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Cover Photo by Jim Lane
www.thephotolane.com

Kentucky Farm Bureau News is published ten times per year. Combined issues for December-January and June-July are sent to all members. The remaining eight issues go to regular members. Bulk postage rate paid at Lebanon Junction, Ky. Changes in address should be mailed to KFB Communications Division, PO Box 20700, Louisville, Ky. 40250.

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Congressional approval of trade agreements with Panama, South Korea and Colombia is good news for our farmers. Already, about 25 percent of the total volume of U.S. farm production is exported. The Obama Administration estimates the new agreements could boost agriculture exports by \$2.5 billion and support thousands of American jobs.



This also is great news for our public affairs team at American Farm Bureau which has worked hard for more than four years to garner support for these trade agreements. As part of its ongoing efforts to promote global trade for American farm commodities, AFBF also has sponsored trade delegations to many nations (including such potentially lucrative markets as China, South Korea and Cuba) and participated in many meetings with world trade officials.

Senator Mitch McConnell was instrumental in finally getting a Congressional vote on these long-awaited agreements. In a news release praising this development he was quick to note the potential impact for Kentucky businesses, saying "the total value of exports from Kentucky currently totals more than \$19 billion. With these trade agreements that number will only grow."

Senator McConnell also pointed out that the vast majority of Kentucky companies that export goods are small or medium-sized businesses.

As a member of AFBF's Trade Advisory Committee, I have a close view of the frustrations that many commodity groups have experienced because what should have been significant trade opportunities turned into trade warfare in Washington. Last year, more than 600 bilateral and regional trade agreements were negotiated around the world. Sadly, the U.S. had a share in less than 20 of these trade deals.

While we have not been opening markets through new trade agreements, many other countries are negotiating bilateral and regional agreements that are reducing our competitiveness and market share around the world.

At a time when job creation is a critical issue, increasing our agricultural trade looms as a significant remedy. It's estimated that the drop in agriculture exports from 2008-09 cost roughly 160,000 American jobs. Expanded agricultural exports also benefits the non-farm economy. USDA estimates that every \$1 in ag exports creates an additional \$1.31 in the economy.

Putting the agreements into force with Panama, South Korea and Colombia is long overdue. Let's hope this development paves the way for additional opportunities for American farmers to reach new customers.

MARK HANEY

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EDITOR'S NOTE: This commentary was published by "The Hand That Feeds U.S.," a public information project launched by agriculture and other business organizations. We feel it provides some excellent talking points in support of farm programs. For more information go to www.thehandthatfeedsus.org.

When you hear the words "farm crisis," what comes to mind?

Today, most of us are so far removed from the farm that we probably wouldn't even know where to begin. Does a farm crisis involve the livestock, the farmers, the food. Us?

The truth is, it's all of the above. Though we may buy our food at a grocery store or even order it online, it all has to come from somewhere. And, as a country that relies on the domestic food supply, booming international export industry, and 21 million American jobs supported by U.S. Agriculture, a farm crisis would have catastrophic repercussions on the entire nation.

Not too long ago, in the 1980s, we did experience a farm crisis. Much like today, farmland prices were flying high and things were going well in rural America. But the market was unsustainable and eventually, the bubble burst.

In just five short years (from 1981 to 1986) an estimated one-quarter of the assessed valuation of America's farmland disappeared.

And if you think a depression like this doesn't hit rural America as hard as Wall St., think again. Widespread losses led to foreclosure, depression, and worse.

Over the last three years, production agriculture has been one of the economy's few bright spots while most of the country has been hemorrhaging value which has led to — among other things — a surge in land prices. And so, we find ourselves in a similar position.

Today, we do have one thing going for us. Hindsight is 20-20. In the past 30 years, Congress has taken steps to ensure America's farmers are never in that position again, recognizing that, as the population continues to grow and the farming community continues to shrink, there's just too much at stake.

But now, with elections approaching and the Administration looking to save face, it has proposed cutting \$33 billion from the same farm policies that were put in place to prevent such a crisis.

Someone once said, "You can only be scared of the future, if you don't understand your past." Washington needs to take a long hard look at the history books before it considers making the same mistake twice.

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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KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU NEWS

Editor	Roger Nesbitt
Advertising Asst.	Brittany Ogaldez
Graphic Designer	Donia Simmons
	Pioneer Publishing
	Lexington, KY
Printer	Publishers Press

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ANNUAL MEETING BEGINS NOVEMBER 30

KFB's 92nd annual meeting is set for November 30-December 3 at the Galt House Hotels in Louisville. Priorities include electing leaders, recognizing achievements, setting policy goals for the 2012 state legislative session and establishing a wish list for Congressional action next year.

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

Commodity and special interest conferences are on tap for December 1. Topics include livestock, horticulture, dairy, feed grains/soybeans, tobacco/farm labor, forestry, equine, ag chemi-

cals, forages and natural resources. A special conference that afternoon will focus on farm bill issues. That day's Commodity Luncheon will include an address from James Wiesenmayer, Senior Vice President of Informa Economics.

