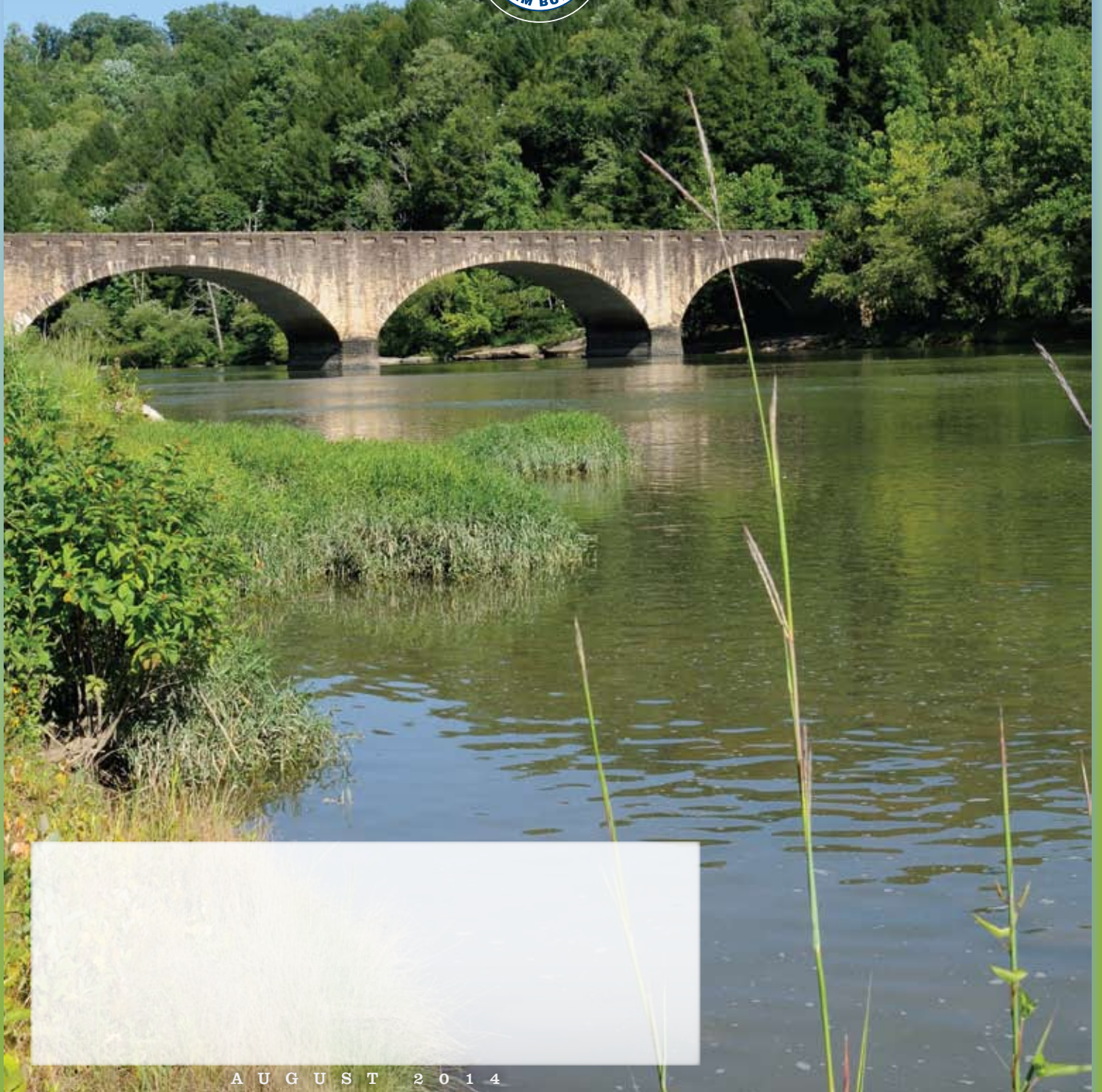


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KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU NEWS

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August 2014

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Cover photo: Gatliff Bridge at Cumberland Falls
State Park

By Jim Lane

Thephotolane.com

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Congress passed the Clean Water Act more than four decades ago to protect our nation's major waterways. There is a general consensus that this law has been successful. The cleanup of the Ohio River presents a good example.

But unfortunately, over the years the rules that carry out the intent of this law have changed. The latest attempt to alter the playing field has stirred up a hornet's nest, uniting dozens of opposing forces that include the unlikely tandem of farmers and homebuilders.

Under a proposed "Waters of the United States" rule, thousands of small streams, ditches, ponds and other isolated bodies of water -- plus lands near them -- will be subject to federal jurisdiction and all the regulation, permitting and mitigation involved. The effect on farmers is unclear, but could be significant.

Farm Bureau is among a group of more than 90 agriculture organizations that have formally asked EPA, the Army Corps of Engineers and USDA to withdraw its interpretive rule on regulating water and allow more time for public comment. AFBF has been at the forefront of the opposition all along and has established a website (www.ditchtherule.fborg) to encourage activism.

EPA and the Corp seem to be losing sight of their fundamental mission and instead are more concerned with expanding their own regulatory footprint. That's all too common in Washington these days.

The regulatory interpretation of Clean Water Act jurisdiction has been stretched further and further to include bodies of water that have little or no connection to waters that are used for traditional commerce. This proposed rule was touted as necessary to provide more clarity, but is doing the exact opposite by using vaguely defined terms that may be read to include small ponds, ditches or small streams that run only when there is heavy rain. This amounts to an extraordinary regulatory intrusion into the lives of many farmers.

While everyone wants clean water, they don't want the federal government regulating every drop of it. A heavy rain shouldn't result in a bureaucratic bevy of red tape to clear basic activities like cleaning debris from a ditch or building a fence. There are impacts on individual landowners, homebuilders and farmers who might want to plant trees, construct buildings, install drainage or deep plow.

This is another example of government overreach that needs to be shelved.



Mark Haney

President

Kentucky Farm Bureau

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KFB Day at State Fair is August 21

KFB Day at the State Fair is Thursday, August 21 with a full schedule of activities for members.

The 51st Annual Kentucky Country Ham Breakfast and Auction will be held in South Wing Conference Center beginning at 7:30 a.m. The grand champion country ham will be auctioned with proceeds donated to charity. Last year's champion ham from Harper's Country Hams fetched \$350,000. In its history the auction has raised more than \$6.8 million for charities.

The annual Gospel Quartet Contest begins shortly following the breakfast and will be held on the South Wing stage.

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

KFB Insurance Company sponsors the popular "Pride of the Counties" section of the South Wing, where local organizations promote their cities and counties with lively displays. A winning display is named each year during a ceremony at 11 p.m. on KFB Day.

