FARM BUREAU NEWS



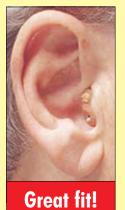
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Cover Photo by Jim Lane www.thephotolane.com

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here have been many significant changes in farming over the years enabling farmers to be more productive, more efficient and more environmentally sound. Despite this progress, farmers often feel a need to reassure consumers that they are doing a good job.

Until now, farmers never gave public relations a second thought. Americans historically have had a high regard for farmers, describing



them with terms like "trustworthy," "hard-working," "honest." And that still holds largely true.

However, special interest groups with varying agendas have convinced some people that 21st Century agriculture is something dark and evil, where animals are mistreated, the soil and water are damaged and the food is unhealthy. These groups want you to believe that the only good agriculture is local and organic. And that those who are farming on a large scale are guided by greed, with no regard to stewardship or animal husbandry.

Frustrated by these misinformation campaigns, many farmers have responded by becoming "agrocates," using social media on the internet to tell the story about what they do. They're also welcoming visitors to their farms, speaking to civic groups and students plus forging a relationship with groups like the Chamber of Commerce and Rotary .

With this issue of our magazine going to all KFB members throughout the state, we're taking the opportunity to have some farmers explain why they use some of the farming practices that have been questioned. In a special section these farmers talk about confined animal feeding operations, genetically-modified crops, use of antibiotics in livestock, animal waste management and conservation tillage practices. We also explain why some farmers have to plant or harvest crops at night.

We hope this information will be useful to those unfamiliar with agriculture. We've titled the section "Farming 101" to reflect the basic explanations.

Our farmers continue to provide safe, affordable food produced in a manner that preserves precious natural resources and embraces animal husbandry. It's unfortunate that farmers have been put on the defensive, but they're up to the task of telling the true story about how they raise crops and animals.

MARK HANEY

PRESIDENT

KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

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made us the leading property and casualty insurer in Kentucky.



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bers, with over 20 programs that provide discounts on products and services. Some will save you a few bucks on purchases for things like paint and household supplies. Others offer eye-catching savings, like a \$500 discount on Ford vehicles or low-interest vehicle loans from Farm Bureau Bank.

We encourage our more than 500,000 members throughout the state to utilize this service. It's a win-win situation for everyone involved.

We have been especially attentive to assembling a wide variety of options for you. Besides what I've already mentioned, the list of discounts includes hotels, rental vehicles, prescription drugs, cell phones, home security systems, computers, State Park Lodges, eyeglasses, hearing aids, telephone service, health screening, wood stoves plus maintenance, repair and supply items from Grainger. And Case IH tractors, too!

This issue of KFB News features a guide to these member benefits on pages 6-9. For more details, go to our web site at kyfb. com.

We appreciate your membership and urge you to utilize these cost-saving member benefits.

DWIGHT GREENWELL

DIRECTOR, MEMBER SERVICES
KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

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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2011 MEMBER BENEFITS GUIDE





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(that would be everybody)

Membership in the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation has its benefits and we're not just talking about supporting Kentucky agriculture or getting a great deal on an insurance policy. Members enjoy discounts, deals, rewards and perks from the Federation's participating retailers and partners. The following pages provide information on how you can enjoy big savings from our various member services programs. Thanks for your membership! For a complete list of benefits go to kyfb.com.













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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 eligible vehicle purchases or leases per Association member during program period. See your Ford or Lincoln Dealer for complete details and qualifications.

^{**} EPA estimated 16 city/23 highway/19 combined MPG 3.7L V6 4x2.

^{***}Class is full size pickups under 8,500 lbs. GVWR, non-hybrid.

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T-MOBILE is now offering our members 12% discounts off of their monthly service. Members also receive waived activation fees and heavily discounted handset prices. New customers call 866-464-8662 and give them the KYFB promotional code 10517TMOFAV. Existing customers call 877-453-8824 and provide the KYFB promotional code 10517TMOFAV.

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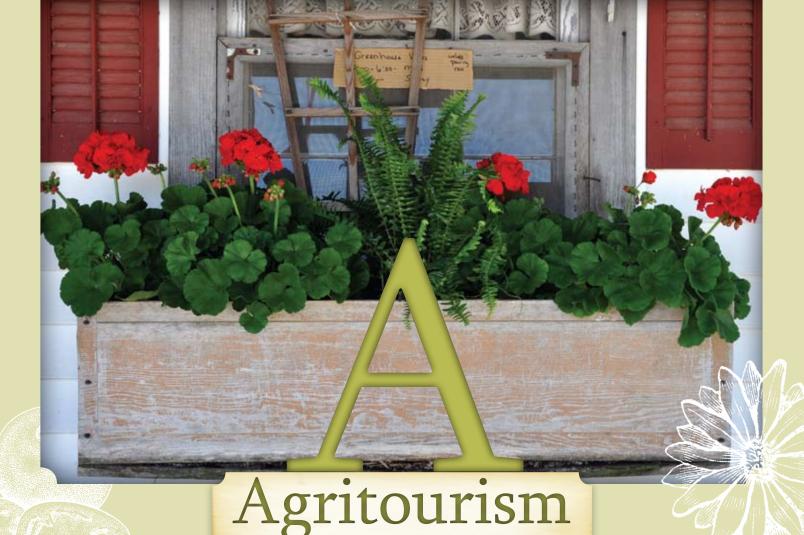
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Article by Mac Lacy

GROWS IN KENTUCKY

t's fair to say that many of us occasionally long for a simpler life. When things are most hectic, we might wonder what it would be like to make a living off the land, working in the soil and rising with the sun.

Is this a romantic notion? Of course it is. But when it comes to matters of the heart—what isn't?

As it turns out, agritourism in Kentucky often is a matter of the heart. Agritourism is created when farmers and growers follow their dreams to create places where families can go to escape the pressures of everyday life.

They may own a third generation dairy farm in Smith's Grove, a corn and pumpkin farm in western Kentucky, or a scenic fruit orchard atop a bluff overlooking the Kentucky River in Owen County. What they share is an entrepreneurial spirit that finds its roots in farming itself. Like all farmers, they grow things and sell them—but these farmers have also discovered that people want to visit them, get to know them, buy directly from them and bring their kids along for the fun.

Here's a look at just a few of nearly 100 Kentucky Farm Bureau Certified Roadside Farm Markets across the state that are becoming some of the state's newest catalysts for tourism growth.

