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NOVEMBER 2012 • VOL. 11 NO. 9

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Kentucky FARM BUREAU NEWS

Like it or not, there's been a revolution in how people receive information and communicate with others.

Gone are the days when farmers got much of their information about agriculture, the weather and markets from conversations at the farm supply store or coffee shop.

Today, farmers and many other people spread the word using social media tools such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, MySpace and blogs.

To some, this seems like some type of technological hocus-pocus. But there's simply no ignoring the fact that these social media applications are a quick and effective way to deliver good information and encourage conversation when needed. For Farm Bureau, social media can energize the grassroots and do much more to strengthen and serve our organization.

I'm pleased to report that after many months of careful planning, Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation has established a comprehensive social media presence and is working to develop it to its full potential. We have the platforms; now we're seeking to develop a sizeable audience and a good number of participants.

We will be communicating with our members about issues and other matters of mutual interest. We also want to improve media relations, advocate for our policy positions and disseminate accurate information to the public in general. We want to participate in the conversations about the industry we serve. And we hope to influence the conversation.

Social media can be used to advance a long-time KFB philosophy of building relationships to achieve common goals. Facebook, for instance, is a wonderful tool for uniting common interests, as well as a way to connect with those who otherwise are far removed from the Farm Bureau culture. This gives us a great opportunity to build on our reputation as a dependable source of information.

Our social media tools also can be of benefit to County Farm Bureaus. In fact, we are encouraging our county leaders to utilize these resources on their local levels. They can go to our web page, kyfb.com, to find the links to all of our social media platforms which include multiple Facebook pages and Twitter accounts, Youtube, a collection of photos on Flickr and our newsroom at kyfbnewsroom.com.

For many years KFB has stood in the public policy arena as "The Voice of Agriculture." We'd also like to attain that status in the world of social media.



MARK HANEY

PRESIDENT
KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU



ANNUAL MEETING IS DECEMBER 5-8

KFB's 93rd annual meeting is set for December 5-8 at the Galt House Hotels in Louisville. Priorities include electing leaders, recognizing achievements, setting policy goals for the 2013 state legislative session and establishing a wish list for Congressional action next year.

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

Numerous extension and agricultural specialists will be on hand for commodity and special interest conferences on December 6. Among the topics are forages, beef cattle, tobacco/farm labor, equine, horticulture, feed grains, wheat and soybean, ag chemicals, natural resources, dairy, forestry and farm labor. A special conference to conclude the

agenda that afternoon will focus on the state health insurance exchange mandated by the new national health care law. Officials will talk about how the exchange will operate and how it could benefit farm families.

Women's leadership activities are showcased at a December 7 luncheon where top county leaders are presented gold star awards for outstanding county-level programs. Youth achievements are also given prominence, with college scholarships awaiting the winners of an Outstanding Farm Bureau Youth contest. The Outstanding Young Farm family will be announced at a young farmer awards luncheon on December 7.

The discussion meet is a popular tradition, with young farmers debating selected agricultural issues. The state champion, which will be determined among the "final four" contestants during the evening pro-

gram on December 7, advances to the national contest at the AFBF annual meeting in January.

KFB President Mark Haney will present his annual address on the morning of the 7th, just prior to the announcement of this year's recipients of the distinguished service awards for Farm Bureau and Kentucky agriculture. The delegates will set policy at the business sessions on the last two days of the convention. Winner of the 2012 "Kentucky Farmer of the Year" will be announced.

The final day begins with a Public Affairs breakfast and is followed by a business session in which KFB Executive Vice President David S. Beck presents his annual report on the federation's activities and fiscal condition. The annual meeting concludes with KFB's directors determining a "priority list" of issues to address in the year ahead.

CANDIDATES FOR KFB DIRECTOR

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

DISTRICT 1:	Glenn Howell, 809 State Rt. 781N, Fulton
DISTRICT 2:	Kelly Thurman, 643 Barrett Hill Road, Livermore
DISTRICT 3:	Pat Henderson, 2261 Hwy. 2202, Irvington Fritz Giesecke, 3474 Jackson Hwy., Horse Cave
DISTRICT 4:	Russell Poore, 168 Keeton Road, Russellville
DISTRICT 5:	Randy Chrisman, 1168 Buckley Lane, Lawrenceburg Ray Tucker, 1977 Bellview Road, Shelbyville
DISTRICT 7:	Danny Wilkinson, 191 Johnson Cemetery Road, Columbia
DISTRICT 9:	Shane Wiseman, 5826 Ecton Road, Winchester
DISTRICT 10:	Carroll Amyx, 1743 Sandfield Road, Campton

comment COLUMN

For far too long, farmers and ranchers have had to struggle to make sure that they have a legal, reliable supply of workers. The reality has been a daunting, broken system, riddled with shortcomings that have resulted in labor shortages, lost crops, bureaucratic nightmares and neighbors competing with one another to get the farm hands they need.

From Washington state apple growers to New York dairy producers, there is an across-the-board shortage of labor for hire. Agriculture needs and deserves a legal, stable workforce.

Farm Bureau, along with other organizations in the agricultural community, is working on a solution for farmers and ranchers in all sectors, in all regions and for all commodities. What Farm Bureau is bringing to the discussion is a plan that we think will accommodate all agriculture - from a grower who needs to hire harvesters for only a few days, to a dairy that needs a workforce 365 days of the year. The crux of our plan is to establish and implement a new visa program that would give both employers and employees stability and flexibility into the future, while also addressing the current workforce that has contributed to our farms and communities. Both elements are necessary to provide a long-term, stable and legal workforce.

Building on how the domestic market currently operates, farmers would be permitted to offer migrant laborers either a contract or at-will work. Similarly, workers would be able to choose their form of employment. With a contract, both employers and workers would be provided longer-term stability and the worker could have a visa term of up to 12 months. On the other hand, the at-will option offers flexibility to employers who may just need a week's worth of harvesting, while allowing workers the portability to work at other seasonal jobs for up to 11 months.

Just as important, the plan would allow key migrant workers - those who have been working in U.S. agriculture for a defined period, as well as those who are in management and other key positions at a farm - the ability to stay in the U.S. and continue to work in the agriculture sector.

A market-based, flexible agricultural worker program makes sense and is long overdue. It is important for workers, farmers and especially consumers that agricultural producers have access to a legal, stable workforce for the future. With all of agriculture working together, we are optimistic we can offer Congress a reasonable, practical, common-sense solution that works for growers while respecting the rights of workers. It is time to move the discussion forward and find a solution that works for all farmers and ranchers.



BOB STALLMAN

PRESIDENT, AFBF

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.

