several years - including the sale of greenhouse-raised tobacco transplants and subcontracting right-of-way mowing for the State Highway Department in two nearby counties - as ways to increase cash receipts and expand their farm acreage. Additionally, the McCains have improved their marketing capabilities by gradually expanding their grain storage capacity to 285,000 bushels. They note that this is a dramatic increase from their humble beginnings 11 years ago when they had no on-farm grain storage, drying capabilities or in-house trucking.

Outside of life on the farm, Michael is a director for Washington County FB and chairman of the young farmer committee. He also serves as the Secretary/ Treasurer for both the Kentucky Small Grain Grower's Association and the Kentucky Livestock Coalition, is an active member of numerous other civic and commodity organizations, and is a graduate of KFB's Leadership Enhancement for Agricultural Development (LEAD) program. Nora serves on the Washington County women's committee, volunteers



her time at an elementary school mentoring program and Relay for Life, and is also a member of several commoditybased organizations.

The McCains have two children, ages 3 and 18 months. They hope to eventually pass the farm on to them.

"We have a strong desire to raise our children on the farm in hopes of instilling in them a strong work ethic, closeness in family, strong ties to community, and the importance of stewardship and resource protection," Michael explained.

#### Joel and Carrie Cook

Joel and Carrie Cook, operate a 750-acre cattle and row-crop farm in Simpson County with Joel's father. Joel purchased 100 acres from the estate of his grandparents and is the fifth generation of his family to farm the land; the balance of their farmland is rented. Managing a beef cattle operation while raising corn, soybeans, wheat and tobacco keeps the Cook family busy, but they also offer custom hay rolling services and tobacco transplants to other local farmers.

Joel is additionally the current 1st vice president of Simpson County FB, the young farmer committee chair, a graduate of KFB's LEAD program and a board member for both the Ag Development Board and the Ag Extension Board. Carrie is the Simpson County FB secretary/treasurer, member of Business & Professional Women and a leader with numerous local civic and volunteer organizations.

#### Jerry and Brandi Whitaker

Jerry and Brandi Whitaker, operate a 798-acre cattle and row-crop farm in Henry County. Purchasing 71 acres just a few years after they began farming tobacco and hay, the Whitakers have since grown their operation through land leases. They now raise tobacco, corn, soybeans and grass hay in addition to managing a herd of Holstein steers. The Whitakers began custom hay baling when they first started farming to help generate cash and fund their targeted operations.

In addition to managing the day-to-day operations on the farm, Jerry also serves as a board member of Henry County FB.



## BRUCE HARPER RECEIVES SERVICE TO AG AWARD



ruce Harper was named winner of KFB's award for distinguished service to agriculture.

Harper, 69, emerged as a diverse and effective agricultural leader in Kentucky after becoming General Manager of the Mercer County farm owned by former Governor Wallace Wilkinson. Prior to then he was known for producing champion Charolais cattle as Manager of Gran-Del Farm in Oldham County.

Currently a top aide to outgoing Agriculture Commissioner Richie Farmer, Harper has an impressive record of service in a wide range of agriculture endeavors such as livestock shows, the state fair, youth development programs, economic development and policy initiatives. He has served on the State Board of Agriculture which oversees the state's animal disease control programs. He served 13 years on the prestigious State Fair Board, including eight years as Vice Chairman.

Harper also served as chairman of the Kentucky Beef Expo. He was instrumental in the formation of both the Kentucky Agricultural Resources Development Authority (KARDA) and the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy, the state agency that administers the state's historic agricultural development initiative.

Harper has served on the Mercer County Farm Bureau Board of Directors for more than 27 years. He's a past President and current Vice President of that organization.

Several of the state's top agricultural officials – including Commissioner Farmer, GOAP Executive Director Roger Thomas and Kentucky Cattlemen's Association Executive Vice President Dave Maples -- nominated Harper for the prestigious award.

"Mr. Harper is a respected leader in Kentucky agriculture," Thomas said. "He has provided exemplary leadership within Farm Bureau, commodity and conservation organizations across Kentucky. He has furthered agriculture both in the private and public sectors."

