

# Kentucky

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## ELECTION 2011 GUIDE

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Cover photo by Roger Nesbitt  
A fall scene from Hinton's Orchard  
in LaRue County.

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**Kentucky**  
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The turnout for elections continues a downward trend that would shock our founding fathers. In 1960, a little over 63 percent of eligible voters went to the polls. Today, less than half of eligible voters routinely go to the polls to choose their leaders. Last November 48 percent turned out for a Kentucky ballot that included a U.S. Senate seat, all of our federal and state House members and half of the state Senate. And that was considered a good number by today's standards!



We in agriculture should recognize and seize the opportunity offered to us. Although we are relatively few in numbers, by exercising our right to vote, we will have a disproportionate impact on who runs this state and nation. Most of the farm families I know look at voting as an important civic responsibility, a duty. It is as much a part of our lives as planting and harvesting. So I am optimistic about what we can achieve in the political arena.

Farm Bureau at all levels offers farm families the tools to help us become more informed and more influential. This issue of KFB News includes a special election guide with the leading candidates for governor stating their positions on many of our key issues. That includes issues like rural development, regulation of farms and businesses, tax policy, schools and transportation.

There's also capsule information on the candidates for the other constitutional offices, with a listing of their web sites, e-mail addresses and phone numbers.

We hope you will learn all you can about the candidates because we need to actively support and elect leaders who are philosophically aligned with the goals we express in our member-written Farm Bureau policy book. I encourage you to exercise your right to vote.

**MARK HANEY**

**PRESIDENT**  
**KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU**





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**K**FB's policy development process is driven by active members dedicated to agricultural excellence and service to the industry as a whole. Their aim is to improve net farm income and to enhance the quality of rural life.

That commitment is evidenced during our resolutions process which currently is gearing up in preparation for the annual meeting. I have the privilege to serve as chairman of the State Resolutions Committee, a group that works hard to facilitate the process. But it all begins at the local level, with county Farm Bureaus discussing issues and potential solutions. KFB and AFBF are behind the scenes, ready to provide information to help members in their deliberations.

This approach has provided us with sound policies over the years. KFB has enjoyed many successes in Frankfort and Washington, but this important work is never done as new issues and challenges continually confront farm families, agribusinesses and our rural communities.

Next month the State Resolutions Committee will review dozens of recommendations from both county Farm Bureaus and the various advisory committees. It's a deliberate process but an experience the committee members tackle with enthusiasm because they recognize that policy is the foundation of our organization.

Policies express Farm Bureau's fundamental ideas on community, county, state, national or international issues. Once adopted, these policy statements become the plan for public policy work in the year ahead. They are the statements of what a majority of members have voted for after study and discussion. And then it is the responsibility of our public affairs professionals to work toward reaching the policy objectives - not only by pursuing legislation, but also by tracking the implementation.

I look forward to working with the resolutions committee to ensure a relevant policy agenda at our annual meeting.



**EDDIE MELTON**

**FIRST VICE PRESIDENT**

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

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# ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS



With Dr. Debbie Reed leading the tour, part of those attending the poultry advisory committee visited the Breathitt Center's molecular diagnostic lab.

KFB's Poultry Advisory Committee held its annual meeting at Murray State University's Breathitt Veterinary Center in Hopkinsville, a facility KFB has strongly supported because of its service to livestock and poultry producers in the western half of the state.

A proposed upgrade of the 42-year-old animal disease diagnostic lab has been a KFB priority issue for several years running.

A 2009 survey commissioned by the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board concluded that a new facility is the best option. Plans have been developed for a \$30 million, 52,000-square-foot facility at a new site in the Hopkinsville area. But the project awaits approval of the Executive and Legislative branches of state government.

Governor Steve Beshear and challenger David Williams have told KFB that they would put funding for the project in their Executive Budget.

The poultry advisory committee, chaired by KFB Director Jay Coleman of Barren County, listened to a presentation from Breathitt Center Director Dr. Wade Northington and toured the 44,000-square-foot facility before getting down to the business of discussing indus-

try conditions and reviewing policy.

Poultry has become Kentucky's leading farm commodity and the Breathitt Center plays a key role in protecting it from disease. Over its last fiscal year the center handled over 3,300 Avian cases and performed more than 78,400 tests on samples, Dr. Northington said.

The center has 43 employees, including nine who have Doctorate Degrees.

Dr. Northington described the center as "more of a blue collar working lab that grinds out the work. To us, turnaround time (on test results, etc.) is valuable."

The lab has sections in microbiology, molecular diagnostics, toxicology, serology, virology and pathology. The center's scope of activity also encompasses food safety, public health, environmental health and bioterrorism. The latter issue is a driving force for supporting a modern facility.

Dr. Northington told the group the facility is "obsolete" for today's sciences. "The science we are using today was science fiction when this building was built 42 years ago," he said.

KFB's Executive Committee of President Mark Haney, Vice Presidents Eddie Melton and J. Fritz Giesecke and Executive Vice President David S. Beck

was on hand for the meeting and tour. Dr. Northington praised KFB for its lobbying efforts, saying "you guys are our champion and we need a champion to move the project along."

During the policy development segment of the meeting the committee approved an amendment calling for support of new construction for the Breathitt Center. The group also recommends deleting language calling for chemical digesters at the state's two diagnostic labs for the disposal of dead animals. This change comes because KFB and a number of other entities are recommending composting as a common practice for disposing of dead farm animals.

The meeting also included reports from UK Extension Poultry Specialist Dr. Tony Pescatore, Assistant State Veterinarian Dr. Sue Billings and Melissa Miller of the Kentucky Poultry Federation. Haney updated the committee on the work of KFB's Animal Composting Working Group.

## DAIRY

This committee met at the Fayette County Extension Office. The first speaker was Dr. Jeffrey Bewley of UK, who reviewed research projects relative to monitoring productivity and health. He

and colleague Dr. Bob Harmon gave an update on the merger of the UK and EKU dairy farms.

Appalachian Region Milk Market Administrator Harold Friedly noted that milk prices are expected to remain stable for the remainder of this year. Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA) Dairy specialist Eunice Schlappi then gave a report on KDA programs for the dairy industry. Maury Cox, Executive Director of the Kentucky Dairy Development Council, reported on his organization's activities.

Robert Kiser of UK's Regulatory Services Division spoke about expanded lab and hauler inspections plus changes in sampling procedures. UK's Dr. Jack McAllister briefly discussed national problems with raw milk and how the federal Center for Disease Control was dealing with the problem.

Dr. Laurie Rincker gave a report on EKU's dairy programs. KFB National Affairs Director L. Joe Cain led a discussion on national issues such as the dairy price support program and environmental regulations.

Turning to policy, among a number of approved recommendations the committee wants to amend language voicing support for the Milk Commission Board to include work in regard to marketing and promotion of Kentucky milk. The group also forwarded a statement encouraging "cooperative and collaborative efforts among universities in the southeast in extension, teaching and research efforts to support and educate the southeast dairy industry."

KFB Director Terry Rowlett of Henry County is chairman of the dairy committee.

## BEEF CATTLE

KFB President Mark Haney opened the meeting by providing an update on the work of the animal composting working group. State Veterinarian Dr. Robert Stout discussed the animal disease traceability issue, stating that beef cattle were the first priority. He said Kentucky currently has around 20 percent participation in enrolling for premise identification, as compared to 25 percent nationally.

Dr. Robert Harmon of UK's Animal Sciences Department reported on programs along with colleague Dr. Darrh Bullock. Among several programs Dr. Bullock spoke about the MAG 60 marketing initiative. He noted that the Ag

Development Board has provided great assistance to the state's cattle industry.

Kentucky Cattlemen's Association Executive Director Dave Maples gave a report, noting that membership is approaching 9,000. He also touched on the MAG 60 program and the Beef Network.