KFB OFFICERS

Mark Haney	President
Eddie Melton	1st Vice President
J. Fritz Giesecke	2nd Vice President
David S. Beck	Executive Vice President

KFB DIRECTORS

Randall Heath	Hickory
Tripp Furches	Murray
Kelly Thurman	Livermore
Eddie Melton	Sebree
Mary Kate Kordes	Central City
J. Fritz Giesecke	Horse Cave
Larry Thomas	Elizabethtown
Pat Henderson	Irvington
Russell Poore	Russellville
Jay Coleman	Cave City
Scott Travis	Cox's Creek
Randy Chrisman	Lawrenceburg
Joe Paul Mattingly	Raywick
David Chappell	Owenton
Terry Rowlett	Campbellsburg
Mark Haney	Nancy
Danny Wilkinson	Columbia
Kim McCoy	Burkesville
Terry Gilbert	Danville
David L. Campbell	Stanford
Alex Barnett	Cynthiana
Shane Wiseman	Winchester
David McGlone	Grayson
Carroll Amyx	Campton
Charlie Benge	London
Bige Hensley	Manchester
Marshall Coyle	Owingsville
Phyllis Amyx	Campton
Brent Cornett	London
Mickey Sirls	Benton
Scott Smith	Lexington
Brandon Davis	Frankfort
Kevin Lyons	Tompkinsville

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"The Voice of Kentucky Agriculture"

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ADVISORY

KFB policy comes from the grassroots through several avenues. Most policy originates at county Farm Bureau annual meetings, but sometimes a position will spring up during the business sessions at KFB's annual meeting. Another source is through KFB's Advisory Committees, which hold meetings between August and November to assess the condition of their respective area of interest and consider suggestions for potential changes to state and national policies.

These committees deal with topics ranging from all the farm commodities common in Kentucky to issues of im-

portance to rural areas (education, transportation, health care, etc.) and also to particular areas of KFB's operation (county improvement program, communications, etc.). KFB's leadership selects the committee members based on their knowledge of the topic. If possible, the committees have members from all areas of the state.

The advisory committee meetings also involve officials representing the particular areas of concern, most commonly from commodity groups, universities, business and government.

Following are summaries from this year's series of meetings:

DAIRY

Henry County dairy farmer and KFB Director Terry Rowlett is chairman of this committee. This year's meeting attracted a large group which included KFB President Mark Haney and Vice Presidents Eddie Melton and Fritz Giesecke.

Pete Skarka of Flav-O-Rich Dairy of Kentucky was the first speaker. He addressed milk quality issues, particularly somatic cell count regulations. He reviewed the company's criteria for raw milk.

Dr. Jeffrey Bewley of the University of Kentucky discussed several research projects and the status of UK's dairy farm. The farm's status, he said, is in limbo as several groups are working to save it from an announced closing. Dr. Bewley noted a sizeable reduction in federal funds for research projects.

Dr. Donna Amaral-Phillips of UK provided information regarding the utilization of forages impacted by drought. She also discussed mold issues of concern to drought-stricken corn growers. She said KFB should advise dairy farmers to be cautious in the types of feed, feed additives and grains that they are currently purchasing.

KFB's Joe Cain then gave an update on the farm bill situation. He reviewed proposals for dairy policy within the farm bill.

Kentucky Department of Agriculture dairy specialist Eunice Schlappi gave an overview of the Young Dairy Producer Tour which was upcoming. She thanked KFB for being among the sponsors of the annual event for young dairy farm families.

Dr. Sue Billings of the State Veterinarian's Office gave an update on animal disease traceability. She noted that the proposed federal rule would take effect in 2013.

Lewis Ramsey of the State Milk Safety office reported that raw milk remained at issue in the state. He said water quality, improper use, storage and handling of drugs along with equipment and facility cleaning are the three leading items of concerns during state inspections.

Robert Kiser of UK's Regulatory Services Division informed



the group that his division has a new director, Dr. Darrell Johnson, and has eliminated four positions. It will have a new position of a feed/dairy coordinator. The division has conducted over 330 inspections to date, Kiser said.

The next report came from Maury Cox, Executive Director of the Kentucky Dairy Development Council (KDDC). He noted that KDDC was asking the state's Congressional delegation to support the MILC program at the 45 percent payment rate and 2.985-million-pound production cap. He said KDDC is now offering advertising space in its newsletter and is working to secure continued funding.

Dr. Laurie Rinker of Eastern Kentucky University gave a brief report on an upcoming event at ECU's dairy farm. Amelia McNeely of the Kentucky Farm Service Agency office reported that FSA had issued over \$4.3 million in MILC program payments.

Eric McClain, the longtime Manager of the American Dairy Association-Kentucky, introduced his successor, Denise Jones, who then gave a report. Among several topics she reported that the organization was commissioning travelling billboards to promote the dairy industry.

The final report came from Harold Friedly, who is the administrator of the federal milk marketing order for the region

COMMITTEES

that includes Kentucky. He said milk prices are projected to be higher for the last quarter of the year.

The committee then reviewed policy and made several recommendations. One was to delete the statement "we support future actions necessary to implement a Southeast Dairy Compact." A new suggestion is to support continued availability of flavored milk in school lunch programs.

FEED GRAINS, WHEAT & SOYBEANS



Convening at the Richards Ag Building in Franklin, this was a joint meeting of the Soybean and Feed Grains and Wheat committees. KFB Director Randall Heath of Graves County chairs the Soybean group while KFB Director Tripp Furches of Callo-way County is chairman of Feed Grains and Wheat. KFB President Mark Haney attended this meeting, as well.

Simpson County FB President Darrell Uhs welcomed the group and provided an overview of local crop conditions. State Representative Wilson Stone of Allen County then addressed the group. (Stone is one of the few farmers remaining in the General Assembly and once served as President of Allen County FB.)

UK Extension Grain Specialist Dr. Chad Lee gave the first report, focusing on the development and regulation of genetically modified (GMO) crops. He discussed the benefits of GMO crops. He conclude by stating that future GMO development will focus on increased nutritional value and drought tolerance.

UK farm policy specialist Aleta Botts presented an overview of the farm bill situation. Donald Dunn of the Farm Service Agency gave updates on the agency's agenda and the SURE program.

Vince Gill of the state Department of Agriculture reported on his agency's work. He was followed by Kentucky Corn Growers Association President Ray Allan Mackey, who gave a brief

update on that group's activities. KFB Commodity Division Director Mike Tobin then spoke about grain markets and colleague Joe Cain addressed national environment, tax and farm bill issues.

The committee had several recommendations on state policy. Under "Sales and Use Taxes," the group suggests deleting the statement that "we believe that a broad based sales and use tax is the fairest plan for financing state government." It then voted to add a statement of support for retaining the sales tax exemptions on ag production items. A third recommendation calls for adding "sawdust and wood shavings" to the list of tax exempt farm production items.

TOBACCO

This group representing burley and dark tobacco met at the Hardin County Extension Office, where it was welcomed by Hardin County FB President Chuck Crutcher. State Representative Fred Nesler of Graves County and State Senator Dennis Parrett of Hardin County also addressed the committee prior to its business session. Nesler's district is big on dark tobacco; Parrett's area has a lot of burley production.

KFB President Mark Haney thanked the committee for its participation. Other guests included Second Vice President Fritz Giesecke and Executive Vice President David S. Beck.

The first report came from Burley Co-Op President Roger Quarles. He updated the group on several issues relative to the Food and Drug Administration's role with the tobacco industry. He said the Co-Op had contacted around 10,000 horse farm owners regarding the control of drift from applications of 2-4D after a couple instances of drift causing damage to tobacco crops. He said the Co-Op has contracted for about three million pounds this season. He also spoke about several international issues.