Said Maples: "When I think of Bruce Harper the first thing that comes to mind is his dedication and unfailing desire to do everything in his power to help Kentucky agriculture."

During 25 years as General Manager of Wilkinson Farms, Harper expanded the operation from 600 to 4,400 acres. The farm produced champion Maine Anjou bulls and became one of the first Kentucky farms to use conservation tillage on a large scale. In 1982 Harper won the National Corn Growers Association's yield contest with close to a 200-bushel yield on the Mercer County farm.

While at Gran-Del Farm Harper became the only person to retire the National Charolais Association's Challenge Trophy for the showman accumulating the most points at the national show.

Harper also has been a judge for major livestock shows and has assisted college-level livestock judging teams. His devotion to youth leadership program has been recognized via awards from both the Kentucky FFA Association and 4-H. While on the State Fair Board he worked to expand the annual Sale of Champions for FFA and 4-H livestock exhibitors.

Harper also has received a Distinguished Service award from the Kentucky Pork Producers Association. He served 16 years on the Mercer County Conservation Board of Supervisors.

In the public policy arena, Harper was involved with establishing the Tobacco Settlement Fund and the process for utilizing those funds for agricultural development. He served as chairman of KARDA when the tobacco buyout program was developed and initiated.

State Fair Board member Bill Tolle of Mason County received this prestigious award in 2009. He describes Harper as "a true leader in Kentucky agriculture. He is always working for the farmers and the agricultural community. He is the first to remind you that youth are the leaders of tomorrow."

Commissioner Farmer said "every Kentucky farmer owes Bruce Harper a debt of gratitude for his decades of untiring service."

Harper's son, Jeff, is KFB's Director of Public Affairs.

## ROBERT REED BUSH HONORED FOR SERVICE TO FARM BUREAU

enry County farmer and longtime burley tobacco leader Robert Reed Bush was named winner of the annual award for Distinguished Service to Farm

Bush has raised burley tobacco and cattle as a fulltime farmer for over 50 years in the Campbellsburg area. He has served on the Henry County Farm Bureau Board of Directors for over 38 years, including multiple terms as President. He has chaired most of the county's various committees. He served as a Kentucky Farm Bureau Director for 20 years, during which time he chaired the organization's advisory committees for tax and health issues. He also served several years on KFB's Resolutions Committee which helps set the organization's annual policy agenda.

Bush is well known throughout the state for his role with tobacco groups and on tobacco issues. He's also well-liked for his good nature and hearty sense of humor.

Bush currently is serving a fourth three-year term as a Director of the Burley Tobacco Growers Cooperative Association. In 1996 he was appointed to serve on a prestigious national Tobacco Advisory Committee to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He also served on American Farm Bureau's tobacco advisory committee, including two years as chairman.

"For many years Mr. Bush has been tirelessly devoted to Farm Bureau as the voice of agriculture and to tobacco growers' issues," said Henry County Farm Bureau President Terry Rowlett. "He's been the tobacco advisor to our county extension agent for many years and has held many tobacco field days on his farm. He has always made Farm Bureau a priority in his life."

Bush has received a "Pioneer Award" for community service and has been cited several times for outstanding service to

the Campbellsburg Lion's Club. He has served on the Henry County Board of Adjustment for over 20 years and is active with the county fair. He also has received awards from the Henry County Jaycees and has been an active member of the Henry County Cattlemen's Association. He has served as an elder and chairman of the Campbellsburg Christian Church.

Rowlett, who is a KFB Director, said Bush is unsurpassed in dedication to Farm Bureau activities.

"He's a great ambassador for the organization," Rowlett said. "He has canvassed this community to promote interest in Farm Bureau programs and services. Even today he carries boxes of fruit each

close friend of retired agency manager David Lyle and was often seen working on the agency's property off U.S. 421 north of New Castle.

"He always has taken extreme pride in the fact that Henry County's (insurance) agency is very successful," Rowlett said. "And he has had a wonderful working relationship with the county board of directors."