A DAIRY BARN AND A DREAM AT PELLY'S

"We're a third-generation dairy farm," said Esli Pelly of Pelly's Farm Fresh Market in Smith's Grove, as we sat at a picnic table in a sprawling barn with concrete floors. Outside, dozens of guests milled about in the nearby nursery area, buying flowers and browsing through old buildings filled with antiques and collectibles.

"My husband, David, milked cows his whole life," said Pelly. "I started the nursery in 1998 and we raise all the flowers anyone could want. But after 40 years in the milk barn, it was time for him to stop milking cows so we re-purposed it."

She laughed. "We have two wonderful daughters ages 19 and 11 who were never going to come back and milk cows. So we created something they can come back for. We had our grand opening on October 1 of 2009. We announced that we were giving away hot dogs and ice cream. We gave away 500 hot dogs and dishes of ice cream that day and we've been growing ever since."

Today, Pelly's hosts school groups and tour groups in the barn, many of which bring picnic lunches with them. They've even hosted a couple of weddings. Visitors ramble through the huge barn and buy some of the Kentucky Proud items on the shelves and they wander over to view the goats and chickens that entertain guests nearby. Their adjoining Garden Patch Nursery is a local horticultural hotspot, offering dozens of varieties of plants, herbs and flowers.

(270) 563-3276



IT'S ALL ABOUT THE FALL AT BOYD'S ORCHARDS

A couple of hours north in Woodford County, Terry and Susie Boyd have built a thriving agritourism complex at Boyd Orchards. When telling their story, Susie starts at the beginning.

"We met years ago on an airplane and one thing led to another," she said. "At the time, I was living in downtown Chicago and he was in the orchard business in southern Illinois. When I told my friends that I was leaving Chicago to get into the orchard business, they threw a party for me and gave me lots of gag gifts like overalls and a corn cob pipe."

"We bought this farm in 2004 from two brothers in their 80s," she said as we toured Terry's meticulously kept apple orchards. "We added the playground, the retail building and the picnic area you see back here."

At Boyd's, spring and summer are simply a prelude to a bustling fall.

"September through November—that's when we make 75 percent of our income," said Susie. "On weekends, it's families. On weekdays, it's school kids. We do around 10,000 kids in six weeks.

"We have tour guides for our school groups. We're a little more instructional than some other operations. We talk about bees, pollination, how things grow. We'll do 10-12 buses a day in the fall from as far as two hours drive away.

"For groups who want meals, we do our own. We don't use caterers. We did one for a Kentucky Farm Bureau outing just last year with ribs, shrimp and all the sides. We have groups of 150 to 200 or more come in for an entire day including planned activities, a meal and bonfires in our back area."

Before I left the store, Terry joined us and pointed across the expanse of the large retail section at Boyd's. "In the fall, for seven straight weeks you cannot move in here," he said, smiling. "We do seven weekend festivals in a row—nobody else does that."

www.boydorchards.com (859) 873-3097



FROM SUMMER SWEET CORN TO FALL FUN AT CATES FARM

When I spoke to Sharon Cates of Cates Farm near Henderson in western Kentucky, the May flooding was at its worst and she was checking her cornfields daily to monitor the impact. But, like the lifelong farmer she is, she said things always seem to work out.

"Farmers are very optimistic or we wouldn't be in this business," said Cates.

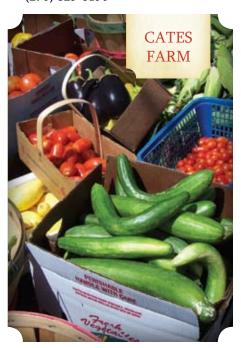
"We've been selling sweet corn here to the public for 30 years," she said. "That's what we're known for. We also sell other fresh produce like tomatoes, squash, and peppers. July is our biggest month for sweet corn. We usually plant three plantings and we grow yellow, white and bicolored corn. Our roadside stand is right in the middle of the farm.

"Our busiest time of the year for visitors is in the fall when we do our pumpkin patch and corn maze," said Cates. "We start the third week of September and run through Halloween. We have a 10-12 acre corn maze and a straw maze as well. We grow 10-12 acres of pumpkins. And we do games for guests like cornhole, hillbilly golf and duck races. We also do hayrides.

"We host group parties and a lot school groups," she said. "Sometimes we have 150-200 kids here at one time.

"Our corn maze is five years old and our attendance is growing every year," said Cates. "We advertise in the paper and last year we bought a billboard out on the highway for the first time."

(270) 823-6150







A KENTUCKY RIVER ICON GROWS IN OWEN COUNTY

Larry Ayres retired from the Kentucky State Police forensics lab years ago to start Ayres Family Orchard in Owen County. "My wife likes to say that I've gone from working with bad apples to raising good ones," he said with a laugh.

"When we married, we bought a section of her family's farm on a hillside overlooking the Kentucky River. It wasn't ideal for row crops like corn or soybeans, but it was a beautiful setting. I researched horticulture for 10 years before we decided to go commercial with it in 1983. I grafted all my own trees to create the apples I wanted. We put 1,400 trees out in two years time.

"Eventually, we got into farmers' markets in several counties around here. We're just off U.S. 127, so our location is very good. We're a Kentucky Farm Bureau Certified Roadside Market and we have a big billboard down the road from here.

"We're not an entertainment farm like some are," said Ayres. "We don't do corn mazes or hayrides. But people do come here for an authentic farm experience. We're one of the three highest points in Owen County. The elevation here lends itself to orchards—we don't have the same trouble with spring freezes or crop diseases.

"We start about the middle of August with our apples," said Ayres. "Around the first of September we have apple cider. We run through late September or early October. We also grow peaches, blackberries, apples and plums in the summer. We grow more plums than anyone else in Kentucky."

He concluded our conversation with a comment that goes to the heart of why so many people seek out a Kentucky farm or orchard as a touchstone for their family.

"This is a beautiful place," said Ayres. "It's special when you can pick your own fruit and enjoy the scenery overlooking the Kentucky River."

www.ayresapples.com (502) 484-5236

FARM BUREAU'S ROADSIDE MARKETS FEED KENTUCKY TOURISM

The Kentucky Farm Bureau Roadside Farm Market program is promoting the concept of agritourism in Kentucky. Bright blue and gold signs heralding Farm Bureau-certified markets sit prominently at the entrance of almost 100 enterprises across the state today.