Dr. Andy Bailey of the UK College of Agriculture spoke about dark and burley crop conditions throughout the state. He said the dark tobacco crop has been severely impacted by the drought and that black shank losses in burley likely would be higher than normal. He also spoke about several research projects.

Dr. Orlando Chambers of the Tobacco Research and Development Center commented about the status of the FDA regulatory program for tobacco. He said new varieties of tobacco may be necessary in the future to meet FDA standards. He said the Center is looking at projects to help growers adjust to the regulations.

Dr. Bob Pearce of UK gave an update on efforts to establish an industry-wide Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) program. He said the North Carolina Department of Agriculture has taken the lead on developing a universal GAP program. Such a system would make it easier for growers, he said.

UK economist Dr. Will Snell gave an overview of current market conditions. He said this was expected to be the smallest

U.S. burley crop since 1988, and that the supply/demand balance for dark tobacco is favorable.

Council for Burley Tobacco President Todd Clark reported that \$125,000 had been collected thus far (as of early August) from the checkoff, as compared to \$160,000 last year. The difference, he said, is partly due to confusion about who is required to pay the checkoff since Philip Morris was only collecting on Kentucky growers, rather than all tobacco sold in Kentucky.

KFB's Joe Cain then gave an update on national issues, including FDA regulation, H-2A rules and the farm bill.

The committee reviewed state and national policies but had no recommendations. KFB Director Scott Travis of Spencer County is chairman of the Tobacco Advisory Committee.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Chaired by KFB Director Larry Thomas of Hardin County, this committee met at Western Kentucky University's Ag Expo Center. Warren County FB President Danny Elkins welcomed the group along with WKU's Darwin Newton.

Newton was the first presenter, giving an overview of the ag research agenda at the WKU Department of Agriculture. Several of his colleagues then reported on their work. Dr. Blaine Ferrell, Associate Vice President for Research, spoke about the animal waste management research project involving a partnership between WKU and USDA. Soil Scientist Dr. Becky Gilfillen discussed a project relative to utilizing poultry litter as a fertilizer for particular crops. USDA Microbiologist Dr. Kim Cook reviewed her work on microorganisms in animal waste. USDA Ag Engineer Dr. Nanh Lovanh presented work on odor control and Hydrologist Dr. Carl Bolster spoke about his work with the potential soil nutrient impact from animal waste.

Tim Hafner of the Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS) then gave an update of his agency's activities. He said the Conservation Delivery Streamlining Initiative (CDSI) will focus on improving on-the-ground service and program support. He said NRCS hired a new Nutrient Management Specialist to work with landowners and organizations. He also discussed the effort to update Best Management Practice 590.

Amanda Gumbert of UK spoke about the Ag Water Quality Authority's work, noting that it was finalizing the livestock BMPs and would begin looking at pesticide and fertilize BMP aspects.

The next report came from Danny Hughes, NRCS liaison to the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Kentucky elk herd is stable at around 10,000, with 900 tags issued for this year, and the deer herd is strong, with 250,000 hunters registered, he said.

Hughes said feral hogs continue to be a problem and that the USDA's Wildlife Services can provide traps under a cost-share program. Black vultures are becoming an increasing nuisance, he added.

Kentucky FSA Director John McCauley then spoke about drought-assistance programs, noting a streamlined disaster declaration and assistance process. FSA will be updating its computer systems, which should enable it to administer programs more quickly and efficiently, he added.

Steve Kelly of KDA then gave a brief report. Among several

topics he mentioned that the fuel testing program was being reviewed for possible changes.

KFB's Joe Cain spoke about federal issues, including the current project to assess the Floyd's Fork watershed in Jefferson and some surrounding counties.

Turning to policy, the committee forwarded only a minor change in language under the topic of the use of livestock and poultry waste.



FARM LABOR

The first speaker was Rick Alexander, Executive Director of the Agriculture Workforce Management Association. He offered an update on the H-2A program. The cost has increased about 25 percent over the past two years. A large percentage of employers could be audited this year and there's a need to work with Kentucky Employers Mutual Insurance to reduce rates and raise a better understanding on H-2A issues. AWMA is now seeing the biggest influx of employers because of the need to have multiple contracts. Most contracts are with tobacco growers but there is an increase with fruit and vegetable producers, as well as nursery owners, said Alexander.

Michelle Catlett, a CPA, discussed wage reporting requirements. She reminded the group that H-2A workers are not exempt from federal income tax. She stressed the importance of residence/non-residence status of immigrant workers being decided on a case-by-case basis. Ms. Catlett addressed numerous questions from the committee about reporting requirements.

The next report came from Karen Garnett of the U.S. Department of Labor. She said it was crucial for employers to maintain earnings records. She informed the committee of the notification requirement, emphasizing that employers must notify her

department when a migrant worker leaves employment at the farm. She said her department wants to work with employers to help them meet compliance guidelines.

Jeff Gatewood of the Kentucky Office of Employment and Training said the number of H-2A workers in the state has not changed significantly but the number of contracts has.

KFB's Joe Cain then offered a federal legislative overview. He noted that American Farm Bureau had appointed a work group for immigration and farm labor issues with an aim at developing a recommendation for one national farm worker program. Cain also spoke about other issues on the Congressional agenda.

In regard to policy, the committee approved a recommendation relating to insurance, stating: "We oppose premium payments based on anything other than wages paid to workers." And in the section on recommended reforms to farm worker programs, the committee wants a statement supporting staggered dates of worker entry under a single contract. The committee also suggests changes in AFBF policy to reflect that, as well as USDL approval of joint contracts among farmers and the 50 percent rule requirement for hiring domestic workers to be limited to the number of visas approved.

KFB Director David Chappell of Owen County is chairman of the Farm Labor Advisory Committee.

ENERGY & TRANSPORTATION

Officer DeWayne Koch with the Kentucky State Police Division of Commercial Vehicle Enforcement (CVE) provided an overview of their outreach program to farmers. He summarized various license and weight requirements for intrastate and interstate transport, noting that not all surrounding states have reciprocal agreements. He said farmers would do business in other states need to become familiar with the various requirements.

KFB's Joe Cain gave updates on the Renewable Fuels Standard and the farm bill. In regard to a controversial issue, he noted that there is no consistent data on how a temporary waiver of the RFS would impact consumer prices or the price and supply of corn.

Committee member Terry Ishmael gave a power-point presentation on the types of rumble strips used on rural roads. He also reviewed striping strategies for narrow paved roads.

The committee reviewed policy but had no recommendations. KFB Director David Campbell of Lincoln County is chairman of this committee.

EDUCATION

The Education Committee, whose chairman is KFB Director Terry Gilbert of Boyle County, met at the Locust Trace Agri-Science Farm in Fayette County. The group toured the unique facility which was developed to provide agricultural education and other services. KFB First Vice President Eddie Melton was among the guests.

The first speaker was Joe Meyer, Secretary of the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet. He discussed the new Executive Order which consolidated Career and Technical Educa-

tion (CTE) departments – a development that KFB advocated. The executive order establishes an advisory committee and has CTE housed within the Department of Education, where it is raised to an office level status, Meyer said.