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

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KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU NEWS

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comment

C O L U M N

For those of us fortunate to grow up on a farm, few memories are more cherished than working out in the field or in the barn lot. That's not to say we always enjoyed our chores, but the lessons we learned then seem even more important now. It's a way of life that I wish more of today's younger generations could experience.

That thought came to mind when I learned that a New York-based organization is calling for the federal government to bar anyone under 18 from having a role in handling tobacco. As chairman of the Kentucky House of Representatives' Tobacco Task Force, I certainly favor taking all of the necessary precautions to protect anyone involved in farming. At the same time, I think the recommendations from this group go too far. If implemented, they could further undermine the future of the family farm and put another unnecessary obstacle in front of parents who want nothing more than to pass on what they have learned to their children.

Tobacco farming continues to require a considerable amount of labor, from setting the seedlings to getting the harvested crop to the buyers. Much of this work is now done by properly screened migrant workers, especially as growing becomes more consolidated. However, there are still many instances where teenagers are either helping their families or are working in tobacco as a part-time job. The need for their help is unlikely to change anytime soon, given that Kentucky remains a worldwide leader in tobacco production. With guidance from local and state agricultural officials, farmers have a much better understanding of the risks of such things as green tobacco sickness and how to avoid them. Cultivating this firsthand knowledge is where our focus should be.

I believe KFB had the right response to the report when its leaders said that, "It is difficult to believe that any parents — and especially a Kentucky farm family — would risk the safety or health of their own children by setting them to a task that they are not properly trained to execute or place them in harm's way."

That's common sense, and that's why I don't think we need over-reaching rules. I trust our farm families to make the right decision for their children.



State Representative Wilson Stone

D-District 22

Young farmer summer outing



Above, at Meadow View Farms the group stopped at the massive grain storage area that can handle around 400,000 bushels.

Right, State Senator Dennis Parrett of Hardin County urged the young farmers to be involved with public policy issues.



The summer outing for KFB's young farmers and their families was based in Elizabethtown and featured tours of some award-winning farms in Hardin, LaRue and Hart counties, as well as visits to signature locales like Glendale, Maker's Mark Distillery and My Old Kentucky Home.

There also was business to attend to. After the first rounds of the Discussion Meet, four finalists emerged to compete in the finals at the KFB annual meeting in December. The "final four" are Casey Story of Fleming County, Mike Meyer of Harrison County, Mary Courtney of Shelby County and Cameron Edwards of Webster County.

Participants in the Outstanding Young Farm Family also were announced. They are Zack and Tiffany Ison of Mercer County, Chris and Rebekah Pierce of Pulaski County and Dustin and Tammy White of Union County.

The state winners of the discussion meet and OYFF will represent KFB in the national contests at AFBF's annual meeting in January.

The traditional "Eggs and Issues" breakfast featured an address

from State Senator Dennis Parrett, a former extension agent who operates Cecilia Farm Service just west of E'town. He noted a long history with KFB, having been the state discussion meet runner-up 30 years ago.

The first-term senator urged the young farmers to get engaged with the public policy process because "it doesn't just effect you; it's important to your children's future."

He advised to "learn your issues. Know what you are talking about."

Parrett said he is fortunate to serve on the Senate committees that handle agriculture and military affairs. "The easiest bills to pass are agriculture and the military. That's because there's a tremendous amount of respect for farmers and the military," he said.

Also addressing the group that morning was KFB First Vice President Eddie Melton, a row crop producer from Webster County who was active in the young farmer program. To underscore the importance of such events, Melton said "if we don't have young farmers coming into our organization, we will die on



Above, a tour group checked out some of the preserved equipment at Meadow View Farms.



Left, an immaculate shed served as the lunch room at Fresh Start Farms, operated by national award winners Ryan and Misty Bivens.

the vine.”

He also urged involvement with the issues. “We have a lot of things coming at us in the agriculture industry,” he said. “The issues are what’s really important.”

Melton recalled that the young farmer program didn’t involve families when he first became involved in the late 1980s. “It’s exciting to see all the families here,” he said.

KFB Public Affairs Director Jeff Harper also spoke to the group, providing an overview of some state priority issues. The young farmers then formed groups by district to discuss those and other issues.

The afternoon’s farm tours had an impressive lineup. At Meadow View Farms, row crops, tobacco and hogs were on display in a huge operation run by Ray Allan Mackey, who has been named “Kentucky Farmer of the Year” for 2014. As such, he will represent Kentucky in the prestigious Swisher Sweets/Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year contest.

Other options included two national award winning farms in LaRue County: Fresh Start Farms, a large row crop operation for

Ryan and Misty Bivens; and Hinton’s Orchard and Farm Market, operated by Jeremy and Joanna Hinton.

Another great LaRue County farm on the agenda was Shady Rest Farm, a 10th generation farm owned by the Ragland family. It is a 4,000-acre diversified operation with row crops and swine.

In Hardin County, a tour stopped at Back Forty Farms, a row crop operation that has received much recognition for innovative conservation practices.

One tour went into Hart County for a stop at Gerald’s Farm, one of the largest and most successful forage operations in the state. Another stop was at Roundstone Native Seed, near Upton along the Hardin-LaRue County line.

On the opening day separate groups toured Publishers Press, which has been printing KFB News since 2002; historic Glendale and Walter T. Kelley Bee Company. That evening brought a picnic on the grounds of My Old Kentucky Home in Bardstown, with an opportunity to attend the famous “Stephen Foster Story.”

Water Quality Plans need to be flowing

By Kristi McCabe

Editor's Note: This is the last in a series on water quality issues for agriculture. KFB encourages farmers to keep current with their water quality plans.

A farmer's job is never done, and every operation has its own unique way of taking care of business. It seems that there are always new regulations being handed down to farmers, which can at times seem daunting. However, no one would argue that maintaining healthy water is a must, and while this can be a challenge at the onset, the rewards are both numerous and far-reaching.

In 1994, Kentucky passed the Agriculture Water Quality Act to address nonpoint source pollution from farm operations greater than ten acres in size. This legislation requires implementation of best management practices (BMPs), including nutrient management, so it is the responsibility of each farmer to determine the best way to meet these requirements.

The challenge, however, is finding the time and resources to make necessary upgrades. Some of these methods can be costly, and require a whole new way of doing business. For most farmers, that can be overwhelming. The good news is that there are many resources available and people willing to offer a helping hand.

Paulette Akers, head of the Watershed Management Branch of the Kentucky Division of Water, identified specific challenges that farmers face in meeting these stipulations, while offering some advice.

"If you live in a house for a long time and get ready to sell it, the realtor will see a million little things that are wrong with it," said Akers. "It's the same way on the farm. Some things happen so slowly and over time, so you don't always notice it. It helps to have an outside perspective."