"We're at 99 certified markets and counting," said Kara Keeton, who manages the program. "There are basic criteria a market has to meet in order to be certified. They have to be a Farm Bureau member, they must have a permanent structure in place to operate from or be building one, and they have to be involved in an agritourism venture."

"The best of them are well-versed in agritourism and consumer education about farming and fresh produce because educating the consumer is helpful. Picked fresh makes a difference and that's an important part of our message.

"Many people today have never spent time on a farm, have never picked strawberries or been around livestock," said Keeton. "Lots of families, school groups and tour groups really enjoy these sites for that reason.

"Our message is easy to understand. We want Kentuckians to support their local farmers and entrepreneurs who are running these businesses. And we want them to know that locally-grown produce tastes better and is better for your family."

www.roadside@kyfb.com (502) 495-5000

FRIENDSHIPS BLOOM NEAR LINCOLN'S BIRTHPLACE

Flower baskets and lasting friendships draw visitors by the hundreds to Lee's Garden Center, Florist and Gift Shop near Hodgenville, Kentucky. It's hard to say which you notice first—the incredible array of homegrown flowers or the hospitality of owners Scotty and Robin Lee.

"We were looking for something to set us apart when we started this business and we just decided we'd be the friendliest garden center anywhere around," said Robin. "We have lots of couples come in and when the husband gets tired and cranky, we offer him a seat in this chair right here and bring him something to drink. They start smiling again right away."

"Spring is a huge season for us," said Scotty. "On Mother's Day weekend, hundreds of people come in to look at flower baskets for their mothers. People buy plants and flowers for their entire yard in one trip. We'll have 500-700 visitors come through here on Mother's Day alone."

The Lees grow all their flowers and vegetables onsite at the garden center or on their nearby farm. "We also sell fresh produce like corn, tomatoes, beans and peppers," said Scotty. "We have fresh tomatoes in May from our greenhouse and we offer U-pick green beans and other seasonal vegetables. This year we're going to try U-pick tomatoes."

They're introducing a Friday evening event this summer called "Corn Feeder Friday". They'll offer barbecue, roasted ears of sweet corn, baked beans and drinks for "around \$6-7" so people can have a meal while they shop in the garden center.

"In the fall, school groups come into the greenhouses for educational programs on gardening and landscaping," said Scotty. "We entertain a lot of 4H groups, garden clubs, and other organizations here. During the holiday season—we offer evergreen wreath-making classes."

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J Potts Nursery & Greenhouse Kirksey · (270) 489-2756

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Morning View · (859) 356-2837

Reed Valley Orchard

Paris · (859) 987-6480

Ridgeview Greenhouse & Nursery

Shepherdsville · (502) 955-5939

Sherwood Acres Beef

LaGrange · (502) 222-4326

Sunny Acres Farm

Jeffersontown · (502) 643-6584

Sweet Home Spun

Pleasureville · (502) 878-4814

The Greenhouse in Gertrude

Brooksville \cdot (606) 782-0033 Thieneman's Herbs & Perennials

Louisville · (502) 491-6305

Tingle Farms Roadside Market

Campbellsburg⋅ (502) 532-9975

Tower View Farm & Nursery

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Valley Orchards Farm Hebron (859) 689-9511

Williams Country Market Gravel Switch · (270) 692-2493

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River · (606) 297-2600

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Mt. Sterling (859) 498-9123

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Irvine · (606) 723-7895

Fannin's Vegetables

West Liberty · (606) 743-3343

Holliday Farm & Garden

Hazard · (606) 436-2635

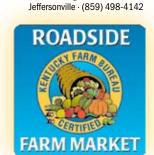
Imel's Greenhouse

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Festivals

FIND THEIR ROOTS IN FARMING

Article by Herb Sparrow

griculture has played a pivotal role in Kentucky's history since the state's beginnings, and Kentuckians have long gathered in festivals and fairs to celebrate their farming heritage and to proudly compete for blue ribbons and bragging rights for the best vegetables, flowers, baked pies and livestock.

As far back as the late 1700s, Mercer County farmers formed an association for the improvement of agriculture, and in 1828 they started the Mercer County Fair and Horse Show in Harrodsburg. Having survived depressions, fire, the Civil War and two world wars, the fair, which will be held for the 184th time July 25-30, lays claim to the title as the oldest county fair in the country.

Nearly every Kentucky county has followed suit, and the calendar is dotted spring to fall with county fairs that showcase and promote local agriculture in addition to offering a wide range of fun activities for young and old.

Advocates for individual sectors of the agricultural economy have also gotten

into the act, and today Kentuckians can enjoy a bevy of activities at festivals that promote everything from strawberries, apples, corn, tobacco and pumpkins to hogs, horses, sheep and cattle.

One of the newer festivals is on the site of the oldest. Although the Mercer County Fair and Horse Show is a premiere showcase for the American Standardbred, some local residents recognized that many farmers are getting away from raising tobacco and supplementing their income instead with beef cattle.

"Kentucky has the largest inventory of beef cattle this side of the Mississippi and continues to grow. We are in the process of promoting and educating the public about the production, distribution and selling of beef from the farm to the marketplace," notes the website of Kentucky's six-year-old Fort Harrod Beef Festival, held the first weekend in June at the Mercer County Fairgrounds in Harrodsburg and on the grounds of Old Fort Harrod State Park.

A packed schedule includes a steak and egg breakfast; a beef grill-off featuring

briskets, steaks and burgers; a corn-hole tournament; a car show; a motorcycle poker run; wine and cheese tasting featuring Kentucky wineries and cheese; a 5K run; and one-hour concerts on Saturday afternoon by three different bands.

The festival's innovative Carnival Corral features 11 different interactive games for children, who earn chances to play by interacting with volunteers to learn about agriculture. Participants who play every game get a free ice-cream sandwich at the Mercer County Cattlemen's concession stand.

The corral received a County Activities of Excellence Award in 2009 from the Kentucky Farm Bureau.

The people in Trigg and Marion counties are deservingly proud of their country hams, so it is no surprise their festivals to honor and preserve the craft of curing hams are major events that draw tens of thousands of visitors.

Marion County Ham Days started nearly 40 years ago with six hams. Today, more than 6,000 pounds of country hams are served to more than 50,000 visitors who attend the festival in downtown Lebanon the last full weekend in September (Sept. 24-25),

As you might expect, the pig theme is carried out in many creative ways, such as the "piggin' & grinnin" by the Kentucky Fellowship of Musician, a Pigasus Parade, a Slop-the-Hog Ham and Biscuit eating contest, Pig Pen relay race and the Farmers National Bank Pokey Pig 5K Fun/Walk.

