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AUGUST 2012 • VOL. 12, NO. 6



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# table

of CONTENTS

State Fair Preview

7

Young Farmer Outing

8

County Annual Meetings

13

Beef Tour

14

Markets

20

## On the cover:

A drought-plagued cornfield in Meade County.

Photo by Roger Nesbitt

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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**Kentucky**  
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It's times like these that remind us the only thing certain in agriculture is uncertainty.

Not so long ago, 2012 had the prospect of a great year for agriculture. Markets for corn, soybeans and wheat were once again soaring, prompting farmers to respond with record or near-record plantings of those crops. All we needed was some favorable growing conditions.

But now, one of the worst droughts in history is inflicting major damage in many parts of the nation, including all across Kentucky. The impact, of course, extends beyond the crop producers to the livestock and poultry sectors. This no doubt will cost Kentucky farmers a significant amount of income.

It's ironic that this disaster coincides with the debate in Washington over a new farm bill. The drought underscores why we need a strong national farm policy to prevent the economic damage from spreading throughout our entire economy.

The security of our citizens is tied to the ability of our farmers and ranchers to produce their food. Farm policy provides agriculture with the safety net necessary to keep our food system operating at the level to meet the needs of our people.

The farm programs that have been enacted over the years are designed to build confidence among lenders who might otherwise shy away from the risky business of farming. These programs also provide insurance to farmers who otherwise would not be able to withstand the economic blow from a natural disaster like a devastating drought. That insurance program is going to be a savior for thousands of farmers this year.

And foremost, farm policy is aimed at keeping food on our tables.

The policymakers in Washington hopefully won't lose sight of this as they decide the federal response to this drought, as well as our farm programs for the years ahead. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack already has done us a good turn by putting in place several program changes to speed up the disaster declaration process. USDA also has lowered the interest rate for emergency loans.

During crisis periods like this one, farmers must be especially diligent in keeping up with what's going on in Washington and what forms of assistance are available. Agriculture organizations must keep their members informed, as well.

Farmers are facing a difficult situation, but they've gotten through droughts before and they will again — providing that we maintain a strong farm policy.



**MARK HANEY**

**PRESIDENT**

**KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU**



# Taxing issues ...

## KFB COMMITTEE TALKS POLICY WITH CHAIRMAN OF BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON TAX REFORM



From left, Committee Chairman Pat Henderson presides as Jerry Abramson and Joe Wright enjoy a lighter moment at the meeting with KFB's Tax Advisory Committee.

**K**FB's Tax Advisory Committee has communicated two key policy positions to the chairman of the commission appointed by Governor Steve Beshear to develop recommendations for state tax reform. Lieutenant Governor Jerry Abramson was a special guest at the committee's annual meeting last month to discuss the work of the Governor's Blue Ribbon Commission on Tax Reform and obtain feedback from the group. He was advised that KFB places a high priority on maintaining Kentucky's property tax law plus sales tax exemptions on farm production items.

Committee Chairman Pat Henderson, a KFB Director from Breckinridge County, described the meeting as "a very unique opportunity for us."

"We stand ready to work with the governor's tax commission and the general assembly to identify broad-based taxing mechanisms that will help address Kentucky's revenue situation," said Henderson. "However, maintaining the sales tax exemptions for production agriculture and limiting state property tax revenue have long been priority issues of our organization. Our membership realizes that many farmers and landowners simply cannot survive an increased tax burden."

KFB supports the current provisions of

House Bill 44 (KRS 132.010), advocating that revenue from property taxes should continue to be limited to four percent plus new growth. KFB also believes that any proposals to exceed four percent should automatically be determined by Kentucky voters.

The committee also reemphasized the need to maintain the state's sales tax exemptions for production agriculture.

"Removing sales tax exemptions for agriculture places an immediate six percent increase in the cost of production for Kentucky's farmers," explained Henderson. "It would also hurt our agribusinesses because all of our surrounding states have some form of agricultural exemption from sales tax."

Committee member Joe Kordes, an agribusinessman from Muhlenberg County, offered some numbers to underscore the importance of the exemption. He noted that on average, a farmer growing 1,000 acres of corn and soybeans would spend roughly \$340,000 for what's needed to raise those crops. A six percent sales tax would add \$20,400 to the cost.

"And that's just on a thousand acres," said Kordes.

KFB First Vice President Eddie Melton, himself a large-scale row crop producer, was among several who pointed out that

farmers can't pass along such additional costs.

"Like they say – we buy retail and sell wholesale. We're price takers," he said.

Melton and Henderson told the Lieutenant Governor that farmers want government to be adequately funded and are willing to pay their fair share, but prefer broad-based approaches to generating new revenue.

Joining Abramson was former Senate Majority Leader Joe Wright of Breckinridge County, who is the only farmer on the commission. Wright, who was an effective ally of agriculture during his 17 years in the legislature, lamented the significant rise in college tuition costs stemming from state budget cuts in recent years.

"I have a great fear that we're going to price higher education out of the market," Wright said.

Abramson said the proliferation of special interests that lobby the legislature would make it difficult to enact comprehensive tax reform. Through three public meetings held by the commission, about 60 percent of those addressing the panel focused on citing a particular state funding need, rather than offering proposals for change, he said.

"Adequacy (of revenue) is a major issue with this tax code," Abramson explained.

KFB Executive Vice President David S. Beck told Abramson that HB 44 and the sales tax exemptions have been strongly supported by KFB members for many years. He noted that he and Senator Wright were involved in the effort for HB 44 back in 1979.

If necessary, KFB will be "engaged" with defending those tax policies, Beck said, and hopes to make all Kentuckians realize that those policies are good for the state as a whole.

"We want to work with the administration to address the revenue issues," Beck said, "but with the understanding that these issues are extremely important to agriculture."

The commission's goal is to submit recommendations to Governor Beshear "by Thanksgiving," Abramson said.

**F**amily partnerships and family corporations make up 98 percent of America's two million farms and ranches, including thousands here in Kentucky. When these owners leave the farm to their heirs, it is subject to the death tax – the federal government's final insult.

The death tax unduly burdens Kentucky farmers by taxing the transfer of accumulated assets which farmers have already paid taxes on their entire lives. Because the value of a family-owned farm is usually not cash, but working assets like land, buildings, and equipment, many farm inheritors face difficulty paying the tax and are forced to sell the family farm.