Within the tobacco community Bush long has been at the fore of deliberations on vital issues, including the historic tobacco quota buyout program that dramatically reshaped the industry.

Bush and his wife. Sue, have two children and two grandchildren.



December from the tractor trailer trucks to distribute them to our members" (as part of an annual KFB program in which members can order fruit from Florida).

The nomination form states that "no one has done more to increase the county membership over the past 38 years."

Bush's service also includes several years as a District President plus enthusiastic support for KFB insurance. He is a

Robert Reed and Sue Bush received the award from KFB's Mark Haney and David S. Beck

## JIM SIDEBOTTOM WINS "TOP FARMER" AWARD



im Sidebottom, a 55-year farming veteran of Green County, was honored as the 2011 KFB "Farmer of the Year." Jere Cannon of Fleming County and Craig Roberts of Caldwell County were the other finalists for the award.

The award recognizes a farmer whose efforts not only strengthen the state's agriculture industry but also demonstrates service and leadership both on and off the farm. A careful review of Sidebottom's detailed nomination form and an on-site visit to his farm solidified the judging committee's decision to honor him as the 2011 "Farmer of the Year."

Sidebottom currently raises dairy cattle, corn, wheat and hay on his 443-acre farm in Green County but he and his wife, Ona, spent the first 13 years of their careers juggling part-time farming with owning a flooring business and raising a family. His lifelong dream of becoming a full-time farmer wasn't realized until 1981. Since that time, Sidebottom has worked hard to grow and improve his farm. He expanded

the farm's acreage to allow for a greater volume of production, increased storage capability to buy and store bulk commodities, purchased a variety of new and bigger equipment to more efficiently plant, harvest and maintain crops, and hired additional employees to help on the farm and make sure that he still had time to spend with his family.

Even by hiring extra farmhands to free up his time, Sidebottom's farm is truly a family affair. Jim's oldest son, Stacy, has been a partner in the operation for more than 20 years and helps with the daily operations of maintaining the farm. Ona raises the calves and is responsible for the bookkeeping.

As the Sidebottoms have pulled together under Jim's leadership to keep the family farm running at a high level of efficiency, Jim has also left a lasting impression on the community around him.

"Jim's knowledge of agriculture and vision for the future of agriculture has helped to bring attention to the needs of not only Green County, but for the state of Kentucky," said Green County FB

President, Larry Clark in his recommendation of Sidebottom for the award. "It takes a level head and strong heart to blaze the path of change. Jim not only opened doors for himself; he has allowed others the same opportunity."

Beyond the obvious time commitments needed to effectively run his farm yearround, Sidebottom has also served in numerous roles on the Green County FB Board of Directors since 1986 (including four years as 1st vice president). He is currently president of the Kentucky Dairy Development Council, Green County Soil Conservation District Chairman and a member of the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board. He has held many different positions with other industrybased and civic-oriented organizations over the years, serving at the local, regional and state levels. Sidebottom has given countless hours of volunteered time and leadership to these groups, and his civicminded activity is a big part of how he is identified by those closest to him.

Judges visited the three "Farmer of the Year" finalists during the fall to conduct interviews and see each farm in action. KFB awarded Sidebottom with a \$1,000 prize for being named "Farmer of the Year," and the other finalists, Cannon and Roberts, received \$250 each as runners-up.

In addition to the statewide recognition and prizes, Sidebottom will represent Kentucky in the Swisher Sweets/Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year contest, the South's most prestigious agricultural award, in Moultrie, Georgia, October 16-18, 2012. He will also receive \$2,500 from Swisher International and a \$500 gift certificate from Southern States Cooperative. Sidebottom will compete against nine other state winners for the chance to win a \$15,000 award from Swisher International and several other sponsor-based prizes.



Randie and Bill Gallrein (center) accept the agribusiness award from (left) Ag Industry Network Chairman Gary Huddleston and Daryl Snyder, Vice President of Greater Louisville, Inc.