The weekend is filled with other musical acts; arts and crafts booths; an antique car, truck and motorcycle show; a haybale toss competition; and a pedal pull.

More than 35,000 people descend on Cadiz in western Kentucky each October for Trigg County Ham Days, which will be held for the 35th time Oct. 14-16.

In addition to the world's largest country ham and biscuit (see Page 16), the festival, which has steadily expanded since the first festival in 1977, has a ham show with judging of country hams, free concerts on Friday and Saturday nights with name entertainers, fireworks on Friday night and an open-air worship service on the courthouse square on Sunday morning.

More than 170 vendors line the streets with food and arts and crafts booths; handcrafted quilts are a favorite. New this year will be an Artisan's Alley with higher-end wares.

In addition to its giant pie (see Page 16), the 37th Casey County Apple Festival, which will be held in downtown Liberty Sept. 20-27, has more than 200 vendors with arts and crafts, food and flea market booths; free live music; children and youth contests; a parade; and a carnival.

In addition to the carnival, children's activities include a pedal tractor pull, Big Wheel race, frog jumping, apple eating and ice cream eating contests.

Between 30,000 and 40,000 visitors attend the annual festival.

Johnson County in eastern Kentucky celebrates the local apple industry each fall with a week of activities leading up to the first Saturday in October. The 49th annual Kentucky Apple Festival will be held in Paintsville Sept. 26-Oct. 1.

Several pageants, football games, costume contests and

free concerts lead up to finale on Saturday, which includes a 5K Apple Run, auto shows, gospel music, a parade, another free concert at the courthouse square and square dancing at Paint Creek Farm.

Kentucky has become one of the leading poultry producing states, and London pulls out all the stops in late September to honor its place as home to two pioneering fast-food entrepreneurs at the World Chicken Festival.

Colonel Harland Sanders, founder of Kentucky Fried Chicken, had his first restaurant, where he developed his famous "secret recipe of herbs and species," in the area, and his nephew, Lee Cummings, who co-founded Lee's Famous Recipe Chicken, began his career there with his uncle.

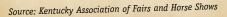
The 22-year-old festival, one of the state's largest, draws more than a quarter-million people to downtown London. This year's dates are Sept. 22-25.

Thousands of pieces of chicken are fried during the festival in what is billed as the "World's Largest Stainless Steel Skillet" (see Page 16).

But there's a lot more than just chicken at the festival: a Colonel Sanders look-a-like contest, a parade, a carnival midway, more than 200 exhibitor booths and a wide variety of musical entertainment on four stages from bluegrass and country to gospel.

COUNTY FAIRS

Wayne County, July 1-9 Henry County, July 4-9 Ewing-Fleming County, July 4-9 Hart County, July 4-9 Lincoln County, July 4-9 Marion County, July 4-9 Laurel County, July 5-9 Harrison County, July 7-16 Adair County, July 9-16 Breckinridge County, July 11-16 Henderson County, July 11-16 Jessamine County, July 11-16 Kenton County, July 11-16 Hardin County Community Fair & Horse Show, July 11-16 Daviess County, July 11-16 Hardin County, July 11-26 Owen County 4-H Fair & Horse Show, July 11-16 McCreary County, July 12-16 Whitley County, July 14-16 Spencer County, July 15-30 Ballard County, July 16-23 Pulaski County, July 16-23 Barren County, July 17-23 Nelson County, July 18-23 Franklin County Fair and Horse Show, July 18-23 Logan County, July 18-22 Lyon County, July 18-22 McLean County, July 20-23 Madison County, July 22-30 LaRue County, July 22-30 Mercer County Fair & Horse Show, July 25-30 Pulaski County, July 25-30 Mt. Sterling/Montgomery County, July 25-30 Crittenden County, July 25-30 Cumberland County, July 25-30 Boyd County, July 26-30 Hopkins County, July 26-30 Meade County, July 23-30 Montgomery County, Aug. 1-6 Hickman County, Aug. 1-6 Livingston County, Aug. 2-6 Grayson County, Aug. 30-Sept. 5 Grant County, July 29-Aug. 6 Clark County, July 30-Aug. 6 Carter County, Aug. 7-13 McCreary County, Aug. 9-13 Hancock County, Aug. 10-13 Jackson County, Aug. 29-Sept. 3 Edmonson County, Sept. 8-17 Powell County, Sept. 10-17 Robertson County, Sept. 15-18 Ohio County, Sept. 22-24 Washington County, Sept. 30-Oct. 2





10-foot giant apple pie is a highlight of the Casey County Apple Festival in Liberty. Volunteers peel 45 bushels of apples, which are placed in a 10-foot stainless-steel pan along with 300 pounds of pastry, 150 pounds of sugar, 15 pounds of butter, two-and-a-half pounds of cinnamon, one-and-a-half pounds of salt and 75 pounds of corn starch.

The Paul Bunyon-size ingredients are then baked for 12 hours at 350 degrees. The pie is large enough to serve several thousand hungry festival goers, who begin lining up at noon on Saturday for the free helpings.

In addition, IGA of Liberty teams up with Duncan Hines to bake a 10-foot giant chocolate chip cookie on Wednesday night, and Pizza Hut of Liberty bakes a 10-foot giant pizza on Thursday night. Both also are served free to the public.

The world's largest known frying skillet — 10 and a half feet in diameter, eight inches deep with an eight-foot handle and weighing 700 pounds — is used to cook more than 7,000 pieces of chicken during the annual World Chicken Festival in London.

The stainless-steel skillet, which can cook 600 quarters of chicken at one time, requires 300 gallons of cooking oil to fill and about 60 gallons of natural gas to operate.

The volunteer cooks use 375 pounds of floor, 75 pounds of salt, 30 pounds of pepper and 30 pounds of paprika during the festival.

Down in Trigg County, the local Ham Festival in Cadiz cracked the "Guinness Book of Records" in 1985 with the world's largest country ham and biscuit, a 10-and-a-half-foot diameter biscuit that weighed in at 4,000 pounds.

Every year since them, the folks in Trigg County bake a "smaller' 2,000-pound biscuit in a special home-made oven that takes up most of a bank's parking lot. The biscuit is cut into pieces, stuffed with locally produced country ham and sold to benefit the FFA and other groups.