Akers pointed out that some farmers don't have the opportunity to receive continuing education, or that they have read about new strategies but have not implemented them.

"Maybe there is a new way of doing things, but they don't know about it," said Akers. "Maybe what they have done before has fallen apart over time and profit margins are so low that it is hard to set aside additional funds to do upgrades. Whatever the reason may be, there are resources available out there to provide assistance."

Many online tools exist to help those who need it, as well as funding. A Kentucky Ag Water Quality Act Planning Tool (<http://www.bae.uky.edu/awqpt/>) is located on the UK web site, and offers an interactive means for farmers to assess their operations and identify BMPs to be used in their own individual plans.

Akers added that there are also in-person educational experiences available for those who may not be as tech-savvy.

"We have held seminars in past, and we have extension programs that offer lots of nutrient management information," said Akers. "Steve Higgins from the University of Kentucky has targeted dairy producers and has gone out to different counties to meet with producers and go over their options."

Higgins, who serves as Director of Animal and Environmental Compliance for the UK College of Agriculture, said one of the main challenges faced by dairy farmers in protecting water quality is managing discharges.

"This is because they are managing liquid manure," said Higgins. "It has to do with the fact that their lagoons were designed years ago and are not sized properly. As an operation expands over time and the number of cows increase, the structure becomes inundated because there is too much liquid coming to it. Another significant challenge on many farms is having too much surface area, such as concrete. When rain from the roof discharges onto the concrete, the volume of water that hits it can be a problem."

Unpredictable Kentucky weather makes it difficult for farmers to foresee problems that may occur. Higgins pointed out that in a five-year period, there may be two years of drought, two years of unpredictable, "crazy" weather, and one year of normal weather.

One suggestion Higgins makes to farmers is to use all-weather surfaces in their construction, such as geotextile and rock. Developing a water quality management plan and using state and federal cost-share programs to improve the operation, said Higgins, is a win-win situation.

Amanda Gumbert, Extension Water Quality Liaison with the UK Cooperative Extension Service and the Kentucky Division of Conservation, also provides information about the Ag Water Quality Act to farmers, conservation district staff, and extension agents.

"Basically, this legislation says that if you own and farm ten or more acres in Kentucky, you need an ag water quality plan," explained Gumbert. "Farmers need a set of best management practices to utilize on the farm to protect water quality, and one of these practices involves nutrient management. We all have to do our part to conserve our resources and prevent loss of nutrients."

A nutrient management plan helps farmers determine how to handle things like manure management.

"If farmers have livestock manure to dispose of, they may apply it to their fields as fertilizer," said Gumbert. "Poultry litter may be shipped off the farm and applied to another farm. We want farmers to inventory their nutrients and figure out a way to distribute it on their property or elsewhere so the nutrient content will be used effectively and not dumped in a basin."

"The biggest challenge most farmers face is time," Gumbert

explained. “They are pressed for time anyway, and when we ask them to create a plan, often times they are already doing something. In some cases, writing a plan can become complicated, and farmers are already well-versed on how their operation runs. It’s just a matter of taking the time to sit down and look at things on paper. The primary challenge for farmers is finding the time to sit down and take a look at the current system they have in place.”

There are plenty of resources available for farmers.

“For ag water quality plans, the first stop in the county is the conservation district office,” said Gumbert. “There are also 120 extension offices throughout the state, as well as lots of printed publications. Financial help is also available.”

Oldham County producer Kevin Jeffries, a longtime Farm Bureau leader who farms about 1,200 acres of row crops and raises 120 head of cattle, has used EQIP money to put in a pipeline and waterers for cattle so they don’t have to drink from the pond.

“We have our water sources fenced to keep the cattle out,” explained Jeffries. “When cattle trudge through and defecate in the same water they drink from, their health suffers.”

This is just one of the changes Jeffries has made to his operation in an effort to maintain good water quality. Jeffries has been involved with the Ag Water Quality board since 1996 and uses a water quality management plan on his farm.

“We try to implement best management practices (BMPs),” said Jeffries. “We are a no-till operation, we use Round-Up for weed control, and we sow wheat as a cover crop to eliminate erosion. We have also used a cost-share program. These are ways we can protect the environment and it is also healthier for our livestock.”

For many farmers, another motivation for improving water quality lies in their desire to prevent further governmental involvement in how they do business. However, their prime motivation is their love for the land and their dedication to sustaining it for future generations.

“Some people say that farmers don’t care about the environment, and that is totally false,” said Jeffries. “We are good stewards of the land. A lot of farmers get their drinking water from their own wells, so why would they want to pollute it?”

Maintaining your septic system

By Randall Carrier
Kentucky Onsite Wastewater Association

A recent study of selected streams in Central Kentucky determined that bacterial contamination was from both human waste and livestock waste. In some areas, DNA testing showed human waste the source of 75% of the bacteria contamination in the streams.

How does human waste get into a stream? Some can be traced to leaking city sewer lines and pump stations near urban areas. In rural areas, individual onsite septic systems (or lack of) will be the primary source. The key word is “system” as there are multiple components that make up a system. A conventional system consists of piping, a tank, a distribution box or boxes, and a disposal field that recycles the wastewater back to the groundwater.

Ask ten homeowners how their septic system works or why it failed and you will get ten very different answers! Note that septic system installations, repairs, or component replacements are required to be approved and inspected by the local county health department. All work is to be done by a licensed septic installer or homeowner.

First, there must be suitable soil for any type system to work. This is determined by a soil and site evaluation by the local county health department. This should be completed before ever buying a property to build on! After the system is installed and approved, what makes it work is bacteria, lots and lots of bacteria!

The question asked most often is, “What do I put in my tank to make it work?” The best answer is what you don’t put in your tank! Avoid overuse of bleach, sanitizers, and cleansers. Don’t use your septic system to dispose of old medicines, toxics, cigarette butts, or anything that could be harmful to bacteria. Garbage disposals can be very detrimental as they produce huge amounts of solids and FOGS if overused.

Additives are sold as a cure-all for all septic problems, but their effectiveness is doubted by onsite professionals. Even the directions on the products say to pump the tank on a regular basis. Small families should pump about every five years, a large family more often. Pumping the tank regularly, along with water conservation, are the two most important things a homeowner can do to extend the life of their onsite system.

Water Awareness

Get to know your water bill and not just the dollar amount. Your monthly bill will show gallons used, usage or similar numbers. If you have difficulty determining gallons used per month contact your water provider to explain their bill. A family of two should be in the 3,000

to 4,000 gallons per month. A family of four should be in the 5,000 to 6,000 gallons per month range.