For years I have fought to eliminate the death tax. Although I'm still working to wipe it completely off the books, I've made great progress by negotiating drastic reductions in the burden it imposes on Kentucky farmers. Tax relief I negotiated in 2010 reduced the death tax rate by 20 percent and provided a \$5 million exemption. Unfortunately, unless Congress acts soon, this relief will expire next year, creating a top rate of 55 percent with an effective exemption of only \$1 million. I believe any death tax—let alone this higher rate—is wrong, and will continue working to eliminate it.

Congress has much to do before this fall's election, and preventing this tax hike on family farms ought to be a priority. I proposed legislation in the Senate to extend the current lower rates for American families. Sadly, Democrats in control of the Senate blocked its consideration.

Raising taxes on farmers and job creators is the wrong direction, particularly in a struggling economy. Lower taxes help employers hire workers and grow their businesses. And lower death taxes reassure family farmers that the next generation will carry on what they have worked to build.

That's why with your support, I will continue to fight in Congress to ensure that Kentucky's families are protected from the onerous death tax. You shouldn't have to visit the undertaker and the IRS on the same day.



SENATOR MITCH MCCONNELL

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
Creative Director	Donia Simmons
	Pioneer Publishing
	Lexington, KY
Printer	Publishers Press

"The Voice of Kentucky Agriculture"

kyfb.com





One of the worst droughts in Kentucky history has wreaked havoc on the corn and hay crops and by late July had put most of the soybeans in poor condition. Meanwhile, some were culling their cattle herds because of a lack of feed and crop insurance companies were bracing for the worst.

On a national scale the drought also had reached epic proportions with most of the nation affected. Cattle prices are plunging, grain, hay and milk prices are soaring and agriculture is receiving a lot of media attention. Much of that, unfortunately, is focused on an expected spike in food prices.

KFB is urging farmers to stay apprised of what assistance is available to them. And if you have crop insurance it's wise to double-check your status in order to be clear about what to do with your damaged crops.

KFB will have links to pertinent web sites at [www.kyfb.com](http://www.kyfb.com).

The drought's impact on Kentucky agriculture started to appear as early as mid-July, when these photos were taken in Meade and Breckinridge Counties. The wide angle shot from the top of a ridge shows the various degrees of dryness in the corn crop at a farm just west of Irvington. The farm pond near Midway in Meade County was down about three feet. The corn field was typical of those in the area.







Freddy Farm Bureau will greet fairgoers from his usual spot in front of Freedom Hall.

KFB Day at the State Fair is Thursday, August 23 with a full schedule of activities for members.

The 49th Annual Kentucky Country Ham Breakfast and Auction will be held in South Wing Conference Center beginning at 7:30 a.m. The grand champion country ham will be auctioned with proceeds donated to charity. Last year's champion ham from Broadbent B&B Foods fetched \$600,000 from Republic Bank, which has had the top bid in six of the past eight years. In its history the auction has raised more than \$6.2 million for charities.

The annual Gospel Quartet Contest begins shortly following the breakfast and will be held on the South Wing stage. The winning group will represent Kentucky in the National Quartet Contest.

The Farm Bureau picnic begins at noon in the South Wing.

KFB Insurance Company sponsors the popular "Pride of the Counties" section of the South Wing, where local organizations promote their cities and counties with lively displays. A winning display is named each year during a ceremony at 11 p.m. on KFB Day. KFB Insurance also participates in the FFA/4-H Sale of Champions that afternoon in Newmarket Hall.

The Kentucky State Fair runs from August 16-26. Gates open daily at 7 a.m., with exhibits open from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Adult admission to the fair is \$8 in advance and \$10 at the gate. Children ages 3-12 and seniors age 55 and up will be admitted for \$4 in advance or \$6 at the gate. There also is an \$8 parking charge per vehicle.

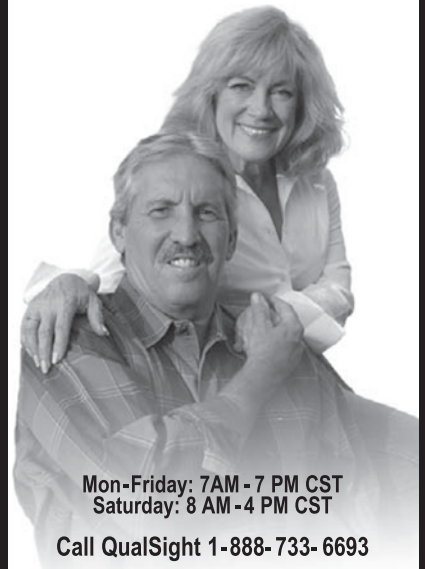
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The group took a wagon tour of Kinman Farm in Boone County. Pictured here is a stop at a tomato field. The group also saw pumpkins, squash, cabbage, cattle, hay and an agritourism facility at the popular farm near Burlington.



# YOUNG FARMER SUMMER OUTING



Young Farmer Committee Chairman Brent Cornett emceed the opening luncheon. He is from Laurel County. Left, the Saturday breakfast included policy development, with groups forming by districts to talk about issues.







Kim Kinman welcomed the group to his farm and spoke about its history and the current enterprises.

Another huge group of young farmers and their family members took part in the annual summer outing that is part of KFB's Young Farmer Program. This year's venue was Northern Kentucky, where the group took in a variety of sites during a two-day agenda that also had a little business mixed in.

The evening events featured the Newport Aquarium and a Cincinnati Reds game in Great American Ballpark, just across the river from the event's home base at the Radisson Inn in downtown Covington. There also were opportunities to tour the Kentucky Speedway or take the kids to the Duke Energy Children's Museum in Cincinnati.

The popular Saturday afternoon farm tours had five options. The stops included a dairy farm, an orchard and winery, a couple of diversified operations with agri-tourism and roadside markets, a sheep operation, a cattle farm, an alpaca farm, a horse stable, the Griffin Industries animal byproduct processing facility and a row crop and tobacco farm.

The event kicked off with a luncheon in which KFB Executive Vice President David

S. Beck welcomed the young farm families with a brief address. He praised the young farmer committee "for doing a wonderful job to make sure our programs are in tune with what you need." He stressed the organization's commitment to the young farmer program and urged the participants to communicate their viewpoints to staff and leadership.