He went to explain that the consolidation brings better funding opportunities, central office efficiencies, improved relations between local school districts and Area Technology Centers, improved incorporation of core curriculum and a more common curriculum throughout the system. He urged KFB to push for increased funding for these programs.

The next speaker was R.J. Karney, AFBF's Director of Congressional Relations. He discussed the prganization's rural development program, stressing the need for improved broadband access in rural areas. He then addressed Title 1 funding for school districts, explaining that AFBF is pushing Congress to change the weighting formula so that rural districts receive more assistance. He noted that rural school districts have increased in student numbers by 22 percent since 2009. He also noted that AFBF supports full funding for CTE programs.

Dale Winkler of the state CTE office was the following speaker. He said once the consolidation is completed, Kentucky will have the fifth largest CTE program in the nation.

Committee member Brandon Davis, who serves on the KFB Board of Directors as a representative from the Kentucky FFA Association, distributed a copy of the Kentucky Agriculture Education Report. After a discussion of the report, the committee reviewed policy. One addition was proposed, encouraging local school districts to require 25 percent of continuing education hours for counselors to be in the area of CTE for grades 5-12.

POLITICAL EDUCATION

This group met at KFB's office in Frankfort. KFB President Mark Haney was among those who addressed the committee. He had a message emphasized the importance of establishing relationships with elected officials at all levels.

Jack Brammer, the veteran political reporter for The Lexington Herald-Leader, was the first speaker. He emphasized newspapers role in informing citizens about the candidates and issues. He said voters need to study the issues from multiple media sources to get a more balanced view. He reviewed a number of political races in Kentucky and addressed what he feels will be some of the key state legislative issues for 2013.

Drew Graham of UK College of Agriculture, who formerly served as a state legislator, told the committee that he feels the relationships in Kentucky's agricultural community are very strong. He briefly discussed budgets cuts that UK has had to endure. He explained the Agriculture in Government class that he teaches, stating he has been surprised at how little students know about government.

Joel Neaveill of the Governor's Office for Agricultural Policy (GOAP) gave an update on the agency's activities. He reviewed some fiscal issues facing GOAP. He said that in light of this year's drought, GOAP is looking at ways to heighten rural water resources.

Bruce Harper, an Executive Assistant to Agriculture Commissioner James Comer, spoke about some priority issues at KDA.

He noted that a fulltime director had been hired to promote the Kentucky Proud program.

KFB's Joe Cain then provided the committee with materials being distributed to county Farm Bureaus to assist with get-out-the-vote initiatives. He reviewed KFB's Campaign Management Seminars and plans for next year. He also reviewed the KYFB ACT program and the electronic newsletter he puts together to keep members informed about issues in Congress.

The committee reviewed state and national policies and had no recommendations for change.

KFB Director Marshall Coyle of Bath County is chairman of this committee.

BEEF CATTLE

KFB Director Danny Wilkinson of Adair County gave an update on the Kentucky Livestock care Standards Commission, of which he is a member. That group is developing guidelines for animal care in the state. Wilkinson reported that the proposed regulations are nearly finalized and will be forwarded to the State Board of Agriculture for review.

Dr. Sue Billings of the State Veterinarian's Office addressed several issues, including the livestock care standards. She said animal disease traceability is an ongoing effort requiring additional funding to be more thorough. She said the West Nile virus had been found in several horses.

KFB President Mark Haney then addressed the group, voicing concerns about attacks from groups opposed to animal agriculture. He now that water issues were being used by groups promoting a vegan lifestyle.

Dave Maples, Executive Director of the Kentucky Cattlemen's Association, spoke about the organization's work. He noted that membership was up. He also addressed the Kentucky Beef Network and the Eastern Livestock Company litigation.

Next speaker was Marcinda Kester of the State Farm Service Agency. She addressed several issues relative to drought-relief programs. She was followed by Tim Dietrich of KDA, who gave a brief report on department activities.

Dr. Robert Harmon, chairman of the Animal Sciences Department at UK, spoke about some of the department's challenges and concerns. He said enrollment was up but the budget had been cut by another 7 ½ percent. He informed the group that UK's Eden Shale Farm has been closed due to budget cuts.

His colleague, Dr. Les Anderson, reviewed some research programs. He said UK was working with the National Cattlemen's Beef Board and other groups to develop an animal handler certification program. UK also wants to develop a professional cattleman's program which would include media spokesperson training, he added.

UK economist Dr. Kenneth Burdine reported on the economic outlook and how the industry has been impacted by the drought. He offered a positive outlook for the spring market season, as well as for the export market.

Committee Chairman Fritz Giesecke of Hart County, who is KFB's Second Vice President, gave a report on the U.S. Meat Export Federation, of which he serves as a director. He noted that both U.S. beef and pork had record export sales last year.

The committee then discussed several more issues, including drought-related aflatoxin incidences in corn, school lunch

programs, tax issues and public relations challenges for the beef industry.

The committee had no recommendations on state policy.

FORAGE



Chaired by KFB Director David McGlone of Carter County, this committee met at the Hart County extension office to afford members an opportunity to attend a nearby field day conducted through the Kentucky Forage and Grasslands Council. Hart County FB President Don Reynolds welcomed the group. KFB Second VP Fritz Giesecke, who lives in Hart County, was among the visitors.

FSA District Director James Bratcher gave a report, informing the committee that five local offices had been closed. He also discussed drought relief programs.

UK Extension Forage Specialist Dr. Garry Lacefield presented an update on various activities. He said the American Forage and Grassland Council's meeting in Louisville went well. He provided information on upcoming industry meetings. His colleague, Dr. Ray Smith, then gave an update on the Kentucky Forage and Grasslands Council. He said one of its largest projects involved researching switchgrass production for biofuels. He said East Kentucky Power Company was interested in such renewable fuels. He noted more interest in switchgrass production.

Dr. Lacefield reported on the progress of a project to develop a Kentucky variety of alfalfa and on potential topics for the forage conference at KFB's annual meeting.

Kim Field of KDA reviewed the department's forage testing program. She said about 700 samples had been sampled to date in 2012. She spoke about the department's hay hotline and efforts to update their website. She and Dr. Smith noted KFB's continued support for the hay testing program.

Turning to policy, the committee recommends the following language: "We urge utility companies to use selective herbicides that will not harm perennial grasses to help control erosion when spraying rights-of-way."

Most of the committee members attended the field day on the farm owned by Clayton Gerald.

POULTRY

This group met at Western Kentucky University's Ag Expo Center. WKU's Dr. Darwin Newton welcomed the committee and spoke about the university's Agriculture Department. He said they had around 450 students. He addressed several projects, most notably animal waste management research. His colleague, Dr. Karamat Sistani, spoke about a research project on the use of poultry litter as an alternative plant nutrient source. He said efforts are being made to develop subsurface application methods to reduce runoff. WKU also is exploring ways to minimize greenhouse gasses stemming from the application of poultry litter, he said.

UK Poultry Specialist Dr. Tony Pescatore reported that the Department of Animal and Food Sciences had incurred a roughly 7 percent budget cut. He said the department's livestock operations were being impaired by the high cost of feed stemming from the drought. He said enrollment at the UK College of Agriculture was at an all-time high of 2,600 students, with 530 in the animal and food sciences department. He then touched on several research projects.

