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KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU NEWS

Volume 13 · No. 10

December 2014

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griculture is a highly cyclical industry, driven by how the weather, consumption trends, world markets, public policies and other production factors affect supply and demand. The U.S. agriculture industry has been on an "up" cycle for several years; so much so that we've set records for farm income. But now, crop prices have fallen and are putting a damper on the farm economy.



Experts are predicting a 10-to-13 percent drop in net farm income this year, with significant declines in grain prices and higher production costs offsetting good prices for beef, pork and milk. We've had two consecutive years of record crops of corn and soybean and that's catching up with us after some boom years.

The good news for consumers is that the cheaper grain is lowering expenses for farmers feeding beef cattle, dairy cows, hogs and chickens. That likely will lead to production hikes which, in turn, will eventually result in lower retail prices.

Here in Kentucky, we benefit from a diverse agriculture economy. Cash receipts in 2013 were almost equally divided between crops and livestock. Plus we've seen incredible growth in our horticulture industry; producing more plants, flowers, fruits and vegetables than ever before. This segment accounts for over \$130 million in annual sales.

What we've accomplished in Kentucky with our historic agricultural development initiative (utilizing tobacco settlement money for projects) bodes well for the future of our agriculture industry. One issue that looms large, however, is the availability of adequate water supplies. As farmers are being expected to produce more with less inputs, access to adequate water supplies is a genuine concern. Kentucky, of course, has an abundance of lakes, streams and wells. We need to develop how to utilize this valuable resource to enhance farm production.

I announced at our recently-concluded annual meeting the formation of a working group to research the situation and develop ideas. There's a wide variety of stakeholders in this group we put together, including representatives from state regulatory agencies, the Kentucky League of Cities, the Rural Water Association, the U.S. Geological Survey and the USDA Rural Development Division.

KFB also is concerned about the declining conditions of roads, bridges and dams which are so important to our ability to transport farm commodities to the marketplace.

As many Kentucky farmers prepare to tighten their belts during this "down" cycle, KFB will be working to enhance the resources they need to succeed.

Mark Haney
President

Kentucky Farm Bureau







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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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### comment

COLUMN

FBF is proud of the progress we've made this year and we are eager to do even more for farmers and ranchers in the coming weeks and months.

We recently announced a historic agreement among agricultural technology companies and farm groups on farm data privacy and security principles. We have led in asking tough questions to ensure data remains secure as new technologies that make farming more efficient also expose farmers and



ranchers to new risks. Farmers and ranchers overwhelmingly agree they should own their farm data, and Farm Bureau has played a leading role in educating them about asking the right questions before signing data sharing agreements.

Technological advancements also raise questions for consumers – questions that farmers must be willing and able to answer if we are to maintain access to biotechnology.

We were pleased to see that voters in Colorado and Oregon recognized that state initiatives requiring that "GMO" products be labeled as such would do more harm than good. Rather than a state-by-state or county-by-county patchwork, we support a national labeling bill introduced in Congress. Consumers have a right to know what's in their food, but the information should be based on facts, not fear.

The EPA and Corps of Engineers are trying to place more roadblocks on the productive use of farmland. Their "Waters of the U.S. " proposed rule amounts to an unprecedented land grab to regulate most ephemeral drainage features, ditches and small wetlands on farmland. We are calling for the agencies to withdraw this proposal.

It's time for regulatory overreach to stop standing in the way of common farming activities.

Another top priority is action on several important tax provisions that expired at the end of 2013. Farmers depend on tax incentives like bonus depreciation to increase their cash flow and allow them to purchase equipment without taking on too much debt. Restoring these provisions would help boost rural economies as farmers and ranchers plan their business decisions for the next season.

With our annual meeting coming up next month, AFBF has plenty on its plate for the holiday season.

## Stabilizing rural road fund heads list of priority issues

ith state road fund revenue expected to decline markedly in 2015, KFB is placing a priority on working with the General Assembly to ensure adequate funding to maintain rural roads.

Most of KFB's chief concerns are ongoing, including maintaining funding for the state's agricultural development initiative and opposing any attempt to freeze the state real property tax rate. But those and other key issues for the farm group are not expected to surface in the upcoming 30-day "off-year" legislative session when the state budget is not in play.

KFB, however, is highly concerned about the rural road fund because of a forecast of a more than \$129 million

reduction in revenues next year as a result of lower gas prices.

"The safe and timely transportation of our farm commodities is important to our farm economy," said KFB President Mark Haney. "It is vital that the state has sufficient resources to maintain our roads and bridges."

KFB has longstanding policy supporting the 22.2 percent allocation of state gasoline tax revenue for rural roads. The annual amount of road fund revenue generated by the state gas tax is determined by a variable rate, which currently is declining.

U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell expressed concern about Kentucky's infrastructure during his keynote remarks at the closing business session.