"We need to hear from you," he said.

Keynote speaker was Virginia farmer Scott Sink, a former member of the AFBF Young Farmer Committee and winner of an AFBF "Excellence in Agriculture" award. His address focused on ways to improve local young farmer activities and how to benefit from the program itself.

The Saturday "Eggs and Issues" breakfast was devoted to policy development and a briefing on key issues. KFB Second Vice President Fritz Giesecke and Public Affairs Director Jeff Harper outlined federal and state issues, reporting that prospects were dim for a farm bill prior to the current law's expiration at the end of September.

Harper gave an update on state tax policy. Noting that the General Assembly likely will be considering some tax reforms

next year, Harper informed the young farmers that KFB would vigorously defend the sales and use tax exemptions and the property tax system established under House Bill 44. He urged the young farmers to communicate those positions to their respective state legislators and explain to them why those policies are important to the economic viability of young farmers.

The young farmers then formed groups by districts to discuss policy recommendations.

The outing also included the first few rounds of the Discussion Meet, with a group of four finalists emerging from three rounds. The finalists, who will compete at the state annual meeting in December, are Vince Gill of Carlisle County, Mike Meyer of Harrison County, Stacy Vincent of Fayette County and Janella Miller of Pulaski County.

Finalists for the Outstanding Young Farm Family award for 2012 were announced. They are Michael and Jill Harton of Christian County, Ryan and Misty Bivens of LaRue County and Bruce and Charissa Wade of Mercer County.



# 2012 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Over 250 Kentucky students have been chosen to receive college scholarship grants totaling \$302,450 from county and state programs administered through the Kentucky Farm Bureau Education Foundation and by individual county Farm Bureaus.

The scholarships, offered annually, were awarded to recipients who displayed the greatest levels of academic excellence, involvement in extracurricular activities, leadership abilities and financial need. Scholarship sponsors and the recipients are:

## **Sam Moore Scholarship – \$4,000**

*Awarded to a student attending a Kentucky college/university and pursuing a four-year degree in animal health/veterinary technology or a related field.*  
*Lydia Trimble, Mason County High School*

## **Leadership in Agriculture Scholarships – \$3,000 each**

- Awarded to students of farm families attending a Kentucky college or university.

*Renee Laurent, Caldwell County High School; Samuel Janes, Green County High School*

## **Paul D. Everman Fund for Lifetime Learning Scholarship – \$3,000**

*Awarded to a non-traditional student who is interested in pursuing a four-year course of study at a Kentucky college/university.*

- Michele Wilbers, Northern Kentucky University

## **KFB Young Farmer Scholarship – \$2,000**

*Awarded to a college upperclassman for the 2011-12 school year. Student must be attending a Kentucky college/university and majoring in agriculture or a related field.*

- Gabrielle Burgess, University of Kentucky

## **KFB Young Farmer Scholarship – \$1,000**

*Awarded to a college upperclassman for the 2011-12 school year. Student must be attending a Kentucky college/university and majoring in agriculture or a related field.*

- Eli Mann, Morehead State University

## **Louis F. Ison Memorial Scholarship – \$1,000**

*Awarded to a Farm Bureau member who is a full-time student pursuing a graduate degree at the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture.*

- Connie Tilghman, University of Kentucky

## **Beautification League of Louisville Scholarship – \$1,000**

*Awarded to a student attending a Kentucky college/university and pursuing a four-year degree in horticulture or landscape architecture.*

- Joseph Wood, Fleming County High School

## **KFB Mutual Insurance Company Scholarships – \$2,000 each**

- Katie Coldiron, Greenup County High School; Barrett Greenwell, Bethlehem High School

## **KFB Insurance Agents Association Scholarship – \$1,000**

- Laura Ashley, Cumberland County High School; Emily Powell, Union County High School

## **KFB Federation Scholarships – \$1,000 each**

- Emily Drury, Anderson County High School; Macy Cox, Bell County High School; Daniel Bruington, Breckenridge County High School; Nannie Croney, Christian County High School; Callie Howard and Ragan Clark, George Rogers Clark High School; Ethan Long, Trinity Christian Academy, Amanda Smith, Carlisle County High School; Emily Scott, Hart County High School; James Crosswhite, LaRue County High School; Hannah Floyd and Corbin Wilson, McLean County High School; Lindsey Coomer, Metcalfe County High School; Amber Tyra, Montgomery County High School; Vaughn Reed, Muhlenburg County High School; Whitley Crume, Bethlehem High School; Taylor Dye, Owsley County High School; Cory Ramsey, Bracken County High School; Steven Thompson, Pulaski County High School;

Megan Martin, Rockcastle County High School; Kati Conn, Rowan County High School; Jacob Phelps, Russell County High School; Gwen Martin, Shelby County High School; Brittany Gaddis, Taylor County High School; Shayla Evans, Whitley County High School

## **Adair County Farm Bureau Scholarships – \$1,000 each**

- Haley Burton, and Karli Jessie, Adair County High School

## **Allen County Farm Bureau Scholarships – \$1,000 each**

- Katelyne Boles, Allen County Scottsville High School

## **Anderson County Farm Bureau Scholarships – \$1,500 each**

- Emily Drury and Luke Warford, Anderson County High School

## **Ballard County Farm Bureau Scholarships – \$500 each**

- Chelsey Childress, Collin Cooper, Rachel Sullivan, Nathan Myers, Peyton Cooper, Jordan Rollins, and Sabrina Lovelace, Ballard County High School

## **Ballard County Gary Enlow Scholarship – \$500**

- Megan Brown, Ballard County High School

## **Bell County Farm Bureau Scholarships – \$1,000 each**

- Jessica Collett, Pineville High School; Macey Culver, Morgan Culver, Caitlin Sharpe, Rayann Moyers, Middlesboro High School; Bethany Grubbs, Devin Hickman, Brittany Collins, Ashley Mason, Bell County High School

## **Boone County Farm Bureau Scholarships – \$1,000 each**

- Nichole Zaborowski, Larry A. Ryle High School; Morgan Hagstrom, Walton Verona High School