## Gallrein Farms wins award

allrein Farms, which produces fresh vegetables and perennials for local retail and wholesale outlets and for sale through its on-farm retail market in Shelby County, is the winner of the 2011 Agribusiness of the Year award.

The award, sponsored by the

Louisville-area Agribusiness Industry Network, was presented to Bill and Randie Gallrein during the annual Farm-City Luncheon at the Kentucky Exposition Center.

Now in its 19th year, the Agribusiness of the Year honors a Louisville-area agribusiness which excels in financial growth and stability, employee relations and contributions to the overall agricultural economy.

Gallrein Farms dates to 1972 when Bill and his father William Sr. began operating a dairy farm on a tract north of Shelbyville. Four years later they decided to add vegetables — primarily sweet corn — to their production schedule and began serving the regional wholesale market.

But as their neighbors and others in the community learned of Gallrein's quality produce, they regularly showed up at the farm's wholesale loading dock to buy the items directly. Thus was born what is today one of the leading vegetable farms in the Louisville area, producing 200 acres of sweet corn, plus strawberries, cucumbers, squash, tomatoes and green beans.

The Gallreins, including husband and wife Bill and Randie, also operate more than 45,000 square feet of green-

house space, producing perennials, annuals, herbs and vegetable plants. Their retail market adds in a variety of products from other area farms, including honey, melons, blackberries and free-range eggs.

In the fall, the farm grows and sells pumpkins, many of which are donated to local schools and service agencies for use in Halloween programs. The farm is also a favorite agritourism destination, hosting dozens of student groups and private outings during the growing season.

Bill Gallrein says a growing customer base has allowed the farming operation to steadily expand over the years. The farm's produce shows up on shelves of such well-known retailers as Kroger's, Wal-Mart and Paul's Fruit Market, as well as quality wholesalers including Creation Gardens.

The Gallreins' own market has drawn increasing traffic, leading to plans to construct new floor space at their existing location in advance of the 2012 season. Gallrein is a charter member of the Kentucky Farm Bureau Certified Roadside Farm Market program.

The operation is managed by Bill Gallrein, who manages the vegetable farm and 800 additional acres of grain, and Randie, who gave up a career as a registered nurse to oversee retail sales, advertising and human resources.

Staff includes two full-time workers, a master mechanic to keep farm and vegetable processing machinery functional, and an office and market manager. Eight documented H2A workers help with field work, and students fill in during the summer season.

## KSP FARMER OUTREACH PROGRAM "CLEARS THE AIR" ON TRUCKING REGS

he Kentucky State Police (KSP) launched a statewide 'Farmer Outreach Program' last fall to educate the public on farm vehicle safety regulations when driving on Kentucky roadways. KSP was prompted to create the outreach program when hundreds of roadside inspections indicated that many farm trucks and trailers were not in compliance with Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMSCR). For some, it was just a matter of not knowing that certain types of farm vehicles must adhere to the same state and federal laws that apply to commercial vehicles.

Public Affairs Officers (PAO's) with KSP's Division of Commercial Vehicle Enforcement (CVE) were assigned to the task of coordinating the outreach forums. There are six CVE PAO's throughout Kentucky and each is assigned to a region consisting of multiple counties. Most often, the PAO's works in conjunction with their local agriculture extension agent in hosting meetings in each county. The county extension offices proved to be a valuable asset as they provided a comfortable and familiar environment for the attendees. KFB's Public Affairs Division also assisted by providing "Farm Vehicle Regulation" pamphlets at the forums.

The meetings consisted of the PAO utilizing a PowerPoint presentation to discuss state and federal laws concerning

weight limitations, safety equipment and operating credentials. The proper use of Kentucky's "Farm Plate" and the "Farm Limited" plate was heavily stressed. Topics discussed in the meeting were also provided in the KFB regulation pamphlet as a reference resource people could take with them. The meetings concluded with a "Question and Answer" session that allowed attendees to open the floor to any topics that needed further discussion.

The 'Farmer Outreach Program' was an excellent venue for PAO's to discuss Senate Bill 79 which became effective in March 2011. This legislation includes certain exemptions to farmers operating solely in Kentucky and whose vehicles have a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 26,000 lbs or less.