KFB Director and Committee Vice Chairman Danny Wilkinson discussed the Livestock Care Standards Commission (of which he is a member) along with Dr. Stout. KFB Commodity Division Director Jay McCants and Dave Maples then spoke about the veterinary loan forgiveness program aimed at attracting large animal vets to the state. Dr. Stout reviewed the effort to encourage the composting of dead farm animals.

During the policy review the committee recommended a statement of support for the Livestock Care Standards Commission as well as legislation protecting farmers from a non-payment for their commodities. (the latter in response to the recent bankruptcy of a cattle buying company that left a number of Kentucky cattlemen without payment)

KFB Second Vice President J. Fritz Giesecke of Hart County is chairman of this committee.

## FEED GRAINS AND WHEAT; AND SOYBEAN

A joint meeting of these two committees was held at the Christian County Extension Office so the group could tour the nearby Siemer Milling Company facility. KFB Director Tripp Furches of Calloway County is chairman of the Feed Grains and Wheat Committee while KFB Director Randall Heath of Graves County chairs the soybean panel.

UK Ag Economist Dr. Will Snell provided an overview of likely farm bill issues, noting that Kentucky ranks 14th among the states in the percentage of net farm income generated by federal farm program payments. His colleague, Dr. Cory Walters, then gave a review of various crop insurance programs, as well as the ACRES program. Dr. Walters also provided a market outlook.

KFB staffer Ed McQueen spoke about the electronic market report he handles and colleague L. Joe Cain touched on some federal environmental regulatory issues.

No policy recommendations were made.

## TOBACCO

Altria officials Glenn Stocks and Rhonda Johnson spoke about the company's Good Agricultural Practices program and then UK Ag Economist Dr. Will Snell gave an overview of industry economic conditions, as well as prospects for the future. A lengthy review of the H-2A farm worker program came from Rick Alexander, Executive Director of the Agriculture Workforce Management Association.

Council for Burley Tobacco representative Hoppy Henton spoke about some of the council's activities, including plans to establish a grant program for marketing or promotional projects. KDA's Steve Kelly addressed some tobacco topics involving the department, including moisture testing which he said has been delayed because the regulations haven't been promulgated.

Javier Garza of the Farm Service Agency spoke about budget cuts impacting the agency. Dr. Orlando Chalmers of the Kentucky Tobacco Research and Development Center spoke about Food and Drug Administration oversight of tobacco, plus center activities. KFB National Affairs Director L. Joe Cain then addressed some federal issues.

The committee is recommending policy stating support for "the use of peer-reviewed, sound science as the basis for any regulatory decision."

KFB Director Scott Travis of Spencer County is chairman of the tobacco advisory committee.

## EQUINE

Chaired by KFB Director Alex Barnett of Harrison County, this committee met at the Kentucky Horse Park. During a discussion of industry conditions KDA equine programs director Rusty Ford said there has been a decline in the number of horse show competitors, as well as the number of stallions standing in the state.

State Vet Dr. Robert Stout spoke about efforts to repeal a ban on horse slaughter. Executive Director Ginny Grulke gave a report on the activities of the Kentucky Horse Council. Among several topics she noted that the council was working with UK and the Ag Statistics Service to conduct a statewide equine census.

Executive Director Patrick Neely gave a report on the work of the Kentucky Equine Education Project. David Switzer of the Kentucky Thoroughbred Association then

spoke about his organization's activities. He said KTA is undergoing a strategic planning process to address how the industry in Kentucky could cope without expanding gaming.

Dr. Robert Coleman reported on UK's equine programs and Dr. Stout gave an update on the Livestock Care Standards Commission. The committee then discussed the possibility of conducting an equine conference at KFB's annual meeting.

The committee voted to recommend policy language encouraging the General Assembly to "support and enhance economic initiatives for all of Kentucky's equine industries." The group also voiced support for the Equine Health and Welfare Council and moved to adopt AFBF language supporting American Association of Equine Practitioners Core Vaccination guidelines for equine health and disease related issues.

## FARM LABOR

This committee met at the Shelby County Extension Office to facilitate a tour of Gallrein Farms, one of KFB's Certified Roadside Farm Markets. At the market Bill Gallrein spoke to the committee about his experiences with the H-2A farm worker program.

At the meeting Patrick Foster, an aide to Senator Mitch McConnell, gave an update on H-2A issues he is working on. He was joined by Whitney Meadows, an aide to Senator Rand Paul. Both noted a rise in H-2A problems due to rule changes imposed by the Obama administration.

Also addressing the H-2A situation were Rick Alexander of the Agriculture Workforce Management Association and George Scott and Jeff Gatewood with the Kentucky Workforce Development Cabinet. They noted a decline in H-2A workers this year. Alexander mentioned a rise in the number of IRS employer audits.

No policy recommendations were made.

KFB Director David Chappell of Owen County is chairman of the farm labor committee.

## NATURAL RESOURCES

This committee convened at the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Department's Salato Wildlife Center in Franklin County. Commissioner Dan Figert and Deputy Commissioner Bengy Kidman welcomed the group.

UK specialists Dr. Stephen Higgins and Amanda Gumpert spoke about proposed changes to the Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Plan's best management practices for livestock. Most of the proposals relate to technical language but a new section pertaining to stormwater management is also under consideration, they said.

Steve Coleman, Director of the Kentucky Division of Conservation, gave an update on division activities and programs and addressed comprehensive nutrient management plans that are required by the ag water quality law. He noted that producers participating in many federal cost share programs are required to have a nutrient management plan.

Karen Woodrich and Jeff Sanders of the Natural Resources Conservation Service then spoke about agency activities. Peter Goodman, Assistant Director of the State Division of Water, addressed some water quality issues, including a nutrient reduction strategy. KFB's L. Joe Cain spoke about some federal environmental protection issues and then Figert and colleagues Steven Dobey and Tina Brunjes provided an overview of department services. This included a discussion about controlling feral hogs, deer, coyotes and elk.

Among several policy suggestions the committee wants language encouraging the eradication of feral hogs plus improved maintenance technology for Kentucky dams.

Chairman of the Natural Resources Committee is KFB Director Larry Thomas of Hardin County.

## POLITICAL EDUCATION

This panel met at KFB's Frankfort headquarters with the meeting featuring visits from Secretary of State Elaine Walker and Attorney General Jack Conway. Ms. Walker spoke about efforts to increase the number of voters. Conway spoke about efforts to reduce instances of voter fraud. He also mentioned his office's work on tobacco settlement issues.

Roger Thomas, Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy (GOAP), discussed the need for KFB to expand its grassroots initiatives and utilize mediums such as social media to reach younger voters. He noted the importance of educating the non-farm public about agriculture and the industry's issues. He commended KFB for its role in representing farm families.

KFB's L. Joe Cain provided the com-

mittee with materials sent to county Farm Bureaus to assist with get-out-the-vote campaigns. He spoke about the two campaign management seminars he is organizing. Cain also briefed the committee on some federal legislative issues.

In the policy discussion the committee forwarded the following proposed language: "General voting hours should be extended to coincide with absentee voting in the county clerk's office during general office hours within seven days of any election."

KFB Director and Past President Marshall Coyle of Bath County is chairman of the Political Education Committee.

## HORTICULTURE

This committee met at Hinton's Orchard in LaRue County, a KFB Certified Roadside Farm Market operated by committee member Jeremy Hinton and his wife, Joanna. Hinton welcomed the group, saying the business was "very much a family farm" where he and Joanna are raising a seven-year-old son and three-year-old daughter. They purchased the property off KY 210 southeast of Hodgenville in 2006 and planted 1,200 apple and peach trees. They also have strawberries, bedding plants, perennials and vegetables, along with agritourism features such as a playground and corn maze, he explained.