## **Boyd County Farm Bureau Scholarships – \$1,500 annually each**

- Olivia Dyer, and Erica Kress, Boyd County High School



### **Breckinridge County Farm Bureau Scholarships – \$1,000 each**

- Alissa Doan, and Charles ‘Brandon’ Henning, Breckinridge County High School

### **Bullitt County Farm Bureau Young Farmers Scholarship – \$1,000**

- Rachel Thacker, Bullitt Central High School; Jessica Carver, Carly Coulter, Christopher Laytham, Bullitt East High School; Forrest Miller, North Bullitt High School

### **Carlisle County Farm Bureau Scholarships – \$1,500 each**

- Micah Ellegood, and Michael Joon, Carlisle County High School

### **Carroll County Farm Bureau Scholarships – \$750 each**

- Celess Parson, and Nicholas Carroll, Carroll County High School

### **Campbell County Farm Bureau Scholarships – \$1,000 each**

- Morgan Orth, Marissa Glahn, Campbell County High School; Morgan Dunay, Taylor Hardy Abbie Kramer, Bishop Brossart High School

### **Christian County Farm Bureau Scholarships – \$2,000 each**

- Amber Daniel, Robin Pittman, Hopkinsville High School; Jasmine Dillard, Christian County High School; Zachary Garnett, Heritage Christian Academy

### **Clay County Farm Bureau Scholarships – \$250/semester, for eight semesters**

- Joshua Hoskins, Jacob Garrison, and Troy Kemp, Clay County High School

### **Crittenden County Farm Bureau Scholarships – \$1,000 each**

- Elliot Day, Jenna Lynn, Emily Shewcraft, Madison Travis, Crittenden County High School

### **Fayette County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$20,000**

- Miranda Richardson, Paul Laurence Dunbar High School

### **Fayette County Farm Bureau Vocational/Technical Scholarships – \$2,500 each**

- Ester Vasilyuk, Bryan Station High School, Kristian Little, Paul Laurence Dunbar High School

### **Grant County Farm Bureau Scholarships – \$500 each**

- Andrew Jones, Williamstown High School; Shelby Evans, Walton Verona High School; Evan Beach and Courtney Jaconette, Grant County High School

### **Graves County Farm Bureau Scholarships – \$500 each**

- Bridget Wilkerson, Mercedes Smith, Amber Carter, and Emily Waggoner, Graves County High School

### **Grayson County Farm Bureau Scholarships – \$500 each**

- Kenneth Adams, Mary Alvey, Zachary Berry, Shea Boone, Celina Fields, Mary Newton, Timothy Purcell, Emily Woosley, Grayson County High School

### **Hardin County Farm Bureau Scholarships – \$1,000 each**

- Aaron Miller, Christopher Mudd, Kayla Russell, Catherine Greenwell, John Hardin High School; Emily Churchman, Phillip Wimp, Whitley Blair, Samuel Cofer, Jordan Heibert, Jared Daugherty, Erin Ashlock, Dylan Griffin, and Emma Dennis, Hardin Central High School; Leigh Anne Franklin, Matthew Morgan, Alexander Thompson, and Lindsey Patterson, Elizabethtown High School; Ariel Ashlock, University of Kentucky; Alexandra Skillman and Kayla Wimp, Elizabethtown Community and Technical College; Caitlin Timberlake, Morehead State University

### **Harrison County Farm Bureau Scholarships – \$1,000 each**

- Macey Gasser and Katherine Sowder, Harrison County High School

### **Hickman County Farm Bureau Scholarships – \$500 each**

- Nicole Lynch, Alexander Richards, and Kelsey Grubbs, Hickman County High School

### **Hopkins County Farm Bureau Scholarships – \$2,000 each**

- Morgan Hestand, Nicole Taylor, Madisonville North Hopkins High School; Ashley Flener, Hopkins County Central High School

### **Jefferson County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$1,000**

- Javier Alejandro Tapia-Camejo, Central High Magnet Career Academy; Adam Setters, Eastern High School; Elise Swift and Miranda Wilson, Atherton High School; Abby Graham, Butler Traditional High School

### **Jefferson County Farm Bureau Scholarships – \$16,000**

- Michael Eiden, Butler Traditional High School; Chelsea Holleman, Beth Haven Christian School

### **Knott County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$1,000**

- Kameron Vance, Knott County High School

### **Laurel County Farm Bureau Scholarships – \$2,400 each**

- Tyler Kirby, South Laurel High School; Rachel Wright, North Laurel High School

### **LaRue County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$500 each**

- Lucas Pepper and James Crosswhite, LaRue County High School

### **Livingston County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$1,000 each**

- Cody Doom, Brandy Johnson, and Ashton Long, Livingston Central High School

### **Logan County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$500**

- Aaron Johnson, Logan County High School

### **Lyon County Farm Bureau Scholarships – \$500**

- Hope Bridges, Lyon County High School



**Magoffin County Farm Bureau Scholarships – \$1,000 each**

- Vincent Caldwell, Chelsey Cole, and Anna Fletcher, Magoffin County High School

**Marion County Farm Bureau Scholarships – \$500 each**

- Sydney Abell, Taylor Purdom, Zachary Buckler, Anne Thomas, and Mary Newton, Marion County High School

**Marshall County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$2,000**

- Christy Stevenson, Marshall County High School

**Martin County Farm Bureau Scholarships – \$1,000 each**

- Kenneth Goforth and Cori Fitch, Sheldon Clark High School

**McCracken County Farm Bureau Scholarships – \$1,000 each**

- Allison Kaler, Kelsey Morris, Lone Oak High School

**Mercer County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$1,000**

- Allisa Sowder, Mercer County Senior High School

**Mercer County Farm Bureau Young Farmer Scholarship – \$750**

- Matthew Hamilton, University of Kentucky

**Monroe County Farm Bureau Scholarships – \$1,000 each**

- Caylan Bybee and Joseph Wilson, Monroe County High School

**Muhlenberg County Farm Bureau Scholarships – \$1,000 each**

- Vaughn Reed and Daxton Lear, Muhlenberg County High School

**Nelson County Farm Bureau Scholarships – \$600 each**

- Candice Boone, Trevor Burba, Ying Chan, Evan Douglas, Madeline Nehn, Olivia Hart, Victoria Gambrell, Lauren Jones, Lindsey Lawrence, Victoria Mattingly, Whitney Mattingly, Amanda Pate, Melissa Schenck, Eden Wimpsett, David Smith, Jessie Smith, and Addison Wheatley, Nelson County High School; Callie Filiatream, Brent Howard, Jakob Greenwell, Barrett Greenwell, Christopher Conway, and Elizabeth Cecil,

