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OCTOBER 2012 • VOL. 11, NO. 8

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Kentucky 
FARM • BUREAU • NEWS

While some tend to view autumn as the start of a period of decline, Farm Bureau prefers to think of autumn as a season of opportunity. This is the season when county Farm Bureaus develop policy recommendations that are forwarded to the respective state organizations for review. Delegates from throughout the state will determine policy for 2013 at our annual meeting in December.



There's a bit of anxiety flowing through Kentucky Farm Bureau these days as farm families face uncertainties about how they could be impacted by a farm bill, the new national health care law and possible changes to Kentucky's tax code. With an eye on policy positions, our leaders and staff are following these issues very closely. In fact, our health care task force recently met with some state officials involved with establishing the new health insurance exchange; and our tax advisory committee met with two members of the Governor's Blue Ribbon Commission on Tax Reform.

What we've learned to this point is that it is unclear as to whether the health insurance exchange will provide farm families with comparable coverage at lower prices than today. In regard to potential state tax reforms, we've been advised to be prepared to defend our positions on such critical issues as property taxes and exemptions for farm inputs. Be assured that we will be well prepared with the factual foundation to strongly support our positions.

Other seeds will be sown a few weeks from now as we vote in the 2012 election. There is a lot at stake. Elected offices responsible for helping determine agriculture's future will be filled at all levels of government. In some areas of our nation, initiatives also are on the ballot that could affect how agriculture is practiced for the foreseeable future.

As always, Farm Bureau is urging its members to educate themselves on the candidates and their positions and then participate at the ballot box. To assist with that initiative, County Farm Bureaus throughout the state have conducted "Measure the Candidate" forums and other events to facilitate discussions with public officials. We've also initiated a public information campaign to encourage people to vote.

Both on and off the farm, autumn is indeed a season of opportunity for Farm Bureau.

MARK HANEY

PRESIDENT

KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

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The General Election will be held on November 6. In addition to United States President, many federal, state, and local races will be on the ballot, and many decisions that are important to our communities, state, and nation will be made. As Kentucky's Secretary of State and Chief Election Official, I encourage all Kentuckians to vote.



Voting is the cornerstone of our society, and the success of our democracy depends on all eligible citizens participating in elections. Kentucky is at its best when all citizens' voices are heard, and our future will be brightest if everyone is engaged.

I recently had the privilege to travel to Kuwait, Qatar, and Bahrain to meet many of the selfless men and women in uniform who risk their lives to ensure we all have the right to vote. Our soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and guardsmen, like the veteran service members who came before them, dedicate their lives to protecting and defending the United States.

We cannot take for granted the significant sacrifices our active-duty and veteran military members and their families make on our behalves. Voting is not just a right; it is a responsibility.

Polls will be open on November 6th from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., local time, and any voter who is in line to vote by 6 p.m. will be allowed to cast a ballot. Voters who meet certain criteria may be eligible to vote via absentee ballot and should contact their county clerks or the State Board of Elections for more information.

I urge voters to prepare for the important choices they will make on Election Day. You can view sample ballots, research candidates, and even find directions to your polling place through my office's website, www.sos.ky.gov.

Every election matters, and every vote counts. I hope every eligible voter will show respect for our state and nation's heroes by choosing to vote on November 6th in honor of the hundreds of thousands of Kentuckians who have fought so that we could have the opportunity.

ALISON LUNDERGAN GRIMES

SECRETARY OF STATE

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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"The Voice of Kentucky Agriculture"

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— FARM SAFETY WEEK KICKOFF HELD IN GLASGOW —

The annual state kickoff event for National Farm Safety and Health Week was held at Barren County High School in Glasgow, with a mock rescue of ATV accident victims conducted in front of the entire student body. The “rescue” involving two helicopters, an ambulance and two fire trucks was intended to jolt the teenagers into putting safety first.

The event was coordinated through the Kentucky Department of Agriculture’s farm safety division, spearheaded by program director and emcee Dale Dobson. Agriculture Commissioner James Comer was there to address the students. Roger Thomas, Executive Director of the Governor’s Office of Agricultural Policy, presented Comer with a Safety Week proclamation from Governor Steve Beshear.

Three students portrayed victims of the ATV accident, and local emergency medical personnel treated the “victims” and prepared them for transport. Two AirEvac helicopters arrived just moments after the

ambulance and fire trucks.