Kara Keeton, who coordinates the Roadside Markets program, gave a program update and informed the group about the summer tour for participants to sites in California. Committee member C.A. Pantle then gave a brief report on the Kentucky Horticulture Council, saying the organization was pursuing various cost-share opportunities for producers, as well as funding sources for the organization.

Committee Chairman Russell Poore, a KFB Director from Logan County, spoke about issues before the USDA's Fruit and Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee, of which he is a member. He said the committee was pushing to ensure that USDA require school systems to purchase American food products under federal school food programs. (later, the committee approved a national policy recommendation to that effect)

In state policy, the committee recommends language that the state prorate registration fees for chemicals associated with horticulture crops. Another sugges-

Continued on page 21



# ELECTION



# 2011

VOTE NOVEMBER 8, 2011

THE FOLLOWING PAGES ARE A GUIDE  
TO THIS YEAR'S  
STATEWIDE ELECTIONS



# THE GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION

GOVERNOR BESHEAR AND SENATE PRESIDENT WILLIAMS RESPOND TO POLICY QUESTIONS



STEVE BESHEAR



DAVID WILLIAMS

## AGRICULTURAL APPROPRIATIONS

The 2000 Kentucky General Assembly made a monumental decision of passing House Bill 611 which set aside 50 percent of the Phase One Tobacco Settlement funds to diversify Kentucky agriculture. This created a mechanism for farmers to apply to county councils and the state Agriculture Development Board for funding of innovative agricultural practices.

The success of this process relies on close involvement from the Governor and the Legislative Oversight Committee. According to H.B. 611, the Governor chairs the board and provides adequate staff resources that will facilitate the project approval process. If the governor is diligent with this process, Kentucky farmers can make a solid transition into agriculture's new era.

### 1. How would you assure that Agricultural Development Funds are being invested to increase net farm income?

**STEVE BESHEAR:** The best assurance that Agricultural Development Funds are directed at increasing net farm income is to maintain agriculture's 50 percent of the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement funds. I have fought and remain committed to fighting for those funds to go to Kentucky's farms and farm families.

**DAVID WILLIAMS:** I believe we need to take a closer look and how the state agricultural development funds are being utilized. We need

to ensure that every dollar spent is for the sole purpose of increasing net farm income.

### 2. Would you diligently oppose any legislative effort to restructure the funding mechanism originally created in House Bill 611?

**STEVE BESHEAR:** House Bill 611 is critical to the future of our agriculture economy. In each of my proposed budgets, I have sought to ensure this funding went to Kentucky's farmers and farm families. I will continue to oppose any change in this funding.

**DAVID WILLIAMS:** I would diligently oppose any legislative effort to restructure House Bill 611. I have fought to maintain the funding for Kentucky Agriculture since House Bill 611 was passed in 2000.

### 3. Would funding for the Breathitt Veterinary Center be included in the state budget you submit to the 2012 General Assembly?

**STEVE BESHEAR:** I want the Breathitt Laboratory to be built by the end of my second term and I plan to include funding for the project in the budget I present to the General Assembly in January 2012. This investment is vital not only to animal agriculture but also to protecting public health.

**DAVID WILLIAMS:** Yes, the Breathitt Veterinary Center would be included in the budget I submit to the 2012 General Assembly.

### 4. How will your Administration work to maintain adequate funding for research, extension and conservation programs that provide important services to Kentuckians?

**STEVE BESHEAR:** I have worked to ensure that Kentucky



Agricultural Development Funds are used to grow and diversify our agricultural economy, including funding for the areas listed. I will work to provide additional funds in these areas as our economy improves and am committed to restoring Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share Program funds.

**DAVID WILLIAMS:** I will restore the \$9 million to the Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share program that my opponent cut to \$6 million in the 2011-2012 state budget.

**5. The Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA) oversees numerous aspects of our economy from marketing our products under Kentucky Proud, to making sure gas pump volume and scales that weigh food items are correct and inspecting amusement rides for safety. How will your Administration work with the KDA to make sure they are funded properly and able to perform the duties they are expected to deliver?**

**STEVE BESHEAR:** Within our budgetary limitations, I will work with the Commissioner to help secure funding that is essential to the well-being of all Kentuckians. I continue to support the Kentucky Proud program. As it continues to grow in popularity and value for the participants, self-sustainable funding for the program should be an attainable goal in the future.

**DAVID WILLIAMS:** The Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA) is the only department that affects every citizen of Kentucky daily. An adequately funded KDA is essential to maintain their various regulatory duties which protect our consumers. I will work with the newly elected Commissioner of Agriculture to ensure they have the dollars they need to provide these vital services.

## AGRICULTURAL MARKET AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Kentucky has a very diverse, and robust, agricultural industry. Cash receipts for agriculture in Kentucky for 2010 totaled approximately \$4.6 billion and are projected to increase this year. Since 2001, the Agriculture Development Fund has assisted producers with on-farm investment to enhance their production, but now Kentucky agriculture needs access to new markets to grow net farm income for Kentucky farmers.

Continued investment in our rural communities is critical. Expansion of broadband Internet, expanded employment opportunities and access to quality health care are important in keeping rural com-

munities viable and vibrant.

**1. How will you maintain existing agriculture markets while attracting new market opportunities for Kentucky agricultural commodities?**

**DAVID WILLIAMS:** I believe one of the greatest potentials for growth in the agricultural economy is exports to not only other states, but also foreign markets. The Kentucky Proud program has allowed us to distinguish Kentucky's agricultural produced and processed commodities and we need to enhance our agricultural markets by taking advantage of this distinction.

**STEVE BESHEAR:** I have directed the Agricultural Development Board to invest in an array of programs and ventures, such as increasing the number of farmers' markets and helping companies like Specialty Food Group grow and create jobs. I will continue to ensure that Kentucky raw products are utilized in Kentucky value-added products when feasible and want to expand new market opportunities to a global audience.

**2. In what ways will you direct your Administration to try and diversify Kentucky's agricultural industry and establish new crops that will help our farmers prosper?**

**DAVID WILLIAMS:** I believe the key component to establishing new crops is adequately funded research at our universities. We have seen over the years many different uses for the tobacco plant other than just tobacco. Also in the area of bio-fuels and alternative energy, Kentucky agriculture has the potential to provide not only Kentuckians but all the citizens of this nation with an alternative fuel source.

**STEVE BESHEAR:** I have taken many steps to diversify our agricultural industry, including establishing a Task Force on Biomass and Biofuels Development to help develop a sustainable industry for energy production. Maintaining support for the Agricultural Development Fund is also critical. I continue to encourage all cabinets and agencies with an interest to collaborate on initiatives and programs to grow this industry.

**3. What policies will you put into place to assist in recruitment of agricultural-based processing facilities or other types of facilities to promote Kentucky agriculture?**

**DAVID WILLIAMS:** In Kentucky, we need a more friendly business tax structure. Under my opponents watch we have seen unemployment in our state rise dramatically. By reforming our outdated tax code, this will allow my administration to recruit not only agricultural-based facilities, but all types of businesses to our Commonwealth.

**STEVE BESHEAR:** I have encouraged the Agricultural Finance Corporation to be aggressive in providing low-interest loans and affordable capital to farmers and agri-businesses. Siemer Milling is an example of our efforts. The Cabinet for Economic Development and the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy will continue working with the Department



of Agriculture to recruit agricultural-related processors and businesses and help our existing agri-businesses grow.

#### **4. What programs would you support and fund to educate farmers on marketing skills and market initiatives?**

**DAVID WILLIAMS:** It is critical to maintain the market educational components that are currently in place with the utilization of the county agricultural development funds. I will also support proposals that will bring about increased efficiency in the marketing of agricultural products.

**STEVE BESHEAR:** Farmers have several opportunities to learn about marketing skills and initiatives. For example, in 2009, my administration adopted County Agricultural Investment Programs, or CAIP, which uses incentives to encourage farmers to modernize and diversify their operations. This includes a farm marketing education component. I also support efforts to enhance market development internationally as well.