KENTUCKY FESTIVALS

July 23

Backroads Farm Tour, Alexandria home.fuse.net/campbellcd

Aug. 3-6

Shelbyville Horse Show www.shelbyvillehorseshow.com

Sept. 20-27

Casey County Apple Festival, Liberty www.caseycountyapplefestival.org

Sept. 22-25

World Chicken Festival, London www.chickenfestival.com

Sept. 24-25

Marion County Ham Days, Lebanon, www.marioncountykychamber.com/hamdays.html

Sept. 30-Oct. 1

Kentucky Apple Festival, Paintsville, www.kyapplefest.org

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30th annual Metcalfe County Pumpkin Festival, Edmonton www.metcalfechamber.com

Oct. 1-8

Logan County Tobacco Festival, Russellville, www.loganchamber.com

Oct. 7-9

Kentucky Wool Festival, Falmouth, www.kywoolfest.org

Oct. 14-16

Trigg County Ham Days, Cadiz, www.hamfestival.com



FLEMING COUNTY FB OFFERS MEMBER SERVICES PROGRAM

leming County FB has partnered with a local farm supply company to offer a member services program involving product discounts. Hinton Mills, a 93-year-

old company with three stores in Fleming County plus one in neighboring Mason County, will be providing 10 percent discounts to KFB members on a variety of products.

"We welcome a partnership with Farm Bureau," said company Vice President Adam Hinton, who also serves on the young farmer committee for Fleming County FB. "We share the same value system and a commitment to agricultural excellence."

Adam's great grandfather, Frank
L. Hinton, founded the company in
1918. His father, Bud Hinton, is the
current president and his brother, Nathan,

is a Vice President.

Hinton Mills is a major supplier of animal feed throughout the region, with customers in 25 counties. It has farm supply stores in Flemingsburg (Fleming

MINTON MILLS Serving Parmers

Hinton Mills has discounts for KFB members at its three stores, including this one in Flemingsburg.

County Farm Supply), Ewing (Jabetown Mill), Plummers Landing (Frank Hinton & Son) and May's Lick (May's Lick Mill).

Through July the discount applies to Gray Seal and Lexington Paint. From

August through October the program applies to all Diamond, Coon Hunter's Pride and Taste of the Wild dog and cat food and select Evolved Habitat and Trophy Rock deer hunting products.

From November through January KFB members get 10 percent off of all Dickies, Wolverine, Wrangler and Key work clothes and boots plus Hinton Mills Grandpa's Choice Coffee.

Adam Hinton, who handles marketing and promotions for the company, worked with Fleming County FB President Randall Wood and KFB Member Services Director Dwight Greenwell to develop the program. It

will be widely advertised, Adam said.



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FARMING 101

WHY FARMERS DO WHAT THEY DO ...

onsumers are more curious about their food than ever before. Where does it come from? How was it produced? When was it harvested and processed? Are there health risks?

And they have questions about farming practices like raising animals in buildings, growing crops from genetically-altered seed, spraying animal wastes on fields and so on.

With this issue of KFB News going to our more than 500,000 members throughout Kentucky, we asked farmers to address some of the common questions raised by those who are unfamiliar with agriculture. Farming practices have indeed changed dramatically over the years. Today's agriculture is far more complex. But what hasn't changed is the farmers' commitment to produce quality products under high standards of stewardship.

(Special thanks to KFB National Affairs Director L. Joe Cain for assisting with this project.)

WHY DO FARMERS . . .

RAISE ANIMALS IN BUILDINGS?

rom economic and environmental standpoints, raising livestock and poultry in a controlled indoor environment is far preferable to the days when the animals roamed outdoors. Many of the chores that used to be done by hand are now automated, allowing farmers to produce more animals in a much safer environment, and more efficiently.



FULTON COUNTY FARMER SAM HANCOCK

"It's a no brainer," says Sam Hancock, an eighth-generation farmer who raises about 10,000 hogs annually from two barns on his Fulton County farm. "It is so much more environmentally-friendly to raise indoors. You can manage the manure evenly; the hogs aren't out there eroding the land."

A long list of advantages also includes better management, controlling costs and maintaining a healthy production environment.

"We don't have free-range children; we care about them, we want to care for them. It's that way with our pigs. If you put 5,000 pigs out in a pasture you'd be out there all day checking on them. If one got sick it could take days to discover it," said Hancock.

"There are some who say those pigs should be outside where they are happy, can roll in the mud and all that. Well, they're not happy to be rolling in the mud; they're happy to not be dying from the heat. These barns are climate controlled. Weather is not an issue."

The housing system also protects the animals from predators and other weather extremes.

Food animals produce lots of manure, which is better managed through the waste containment systems in modern facilities. Disposal is a sustainable system in that manure is applied to the fields, the nutrients feed the crops and the crops feed the pigs.

"Manure management,' explained Hancock, "has become a science. We calculate the process and spread at accepted agronomic levels. It's both an economic and environmental benefit."

Another myth about the so-called "factory farming" is that the animals are routinely dosed with antibiotics or growth hormones.

"We only spot-treat antibiotics to those that our sick," said Hancock. "There's no mass treatment; some never get antibiotics."

From an economic standpoint, the hogs grow faster, so it takes less feed to get them to market weight. The manure also greatly reduces the need to buy fertilizer for his 5,000 acres of row crops, he said.

"The fertilizer situation was a big reason why I got into the hog business. With my size (crop) operation, this makes good sense."

WHY DO FARMERS . . .

USE GENETICALLY ENHANCED CROPS?

hen genetically engineered crops (also known as GMO) were introduced in the mid-1990s, critics from the health and environmental communities raised concerns by claiming that these new seeds would produce dangerous "Frankenfoods." It turned out to be unfounded.

"As far as we can determine no one has gotten as much as a headache from using GMO crops," said Shelby County corn and soybean producer Jack Trumbo. "There's never really been any science-based evidence that it causes problems with food or fiber."

American farmers like Trumbo have adopted GMO crops widely since their introduction in 1996. Today, the large major-



SHELBY COUNTY FARMER JACK TRUMBO

ity of soybeans, cotton and corn are genetically enhanced crops that make it easier to control weeds and insects.

Trumbo, a long-time leader for Farm Bureau and the Kentucky Soybean Association, has been growing GMO crops from the start. He is an avid proponent.

"Of course you have the economic advantage because it improves yields by controlling potential damage," he said. "But to me the number one thing is the environment. One of the greatest advantages is that we use less chemicals and therefore there's less residue left on the land. And it's a much better way to control weeds and pests."