To coincide with the event, KFB’s Safety and Rural Health Advisory Committee met earlier in the day at the Barren County FB office in Glasgow. The chairman of that committee, KFB Director Randy Chrisman of Anderson County, is a retired paramedic for the Lexington Fire Department. Several committee members attended the event at the high school.

Miss Kentucky Jessica Casebolt was on hand to model an ATV safety uniform and offer a message encouraging safety precautions. Several political and education officials attended, including State Representatives Wilson Stone and Bart Rowland, Barren County Judge-Executive Davie Greer, Glasgow Mayor Rhonda Trautman and School Superintendent Bo Matthews.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission reported that 122 people died in ATV accidents in Kentucky from 2007-2010, ranking the commonwealth third in the nation in ATV deaths.

ABOVE: The e-vac helicopter lands on the football field while emergency personnel attend to the three “mock” victims of an ATV collision.



ABOVE: The Barren County High School cheerleaders had a role in the program.



ABOVE: Page Basham (left) and Haley Williams worked a display promoting the use of safety belts. They gave out "Dum Dum" suckers, with a message saying it's dumb to not use a seat belt.

LEFT: Miss Kentucky Jessica Casebolt spoke to the Barren County High School students.

RIGHT: Roger Thomas, Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy, presented Agriculture Commissioner James Comer with a gubernatorial proclamation for Farm Safety Week.



HINTON MILLS ANIMAL SCIENCE CENTER



Bud Hinton, president of Hinton Mills, prepared to cut the ribbon on the Animal Science Center at the Fleming County FFA farm. To the left of him is Agriculture Commissioner James Comer, followed by Adam Hinton. They were joined by FFA students and local officials.

“BUILDING” A FUTURE

ANIMAL SCIENCE CENTER DEDICATED AT FLEMING COUNTY FFA FARM

A 50-acre plot of rough land in an industrial park in Flemingsburg is slowly but surely turning into a valuable educational tool for FFA students. And in the process, it has become a source of community pride and regional attention.

The development of a farm for Fleming County FFA has become a community-wide project uniting business, education and agriculture interests. This two-year-old endeavor took a major step forward last month with the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Hinton Mills Animal Science Center. The 60-by-62 barn will be used for livestock projects and storage of hay and equipment.

The next step in the project to develop a regional showplace for FFA is a classroom and conference facility under con-

“THIS IS AN
OUTSTANDING PROJECT
THAT WILL MAKE A
DIFFERENCE FOR MANY
YEARS TO COME.”

struction near the Animal Science Center. Peoples Bank is the main funding source for that.

Agriculture Commissioner James Comer, himself a former State FFA President, was on hand for the ribbon cutting. Also attending were local business, education and political leaders, as well as a number of officials from surrounding counties, which also have a stake in the project.

Fleming County FB is among the large number of entities that have supported the project in various ways. Hinton Mills, a local, family-owned feed and farm supply company with four stores in the area, was the major contributor for the center. The Louisville-based Farm Credit Service contributed \$10,000 for farm development and two of its regional offices kicked



in another \$2,000.

The school board provided a matching grant. Many other groups and businesses have pitched in.

Randall Wood, past president and a Director for Fleming County FB, said the farm's development epitomizes the term "cooperative effort."

"The community has really gotten behind this," said Wood, who works for Hinton Mills.

"It's been developed into a regional thing that can benefit other counties. This will be a place where we can conduct regional events - shows, sales, conferences. It's going to benefit a lot of young people."

The FFA Chapter plans to maintain a small beef cow-calf herd. The farm also will be used for other livestock projects (the chapter has two sows and 40 lambs) and for crop production, particularly in horticulture. Wood said the project was a dream of retired Vo-Ag teacher Charles Berry, who was at the ceremony.

Commissioner Comer commended the Hinton family (company president Bud

Hinton and sons Adam and Nathan, who are company executives) and the community as a whole.

"What a great day!," he exclaimed, beginning his remarks. "This is an outstanding project that will make a difference for many years to come."

In his remarks, Adam Hinton was quick to recognize Charles Berry and the spirit of cooperation that has been a trademark of the project's development.

While explaining the company's commitment, Adam Hinton said: "At Hinton Mills we believe in the future of agriculture. Who needs to be better prepared for the world than those in agriculture?"

He noted that school officials had reported that 400 of the 750 students at Fleming County High School last year had participated in an agriculture education class.