Dr. Pescatore also addressed the trend in small flock production fueled by the local foods movement. Educational efforts are underway to assist these producers with disease prevention techniques, he said.

KFB Second VP Fritz Giesecke thanked the committee for its work. He was followed by Jamie Guffey, Executive Director of the Kentucky Poultry Federation. He gave an overview of the organization's purpose and activities and address tax and feed issues facing growers. He noted that the Kentucky Poultry Federation had joined the group asking EPA to alter the Renewable Fuels Standard to free up more corn for livestock feed.

Sue Blair of KDA then reported on the department's monitoring of small flock producers. Dr. Sue Billings of the State Veterinarian's Office gave an update on the development of livestock care standards. Tim Taylor of FSA then spoke about various ag programs administered by the agency. He said farmers were being urged to maintain good records during this difficult period.

This committee had a number of policy recommendations. One addition calls for a statement of support for poultry farmers and the encouragement of better communications between producers and the companies they contract with. Another proposal calls for expressing support for the continuation of the federal-state cooperative agreement for surveillance of low-path H5/H7 avian influenza at current levels. A third proposal, for both KFB and AFBF policy, supports continuing the current exemption for agriculture buildings and dwellings under the uniform building and electrical codes.

KFB Director Jay Coleman of Barren County is chairman of the Poultry Advisory Committee.

FORESTRY

The first presenter was Joe Collins, senior nursery inspector at UK. He gave updates on the current status of insect and other problems facing forestry production in the state. He noted significant problems with the emerald ash borer and asian long-horned beetle.

Leah MacSwords then reported on activities at the Kentucky Division of Forestry. She showed photos of the Morgan County nursery and other areas damaged by the tornado outbreak last March. It's estimated that about 23,000 acres were damaged with more than \$49 worth of timber lost. She also spoke about the division's hemlock program and work to restore the American Chestnut tree in Kentucky.

Henry Duncan of the Kentucky Woodland Owners Association said the group is working to promote the industry and elevate it to a higher level. He reviewed the association's priorities.

Next speaker was Dr. Terrell "Red" Baker of UK. He said enrollment at UK's Forestry Department is up 60 percent since 2009, with 75 percent of juniors completing career-relevant summer internships. UK is working to get a Southern Research Station and a Cooperative Wildlife Research Center for the state. Dr. Baker gave updates on the department's extension work and its relationship with the Kentucky Forest Industries Association.

Elizabeth Botner of the U.S. Forest Service provided an update on the Daniel Boone National Forest. She said the agency is working to rebuild its timber sale program, improve timber stands, monitor and treat for several non-native species and conduct a prescribed fire program on over 10,000 acres.

Steve Pratt, district director of the Farm Service Agency, reported on the Emergency Conservation Program for forestry that was implemented as a result of the tornado outbreak. He said FSA is concerned about how the next farm bill will impact conservation programs.

Turning to policy, the committee approved amended language that encourages the use of hardwoods in the restoration of mountain top removal lands (as well as in strip mined land). Another amended language adds "gas pipelines and wells" to recommendations for salvaging marketable timber and woody debris.

The committee recommends a new policy encouraging KDA to include forestry products in its "Kentucky Proud" program. Another proposal states "forest farms that qualify for agricultural deferment of property tax should be assessed using an assessment model that is appropriate for forest land." The committee also wants policy encouraging the establishment of local forestry associations, plus the inclusion of forestry in the Environmental Quality Incentive Program.

KFB Director Bige Hensley of Clay County is chairman of the Forestry Committee.

EQUINE

Chaired by KFB Director Alex Barnett of Harrison County, this committee met at the Kentucky Horse Park. John Nicholson, director of the park, gave a report stating that this year has been very successful with 87 major events planned. He noted how hosting the World Equestrian Games had benefitted the facility's ability to attract new business. He said it is hoped that the park one day will be able to operate without state funds.

Next speaker was David Switzer of the Kentucky Thoroughbred Association. He said the breeding industry is rebounding by emphasizing quality over quantity and that the Breeders Incentive Fund is going well. He discussed several tax issues and noted that KTA was pursuing ways to have horse farms included

in federal drought-relief programs. He complimented the Kentucky Horse Council and Kentucky Equine Education Project (KEEP) for working with the Kentucky Proud program. Switzer concluded by pointing out the success of the new instant racing game at Kentucky Downs.

The committee then discussed the controversial issue of processing horses for meat.

Cara Stewart then gave a report on KEEP's activities, focusing on its support for instant racing as a means to benefit the industry by boosting revenues at the tracks. She also touched on the Breeder's Incentive Fund, the Kentucky Proud Program and tax issues.

Anna Zinkhon then reported for the Kentucky Horse Council. She said the organization anticipates receiving the results from its industry survey sometime in the first quarter of 2013. About 9,000 out of 15,000 surveys have been returned. The Council will hold its first horse convention in Kentucky next February at the Horse Park, she said.

Dr. Robert Coleman spoke to the committee about UK's equine programs. He reviewed a research showcase event, field days and 4-H activities. He noted that UK's equine undergraduate program had graduated over 50 students since 2009 and that the equestrian team has over 90 members, making the program one of the largest in the nation.

State Veterinarian Dr. Robert Stout and KDA equine program coordinator Rusty Ford discussed the work of the Livestock Care Standards Board and then reported on disease control programs. Ford elaborated on problems with the spread of the West Nile virus, with nine cases detected in Kentucky this year. Ford also reported that the Kentucky Equine Health and Welfare Council has concentrated on developing a voluntary certification program for equine rescue and retirement facilities.

Mitch Whittle of the State FSA office reported on an emergency loan program, explaining that only those who produce or raise foals for profit can qualify for assistance.

Turning to policy review, the committee approved a statement that would encourage the General Assembly to support economic initiatives for all of Kentucky's equine industries. The group also proposes an amendment to current policy that recommends enforcing laws to prohibit individuals from using private property without the owner's permission. The recommendation is to delete a reference to only "ATV operators and riders of horses" to make the policy inclusive of everyone.

SHEEP & GOAT

This meeting began with a report from Kelley Yates, Executive Director of the Kentucky Sheep & Goat Development Office. She said her organization had been promoting "Hoof Prints" magazine and was upgrading their website. She noted a sponsorship of a TV program, development of a commercial and participation in a Barbecue Festival.

Next up was Tess Caudill from KDA. She reported on recent market sales in the state and use of checkoff funds. She said goat prices have been okay this year but that lamb prices had fallen over the past few months.

State Veterinarian Dr. Robert Stout reported on the Livestock Care Standards Commission. He also addressed the animal disease traceability issue, noting that federal interest was waning

because of intense objection to a program.

UK's Dr. Robert Harmon gave the next report, providing information about enrollment and budget in the Department of Animal and Food Science. He said that due to budget cuts several animal research facilities throughout the nation were being closed. Dr. Harmon gave a positive report on UK's sheep unit.

Dr. Kenneth Andries of Kentucky State University's Ag Department said enrollment was down, as well as federal funding. He discussed degree and research programs at KSU. The agenda at the research farm includes work on forage-based meat goat production. KSU also was involved in training Kentucky National Guard personnel for sheep and goat production assistance to farmers in Iraq and Afghanistan, said Dr. Andries.