The first genetically-enhanced crop to gain widespread acceptance was Roundup-ready soybeans, which have a tolerance to the herbicide Roundup. GMO crops later were developed to enable farmers to do a better job controlling some of the most predominate weeds and insects that afflict corn and cotton, including Canadian thistle, rootworms, the European corn borer and boll weevils.

Usage doesn't mean that farmers use more herbicide; it means they have greater flexibility in deciding where and when to apply. Plus they don't have to use their tillage equipment as often, thereby saving fuel.

"The environmental effects are tremendous - - I can't stress that enough," said Trumbo, who is raising 3,000 acres of corn, soybeans and straw in Shelby, Spencer, Jefferson and Henry counties. He also is quick to note the heavy regulation.

"The Agriculture Department, EPA, universities - - they've all looked at this closely," he said. "This didn't just pop onto the market. A tremendous amount of research and regulation is behind this."

Trumbo estimates a yield boost of from three to five bushels per acre with GMO. That's vital, he says, in an age where farmers must feed a rapidly-expanding world.

"We're being expected to produce more and more; the only way we can continue to feed the world is with GMO to better protect our crops."

WHY DO FARMERS . . . INJECT MANURE INTO THE GROUND?

anure application has come a long way since the farmer stepped into some ragged bib overalls, pulled on some thick boots and grabbed a pitchfork. The process actually begins long before the manure hits the ground, with soil samples taken to determine exactly what nutrients are needed and at what rate of application. Some

farmers use a high-tech global satellite system to map their fields so that the correct amounts can be applied. Those maps are loaded onto computers inside the tractor cab and are linked to a metering device to assure correct application levels.

Spreading manure is usually done during the winter season, before the planting of new crops. Manure is an excellent fertilizer as it contains nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and other nutrients. Nutrient values of manure vary greatly, depending



HENRY COUNTY CATTLE PRODUCER CORINNE KEPHART

on many factors such as type of animal, age, feed and storage system. That's why farmers test it.

"There are so many benefits," explained Henry County cattle producer Corinne Kephart, "that it's well worth the time to properly prepare for an effective application. Manure returns organic manner to the soil and reduces compaction because it does so. It helps prevent erosion. It reduces the splash effect from raindrops in that soil particles can't be carried away by water. It provides a slow release of nitrogen. And it doesn't require the same energy to produce that a commercial fertilizer does."

Mrs. Kephart and her husband, Jacob, are the fourth genera-

tion to live on their farm near Pleasureville. They have a small herd of purebred cattle plus Jacob's father has about 100 head of commercial cattle there.

There are two ways to spread manure. Producers like Mrs. Kephart who do not have a high volume apply solid manure to the surface and then use either regular tillage or a conservation tillage practice to work it into the soil. Those with the so-called confined animal feeding operations (CAFO) have a waste collection system in their barns. Solids and liquids become a "slurry" that is injected into the ground in a system similar to planting seeds. This reduces odors and



enhances the nitrogen use efficiency.

Most states, including Kentucky, require large-scale livestock and poultry producers to file detailed manure management plans with state regulators. Those farms are subject to inspection and can face heavy fines for violations of state guidelines.

Mrs. Kephart is past president of the Kentucky Cattlemen's Association and is an extension animal science/horticulture specialist for neighboring Shelby County. She laments the fact that critics use the rare instances of poor animal waste management to paint a picture of a widespread problem.

"Proper (manure) management can be complicated, but farmers realize and appreciate the benefits from doing it right," she said. "It's a sustainable practice. It makes sense economically and environmentally. It's certainly cheaper than commercial fertilizer."

WHY DO FARMERS . . . TREAT ANIMALS WITH ANTIBIOTICS?

ohn Kuegel Jr. is a mild-mannered dairy farmer who gets stirred up about allegations that farmers mistreat their animals for the sake of a dollar. And because he produces the most wholesome farm product, he's particularly sensitive about claims that antibiotics and other medications can impact milk safety.



DAVIESS COUNTY DAIRY FARMER JOHN KUEGEL JR.

"The public has been misled about a number of things we (farmers) do," said Kuegel, a third-generation dairyman in Daviess County. "We're in business to take care of our animals so they can produce a quality product to bring to the market-place. The better job we do, the less antibiotics we will require.

"We only use antibiotics when it's absolutely necessary for keeping the herd healthy. If they don't need it, we don't give it. But just like with your kids, there are times when these cows get sick and we have to make it better." Dairy farmers have to be on guard against mastitis, a potentially fatal mammary gland disease that is the most common and costly disease in dairy cows. Other maladies include pink eye and pneumonia.

Like most dairy farmers, Kuegel is trained in how to "doctor" his cows.

"We attend extension classes and seminars to keep up-to-date, but the key thing is that we follow the label directions, which is crucial. We know the right amount and the right time."

What the public probably doesn't know, he says, is that dairy farmers are diligent in segregating sick cows from the rest of the herd in order to prevent a spread, as well as following the recommended withdrawal period to return them to the milking parlor. Milk from cows on an antibiotic does not leave the farm.

Dairy farmers also test their milk tank every day before the milk is trucked off to the manufacturing plant. And then it's checked at the plant, as well.

"There are numerous safety checks in place prior to reaching the consumer," he said. "And that's because one slip up, one mistake, and the whole industry is damaged. That keeps us on our toes."

Kuegel has 400 head of cattle on his farm just west of Owensboro and maintains a milking herd of about 150. He's the third generation to operate the farm. He and his wife, Leigh Ann, have received KFB's prestigious Outstanding Young Farm Family award.

The use of antibiotics in livestock is highly regulated by the Food and Drug Administration. Guidelines include withdrawal times for any antibiotic that could affect humans. Research has shown that livestock on antibiotics carry lower levels of bacteria that could cause potential diseases.

"It's a critical thing to make sure our food is safe; we realize that," said Kuegel. "This is our livelihood. These animals are like family. It doesn't make sense to throw medicine at animals randomly. We make educated decisions about this."

WHY DO FARMERS . . .

SOMETIMES PLOW THEIR FIELDS AND OTHER TIMES PLANT INTO THE STUBBLE FROM A PREVIOUS CROP?

s you drive through the countryside no scene is more bucolic than a freshly plowed field of brown, fluffy soil making a patchwork amidst green pastures. Conventional tillage, however, is becoming rare as farmers have reaped the advantages of "no-till" planting - - where they plant crops directly into the stubble from the previous crop with virtually no soil preparation or tillage.