Wood said the project is part of a rejuvenation of the Vo-Ag program in Fleming County. "Farm Bureau has been strongly behind the ag program; we do whatever we can to support it," he said.

TOP LEFT: The 60-by-62 structure will be used to work cattle plus store hay and equipment.

BOTTOM LEFT: Bud Hinton greets Agriculture Commissioner James Comer. At right is State Representative Mike Denham. At left is Paula Hinton and at the rear is Fleming County Clerk Jarrod Fritz.

TOP RIGHT: In his remarks during the program, Adam Hinton stressed the company's commitment to agriculture and youth development.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Cattle are feeding adjacent to the new barn.

CLARK COUNTY FB

In its six-year history, the Clark County Farm Bureau Agriculture Day has covered a lot of ground -- literally and figuratively -- to give local farmers an opportunity to observe various farm operations. This year's tour focused on two of the traditional staples of the county's farm economy -- tobacco and corn -- with visits to Anderson Brothers Farm, the Perdue Grainery and Southern States Feed Mill.

Clark County FB President Shane Wiseman played host for the annual event sponsored by the organization along with the extension office, conservation district, cattleman's association, Chamber of Commerce and Southern States. While many county Farm Bureaus support such events, Clark County is one of the few that takes the lead in organizing a day to focus on local agriculture. Agency Manager Rick Mink is instrumental in planning and conducting the event.

Wiseman, who is on the KFB Board of Directors, explained that the leadership of Clark County FB wants to ensure that the agriculture sector doesn't lose its place as a vibrant part of the county's culture.

Home base for the tour was a 165-acre farm owned by Kenneth and Shirley Anderson. They have operations at three other farms in the county, as well.

At the main farm the participants climbed on flatbed wagons for a tour of tobacco and cornfields. The Andersons are huge tobacco producers, with 90 acres of burley plus greenhouse production of some three million tobacco plants. "Tobacco is still king around here," Kenneth said to the group.

Their operation also has 400 cows, 40 ewes and other greenhouse commodities, including hydroponic lettuce. "There's never a dull moment around here," Kenneth quipped.

This summer's epic drought hasn't hit Clark County as hard as most places, as evidenced by good quality tobacco and corn crops at the Anderson Farm just west of Winchester. Several of the farmers said



the Andersons had the best looking tobacco they had seen this year.

Next on the agenda was the Perdue Grainery, which is just off I-64 on the outskirts of Winchester. Plant manager Brian Stephens spoke to the visitors about the facility's history and current operations. The facility handles corn, soybeans and wheat from hundreds of Kentucky farms; some from more than 100 miles away. Top customers for corn are Buffalo Trace Distillery and the adjacent Southern States Feed Mill, which manufacturers bagged feeds. A lot of soybeans are shipped out for the export market and some of the wheat goes to a miller that makes crackers for Wendy's Restaurants, Stephens said.

Local crops were so abundant last year

that the grainery had four of the top five busiest days in its history. Oftentimes farmers had to wait two hours or more to unload, Stephens said.

At the Southern States Feed Mill the group was informed about the 30-year-old business of producing bagged feeds for virtually every kind of farm animal, including dogs, cats and rabbits. The products go to 135 private dealers along with Southern States stores.

The Winchester facility proudly boasts of being the first fully automated feed mill in the U.S.

From there the group returned to the Anderson Brothers Farm for a cookout dinner and a look at the greenhouse operation..

AG DAY



OPPOSITE PAGE: The first order of business was a tour of the tobacco fields at Anderson Brothers Farm.

ABOVE: Clark County FB President Shane Wiseman welcomed the group as Kenneth Anderson waited to speak about his operation.

TOP RIGHT: Plant Manager Brian Stephens spoke about the history and current operation of the Perdue Grainery.

RIGHT: The group toured the Southern States Feed Mill.



Fun on the farm

ROBERTS FAMILY DOES AGRITOURISM WELL

Article and Photos by Kristi McCabe

ABOVE: Kevin and Rhonda Roberts

INSET: Rhonda Roberts works on a sign.

Roberts Family Farm in Meade County is one of many agritourism venues across the state that welcomes the public to actively participate in life on the farm. From hayrides to pumpkin patches to U-pick blackberries, Roberts Family Farm offers a little something for everyone.

“Our farm has been in the family since 1904,” said Rhonda Roberts, who owns and operates the business with her husband, Kevin. “Kevin’s great-grandfather started the operation, and we bought the farm in 1996. We raised tobacco until 1999, and decided we wanted to do something different. So, in 2000 we starting raising pumpkins and built corn mazes, and the business has continued to evolve from there.”