Know where the water meter is for your home. If you have a spike in usage with no explanation you may have a leak. To check for leaks, make sure everything is shut off and no drips etc. On the meter face will be a small red triangle or other small red dial of some type. If that dial is moving, it indicates water usage going through the meter, which you are paying for - whether you are actually using it or not.

Laundry makes up a large percent of your water usage. Be sure to have full loads with each wash cycle. It is very important not to have one big “wash day” with multiple loads back to back! Laundry spread out through the week is a key to the life of your septic system.

Hot tubs, spas, water softeners, condensation drains, or dehumidifiers should not go into septic systems. Also, gutters, footer drains, sump pumps and surface water should not be discharged over any part of the system.

Selling a House

If you think it’s tough to sell a house in today’s market, try selling one with sewage bubbling up in the yard! Even a neighbor’s yard could be a factor. Keep records of any repairs, pump outs, and drawings of system location for the next owner

Buying a House

Most homes built since the late 1970’s should have records on file at the local county health departments. These records should include a “final installation” drawing showing the location of the system on the property. Make sure it has not been paved over, built over, or the area disturbed in any way. Ask the health department if they have records of repairs.

If records are not available, local health departments can do an “existing system inspection” and should be able to locate the system for you.

Ask for tank pump out records if available. If no records exist, be certain to pump the tank and have the pumper check the baffles on each end inside the tank.

Water conservation, regular tank pump outs and not abusing your onsite septic system will result in two tremendous benefits, namely financial savings and protecting your neighborhood environment.



2014 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Nearly 300 Kentucky students have been chosen to receive college scholarship grants from county and state programs administered through the Kentucky Farm Bureau Education Foundation and by individual county Farm Bureaus. The scholarships, offered annually, were awarded to recipients who displayed the greatest levels of academic excellence, involvement in extracurricular activities, leadership abilities and financial need. Scholarship sponsors and the recipients are:

Sam Moore Scholarship – \$4,000

Awarded to a student attending a Kentucky college/university and pursuing a four-year degree in animal health/veterinary technology or a related field.

- Arizona Copher, Bath County High School.

Leadership in Agriculture Scholarships – \$3,000 each

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

- Hannah Kinsey, Williamstown High School; Bayley Ranes, Webster County High School.

KFB Young Farmer Scholarship – \$2,000

Awarded to a college upperclassman. Student must be attending a Kentucky college/university and majoring in agriculture or a related field.

- Emily Drury, Anderson County, University of Kentucky

KFB Young Farmer Scholarship – \$1,000

Awarded to a college upperclassman. Student must be attending a Kentucky college/university and majoring in agriculture or a related field.

- Lily Harris, Warren County, Murray State University.

Beautification League of Louisville Scholarship – \$1,000

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

- Gabrielle Wayne, Warren Central High School.

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

- Stephen Carney, Washington County High School; Abby Blandford, Marion County High School.

KFB Insurance Agents Association Scholarship – \$1,000

- Emily Bryant, Eminence High School; Holly Brothers, Bracken County High School.

KFB Federation Scholarships – \$1,000 each

- Jared Walden, Allen County-Scottsville High School; John Henderson, Boyle County High School; Elizabeth Hinton, Breckinridge County High School; Lucas Brown, Caldwell County High School; Erica Rogers and Destiny Wendling, Calloway County High School; Taylor Fritts, Crittenden County High School; Monica Poindexter, Cumberland County High School; Coleman Stivers, Lexington Lafayette High School; Allison Duncan, Graves County High School; Victoria Connor, Daviess County High School; Erin Bradford, Harrison

County High School; Julia Scott, Hart County High School; Ashley Craigmyle, Henry County High School; Jennifer Head, Livingston Central High School; Thomas Poole and Rachel Simmons, Logan County High School; Caitlin Ross, Mason County High School; Austin Schroeder, Meade County High School; Hannah Thompson, Metcalfe County High School; Morgan Taylor, Monroe County High School; John Patrick Campbell, Montgomery County High School; Morgan Ferguson, Morgan County High School; Erin Newton, Nelson County High School; Krista Fitzgerald, Oldham County High School; Timothy Baker, Buckhorn High School; Lindsey Byrd, Pulaski County High School; Kenzie McGowan, Russell County High School; Jacob Tipton, Cornerstone Christian Academy, Lesley Wempe, Union County High School,

Adair County Farm Bureau -- \$1,000 each

- Jameson Keen, Charles Sparks and Amber Phillips, Adair County High School.

Allen County Farm Bureau - \$1,000

- Kathrine, Ditmore, Allen County-Scottsville High School.

Allen County FB-Ralston Bewley Scholarship -- \$500

- Jacob Vernon, Allen County-Scottsville High School.

Anderson County George Cotton Memorial Scholarship -- \$1,500 each

- Emily Drury, UK; Marissa Barnes, Anderson County High School.

Ballard County Farm Bureau -- \$500 each

- Taylor Cooper, Codi Sullenger, Chad Adams, Shelbi Wiggins and Taylor Rafferty, Ballard Memorial High School; Makenzie Glisson, McCracken County High School.

Barren County Farm Bureau -- \$500 each

- Alex Gibson and Trevor Baise, Barren County High School.

Bath County Farm Bureau -- \$1,000 each

- John Patrick Toy and Arizona Copher, Bath County High School.

Bell County Farm Bureau -- \$1,000 each

- William Ferguson, Sierra Osban, Austin Gambrel, Brittany Gray, Stephen Philpot, Carla Cosby, William Kelley, MacKenzie Carroll and Joshua Gipson, Bell County High School; Patrick Mason, Madison Cox, Benjamin Slusher, Amanda Biscardi and Alesha Buttery, Middlesboro High School; and Caitlyn Fuson, Christian Ford and Sabrina Bingham, Pineville High School.

Boone County Farm Bureau -- \$1,000 each

- Carlee Clemons, Notre Dame Academy; Michael Youngblood, Ryle High School.

Boyd County Farm Bureau -- \$1,500 annually for 4 years

- Austin Taylor, Rose Hill Academy

Breckinridge County Farm Bureau -- \$1,000 each

- Elizabeth Hinton and Katie Neff, Breckinridge County High School.

Bullitt County Farm Bureau -- \$2,000 each

- Alexandria Skidmore, Megan Terry and Megan Parsley, Bullitt Central High School; Noah Shartzter and Katelyn Alcorn, Bullitt East High School; Tyler Barker, North Bullitt High School.

Butler County Farm Bureau -- \$1,000

- Tyler Johnson, Butler County High School.

Campbell County Farm Bureau -- \$1,000 each

- Allison Anstead, Jaimie Reis and Maria Schack, Bishop Brossart High School; Drew Cline, Lacey Crail and Courtney Franzen, Campbell County High School.

Calloway County Farm Bureau -- \$750 each

- Alison Reifel, Eastwood Christian Academy; Brittany Burress, Murray High School.