Women's leadership activities are showcased at a December 2 luncheon where top county leaders are presented gold star awards for outstanding county-level programs. Youth achievements are also given prominence, with college scholarships awaiting the winners of an Outstanding Farm Bureau Youth contest. The Outstanding Young Farm family will be announced at a young farmer awards luncheon on December 2.

The discussion meet is a popular tradition, with young farmers debating selected agricultural issues. The state champion, which will be determined among the "final four" contestants during the evening program on December 2, advances to the national contest at the AFBF convention in January.

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

Haney will present his annual address on the morning of the 2nd, just prior to the announcement of this year's recipients of the distinguished service awards for Farm Bureau and Kentucky agriculture. The delegates will set policy at the business sessions on the last two days of the convention.

House Appropriations and Revenue Committee Chairman Rick Rand will be the keynote speaker at a December 3 Public Affairs breakfast. The ensuing business session begins with KFB Executive Vice President David S. Beck presenting his annual report on the federation's activities and fiscal condition.

The annual meeting concludes with KFB's Board of Directors determining a "priority list" of issues to address in the year ahead.

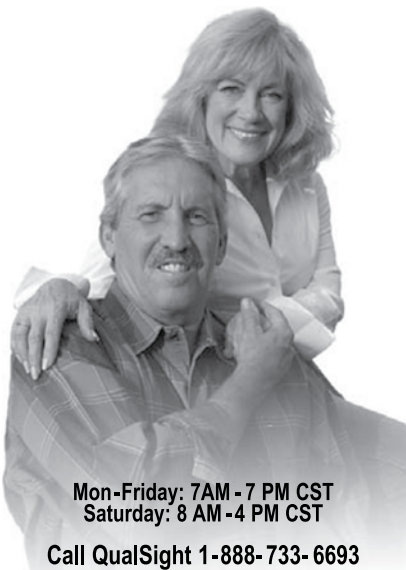
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CANDIDATES FOR KFB DIRECTOR



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

<u>DISTRICT</u>	1:	Tripp Furches, 3182 State Rt. 94W, Murray
<u>DISTRICT</u>	2:	Eddie Melton, 1220 Watkins-Sebree Road, Sebree
		Mary Kate Kordes, 111 Clifton Lane, Central City
<u>DISTRICT</u>	4:	Jay Coleman, 7218 Old Munfordville Road, Cave City
<u>DISTRICT</u>	5:	Joe Paul Mattingly, 830 Sally Ray Pike, Raywick
<u>DISTRICT</u>		Scott Travis, 1420 Max Rouse Road, Cox's Creek
<u>DISTRICT</u>	6:	David Chappell, 2300 Gratz Road, Owenton
<u>DISTRICT</u>	10:	David McGlone, 1101 N. Hwy. 7, Grayson

CANDIDATES FOR AG COMMISSIONER

DISCUSS ISSUES WITH KFB DIRECTORS



Democrat Bob Farmer (second from left) and Republican James Comer (right) went over the format with KFB Executive Vice President David S. Beck and President Mark Haney. The candidates pledged to work closely with KFB.

A spirited campaign for Agriculture Commissioner carried into KFB's state office last month when Democrat Bob Farmer and Republican James R. Comer participated in a "Measure the Candidate" meeting with KFB's Directors.

The candidates made opening and closing statements plus responded to questions relative to their vision for the Department of Agriculture and Kentucky agriculture.

Comer, a Monroe County farmer and six-term State Representative, asserted that he had the superior qualifications for the position. "I believe my qualifications, my experience working with Farm Bureau over the years, makes me far and away the best candidate."

Farmer, a Louisville businessman, argued that his experience in marketing and business management makes him a better choice. "It's not about who's the best farmer; it's about who's best for the farmers," he said in his opening remarks.

While responding to a question about rural and market development, Farmer cited what he described as his "primary goals."

"Number one is to improve the quality of life in rural Kentucky. Number two is to improve net farm income," Farmer said.

Comer, meanwhile, stressed animal disease control and economic develop-

ment as high priorities. "I believe we should work to expand markets for Kentucky farm products," he said, "and focus on having more food processors around the state -- creating more use for our farm commodities and more jobs for Kentuckians."

Both candidates praised the work of the department's Animal Health Division and State Veterinarian's Office, plus voiced strong support for building a new Breathitt Veterinary Center in Hopkinsville. They also lauded the Kentucky Proud marketing program and the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board which oversees the state's agricultural development initiative fueled by tobacco settlement funds. (The Agriculture Commissioner is chairman of that board, as well as the Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation.)

Farmer said he would expand the Kentucky Proud program "to beyond our borders" plus create a comprehensive "worldwide" marketing strategy. Comer described the program as "a real success" but said he wants to expand it to include more organic products plus recertify all participants to ensure they meet all program guidelines for using Kentucky farm commodities.

Among other topics discussed:

- *Farmer said he would establish four regional offices to work on economic development projects and to provide bet-*

ter service.