#### **5. How will your Administration focus resources to improve the quality of life in Kentucky's rural communities?**

**DAVID WILLIAMS:** The first thing I will do as Governor is join the legal challenge to Obama care. I understand one the biggest challenges to our rural communities are affordable health insurance and access to health care. If Obama care is allowed to be fully implemented this will have a catastrophic affect on all Kentuckians ability to secure health care.

**STEVE BESHEAR:** First, Agricultural Development Funds must be directed at increasing net farm income. In addition, I have balanced the budget nine times without broad-based tax increases and while protecting critical areas like basic education funding and economic development and public safety programs. My administration is also expanding broadband access in rural areas. As our economy improves, these investments will remain priorities.

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### **FISCAL AFFAIRS**

Kentucky's tax policy should be based on public need and sound economic principles with tax dollars apportioned equitably among Kentucky citizens. We are a strong advocate of the original intent of House Bill 44, created in 1979. That law limits a county and state government to collect only a 4% increase in property taxes each year, or be subject to a recall referendum. Voters can decide to approve an increase above that amount on the county level. We also are protectors of the sales tax exemptions on production agriculture items.

#### **1. With regard to property taxes, will you support protecting the original intent of House Bill 44?**

**STEVE BESHEAR:** Yes. I voted for House Bill 44 as a state representative when it was first adopted by the Kentucky General Assembly. I supported it then and I support it now as governor.

**DAVID WILLIAMS:** Yes, I will protect the original intent of HB 44.

#### **2. Under your administration, will the current sales tax exemptions for agricultural inputs remain safe?**

**STEVE BESHEAR:** Yes. We should not alter a tax policy that provides a benefit to agriculture and farm families at this time. And although the state's economy is improving, it is still fragile, and I will not raise taxes on families and businesses as they work to recover. I also support including animal health pharmaceuticals in the exemption, as well as extending an exemption to our valuable equine industry.

**DAVID WILLIAMS:** Yes, the current sales tax exemption for agricultural inputs will remain safe. I would also be in favor of including equine farm inputs to this sales tax exemption.

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### **ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

Complying with environmental regulations is something farmers face daily whether it is in their livestock operations, or crop production practices involving pesticides or fertilizers. Regulations in Kentucky must be based on sound science and not create undue financial burdens on typical farming operations.

However, enforcement of Federal environmental regulations is usually relegated to the state. Many proposed Federal regulations can prove economically burdensome on Kentucky farmers because of the increased costs associated with compliance. Proposed federal guidelines on nutrient management, Clean Water Act guidance, greenhouse gas regulations and dust regulations could each pose serious financial and compliance burdens on Kentucky farmers.

#### **1. How will your Administration work to utilize the Ag Water Quality Act to protect the environment without subjecting farmers to overly restrictive or costly regulations?**

**DAVID WILLIAMS:** I supported the legislation that established the Ag Water Quality Act. As Governor, I will let the authority do their work, which is protecting the environment while not over burdening



farmers with regulations.

**STEVE BESHEAR:** Agriculture, more than any other industry, is dependent on clean and abundant water and sustainable productive land. The Ag Water Quality Act, coupled with the Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share Program, work in tandem to protect our environment and help keep our farmers from dealing with restrictive and costly regulations.

## 2. What role do you foresee your Administration playing in the development and enforcement of Federal environmental regulations under the Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act?

**DAVID WILLIAMS:** I will utilize every means at my disposal to keep the Federal EPA off our farms and out of our coal fields. The Obama administration has allowed the EPA to get out of control with the many regulations they have proposed, which if implemented, will reduce net farm income for our Kentucky farmers.

**STEVE BESHEAR:** The Environmental Protection Agency refuses to talk about policies we view as unreasonable regulations. Kentucky is taking its own proactive approach to environmental policy with my comprehensive energy plan. I continue to encourage the Energy and Environment Cabinet, the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy and the Cabinet for Economic Development to work with the Department of Agriculture on ways Kentucky agriculture can lead this initiative.

## 3. What actions will your Administration take to ensure decisions regarding water quality standards remain the sole and proper authority of the state of Kentucky?

**DAVID WILLIAMS:** Again, we need to keep the EPA off our farms. The Kentucky Division of Water is more than capable of making decisions regarding water quality standards and I will fight to maintain this authority.

**STEVE BESHEAR:** The federal government has repeatedly demonstrated an unwillingness to work with states on environmental regulations. I called attention to the EPA's ineffectual practices by joining the Kentucky Coal Association's lawsuit against the EPA. The suit, in part, addresses the enforcement of water quality standards. I continue working with the EPA but will not allow them to overstep their authority in Kentucky.

## 4. When Federal regulations threaten Kentucky's economic viability, what actions do you anticipate your Administration could take to mitigate the impacts they might have on Kentuckians?

**DAVID WILLIAMS:** If the need arises I will not shy away from filing suit against the EPA to keep over burdensome regulations from affecting Kentucky's net farm income.

**STEVE BESHEAR:** I have taken many actions to protect our economic viability when federal regulations have threatened our economy, including suing the EPA. We should try to find common ground to resolve differences, but I will act to protect jobs and our overall economy. I will continue standing up for our businesses and farmers to ensure that irrational regulations do not impede their efforts.

## ENERGY

Renewable fuels are domestically produced, cleaner-burning alternatives to imported oil. The production of ethanol and soydiesel from corn and soybeans expands the demand for these commodities and allows farmers to receive higher prices. The federal Renewable Fuels Standard mandates annual benchmarks for the use of renewable fuels to lessen our dependence on foreign sources of energy. Meeting these benchmarks means we must research and develop advanced biofuels.

## 1. How will your administration promote the development and use of renewable, cleaner-burning alternatives in an effort to reduce our dependence on foreign oil?

**STEVE BESHEAR:** To help our state do this, my administration developed a comprehensive energy strategy that, in part, integrates our agricultural production capacities into the energy sector. I will also utilize the resources of various cabinets and agencies to increase the production of renewable fuels. I continue to support research and development projects that validate new crop opportunities.

**DAVID WILLIAMS:** We must reduce our dependence on foreign oil, and the agricultural sector should play a key role in this effort. We must continue to support the use of ethanol and biodiesel, and also find other agricultural based alternative fuels to add to our energy portfolio.

## 2. Do you support the use of tax incentives to encourage the expanded production and use of renewable fuels?

**STEVE BESHEAR:** I support programs that provide incentives for energy crop development. Our ethanol industry is a good example of how tax incentives can help a new industry be successful. I also support regional energy projects that seek to better utilize the resources available in that area and address transportation challenges for moving energy crops and waste wood materials over long distances.

**DAVID WILLIAMS:** Yes, I do support the use of tax incentives for the expanded production and use of renewable fuels.



### 3. How do you see Kentucky meeting its obligations under federal mandates on the use of renewable energy?

**STEVE BESHEAR:** My administration's energy strategy gradually increases Kentucky's use of renewable energy and makes investments to expand opportunities. We have the foundation to support the continued growth of this industry, including producer tax incentives for renewable fuels production, cost share for farmers to plant energy crops, state-federal partnerships and private sector collaborations on research at our education centers.

**DAVID WILLIAMS:** We will have to create additional alternative and renewable fuel sources if we are to meet the federal mandate on renewable energy. I will work with Kentucky's agricultural and energy industries to ensure we meet these mandates.

## TRANSPORTATION

An essential function of government important to agriculture is maintaining rural roads. Farm to market roads are critical to the agriculture industry in the state. Currently, 22.2% of the road fund budget is used for maintenance and new construction of rural roads.