Bethlehem High School; Amanda Newsome, Clayton Brooks, Bardstown High School

**Oldham County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$2,000**

- Judith Deibel, South Oldham High School

**Oldham County Farm Bureau Boyd Johnson Honorary Scholarship – \$3,000**

- Brennan Dale, Oldham County High School

**Oldham County Farm Bureau Current College Student Scholarship – \$3,000**

- Jessica McCall, Murray State University

**Pulaski County Farm Bureau Scholarships – \$1,200 each**

- Courtney Inabnitt and Ashley Montgomery, Southwestern High School; Skyler Hunt and Austin Adams, Somerset High School

**Pulaski County Farm Bureau Non-Traditional Scholarship – \$1,200**

- Carol Huckelby, Somerset Community College

**Robertson County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$400 each**

- Travis Scott, Robertson County High School

**Rockcastle County Farm Bureau Scholarships -- \$500 each**

- Billy Cameron III and Megan Elaine Martin, Rockcastle County High School

**Russell County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$1,000**

- Jalyn Eastham, Russell County High School

**Shelby County Farm Bureau Scholarships – \$1,000 each**

- Callie Anderson, Martha Layne Collins High School; Hannah George and Rachel White, Shelby County High School

**Shelby County Farm Bureau Current College Student Scholarship – \$1,000**

- Tyler Bitzer, University of Kentucky

**Simpson County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$1,000**

- Crystal Beachy, Franklin Simpson High School

**Spencer County Farm Bureau Scholarships – \$1,000 each**

- Emily Hume and Tyler Greenwell

**Trigg County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$500**

- Hunter McNichols and Hunter Allen, Trigg County High School

**Trimble County Farm Bureau Scholarships – \$600 each**

- Katelyne Temple and Sara Long, Trimble County High School

**Warren County Farm Bureau Scholarships – \$4,000 each**

- Laura Burchfield, South Warren High School; Benjamin Conner, Warren East High School

**Warren County Farm Bureau / R.O. Buchanan Scholarship – \$4,000**

- Austin Cole, Warren Central High School

**Washington County Farm Bureau Scholarships \$300**

- Sarah Teater, Washington County High School

**Washington County Farm Bureau Scholarships \$500**

- Payton Carrico, Amber Fields, Jacob Settles, and Russell Hardin, Washington County High School

**Webster County Farm Bureau Scholarships – \$1,000**

- Jacob Scott and Shelby Todd, Webster County High School

**Whitley County Farm Bureau Scholarships – \$3,000**

- Jacob Morgan, Whitley County High School

**Woodford County Farm Bureau Scholarships – \$2,000 each**

- Hannah Greenwell, University of Kentucky; Autry Graham and Emily Perry, Woodford County High School

# COUNTY ANNUAL MEETINGS



## ANDERSON COUNTY

Date: October 8, 5:30 p.m.  
Place: Eagle Lake Convention Center

## BATH COUNTY

Date: September 22, 6:30 p.m.  
Place: Ag Marketing Center

## BOONE COUNTY

Date: September 4, 6:00 p.m.  
Extension Office

## BOURBON COUNTY

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

## BOYD COUNTY

Date: October 15, 6:00 p.m.  
Place: Fannin's Cafe

## CALDWELL COUNTY

Date: October 6, 6:30 p.m.  
Place: UK Research Center

## CALLOWAY COUNTY

Date: August 28, 7:00 p.m.  
Place: Farm Bureau office

## CAMPBELL COUNTY

Date: September 15, 5:00 p.m.  
Place: St. Peter & Paul Social Center

## CARROLL COUNTY

Date: September 10, 7:00 p.m.  
Place: FB Office

## CARTER COUNTY

Date: September 6, 6:30 p.m.  
Place: Farm Bureau office

## CLAY COUNTY

Date: October 11, 6:00 p.m.  
Place: Farm Bureau Office

## CLINTON COUNTY

Date: September 13, 6:00 p.m.  
Place: Fair Grounds

## FRANKLIN COUNTY

Date: October 2, 6:30 p.m.  
Place: Extension Office

## FULTON COUNTY

Date: August 30, 6:00 p.m.  
Place: Farm Bureau office

## GALLATIN COUNTY

Date: August 6, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Place: Farm Bureau office

## GRANT COUNTY

Date: September 22, 6:30 p.m.  
Place: Farm Bureau Office

## GRAVES COUNTY

Date: August 11, 11:30 a.m.  
Place: High School cafeteria

## HART COUNTY

Date: September 29, 6:00 p.m.  
Place: Fair Building

## HENDERSON COUNTY

Date: August 11, 6:00 p.m.  
Place: Elks Lodge

## HENRY COUNTY

Date: October 11, 7:00 p.m.  
Place: FB Office

## HICKMAN COUNTY

Date: August 13, 6:00 p.m.  
Place: Senior Citizens Building

## KNOX COUNTY

Date: September 14, 5:30 p.m.  
Place: Water Park Shelter House

## LOGAN COUNTY

Date: September 8, 6:00 p.m.  
Place: Extension Office

## MCCRACKEN COUNTY

Date: September 15, 6:00 p.m.  
Place: St. John's K of C Hall

## MEADE COUNTY

Date: September 27, 6:00 p.m.  
Place: Community Building

## MENIFEE COUNTY

Date: August 15, 6:00 p.m.  
Place: Farm Bureau Office

## MERCER COUNTY

Date: September 10, 6:00 p.m.  
Place: Extension Office

## MORGAN COUNTY

Date: September 20, 6:00 p.m.  
Place: Farm Bureau Office

## OHIO COUNTY

Date: August 9, 6:30 p.m.  
Place: Extension Office

## OLDHAM COUNTY

Date: August 14, 7:00 p.m.  
Place: LaGrange Farm Bureau Office

## OWEN COUNTY

Date: October 1, 6:00 p.m.  
Place: Extension Office

## SCOTT COUNTY

September 18, 6:30 p.m.,  
Extension Office

## SHELBY COUNTY

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

## SIMPSON COUNTY

Date: August 21, 6:30 p.m.  
Place: Ag Bldg., City-County Park

## TRIMBLE COUNTY

Date: August 9, 7:00 p.m.  
Place: Extension Office

## TRIGG COUNTY

Date: August 10, 6:00 p.m.  
Place: Recreation Complex

## WARREN COUNTY

Date: September 15, 5:30 p.m.  
Place: South Warren High School

## WHITLEY COUNTY

Date: September 11, 6:30 p.m.  
Place: FB Office, Williamsburg

## WOODFORD COUNTY

Date: September 7, 6:30 p.m.  
Place: 1st Christian Church

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# BEEF TOUR GOES TO COLORADO



The group toured the feedlot of Five Rivers Cattle Feeding in Kersey, Colorado.