- *Comer promised the KFB leaders that he would have a close and effective relationship with the General Assembly that would benefit all of agriculture.*

- *Farmer said would restructure many facets of the department to eliminate waste, but not at the expense of the consumer protection programs that involve "about 65 percent of the employees."*

- *Noting that he has experience exporting cattle, Comer vowed to look at ways to boost export markets for Kentucky tobacco. He also promised to "focus rural development efforts on agriculture."*

In his closing remarks Comer claimed that during the course of "a tough campaign" he has overcome a huge deficit in the polling. He told the KFB Directors that "this is an opportunity to elect a commissioner who on Day One will make a difference."

In his closing, Farmer noted that this is his first campaign for a political office and added that "I will never run for another office."

"I simply want to give back – to help rural people by using my skills and experience," Farmer added.

The candidates' responses to a questionnaire on issues can be found at kyfb.com. James Comer's web site is www.jamescomer.com and Bob Farmer's is www.farmerforkentucky.com.

Ag Development Board sets priorities for 2012

the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board (KADB) is inviting proposals for large-scale agribusiness projects that not only boost farm income but also provide a significant number of jobs and economic benefits for rural communities. KADB also would welcome more interaction with economic development groups.

The board that oversees Kentucky's historical agricultural development initiative held its annual two-day planning meeting last month with the aim of setting priorities for 2012. The group placed "economic development" and "promotion" at the top of the list. In short, the directors expressed a desire to see proposals for large-scale projects that are statewide and/or regional in scope, provide long-term economic benefit and create jobs. Secondly, they expressed hope of successfully promoting the fund to economic development organizations and local governments, including Area Development Districts, local Chambers of Commerce and other business groups.

Completing the priority list that 13 of the 16 KADB members compiled are "value-added processing," "livestock marketing" and "on-farm investments."

The Ag Development Fund will enter 2012 with an available balance of \$19.2 million for state and regional investments. Those funds come from Kentucky's share of the national Master Settlement Agreement with tobacco companies. The next payment to the state is due in late April, according to the Governor's Office

of Agricultural Policy (GOAP), which administers the fund on behalf of the KADB.

Since its inception in 2001 the ag development initiative has invested nearly \$363 million to an array of county, regional and state projects. This has touched thousands of Kentucky farm families and agribusinesses.

Half of the money targeted under the enabling legislation goes for county projects submitted by county ag development councils. The "county" program has been very popular and highly effective with farmers benefitting from cost-share assistance on many things like equipment, facilities, land improvements, etc.

But now, the board also hopes to field more proposals from "big picture" projects like the successful Commonwealth Agri-Energy ethanol plant in Christian County which is owned by a producer cooperative. That type of endeavor has been few and far between in the KADB's 10-year history.

Sam Moore, the former KFB President who has represented the organization on the KADB since its inception, said the ag development initiative has reached a stage where it has become vastly important to surface large projects. "We need to spend money on that big \$30-\$40 million project that will be there for years to come .. with a significant long-term economic impact," said the Butler County farmer, adding that it would be preferable to support projects in which the farmers had a financial stage in the operation (like Commonwealth Agri-Energy).

Several committee members echoed the desire to entice such proposals and called for stepping up efforts to promote the fund to prospective businesses. Referring to the ag development initiative, GOAP Chief of Staff Joel Neaveill said "we're the envy of other states but not very well known here."

"It's all about promoting the fund," added Roger Thomas, GOAP's Executive Director.

The KADB also reviewed the feedback from eight regional meetings it held to gain public input about the programs and the process. The most predominate recurring "themes" at those meetings included promoting agricultural awareness and local foods in urban areas, dairy processing, energy crop development and utilization, equine industry initiatives, the Kentucky Proud program and farm succession planning.

A survey to gauge priorities revealed the most interest in regional projects plus supporting projects from commodity organizations like the Kentucky Cattlemen's Association and Kentucky Dairy Development Council.

To round out KADB priority areas, the discussion on "value-added processing" centered on "harvesting facilities" for meats and vegetables, recruiting food businesses and perhaps a chain of stores selling "Kentucky Proud" licensed products. In regard to "livestock marketing," enhancing the Kentucky Beef Network was quickly mentioned along with promoting the state's feeder cattle to feed lots.

Bioenergy projects, forestry and pasture improvements topped the list of topics mentioned in regard to "on-farm investments."

Also serving on the KADB are KFB Director Pat Henderson of Breckinridge County and former Director Jim Mahan of Fayette County.

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Membership continues to set a record

KFB has set a new milestone by celebrating its 50th consecutive year of membership growth. KFB surpassed last year's record-breaking membership mark of 500,316 member families in late September and had until the end of its fiscal year on October 31 to take the new total even higher. (As of October 20, membership stood at 505,121, which was 6,607 above that date in 2010)

"We are fortunate to have 50 years of continuous growth," said KFB President Mark Haney, "but, at the same time, we also recognize that we are ultimately harvesting the rewards of those who came before us."