State and Federal laws and regulations regarding farm and commercial transportation often conflict and at best can be confusing. This often leads to difficulties in compliance and enforcement, especially when it comes to farm vehicles. Variances between states on regulations have led most surrounding states to develop reciprocal agreements with Kentucky allowing producers to transport their goods across state lines to nearby markets purportedly without fear of unintentionally breaking the neighboring state's transportation laws. However, it is becoming more common for enforcement officials in some states to not honor those reciprocal agreements. Federal guidelines and regulations often lack clear definition and guidance adding to the confusion.

### 1. Would you urge lawmakers to maintain the 22.2% rural road fund when they discuss the state's budget?

**DAVID WILLIAMS:** I will maintain the 22.2% rural road fund formula. Representing a rural district, I understand how important rural and our farm-to-market roads are to this Commonwealth.

**STEVE BESHEAR:** Yes. The ability to move agricultural products

in a safe and efficient manner is dependent on our transportation infrastructure. Despite the tough economy, rural secondary roads funding has increased every year under my administration. We also increased flexibility in this fund by allowing counties to use 20 percent of the individual rural and secondary road funds at their discretion.

### 2. How would your Administration work with surrounding states to add clarity to reciprocal agreements to lessen the burden on Kentucky farmers transporting goods across state lines?

**DAVID WILLIAMS:** I worked with Kentucky Farm Bureau and supported Senate Bill 79, which will alleviate some of this issue with other states. I will work with neighboring Governors to ensure our farmers are treated fairly when transporting goods across state lines.

**STEVE BESHEAR:** The Commonwealth generally has positive working relationships and reciprocal agreements with surrounding states on many issues, including transportation. However, we will intervene in those rare instances when a neighboring state is unreceptive to Kentucky farmers.

### 3. What steps will you take to ensure Kentucky law enforcement officers understand current laws and regulations relative to farm vehicles to avoid disruptions that have occurred in the past when enforcement efforts inadvertently were wrongly applied?

**DAVID WILLIAMS:** I believe Kentucky's law enforcement officers are the best this nation has to offer. Ensuring that our law enforcement personnel clearly understand the safety regulations as they pertain to farm vehicles is the first step to alleviate disruptions in the transporting of agricultural commodities.

**STEVE BESHEAR:** I have met personally with law enforcement officers and staff to discuss transportation regulations. I am committed to working with farmers and agricultural organizations to ensure our laws and regulations provide safety on our roads and are applied correctly.

### 4. In what ways will your Administration work with Federal officials to simplify and enforce federal transportation issues on Kentucky thoroughfares?

**DAVID WILLIAMS:** I would work with federal transportation officials to ensure Kentucky's roadways remain safe and will also prevent the federal government from imposing any unnecessary federal transportation regulations.

**STEVE BESHEAR:** Recently, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) requested feedback on possible changes in regulations related to operators of farm vehicles and off-road agricultural equipment. I urged FMCSA to not make regulations onerous for agricultural producers. Our comments, along with those from many others, convinced FMCSA to decide against changes that would have hurt our farmers. I will continue working with the federal government on ways to simplify regulations for Kentuckians.



## INSURANCE

Kentucky Farm Bureau got in the insurance business to service our members back in the 1940's because farmers had difficulty getting affordable insurance coverage for farms, homes, and automobiles. We are proud of the success of our insurance member service and today Kentucky Farm Bureau is the largest premium value insurance in farm property, the largest in property insurance premium written, the largest in total premiums written and the second largest value of home owner and auto insurance in Kentucky. Kentucky needs strong insurance companies capable of paying claims during disasters like the wind and ice storm.

### 1. What is your opinion regarding state-based regulation of insurance and the possible pre-emption by the federal government?

**STEVE BESHEAR:** I fully support state based regulation of insurance. The Department of Insurance continues to uphold one of the main responsibilities of state government — protecting the interests of Kentuckians. Federal regulation of insurance would not provide the comprehensive consumer protections that are provided by state government.

**DAVID WILLIAMS:** I will support state-based regulation of insurance. We need to take all measures necessary to keep the federal government out of property and casualty regulation or we could have another Obama-care mess on our hands.

### 2. How would you propose changes to the current legal environment in Kentucky that seems to encourage lawsuits and litigation?

**STEVE BESHEAR:** While lawsuits are often a necessary means of resolving disputes, they should be the means of last resort when efforts at compromise have not succeeded. I am in favor of studying a review system where objective parties examine potential lawsuits and claims, as is done in some other states.

**DAVID WILLIAMS:** We must create a legal environment that does not provide an incentive to bring legal action. While there is always the potential for litigation, the number of frivolous lawsuits in Kentucky is continuing to grow.

### 3. Would you support tort reform in the Commonwealth to help make Kentucky more business-friendly?

**STEVE BESHEAR:** I am in favor of studying a review system where objective parties examine potential lawsuits and claims, as is done in some other states.

**DAVID WILLIAMS:** I have supported and passed out of the Kentucky State Senate meaningful tort reform legislation, but it has yet to pass the House of Representatives. My opponent opposes tort reform on any level.

## EDUCATION

Career and Technical Education is a building block for a strong agricultural industry providing valuable leadership skills and experience to students. It also provides the training and skills necessary to service our industry. Extended employment for Career and Technical Education teachers allows them to maintain salaries throughout the summer months as they provide instruction for students involved in activities such as judging teams and skills contests. During times of tight budgets, the legislature often considers removing extended employment for these personnel or denying them equitable raises.

### 1. Would you make it a priority in your budget proposals to continue the extended employment for career and technical education instructors and allow them to receive the same proportion of salary increases as other educators?

**DAVID WILLIAMS:** I would provide the funds necessary to maintain extended employment for career and technical educators. These instructors are a critical piece to ensure Kentucky agriculture will have the next generation of farmers.

**STEVE BESHEAR:** Education will continue to be a priority in any budget proposal I send to the General Assembly. I will continue supporting Career and Technical Education faculty and advocate for them to receive the same proportion of the salary increases as other educators as long as resources are available to do so.

### 2. How would you assess the current education system in Kentucky, and what ideas do you have to make it a stronger, more effective, results-oriented system?

**DAVID WILLIAMS:** Every single piece of educational reform legislation in recent years was introduced in the Kentucky State Senate. I led the charge to eliminate CATS testing and created new standards for education in Kentucky.

**STEVE BESHEAR:** I have protected basic education funding, created a statewide effort to stitch together existing education initiatives into a comprehensive strategy and established the Task Force on Early Childhood Development and Education to craft recommendations that better prepare children for the future. But more can and must be done. I will continue expanding learning opportunities for Kentuckians and work to give students the education they deserve.



# Other Constitutional Offices

## AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER



**BOB FARMER**  
(D)

**Birthplace:**  
Orlando, Florida  
**Current residence:** Louisville  
**Education:** B.A., UK

**Occupation:** Marketing Executive  
**Career notes:** Formerly owned and operated a public relations company. National spokesperson for The Farmer's Almanac. Professional Speaker. Appointed by Governor Paul Patton to be liaison to U.S. Mint for design of Kentucky bicentennial coin.

**Personal:** Age 61. Married. Two sons.

**Phone:** 502-432-3404

**Email:** bob@farmerforkentucky.com

**Website:** www.farmerforkentucky.com



**JAMES COMER**  
(R)

**Birthplace:**  
Carthage, Tennessee  
**Current Residence:**  
Tompkinsville  
**Education:** B.S.

Degree in Agriculture, Western Kentucky University.

**Occupation:** Farmer and State Representative.

**Career notes:** Was State FFA President. Has been named farmer of the year in Monroe County. Has served 6 terms in state legislature. Received an Outstanding Young Kentuckian award.

**Personal:** Age 39. Married. Three children.

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## SECRETARY OF STATE



**BILL JOHNSON**  
(R)

**Birthplace:** Kansas.  
**Current Residence:** Elkton  
**Education:** B.S., Electrical Engineering, UK.

MBA, College of William & Mary.

