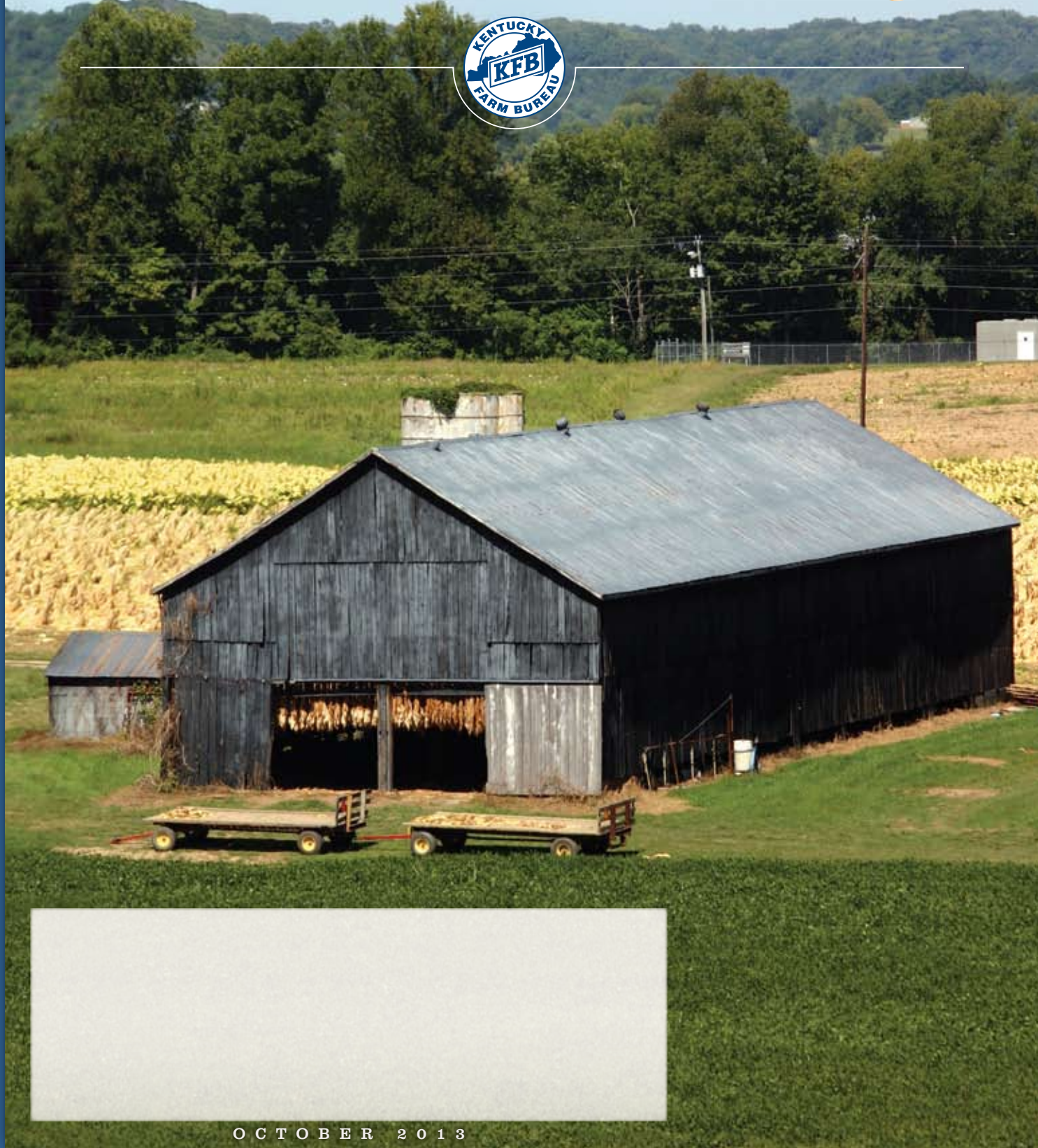


Kentucky

F A R M • B U R E A U • N E W S



OCTOBER 2013



BECAUSE HARD WORK HAS ITS BENEFITS.

PRESENTING A PRIVATE OFFER FOR
FARM BUREAU MEMBERS

\$500

ON TOP OF MOST CURRENT OFFERS¹



You invest your business' trust in us, so we're giving loyal Farm Bureau members like you the ultimate return on investment: \$500 toward the purchase or lease of nearly any new Chevy vehicle—from Equinox to Express! Plus, if you're a business owner, purchase or lease any eligible Chevrolet truck or van for business use through GM Business Choice and receive even more great benefits, like a gift card or cash allowances toward vehicle accessories or upfitting.

Claim your \$500¹ Farm Bureau authorization number at fbverify.com/gm and visit gmbusinesschoice.com for Business Choice details.



¹ Offer available through 4/1/14. Available on all 2011, 2012 and 2013 Chevrolet vehicles (excluding VoIs). This offer is not available with some other offers, including private offers (for example, Owner Loyalty). Only customers who have been active members of an eligible Farm Bureau for a minimum of 60 days will be eligible to receive a certificate. Customers can obtain certificates at www.fbverify.com/gm. Farm Bureau and the FB logo are registered service marks of the American Farm Bureau Federation and are used herein under license by General Motors.



ALEXANDRIA
KERRY CHEVROLET
859-635-6400
KerryChevrolet.com

BARDSTOWN
FRANKLIN FAMILY
CHEVROLET
502-348-3964
www.donfranklinauto.com

CARROLLTON
HERB KINMAN
CHEVROLET
502-732-6646
www.hkchevy.com

ELIZABETHTOWN
HERB JONES CHEVRO-
LET CADILLAC BUICK
GMC
800-609-2277
herbjoneschevrolet.com

EMINENCE
BROWNING AUTOMO-
TIVE SUPERCENTER
800-844-6546
www.thinkgm.com

HUNTINGTON
DUTCH MILLER
CHEVROLET - WEST
VIRGINIA
866-466-4992
www.dutchmillerchevy.net

MAYSVILLE
MCFARLAND
CHEVROLET
800-467-7171
www.mcfarlandgmcen-ter.com

PAINTSVILLE
HUTCH CHEVROLET
BUICK GMC
866-596-8141
www.hutchchevrolet.com



KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU NEWS

Volume 12 • No. 8

October 2013

contents

**FFA Convention
features** 6

**Farm Markets
features** 10

**Advisory
Committee
meetings** 14

**County annual
meetings** 18

Markets 20

Cover Photo by L. Joe Cain
A scene from Gallatin County.

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

All advertising accepted subject to publisher's approval. Advertisers must assume liability of content of their advertising.

For rates and information call 1.800.798.2691

I have been travelling throughout the state these past few months to attend as many county annual meetings as possible. It's always an enjoyable experience to visit the various communities for fellowship with local Farm Bureau leaders. It's interesting to observe the common thread of issues that run through Kentucky's agriculture industry - - whether it be for a row crop farmer in the Mississippi River bottomlands or for a sheep and vegetable producer in the Appalachian foothills. It's also fascinating to hear the differing concerns from those in contrasting areas, as well as those with varied types of farm operations. The latter is quite prevalent here in Kentucky due to our diverse agriculture industry.

I've seen a lot of change at Farm Bureau over the years. But one thing that hasn't changed, thankfully, is our core value as a grassroots organization. This is exemplified at the county annual meetings, where leaders are selected in a democratic fashion, policy proposals are discussed and determined by a majority vote, those with a stake in agriculture have an opportunity to express their concerns and plans are made for the year ahead. And as with any effective organization, the planning includes sharing responsibilities among committees and various leaders.

Last, and certainly not least, a county annual meeting features plenty of good food and fellowship. Plus in some cases, there's entertainment and/or door prizes.

I am especially thankful that the 2013 county annual meeting "season" came amid some very favorable conditions for agriculture. Mother Nature has been extremely cooperative in the Bluegrass State this growing season, and our crops and pastures look great. Market prices remain strong for virtually all of our major farm commodities. With harvest season upon us, we are looking at a bountiful year. Most farmers have much to be thankful for.

And things are going well at Kentucky Farm Bureau, too. If, as expected, we get a farm bill that preserves the crop insurance program, there's nothing in the public policy arena at this time that presents a critical problem for the farm economy. In Kentucky, we really don't have a policy "crisis" situation at this time, as opposed to the many years when we were dealing with tobacco, environmental or animal agriculture issues.

Our insurance company also is having a good year, but keep your fingers crossed because that situation can change with just one weather disaster.

So as we move through the fall harvest season, we have plenty of positives for our agricultural landscape. This sets the stage for Kentucky Farm Bureau's annual meeting in December where, much like with the county Farm Bureaus, we can assess our condition and plan for the year ahead.



Mark Haney

President

Kentucky Farm Bureau

Why farm policy is crucial



Editor's Note: The following comes from "Farm Policy Facts," a coalition of farmers and commodity groups created to educate Congress and Americans about agriculture's contribution to a strong and vibrant United States. This report provides good background and information that KFB leaders can utilize to advocate a strong crop insurance program.

On the heels of weather disasters in '83, '84, and '88, rural America was struggling, and lawmakers were losing patience. Compounding the problem was an unparalleled farm debt crisis. America's food and fiber producers needed assistance, but aid was expensive and slow to arrive, causing hardship not just in the countryside but for taxpayers as well.

On April 20, 1989, House Agriculture Committee Chairman E. "Kika" de la Garza had enough and asked the General Accounting Office (GAO) for help. Concerned that the federal government's responses to natural disasters had been "generally reactive and ad hoc," De la Garza raised questions about the lack of an overall strategy for dealing with recurring disasters.

Interestingly enough, the resulting GAO examination and report would help pave the way for a new approach to agricultural policy – one that would ultimately protect 86 percent of planted cropland and help farmers weather the 2012 drought, the worst on record since 1988.

Specifically, the GAO studied USDA's three main disaster programs – ad hoc direct disaster payments, disaster emergency loans and crop insurance – and compared their effectiveness using eight different criteria, including:

- The amount of assistance provided is determined by the amount of loss;
- Programs offer similar amounts to farmers for similar damage;
- Assistance to farmers should not exceed the value of their losses;
- Disaster assistance programs should not incentivize risk taking;
- Disaster programs should be available over the long-term to assist with planning;
- Programs help farmers withstand and recover from natural disasters;
- Programs should have predictable costs; and
- Programs should meet their objectives at the lowest possible cost.

The GAO found that while none of the programs satisfied all

the criteria laid out, "crop insurance is a more equitable and efficient way to provide disaster assistance" than both direct disaster payments and emergency loans.

The Federal Crop Insurance Reform Act of 1994 restructured things to boost farmer participation, increase the private sector's role, and create the USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA). Other important reforms to crop insurance can also be found in the "Blueprint for Financial Soundness," published in the Federal Register in 1994. Many of these recommendations have been implemented since its publication.