KFB passed the half-million membership mark for the first time in 2010, becoming just the third Farm Bureau in the country to eclipse the 500,000 member family level. As a result of the organization's continued membership growth, nearly one out of every three Kentucky households is now a member of KFB.

"This organization thrives as it does today for two main reasons: We have a tremendous and enduring leadership base at both the state and county levels, and we have a staff and agency force with an unparalleled dedication to excellence," said Haney. "They have led us to this historic moment."

Officially assembling as the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation in November 1919, the organization began with an initial membership of approximately 7,000. The membership foundation that was laid more than nine decades ago, combined with the creation of the Kentucky Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company in 1944 and several other member services along the way, launched KFB into phenomenal growth.

KFB is the third-largest state Farm Bureau, trailing only Tennessee and North Carolina. It consistently garners a high number of awards for program excellence from American Farm Bureau and is regarded as one of the most effective and influential special interest groups in Kentucky. No other state Farm Bureau can lay claim to having both 500,000 members and 50 consecutive years of growth.

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The series of advisory committee meetings concluded last month to set the stage for the Resolutions Committee meeting that was held November 2-4. Following are summaries:

EMERGING AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES

The meeting began with a report from Angela Blank of the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy. She mainly focused on a series of district meetings to obtain input about programs overseen by the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board. She noted that a follow-up meeting was scheduled.

Mac Stone gave a report on marketing and promotion activities at the Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA). He also noted that 335 farms have been certified under the "Certified Organic" program, and that the Shows and Fairs Division has started a program to hike premium awards.

Larry Snell then reported for the Kentucky Center for Agricultural and Rural Development (KCARD). He explained that KCARD's focus is to assist farmers with business development plans. State FSA Director John McCauley spoke about his agency's efforts to deal with budget cuts. He said FSA was seeking to streamline programs to increase efficiency. He said there were no plans to close any more local offices.

Dr. Tyler Mark gave a report for Morehead State University's Agriculture Department. Enrollment is up 30 percent this year, he said. Dr. Mark also reported that a four-year pre-vet program has been added.

Angela Anandappa reported for UK. She touched on value-added and beginning farmer programs, as well as UK's Food Systems Innovation Center.

Elaine Wilson of the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet addressed the state's trail riding system for biking, hiking and horse riding.

Turning to policy, the committee approved a statement supporting "educational efforts by the extension service to inform farmers of their rights and resources under federal marketing protection programs." Another proposal calls for recommending that the restaurant industry use country-of-origin labeling to identify aquaculture products. The group also calls for supporting the development of paddlefish and sturgeon farming through a variety of initiatives.

KFB Director Joe Paul Mattingly of Marion County is chairman of the Emerging Enterprises Committee.

SWINE

Shawn Zollner of KDA gave the first report, noting a rise in the numbers at swine shows this year. Executive Director Bonnie Jolly reported for the Kentucky Pork Producers Association. She thanked KFB for its work on several industry issues, including the vet loan forgiveness program. State Veterinarian Dr. Robert Stout distributed a USDA factsheet on animal disease traceability. He said states would be expected to incur the brunt of the costs of implementation. Current plans are for the rule to be approved next spring, he added.

Dr. Stout and Committee Chairman Danny Wilkinson, a KFB Director from Adair County, spoke about the work of the Livestock Care Standards Commission (both are members of the commission). Dr. Stout said guidelines might be in place by next spring.

Committee member Maurice Heard voiced concerns about mounting regulations on the swine industry and committee Vice-Chairman Ray Allan Mackey said the industry needs to do a better job with public relations.

UK swine production specialist Dr. Richard Coffey discussed the EQIP program and the federal waste handling permitting system. KFB Commodities Division

Director Jay McCants gave an update on the work of the Animal Composting Working group.

In the policy discussion the committee forwarded language supporting the Livestock Care Standards Commission.

SHEEP AND GOAT

Kathy Meyer of the Kentucky Sheep and Goat Development Association made the first report, reviewing an annual industry festival plus public information activities. She noted that the association is in the process of finding a new executive director.

KDA's Tess Caudill reported that the checkoff had generated \$17,000 by the end of July and was on target for about \$28,000 for the year. She said the sheep and goat industry has a positive market outlook with prices rising, but that there's a need to maintain strong markets plus develop graded sales in the Louisville area.

Assistant State Veterinarian Dr. Sue Billings was the next speaker, touching on the Livestock Care Standards Commission and the animal composting issue.

Dr. Robert Harmon of UK's Animal Sciences Division reported on the retirement of specialist Terry Hutchens, saying the position would be filled after obtaining industry input on a revised position description. Dr. Kenneth Andries of Kentucky State University said a Dean has been appointed for the university's new College of Agriculture, Food Sciences and Sustainable Systems. He gave an update on developments at KSU's farm and a report from a goat producer's conference and the goat herd improvement program.

For policy, the committee voiced support for the Livestock Care Standards Commission plus language stating "we support the use of small ruminants for land management purposes and encourage local governments to allow such use."