Both Kevin and Rhonda have full-time jobs off the farm; Kevin works as manager of the Goodyear store in Brandenburg, and Rhonda is a records and attendance

clerk at Radcliff Elementary School.

“This is what we enjoy the most,” Kevin said. “We come home from our jobs every day and go right outside to work on the farm. It is a very rewarding business.”

Tobacco’s decline has sparked a surge in agritourism as former tobacco producers like the Roberts family seek other income sources. Roberts Family Farm opens its market in early July for blackberries. Labor Day weekend marks the beginning of watermelon season; and the bustling fall market season begins in mid-September with an open pumpkin patch, mums, gourds and other popular items for that season. Christmas trees are sold in December; school field trips and public events are hosted throughout the fall.

The goal is to create a fun and affordable family destination. There is no admission fee and no charge for hay rides. Families are welcome to enjoy the





"Our farm has been in the family since 1904"

farm for free, and they only pay for the homegrown pumpkins or homemade jams they purchase.

"Our purpose is to give families a place to spend quality time together," said Rhonda. "It doesn't cost much to spend a day here, and that is an added benefit. Our main goal is offering families a wholesome and fun experience, not making money."

Besides being a family destination, the Roberts' farm is also a favorite spot for school field trips. The number of annual student visitors has grown from 300 to nearly 3,500, attracting schools from neighboring counties. Rhonda said she is

always amazed at the schoolchildren who come to visit and have never been on a farm before.

"Those of us who grew up around farms tend to take it for granted," Rhonda reflected. "For many of these kids, this is a brand-new experience."

Roberts Family Farm is truly a family business, just as its name implies. Rhonda playfully refers to her sister Dawn as "Number One," since she was the Roberts' first employee.

"It was a big deal when our operation grew large enough that we had to hire a second employee," laughed Rhonda. "Now we have almost everyone in the

family helping out: my sister-in-law, our nieces and nephews, and our children. They love it, and they want to help out because it's fun."

Rhonda said even the smallest members of the family enjoy working on the farm, including her six-year-old niece.

"She decided that her job this year was going to be to display the Open and Closed signs," said Rhonda. "She couldn't wait for us to open today so she could turn that sign over."

Customer loyalty is an indication of a well-run business, and the positive response that Kevin and Rhonda receive from the community proves that they are doing something right.

"People tell us they sense a real 'family

feel' here," said Rhonda. "We truly appreciate the support we receive. Last week, a man brought us nine wooden benches that he made, for us to use on the farm. He would not take payment for them, and said he wanted to do something for us because of what we are doing for the community. That was just very touching."

Being a KFB Certified Roadside Farm Market helps business, allowing them to reach new customers on a statewide level.

"Our best advertising locally is word of mouth," Rhonda explained. "But being included on Farm Bureau's Certified Roadside Market list helps us to reach people all over Kentucky. I know people who take that listing with them when they travel, so they will know where agritourism destinations are located. Between that and our Facebook page, we are able to spread the word about our business in a bigger way."

In coming years, Roberts Family Farm plans to keep on growing, without losing the family-feel that has made it a local favorite.

"We try to add something new each year, and we have done that since 2000," Rhonda reflected. "When we started, we just had picnic tables in the front yard for kids on field trips to eat their sack lunches. Then, we added a pavilion. Eventually, we built a store to sell our jams and locally-made honey, and next year we plan to add public restrooms. The community is really supporting our business, and that enables us to continue expanding to meet the needs of our customers."

The Roberts family has no intention of losing the personal touch they have worked so hard to cultivate, no matter how much the business grows.

"We plan to keep doing what we are doing but on a larger scale," said Rhonda. "We don't want to lose that family atmosphere and become too commercial. If we can keep giving families a fun place to spend a Saturday afternoon in the fall, we will have accomplished our goal."



DEVINE'S HAS "BIG BLUE" CORN MAZE



The Devine's Corn Maze & Pumpkin Patch in Mercer County has taken its always impressive corn maze to another level as this year's maze honors the UK basketball team's national championship with both the official logo and a likeness of the championship trophy.

This is the fifth year that the Devine's have opened up their family farm to guests from all across the state to enjoy fall activities. The highlight of many of the visitors is the 10-acre corn maze that includes a design for all to navigate.