They include:

- Determination of more accurate yields;
- Better tracking of ineligible producers;
- Premium rate adjustments;
- Improved underwriting;
- Better program compliance;
- Introduction of new products to improve participation;
- Increased risk bearing by AIPs, and
- Management actions to correct if changes not working.

By 1998, more than 180 million acres of farmland were insured under the program, representing a three-fold increase over 1988. But coverage levels on a per acre basis were still low, such that Congress had not been able to break the habit of yearly ad hoc disaster bills.

Then, in May of 2000, Congress approved the breakthrough piece of legislation: the Agricultural Risk Protection Act (ARPA). The provisions of ARPA made it easier for farmers to access different types of insurance products including revenue insurance and protection based on historical yields.

By summer of 2012, more than 280 million acres were enrolled in crop insurance – just in time for historic drought that would have otherwise crippled rural America.

As a result of these continuous improvements to modern-day insurance program, there have been no calls for ad hoc disaster bailouts – even after the widespread floods of 2011 and Dustbowl-like conditions of 2012.



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

Glenn Howell Fulton
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 Cynthiaiana
Shane Wiseman Winchester
David McGlone Grayson
Carroll Amyx Campton
Holden Williams Bays
Bige Hensley Manchester
Marshall Coyle Owingsville
Phyllis Amyx Campton
Jason McGlone Grayson
Mickey Sirls Benton
Scott Smith Lexington
Brandon Davis Frankfort
Nick Carter Lexington

KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU NEWS

www.kyfb.com

Editor Roger Nesbitt
Art Director David Brown
..... Pioneer Publishing
..... Lexington, KY

comment C O L U M N

Because of the strong interest in local foods, farmers markets no longer are simply a niche segment of our agriculture industry. Sales of local foods have skyrocketed along with the popularity of farmers markets. In 2005, local food sales totaled about \$1 billion across the nation. Last year, according to industry estimates, sales of local foods totaled nearly \$7 billion.



We have seen incredible growth in the number of farmers markets over the past few years. Today, according to USDA, more than 8,100 local markets are in operation – up from about 5,000 markets just a few years ago. We've seen similar growth in Kentucky, where the State Agriculture Department places the current number of markets at 147. There are 104 markets enrolled in KFB's certified roadside farm markets program.

Farmers markets are an important part of agriculture for many reasons. They give consumers a chance to learn about agriculture by meeting some of the people who produce our food. They provide marketing opportunities for small and beginning farmers. They help expand access to locally-grown foods that are in greater demand than ever before. And they also contribute to the quality of life in their respective communities.

As chairman of KFB's Horticulture and Roadside Farm Markets Advisory Committees, I'm pleased to report that our organization is doing a great job promoting and supporting our market operators. This publication plays a key role by publicizing these markets, with both feature articles and a regular listing of the market locations. The June-July issue, which went to all 470,000 KFB members throughout the state, had a special section on agritourism and farm markets. And as part of our roadside markets program, we take members on at least one tour each year of markets and other relative enterprises in other states.

This is an exciting time to be involved with farm markets. We anticipate continued growth in the years ahead.

Russell Poore

Chairman

Roadside Farm Markets Advisory Committee



Joenelle Futrell

The National FFA Convention & Expo is set for October 30-November 2 in Louisville, beginning a three-year rotation between Louisville and Indianapolis. This brings together more than 55,000 FFA members for an occasion that many will never forget.

KFB is heavily involved via sponsorships, volunteer workers and assistance with planning and administration. Many of KFB's state and local leaders have FFA backgrounds, as do several staff members.

Here, we profile two Kentuckians heavily involved with the organization: Matt London of Barren County and Joenelle Futrell of Daviess County.

National FFA leader from Daviess County is well-travelled

By Kristi McCabe

The upcoming National FFA Convention is the event of the year for FFA members, providing an opportunity for young people from all over the country to network, explore career opportunities and develop skills that will last a lifetime. Young leaders like Joenelle Futrell of Daviess County, Eastern Region Vice President of the 2012-2013 National FFA Officer Team, look forward to the convention as a time to share their passion for agriculture with others and to inspire a new generation of ag leaders.

"The theme of the convention is Ignite," said Futrell. "The premise is to fuel passion, to spark action, and to ignite FFA, meaning that through ag education programs we want to fuel passion for leadership, agriculture, and

community involvement."

Due to her role as a national officer, Futrell is taking a year off from her studies at the University of Kentucky and will travel 120,000 miles.

"It is an amazing opportunity," remarked Futrell. "With over 557,000 FFA members in the United States, we are a very diverse group. Much of our role as officers revolves around education. We attend state conventions and member conferences, and meet with sponsors and supporters. I have had the pleasure of meeting with executives from John Deere Company, Ford, Monsanto, Crop Production Services, and many others. These sponsors see the need for ag education and they give us much-needed support."

Futrell has traveled to forty different states, as well as Puerto Rico and Japan. The ten days she spent in Japan were

both educational and culturally-enriching, allowing her the opportunity to interact with members of Future Farmers of Japan.

"It was a cultural immersion trip; our goal was to be placed in a culture that is very different from ours and still see similarities," said Futrell. "We toured an agriscience lab and were able to compare their agricultural practices to the way we do things in the United States. We also had the opportunity to work with Mitsui, who sponsored our trip. They believe in the relationship between Japan and the U.S. in relation to agriculture, and were happy to see our young people interacting with theirs."

Futrell's involvement in FFA began when she was a student at Daviess County High School. Growing up on a farm, she already had an interest in agriculture and knew that she wanted to

pursue a career in a growing and dynamic field.

"I was involved in a lot of different activities in high school and they were all great experiences," Futrell reflected. "But FFA was by far the most involved and rewarding. They set the bar high. We did a service project every month, we had a travel event every month, and we traveled three or four weeks during the summer. FFA is student-led, it is engaging, and students are expected to make decisions."

An important benefit of FFA is the opportunity to gain valuable experience in a real-life setting.

"Through FFA, students are engaged in activities outside the classroom, such as career development and Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAEs)," said Futrell. "The great thing about FFA is that it has something to offer for everyone, from working with a microscope to learning how to write a newsletter to welding. FFA shows students that they can be successful no matter where their interests lie, and that once they have a strong foundation they can accomplish anything."

Joenelle took the skills she gained through her experiences with FFA with her to UK, where she studies ag education and political science. She plans to pursue an agriculture teaching career at the high school or collegiate level upon graduation.

When Joenelle was a senior in high school, she learned about an opportunity that would change the course of her life and point her in a new direction. She won KFB's Outstanding Youth contest which consists of a personal interview and a two-minute prepared speech related to agriculture or Farm Bureau. Her speech was on ag literacy and the importance of ag education.

"I had heard of the contest through friends," said Futrell. "I thought it might be a good way for me to make connections at Farm Bureau."

So Futrell began the process, and was

amazed at how she was treated throughout the experience.

"They don't treat you like a kid," she explained. "They have high expectations and put a lot on your shoulders. Farm Bureau appreciates young people who are interested in agriculture, and they appreciate someone who is willing to be real. They keep us engaged, and they treat us like our opinions matter."

Winning the Outstanding Youth contest was a life-changing experience for Futrell. The award showed her how Farm Bureau actively engages youth in agriculture, and gave her a different perspective on what Farm Bureau is all about.

"This is an organization that can relate to young people and engage them. Through this experience, I had the opportunity to network, to form new relationships, and to develop public speaking skills," she said.

One of the most beneficial attractions for FFA members offered at the convention is the exhibitors' area. The Career Fair provides an opportunity for employers and students to come together and discuss their future career options.

"There will be hundreds of different people showcasing what their companies have to offer," explained Futrell. "Representatives talk to students about the many different types of jobs that are available in the field of agriculture, from natural resource management to welding and fabrication. The way the exhibitors' area is organized is very easy to navigate; companies are grouped in the same area according to categories, so if a student is interested in one particular field of study he or she can visit many different companies. It's a wonderful experience."

Through her role as a National FFA Officer, Futrell participates in many educational endeavors; these include giving keynote addresses at state conventions and helping kids start food drives.

"Ending hunger is a big part of what ag is all about," said Futrell. "We also

want to diversify agriculture and grow our economy. Production is the foundation of agriculture, but we also need biotechnicians, lawyers, and large animal veterinarians."

Futrell continued, "Recently, I had the opportunity to speak to Daviess County High School students to tell them about my experiences with FFA and to encourage them to get involved. I shared with them about my travels, getting to meet with Secretary Vilsack and high-level corporate ag leaders, and tried to show them that these opportunities are available to them as well."

Futrell shared an experience that demonstrates the qualities young FFA members exhibit when representing their organization in public.

"We were in Indianapolis at the end of October and my teammates and I visited a downtown restaurant in our official FFA dress," said Futrell. "The waitress asked why the convention was moving from Indianapolis and expressed disappointment. She told us that we were the most respectful young people she had ever waited on, that we tip well and hold doors for people. That was quite a compliment."

Joenelle's story proves that FFA is not just for students who plan to pursue careers in agriculture. Even for those who plan to enter other fields, FFA teaches invaluable life skills.

"We learn responsibility. We learn how to hold a job. We learn how to manage money, to be respectful, and to be passionate about what we do," said Futrell. "Those are skills you can take with you throughout life."

Futrell continued, "Once people understand that agriculture is the context in which we teach these values and skill sets, that really clicks with them and they want to become involved. We are blessed to have a lot of diversity in our membership, from foreign exchange students to school photographers to traditional ag students. They all benefit from what FFA has to offer in different ways."



Matt London

Foundation for success

KFB Agency Manager has key role with FFA fundraising

By Kristi McCabe

Matt London, the KFB Insurance agency manager in Barren County, has a close tie to the National FFA Convention & Expo in a role of chairman of the Kentucky FFA Foundation, which is the organization's fundraising vehicle. London, who was a state FFA officer out of the Barren County chapter, says the national convention is the perfect venue for reliving FFA experiences.

"If it were not for my time in FFA, I would not have had the many professional opportunities I have been afforded," he said. "My teachers and advisors encouraged me to branch out and they really built my confidence."

For many young people, FFA offers a firm foundation in ag and teaches important life skills. Even students who choose non-agricultural career paths benefit from their experiences in FFA, taking with them essential communication and leadership skills that help shape them into community leaders.

"I have to give a lot of credit to FFA for the professional successes I have enjoyed," said London. "I would not have worked for Farm Bureau if it had not been for FFA, and I would not have moved to Lexington from my hometown of Barren County. I was a small-town country boy who grew up on the family farm, and FFA really helped me to come out of my shell and seize new opportunities."

Upon graduating from the University of Kentucky with a bachelor's degree in ag communications, London went to work for Fayette County FB. He previously had an internship with the KFB Federation.