In regard to policy, the Sheep and Goat Committee recommends deleting policy that supports the elimination of a permit process for individual composting operators.

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

SWINE

Warren Beeler of KDA gave a report, stating that this could be the worst year ever for Kentucky's swine industry. The corn crop is bad due to the drought and market prices are down, he noted

Bonnie Jolly then reported for the Kentucky Pork Producers Association. She also addressed the poor industry condition and concerns about aflatoxin in the corn crop, as well as the high use of corn for fuel. She said new banking regulations have made it difficult to obtain operating loans.

Literature was distributed listing 23 major food companies that will not purchase pork produced via gestation stalls.

State Veterinarian Dr. Robert Stout spoke about the work of the Livestock Care Standards Commission, noting that the committee has met 10 times over the past two years. He estimated that the regulations probably won't be finalized until next spring.

UK extension swine production specialist Richard Coffey gave the next report. He explained that UK had worked with a major fast food company to alleviate concerns about animal welfare issues. He said the Division of Water's permitting process was moving forward and that NRCS was lowering its phosphorus tolerance guideline under Code 590. Farmers, however, will have to compile a soil index that is more complicated, he added.

The committee has forwarded a new policy statement reading: "KFB supports educational efforts to advocate the positive evolution of agriculture, and encourages commodity groups

and related organizations to develop such programs."

KFB Director Danny Wilkinson of Adair County is chairman of the Swine Committee.

HORTICULTURE



This group met at Haney's Appledale Farm in Pulaski County as guests of KFB President Mark Haney. KFB Second VP Fritz Giesecke was among the guests. KFB Director Russell Poore of Logan County is chairman of the Horticulture Committee.

After Haney welcomed the committee, Kara Keeton gave an update on KFB's Certified Roadside Farm Markets program. She said the program has 108 participants this year. She also spoke about the launch of a facebook page.

Sharon Spencer of KDA gave an update on farmer's markets in the state. She said the department has a record of 147 local markets. Reported sales last year were around \$11 million, she said.

A report on the Kentucky Horticulture Council came from Dr. Robert Houtz of the UK College of Agriculture and C.A. "Ottie" Pantle, a Daviess County producer and committee member. They noted that the council is seeking continued funding from the Ag Development Board.

Kentucky FSA Director John McCauley gave a brief report along with colleague

Mary Lou Bohannon, who addressed some issues relative to crop insurance. Russell Poore then spoke about the National Fruit and Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee, of which he is a member.

While reviewing KFB policy the committee approved language stating "we encourage the state auditor to develop state-

wide uniform guidelines and oversight rules for taxes and fees implemented by special taxing districts." As for AFBF policy, the committee wants language expressing opposition to using SNAP funds at fast food restaurants. It also suggests amending policy on the use of domestic ag commodities in school lunch programs to specifically encourage USDA to require that stipulation.

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With forests comprising 93 percent of the land, there's not a lot of opportunity for agriculture in Harlan County. But conversely, there are options in the field of forestry, and therein lies the motive for Harlan County FB to conduct an annual forestry day for students.

The initial event was held last month for 7th and 8th graders from Green Hill School in Bledsoe, a tiny community near Pine Mountain, north of Harlan. The 41 students had only a short bus ride to the managed forest owned by Jim Corum. This area known as Abner Branch was settled in

1814 by the Miniard family. It proved to be a special place for the young people to see what forestry can achieve.

They took a nearly two-mile hike through an 80-year-old managed forest, with Mike Silliman of the Kentucky Division of Forestry leading the way. Silliman, who is the chief forester in the agency's Pineville office, provided a wealth of information about how to identify tree species and the age. He also explained various techniques for properly managing forestland, as well as threats from plant disease and insects.

What really wowed the students was seeing a cove that was cropland 80 years ago, but now is densely populated with yellow



poplars and other towering trees. Amazingly, that part of the forest rejuvenated itself after the Miniard family stopped growing crops on it following the depression of the 1930s.

Green Hill School Principal Darlene Brock accompanied the students along with their teachers. Before the tour, she told the young people that "these are the kinds of experiences that make learning fun."

Harlan County FB President Don Miniard and administrator Nathan Boggs also spoke to the students shortly after they arrived at the site. Miniard spoke about KFB's purpose and work as an advocate for agriculture and rural life. Harlan County FB, he explained, wants to encourage young people to pursue careers tied to production from the land. He said the organization plans to have an annual event of this nature.

Silliman captured the attention of the teenagers by identifying many species -- including yellow poplar, magnolia, hickory, American chestnut, black gum, mulberry, black walnut, sugar maple and red bud -- while explaining how all can be managed

and preserved. There are more than 500 species of trees in Kentucky, he said.

The students also were impressed by a massive stump remaining from an ancient American Chestnut that had been removed.

Following lunch at the Miniard farm settlement at the foot of the trail, Silliman donned some safety gear for a demonstration on properly handling a chain saw. Alice Mandt, who works in the hemlock program for the Division of Forestry, then spoke about how Kentucky's hemlock population was being threatened by a deadly insect, the wooly adelgid. She gave a demonstration of a preventive technique, treating the base of a hemlock with a chemical.

Jim Corum gave a brief history of the area. He said at one time in the early 1900s, 20 families lived along Abner Branch, subsisting by raising their own food. Don Miniard's ancestors were part of the community, which was known as Miniard.

The last stop was a tour of the nearby Laurel Branch area up a hill, where a three-year-old tree stand was in production. Before departing the students were given a tee shirt to commemorate the day.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:

- Mike Silliman of the Kentucky Division of Forestry shows the youngsters a massive stump from an American Chestnut tree.
- Mike Silliman gave a demonstration on safe handling of a chain saw.
- The Miniard settlement along Abner Branch once was home to 20 families.
- Harlan County FB President Don Miniard speaks to the students. Second from left is landowner Jim Corum.
- Incredibly, this scene was cropland 80 years ago. But the trees came back after the farming stopped in the 1930s.
- Alice Mandt of the Kentucky Division of Forestry demonstrated how to treat hemlock trees against the deadly wooly adelgid.

CROP INSURANCE RESCUING MANY FARMERS

Editor's Note: *With income support programs no longer a part of federal farm policy, crop insurance has emerged as the crucial economic safety net for farmers. This has become especially vital in light of this year's devastating drought. In Kentucky, \$46.3 million in indemnities had been paid as of October 9. All told, 16,109 policies are in force this year in Kentucky, covering 2.9 million acres, according to the National Crop Insurance Service (NCIS).*

We are publishing this article from NCIS to illustrate how crop insurance can be the difference between survival and failure of a family farm. This type of story no doubt could be found on Kentucky farms. KFB policy supports national farm policy that includes an effective crop insurance program.

Todd and Ty Williams grew up on their family's farm near Gruver, Texas, a town of about 1,100 people in the panhandle region of the state. Todd Williams says he's been driving a tractor since he was about seven years old, so it was just the natural course of events

that he and his brother Ty would end up on the farm together as adults.

The brothers have been farming together since 1984. Williams notes that the main driver behind his desire to farm is his love for the work and the land, "because the money certainly isn't in there." But above all else, he adds "there's no better place on earth to raise your kids."