"Our family has always been huge UK fans and as soon as they won the championship, I knew what I wanted this year's design to be" says Jason Devine, maze designer. Previous mazes have included Kentucky and all of its counties, World Equestrian Games logo, and the Final Four logo from 2011.

Devine's Corn Maze & Pumpkin Patch is one of KFB's Certified Roadside Farm Markets. It offers fall family fun that includes hayrides to the pumpkin patch, bonfires, petting area, hay maze, giant slide, cow train, tube swings, trike track, and a corn hopper. Admission includes all activities and pumpkins for everyone. The farm will be open through October 31 when it will become the "Field of Horror" for Halloween. Visit www.devinescornmaze.com for more information.



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AG-UCATION

Greenup County FB unveils mobile classroom



TOP: Greenup County FB President Kenneth Imel presented awards at the program. Assisting him was Emily Stephenson of the Family Resource Center.

BOTTOM: Elementary School students visit the KFB display at the Field Day in Greenup County. KFB staff member Scott Christmas handled the display.

Years of planning and promoting came to fruition for Greenup County FB and a number of other parties when a mobile agriculture classroom was unveiled last month at an "Agriculture Field Day" at Argillite Elementary School.

While the \$25,000 mobile learning center was the main attraction, students also were treated to a variety of displays to help them gain a better understanding of agriculture. This included everything from tractors to a bee hive. KFB was among those with a display.

Featuring a fiberglass cow that youngsters can milk, the mobile classroom developed by Greenup County FB is intended for use on a multi-county level. It's a source of great pride for Greenup County FB President Kenneth Imel, who is well known for his zeal in promoting ag education. He owns and operates a popular roadside farm market that often plays host to busloads of students.

Imel not only was at the center of a long process to secure the classroom, but he constructed a garden at the Argillite Elementary School. A grant from Our Lady of Bellefonte Hospital also enabled the school to add a walking track for community use.

The project brought many segments of the community together. Imel was quick to point that out in his remarks at the official ceremony for the event. In turn, Greenup County Agriculture Extension Agent Linda Hieneman had high praise for Imel's devotion to the project.

"He has worked tirelessly on this," Ms. Hieneman said to a crowd of about 100 at the program. "He has been out here at night (working on the garden); he's been totally devoted to this."

KFB Executive Vice President David S. Beck was among a group of speakers that also included State Representative Tanya Pullin and Greenup County Judge-Executive Bobby Carpenter. Beck praised Greenup County FB for its role in the project.

"Your county Farm Bureau motivates and excites us," Beck told the local residents. "In agriculture we spend a lot of time planting seeds. That's what you are doing here today; to see that young people will understand where their food comes from and the value of agriculture. Hopefully they'll learn more about agriculture."

KFB Directors David McGlone of Carter County and Marshall Coyle of Bath County also were on hand.

The mobile unit was used the following week at another "Ag Day" event for fourth grade students.

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COUNTY ANNUAL MEETINGS

NOTE: Boyd County has changed its site and time from what was published in last month's issue. The meeting will be October 15, 6:30 p.m. at the County Fair Building.

BOURBON COUNTY

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

BOYD COUNTY

Date: October 15, 6:30 p.m.
Place: County Fair Building

CASEY COUNTY

Date: October 11, 6:00 p.m.
Place: Ag Expo Center

FAYETTE COUNTY

Date: October 16, 5:00 p.m.
Place: Talon Winery

FLOYD COUNTY

Date: October 12, 7:00 p.m.
Place: May Lodge, Jenny Wiley State Park

GREEN COUNTY

Date: October 11, 6:00 p.m.
Place: High School

HENRY COUNTY

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

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Date: November 8, 7:30 p.m.
Place: FB Office, Gardiner Lane

LAWRENCE COUNTY

Date: October 16, 6:00 p.m.
Place: Down Home Grill

MARION COUNTY

Date: October 8, 7:00 p.m.
Place: Lebanon Masonic Hall

SHELBY COUNTY

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

TAYLOR COUNTY

Date: October 8, 6:00 p.m.
Place: Middle School



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Effects of farm bill delay

Congress did not enact a farm bill prior to the September 30 expiration of the 2008 law. As compiled by KFB's Joe Cain, following are some of the repercussions:

COMMODITIES: *Crop insurance, which is set to become the most significant part of the future safety net for agriculture, is permanent law and will continue with or without an extension of the 2008 farm bill. Crop insurance is currently authorized by the Federal Crop Insurance Act. The same goes for the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) which is permanently authorized.*

An expiration of the 2008 farm bill will generally not impact row crop producers until next spring when they would typically sign up for commodity support programs for the 2013 crop year.