"I eventually worked as an agent for three different Farm Bureau agencies in the same county (Fayette), and I'm told that I am the only person who has ever done that," laughed London. "When I started, we only had one agency in Fayette County, and then opened

two new locations. I became Agency Manager when we opened a new location in Lexington. This past May, the Agency Manager in Barren County retired, so I was asked to take that position. This was a unique opportunity for me, since it has allowed me to come full circle and return home."

London has served on the FFA Foundation's Board of Trustees for four years, and said he was happy to accept the position of chairman.

"I really believe in what this organization is all about," he said. "The foundation was created to raise money to give awards to FFA members. Through the sponsorship of various contests, the foundation recognizes outstanding achievements. Production proficiency contests, speaking contests, and career development events are great programs that encourage agricultural leadership."

With the help of tobacco settlement dollars, the FFA Foundation has been able to give out many awards on local, state, and national levels. Other organizations like KFB are also supporters of the Foundation, allowing it to continue its support of Kentucky's up-and-coming young leaders.

"Kentucky Farm Bureau is one of the top sponsors of the Kentucky FFA Foundation," said London. "The endowment monies are there to sustain the organization, and we still solicit annual contributions to help the FFA Foundation do more and more each year. The FFA Foundation is a great organization that works hard to be good stewards of the funds we are given."

London continued, "We want to continue to support ag education programs across the state; I believe ag education is vital to sustaining agriculture in Kentucky. We want to make sure young people understand agriculture's role in our economy, and that there are a lot more job opportunities in agriculture today than just production. We want them to

learn more about agribusiness, horticulture, and agritourism, and other opportunities."

For those interested in supporting the Kentucky FFA Foundation (<http://kyffa.org/index.php/foundation>) and investing in the future of Kentucky agriculture, there are many options for giving. Donors can sponsor contests or events; they can co-brand with Kentucky FFA; or they can join the Century Club, an annual \$100 commitment over a ten-year period. Sheldon McKinney is Executive Director. She also is a member of KFB's 2013-14 LEAD class.

London emphasized the importance of FFA in teaching leadership, public speaking, and other professional skills.

"Our speaking contests give participants the opportunity to debate on ag issues that impact many aspects of our lives, from the local level to the national level," noted London. "It's not just about what's going on in your own backyard, but also about things that are happening on the other side of the world."

Some programs sponsored by the FFA Foundation include the state convention and contest sponsorship; Project LEAD, which includes ag entrepreneurship grants and Billy Ray Smith State Officer Scholarships; Ag Teachers Change Lives, which supports and trains ag teachers; the FFA Jacket Program; and the RAM scholarship program. Add events like the National FFA Convention to this list, and you have a recipe for success for young ag leaders.

"I am really looking forward to this year's Convention," said London. "I enjoy judging the career development events and the ag issues contest; these are very well-run programs. I look forward to seeing FFA members from all over the country, and witnessing the camaraderie. Participants get to meet people from other places, and it is such a good experience."

Drivers: Be patient with farm vehicles

Harvest season means drivers are more likely to encounter slow-moving farm equipment on the roadways. KFB urges motorists to slow down and share the road.

During this time of year farmers often need to move equipment from one field to another, but sometimes those transitions require their machinery to travel down or across public roads. When slow-moving vehicles enter areas normally traversed by fast-moving cars and trucks, accidents can occur. According to statistics from the Kentucky State Police, there were 180 collisions involving tractors and other farm equipment on Kentucky roadways in 2012. Of those collisions, 42 injuries and three fatalities resulted and the majority of the accidents (40%) were labeled by state police as the result of “inattention” – further proof that increased caution during harvest season is needed to prevent tragedy.

KFB offers the following suggestions for both motorists and farmers.

Tips for motorists:

- Watch for road signs. Many roads next to farms will have a yellow sign with the silhouette of a farmer on a tractor posted to warn drivers that they are entering an area where slow-moving vehicles are likely to be on the road. This should signal the driver to be on the lookout for farm equipment entering traffic.
- Don't assume the farmer knows you are there. While most farmers check frequently for vehicles approaching from behind them, their focus must remain on the road ahead. Keep your distance to ensure farmers can see your vehicle in their mirrors. Also remember that farm machinery is very loud and may prevent the operator from hearing your vehicle's approach.
- Keep your distance when following farm equipment. The triangular slow-moving vehicle emblem displayed on the back of farm equipment signifies that the machinery will not be traveling at high speeds and maneuverability is limited. Stay back and don't tailgate. Additionally,

if farm equipment pulls to the right side of the road, it does not necessarily mean it is making room for other vehicles to pass. It is quite possible that the farmer is slowing down and drifting right to gain extra room for a wide left turn.

- Use extreme caution when passing. If you cannot clearly see what lies ahead of both your vehicle and the equipment you intend to get ahead of, do not pass. Never pass farm equipment when approaching a hill or curve, and do not attempt to pass when you are within 100 yards of an intersection, bridge, railroad crossing or tunnel.
- Be patient with the farmer. You are not the only one eager to get the farm equipment off the road and out of the way. Farmers must move their machinery carefully along roadways and have lower maximum speeds by which they can travel. When traveling behind these slow-moving vehicles, patiently wait for the operator to find an appropriate time to let you pass. Don't assume this can be done at any time. The farmer must survey the shoulder of the road for an area that is not soft, wet or steep and can support the weight of the equipment without causing it to tip.

Tips for farmers:

- Make sure the slow-moving vehicle sign is visible. This emblem is used to alert others of your speed and maneuverability capabilities, but doesn't help if it is not visible. Mount it as high and as far left as possible. Also be sure to keep the sign clean and to replace it if it is no longer reflective.
- Never post a slow-moving vehicle sign on a mailbox or fence post. Misuse of



At a farm safety event at Western Hills High School in Frankfort, Agriculture Commissioner James Comer signed a proclamation declaring September 15-21 to be “Farm Safety and Health Week in Kentucky.” A similar event was held in Monroe County as many farm groups joined in the observance. In Frankfort, a mock ATV accident was staged with an emergency medical helicopter arrived to transport the victims. Franklin County and Monroe County Farm Bureaus were among the sponsors of the respective events.

the slow-moving vehicle emblem can confuse motorists and eventually dull their sensitivity to the need to slow down when seeing one on machinery traveling down the road. Slow-moving vehicle signs should only be posted on appropriate equipment.

- Keep flashing lights on. Use flashing lights on equipment to further draw attention to your slow speed.
- Stay to the right. Keep farm equipment as far to the right edge of the road as safely possible, but stay on the road. Driving with equipment half on and half off the road might encourage a motorist to attempt passing before it is safe.
- Make intentions to turn well-known. Collisions between farm equipment and other vehicles on the road commonly occur when a slow-moving vehicle is attempting to turn. Use turn signals or the appropriate hand signal to indicate turns. If the operator is using flashing lights, switch those off when approaching a turn so that the trailing vehicles know more clearly where the equipment is headed.
- Avoid encouraging a motorist to pass. While it might seem courteous to wave someone ahead of a slow-moving piece of equipment, the driver of the trailing vehicle must ultimately determine when he or she can safely pass.
- When it is safe, pull over to allow traffic to pass. It is completely legal for farm machinery to drive on Kentucky roadways, but their bulky frames and slow speeds often cause backups in traffic. As shoulder conditions allow, find a place to safely pull over and allow trailing vehicles to pass.



The market center barn once was used for cattle auctions.

The fall farm market season has arrived as thousands of Kentuckians go to the country to purchase pumpkins, mums, gourds and other seasonal items. It's time for the popular farm market festivals and for busy weekends at the many agritourism destinations that offer family-oriented attractions. Here, we feature two of the more than 100 markets participating in KFB's Certified Roadside Farm Markets program. A complete listing of these markets is on the facing page.

Just Piddlin Farm provides family fun

Chip Willingham might be just piddlin around with the roadside farm market that he and his family operate in Simpson County, but that doesn't mean he has a casual approach to it. To the contrary, he's quite devoted to providing a quality experience for families.

"Our focus is on the family," he said while showing a visitor the playground adjacent to his market center, which is a huge barn that once was used for cattle auctions. "We want families to look forward to coming here and having fun and relaxing."

The aptly-named Just Piddlin Farm is on 172 acres off KY. 73 near South Union, at the north-west tip of Simpson County. It's



Aerial view of the 6.4-acre corn maze.

one of KFB's Certified Roadside Farm Markets, and a popular area attraction for the fall market season.

The market, in fact, is only open from mid-September to early November as the Willingham family focuses on the fall specialties: pumpkins, mums, gourds and things for the kids to do, like navigate a 6.4-acre corn maze, pet a calf, ride tricycles through a course, go down a slide, play in a corn box, take a hay ride through the farm or crawl through a straw maze.

The main attractions are the corn maze and a 6-acre pumpkin patch. Customers are provided wagons for their U-pick experience. As Halloween approaches, weekends bring plenty of pickers

to the patch, Chip says.

"On Saturdays we're usually very busy," he said.

Just Piddlin Farm came to be in quite a round-about fashion for Chip and Jill Willingham, neither of whom are from the area. Chip was raised on a cattle farm in Henderson County and Jill on a dairy farm in Monroe County. They met at Western Kentucky University. Chip is now a regional sales manager for a major chemical manufacturer and Jill teaches biology at Greenwood High School in Bowling Green.

The couple were living on a farm in Fayette County when Chip's sales territory was changed to southern states, mandating a move. Needing to be reasonably close to a major airport (Nashville), Chip looked for farms for sale in the area. He found a 42-acre site adjacent to the farm where the market is now located. The Willinghams won the auction bid for the property and built a house on it, living in what Chip describes as "an old shack" while the house was under construction. Meanwhile, Chip dabbled in growing pumpkins and alfalfa hay, plus had a bee hive.

Several years later the owner of the neighboring farm decided to sell and offered Chip first chance to buy.

"It was a bit of a risk but I thought it was a good opportunity," said Chip. "I travel around a lot and see a lot of things in agriculture; I felt this would work well here. And it's a good way for us to get involved with the community. I decided to make this my hobby. Some people have boats, some people have motorcycles. I have this.

"That's why we named it 'Just Piddlin.'"

It's a family affair: Daughters Sydney (15) and Kendall (8) are active with the operation and Chip's brother Chris and sister-in-law Amy handle the corn maze. Additionally, Chip says neighbors will help out. Plus there

are two part-time employees.

The Willinghams grow the pumpkins and gourds and get their mums from a local producer. Chip leases much of the farm-

land for row crop production. And he has a bee hive that he uses to teach youngsters about how bees contribute to agriculture production through their

pollination activities.

Most of the customers come from Franklin, Russellville and Bowling Green, each of which are within a short drive. Just Piddlin advertises in all three cities.

The Willinghams also have an attractive web site (www.just-piddlinfarm.com) and a Facebook presence.