The forthcoming Senate Majority Leader noted how declining fuel tax revenues were impacting budgets for new or improved roads. He mentioned "a decaying infrastructure" among a lengthy list of issues that Congress needs to address.

Haney said KFB wants to work with state lawmakers on a policy to bring more stability to the road fund revenues.

Among KFB's national "priority" issues is changing the guidelines under which farmers can combat the predation of livestock by black vultures. In recent months there have been widespread reports of the vultures killing calves and cows. The black vulture is protected under the federal Migratory Bird Act, meaning that farmers need to obtain special permits from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to kill the predators.

Wildlife damage to crops and livestock, in fact, has surfaced in recent years as a big problem for Kentucky farmers. The 2014 legislative session produced a KFB-backed bill to help farmers deal with the deer problem.

Speaking at the Public Affairs Breakfast, Second District Congressman Brett Guthrie acknowledged the black vulture problem and vowed to help the organization resolve the problem through federal policy.

Remaining on the list of national issues are reforms to the H-2A farm worker program to make it more reliable and economical and opposition to the so-called "Waters of the U.S." regulatory proposal by the Environmental Protection Agency. Senator McConnell was sharply critical of the proposal, as well as the federal regulatory agenda as a whole. He said the Republican-controlled Congress in 2015 would combat "an overreaching government" through the budget process.

#### ANNUAL POLICYHOLDERS' MEETING OF KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY

The annual meeting of the policyholders of Kentucky Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2015, 10:00 a.m. (Eastern), at the home office of the company, 9201 Bunsen Parkway, Louisville, Kentucky, for the purpose of (1) electing directors of the company, (2) to receive the annual report of its officers, and (3) to consider any other business that may come before said meeting.

Secretary

### NOTICE ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING OF THE FB INSURANCE COMPANY

The annual meeting of the stockholders of The FB Insurance Company will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2015, 11:30 a.m. (Eastern), at the home office of the company, 9201 Bunsen Parkway, Louisville, Kentucky, for the purpose of electing directors of the company and to consider any other business that may come before said meeting.

Secretary Secretary

## Top officers are re-elected

Pulaski County farmer Mark Haney was re-elected president of KFB on the concluding day of the organization's 95th annual meeting. Also re-elected were Webster County's Eddie Melton as First Vice-President and Hart County's Fritz Giesecke as Second Vice-President. They comprise KFB's Executive Committee along with Executive Vice President David S. Beck.

Haney has served on the Executive Committee for 16 years and has been a state director since 1993. For years he chaired the State Resolutions Committee. He is a past president and current board member of the Kentucky Center for Agriculture & Rural Development, past president of the Kentucky Center for Cooperative Development and past chairman of the Kentucky Horticulture Council. Also a former president of the Pulaski County FB, Haney and his brother, Don, produce apples and peaches near Nancy, where they also raise beef cattle. They sell fresh produce from their orchards - as well as cider, jellies, baked goods and other products - at a KFB Certified Roadside Market located on the farm. He and his wife. Marlene, have two sons and a daughter.

Melton, a former president of Webster County FB, is chairman of KFB's State Resolutions Committee and Health Care Task Force. He also was chairman of KFB's Farm Bill Task Force, which conducted statewide forums and sought input from Kentucky farmers on provisions of the 2008 farm bill. Melton additionally serves on the board of directors for Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company and Southern States Cooperative. He and his wife, Regina, have a daughter.

Giesecke serves as the chair of KFB's Beef Cattle Advisory Committee and is a member of KFB's Health Care Task Force. He also serves on the executive committee of the U.S. Meat Export Federation. Giesecke has been an active member of the Hart County FB for over 30 years where he has held a variety of leadership positions, including county president. He additionally served 25 years as county supervisor for the local



National Affairs Director Joe Cain, Public Affairs Director Jeff Harper and KFB President Mark Haney presented Second District Congressman Brett Guthrie with a "Friend of Farm Bureau" award and a Louisville Slugger bat. After having just mentioned the problem of black buzzards killing livestock during his keynote address at the public affairs breakfast, Guthrie quipped "it's a buzzard bat."

soil conservation district. Giesecke and his wife, Lydia, have a daughter and a son

Four new members were elected to the board: Terry Lawson of Rockcastle County and Cloyce Hinkle of Knox County will serve as district representatives, Roger Fannin of Harlan County steps in as representative of KFB Insurance Agents, and Alan Hubble of Lincoln County is the new chair of the Young Farmer Advisory Committee.

#### A complete list of the Board of Directors is on page 5.

Leadership for two of KFB's key advisory committees was also announced during the annual meeting. In addition to Hubble being named chair of the Young Farmer Advisory Committee, Betty Farris, of Butler County, was reelected as chair of the Women's Advisory Committee.