*Photos by Fran McCall*

**P**articipants in this year's KFB's John C. Hendricks Beef Tour got a taste of the old west during a swing through Colorado and Wyoming. The week-long event featured stops at several ranches plus plenty of sightseeing in both the Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks.

The tour began and ended in Colorado. The sites there included an award-winning cattle breeding

operation, a major meat packer (JBS) and a feedlot run by a subsidiary of JBS. The group also heard presentations from officials at the U.S. Meat Export Federation headquarters in Denver.

In Wyoming, the group of just over 40 Kentuckians visited a fourth-generation ranch, a feedlot with a 3,000-head capacity and one of the few remaining dairy farms in the state. There, they learned about the manure management system for the 500-cow dairy.

Several other tourist attractions were on the itinerary. Tours of Jackson, Wyoming

and the Buffalo Bill Village in Cody, Wyoming were very popular. The group also attended the College National Finals Rodeo, which was held in Casper, Wyoming.

In seven years, the beef tour has become one of the most popular events of KFB's annual agenda. The tours have taken participants throughout the midwest and southwest.

Cargill Animal Nutrition and Farm Credit Services joined KFB in sponsoring the tour dedicated to the memory of John C. Hendricks, the KFB First Vice President who passed away in 2010.



# AND WYOMING



The tour participants posed for a group shot.



A hay field in Worland, Wyoming.



A bus arrives while the dairy cows eat at George Farms in Cody, Wyoming.



Hay is chopped for dairy cow rationing at George Farms.





# Mayfield gung-ho about Gourds

By Eva F. King

**O**n September 15 the community of Mayfield will hold its annual homage to the humble gourd. Its annual Gourd Patch Arts Festival, sponsored in cooperation with the city of Mayfield, the Mayfield Tourism Commission and the Mayfield/Graves County Art Guild, celebrates the modest cucurbit with a national art exhibition, workshops, gourd vendors and crafters, entertainment, concessions and an ex-

citing gourd racecar derby.

The focal point is the All About Gourds exhibition in Mayfield/Graves County Art Guild's Ice House Gallery. This unique and intriguing show, now in its eighth year, is an exploration of the functional and artistic possibilities of the humble gourd. Since its inception in 2002, All About Gourds has evolved into a national juried show in which gourd artists and crafters compete for cash awards in different categories and a \$300 Best of Show award. Gourd creations ranged from objects with burned, etched, dyed, carved, and painted surfaces to jewelry and wearables as well as large sculptures and assemblages.

Festival activities are located around and behind the Ice House Gallery at the corner of North and North 8th Streets in Mayfield. Vendors provide a large selection of gourd types and sizes, while gourd crafters and artists demonstrate their work. An activities tent gives children opportunities to make crafts from gourd pieces that they

select, paint and other materials.

The percussion section of nearby Murray State University's marching band explores the musical versatility of the gourd on Gourd Patch Festival day. Playing only gourd instruments, the band performs at several locations at different times throughout the morning.

A highlight of the festival is the gourd racecar derby, which is organized and implemented by the Mayfield/Graves County Art Guild. For a small entry fee, participants receive a packet containing axles, wheels, and a base; and then they construct a racecar using only gourds and gourd pieces. Workshops, overseen by the art guild, are held prior to the festival day to assist in construction of the cars. The "gourd-mobiles" are raced down a track during the festival; and first, second and third place prizes are awarded for the fastest cars of the derby.

For more information, please contact the Mayfield/Graves County Art Guild by telephone at 270-247-6971, or by e-mail at [Icehousearts@att.net](mailto:Icehousearts@att.net) or visit the website at [www.icehousearts.org](http://www.icehousearts.org).

## Rowan County also has gourd festival

The annual gourd festival in Rowan County, now known as "The Haldeman-Hayes Crossing Community Gourd Festival," is set for September 16-17 at the Community Center. The event features food, crafts, ceramics, pottery and other items for sale as well as all types of gourds and pumpkins. The festival is from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day.





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# Hot item

## Blazing heat doesn't deter Shelby County's legislative dinner

Top left: U.S. Senator Rand Paul told the Shelby County FB members that he'd never give up the fight to curtail federal spending.

Top right: Shelby County FB President Gene Witt introduced State Senator Paul Hornback.

Right: The dinner was held at the barn area at Red Orchard Park.

An annual legislative appreciation dinner is a popular event at Shelby County FB. So much so that 100-degree heat didn't deter a crowd for last month's cookout at Red Orchard Park in Shelbyville.

A who's who of local political officials joined KFB members for socializing and a tasty dinner of pork chops, hot dogs and a smorgasboard of side items. Special guest was U.S. Senator Rand Paul, who rolled in fresh from a radio interview with powerful WHAS in Louisville. (The interview ended with host

Terry Meiners mentioning that the senator would attend a Shelby County FB event that evening)

In a brief address, Paul sounded the familiar theme of the Tea Party, decrying big government and out-of-control federal spending. He said government regulations were burdening farmers and small businesses and that the national debt "is the biggest problem we face."

"We've got too much government," he said, "and regulations and our national debt our stifling us. You pay 2.2 trillion in taxes and the government spends 3.6 trillion. That's unacceptable, and I will keep fighting to eliminate the debt."

State Representative Brad Montell introduced Senator Paul. Later, State Sena-

tor Paul Hornback presented a legislative commendation to Peggy Catlett, the widow of former Shelby County Agricultural Extension Agent Roy Catlett, who passed away earlier this year. The Catlett family also received a resolution from Shelby County FB in recognition of his 30 years as the county's extension agent. Roy Catlett also served on the Shelby County FB Board of Directors.