Since the inception of the Farmer Outreach Program, KSP has presented forums in 51 counties and has educated over 1,350 attendees. Farmer outreach forums continue to be held as the Kentucky State Police strive to make the public more aware of safe, legal operations for farm vehicles.

CVE Division Director Lt. Col. Jack Miniard said the program has been invaluable to both local communities and KSP.

"These open forums allow our agency to have a personal connection with farmers in the communities where they patrol," says Miniard. "More importantly, this open dialogue between our officers and the farmers will enhance highway safety within these rural areas."

For more information about the 'Farmer Outreach Program' or how you can reserve a spot in an upcoming forum, please contact the KSP Commercial Vehicle Division at (502)-782-1805.

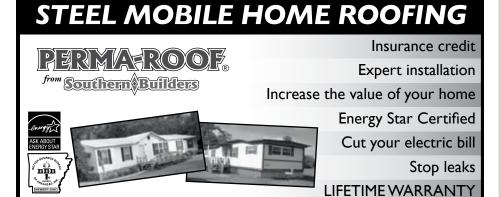
Submitted By KSP Officers Jamie Medley and Sherry Bray

## KFB'S FRITZ GIESECKE IS SELECTED FOR MEAT EXPORT POST

KFB Second Vice President J. Fritz Giesecke has been elected to the Executive Committee of the United States Meat Export Federation (USMEF), a Denverbased trade organization that develops foreign markets for the red meat industry. KFB is a member of USMEF.

The Hart County cattleman has served as KFB's representative to the USMEF board for three years. Last year he was elected to KFB's Executive Committee. Giesecke also serves as Chairman of KFB's Beef Cattle Advisory Committee and as a member of the Farm Labor Advisory Committee.

A non-profit trade organization, USMEF has offices throughout the world working to create new marketing opportunities for U.S. beef, pork, lamb and veal. It has more than 30 years experience working with export companies, traders and buyers. It receives funding and support from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, exporting companies, the beef, pork, corn and soybean producer checkoff programs plus members from nine other industry sectors.



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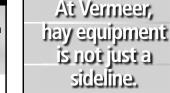
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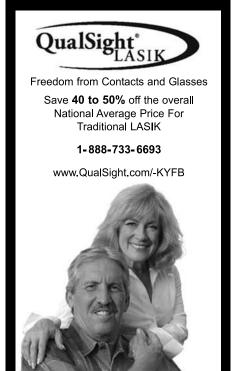
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### FLEMING COUNTY WOMAN **AWARDED EDUCATION GRANT**

arah Campbell, of Fleming County is the recipient of KFB's 2012 Women's Educational Grant. The \$1,500 grant is awarded annually to a female non-traditional student who is interested in resuming her education after leaving school to fulfill either family or work-related responsibilities.

Campbell is a wife, mother, and has been a nurse for 13 years, but recently enrolled in graduate school at the University of Kentucky. Her plan is to complete a nurse practitioner program for her Masters in Nursing. When Campbell finishes with her new degree in December 2012, she intends to re-enter the workforce in Flemingsburg and eventually return to Morehead State University to teach part-time.

In her grant application, Campbell stated that returning to school will, "allow me opportunities to help my children grow, by seeing their mother in college, and by knowing what I'm doing as a career is helping those in our small community."

#### 2012 Kentucky Pork Producers Association Annual Meeting

The 2012 KY Pork Producers Association Annual Meeting will be held January 20-21 at the Holiday Inn University Plaza and Sloan Convention Center in Bowling Green. This event provides an excellent opportunity to renew acquaintances with old friends, attend educational seminars, and stay abreast of the activities of the KY Pork Producers Association. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend.