**Occupation:** Engineer, Procurement Director, Math and Science Teacher.

**Career notes:** Served 10 years in the Navy, receiving commendation and achievement medals. Worked in the field of information technology. Has taught math and science to at-risk high school students.

**Personal:** Age 56. Married. Two children.

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## ATTORNEY GENERAL



**JACK CONWAY**  
(D)

**Birthplace:**  
Louisville  
**Current Residence:**  
Louisville  
**Education:** B.A.

Duke University; Law Degree, George Washington University National Law Center  
**Occupation:** Attorney General of Kentucky

**Career notes:** Was Deputy Cabinet Secretary and Legal Counsel for Governor Paul Patton. Is co-chairman of the Consumer Protection Committee for the National Association of Attorneys General. Served on the Board of Directors for the Muhammad Ali Center. Received a Rodel Fellowship to the Aspen Institute.

**Personal:** Age 42. Married. Two daughters.

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**TODD P'POOL**  
(R)

**Birthplace:**  
Madisonville  
**Current Residence:**  
Madisonville  
**Education:** B.A.

UK, Law Degree, UK.

**Occupation:** Hopkins County Attorney.

**Career notes:** Is serving second term as Hopkins County Attorney. Was appointed by Governors Fletcher and Beshear to a Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice. Has received awards for enforcing child support laws.

**Personal:** Age 28. Married. Three daughters.

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**Website:** www.toddpool.com



**ALISON LUNDERGAN GRIMES**  
(D)

**Birthplace:**  
Maysville  
**Current Residence:**  
Lexington

**Education:** B.A. Political Science, UK. Law Degree, American University.

**Occupation:** Business Attorney.

**Career notes:** Received 2010 Outstanding Young Lawyer Award from Fayette County Bar Association. President of Women's Lawyers Association of Fayette County Bar. Very active in community organizations.

**Personal:** Age 32. Married.

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## TREASURER



**TODD  
HOLLENBACH  
(D)**

**Birthplace:**  
Louisville.  
**Current  
Residence:**  
Louisville

**Education:** B.A. UK, Law Degree from U of L.

**Occupation:** State Treasurer.

**Career Notes:** Practiced law for 22 years prior to being elected state treasurer. Served five years on the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights. Was appointed to a commission to investigate the state's career employee hiring system.

**Personal:** Married. Two children.

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**K.C. CROSBIE  
(R)**

**Birthplace:** Toledo,  
Ohio  
**Current  
Residence:**  
Lexington.  
**Education:** B.A.,

UK.

**Occupation:** Lexington City Council member.

**Career notes:** A former business executive. A UK fellow and a member of UK Alumni Board of Directors. Appointed by Governor Ernie Fletcher to Crime Victims and Board of Claims Board and to Judicial Nomination Commission. Received Otis Singletary Achievement Award from UK.

**Personal:** Age 41. Married. Three children.

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## AUDITOR



**JOHN T.  
KEMPER III (R)**

**Birthplace:** Illinois  
**Current  
Residence:**  
Lexington  
**Education:** B.S.  
Degree, UK

**Occupation:** Homebuilder/Developer

**Career notes:** Formerly operated an educational supply business. Is a partner in a residential building and development company.

**Personal:** Age 48. Married, two children.

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**ADAM EDELEN  
(D)**

**Birthplace:**  
Flaherty  
**Current  
Residence:**  
Lexington  
**Education:** B.S.

Degree, UK

**Occupation:** Business consultant

**Career notes:** Director of Homeland Security and Chief of Staff for Governor Steve Beshear. Received several leadership awards. Named an "Outstanding Young Kentuckian."

**Personal:** Age 36. Divorced. Two children.

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## Safety First...

### UNION COUNTY HOLDS POPULAR EVENT FOR FIFTH-GRADERS

ABOVE: The youngsters got a wagon ride from the main exhibit area to other demonstrations at the Higginson-Henry Wildlife Management area.

**N**ational Farm Safety and Health Week is held each September with

various organizations conducting activities to bring attention to the importance of safety precautions on the farm. One of the traditional events is held in Union County, where a long list of organizations - - including Union County FB - have held an "Outdoor Safety Day" event for fifth graders since 1993. Over the years more than 3,300 youngsters have participated.

Safety is tied together with environmental and agricultural education as the

students go in small groups from exhibit to exhibit at the Lee K. Nelson Outdoor Learning Lab located in the Higginson-Henry Wildlife Management area. Instructors show how accidents can occur with electricity, guns, grain bins, all-terrain vehicles, farm animals and fire. Other "stations" deal with water, outdoor and oil tank safety.

Cooperators include the Kentucky State Police, Union County Sheriff's Department, Green River Firefighters, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife, Big Rivers Electric, 4-H and Country Mark Energy Resources. Union County FB is among the co sponsors.





LEFT: Maggie Downen of the 4-H Equestrian Team showed the kids a horse's teeth as part of the animal safety demonstration.



ABOVE: Greg Morgan of Big Rivers Electric Corporation fried a hot dog on a power line to show what can happen if you touch a live line.



ABOVE: Tyler Buckman of the 4-H Shooting Sports Club handled the gun safety demonstration.



LEFT: Fifth-graders posed for a picture while waiting to enter the Safety House.



## Biodiesel boosts soybean use

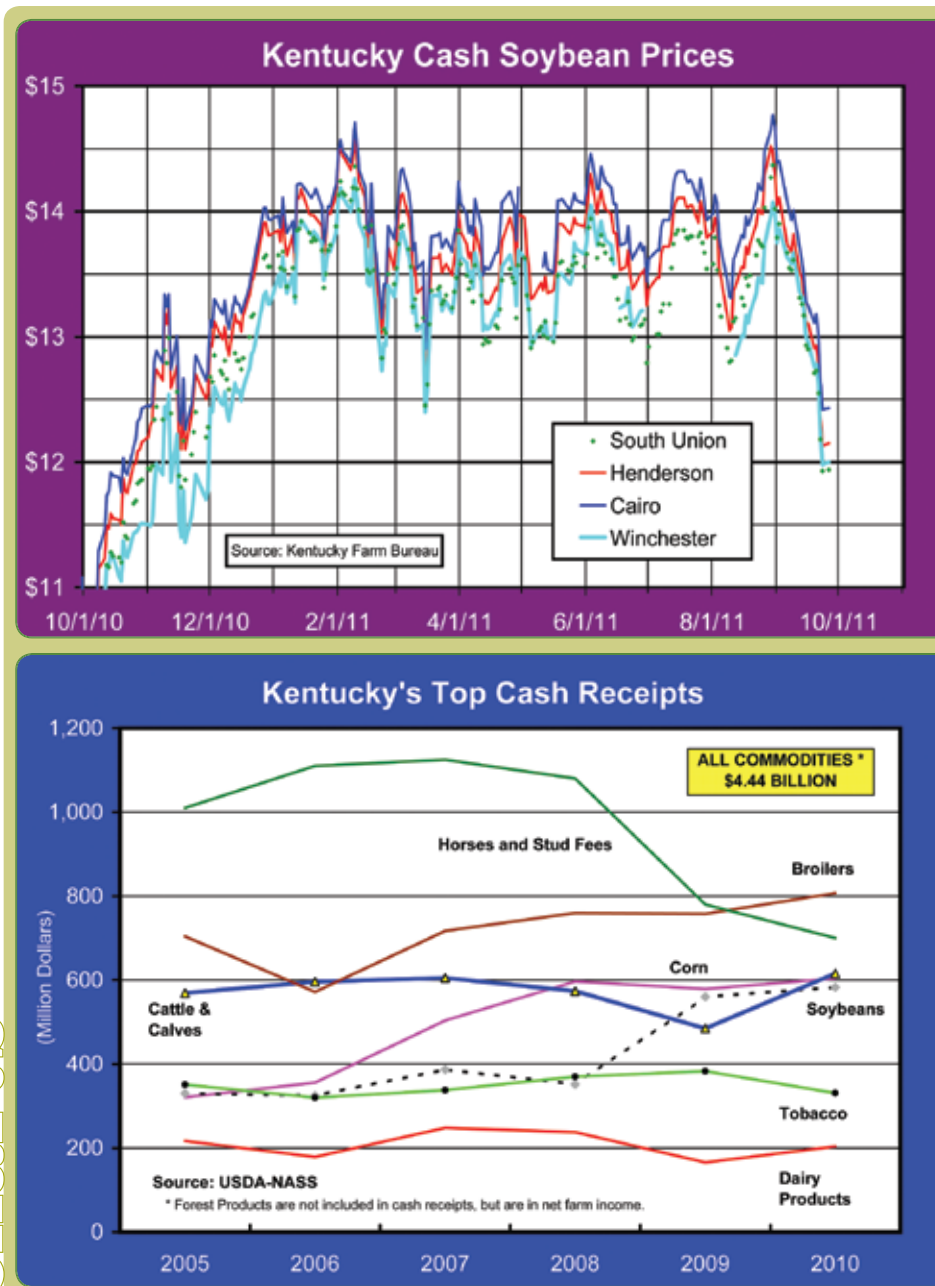
Domestic use of soybean oil for 2011/12 is forecast to rise to 17.75 billion pounds from 16.6 billion this year. Nearly all of next year's gain is due to the production of biodiesel, which has been accelerating in recent months. USDA forecasts that soybean oil used for methyl esters (biodiesel) will expand to 3.6 billion pounds in 2011/12 from 2.4 billion this season. Domestic soybean oil use in 2012 will be tempered by increased supply of other edible oils. The Environmental Protection Agency does not yet count biodiesel made from canola oil toward meeting the U.S. Renewable Fuels Standard for biodiesel. Instead, canola oil, including Canadian imports, can supply much of the growth in U.S. edible oils consumption. At nearly four billion pounds, more canola oil would be used in the U.S. than any other vegetable oil beside soybean oil. The national average price for soybean oil in 2011/12 is forecast at a record 55-59 cents per pound, up from 53.25 cents for 2010/11 and 35.95 cents in 2009/10.