Agency Manager Pat Hargadon noted that following the initial legislative appreciation event some eight or nine years ago, the event quickly outgrew his office's conference room.

"We're really happy with how this has become a traditional thing," Hargadon said. "It's one of the best things we do."

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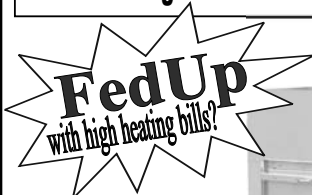
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## Strong U.S. dollar impacts beef trade

The strengthening U.S. dollar has impacted beef trade in 2012 – increasing imports while decreasing exports. The largest increase has been from Australia as imports were 85 percent higher through May. Imports from Canada were three percent higher, year-over-year, and shipments from Mexico and Uruguay have increased by 43 and 50 percent, respectively.

Through May, total U.S. imports were 22 percent higher, near the 21 percent annual increase forecast for 2012. USDA forecasts 2013 imports to be six percent higher at 2.62 billion pounds. U.S. beef exports were lower to most major trade partners. Exports to Mexico and Canada were 12 and 10 percent lower, respectively, through May. Exports to Japan and South Korea were four and 27 percent lower; however, exports to Vietnam and Egypt increased by 29 and 8 percent. Beef exports in 2012 are forecast at 2.6 billion pounds, or about seven percent lower than last year.

While other factors in addition to the strong U.S. dollar may be at work, 2012 U.S. cattle imports through May were up 21 percent, year-over-year, with imports from Mexico and Canada up 29 and seven percent, respectively. Total U.S. cattle imports are forecast at 2.175 million head for 2012 and 2 million head in 2013.

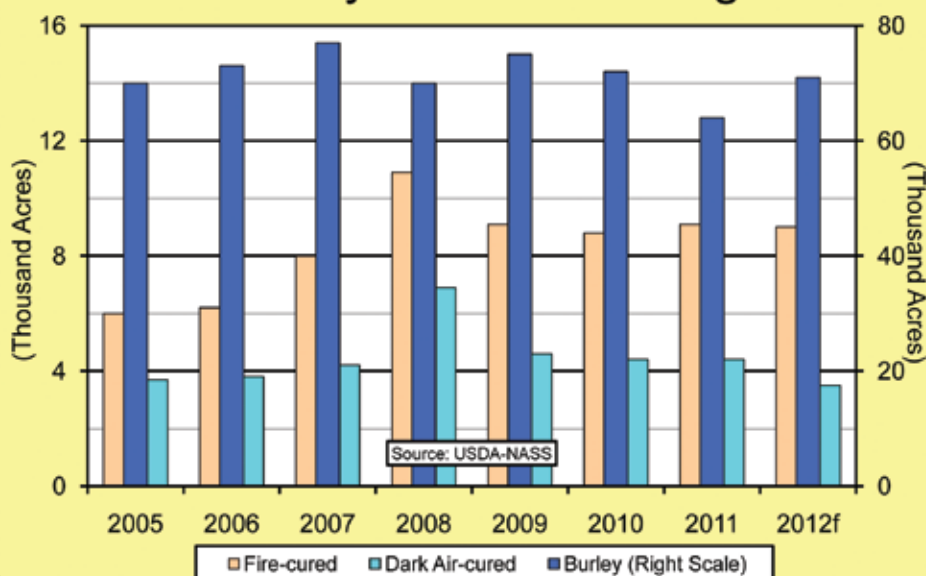
## 2012 hay mix has less alfalfa

USDA forecasts 2012 harvested acres of all hay at 57.7 million, up 2.1 million from last year which had the lowest all hay area on record going back to 1919. Harvested area of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures is forecast at 18.8 million acres, down 386,000 from 2011 and the lowest acreage since 1949. Area for harvest of all other types of hay is expected to total 38.8 million acres, up 2.4 million acres from 2011. Kentucky producers are expected to harvest 200,000 acres of alfalfa, down 10,000 from a year ago, and 2.2 million acres of all other hay, up 100,000 from 2011. The drought adds uncertainty to final acreage and yields.

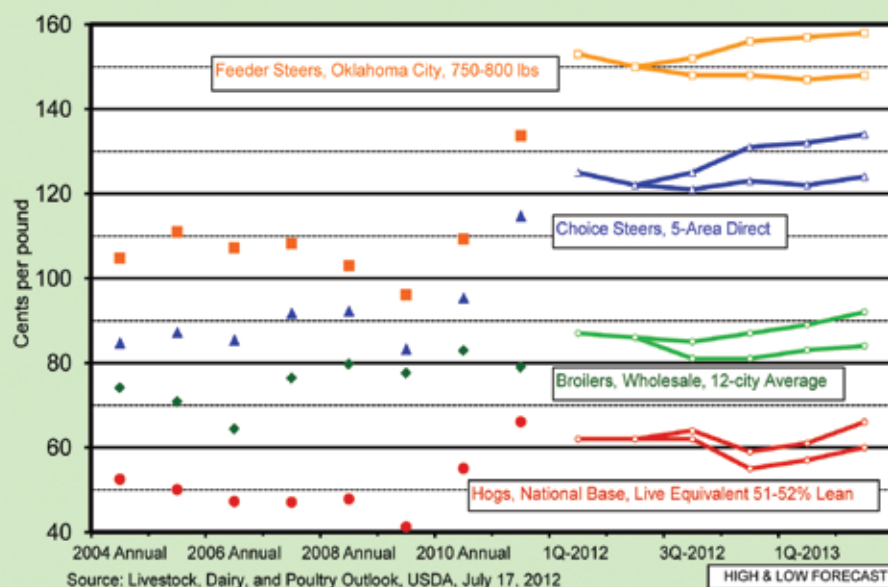
## U.S. cattle numbers fall at mid-year

In its mid-year report, USDA estimated the U.S. inventory of all cattle and calves on July 1 at 97.8 million head, which is 2.2 million head less than USDA counted a year ago. The number of milk cows is unchanged at 9.2 million head. The beef cow herd is down 2.9 percent to 30.5 million head. Producers have 4.2 million head of beef replacement heifers, the same as a year ago. There are 4.1 million dairy replacement heifers or 100,000 head less than last July. USDA forecasts the 2012 calf crop at 34.5 million head, down 2.3 percent from last year. The USDA estimates are smaller than most analysts expected.