The Williams brothers farm about 1,800 acres of wheat, corn, cotton and milo. Todd says that when he looks back at 2011, he remembers a year of unbelievable extremes. "Some people were flooded out in other parts of the country while we couldn't buy a drop of water to save our lives."

But farming and risk go hand in hand, and that's why Williams purchases a crop insurance policy every year. "Wheat farming is so risky that using forward contracting as your only risk management tool is nearly impossible," he says. That's because if Mother Nature strikes and a crop is forward contracted without crop insurance, a farmer can end up owing a huge sum of money to fulfill the contract, on top of not

having anything to harvest to provide income for the rest of the year.

Williams says he learned that lesson the hard way. He explained that a few years ago, he had a bumper wheat crop that was ready to harvest, so he worked through the day and on into the night, harvesting as much wheat as he could. He finally quit around 10 pm, with lots of wheat left standing in the field but exhausted from the long day's work. Later that night, a large hailstorm blew through, crushing the remaining wheat. "One day it was ready to harvest, the next morning there was nothing taller than two inches in the whole field," he said.

"Playing futures is risky, but contracting your wheat is an even bigger risk," he notes.

Texas is a state that is familiar with droughts, heat waves, tornadoes and other weather anomalies. And because of that kind of weather, many Texas farmers are prepared to lose some of their crop on most years; but never all of it.

The drought of 2011 was so widespread and so extreme that even irrigated crops could hardly be saved. "It was so hot and dry, our irrigation pumps just wouldn't cut it and our crops dried up," Williams said.

The Williams brothers were running five irrigation wells and still couldn't keep up with the heat and the lack of rain. "The crops just withered despite the irrigation," Williams noted. "It was 110-112 degrees, the wind was blowing and the rain was nowhere to be found."

Luckily his crop insurance agent, who Williams describes as "a super guy," had touched base with the brothers throughout the year and knew that some degree of loss was inevitable. After months of fighting the drought and watching their crops wither despite their efforts, the Williams brothers came to the difficult decision that their fields were simply lost.

"The loss of a crop is crushing, even when you have crop insurance, because the insurance doesn't really make you whole, it only helps you to recover to a small degree," said Williams. He explained that like other farmers, he always looks forward to harvest, because it not only means the infusion of money, it's the accomplishment of a year's work. "I'd much rather have a harvest than an indemnity check," he said.



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Reduced hay crop still better than expected

All hay production by Kentucky farmers is forecast at 4.74 million tons, up 17 percent from the August forecast, but 11 percent below last year's output according to USDA. Alfalfa hay production is forecast at 560,000 tons, up eight percent from August and down 22 percent from 2011. Alfalfa yield is forecast at 2.8 tons per acre, up 0.2 ton from August, but 0.6 ton below 2011. Other hay production is forecast at 4.18 million tons, up 19 percent from August, but ten percent below the previous year. Yield of other hay is estimated at 1.9 tons per acre, up 0.3 ton from August, but down 0.3 ton from a year ago.

U.S. all-hay production in 2012 is forecast at 121.97 million tons, down from 131.14 million tons in 2011. Total harvested area for 2012, at 57.6 million acres, is up 3.5 percent from 2011. Alfalfa production is forecast at 55.57 million tons based on 2.95 tons per acre, down from 3.40 tons last year. Other hay production of 66.40 million tons is based on 1.71 tons per acre, down only 0.10 tons from a year ago.

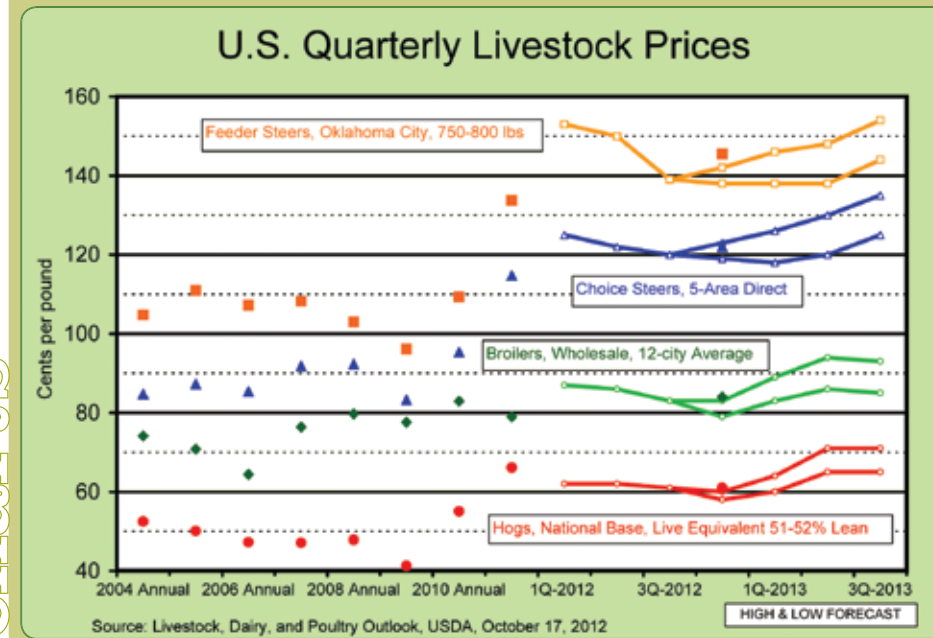
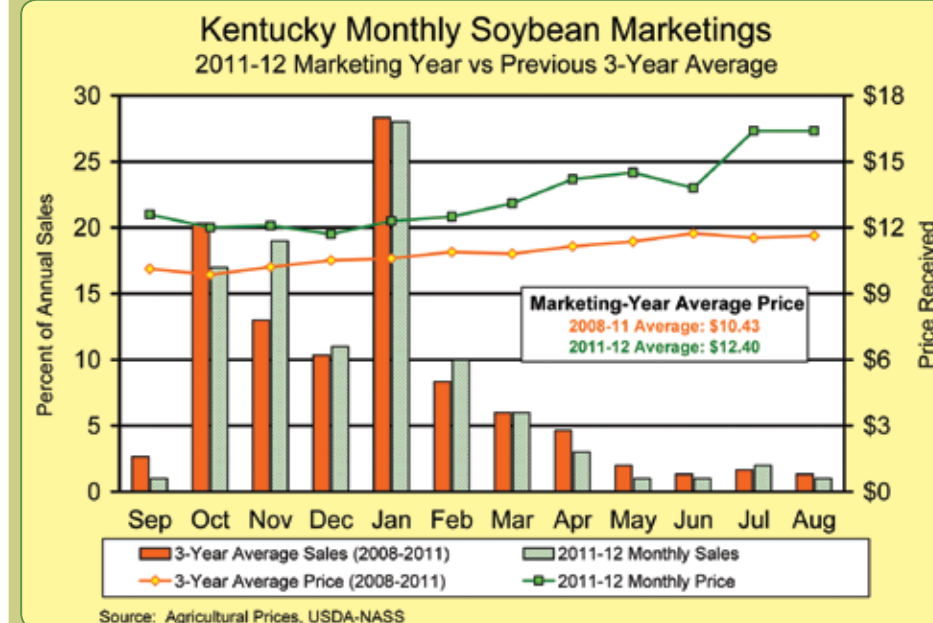
U.S. to become net beef importer in 2013

USDA forecasts U.S. beef imports for 2012 at 2.36 billion pounds, 15 percent above year-earlier levels. Beef exports this year are forecast at 2.48 billion pounds, 11 percent below year ago. This results in the U.S. being a net exporter of 120 million pounds in 2012. For 2013, U.S. beef imports are expected to grow to 2.62 billion pounds and beef exports to shrink to 2.45 billion pounds. These changes would make the U.S. a net beef importer in 2013 for the first time since 2009.