In keeping with their community focus, the Willingham family opened their market season on September 14 by having 5K and 10K runs through the farm with proceeds benefitting the Boy's and Girl's Clubs of Franklin and Bowling Green. Chip says they had around 50 runners "and a lot of volunteers."



Chip and Jill Willingham with daughters Sydney and Kendall.

Truly a "haven"

Adair County farm market caters to kids



Children, farm animals and farm life are high on Delaina Russell's list of favorites, and it shows in the business she operates on an Adair County farm. Usually with her three children in tow, she runs the market and agritourism activities at Heavenly Haven Farm, which is a participant in KFB's Certified Roadside Farm

Markets program.

Located in a remote area along the Adair-Taylor County line about 12 miles southeast of Campbellsville, Heavenly Haven Farm is the product of Delaina's passion for a life on the farm and a close tie to children and nature. She was raised on a farm that adjoins the 147-acre tract that she and her husband, John Russell,

acquired from her parents in 2009. At that time, the Russells were living in his native Washington County, where Delaina was working as a veterinary assistant and had just given birth to their first child.

For Delaina, the move back home opened up an opportunity for what she describes as "a dream come true." As John was establishing a farming operation with corn, tobacco, cattle and sheep, she put together an agritourism destination geared toward the popular fall season. This involves the production of such fall staples as pumpkins, mums and gourds. But the main focus is on drawing groups of children from schools, churches and various youth organiza-



Delaina Russell and children Mason (4 months), Lucas (2) and Hayden (5) at the entrance to the corn maze.

tions like the Girl Scouts. And so the farm's attractions include hiking trails, a picnic area, playground, corn maze and petting zoo.

Reflecting Delaina's love of farm animals, she has horses, pigs, sheep, goats, peacocks, chickens, turkeys, rabbits and a milk cow. "I really enjoy watching children react to the animals," she said. "I give them a little presentation with the cow, explaining how they get their milk. I also do something on the lifecycle of a pumpkin, to give them some knowledge about plants."

Meanwhile, this is the first season for a new market building with restrooms and a kitchen. The abbreviated season runs from early September until November, with the conclusion of the fall-Halloween rush.

And it is indeed a frantic couple of months, Delaina said. "Especially near Halloween; we're real busy with the haunted corn maze."

She not only promotes her business through the KFB program, but also goes to county

fairs, festivals and other events. That and word-of-mouth from teachers and others have enabled her to attract groups from several area counties.

"We are centrally located, only 13 miles to Columbia, 11 to Campbellsville, 18 to Liberty and about 20 to Russell Springs, so they can get here in a reasonable amount of time," said Delaina.

One special source of satisfaction is the involvement of Taylor County FFA with operating the haunted corn maze. Delaina was in FFA at Taylor

County High School.

"I've always felt that it's a privilege to live on farm," she said. "The land, the work ethic, the challenges . . . it's just really a special way of life. I used to play in the creek down below the hill there toward my parents' farm. We're about a mile and half from their place. I never would have dreamed that I'd be back here like this."

The previous owners put the farm up for auction in 2008 so they could move to Indiana. Dwain and Theresa Brockman had the winning bid, and then sold the tract to John and Delaina a year later, according to Delaina.

Heavenly Haven is truly a diversified operation. Besides the aforementioned commodities, a huge field of soybeans (leased to another farmer) surrounds the winding gravel road that leads to their home and market building. The Russells also sell fresh lamb, beef and pork year-round. "All the meat is harvested here," Delaina said. "I'm all about knowing where my meat comes from."

As for the future, she wants to develop the market center, but not necessarily expand the sales season because she is quite busy with children Hayden (5), Lucas (2) and Mason (4 months). "I kind of do everything with the kids," she explained.



Heavenly Haven sports a new market building for this season.



Stop and Buy Local

KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU'S 2013 CERTIFIED ROADSIDE FARM MARKETS

WEST

- Broadbent B & B Foods**
Kuttawa · (800) 841-2202
- Brumfield Farm Market**
Madisonville · (270) 821-2721
- Cates Farm**
Henderson · (270) 823-6150
- Cayce's Pumpkin Patch**
Princeton · (270) 365-2132
- Country Fresh Meats**
Sturgis · (270) 333-0280
- Dogwood Valley Trading Post**
Clay · (270) 664-9892
- Happy Hollow Farms**
Calhoun · (270) 499-3774
- Jim David Meats**
Uniontown · (270) 822-4866
- Lovell's Orchard & Farm Market**
Hopkinsville · (270) 269-2242
- McKinney Farm**
Russellville · (270) 726-6284
- Metcalfe Landscaping**
Madisonville · (270) 821-0350
- Poore's Nursery & Farm**
Russellville · (270) 542-4828
- Reid's Orchard**
Owensboro · (270) 685-2444
- The Country Barn**
Elkton · (270) 885-4843
- Trunnell's Farm Market**
Utica · (270) 733-2222
- Zook's Produce**
Herndon · no phone

SOUTH CENTRAL

- Acres of Land Winery**
Richmond · (859) 328-3000
- Baldwin Farms**
Richmond · (859) 582-5785
- Berea College Farm & Garden**
Berea · (859) 985-3590
- Brian T. Guffey Livestock & Produce**
Albany · (606) 688-1538
- Burton's Nursery & Garden Center**
Campbellsville · (270) 789-1239
- Chaney's Dairy Barn**
Bowling Green · (270) 843-5567
- Chateau du Vieux Corbeau Winery**
Danville · (859) 236-1775
- Crawford Farms**
Elizabethtown · (615) 574-8470
- Cravens Greenhouse**
Albany · (606) 387-8583
- D&F Farms**
Somerset · (606) 382-5214
- Davis Family Farm**
Greensburg · (270) 565-1336
- Dennison's Roadside Market**
Horse Cave · (270) 786-1663
- Devine's Farm & Corn Maze**
Harrodsburg · (859) 613-3489
- Double Hart Farm**
Corbin · (606) 523-0465
- Frenchvalley Farms**
Jamestown · (270) 566-1757
- Habegger's Amish Market**
Scottsville · (270) 618-5676
- Hail's Farm**
Somerset · (606) 875-2972
- Halcomb's Knob Roadside Market**
Paint Lick · (859) 925-9936
- Haney's Appledale Farm**
Nancy · (606) 636-6148
- Heavenly Haven Farm**
Columbia · (270) 465-9597
- Hettmansperger's Greenhouse**
Science Hill · (606) 423-4668
- Hinton's Orchard & Farm Market**
Hodgenville · (270) 325-3854
- Jackson's Orchard & Nursery**
Bowling Green · (270) 781-5303
- Just Piddlin Farm**
Woodburn · (270) 542-6769
- Kenny's Farmhouse Cheese**
Austin · (270) 434-4124
- Lee's Garden Center Florist & KY Fresh Store**
Hodgenville · (270) 358-9897
- Mammoth Cave Transplants**
Brownsville · (270) 597-2533
- McQuerry's Herbs-N-Heirlooms**
Paint Lick · (859) 792-8268
- MeadowBrook Orchards & Farm**
Elk Horn · (606) 787-4690
- Owens Garden Center**
Somerset · (606) 379-5488
- Roberts Family Farm**
Guston · (270) 422-2361
- Serano Alpacas & Yarns**
Springfield · (208) 699-8570
- Serenity Farm Alpacas**
Raywick · (270) 692-8743
- Sinking Valley Vineyard & Winery**
Somerset · (606) 274-0223
- St. Catharine Farm**
Springfield · (859) 336-0444

- Todd's Greenhouse & Florist**
Eubank · (606) 379-1375
- Williams Country Market**
Gravel Switch · (270) 692-2493
- Wonder of Life Farm**
Lancaster · (859) 792-8923

NORTH CENTRAL

- Amerson Farm**
Georgetown · (502) 863-3799
- Antioch Daylily Garden**
Lexington · (859) 293-0350
- Ayres Family Orchard**
Owenton · (502) 484-5236
- Beech Springs Farm Market**
Winchester · (859) 749-2776
- Bi-Water Farm & Greenhouse**
Georgetown · (502) 863-3676
- Blue Ribbon Market**
Union · (859) 393-4357
- Boone Gardiner Garden Center**
Crestwood · (502) 243-3832
- Boyd Orchards**
Versailles · (859) 873-3097
- Bray Fruit**
Bedford · (502) 255-7296
- Bray Orchard & Roadside Market**
Bedford · (502) 255-3607
- Callis Orchard**
Bedford · (502) 255-3316
- Capture Your Heart Alpacas**
Bloomfield · (502) 510-5185
- Country Corner Greenhouse**
Shepherdsville · (502) 955-8635
- Country Pumpkins**
Dry Ridge · (859) 905-9656
- Croppers Greenhouse & Nursery**
May's Lick · (606) 763-6589
- Eagle Bend Alpacas Fiber & Gifts**
Burlington · (859) 586-5695
- Evans Orchard & Cider Mill**
Georgetown · (502) 863-2255
- Gallrein Farms**
Shelbyville · (502) 633-4849
- George Gagel Farm Market**
Louisville · (502) 447-6809
- Gregory Farms**
Turners Station · (502) 947-5469
- Golden Apple Fruit Market**
Lexington · (606) 633-9763
- Julie's Pumpkins**
Paris · (859) 987-4498
- McLean's Aerofresh Fruit**
Ewing · (606) 782-1112
- Michels Family Farm**
Sparta · (859) 643-2511
- Morrison's Greenhouses**
Louisville · (502) 969-0675
- Mulberry Orchard**
Shelbyville · (502) 655-2633
- Redman's Farm**
Morning View · (859) 356-2837
- Reed Valley Orchard**
Paris · (859) 987-6480
- Ridgeview Greenhouse & Nursery**
Shepherdsville · (502) 955-5939
- Rising Sons Home Farm Winery**
Lawrenceburg · (502) 600-0224
- Serenity Hill Fiber**
Nicholasville · (859) 913-1615
- Sherwood Acres Beef**
LaGrange · (502) 222-4326
- Sunny Acres Farm**
Jeffersonton · (502) 643-6584
- Sweet Home Spun**
Pleasureville · (502) 878-4814
- The Greenhouse in Gertrude**
Brooksville · (606) 782-0033
- Thieneman's Herbs & Perennials**
Louisville · (502) 491-6305
- Tower View Farm & Nursery**
Jeffersonton · (502) 267-2066
- Triple J Farm**
Georgetown · (502) 863-6786
- Wilson Nurseries**
Frankfort · (502) 223-1488
- Yuletide Tree Farm & Nursery**
Winchester · (859) 771-4729

EAST

- Black Barn Produce**
River · (606) 297-2600
- Bramble Ridge Orchard**
Mt. Sterling · (859) 498-9123
- Country Garden Greenhouse**
Beattyville · (606) 424-9379
- Feathered Wing Farm Market**
Greenup · (606) 932-8065
- Golden Apple Fruit Market**
Whitesburg · (606) 633-9763
- Hutton-Loyd Tree Farm**
Wallingford · (606) 876-3423
- Imel's Greenhouse**
Greenup · (606) 473-1708
- Townsend's Sorghum Mill**
Jeffersonville · (859) 498-4142

Scan and like us on Facebook
or check us out online at kyfb.com/roadside



ADVISORY COMMITTEES



UK's Dr. Andy Bailey, UK Tobacco Research and Development Center Director Dr. Orlando Chambers and KFB Director Scott Travis check dark tobacco plants at Bruce Cline's farm in Christian County. The tour came following the tobacco advisory committee meeting. Travis is chairman of the committee.