Carroll County Farm Bureau -- \$750

- Cori Green, Carroll County High School.

Casey County Farm Bureau -- \$500

- Allison Clark, Casey County High School

Christian County Farm Bureau -- \$2,000 each

- Lydia Hite and Virginia Sweeney, Heritage Christian Academy; Katherine Alexander, Christian County High School; Makenzie Pollock, Hopkinsville High School.

Clay County Farm Bureau -- \$2,000 over 4 years each

- Sarah Robinson, Samantha Henson, Lillian Shepherd and Teddy Woods II, Clay County High School.

Crittenden County Farm Bureau -- \$1,000 each

- Maggie Collins, Micah Hollamon, Hayden McConnell and Brenden Phillips, Crittenden County High School.

Cumberland County Farm Bureau -- \$500 each

- Seth Owsley, Monica Poindexter and Taylor Grider, Cumberland County High School.

Daviess County Farm Bureau -- \$1,000 each

- Olivia Foster and Emma Miller, Owensboro Catholic High School; Perri Pedley, Apollo High School; Cole Hamilton, Daviess County High School.

Fayette County Farm Bureau -- \$20,000

- Coleman Stivers, Lafayette High School/Locust Trace Agriscience Farm

Fayette County Farm Bureau -- \$10,000

- Ashley Hardee, Dunbar High School

Floyd County Farm Bureau -- \$2,000 each

- Haley Howell and Kaegan Dove, Prestonsburg High School; Joslyn Isaac, South Floyd High School; Ricky Justice, Betsy Layne High School; Ashley Crager, Allen Central High School.

Garrard County -- \$2,000 over 4 years

- Anna Leigh Morrow, Garrard County High School

Grant County Farm Bureau -- \$1,000 each

- Cameron McClanahan, Pendleton County High School; Macy Goetz, Williamstown High School

Grayson County Farm Bureau -- \$500 each

- Ciara Cooper, Brent Crawford, Deavin Hester, Tyler Jacobs, Isaac Logsdon, Ashley Milliner, Zackery Robinson, Kaylan Shull, Emily Strader, Mallory Swift, Travis Tennin Jr., and

Zachery Wagner, Grayson County High School; Matthew Yochim, John Hardin High School.

Hardin County Farm Bureau -- \$1,000 each

- Kyle Mobley, Caleb Williams, Victoria Skillman, Clayton Heibert, Kelsey Cunningham, Amy Williams, Lakesha Carter, Jessica Hunt, Jason Nall and Bradley Larimore, Central Hardin High School; Alexis Legaspi, John Hardin High School; Holly Yates, North Hardin High School; Haley Jones, Elizabethtown High School; Eden Tharpe, Marie Noel and Alexis Skaggs.

Harlan County Farm Bureau -- \$1,500 each

- Kellie Ann Halcomb, Melanie Kelly and Caitlin Dorris, Harlan County High School; Corey Burns, Harlan High School; Daniel Miracle, Harlan County Christian School.

Harrison County Farm Bureau -- \$1,000 each

- Joshua Pulliam, Audrey Ramsey and Ally Barnett, Harrison County High School.

Hart County Farm Bureau -- \$500 each

- Matthew Scott, William Metcalfe and Julia Scott, Hart County High School

Henry County Farm Bureau -- \$500 each

- William Baker, Cathryn Fischer and Ashley Craigmyle, Henry County High School; Emily Bryant, Eminence High.

Hopkins County Farm Bureau -- \$2,000 each

- Katie Clark and Claire Harralson, Hopkins Central High School; Alexis Gamblin, Madisonville-North Hopkins High School.

Jefferson County Farm Bureau -- \$16,000 each

- Blake Merkley, Trinity High School; Elmedina Brkic, Seneca High School.

Jefferson County Farm Bureau -- \$1,000

- Hannah Oates, Whitefield Academy.

Kenton County "Warren VanHorn Memorial Scholarship" -- \$1,000

- Daniel Cully, Simon Kenton High School.

Kenton County "William Durr Memorial Scholarship" -- \$1,000

- Kathryn Jones, Simon Kenton High School

Knott County Farm Bureau -- \$1,000

- Sarah Clemons, Knott County Central High School.

Laurel County Farm Bureau -- \$4,000 each

- Catherine Wagers, North Laurel High School; Andrew Worley, South Laurel High School.

Letcher County Farm Bureau -- \$1,000 each

- Robert Rowlett, Sarah Wooten, David Mullins, Max Hall and Tayler Fleming, Letcher County Central High School; Hunter Branham and Mercedes Boggs, Jenkins Independent High School.

Lewis County Farm, Bureau -- \$1,000 each

- Ariel Watson and Jordan McCann, Lewis County High School; Micheala Sapp, Mason County High School.

Livingston County Farm Bureau -- \$1,000 each

- Jennifer Head, Ashley Wright and Jessica Hopkins, Livingston Central High School.

Logan County Farm Bureau -- \$500

- Thomas Poole, Logan County High School.



Madison County Farm Bureau -- \$1,000 each

- Brett Congleton and Cody McGlothlin, Madison Central High School; Katie Land, Madison Southern High School.

Magoffin County Farm Bureau -- \$1,000 each

- Kaylee Lewis and Breanna Montgomery, Magoffin County High School.

Marion County Farm Bureau -- \$500 each

- Alex Smith, Anthony Mattingly, Tyler Jones, Samantha Garrett and Anna Browning, Marion County High School.

Meade County Farm Bureau -- \$1,000

- Jacob Mattingly, Meade County High School.

Morgan County Larry Smith Memorial Scholarships -- \$2,000 each

- Jarrad Burton and Emily Jenkins, Morgan County High School.

Morgan County Farm Bureau Scholarship -- \$1,000

- William Lacy, Morgan County High School.

McCracken County Farm Bureau -- \$1,000 each

- Katie Gipson, St. Mary High School; Miranda Meier, McCracken County High School.

Mercer County Farm Bureau -- \$1,000

- Emilee Hurt, Burgin High School.

Mercer County FB Young Farmers Scholarship -- \$1,000

- Benjamin Preston, Mercer County High School.

Monroe County Farm Bureau -- \$1,000 each

- Natalie Davis and Mary Lyons, Monroe County High School.

Muhlenberg County Farm Bureau -- \$1,000 each

- Sam Culton and Megan Grace, Muhlenberg County High School.

Nelson County Farm Bureau -- \$600 each

- Brittany Bowling, Addison Wheatley, Elizabeth Taylor, Erin Newton, Keaton Miller, Taylor Duncan, Olivia Albertson, Lindsey Astrom and Alexis Bickett, Nelson County High School; Jakob Greenwell, Katriel Ulrich, Jordan Pile, Hollyn Howard, Hannah Filiatreau, Madeline Dant, Sarah Carter, Brett Allen and Ian Allen, Bethlehem High School; Stephany Vittitow, Kyle Schenck, Amber Pate, Margaret Downs, Justin Douglas and Allison Burba, Thomas Nelson High School; Johnnie Caldwell, Bardstown High School.