KFB Director Carroll Amyx of Wolfe County is chairman of this committee.

FORAGE

KFB's Jay McCants read a report about the state's hay testing and marketing program from KDA's Kimberly Field. UK forage specialist Dr. Garry Lacefield outlined a series of industry meetings and events and then discussed the new Master Stocker Program. Dr. Lacefield also gave a report on behalf of the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council. He and committee member Clayton Gerald explained that the council's primary goal was producer education to boost quality and efficiency.

Gary Crenshaw of the state Farm Service Agency reported on agency concerns about anticipated budget cuts.

In the policy discussion a recommendation was made to support "all Kentucky livestock and forage-related events."

KFB Director David McGlone of Carter County is chairman of the Forage Committee.

ROADSIDE MARKETS

Chaired by KFB Director Russell Poore of Logan County, this committee met at Hinton's Orchard in LaRue County. The group reviewed KFB's Certified Roadside Farm Markets program with coordinator Kara Keeton and Commodities Division Director Jay McCants. The group agreed to continue the enrollment rates and deadlines from this year to 2012. The committee also discussed advertising and public relations activities, the 2011 summer tour and the workman's compensation situation. The panel asked staff to consider a 2012 tour to New England.

TAX

This committee first heard from Rich Ornstein, staff attorney for the Kentucky Association of Counties. He gave an overview of single purpose special taxing districts, explaining the process of establishing those districts.

Richard Dobson of the Kentucky Department of Revenue's Office of Sales

and Excise Taxes spoke about estate tax laws. He explained that Kentucky's estate tax has been essentially repealed for the estates of decedents who die after December 31, 2004. The Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010 maintained Kentucky's estate tax collection at zero. If Congress fails to act prior to December 31, 2012 then the federal estate tax would be reinstated at the \$1 million exclusion level with a maximum tax rate

of 55%. If this occurs, then Kentucky's estate tax would revert back to a "pick up" tax in which an estate could deduct any Kentucky estate tax paid from their federal estate tax liability, he said.

Jim Oliver, Director of the Division of Miscellaneous Taxes, gave an overview of motor fuel taxes.

No policy recommendations were made.

KFB Director Pat Henderson of Breckinridge County is chairman of the Tax Committee.



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Stacy Lowe is named young farmer director

Stacy R. Lowe has been named director of KFB's young farmer program. She was raised on a Fleming County beef, grain and tobacco farm and holds a degree in Agriculture from Morehead State University. She is currently pursuing a Master's Degree.

Lowe began her career as an agriculture teacher at Fleming County High School. She went on to hold positions as a nutrition program specialist for the University of Florida and in sales and customer service for Integrity Feeds in Owensboro and for ADM Alliance Nutrition.

She will oversee a program that recruits and activates young farmers on

the county and state levels. The young farmer program includes leadership and policy development activities, agriculture education and promotion programs plus events aimed at recognizing skills and achievements.

"The young farmer program historically has been vital in developing KFB's organization's leadership and has a high level of participation and visibility. I am confident that Stacy will help maintain this tradition," said David S. Beck, KFB's Executive Vice President.

She succeeds Jay McCants, who previously this year was promoted to Commodities Division Director.



STACY LOWE

Federal rules changing for young workers

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) is proposing updates to child labor regulations aimed at safety concerns in agriculture-related jobs.

DOL officials -- who claim the fatality rate for teenagers working in agriculture is four times greater than the risk for the average working teenager -- say the proposals will not impact current exemptions for children of farmers working on family operations.

Exemptions for such children are "legislative and nothing in (these new regulations) would disturb that particular legislative provision," said Michael Hancock, DOL Assistant Administrator for Policy.

For other farm-working youths, however, the proposed rules -- which have not been updated since the 1970 Fair Labor Standards Act -- would add new restrictions and flat-out bans. Among them:

(1) Strengthening of current child labor regulations prohibiting agricultural work with animals and in pesticide handling, timber operations, manure pits and storage bins.

(2) Prohibition of youths at country grain elevators, grain bins, silos, feed lots, stockyards, livestock exchanges and livestock auctions.

(3) Prohibition of those under age 16 from participating in the cultivation, harvesting and curing of tobacco.

(4) Prohibition of youth in both agricultural and nonagricultural employment from using electronic, including communication, devices while operating power-driven equipment.

(5) Prohibition of those under 16 years old from operating almost all power-driven equipment.


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NEW WEB PAGE PROMOTES LOCAL FOODS

By Walt Reichert

First Lady Jane Beshear announced a cooperative effort between the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture and the Governor's Office of Agriculture Policy to create a website designed to link consumers, including school systems, to Kentucky and local food resources.

"We wanted a catch-all webpage that would house information about what's going on in agriculture in Kentucky that would connect schools to farmers markets, everything the state has to offer for local foods resources," Mrs. Beshear said.