## Beef exports up sharply in 2011

A weak U.S. dollar and higher beef production levels have resulted in U.S. beef exports for January-July 2011 being 27 percent higher than the same period of 2010. Strong export growth continues for many of our top beef export markets, including Canada (+36 percent), Japan (+44 percent), and Korea (+56 percent). U.S. beef export levels are expected to remain elevated through the third quarter of 2011, as a relatively larger amount of beef will remain available for export. Third-quarter growth is forecast at 24 percent. Fourth-quarter exports may be fractionally below year-earlier levels as the U.S. beef supply begins to tighten into 2012. Total U.S. beef exports for 2012 are forecast at 2.57 billion pounds, which compares to 2.71 billion pounds this year and 2.30 billion pounds in 2010.

## Declining profits will trim dairy herd

High feed costs and falling milk prices are expected by USDA to reduce the size of the U.S. dairy herd by 2012. Despite high feed prices, forecast milk output is up 1.5 percent in 2011 to 195.7 billion pounds. Cow numbers, at 9.197 million head, continue to increase more than expected - up nearly one percent over 2010. Milk per cow is forecast at 21,280 pounds this year, up 0.6 percent from 2010. In 2012, the U.S. dairy herd is expected to decline slightly to 9.190 million head. In 2012, a leap year, milk production is forecast to climb 1.4 percent to 198.5 billion pounds. The 2011 all milk price is forecast at \$20.15 to \$20.35 per cwt, up from \$16.29 in 2010. USDA forecasts the 2012 all milk price to be \$17.80 to \$18.80 per cwt due to falling dairy product prices.





tion is for the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources to establish a fund to reimburse farmers for protective fencing and crop damage caused by wildlife, plus to add “feral hogs” to the policy statement on predator control.

The committee had a lengthy discussion about the state’s handling of worker’s compensation requirements for farm markets. Several members voiced concerns that state regulatory officials were not applying the standards uniformly in their market inspections.

A couple of members said they felt the worker’s comp issue merits consideration for a KFB priority issue for 2012.

## ENERGY AND TRANSPORTATION

This committee toured the Commonwealth Agri-Energy ethanol plant in Hopkinsville before holding a meeting at the Christian County Extension Office. General Manager Mick Henderson led the tour and drew praise from several committee members for his role as a valuable liaison to Kentucky’s agriculture community.

Dr. Michael Montross from UK’s Biosystems and Ag Engineering Department was the meeting’s first speaker, addressing biofuels initiatives. Committee member Roger Murray then discussed a state rails-to-trails park in three eastern Kentucky counties, explaining that some landowners were expressing concerns about the projects and were hoping that KFB could intercede.

Turning to policy, the group approved proposed language encouraging the state to use raised pavement markers in the center of state highways, and for the Justice and Safety Cabinet to join DOT in using uniform enforcement policies.

KFB Director David Campbell of Lincoln County is chairman of the Energy and Transportation Committee.

## EDUCATION

Chaired by KFB Director Terry Gilbert of Boyle County, this committee met at the West Kentucky Community and Technical College, where it toured the Emerging Technology Center. State Representative Fred Nesler of Graves County briefly spoke to the committee at the beginning of the meeting. Dr. Steve Freeman gave an overview of the college. Dr. Dale Winkler, Executive Director of

Career and Technical Education with the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet, gave a presentation on the plan for a new delivery method for career and technical education (CTE). He also spoke about a proposed restructuring of CTE.

Bryan Alvey, KFB’s Director of Local Affairs and Policy Development, discussed KFB’s role with CTE and a steering committee looking at the program. Scott Christmas, KFB’s Director of Women’s Programs and Agriculture Education, reviewed several program activities, including the popular teacher workshops.

With a bin of fresh-packed apples in the foreground, the Horticulture Advisory Committee held its meeting in the processing and storage area at Hinton’s Orchard in LaRue County.

In the policy discussion, the committee suggested language urging the Kentucky Department of Agriculture “to abide by the guidelines set forth in the individual education plans for Kentucky students for state assessments.” Another proposal calls for encouraging the ag extension service to fill county agent vacancies within a year. On national policy the committee voiced support for programs to improve the communications ability of non-English-speaking students.

## ECONOMIC & MARKET DEVELOPMENT

This committee met at UK’s E.S. Good Barn and toured the school’s Food Systems Innovation Center. Dr. Gregg Rentfrow, an assistant professor and research specialist in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences, led the tour. Several of his colleagues gave presentations and answered questions.

Bruce Harper of KDA spoke about the Kentucky Proud program and efforts to promote farm markets. Mitch Whittle of the Farm Service Agency then spoke

about federal lending programs and Don Goodin of the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development discussed the Small Business Credit Initiative administered by the Kentucky Economic Development Finance Authority. He touched on several other programs to assist businesses.

Nathan Routt of the Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development, spoke about the agency’s mission and funding sources. Jeff Jones of USDA’s Rural Development office, reviewed some of the agency’s programs for ener-



gy projects and housing. KFB staffer Bryan Alvey gave an overview of AFBF’s annual Rural Development Conference.

Christi Marksberry discussed regional forums conducted by the Governor’s Office of Agricultural Policy. The purpose was to obtain ideas and suggestions from farmers and agribusinesses, she explained, adding that the Ag Development Board soon will be developing plans for 2012.

Committee Chairman Alex Barnett, a KFB Director from Harrison County, talked about the work of KFB’s Animal Composting Working Group.