The harvest of the 2012 crop will be covered by the 2008 farm bill for producers enrolled in ACRE or CCP payments even if those payments are scheduled for Fiscal Year 2013.

The MILC program expired on September 30.

The Dairy Price Support Program expires December 31.

CONSERVATION: *The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Farmland Protection Program (FPP) and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) were all extended through September 30, 2014 as part of the 2012 appropriations bill.*

Existing Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) contracts will not be impacted. However, technical assistance would likely be impacted by the expiration of the 2008 farm bill, and no new signups are expected if the farm bill expires.

LIVESTOCK DISASTER ASSISTANCE: *Livestock disaster assistance programs (Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Livestock Forage Program (LFP), Emergency Livestock and Farm Raised Fish Assistance Program (ELAP) and Tree Assistance Program (TAP) all expired September 30, 2011. These programs were all included in both the Senate-passed and House Agriculture Committee-passed farm bills. Congress would have to enact the 2012 farm bill, reauthorize these programs as part of an extension, or pass standalone legislation before livestock producers can receive disaster aid for the 2012 drought.*

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KFB hires Director of Support Services

Dave Metzgar has been named Director of Support Services for KFB. In this role he is responsible for hardware and software computer support. He will maintain computer equipment and software inventories along with maintaining KFB's membership system. Metzgar will also be responsible for portable communication technology, copiers, purchasing supplies and assisting with facility projects and special events.



DAVE METZGAR

He is a graduate of Colorado State University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Production and Operations Management. He began his career with KFB Insurance in 2001 as an IT Programmer and was promoted to All Lines Supervisor in 2003. His transition into this new role comes after serving seven years as the Support Services Manager for IT.

"Dave has the great system and technology knowledge we need, plus a significant amount of experience within the organization from his time working for Kentucky Farm Bureau Insurance," said KFB Executive Vice President David S. Beck. "Bringing a seasoned individual like Dave into this role helps us on many levels and ensures we will be able to support the growing needs of this organization."





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High feed costs drive broiler production down

Last month, USDA lowered its 2012 broiler production estimate to 36.8 billion pounds, 1.2 percent lower than 2011. USDA forecasted the number of chicks placed for growout in August and September would remain near the level experienced at the same time in 2011. Based on heavy hen slaughter in August, USDA expects broiler-type egg production will remain close to or below year-ago levels. Fourth-quarter broiler production was estimated at nine billion pounds, down 150 million pounds from the August report. The impact of high corn and soybean meal prices is expected to lower 2013 broiler production to 36.8 billion pounds, down 1.2 percent from 2012.

Lower broiler production and continued strong export demand have kept broiler stocks steady for the last three months, with broiler prices gradually moving higher. Prices for whole birds averaged \$0.83 per pound on the New York market in August, up 2.5 percent from the previous year. Prices in August were about even with the previous year for parts such as leg quarters and boneless/skinless thighs.

U.S. agricultural exports increase in 2011/12

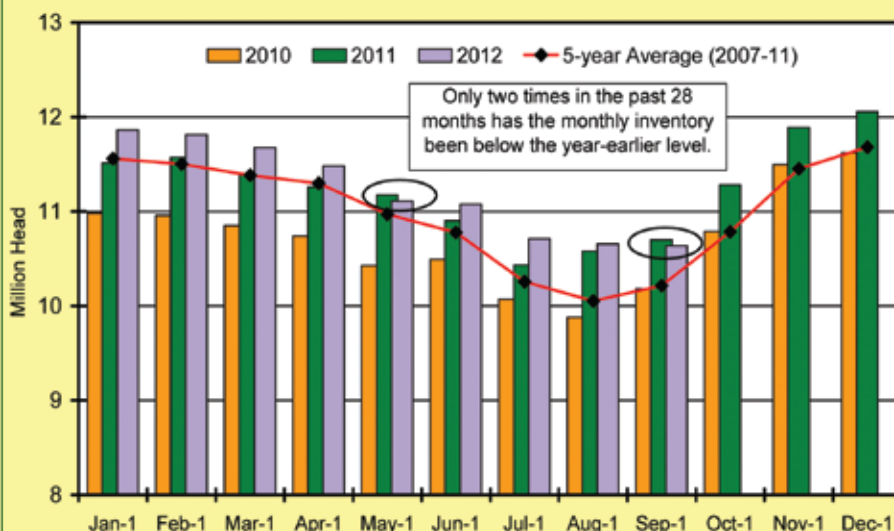
The recent U.S. Agricultural Trade Update from USDA provides data for the first 10 months (October - July) of the trade year. The total value of exports is \$113.9 billion dollars, up ten percent from the same period a year ago. In terms of value, the top four export items, their values and the year/year changes are: soybeans, \$16.9 billion, up seven percent; red meats and products, \$10.4 billion, up 11 percent; corn, \$9.8 billion, up eight percent; and animal feeds and oil meal, \$8.8 billion, up 13 percent.