Oldham County Farm Bureau -- \$2,000

- Morgan Workman, North Oldham High School.

Oldham County FB Boyd Johnson Scholarship -- \$2,000

- Courtney Caldwell, Oldham County High School.

Oldham County FB Current College Student -- \$2,000

- Judith Deibel, Bellarmine University.

Owen County Farm Bureau -- \$1,000 each

- Emily Allen, Andrea Burford, Anastasia Juett and Sarah Wilhoite, Owen County High School.

Pendleton County Farm Bureau -- \$500 each

- Michaela Wright and David Huck, Pendleton County High School.

Pulaski County Farm Bureau -- \$1,200 each

- Nathan Hansford, Southwestern High School; Ashley Johnson, Pulaski County High School; Maci New, Somerset High School.

Robertson County Farm Bureau -- \$400

- Jenna White, Robertson County High School.

Rockcastle County Farm Bureau -- \$500 each

- Kayla Reynolds and McKenzie Craig, Rockcastle County High School.

Russell County Farm Bureau -- \$2,000 each

- Gared Dalton, Rachel McFall and Kelsey West, Russell County High School.

Scott County Farm Bureau -- \$650 each

- Ashley Burns, Janna Cline, Hannah Roark, Kayla Smith, Justin Burchfield, Matthew Fritsch and Mary Mulholland, Scott County High School; Christopher Allen and Abigail Adams, Lexington Catholic High School.

Shelby County Farm Bureau -- \$1,000 each

- Kipp Moore, Shelby County High School; Hannah Smith, Collins High School.

Shelby County FB Roy V. Catlett Scholarship -- \$1,000

- Nancy Cottrell, Collins High School.

Shelby County FB Current College Student -- \$1,000

- Jamie Cottrell, Auburn University.

Simpson County Farm Bureau -- \$1,000

- Harrison Kummer, Franklin-Simpson High School.

Spencer County Farm Bureau -- \$1,000 each

- Tyler Goodlett, Lauren Henry and Darilyn Browning, Spencer County High School.

Taylor County Farm Bureau -- \$1,500 each

- Hayley Moss, Taylor County High School; Ethan Bailey, Campbells-ville High School.

Taylor County Farm Bureau-FFA -- \$2,500

- Hannah Hall, Taylor County High School.

Trimble County Farm Bureau -- \$1,000 each

- Taylor Bromwell, Trimble County High School; Richelle Cassell, Madison Consolidated High School.

Warren County Farm Bureau -- \$4,000 each

- Helen Games, Bowling Green High School; Matthew Johnson, South Warren High School.

Warren County FB R.O. Buchanan Scholarship -- \$4,000

- Nathan Cherry, South Warren High School.

Washington County Farm Bureau -- \$500 each

- Russell Hardin, Stephen Carnay, Taylor Blandford and Emilee Graves, Washington County Farm Bureau.

Wayne County Farm Bureau -- \$2,000 each

- Taylor Alexander, Harley Piercy and Jaylan Woolridge, Wayne County High School.

Webster County Farm Bureau -- \$1,000

- Macey Davis and Matthew Tapp, Webster County High School

Whitley County Farm Bureau -- \$3,000

- Matthew Hinkle, Whitley County High School.



County Annual Meetings

ADAIR COUNTY September 23 Cranmer Dining Hall	7 p.m.	CUMBERLAND COUNTY September 26 Veterans Memorial Bldg.	6 p.m.	LAWRENCE COUNTY October 21 Down Home Grill	6 p.m.	PENDLETON COUNTY September 27 Farm Bureau office	6:30 p.m.
ANDERSON COUNTY October 13 Eagle Lake Convention Center	5:30 p.m.	DAVIESS COUNTY August 28 Reid's Orchard	5 p.m.	LESLIE COUNTY September 16 Farm Bureau Office	4:30 p.m.	ROCKCASTLE COUNTY September 19 Roundstone Elementary School	6 p.m.
BARREN COUNTY September 20 Trojan Academy	6:30 p.m.	FAYETTE COUNTY October 6 Boone Center	7 p.m.	LINCOLN COUNTY August 8 Fairgrounds	7 p.m.	RUSSELL COUNTY September 5 Fairgrounds	6 p.m.
BATH COUNTY September 13 Ag Center	6 p.m.	FLOYD COUNTY October 16 Jenny Wiley State Park	7 p.m.	LOGAN COUNTY September 13 Extension Office	6 p.m.	SCOTT COUNTY September 16 Extension Office	6:30 p.m.
BELL COUNTY September 25 County FB Office	6 p.m.	FRANKLIN COUNTY October 16 Extension Office	6:30 p.m.	LYON COUNTY September 12 Lyon County School Cafeteria	6 p.m.	SHELBY COUNTY October 4 Extension Office	6:30 p.m.
BOONE COUNTY September 9 Extension Office	6 p.m.	GRANT COUNTY September 13 Farm Bureau Hall	6 p.m.	MAGOFFIN COUNTY September 8 Extension Office	6:30 p.m.	TRIGG COUNTY August 8 Trigg Co. Recreation Complex	6 p.m.
BOURBON COUNTY September 16 County Park	6:30 p.m.	GRAVES COUNTY August 9 Graves County HS Cafeteria	11 a.m.	MCCRACKEN COUNTY September 13 Knights of Columbus Hall	6 p.m.	TRIMBLE COUNTY August 28 Extension Office	7 p.m.
BOYD COUNTY October 13 Ken Franks Community Bldg.	6:30 p.m.	HARLAN COUNTY September 20 Farm Bureau Bldg.	Noon	McCREARY COUNTY September 18 RECC Building	6 p.m.	WARREN COUNTY September 13 South Warren High School	5:30 p.m.
BRECKINRIDGE COUNTY September 30 FFA Camp Cafeteria	6 p.m.	JACKSON COUNTY September 15 Energy Farm	6 p.m.	MERCER COUNTY September 8 Extension Office	6 p.m.	WAYNE COUNTY September 22 Aspire Center	6 p.m.
BUTLER COUNTY September 9 Hawes Ag Complex	6 p.m.	JEFFERSON COUNTY November 11 Farm Bureau Office	7:30 p.m.	METCALFE COUNTY September 18 Extension Office	6 p.m.	WHITLEY COUNTY September 9 Brashears Grocery	6 p.m.
CALDWELL COUNTY October 11 UK Ag Research Center	6:30 p.m.	KNOX COUNTY September 4 FB Office	3:30 p.m.	OWEN COUNTY October 6 Extension Office	6 p.m.	WOODFORD COUNTY September 16 First Christian Church	6:30 p.m.
CALLOWAY COUNTY September 2 FB Office	7 p.m.						
CARLISLE COUNTY August 12 Bardwell Baptist Church	6 p.m.						
CASEY COUNTY October 9 Ag Expo Center	6:30 p.m.						
CLAY COUNTY October 10 Farm Bureau Bldg.	6 p.m.						
CLINTON COUNTY September 11 County Fair Bldg	6 p.m.						