KF B's Advisory Committees 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 importance 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 various committee meetings (based on the availability of committee minutes as of press time):

FEED GRAINS, WHEAT & SOYBEAN

Chaired by KFB Director Tripp Furches of Calloway County, this committee met at the Christian County Extension Office, where Christian County FB President Keith Sholar welcomed the group. Committee members provided updates on crop conditions in their respective areas.

There was a lengthy discussion about the decision by the USDA Risk Management Agency (RSA) to modify the planting date for corn to May 10 while reducing the late planting date from 25 to 15 days while splitting Kentucky into two regions. A conference call to discuss the issue was held with Mike Davis, Acting Director of the RSA regional office in Jackson, Mississippi. The committee decided to recommend no split with the final planting date remaining at May 31, with a possible reduction of up to 15 days if yield data supports the change. A policy proposal for a May 31 date was approved later in the meeting.

In another conference call, Dr. Cory Walters, UK Ag Economist, led a discussion on crop insurance and environmental impacts on planting decisions.

UK Extension Grain Specialist Dr. Chad Lee then spoke about research projects and presented data on corn planting dates and yield response. He also updated the committee on some changes within the college.

Dale Moore, AFBF's Director for Public Policy, was on a conference call to provide issues updates. He touched on immigration reform, farm labor and farm bill issues. The following presenter was David Gilland of Kentucky FSA, who gave a program update and announced that Logan County dairy farmer Lee Robey was a new state committee member.

KFB National Affairs Director Joe Cain provided an update on federal issues and then the committee considered policy recommendations. Besides the corn planting date suggestion, the committee called for encouraging UK and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture to conduct research on slug control and management.

NATURAL RESOURCES

The meeting began with a discussion on the development of water resources in the state. Peter Goodmann, Assistant Director of the Kentucky Division of Water, led the discussion and outlined other issues such as the recommended nutrient reduction strategy for the Mississippi River basin and the TMDL (total daily maximum load) development process required by the Clean Water Act.

NRCS Nutrient Management Specialist Tibor Horvath spoke about changes to Conservation Practice Standard 590. NRCS State Resource Conservationist Mark Ferguson discussed changes to cover crop guidance relative to Risk Management Agency rules.

Johnna McHugh, Assistant Director of the Kentucky Division of Conservation, provided an update on personnel changes in the division. She noted that landowners can now apply for state cost share at any time during the year. She also informed the committee about the water quality trading pilot program in Northern Kentucky. She also noted a new push to educate landowners on the importance of developing and implementing an effective ag water quality plan.

Zak Danks, a biologist for the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Department, reported on problems with wild pigs and black vultures. He outlined precautions farmers could take.

KFB National Affairs Director Joe Cain provided an update on federal issues.

Turning to policy, the committee recommended the following statement: "We urge the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment to update AGR-1 to more accurately address current crop production practices and technologies that result in higher yields."

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

FARM LABOR

The agenda began with Rick Alexander and Donna Carpenter of the Agricultural Workforce Management Association (AWMA) providing an update on the H-2A worker recruitment process and the services AWMA and Del Al and Associates offered to H-2A employers and what the fees represented. Ms. Carpenter reviewed rules and regulations covering the H-2A program. Alexander provided an update on AWMA noting they have grown with about 60 new employers this year and expects to continue the growth in the coming year.

Kristi Boswell of AFBF was on a conference call to provide an update on the immigration and farm labor reform legislation pending before Congress. After detailing several proposals, she said the timetable for movement may be delayed to October or November, but to be successful it will need to probably pass before the 2014 election cycle begins.

Karen Garnett of the US Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division updated the committee on enforcement actions that have been taken in Kentucky this year. She noted enforcement of agriculture represents about seven percent nationally. The primary violations the inspectors have seen involved failure to comply with pay statements and earning record requirements. Ms. Garnett stated agriculture is a priority industry for DOL in their 2014 Strategic Plan, but that annually, her office usually conducts 30-35 investigations in Kentucky.

Steve Kelly of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture provided a KDA update.

Laura Powers, UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, noted the Kentucky Farm Business Analysis is playing a role in record-keeping and reporting for farmers who utilize H-2A workers. Jeff Gatewood, Kentucky Office of Employment and Training, provided the committee with an update on his role as Monitor Advocate for migrant worker programs, and noted the H-2A program grew by 101 new employers, requesting nearly 1,000 additional workers over 2012. Gatewood also provided an update on personnel changes in the division.

KFB's Joe Cain provided an update on federal labor issues. The committee then discussed various insurance related topics.

Turning to policy, the committee recommends deleting a statement saying H-2A standards should be more consistent with H-2B standards, with the exception of a cap on visas

TOBACCO

The tobacco committee met at the Christian County Extension Office. UK specialist Dr. Bob Pearce was called on first. He reported on the status of the universal good agricultural practices initiative. He said about 6,000 producers have been through the program. He also gave a crop condition report.

UK tobacco economist Dr. Will Snell gave the next report. He said the economic outlook was favorable for the short-term, but that U.S. demand continued to fall. Dr. Orlando Chambers of the UK Tobacco Research and Development Center spoke about the regulation of e-cigarettes, as well as the market condition for that product.

Updates were given by Burley Cooperative President Pat Raines, Fred Nesler of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, David Gilliam of the Farm Service Agency and KFB's Joe Cain. The committee also discussed crop insurance issues and how special provisions instituted by the Risk Management Agency would impact producers.

In regard to policy, the committee wants language recommending that all tobacco producers participate in a GAP certification program, followed by a statement that no fees or assessments for GAP should be assessed on the growers.

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

DARK TOBACCO

Also chaired by Scott Travis, this group met in conjunction with the tobacco committee. UK's Dr. Andy Bailey reported on the GAP program for dark tobacco producers, noting that guidelines are near completion. He said an independent entity was in the process of being developed to work with the industry, university personnel and growers to develop an auditing process. Dr. Bailey also gave a crop condition report.

Dr. Snell then gave a market situation report, which was favorable for the short term. The committee discussed the crop insurance situation and heard a report from Joe Cain on federal issues.

With policy, the committee calls for supporting GAP training and assessment.

TAX

KFB Director Pat Henderson of Breckinridge County is chairman of the tax advisory committee. This meeting began with a national issues report via conference call from Pat Wolff, AFBF Senior Director of Congressional Relations. She directed most of her remarks to tax reform efforts.

Mary Ellen Wiederwohl, Chief of Strategic Initiatives for Louisville Metro Government, have an overview on a local option sales tax initiative being pushed by the administration of Mayor Greg Fischer. The key is that voters would have to approve it by referendum, she noted.

Southern Farm Bureau Estate Planning Specialist Rob Pittman spoke about KFB's estate planning member service. He urged the committee members to promote the service in their respective counties.

The committee had no policy proposals.

BEEF CATTLE

This committee met at the Ag Expo Center at Western Kentucky University. KFB Director Fritz Giesecke of Hart County is chairman of the beef cattle advisory committee.

KFB Director Danny Wilkinson of Adair County was the opening speaker, providing an update on the work of the Kentucky Livestock Care Standards Commission, of which he is a member representing KFB. He said the state standards had been filed and published for review. State Veterinarian Dr. Robert Stout was then called on to give a report on activities and issues from his office. He reviewed the status of animal disease traceability and a reorganization at USDA.

Dr. Robert Harmon of UK's Animal Sciences Department distributed literature outlining the school's beef extension and research projects. He summarized his department's degree programs and talked about several department projects. He also highlighted some research projects.

Dr. Jack Rudolph of WKU gave a report on the school's agriculture department. He stated that they have the same budgetary concerns as UK. He noted an emphasis on making the WKU farm profitable as a way to encourage students to pursue farming careers.

Next speaker was Dave Maples, Executive Director of the Kentucky Cattlemen's Association. He said membership has surpassed 9,000, which is the highest ever. He summarized the checkoff program and consumer education initiatives. He also discussed issues involved with the name changes for various cuts of pork and beef.

Donald Dunn gave a brief report on behalf of FSA. John Chism of KDA then thanked KFB for its support of the Kentucky Beef Expo, which the department administers. Fritz Giesecke then gave an update on the work of the U.S. Meat Export Federation, for which he serves as a director.

Sandy Grant of the Gold Standard Lab in Bowling Green informed the group of the services provided by the lab and some cattle health issues of concern to the lab.

Turning to policy, the committee added "black vultures" to existing language calling for pest control programs on various wildlife.

FORAGE

This group met at the Oldham County Extension Office so members could attend the annual field day of the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council. Chairman is KFB Director David McGlone of Carter County.

UK Extension Forage Specialist Dr. Garry Lacefield spoke on a variety of topics, including the field day which followed the meeting in Oldham County. He discussed various types of tall fescue and potential plant diseases. He gave an update on the Forage and Grassland Council.

KDA's Kim Field gave an update on the department's forage testing program.

The only policy change recommended was deleting Eden Shale Farm from language encouraging the enhancement of UK research facilities. (UK no longer operates the Eden Shale Farm)

EQUINE

This committee met at the Kentucky Thoroughbred Association offices in Lexington. KFB Director Alex Barnett of Harrison County is chairman of the equine committee.

John Nicholson, Director of the Kentucky Horse Park, reviewed activities at the park and noted that the next big development would be an on-site hotel. David Switzer then gave a report for KTA.

Dr. Robert Coleman of UK's Department of Animal Sciences spoke about the undergraduate program and a recent survey of the state's equine industry. State Veterinarian Dr. Robert Stout discussed some personnel changes in his office and the status of state livestock care standards. Susan Schneider, the new Executive Director of the Kentucky Horse Council, introduced herself to the group and outlined the council's short-term agenda.

Turning to policy, the equine committee recommends the following: "We believe that Kentucky is indeed the horse capital of the world. In order to retain that status, we encourage the General Assembly to support and enhance economic initiatives that may benefit Kentucky's equine industries."

POLITICAL EDUCATION

Chaired by KFB Director Marshall Coyle of Bath County, this committee met at KFB's Frankfort headquarters. The opening speaker was Ronnie Ellis, a reporter for the CNHI News Service's Frankfort bureau. He spoke about the political climate in Frankfort, saying he feels the environment has become more cooperative. He was followed by Mary Sue Helms, Director of the Division of Administration and Elections. She gave an update on voting regulations and reviewed the 2014 election cycle. She gave the committee members a guide to the new legislative districts that were just established in a special session of the legislature.