She officially launched the website during a speech to the American School Health Association meeting in Louisville. She told the group of educators and food service providers from around the country that the state is working to get local, more nutritious foods into the state's schools. Mrs. Beshear also noted that Kentucky has some of the worst health statistics in the nation but said the state must become a leader in getting healthy, local foods into the state's school systems.

"We know that a child can't learn if a child's not healthy," she said.

Mrs. Beshear said that before the launch of the website, consumers researching local food sources were stuck spending lots of time surfing the web.

"We realized there was no single place you could go to find the information you needed to get local foods," she said. "You could go online and sit for hours finding a little bit here and a little bit there, but we

know people don't want to waste their time doing that."

To improve consumer access to local foods resources, Mrs. Beshear asked UK College of Agriculture Dean Scott Smith to help create and host a website that would be a sort of one-stop shopping place for local and state food resources. Dean Smith agreed to host the page on UK's College of Agriculture website. The college, staff from the First Lady's office, the UK Department of Nutrition and Food Science and the Governor's Office of Agriculture Policy (GOAP) helped with development and content for the website.

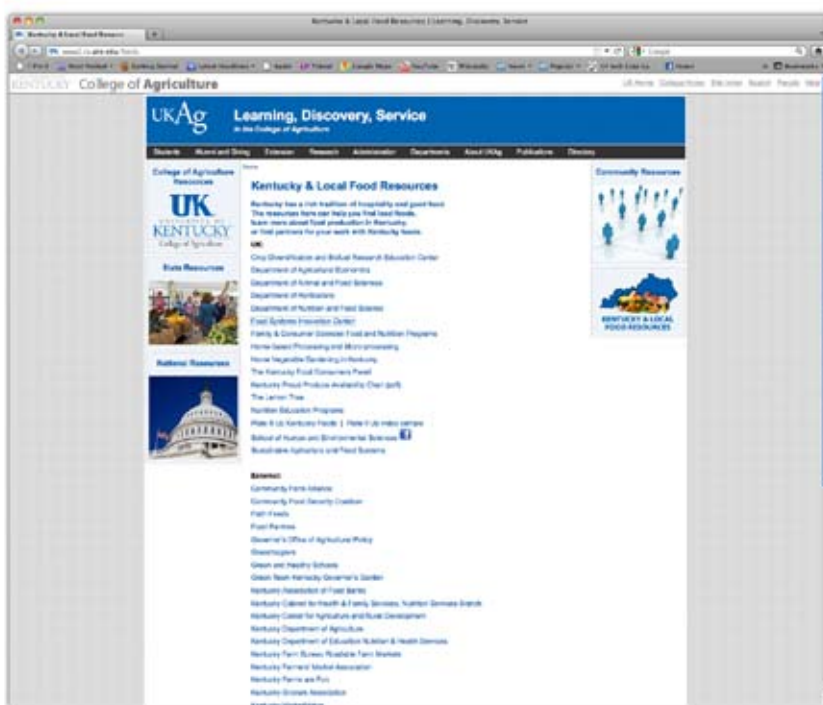
The site, www.ca.uky.edu/Foods, includes links to UK College of Agriculture resources as well as external links to Kentucky and local food resources. Icons on the main page direct consumers to subject-specific links. Among the links are Grasshoppers, Green and Healthy Schools, Kentucky Farm Bureau Certified Roadside Farm Markets, Kentucky Grocers Association, Kentucky Restaurant

Association, Kentucky Proud products and many more. As part of the page, Cooperative Extension Service agents will have the opportunity to develop county Web pages that list their local producers and products. Franklin and Woodford counties will have the first county-specific Web pages developed.

Also speaking to the American School Health Association, UK's Smith lauded the website as one of many initiatives over the last 10 years to diversify the state's agriculture and boost the economies in rural communities.

"The website provides a portal to local foods, healthy foods," he said. "And that is also about agricultural development. Healthy farms mean healthy communities."

GOAP Executive Director Roger Thomas also praised the development, saying: "An array of local food resources is available across the state, but this site gives us one centralized location to direct consumers."



“Standard(s)” time

Livestock Care Committee proceeding with proposals

The Kentucky Livestock Care Standards Commission held two meetings in October to continue work on developing minimum standards for the care of farm animals.

The 16-member commission is charged with the responsibility of making recommendations to the State Board of Agriculture. That group, in turn, has statutory authority to either approve or reject the commission's proposed regulations.

While the full commission develops definitions and general provisions, a “Scientific Review Committee” is reviewing species-specific (cattle, swine, poultry, etc) recommendations from the respective commodity groups. The committee was scheduled to review those at its October 27 meeting.

“We’re putting together the pieces of the puzzle,” explained Danny Wilkinson, a KFB Director from Adair County who is the organization’s appointed representative on the commission. He also was chairman of a KFB task force that was instrumental in gaining passage of the enabling legislation during the 2010 session of the General Assembly.

State Veterinarian Dr. Robert Stout is the chairman-designate of the committee, which also has representation from the Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association and the Kentucky Animal Control Advisory Board. Appointed by Governor Steve Beshear in August of 2010, the committee has been meeting regularly to develop a proposal to forward to the State Board of Agriculture.