The new vice chair of the Young Farmer Committee is Kent Moore of Daviess County, the new secretary is Trisha Campbell of Logan County, and the social media chair is Stacy Collier of Greenup County.

The Young Farmer Committee is comprised of both singles and married couples. Those members for 2015, including the officers, are: Jay and Trisha

Campbell of Logan County; Matt and Stacy Collier of Greenup County; Matt and Amanda Gajdzik of Shelby County; Eric and Amy Holbrook of Breathitt County; Alan and Heidi Hubble of Lincoln County; Zack and Tiffany Ison of Mercer County; Jeremy and Christi Jones of Clark County; James and Julie Lyons of Scott County; Kent and Danya Moore of Daviess County; Caleb and Leanne Ragland of LaRue County; Nick and Audrey Roy of Adair County; and Nathan and Chelsea Wilson of Fulton County.

Vickie Bryant of Monroe County was re-elected first vice chair, and Sharon Furches of Calloway County was reelected second vice chair of the Women's Committee.

Members of the 2015 Women's Advisory Committee, including officers, are: Vickie Bryant of Monroe County; Mary Jayne Cannon of Fleming County; Pam Chappell of Owen County; Tracey Edgington of Garrard County; Betty Farris of Butler County; Sharon Furches of Calloway County; Judy Hayden of McLean County; Margaret Hensley of Clay County; Sue Litkenhus of Anderson County; Lisa Osborne of Greenup County; and Carol Sullivan of Taylor County.

## Butler County is tops again



The Butler County group on hand at the awards breakfast consisted of (front row from left) James Runyon, Randall Farris, Betty Farris, Shanna Drake, Greg Drake Jr., and in the middle, Maggie Drake. Middle row from left are Shane Wells, Rita Drake, Amanda Taylor and Pam Rose. Back row from left are Bobby Smith, Greg Drake Sr., Joey Kirby, Johnny Rose, Robert Taylor, Helen Moore and Sam Moore.



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utler County Farm Bureau was honored as KFB's "Top County" in 2014. This is the third year in a row that Butler County has won the award in a program to measure the overall effectiveness of the county organizations.

Butler County, which has 2,131 members, was also honored as the Top County in the membership category for counties with 2,600 or fewer members. Bath County (2,820 members) received recognition among the counties with 2,601 to 4,200 members, and Hardin County (11,445 members) won top honor among counties with more than 4,200 members.

#### In other award presentations:

- Outstanding County Farm Bureaus were designated in KFB's 11 districts. The recipients were: Bath, Barren, Breathitt, Boone, Butler, Hopkins, Madison, Robertson, Russell, Shelby and Trigg Counties.
- McCreary, Lewis and Warren Counties received Top Growth Awards for having the largest percentage of membership gain from 2013.
- Pacesetter Awards were given to counties in the three membership size classifications that were the first to achieve a membership gain during the year. The large county award went to Warren County, followed in size by Breckinridge and McCreary Counties.
- 11 counties won honors for having the highest member retention totals in their districts. Those winners were: Breathitt. Breckinridge, Campbell, Cumberland, Floyd, Lee, Lewis McCracken, Spencer and Webster
- · Wayne County was honored for having 51 consecutive years of membership growth.
- · Washington County was recognized as the Most Improved County Farm Bureau.
- Three awards were given for most effective county Farm Bureau information programs. Mercer County won first place, Union County was second and Logan County was third.

## Group will tackle water issue

KFB has formed a 20-member Water Management Management Working Group" to develop recommendations for enhancing water resources for agricultural production in the state.

Steve Coleman, a long-time Director of the Kentucky Division of Conservation, will be chairman of the task force. Other members are:

- Warren Beeler. Deputy Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture
- Tyler Campbell, Manger Governmental Affairs Communications for the Kentucky League of Cities
  - Fayette County farmer Todd Clark
- Dr. Nancy Cox, Dean of the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food & Environment
- · Calloway County farmer Sharon Furches
- KFB Director Terry Gilbert, a Boyle County farmer
- · Pete Goodmann, Director of the Kentucky Division of Water
- KFB Director Pat Henderson of Breckinridge County, who is Vice Chairman of the organization's Natural Resources Advisory Committee
- · Greenup County farmer Kenneth Imel
- Oldham County farmer Kevin **Jeffries**
- Gary Larimore, Executive Director of the Rural Water Association
- · David Rowlett, President of the Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts
- · KFB Director Larry Thomas of Hardin County, who is chairman of the

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organization's Natural Resources Advisory Committee

· Roger Thomas, Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Agricultural

Ex-officio members are Tom Fern, State Director of the USDA Rural Development office; Michael Griffin, Kentucky Director of the U.S. Geological Survey; John McCauley, State Executive Director of the Farm Service Agency; Kim Richardson, Director of the Kentucky Division of Conservation; and Karen Woodrich, State Conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service

The group held its initial meeting on December 10. The mission "is to research the situation, examine potential actions and make recommendations for bringing water to key areas of farm production," said KFB President Mark Haney.