August Milk Production Down Slightly

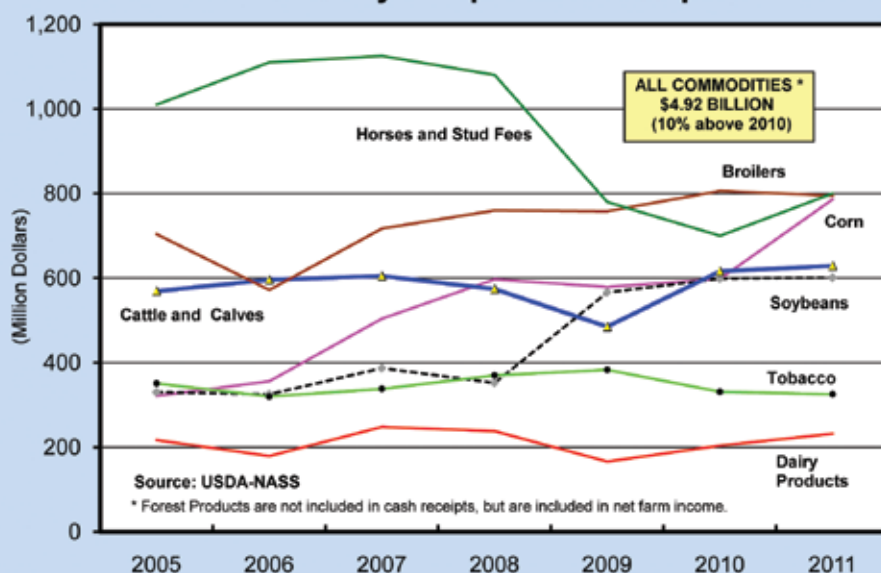
Milk production in the 23 major States during August totaled 15.3 billion pounds, down 0.2 percent from August 2011. July revised production at 15.5 billion pounds was up 0.7 percent from July 2011.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,803 pounds for August, 10 pounds below August 2011. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.50 million head, 32,000 head more than August 2011, but 4,000 head less than July 2012. This year's milk production is forecast at 21.69 billion pounds, up 1.6 percent from 2011. The average all-milk price should average \$17.80-18.00, compared to \$20.14 in 2011.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Lots Over 1000 Head



Kentucky's Top Cash Receipts



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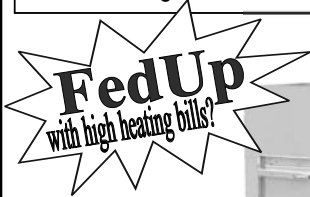
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Food Institute warns of price hikes

The Food Institute reports that food inflation, including the impact of the severe drought in the Midwest this year, will cost a family of four \$351.12 more in food spending in 2013 than in 2012. That's approximately \$6.75 a week. Food-at-home spending will increase about \$4.00 a week, and away-from-home spending by about \$2.50, according to The Food Institute. These figures are only slightly more than the 2.5% to 3.5% increase projected by USDA for all of this year. The numbers do not add completely due to rounding.

The cost is calculated by using USDA's latest food price projections for 2013, which indicate prices for food-at-home will increase as much as four percent next year, with food away-from-home prices projected to rise as much as 3.5 percent. Food Institute members can find the complete breakdown by category at [HYPERLINK "http://www.foodinstitute.com/www.foodinstitute.com/outlook.cfm"](http://www.foodinstitute.com/www.foodinstitute.com/outlook.cfm) www.foodinstitute.com/outlook.cfm.