Roger Thomas, Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Agriculture Policy (GOAP), gave an update on plans for his agency's annual conference set for October 30 in Bowling Green. He also spoke about a joint project between GOAP and commodity groups to boost public relations for agriculture and farm families.

Drew Graham, Senior Assistant Dean and Director of Advancement at the UK College of Agriculture, Food and the Environment, spoke about several topics, including a search for a new dean to replace the retiring Dr. Scott Smith. Fred Nesler, Executive Director of KDA's Office of Strategic Planning and Administration, spoke about the spirit of cooperation among farm groups and the favorable economic situation for Kentucky agriculture. He also discussed KDA's "Farm to Table" promotional initiative.

KFB's Joe Cain then gave an overview of a campaign management seminar scheduled for February 6-7.

Turning to a policy review, the committee proposed amending a statement to express support of strict enforcement of an ethics code for all elected government officials (the change is adding the word "elected").

DAIRY

The dairy committee met at the Logan County Extension Office. Chris Milam, Logan County Extension Agent, welcomed the committee to Logan County and provided an update on dairy in the county. He noted dairy farmers in the county face a number of challenges that include use of animal waste relative to nutrient management guidelines as well as dead animal composting.

Dr. Amanda Gumbert, UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Extension Specialist for Water Quality, and Ms.

Kimberly Richardson, KY Division of Conservation Director, led a panel discussion on KY Ag Water Quality Authority requirements for nutrient management and how we might be able to encourage more producers to develop and implement agriculture water quality plans (AWQP). They noted producers should view an AWQP as a profitability plan, as well as insurance against environmental liability.

Dr. Jeffrey Bewle of UK told the committee that the UK dairy has a lot going on with more technology research being conducted than most other dairy research projects in the country. He reported the college has experienced an increase in Dairy Science graduate students. He noted UK extension is working with KDDC to develop a program to help producers calculate cost of production. UK is also participating in an USDA funded Southeast Quality Milk Initiative program. Kentucky is one of six states in the program trying to improve milk quality and learn from successful producers in the Southeast. Eunice Schlappi, KDA Dairy Market Specialist, informed the committee of the KDA/KDDC Young Dairy Producer Tour to Wisconsin. She also gave an update on the Udderly Kentucky milk sales program that 105 Kentucky dairy farms participate in.

Dr. Ed Hall of the State Veterinarian's Office gave a Livestock Care Standards Committee update. He also updated the committee on personnel changes and animal disease traceability. David Klee, DPAC Executive Director, provided an update on value-added production and noted the Kentucky State Fair added an artisan cheese competition they hope to expand into the Junior Chef competition next year.

Denise Jones, ADA/SUDIA Manager of Industry Relations, provided an update on dairy community outreach efforts. Dave Roberts of KDDC provided an update on the council's activities. He noted at the Milk Quality Conference producers provided details about how milk quality can be improved by changes in practices and paying attention to details.

Dr. Laurie Rincker, Eastern Kentucky University Assistant Professor, discussed the EKV dairy efforts to diversify. Don Dunn of the Farm Service Agency reported that FSA was unsure how sequestration would impact dairy programs. He urges producers to keep accurate records on any losses experienced.

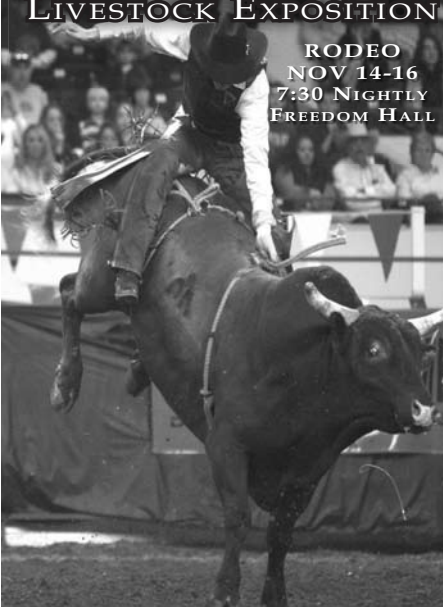
Mr. Harold Friedly, USDA Dairy Program Appalachian Region Milk Market Administrator, noted that milk prices are projected to be okay for the remainder of this year. KFB's Joe Cain provided an update on federal issues and nutrient management reduction strategies, as well as how the Floyd's Fork TMDL model is progressing.

In regard to policy, the committee calls for adding language stating "including, but not limited to supply management" in the policy that expresses support for development of a federal milk pricing system.

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

NORTH AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL LIVESTOCK EXPOSITION

RODEO
NOV 14-16
7:30 NIGHTLY
FREEDOM HALL



SHOWS & SALES
10 LIVESTOCK DIVISIONS
Nov 9-22

Kentucky Expo Center
Louisville, Kentucky


502-595-3166
www.livestockexpo.org

ticketmaster
800-745-3000

ORCA
PRO RODEO

OFFICIAL MEDIA PARTNER

RURAL TV
ON





The women's committee at Greenup County FB conducted a childhood cancer awareness project in conjunction with September's national recognition of the problem. At left are Stacy Collier, Linda Hieneman, Lisa Osborne, Rachel Ratliff, Elizabeth Mann and Amber Bentine. To the right are Connie Howard, Royilene Howerton, Jeanie Winters, Polly Hogge and Barbara Howard.

TWO TRIPS ONE NIGHT FREE



FIRST TRIP



SECOND TRIP



FREE NIGHT!

TAKE TWO SEPARATE TRIPS EARN ONE NIGHT FREE*

AT OVER 1,500 HOTELS

- Register before your first trip at ChoiceHotels.com to earn unlimited free nights
- Book at ChoiceHotels.com or 800.4CHOICE and after your second qualifying trip with arrival between **September 5** and **November 13, 2013** you'll receive enough **Choice Privileges®** points to redeem for a FREE night at over 1,500 hotels; corporate travelers can book through a travel agent or corporate booking system
- Elite Diamond and Elite Platinum members can book directly with a hotel; however, if they book through ChoiceHotels.com these members will receive 100 additional **Choice Privileges** points with every qualifying trip

**Access Kentucky Farm Bureau preferred rates by using
your NEW Special Rate ID 00209600.****



ChoiceHotels.com



CHOICEprivileges®

REWARDS PROGRAM

*Free night is based on an 8,000 point **Choice Privileges** reward night level. Members must register at ChoiceHotels.com before arrival and book their stays at ChoiceHotels.com or 800.4CHOICE at qualifying rates. Members may also book through a travel agent or corporate online booking system. **Choice Privileges** member number must be provided upon check-in. After a second qualifying trip with arrival between 9/5/13 and 11/13/13, you will be awarded a minimum of 5,000 and maximum of 8,000 bonus points, depending on how many base points were earned from your two (2) separate qualified stays. These bonus points will allow redemption for a free night at the 8,000 reward night level at over 1,500 hotels. A free night at most **Choice Privileges** locations requires more than 8,000 points. **Choice Privileges** Diamond and Platinum members who register and book through ChoiceHotels.com will receive an additional 100 **Choice Privileges** bonus points with every qualified stay during the promotional period. For Comfort Inn, Comfort Suites, Quality, Sleep Inn, Clarion, Cambria Suites or Ascend Hotel Collection hotels, a trip is defined as a stay that is any number of consecutive nights at one hotel regardless of check-ins or check-outs. For Econo Lodge, Rodeway Inn, Suburban Extended Stay Hotel, or MainStay Suites hotels, a trip is defined as a stay that is two (2) or more consecutive nights at one hotel regardless of check-ins or check-outs. Allow 72 hours from check-out for points to post. You must maintain an address in the U.S. (including U.S. territories) or Canada to be eligible for this promotion. For **Choice Privileges** program details, eligible rates, eligible countries and point redemption rules, visit choiceprivileges.com.

** Rate subject to availability at participating hotels and cannot be combined with any other discount.

© 2013 Choice Hotels International, Inc. All rights Reserved. 13-742/08/13

FARM BUREAU MEMBERS SAVE MORE AT JAMES CORLEW CHEVROLET

**CHECK OUT
THE ALL NEW
2014 IMPALA**



#28039

SUGGESTED RETAIL **\$34,138**
JAMES CORLEW DISCOUNT **\$3,643**
CHEVY REBATE **\$2,500**
TRADE IN BONUS CASH¹ **\$1,000**
TRUCK LOYALTY BONUS **\$1,500**

CORLEW PRICE **\$25,495**

TOTAL SAVINGS

\$8,643

New 2013 Chevy Silverado Crew Cab

0% APR AVAILABLE ON ALL 2013 SILVERADOS*

SUGGESTED RETAIL **\$25,480**
JAMES CORLEW DISCOUNT **\$2,481**
CHEVY REBATE **\$3,000**
TRADE IN BONUS CASH¹ **\$1,500**
TRUCK LOYALTY BONUS **\$1,500**

CORLEW PRICE **\$16,999**

TOTAL SAVINGS

\$8,481



#28350

New 2013 Chevy Silverado Reg Cab



#10365-9

SUGGESTED RETAIL **\$24,320**
JAMES CORLEW DISCOUNT **\$2,325**
CHEVY REBATE **\$2,500**
FARM BUREAU DISCOUNT **\$500**

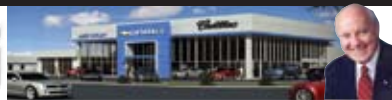
CORLEW PRICE **\$18,995**

TOTAL SAVINGS

\$5,325

New 2013 Chevy Malibu LS

JAMESCORLEW.COM



SATURN | authorized service & parts provider

722 COLLEGE ST • CLARKSVILLE, TN

931-552-2020 • 1-800-685-8728



24-HOUR CREDIT HELP LINE
1-800-829-8448



NO TAX TO MILITARY



ALL PRICES & PAYMENTS INCLUDE ALL REBATES, DISCOUNTS, INCENTIVES PLUS TAX, TITLE AND LICENSE. PRICES AND PAYMENTS INCLUDE A \$375 PROCESSING FEE. MUST PRESENT AD AT TIME OF PURCHASE. *0% APR AVAILABLE WITH APPROVED CREDIT & IN LIEU OF SOME REBATES & INCENTIVES. 1. TRADE MUST BE 1999 OR NEWER PASSENGER CAR OR LIGHT DUTY & OWNER LOYALTY MUST BE 1999 OR NEWER QUALIFYING CHEVROLET OR GMC. MIDDLE TENNESSEE RATINGS BASED ON MONTHLY SALES FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2013. DUE TO AD DEADLINES SOME UNITS MAY BE SOLD AND SALE MAY END WITHOUT NOTICE AND REBATES AND INCENTIVES MAY CHANGE. PICTURES ARE REPRESENTATION. ACTUAL VEHICLES MAY VARY. NO TAX ON VEHICLE PURCHASE TO ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY ONLY. NOT AVAILABLE WITH SOME OTHER OFFERS. OTHER RESTRICTIONS APPLY.