“The mindset of the committee is to take as long as we need to get it right,” said Wilkinson. “The checks and balances are there.”



KFB Director Danny Wilkinson (center) of Adair County studies a proposal, flanked by fellow Commission members John Medley of Washington County and Brenda F. Paul of Bourbon County. Wilkinson is KFB's representative on the commission while Medley represents swine producers and Mrs. Paul represents cattle producers.



The commission is busy developing regulatory recommendations. State Veterinarian Dr. Robert Stout (background at head of table) is the chair-designate.

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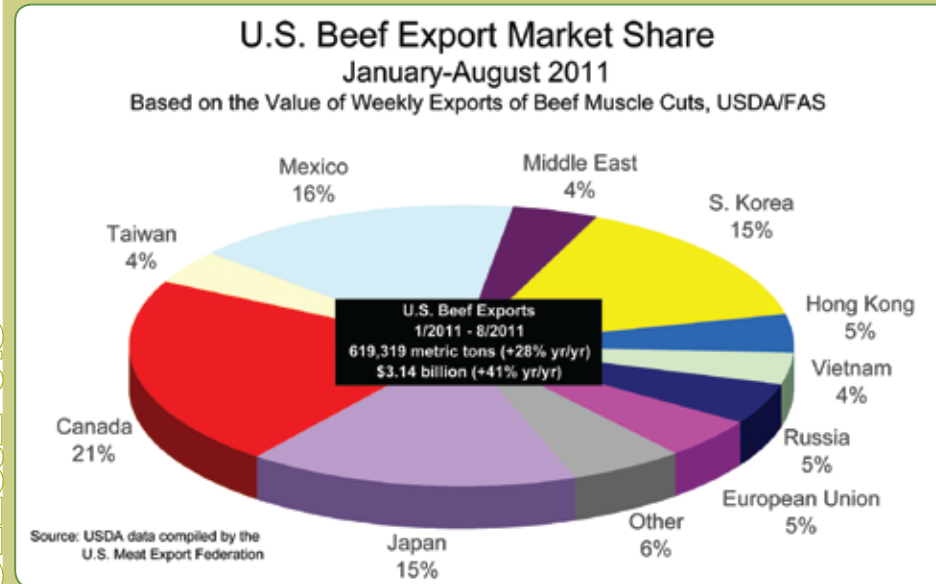
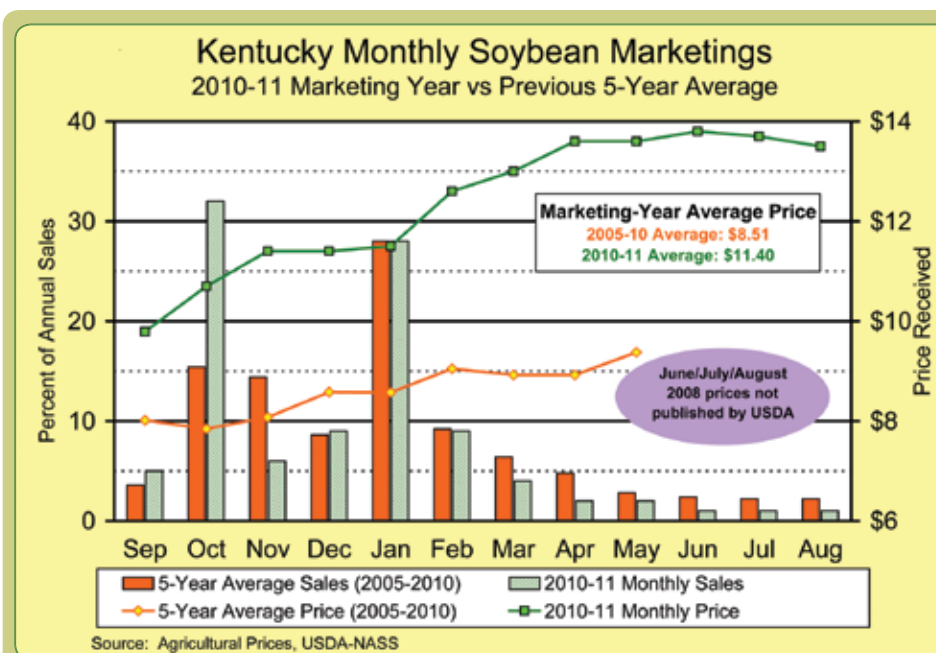
As of 2010/11, distillers' dried grain with solubles (DDGS) replaced soybean meal as the number two feedstuff fed, and is second only to corn. USDA released a study last month examining the substitution effect of DDGS for corn and soybean meal on the U.S. feed complex. USDA found that, on average, for the past five crop years, one metric ton (mt) of DDGS substitutes for about 1.22 mt of corn and soybean meal combined. In 2010/11, it's estimated that 29.1 mmt of DDGS will be fed and that it will substitute for 28.6 mmt of corn (98 percent of the DDGS fed) and 6.7 mmt of soybean meal (23 percent of the DDGS fed). Due to beef's declining share of DDGS consumption, the trend has been for DDGS to replace relatively less corn and more soybean meal. Beef cattle rations use more corn and less soybean meal than any other livestock or poultry. The net effect in the domestic feed market of a bushel of corn being used for ethanol production is less than a bushel. For example, the amount of feed (corn and soybean meal) replaced by DDGS represents about 38 percent of the corn used for ethanol production.