#### KPPA Annual Meeting Program Friday (January 20, 2012) Registration Desk Open (Sloan Convention Center 1:00 p.m-

12:00 p.m-Kentucky Commodity Conference Luncheon with keynote speaker Damian Mason. KPPA Annual Meeting (Ballroom B Sloan Conven-2:00 p.m-

tion Center) Kentucky Ag Leadership Program (Dr. Will Snell, Univ. of Kentucky)
 Update on Feral Pigs in KY (Dr. Robert Stout, State

- Veterinarian) Update on Livestock Animal Care Standards Board
- (Mr. John Medley and Mr. Maurice Heard)
   KPPI Activities (Mr. Wendell Ockerman)
   NPPC Report (Dr. Dennis Liptrap)
- Update on KPPA Web Site (Mrs. Celeste Harned)
   KY Livestock Coalition report (Maurice Heard)
   Environmental Session of the Kentucky Commodity 4:30 p.m.-Conference with Jimmy Palmer (Past ÉPA Administrator) and Clark Dorman (KY Division of Water). Pork producers have been invited to attend—Loca-

Kentucky Pork Council Women Banquet and Scholarship Auction (Ballroom A Sloan Convention 6:30 p.m.-

- AwardsScholarship Auction

Saturday (January 21, 2012) 7:00-9:00 a.m.- BREAKFAST (Hartland Café) 9:00 a.m.- Registration Desk Open (Sloan Convention Center Lobby)

Ladies Program

10:00 a.m.- Classic Coupon Clippers (Rebecca Patterson)-Location TBA

Producer Educational Program All educational presentations will take place in Ballroom B Sloan
Convention Center

EQIP Funding Opportunities Through NRCS and

Technical Requirements for Participation (Mr. Jeff Sanders, KY NRCS)
10:00 a.m.- Balancing Feed Cost and Pig Performance in the 21st

Century (Dr. Jim Hedges, Ralco Nutrition)
11:00 a.m.- Pork and Meat Industry Economic Update (Dr. Steve Meyer, Paragon Economics, Inc.)

11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.— LUNCH (Hartland Cafe)
1:30 p.m.Meat Demand Factors and Consumption Trends in the U.S., and Effects of Feeding Byproducts on Pork Quality (Dr. Gregg Rentfrow, Univ. of Kentucky) Operation Main Street (Mr. Warren Beeler, KY Dept. 3:00 p.m.-

of Agriculture). 6:00 p.m.-Kentucky Pork Producers Association Banquet

(Ballroom A Sloan Convention Center)
• Speaker—????

- Quilt Drawing Approx. 9:00 p.m.— Social time with cobblers/ice cream **Hotel Information**

Over the past 25 years the Scholarship Auction has provided about \$266,000 in scholarships to approximately 500 youth. The support of local producer groups and individuals in providing items for the auction, and providing funds for purchasing these items at the auction has been vital to the success of the Scholarship Auction. Please remember to bring items to include in the auction, as well as your checkbooks, so we can make this year's Scholarship Auction another success!

The Kentucky Pork Producers Association would like to thank the following sponsors of the Annual Meeting - JBS, Farm Credit Services, Griffin Industries, Kentucky Farm Bureau, Birchwood Genetics, Kentucky Soybean Board, Kentucky Corn Growers Association, Ralca Nutrition, National Pork Board, Tyson Fresh Meats, and Pig Improvement Company (PIC) through support from the Ag Development Fund

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Pre-Registration Form Name:	Number of Tickets Needed  *After December 26, 2011 the Friday and Saturday night banque
Spouse:	<ul> <li>tickets will be \$38 each and breakfast and lunch tickets on Saturda</li> <li>\$10 each. The discounted ticketed prices shown below for thes</li> </ul>
Address:City:	meals are funded by the promotional efforts of KPPI.     Number Attending
State: Zip:	Friday Night Banquet\$20 each
Phone:( )	Saturday Breakfast\$5 each (kids 12 and under eat free)
Cellular:()	\$ Saturday Luncheon\$5 each
E-mail:	Saturday night Banquet\$20 each _ Total Amount Due \$
Attending Children's Names and Ages:	Pre-registration form due by December 26, 2011. Return completed form with check to:  Kentucky Pork Producers Association • 1110 Hawkins Drive  Kentucky Pork Producers Association • 1110 Hawkins Drive

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