County Annual Meetings

ANDERSON COUNTY

Date: October 14, 5:30 p.m.

Place: Eagle Lake Convention Center

BOURBON COUNTY

Date: October 17, 6:30 p.m.

Place: Legion Park

BOYD COUNTY

Date: October 14, 6:30 p.m.

Place: Franks Community Bldg.

CASEY COUNTY

Date: October 10, 6:30 p.m.

Place: Ag Expo Center

CLAY COUNTY

Date: October 10, 6 p.m.

Place: Farm Bureau Bldg.

FLOYD COUNTY

Date: October 17, 7 p.m.

Place: May Lodge, Jenny Wiley SP

GREENUP COUNTY

Date: November 4, 6 p.m.

Place: Farm Bureau Meeting Hall

HENRY COUNTY

Date: October 10, 7:30 p.m.

Place: Farm Bureau office

LAWRENCE COUNTY

Date: October 15, 6 p.m.

Place: Down Home Grill

MARION COUNTY

Date: October 14, 7 p.m.

Place: Masonic Temple

MORGAN COUNTY

Date: October 17, 6 p.m.

Place: Bank of Mtns. Conference Center

USFRA event is October 24

The U.S. Farmers & Ranchers Alliance will address the differences and similarities between large and small farms at its next Food Dialogues event, which will be held in Boston on October 24. The event will stream live online at www.fooddialogues.com. Timed to Food Day, the Food Dialogues: Boston event, "Does Farm Size Really Matter? From environmental stewardship to animal care, are small and big farms that different?" will feature a panel of farmers, ranchers and food pundits. The panel will explore farm size and ownership and will address recent attacks on industrial agriculture and food production.

USFRA will announce the full-panel line-up in the coming weeks and is inviting speakers from all sides of the topic. USFRA plans to invite farmers—big and small—advocates and consumer brands to the conversation. USFRA will be extending an invitation to Chipotle to participate on the panel. The company recently ignited attention on this topic with its new animated film and video game concepts.

For more information on this event, including how to register, visit www.fooddialogues.com. You can also follow USFRA on Twitter (@USFRA using #FoodD) and check out the Facebook page, www.facebook.com/usfarmersandranchers.



XUV825i S4

2.9%¹ FOR 60 Months¹
ON ALL GATOR™ UTILITY VEHICLES

Heavy-Duty Crossover Utility Vehicles

- 4-passenger capacity
- Standard power steering
- 50 hp* EFI, 44 mph (70 km/h)
- Fully independent suspension
- 1,000-lb., 16-cu.-ft. cargo box

\$500 OFF²

OWN THE OFF-ROAD FOR LESS.

RSX850i



Recreational Utility Vehicles

- 62 hp* 53 mph (85 km/h)
- FOX® 2.0 Performance Series Shocks
- 400-lb., 9-cu.-ft. cargo box

\$500 OFF²

XUV550 S4



Mid-Duty Crossover Utility Vehicle

- 4-passenger 550 S4 starting at \$9,099*
- Double wishbone suspension
- 400-lb., 9-cu.-ft. cargo box

\$500 OFF²

JOHNDEERE.COM/GATOR 

¹Offer valid from August 1, 2013, until October 25, 2013. 2.9% APR is for 60 months only on all Gator Utility Vehicles excluding TX Turf and ProGators. Subject to approved credit on Revolving Plan account, a service of John Deere Financial, f.s.b. For consumer use only. No down payment required. Other special rates and terms may be available, including financing for commercial use. Available at participating dealers. Prices and models may vary by dealer. *Get \$500 off the XUV825i S4, XUV550 S4, and RSX850i models. *Starting at price of \$9,099 shown includes \$500 off offer. Prices are suggested retail prices only and are subject to change. Before operating or riding, always refer to the safety and operating information on the vehicle and in the operator's manual. FOX® is a third-party trademark used with permission. Dealer may sell for less. Taxes, setup, delivery, freight and destination charges not included. Attachments and implements sold separately. Shown with the optional equipment not included in the price. *The engine horsepower and torque information are provided by the engine manufacturer to be used for comparison purposes only. Actual operating horsepower and torque will be less. Refer to the engine manufacturer's website for additional information. John Deere's green and yellow color scheme, the leaping deer symbol and JOHN DEERE are trademarks of Deere & Company.

A0B030DCU1A56536-00397743

HUTSON, INC.
CLARKSVILLE, TN
931-647-0029

CLINTON
270-653-4311

CYPRESS
618-657-2342

MAYFIELD
270-247-4456

MORGANFIELD
270-389-3668

PADUCAH
270-408-1397

PRINCETON
270-389-2053

RUSSELLVILLE
270-726-7171

www.hutsoninc.com

WRIGHT IMPLEMENT

BOWLING GREEN
270-781-4747

GLASGOW
270-651-8900

HARDINSBURG
270-756-5152

OWENSBORO
270-683-3606

www.wrightimp.com

ROEDER IMPLEMENT CO., INC.

HOPKINSVILLE
800-844-3994

www.roederimpl.com

STAINLESS STEEL Outside Woodburning Heater

The Hardy Features...

25-year warranty Low Maintenance

No smoke, ash or wood trash in your home

Connects to existing systems UL Listed

Standard with bronze pump, combustion Blower and grates

FedUp
with high heating bills?

We Have the Solution!

1-800-542-7395

www.hardyheater.com

SUPPORTING AGRICULTURE | INSURANCE SERVICES | MEMBER BENEFITS | KYFB.COM

Just what you'd expect from a company that treats its members like a big deal.

Members receive a free home security system from Pro Security & Fire Systems, including monitored smoke and fire detectors, installed free of charge with a three-year monitoring agreement.

Call 866-792-7233 for more information.



KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

Visit kyfb.com or use the QR code to find out about all other member benefits.



By Ed McQueen

Ag trade surplus is lowest in seven years

The U.S. agricultural trade surplus is expected to fall by \$13 billion in fiscal 2014, to \$22 billion. This would be the smallest surplus since 2007. U.S. agricultural imports are forecast at a record \$113 billion, \$8 billion higher than in fiscal 2013. Increases in import value are expected for most products in 2014, with the largest gains in horticultural products, sugar and tropical products. Fiscal 2014 agricultural exports are forecast at \$135 billion, down \$5 billion from the \$140 billion forecast for fiscal 2013. Oilseeds and products are expected to decline the most, down \$5.4 billion to \$26.4 billion due to lower soybean and meal prices. Grain and feed exports are expected to fall \$1.7 billion to \$28.8 billion due to lower wheat, rice, and feeds and fodders exports. At \$31.1 billion, exports of livestock, poultry, and dairy products are little changed, while horticultural exports are forecast to increase \$2.5 billion to a record \$34.5 billion. Agricultural exports to China are forecast at \$20.5 billion, down \$2 billion from fiscal 2013 due in part to lower soybean price. Lower exports to China means Canada should return to its position as the top U.S. market for agricultural products with \$21.5 billion. Lower U.S. energy prices, a depreciating dollar, and more available credit are positive factors for the U.S. agricultural trade outlook in 2014.

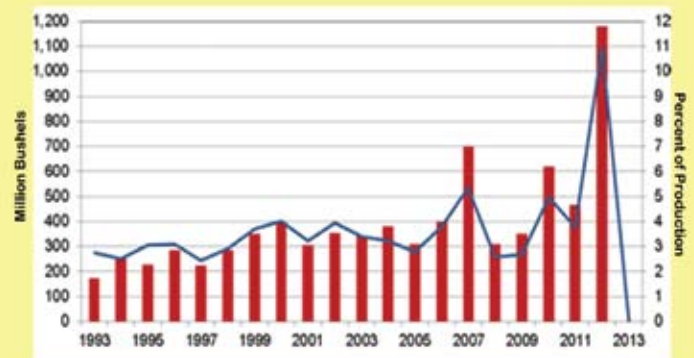
Kentucky crops bigger in 2013

Kentucky's corn, soybean, wheat, tobacco and hay crops are all bigger this year than last – thanks to better weather. According to the Kentucky Field Office of USDA's NASS, corn production is forecast at a record 237 million bushels, up 128 percent from 2012. While acreage is down, average corn yield is estimated at 158 bushels/acre, up 90 bushels from last year and ranks as the second highest yield on record behind 2009's 165 bushels/acre. Soybean production is forecast at a record 71.6 million bushels, or 22 percent above 2012. Yield, estimated at 45 bushels/acre, is five bushels above a year ago and ranks as second highest on record behind 2009's 48 bushels. This year's Kentucky wheat crop of 43.5 million bushels is 49 percent larger than the 2012 crop. Kentucky burley tobacco production is forecast at 156 million pounds, up three percent from 2012. Yield of 2,000 pounds per acre is down 50 pounds from 2012. Production of dark fire-cured tobacco is forecast at 36.8 million pounds, up 17 percent from 2012. Dark air-cured tobacco production, forecast at 12.0 million pounds, is down five percent from last year. Compared to 2012, the state's alfalfa crop of 660,000 tons is 26 percent bigger and the "all other" hay crop is up 12 percent.

State's cash farm receipts on the rise

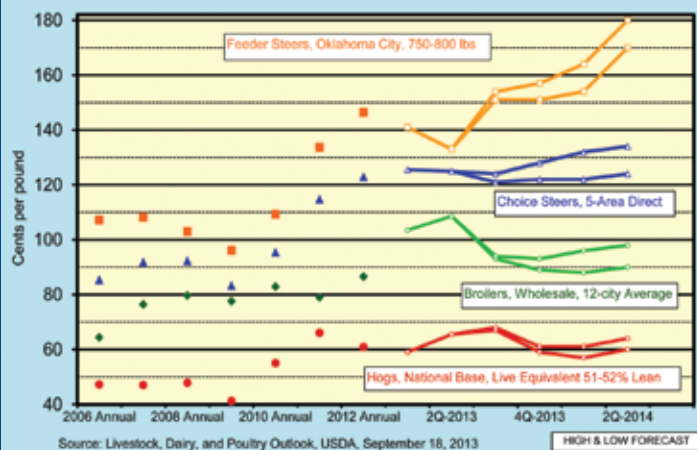
Recently released data from USDA's Economic Research Service shows that Kentucky's 2012 total cash receipts from farm marketings was up seven percent from the previous year. Livestock receipts gained four percent and crop receipts jumped 11 percent. Some notable year/year increases include: soybeans, up 29 percent to \$741 million; tobacco, up 18 percent to \$385 million; vegetables and melons, up 14 percent to \$28.5 million; and broilers, up 11 percent to \$867 million. Cattle and calves increased four percent to \$657 million. USDA combines sheep and goats with horses and stud fees now; this "Other Livestock" category increased two percent to \$882 million.