Declining broiler production will raise prices

Broiler production is expected to decline through the end of the 2011 as reductions in the number of chicks placed for growout more than offset higher average weights. Broiler meat production is forecast at 9.1 billion pounds in the fourth quarter, down four percent from a year ago. Production in 2012 is forecast at 37 billion pounds, down one percent from the 2011 total. The reduction is the result of expected relatively high feed grain prices in 2012 and a sluggish U.S. economy, which will pressure demand. The 12-city broiler price per pound is estimated at 79.1 cents for 2011, compared to 82.9 cents in 2010. USDA forecasts the 2012 average price at 80-86 cents per pound.

Consumer demand indexes rise for all meats

Although total U.S. per capita consumption of beef, pork, chicken and turkey will decline for the fifth straight year, consumer demand is up this year. Demand takes into account domestic consumption and the prices which consumers paid - which have been near record high for beef and pork. The October 19 issue of the CME Group's "Daily Livestock Report" predicted demand indexes for all three meats will end 2011 higher than a year earlier - the first time since 2004. This rise would give hope of a trend reversal. For the 12 months ending in August, beef demand is up 0.9 percent, pork demand is up 4.4 percent, and chicken demand is 3.6 percent higher.





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Horse farms added to Ky Proud

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture, the Kentucky Equine Education Project (KEEP), and the Kentucky Horse Council (KHC) announced that horses have been added to the Kentucky Proud program. As new members of Kentucky Proud, horse farms in the Commonwealth will be eligible to receive financial grants from KDA, will be eligible to participate in a cost-share program, and will be able to use the Kentucky Proud logo in advertising their equine products.

"Both KEEP and KHC have worked for years to promote Kentucky's equine industry," said Patrick Neely, KEEP Executive Director. "The addition of horses to the Kentucky Proud program will allow Kentucky horse farms to apply for grants and to grow their businesses by joining the well-known Kentucky Proud advertising and marketing initiatives. We appreciate that the Kentucky Department of Agriculture has taken this important step to assist our signature industry and the thousands of jobs it creates."

Individually, farms should contact KEEP or the Kentucky Horse Council for applications and more information on the Kentucky Proud program. Once approved, farms will have access to all the services and support that the Kentucky Department of Agriculture gives to members of that program, including marketing assistance and product promotion, as well as participation in a cost-share program.

Signups begin for roadside markets program

Enrollment for the 2012 Certified Roadside Farm Market program is now open.

Established in 1996, the program began as an initiative to help farmers expand their roadside fruit and vegetable businesses into a destination that would attract consumers from across the Commonwealth. Since then, membership has grown to include farm enterprises like greenhouses, landscape nurseries, Christmas tree farms, vineyards/wineries, and meat/cheese farm markets.

Certified markets are identified by the program's cornucopia logo and listed in the annual Certified Roadside Farm Market Directory. The program also provides collective advertising, promotional items, education tour opportunities, and other marketing benefits with the intent to increase the net farm income of member markets.

Market owners who enroll during the early registration period, October 1 through November 15, pay just \$235 - a \$75 savings off regular enrollment fees. Registration for regular enrollment in the program costs \$310 per market and runs November 16 through December 31. Enrollment applications must be postmarked by December 31 to guarantee a spot in the annual Membership Directory.

Applications are available on the KFB web site, kyfb.com/roadside. For questions about enrollment or to request an application, contact Kara Keeton, Director of Commodity Marketing, at (502) 495-5106 or kkeeton@kyfb.com.

KCARD receives financial support

The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board, approved the Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development (KCARD) for \$600,000 in state Agricultural Development Funds to continue providing business support services and technical assistance to rural agribusinesses across Kentucky through 2013.

Based in Elizabethtown, KCARD is a statewide organization that works with various types of agribusinesses across the Commonwealth to provide specialized assistance increasing the chances for success. KCARD provides a range of services to their clients including strategic planning, business management, operations analysis, recordkeeping development, cost analysis, on-site business consultations and more.

"This KADF investment will allow KCARD to expand their services to include grant facilitation," said Roger Thomas, executive director of the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy. "Leveraging additional resources for agribusinesses and entrepreneurs enhances their ability to be profitable."

The Agribusiness Grant Facilitation Program (AGFP) is a new component of the assistance KCARD provides. This new program will help increase the amount of funding received annually by Kentucky agribusinesses and entrepreneurs. Some of the services to be provided through this program include identifying available grant and loan resources, publishing the availability of these resources, working with granting agencies and other development organizations, training grant writers and more.

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