A breakdown by department shows most of the increase will be spent at meat counters, where annual costs are seen rising about \$44 next year for a family of four, and about \$30 for two-person households, according to The Food Institute's estimates. Beef costs would account for nearly one-third of that increase. Fresh produce prices will add another \$23.44 to a family's grocery bill next year, but processed fruit and vegetable expenditures should go up only about \$11, The Food Institute projects.

2011 farm receipts are just short of \$5 billion

Farm cash receipts in Kentucky for 2011 came close to reaching the \$5 billion mark, totaling \$4,918,322, according to a report from the Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service. That represents a 10 percent rise from 2010, which finished at \$4.4 billion.

Poultry and corn continued to top the list of commodities. Receipts from broiler production were estimated at \$952.8 million, which represented 19 percent of the total receipts. Corn receipts were \$786.2 million, or 16 percent.

Livestock and poultry accounted for 56 percent (\$2.7 billion) of the state total while crops were placed at \$2.1 billion.

Receipts from horse sales and stud fees rebounded sharply in 2011, going to an estimated \$800 million as compared to \$700 million the previous year. The 2009 figure, however, was \$780 million. The horse sector accounts for about 16 percent of the overall receipts.

Dairy also improved in 2011 by nearly five percent, at \$628.6 million. Cattle were up by nearly 13 percent, at \$628.6 million. Cattle account for 12 percent of all receipts and dairy is just under five percent. Hogs were up only slightly from 2010 but were well above 2009, going from \$73 million to \$118 million over that two-year period.

Tobacco, meanwhile, continued a decline, down by two percent from 2010 and 14 percent from 2009. The 2011 total is an estimated \$325.2 million.

It was a great year for wheat producers, who enjoyed great market prices and a large crop. As a result wheat receipts skyrocketed to \$199.2 million from a mere \$81.9 in 2010 and \$124 in 2009. Soybeans were virtually unchanged, at \$601.2 million. That's 12 percent of the Kentucky total.

AFBF urges capital gains tax reform

AFBF has urged Congress to reform the capital gains tax because of its detriment to young and beginning farmers. In a statement submitted to the House Ways and Means and Senate Finance Committees' joint hearing on tax reform, AFBF said the cumbersome tax makes it difficult for current farmers to pass the torch to a new generation of agriculturalists.

Capital gains taxes apply when land and buildings from a farm or ranch are transferred to a new or expanding farmer while the owner is still alive. This occurs most often when a farmer wants to expand his or her farm or ranch to take in a son or daughter, or when a retiring farmer sells his or her business to a beginning farmer.

"Since approximately 40 percent of farmland is owned by individuals age 65 or older, capital gains taxes provide an additional barrier to entry for young farmers and ranchers at a time when it is already difficult for them to get in to the industry," said the AFBF statement. "Capital gains tax liabilities encourage farmers to hold onto their land rather than sell it, creating a barrier for new and expanding farms and ranches to use that land for agricultural purposes."

The top capital gains tax rate will increase by a third on the first of the year, from 15 percent to 20 percent. Farm Bureau supports a permanent extension of the 15 percent rate.

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The only Eastern Corn Belt based seed company with 4 National and 18 State Winners in the NCGA Yield Contest since 2008.

REGIONAL GENETICS

Genetics developed, tested and bred exclusively for the Eastern Corn Belt's unique growing conditions and soil types.

REGIONAL TESTING

45,000+ Yield Plots tested exclusively in the Eastern Corn Belt at 75+ testing locations.

REASONABLE PRICING

A fair, honest and reasonable price the first time.

SOYBEAN SEED UNIT PACKAGING

The only Eastern Corn Belt based seed company selling soybean seed in 150,000 seeds/unit.



Ryan Turner - Mills, Missouri

"Seed Consultants has excellent seed quality and champion yields! Better yet, with their reasonable pricing, they are the Best Value in the Seed Industry."



Taylor Koenig - Bowling Green, Missouri

"Seed Consultants products work great in our area. We have a lot of repeat customers from their excellent field performance. They're a great value!"

Simply, the Best Value in the Seed Industry™
SEED CONSULTANTS, INC.
Call Today! 800-708-2676 www.seedconsultants.com

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SUSPECT OF SUCCESS

Case #33: Farmers throughout the midwest were being rewarded for their seed commitments. The program in question: Beck's Hybrids Tools-N-Tractors.

The detective's mission was to get to the bottom of it.

Scan the QR code or visit www.suspectofsuccess.com to watch his interrogation.