U.S. Corn Harvested Before September 1



Sources: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Quick Stats and USDA, World Agricultural Outlook Board, WASDE

U.S. Quarterly Livestock Prices



Source: Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry Outlook, USDA, September 18, 2013

HIGH & LOW FORECAST

Livestock Directory



Office: 270/737-5665
Fax: 270/769-9079
Residence: 270/369-8849
kypork@bbtel.com

KENTUCKY PORK PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

"Promoting Kentucky's Swine Industry"

BONNIE JOLLY
Executive Director

1110 Hawkins Dr.
Elizabethtown, Ky. 42701

Bi-County Farm Bureau Coop

8300 Dixie Highway
Florence, KY 41042
(859)371-7932

Brenda Adams

It pays to space seeds with Precision



With precise spacing at planting, you'll make more money at harvest.

20/20 RowFlow® makes the most of your variable rate prescriptions – and enhances swath control. **eSet®** and **vSet™** meters make sure that every seed lands where it belongs. **WaveVision™** sees through the dust and debris to make sure you get accurate counts. And **20/20 SeedSense®** with **FieldView™** makes sure you know what's happening in the trench at all times, so you can keep it all under control.

Come in and secure your Precision spacing tools today for a maximum yield this fall. Ask about managing depth and germination, too.

HARDIN
CROP PRODUCTION
SERVICES
888-437-4143
Jason Watt (270) 210-0576

PALMYRA
JONES FARMS
812-972-1412
Premier Dealer

HODGENVILLE
ERIC/HAZEL HINTON
270-268-5332
erichinton@windstream.net

WINCHESTER
ERWIN FARMS
937-623-0064
shop 937-386-2786

Yield Is In The Details.
Precision
PLANTING

ATTENTION MOBILE HOME OWNERS

PERMA-ROOF®
from Southern Builders

LIFETIME WARRANTY

REDUCED
ELECTRIC
BILL

INCREASED
HOME VALUE

NO MORE ROOF RUMBLE
EXPERT INSTALLATION

INSURANCE CREDIT
STOP LEAKS



Since 1983
roofer.com
800.633.8969

KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU MEMBER SPECIAL



Kentucky Farm Bureau protects the future of your farm and your neighbors' farms all year long.

Today, membership can save you up to \$500 on new Case IH tractors and equipment!*

SAVE \$300

ON FARMALL® COMPACT A & B SERIES TRACTORS, ROUND & SMALL SQUARE BALERS, DISC MOWER CONDITIONERS, SICKLE MOWER CONDITIONERS & CASE IH SCOUT™ UTILITY VEHICLES



SAVE \$500

ON FARMALL® C, U & J SERIES TRACTORS, MAXXUM® & FARMALL® 100A SERIES TRACTORS, LARGE SQUARE BALERS & SP WINDROWERS



* A current Farm Bureau membership verification certificate must be presented to the Case IH dealer in advance of product delivery to receive the incentive discount. Kentucky Farm Bureau Members can download a certificate at www.FBVerify.com/case.

©2013 CNH America LLC. All rights reserved.
Case IH is a registered trademark of CNH America LLC.
www.caseih.com



CASE IH
AGRICULTURE

ELIZABETH-TOWN
JACOBI SALES
INC.
800-730-2655
jacobisales.com

GLASGOW
J & J SALES,
INC.
800-669-5480
jandjsalesinc.com
270-651-5480

MURRAY
MCKEEL
EQUIPMENT CO.
800-852-9736
www.mckeeequipment.com

OWENSBORO
H & R
AGRI-POWER
800-264-1504
www.hragripower.com

SHELBYVILLE
JACOBI SALES
INC.
800-730-2684
jacobisales.com

farm file

Gallup poll boosts agriculture's standing

Gallup's annual work and Education poll shows that 60 percent of Americans have a positive opinion about our agriculture industry with only 18 percent having a negative view. Of 25 industries in the poll, only the computer and restaurant industries had more positive results than the "agriculture and farming" category.

Each year since 2011, Gallup has asked Americans to rate 25 different business sectors on a five-point scale ranging from "very positive" to "very negative." It then comes up with a "net ratings" score based on the difference between the positive and negative ratings for each industry.

Agriculture's net rating for 2013 is a positive 42, which is 10 points better than last year. That ranks the industry fifth in improvement from 2012, behind banking, travel, airline and automotive. Healthcare is the only industry to see a decline of more than 10 points, but retail, computer and pharmaceutical industries were close to that threshold.

The poll was taken August 7-11 with a random sample of 2,013 adults from all 50 states and the District of Columbia, according to Gallup.

Americans are most negative about the federal government and the oil and gas industry, with the majority rating each of those negatively. They are the only two with a majority of negatives.

The top 10 with "positive" or "neutral" ratings are computer (87 percent), restaurant (87), travel (82), farming and agriculture (81), accounting (80), retail (78), internet (77), automobile (76), grocery (75) and publishing (73).

AFBF pushing for trade bill

More than a half-dozen business organizations joined AFBF in urging Congress to approve new trade promotion authority legislation. TPA involves Congress in determining negotiating objectives for trade agreements and allows trade pact implementing legislation to be considered without amendment.

"TPA is a critical tool for advancing pending and future trade agreements that support U.S. economic growth and jobs and benefit American businesses, farmers and workers. We see strong bipartisan support for TPA and urge movement on TPA legislation as soon as possible, so it can be passed this year and help ensure strong outcomes in both ongoing and future U.S. trade negotiations," the groups wrote in a letter to Sens. Max Baucus (D-Mont.) and Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), chairman and ranking member, respectively, of the Senate Finance Committee, and Reps. Dave Camp (R-Mich.) and Sander Levin (D-Mich.), chairman and ranking member, respectively, of the House Ways and Means Committee.

Fair Oaks opens "Pig Adventure" exhibit for education on animal agriculture

Fair Oaks Farm, the massive dairy operation and agritourism destination along I-65 between Lafayette, Indiana and Chicago, has added a "Pig Adventure" section to show the public that pigs can be raised humanely in confined operations. The \$9.6 million project involves a facility with 120,000 square feet for pig production and 22,000 square feet for an "edutainment" area. The farm has a maximum sow capacity of 2,750 and can produce about 80,000 pigs annually. The public touring destination is a joint venture between Fair Oaks Farms and Bellstra Milling Company. The National Pork Producers also supported the project.

Cargill pledges \$520,000 to FFA

Cargill has pledged more than \$520,000 to support several National FFA Organization programs and initiatives. A large portion of the funds will support "Blast Off," an annual training conference for newly-elected state FFA officers that helps them identify their strengths, develop personal growth plans, master public speaking and improve management skills.

The company has also pledged \$150,000 to support the continued development of FFA's Agriculture Career Network (AgCN), an online portal that FFA members use from middle school through college and beyond to track educational accomplishments, build career portfolios, apply for awards and scholarships, pursue internships and apply for jobs. Cargill has further committed an additional \$300,000 to support AgCN over the next two years.

Contributions from the company will also help fund the expansion of FFA's "Feeding the World-Starting at Home initiative" to fight hunger; support the staging of the 2013 National FFA Agriscience Fair, a competition hosted at the annual National FFA Convention & Expo for FFA members interested in agriculture science and technology; and sponsor two national competitions for FFA members, one focused on food science and technology and another involving meat evaluation and technology.

The National FFA Foundation is the fundraising arm of the National FFA Organization, which provides leadership, personal growth and career success training through agricultural education to 557,318 student members in grades seven through 12 who belong to one of 7,498 local FFA chapters throughout the U.S., Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Jed Stockton, Fair Oaks' Communications Director, told Indiana FB: "We love our cows . . . but we saw the bigger picture and thought we could educate folks on modern agriculture. How we take care of the land, make more food with less land and less water, power our facilities without causing any irreparable damage to the environment."

Visitors can see all phases of production, Glass partitions separate viewers from the swine.

MAKE MORE MONEY. PLANT SEED CONSULTANTS!

PROVEN PERFORMANCE

The only Eastern Corn Belt based Seed Company with 4 National and 20 State Winners in the NCGA Yield Contest since 2008.

REGIONAL GENETICS

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

REGIONAL TESTING

Extensive corn and soybean replicated testing program in the Eastern Corn Belt tested at 106 testing locations.

REASONABLE PRICING

A fair, honest and reasonable price the first time.

SOYBEAN UNIT PACKAGING

The only seed company selling soybeans in 150,000 seeds/unit.

Place your SCI Corn and Soybean order by October 1, 2013 and receive our largest order incentives and biggest cash discounts of the year!

PLACE YOUR SEED ORDER TODAY!



"SCI's corn and soybean performance have been excellent on my farm. They are an excellent seed company to work with."

— Gary Jaquess of Columbus, Indiana

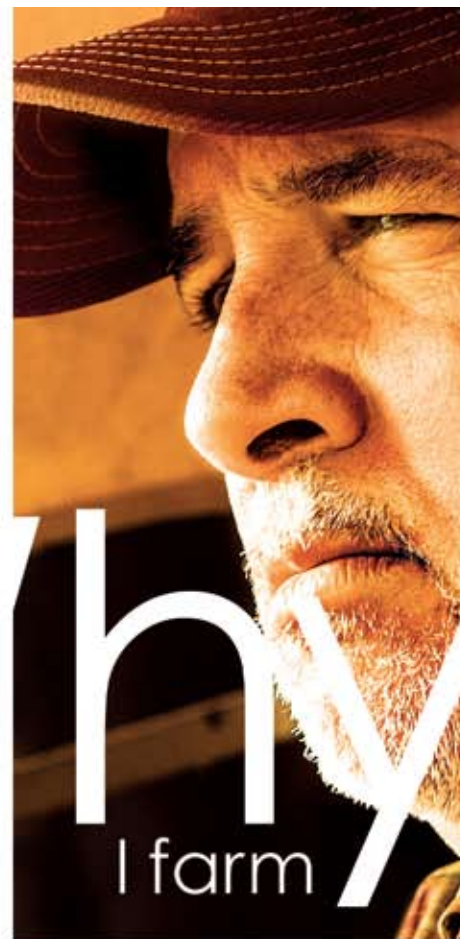


Simply, the Best Value in the Seed Industry™
SEED CONSULTANTS, INC.

Call Today! **800-708-2676**

www.seedconsultants.com

©,™ trademarks of Seed Consultants, Inc. © 2013 Seed Consultants, Inc.



Why

I farm

Growing up I remember following my dad everywhere...from the house to the barn and the barn to the field. Farming is my life. I think if you were raised on a farm, you were born with dirt in your shoes. And once you get dirt in your shoes, you can't ever get it out. That's why I farm.

Mark Thomas - Princeton, KY

Mark Thomas

Share your story at www.WhyIFarm.com



BECK'S
HYBRIDS