No-till is not pretty, but there are huge economic and environmental advantages. So much so that it's become a common practice for row crops like corn, soybeans and wheat.

Washington County farmer Michael McCain uses no-till on about 90 percent of his crop acreage.

"The number one advantage is soil conservation, and that's more important than ever for us to continue to produce well," said McCain, who along with wife Nora was a finalist in KFB's Outstanding Young Farm Family program last year. "I'm a firm believer that with a limited amount of land available to grow

food, we need to do all we can to preserve resources. Farmers count on the soil. It's crucial to our business."

Many parts of Kentucky are hilly, which is an even greater reason to leave residue on the fields.

"Any upland field with more than a six percent slope - - you need to stay off of there (with tillage)," McCain explained. "In this part of the world we have to take care of that sloping land."



WASHINGTON COUNTY FARMER MICHAEL MCCAIN

There are other advantages such as building valuable organic matter, labor savings and fuel savings. McCain estimates he saves from \$25 to \$40 per acre on fuel because he doesn't have to make multiple cultivation passes with his equipment through his fields. No-till does require additional herbicide use, but that is more than offset by the other savings on fuel and labor.

Studies have shown higher yields for corn and soybeans planted behind a no-till crop of wheat. McCain says that's been the case with his crops.

No-till planting actually originated in Kentucky when Christian County farmer Harry Young planted the first commercial field of no-till corn in 1962. There's a plaque at the site noting that historical achievement for agriculture.

Conventional tillage is still used, but mainly for vegetable crops or on flat bottomlands with compaction problems.

"You still need to till poorly-drained soils," McCain explained. "A lot of (stream) bottoms don't do well with no-till."

WHY DO FARMERS PLANT OR HARVEST AFTER DARK?

ith Mother Nature as boss, farmers rarely work a 9-to-5 routine. Especially during planting and harvesting seasons.

Because crops need a certain number of warm days to mature, the timing of planting is critical, with the timeframe short on getting those seeds into the ground. Days lost is money lost in terms of expected yields on late-planted crops. Most of the corn and soybeans in Kentucky are planted by June 1. But certainly not this year, when the wet spring meant farmers had to put in some very long days.

Clark County farmer Shane Wiseman was so far behind in early June that he was planting soybeans as late as midnight. And because he couldn't get a corn crop into the ground by his normal optimal deadline of May 15, Wiseman went to soybeans instead because that crop has varieties that can do well when planted later.

"There are varieties of beans we can go up to July 4 with," Wiseman said. As for corn, he said: "There's an old wise saying that after May 15, every day you lose is a bushel (of yield) lost,"

Farmers also face economic losses if they can't get the crops out of the fields as close to possible to their maturity dates. Corn stalks that are left standing too long become brittle and are susceptible to wind damage. Soybeans can lose their optimal moisture level, thereby lessening their market value. October is a peak time for harvesting both corn and soybeans, but depending on the variety, area and planting date, harvest



CLARK COUNTY FARMER SHANE WISEMAN

could come as late as early December. Winter wheat is planted in October and harvested in June or July.

Tractors and combines have the lighting technology enabling them to easily navigate farm fields in the dark. Farmers also have access to Global Positioning Satellite systems that make the job easier to plan and execute by setting exact coordinates that can be accurate within inches. GPS also allows for less overlapping, Wiseman explained.

"GPS makes sure your rows are straight," he said. "All I have to do is sit in the cab and make sure the equipment is working."

Twenty years ago you rarely would have seen a farm machine lighting up the rural landscape. But today, with technological advances and so many larger farms that require more time to manage, more and more farmers have a "night life" as well.

That was the case this spring for Wiseman, who is President of Clark County FB and a Director for KFB.

"Right now, I'm trying to get six weeks work done in two weeks," he said on June 9.

County Farm Bureaus help disaster victims

ounty Farm Bureau organizations have been contributing in various ways to disaster relief efforts in response to the wave of calamities this spring, including severe flooding in West Kentucky. Donations also have been targeted for victims of tornadoes in Alabama and Missouri.

A group of five young farmers from Bullitt County provided direct assistance, taking a fleet of equipment to Fulton, Alabama, where they worked four days with cleanup efforts. Bullitt County FB paid for their expenses and treasurer Gary McGruder provided his motor home for their travel and lodging. The group of Jeff Robards, Doug Hatfield, Terry Northcutt, Jesse Scott and Kyle Skidmore took to Alabama a tractor trailer truck, two Bobcats, a dump truck, a mini-excavator and a service vehicle with supplies.

Fulton was the destination because of a tie with a Baptist minister there who formerly had a church in Bullitt County.

Harrison County FB Federation and Insurance Agency were part of a community-wide effort that sent more than \$12,000 worth of farm supplies to farmers in Russellville, Alabama impacted by the tornado outbreak in that state.

Harrison County FB leaders loaded the goods onto a 53-foot truck bound for Alabama. Harrison County FFA Alumni, Beef Cattle Association and fiscal court also were among those involved. (KFB Director Alex Barnett is Harrison County's Judge-Executive.)

The project involved accepting new and used supplies, as well as monetary donations. Donors had the option of writing checks to the Harrison County Salvation Army. Monetary donations were around \$12,000, plus \$5,000 worth of supplies were donated.

Harrison County FB leaders Ben Clifford and Pat Darnell spent the monetary donations locally to purchase supplies. They also gathered goods from local farm supply stores where farmers had purchased supplies. In some cases, the farmers had their donations added to their store account. The store set those items aside until committee members came to retrieve them. The majority of money was spent on metal t-posts and barbed wire. Other supplies included gloves, fence post drivers, pliers, hammers, towels, cleaning supplies, gates and fence stretchers.

McCracken County FB worked with the local Red Cross chapter to distribute household cleaning items and bottled water to flood victims at FB offices in Paducah, Smithland and LaCenter.

Top: Bullitt County FB members (from left) Doug Hatfield, Terry Northcutt, Jesse Scott, Jeff Robards and Kyle Skidmore helped with the cleanup in Fulton, Alabama.

Center: Jeff Robards, the young farmer committee chairman for Bullitt County FB, removes debris.

Bottom: Harrison County FB President Pat Darnell loads gates into a truck of donated farm supplies bound for Alabama farmers.







RURAL DEVELOPMENT TAKES CENTER STAGE

arm Bureau's primary focus is the economic well-being of farmers and ranchers. But in recent years, the organization has broadened its scope to address an erosion of the quality of life in the rural communities inexorably linked to farm families.