Turning to policy, the committee approved language calling for the General Assembly to use the general fund for debt service on capital expenditures at the Kentucky Exposition Center. Another recommendation says that any state assistance for bringing high speed internet to rural areas should not be detrimental to existing services.



## FFA membership is at a high

In the past year, more than 17,000 new students have joined FFA, setting a new all-time high in the organization's membership since it was founded in 1928. During the 2010-11 school year, FFA membership grew to a record 540,379 students, up 17,070 from the 2009-10 school year. The number of FFA chapters in the U.S., Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands also grew with the creation of 106 new, chartered FFA chapters.

Kentucky FFA membership grew to 14,708 in 2010-11, up by 425 members. "We have seen slow but steady growth since the mid 1990s," said Matt Chaliff, Executive Secretary of the Kentucky FFA Organization.

Texas tops the list of states with the largest FFA membership with 81,694 students, followed by California with 70,555, Georgia with 31,616, Missouri with 25,096 and Oklahoma with 23,562. The 10 largest FFA chapters are all in California.

## EPA regulation could bite the dust

New legislation introduced by Sen. Mike Johanns (R-Neb.) that would prevent the Environmental Protection Agency from regulating naturally occurring farm dust is welcome news for the nation's farmers and ranchers, according to AFBF.

"Regulation of farm dust by EPA could severely hamper the ability of farmers and ranchers to meet the world's food needs," said AFBF President Bob Stallman.

EPA is reviewing existing regulations for particulate matter, which includes soot and dust. Soot is generated by car emissions and factories; dust occurs naturally.

According to Stallman, planting and harvesting crops, livestock moving from place to place and people driving down dirt roads are just a few of the ways dust occurs naturally on farms and in rural areas.

## KFB leaders attend "Food Dialogues" event

KFB President Mark Haney, Executive Vice President David S. Beck and Director Terry Gilbert attended one of a series of national town-hall meetings presented by the U.S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance (USFRA) to focus on opinions, attitudes and questions about the current state of food production. KFB is among dozens of agriculture organizations supporting USFRA, which was formed last year to engage the public and agriculture interests in a dialogue about food production. AFBF President Bob Stallman is chairman of the group.

The national event titled "The Food Dialogues" was a connected meeting at four locations throughout the nation. The live event was also viewed online by consumers and farmers and had an active presence on social media platforms.

During the meetings USFRA presented the results of two national surveys that polled farmers and consumers about food and farm issues. The surveys show that consumers think about food production constantly and are interested in knowing about the food they eat, where it comes from and how it is produced.

The KFB leaders attended the session at Fair Oaks Farms in northern Indiana. Other sessions were held in New York, Washington D.C. and California. Haney serves on AFBF's Board of Directors and Mrs. Gilbert is chairman of AFBF's Women's Leadership Committee, which has an active role in the organizations public relations initiatives.

## Farm income may set a record

U.S. farm income will jump 31 percent this year to a record \$103.6 billion because of higher crop and livestock prices, according to a USDA report.

The department boosted its estimate from \$97.3 billion forecast in February. Income in 2010 was \$79.1 billion. Receipts from sales of farm commodities will jump 18 percent from last year, with values for crops surging by 19 percent to \$206.5 billion and livestock sales climbing by 16 percent to \$163.8 billion, the department said.

Rising farm incomes, which increase land values and encourage purchases of seeds, fertilizer and equipment, have been driven by greater demand for exports and biofuels.

Commodity prices are higher because inventories were low at the beginning of the crop year, wet weather and flooding hampered planting and cultivation, and some believe harvests may be smaller than forecast.

Expenses such as diesel fuel and animal feed were projected to rise by \$32.5 billion, exceeding \$300 billion for the first time. Government payments will decrease by almost 18 percent to \$10.2 billion, according to the report.

The increase in farm income, which is projected to be the biggest gain since 2004, drove agricultural real-estate prices to a record \$2,350 an acre this year.

Among costs in 2011, fertilizer expenses will rise 25 percent to \$26.2 billion, while spending on fuel may surge 24 percent to \$16.4 billion. Feed costs are projected to increase 20 percent to \$54.6 billion, and seed expenses may rise 9.7 percent to \$17.9 billion. The cost of purchased livestock and poultry also rose, jumping 12 percent to \$22 billion.



# Farmer-of-Year finalists named

**V**eteran farmers Jere Cannon of Fleming County, Craig Roberts of Caldwell County and Jim Sidebottom of Green County have been named finalists for the KFB Farmer of the Year award.

Cannon, a 54-year farming veteran, raises registered Angus cattle, hay and corn on his farm in Flemingsburg. His herd began as a 4-H project with his brother back in 1952, and then steadily grew into the successful family operation that it is today. He is a 54-year member of the Kentucky Angus Association, 40-year member of the Fleming County FB Board of Directors (including two years as president), 30-year member of the Southern States Regional Board of Directors, founding member of the Kentucky Beef Cattle Association, and has served in numerous capacities with several other civic and industry-specific organizations during his career.

Roberts, a 31-year farming veteran, runs a cow/calf operation and raises corn, soybeans, wheat and hay. He additionally puts his entrepreneurial skills to work for his logging and land excavation businesses. He has served on the Caldwell County FB Board of Directors for 31 years (including six years as president), as Secretary for the Lower Tradewater River Conservation Board for 25 years, as a member of the Kentucky Farm Bureau Resolutions Committee for 10 years, as a member of the Caldwell County FSA Committee for four years, and is actively involved in multiple roles with his church and other civic and industry-specific organizations.

Sidebottom, a 55-year farming veteran, raises dairy cattle, corn, wheat and hay on his farm in Greensburg. After many years of juggling part-time farming with owning a flooring business, he transitioned into full-time farming in 1981. Sidebottom has served in numerous roles on the Green County FB Board of Directors since 1986 (including four years as 1st vice president), and is currently the president of the Kentucky Dairy Development Council, Green County Soil Conservation District Chairman and a member of the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board. He previously held several positions with many other industry-based and civic-oriented organizations on both the local, regional and state levels.

The winner will be announced at the

annual meeting on December 2 and will receive \$1,000 from the KFB Federation.

In addition to the statewide recognition and prizes, KFB's Farmer of the Year winner will represent Kentucky in the Swisher Sweets/Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year contest, the South's most prestigious agricultural award, in Moultrie, Georgia, October 16-18, 2012. The state winner will also receive \$2,500 from Swisher International, a customized jacket and a \$200 gift certificate courtesy of The Williams Dickie Company, and a \$500 gift certificate from Southern States Cooperative. Kentucky's winner will compete against nine other state winners for the chance to win a \$15,000 award from Swisher International and several other sponsor-based prizes.

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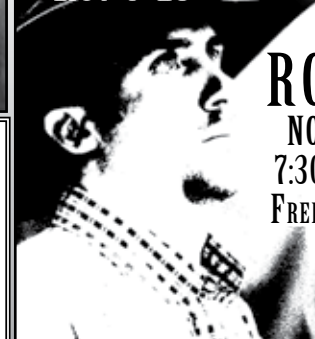
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# COUNTY ANNUAL MEETINGS



## CASEY COUNTY

Date: October 13, 6:30 p.m.  
Place: Ag Expo Center

## CLAY COUNTY

Date: October 13, 6:00 p.m.  
Place: Farm Bureau Building

## FAYETTE COUNTY

Date: October 18, 6:30 p.m.  
Place: Masterson Station Park

## GREENUP COUNTY

Date: November 7, 6:00 p.m.  
Place: Farm Bureau Meeting Hall

## HENRY COUNTY

Date: October 13, 7:00 p.m.  
Place: FB Office

## LAWRENCE COUNTY

Date: October 18, 6:00 p.m.  
Place: FB Office

## MORGAN COUNTY

Date: October 12, 6:00 p.m.  
Place: Extension Office



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