Apple crop sliced by adverse weather

The 2012 U.S. apple crop was forecast by USDA at 8.1 billion pounds, down 14 percent from last year's crop. If realized, this would be the smallest U.S. crop produced in over two decades. Fairly normal weather in the western region resulted in total production of 6.2 billion pounds, up six percent from 2011. But dry weather and spring freezes reduced the apple crop in the central and eastern regions. Eastern region production was forecast at 1.6 billion pounds, down 31 percent from last year. The central region suffered a 79 percent cut in its production to only 252 million pounds. Michigan had its smallest crop since the 1980s -- production of 105 million pounds is down 89 percent from 2011. USDA does not report Kentucky's production.

USDA projects that 5.8 billion pounds of the apple crop will go to the fresh market, down eight percent from a year ago. Apples used for processing in 2012/13 are projected down 26 percent to 2.2 billion pounds - the lowest since the 1970s.



Kentucky FFA shines nationally

Kentucky FFA was well represented at the 85th Annual National FFA Convention.

Joenelle Futrell of Daviess County was elected National Eastern Region Vice President Futrell and five other National Officers will lead the 550,000+ member organization for the next year. She is the eleventh National FFA Officer from Kentucky and the first female National FFA Officer from Kentucky. Futrell is a member of the Daviess County FFA Chapter and is a junior at the University of Kentucky, where she is majoring in Agricultural Education. She won KFB's Outstanding Youth contest in 2010.

Spencer County FFA won the distinction of being named the first ever National Model of Excellence Chapter. This prestigious award was established this year to recognize the top chapter in the nation. Spencer County has a long history of excellence in all areas of agricultural education including classroom instruction, FFA, and Supervised Agricultural Experience. Chapter advisors are Bland Baird and Darryl Matherly.

Jordan Lucas of the Lincoln County FFA received first place in the National Agriscience Fair in Division 1 of Power Structural and Technical Systems. Lucas completed research related to the effectiveness of various hay storage methods using the scientific method. He is the first National Agriscience Fair winner from Kentucky.

Alexander Richardson of the Meade County FFA was named one of four National Finalists for the American Star Farmer Award. Zachary Cotton of the Spencer County FFA was named one of four National Finalists for the American Star In Agribusiness Award. The Star Awards are the highest awards given.

Three Kentucky FFA members were named as National Proficiency Winners. Susan Mann of Spencer County was named the National Winner in Food Science and Technology. Stetson Schimfessel of Clark County was named the National Winner in Beef Production Placement and Gabe Stodghill of Spencer County was National Winner in Outdoor Recreation.

The convention returns to Louisville next year.

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“Dr. Pete” gets honor from the White House

Dr. Pete Dreisbach, Director of the Kentucky FFA Association Kentucky FFA Leadership Training Center, was honored by the White House “Champions of Change” program that recognizes those whose projects or initiatives improve communities. Dreisbach was recognized in an October 9 program for FFA and 4-H held by the Office of Public Engagement and USDA.

“Dr. Pete”, as he is affectionately known by, has been with the KY FFA LTC for 25 years and is constantly working to improve programming and facilities. Two years ago Dr. Pete built a ROPES course on the campus to engage students physically in leadership development. His highly trained staff lead students through team building activities which they take back to their home communities. Each summer approximately 1,500 students attend camp and experience the ROPES course.

Organic sales rising

Organic farmers sold more than \$3.5 billion organically grown agricultural commodities in 2011, according to a survey by the Agriculture Department’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. NASS conducted the survey for USDA’s Risk Management Agency to help refine federal crop insurance products for organic producers.

This is the first time USDA has conducted a survey focused solely on USDA-certified organic producers. According to Hubert Hamer, chairman of NASS’s Agricultural Statistics Board, the survey results will enable policymakers to better assess the Federal Crop Insurance program and how it influences the organic industry.

Corn leads organic field crops in sales and accounted for more than \$101.5 million in 2011. The only other field crops to have more than \$50 million in sales were alfalfa, dry hay and winter wheat, accounting for \$69.5 million and \$54 million in sales, respectively.

Roadside Market program enrollment begins

Enrollment for KFB’s 2013 Certified Roadside Farm Market program is now open.

Established in 1996, the program began as an initiative to help farmers market their fruits and vegetables directly from roadside markets. Since then, the membership has expanded to include farm enterprises like greenhouses, landscape nurseries, Christmas tree farms, vineyards/wineries and meat/cheese farm markets.

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

Early enrollment for the program is through November 15 and is \$235 per market. Regular enrollment is November 16-December 31 and is \$310 per market. Enrollment applications must be postmarked by December 31 to guarantee a spot in the annual Membership Directory.

Applications for membership are available on the Kentucky Farm Bureau web site, <http://www.kyfb.com/roadside>. For more information, contact Kara Keeton, Director of Commodity Marketing, at (502) 495-5106 or by e-mail at <mailto:kara.keeton@kyfb.com>.

Permit needed to remove gravel from streams

The Division of Conservation is informing landowners and citizens about a Kentucky regulation that governs the removal of gravel from creeks and streams. Gravel removal has become an issue and it seems the public is not aware that this type of activity requires a permit before removing gravel from a creek or stream. This is regulated by the Non-Coal Branch within the Division of Mine Reclamation and Enforcement. For a permit application call (502) 564-2340 and ask for the non-coal branch.

The Agriculture Water Quality Act has a section addressing these agriculture/silviculture activities in or around “Streams and Other Water Bodies”, specifically BMP #2 “Sand and Gravel Removal”, and provides some guidance. However, the present plan needs to be modified to include this new information that makes gravel removal from creeks and streams illegal without a permit.

Harold Workman honored at Expo Center

The North Wing Grand Lobby at the Kentucky Exposition Center will be named in honor of Harold Workman, the longtime president and chief executive officer of the Kentucky State Fair Board who is retiring December 31.

The fair board has approved the change, which was recommended by a recognition committee set up by the board that oversees the exposition center and the downtown Kentucky International Convention Center. KFB Executive President David S. Beck is chairman of the committee.

The North Wing Lobby will officially be named for Workman at a ceremony on November 11, during the North American International Livestock Exposition.

The new North Wing was completed in 2007 as part of a \$55 million project that also included reconstruction of the adjacent East Hall and nearby plaza area. The North Wing stands where the old East Wing was demolished. It has more than 200,000 square feet of Class A exhibit face, with 27-foot high ceilings.

Workman, who has headed the fair board staff for two decades, has overseen substantial growth of the facilities at both the fairgrounds and the downtown convention center.

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