Rural development has taken a place alongside farm policy in the Farm Bureau agenda because of an alarming decline in economic opportunities in rural communities. The lack of jobs is forcing more and more rural residents to move to urban areas. And the recession has compounded the problems for many small towns struggling to provide services.

"Rural development is an issue that goes beyond creating jobs and renewing communities - - it's also relevant to preserving our valued agrarian culture," said KFB President Mark Haney.

American Farm Bureau brought its 2011 Development Rural Conference Louisville, with KFB and Indiana FB playing hosts to the three-day meeting. The purpose was to share information and ideas that could help Farm Bureaus with rural development initiatives their respective states. Twenty states represented, were stretching from Oregon to New Hampshire to Florida.

President Mark Haney welcomed the group and touched on some rural development issues for Kentucky.

In his opening address to the group, Haney noted how rural development was particularly crucial in a state like Kentucky, where a large number of farm families depend on off-farm income. He said KFB also was greatly concerned about a lack of health care services and decaying infrastructure.

"It's really a quality-of-life issue," he explained.

Indiana FB President Don Villwock struck a chord with the farm interests when he spoke about the decline of his home county and how that led his two children to seek careers elsewhere. He said he felt somewhat to blame for not becoming involved years ago.

"Don't wait until it's too late to act," he said.

The Indiana FB leader went on to explain that his frustrations have led him to develop a "passion" for rural development

Throughout the nation Farm Bureau is urging its local leaders to get involved in community development. The organization is "a natural" to lead initiatives in rural communities because it has good membership numbers and leadership, is organized and well connected, said Harry Watts, a rural development specialist for Kansas FB.

The decline of many rural Kansas counties sparked Watts to

become a rural development advocate within FB circles. He told the conference attendees: "We have a responsibility, I think, as an organization to do what we can to turn this around. We have a real chore ahead of us."

One of the featured speakers was Don Macke of the acclaimed Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI) based in Nebraska and North Carolina. The director of RUPRI's Center for Entrepreneurship, Macke said rural development

strategies have changed dramatically, from focusing on big manufacturing plants with large numbers of employees to seeking small business expansion. Today, RUPRI advises rural communities to emphasize expanding existing small businesses and recruiting and/or assisting entrepreneurs, Macke said.

He noted that the percentage of Americans working for com-

panies with more than 100 employees plunged from 26 percent in 1992 to 7 percent in 2008, while the self-employed went from 2.4 to 7 percent.

"The self-employed are wealth creators," he said. "Entrepreneurs represent powerful changes in rural communities. Of the world's richest rural residents, 47 percent are entrepreneurs."

Macke said state Farm Bureau organizations should formulate recommendations for what their respective state should be doing to address rural development and then determine how they can support initiatives.



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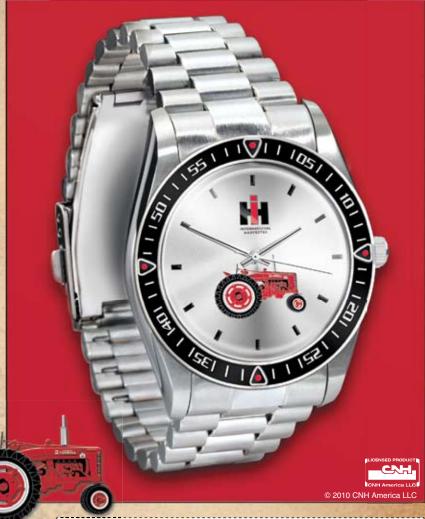
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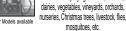
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KFB forms group to address issue with deadstock

ith an eye on promoting composting as a solution, KFB has formed a group to address the problem of deadstock removal from Kentucky farms.

Farmers, county governments and other entities have been looking for options after the two leading hauling companies quit picking up deadstock because of a 2009 change in federal guidelines for rendering dead cattle. A University of Kentucky survey revealed that 65 of Kentucky's 120 counties do not have a disposal service. Of the 55 counties that do, 22 use a hauler, 21 use a landfill and seven use incineration.

Composting, however, has proved to be the most convenient and cost-efficient method. KFB, UK, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, the Kentucky Division of Conservation and other entities are interested in developing on-farm, county or multi-county composting facilities.

KFB held a "working group" meeting last month that included representatives from the aforementioned parties along with the Division of Water, Kentucky Magistrates and Commissioners Association, Kentucky County Judge/ Executive Association, Kentucky Association of Counties, Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy plus dairy, beef cattle, swine, equine, sheep and goat producers. KFB President Mark Haney chaired the meeting.

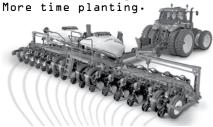
The meeting concluded with an agreement to form a smaller group to work on recommendations for a long-term strategy. Two principal issues will guide the discussions: (1) Developing county and multi-county composting facilities; (2) Developing a threshold for the permitting requirement for farmers.

The working group wants to recommend a threshold for small farmers (those who likely would have low deadstock numbers) to be exempted from permits. The panel also will be looking at how counties and groups of counties could establish public composting facilities and utilize available cost-share programs to defray costs.

The group will work with the State Veterinarian's Office and other appropriate entities to develop proposals.

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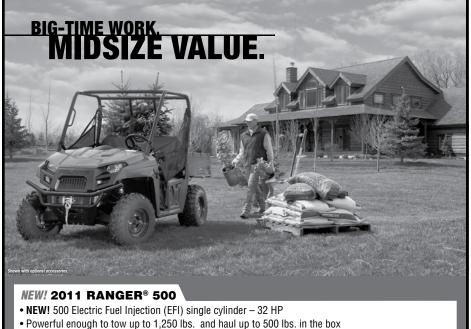
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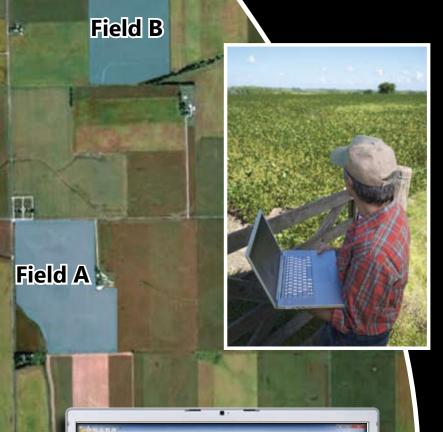
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