### Kentucky Tobacco Acreage



### U.S. Quarterly Livestock Prices



# Many forms of ID theft

Credit card fraud is only one of the many types of ID Theft. The damage incurred by fraud and theft can affect your credit, reputation, health records, travel, job interviews, etc. Consider an individual who attempts to donate blood at a company Red Cross event and is refused because records indicate that he or she is HIV positive. It happened! Then there's the couple trying to refinance a mortgage only to have a banker uncover an additional \$40,000 in debt...which they knew nothing about. That happened, too!

There is no sure-fire method that will absolutely prevent identity fraud. According to Javelin Research, there were 11.6 million victims in 2011.

Two rapidly-increasing areas of identity theft are **Medical Identity Theft** and **Child Identity Theft**. Imagine the thief amassing enough information to use your insurance and obtaining medical services or prescriptions in your name. What if your blood type is changed to accommodate the new user? It is happening every day! Child Identity Theft may go unnoticed for years. The child may be 16 or 18 years of age before discovering they've already built a long history of poor credit. It will be their responsibility to untangle years of fraudulent activity. Potential creditors will judge them guilty until proven otherwise. Many experts recommend running sporadic credit checks on young children just to get a periodic snapshot.

KFB membership includes a valuable tool for all members with a benefit best described as 'fully managed consultation and restoration.' There is absolutely no additional cost for members who access the benefit. If a member suspects that they are a victim of credit/debit card fraud, or any type of identity theft, they should make the initial call to be put in touch with a Recovery Advocate at ID Experts. The toll free number is 866-827-4355. You can sign a limited power of attorney that allows the advocate to go to work on their behalf. Similar programs are advertised for \$10 to \$15 a month for family policy. This protection is included with a KFB membership.

To learn more about this and other member benefits, visit [kyfb.com](http://kyfb.com).

AUGUST 2012 { KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU NEWS






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\* Program #33834: \$500 Bonus Cash offer exclusively for active Arizona, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee Farm Bureau members who are residents of the United States. Offer is valid from 1/04/2012 through 1/02/2013 for the purchase or lease of an eligible new 2011/2012/2013 model year Ford or Lincoln vehicle (not available on Shelby GT500, Mustang Boss 302, Focus Electric, Edge SE AWD, F-150 Raptor and Taurus SE). This offer may not be used in conjunction with other Ford Motor Company private incentives or AXZD-Plans. Some customer and purchase eligibility restrictions apply. You must be an eligible Association member for at least 60 consecutive days and must show proof of membership. Limit one \$500 Bonus Cash offer per vehicle purchase or lease. Limit of five new eligible vehicle purchases or leases per Farm Bureau member during program period. See your Ford or Lincoln Dealer for complete details and qualifications.





## Farm Vehicle Regulation guide is available

KFB's 2012 Farm Vehicle Regulations quick-reference guide is now available at County Farm Bureau offices, plus can be downloaded at [kyfb.com/federation](http://kyfb.com/federation). The updated booklet is designed to help KFB members understand and navigate the new statutes and regulations associated with farm vehicle transportation.

The 17-page guide highlights state and federal guidelines, regulations, exemptions, registration fee schedules and various other pieces of information needed when operating farm vehicles or implements on Kentucky's highways.

"Farm vehicle transportation – and the regulations imposed on those activities – is very important to our members, but it can be confusing if someone is not familiar with the state laws," said Bryan Alvey, KFB's Director of Local Affairs and Policy Development. "This revised booklet is especially important because the legislative and administrative regulation changes over the last two years were both significant and numerous. Fortunately, all of the changes have been positive for farm vehicle operators."

These positive changes were the result of KFB working closely with the Kentucky General Assembly, Kentucky State Police Division of Commercial Vehicle Enforcement, and Kentucky Transportation Cabinet.

KFB's policy on farm vehicle transportation supports legislation that clearly defines the rights of farmers to transport their products to market and move their equipment by the most economically feasible method.

## USDA implements disaster aid improvements

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced a package of program improvements crafted to deliver faster and more flexible assistance to farmers and ranchers devastated by natural disasters. Vilsack announced three significant improvements to decades-old USDA programs and processes related to secretarial disaster designations: a final rule that simplifies the process for secretarial disaster designations and will result in a 40 percent reduction in processing time for most counties affected by disasters; a reduced interest rate for emergency loans that effectively lowers the current rate from 3.75 percent to 2.25 percent; and a payment reduction on Conservation Reserve Program lands qualified for emergency haying and grazing in 2012, from 25 percent to 10 percent.

A natural disaster designation makes all qualified farm operators in the designated areas eligible for low interest emergency loans. The secretary is authorized to designate disaster counties to make disaster assistance programs available to farmers and ranchers. Previous to these changes, the same process had been in place for more than two decades and regulations had not been substantively revised since 1988.

## AFBF battles FDA on antibiotics issue

Citing a lack of data to support limiting antibiotic use in livestock, AFBF has told the Food and Drug Administration that it is concerned with proposals that would restrict antibiotic use based on unproven theory.

AFBF submitted comments to FDA on two proposals made by the agency earlier this year. According to FDA, the agency is taking action to help preserve the effectiveness of medically important antimicrobials for treating disease in humans, but FDA has not demonstrated whether the actions will have any effect on antibiotic resistance, AFBF said.

"AFBF agrees that human antibiotic resistance is a serious and growing healthcare problem. Developing strategies for reducing antimicrobial resistance is critically important for protecting both public and animal health," said AFBF President Bob Stallman. "However, we are extremely concerned with FDA actions, which seem to indicate the agency is basing complex animal health policies on theory, rather than sound scientific studies."

According to AFBF, FDA intends to curb antibiotic use in livestock without fully understanding the impact on public health. There have been no peer-reviewed scientific studies to support the theory that judicious use of antibiotics in livestock increases antibiotic resistance in humans. In addition, there is no data to indicate that limiting antibiotic use in livestock decreases human health problems with antibiotic resistance.

AFBF believes it is imperative that any new policies relative to antibiotics be grounded in data and reflective of the realities of the diversity of modern animal agriculture production, Stallman said.

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