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Beef Tour goes West



The 9th annual John C. Hendricks Beef Tour took 70 participants to California and Nevada for a fascinating look at the beef industry there. The five-day journey also featured sightseeing in Reno and Lake Tahoe.

The tour began in Sacramento with a visit to the home office of California Farm Bureau Federation. Next stop was a family-owned commercial cattle operation. That was followed by a tour of the farm, beef unit and meat lab at Cal State University-Chico.

At Hat Creek Grown, the group observed a fourth-generation operation producing sustainably-raised, natural beef. Quality forage was at a premium at that California ranch. Grass-fed cattle also were observed at Leavitt Lake Ranches in Susanville.

In Nevada, the Reno Rodeo was a popular stop. The agenda also included Snyder Livestock Company, which operates a large-scale feedlot, and Bentley Ranch, which grows 5,500 acres of hay and grains plus has a breeding operation with Angus, Charolais and Herefords.

Kishs Buckin' Best, in Red Bluff, presented a unique experience to observe the development of bucking bulls for the rodeo. This ranch had several hundred acres of irrigated pastures to support a cow/calf operation. There was a feedlot for custom feeding the different age groups of bulls.

The beef tour continues to be among the most popular events of KFB's annual agenda. Through the nine years the event has



sent Kentucky producers to all of the nation's major cattle areas.



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




Top left, the group posed for a photo at Hat Creek Ranch in California.

Top right, Kish's Buckin Best produces rodeo bulls.

Above, cattle graze at Hanley Ranch in Nevada.

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Triple terrific

Green County roadside market grows it great

KFB's Certified Roadside Farm Markets Program includes a Green County family with quite a green thumb. Denny and Debbie Atwell and their 26-year-old son, Dave, operate Triple D Greenhouses and Produce, a bustling business centered around the production of thousands of plants ranging from tomatoes to exotic flowers.

With no competition within 20 miles of their market eight miles south of Greensburg, the Atwells have all they can handle to meet the local need for flowers, bedding plants, vegetable plants, hanging baskets and fresh produce.

"We're as big as we're gonna get," said Denny, laughing.

They are getting it done with six greenhouses and most of the land on a 58-acre farm Denny purchased in 1982. Their market center is tiny, but adjoined to a storage building, making it convenient to fetch fresh picked produce. And they have plenty of it – tomatoes, sweet corn, peppers, squash, cucumbers, green beans and a variety of melons.

Tomatoes and sweet corn are in high demand. In fact, their two acres of sweet corn were sold before harvest. But Denny says they are best known for their tomatoes, both field grown and from their new high tunnel greenhouse that contains 300 plants. On an early July morning Denny and Dave picked 600 pounds of tomatoes from the high tunnel; then did the season's first field picking that

afternoon.

What they don't sell, Debbie cans.

"And we sell a lot of canned tomatoes, too," she said.

Triple D was launched by Denny's involvement with a nephew's 4-H project some 25 years ago.

"I volunteered to help him with a greenhouse project," Denny recalled, "and that's what got it all started. We had an old greenhouse on the family farm and started using it. He (the nephew) eventually got out and I got in."

Denny was raised on a dairy and tobacco farm in neighboring Metcalfe County and was still milking cows until around the turn of the century. In Green County, he started with one greenhouse and field crops and gradually has expanded to six greenhouses, including the new 30X72 high tunnel acquired through a Natural Resources and Conservation Service cost-share program.

Denny says he has become so adept at installing greenhouses that "they (NRCS) wanted me to do that for them."

Denny, however, already has a second job working the burley tobacco market in Glasgow from November to February. Dan, meanwhile, is a licensed funeral director and works part-time at a funeral home in neighboring LaRue County, where he lives.

Debbie is in charge of the greenhouses, the bookkeeping and ordering supplies. "She's the brains of this outfit," Denny said. "She



Far left, fresh produce is the feature this time of year at Triple D market.

Above, a new high tunnel house is used for tomatoes.

Left, Dave, Debbie and Denny Atwell operate Triple D Greenhouses and Produce.

keeps it all together.”

They get a helping hand from their good friend, Betty Jefferies, of Greensburg. “Betty fills in for us here at the market and we also sell (produce) from her home in town on Tuesday mornings,” said Debbie. “She’s the only help we have; we do the rest.”

The work is extensive. By late spring Debbie and company are ready for their busiest season, selling over 100 varieties of annual flowers, perennials, ferns, hanging baskets and vegetable plants. They also produce more than 35 acres of vegetable plants for a grocery chain.

After the summer produce season comes the standard autumn fare of mums, pumpkins and gourds, as well as sweet potatoes.

Still, Denny and Debbie find time for short vacations. “But we can’t be away for too long,” said Denny.

Their farm operation also includes the Kentucky staples of tobacco and cattle, but each in small quantity. Denny says the labor requirement sparked his scaled-down tobacco operation.

“We can do this (the market) ourselves; but we can’t do tobacco ourselves.”

Having been raised on a large dairy farm, Denny was well versed on long hours of work. It pays off, he says, when there’s a good growing season like this one.

“We’ve got some nice tomatoes; they should go fast,” he said.

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AFT Conference set for Lexington

American Farmland Trust will hold its national conference, Farmland, Food and Livable Communities, in Lexington on October 20-22. The gathering will focus on the challenges faced by agriculture in the 21st century: farmland protection, next generation farmers, food system development and sustainable communities.

The agenda includes 30 keynote, plenary and workshop sessions with more than 70 local and national agricultural leaders. Also there are bus tours and a "Kentucky Proud" reception.

Early-bird registration discount until August 15. More information is available at www.farmland.org/national-conference, or e-mail AFTNationalConference@farmland.org.

Ag Innovation Program

Applications are urged for KFB's Agricultural Innovation Exchange Program, which is designed to surface inventions, equipment modifications, marketing techniques, management systems and other innovative farming practices. Up to three program applicants (must be a KFB member) will be selected to exhibit in the Trade Show at KFB's annual meeting and also be recognized with a plaque and small cash award. Program information and the application may be found on kyfb.com. Entries are due by October 1.

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District Policy Development Meetings

Hundreds of county FB leaders from throughout the state participated in the District Policy Development Meetings in July. Staff members from the Public Affairs Division conduct the sessions to provide a framework for policy development at the county annual meetings. All topics are open for discussion but the focus is a close examination of priority issues that emerged from KFB's 2013 annual meeting.

Participants are given a packet of information on the respective issues. This year's list includes farm labor, the future of the ag development fund, state tax reform and water resources.



Dozens of county Farm Bureau leaders came to Gallrein Farm in Shelby County for the District 5 Policy Development Meeting.



KFB Director Joe Paul Mattingly of Marion County presided over the District 5 meeting.

The agenda also included presentations from officials of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. Greg Johnson, the agency's new commissioner, spoke at several of the district meetings. The message was to provide an update on wildlife control programs and to discuss changes in the deer control law resulting from passage of a bill this year spearheaded by KFB.

The KFW officials routinely fielded a number of questions, not only about deer but also about black buzzards, bear and feral hogs. Wildlife predation has been a hot topic for Kentucky farmers for several years as the state's wildlife population has swelled, resulting in more crop and livestock losses.

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markets

By Ed McQueen

U.S. to become top soybean exporter again

Weather permitting, a record-large U.S. soybean crop this fall will change the domestic and international soybean markets. Currently, exports from Brazil account for a major portion of global trade – soybean exports for October 2013-June 2014 are 24 percent higher than a year earlier, according to USDA. The current strength of Brazil's exports led USDA to raise its 2013/14 forecast for Brazil to 45.75 million metric tons (mmt). For the same period, U.S. soybean exports are forecast at 44.09 mmt. However, for the 2014/15 marketing year, USDA expects the expansion of U.S. supplies may lessen Brazil's competitiveness – its 2014/15 exports are forecast to slip to 45.00 mmt. USDA now forecasts the U.S. will export 45.59 mmt in 2014/15, thus surpassing Brazil's exports for the first time since 2011/12. Fortunately, China's import demand for soybeans continues to grow rapidly. USDA forecasts China's 2014/15 imports will be 73.0 mmt, compared to 69.0 mmt in 2013/14 and 59.9 mmt in 2012/13.

Improved soybean demand is expected to be far exceeded by supply gains. USDA forecasts 2014/15 ending soybean stocks to nearly triple to an 8-year high of 415 million bushels. A larger stocks level means lower prices. For 2014/15, USDA expects the U.S. average farm price to be \$9.50-11.50 per bushel compared to \$13.00 for 2013/14. The season-average price includes prices received on 2014-15 contracts entered into weeks ago at higher prices.

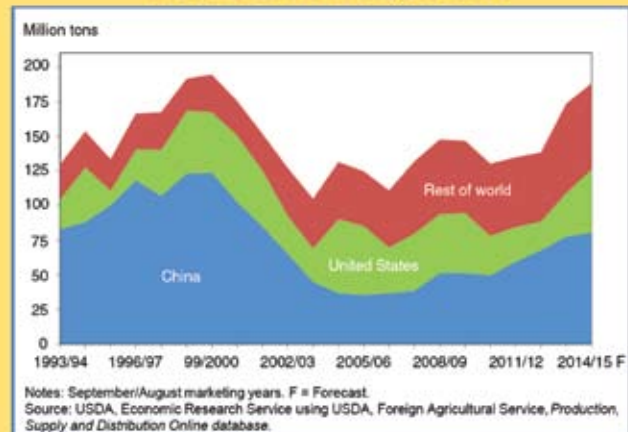
Rising beef exports adds value

U.S. beef exports through May 2014 are up six percent from a year earlier. Exports have strengthened to Hong Kong and Mexico, offsetting weaker shipments to Canada, Japan, and Taiwan. For May 2014 compared to May 2013, exports increased 48 percent to Mexico and over 80 percent to Hong Kong. For the first five months of 2014, our top three volume customers were Japan, Mexico and Hong Kong. The forecast for U.S. beef exports in 2014 is 2.518 billion pounds, almost three percent lower than 2013. Exports are expected to fall during the remainder of 2014 due to smaller beef production resulting from reduced cattle inventories and higher heifer retention for herd rebuilding. Due partly to higher prices, 2015 exports are forecast at 2.425 billion pounds, down four percent from 2014. Beef export value per head of fed slaughter set a new record in May at \$279.39, up \$47.72 from a year ago, according to the U.S. Meat Export Federation. The ratio of U.S. production exported was 11 percent for muscle cuts and 14 percent for muscle cuts and variety meat combined – up from 10 percent and 13 percent, respectively, from a year ago.

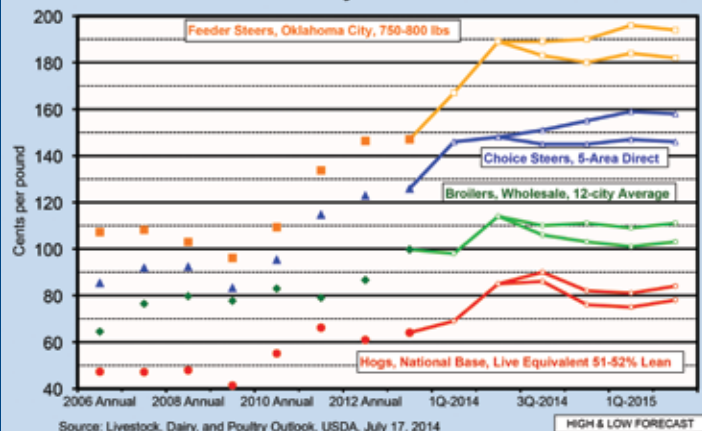
Milk prices are headed lower

Lower feed prices combined with strong milk prices are expected to signal producers to increase cow numbers in 2015 -- a 0.9 percent increase is forecast by USDA. Cows are expected to produce an average of 500 more pounds of milk, or 22,730 pounds in 2015. These factors combine to boost the 2015 milk production forecast by over three percent to 212.4 billion pounds. While major dairy product prices are strong now, USDA forecasts much lower prices in 2015. Cheese prices are forecast to average \$2.03-2.06 this year, but fall to \$1.67-1.77 next year. Butter prices could fall from \$1.965-2.025 in 2014 to \$1.65-1.78 in 2015. The negative outlook for products points to declines in 2015 milk prices. The all milk price is forecast to average \$23.25-\$23.55 per cwt in 2014 and to drop to \$19.75-\$20.75 in 2015.

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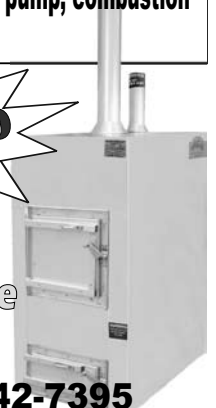
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