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## Pulaski County cou

hris and Rebekah Pierce of Pulaski County were selected as KFB's "Outstanding Young Farm Family." KFB awards this distinction annually to a couple under age 35, judged on farm management skills, consistent financial growth and level of involvement in both Farm Bureau and the community.

The Pierces won a Case IH Scout courtesy of KFB Insurance and Case IH, an Apple iPad from Republic Bank & Trust, \$1,000 cash from Premier Crop Insurance, a \$750 Dyna-Gro seed voucher from Crop Production Services, a \$500 voucher from Southern States Cooperative, and a voucher for 12 bags of seed corn from Pioneer Seed. They also received an expense-paid trip to compete in AFBF's national young farmer contest next month.

The runner-up award went to Dustin and Tammy White of Union County. Third place winners were Zack and Tiffany Ison of Mercer County.

#### Chris & Rebekah Pierce

The Pierces have a row crop operation of more than 3,400 acres, with most of it on leased land. They own 328 acres on two tracts.

The couple met 14 years ago at the University of Kentucky, where Chris earned a Degree in Agricultural Economics and Rebekah received a Degree in Interior Design. Chris had purchased some farmland in 2003 while at UK, and then began his farming operation in 2007. Rebekah worked as an interior designer until the birth of the second of their four children.

Chris has an off-farm job teaching young farmer classes at a community college. Besides being very active with Farm Bureau, he is an advisor to the local Young Farmer Association and a member of the Farm Service Committee and the County Agricultural Development Council.

This year Chris produced more than 1550 acres of corn, 900 acres of soybeans, 800 acres of wheat and 100 acres of canola. He also had 691 acres of cover crops as part of the National Soil Health Movement.



The Pierce family

"Through the use of cover crops we have raised soil fertility by fixing nitrogen and scavenging potassium, phosphorus and micro nutrients," he said. "The cover crop residue acts as a natural barrier for weeds. which lowers our use of herbicides. The residue also acts as a moisture barrier."

The overall goal, he added, is "we want to leave the land better than we found it."

Like many farmers, Chris trades goods and services with his colleagues.

"We often trade custom planting, spray-

services for like service and labor," he explained. "The biggest reason we take this approach is to establish close friendships and business trust that will provide labor opportunities. Our goal is to be a community member, not a competitor."

With no grain elevators within 120 miles, the Pierces have had to be innovative marketers of their crops. They built storage to handle about 75 percent of their production. They sell corn to buyers in seven states who use it for animal feed, pet food and ethanol. Canola is sold directly to a family company in a neighboring state.

Chris has big plans for the future.

"We are always seeking to expand the farming business," he said. "We want to purchase more land and expand our grain storage capacity. As trucking becomes more of a necessity, building a shop to house semi trucks is a goal."

Rebekah takes care of the family and the farm office, where she handles the bookkeeping and recordkeeping.

The couple have four children, ages 8, 7, 4 and 1. They live near the Science Hill community in the central section of Pulaski County.

## ple win OYFF award



The White family



The Ison family

#### **Dustin & Tammy White**

Dustin and Tammy White own and operate part of a 13,987-acre, multigenerational family farm in Union County. The White family raises beef cattle, hay, straw, wheat, white and yellow corn, soybeans and seed beans. Dustin is also a Union County Farm Bureau board member and chair of the county's Young Farmer Committee. The Whites were also finalists in KFB's 2013 "Outstanding Young Farm Family" award competition.

The second place finish earned them 250 hours free use of a Kubota tractor, an Apple iPad from Republic Bank & Trust, \$750 cash from Premier Crop Insurance, a \$500 Dyna-Gro seed voucher from Crop Production Services, a \$300 voucher from Southern States Cooperative, and a voucher for eight bags of seed corn from Pioneer Seed.

#### **Zack & Tiffany Ison**

Zack and Tiffany Ison farm 1,350 acres in Mercer County. They grow alfalfa, corn, hay, soybeans and tobacco plus maintain pastureland for their herd of feeder cattle and cow-calf pairs. They serve on the Mercer County Farm Bureau board, volunteer to assist with and lead numerous committees, and Zack is also a member of KFB's recently graduated Leadership Enhancement for Agricultural Development (LEAD) class.

The Isons won 100 hours free use of a New Holland tractor, an Apple iPad from Republic Bank & Trust, \$500 cash from Premier Crop Insurance, a \$250 Dyna-Gro seed voucher from Crop Production Services, and a \$200 voucher from Southern States Cooperative, and a voucher for six bags of seed corn from Pioneer Seed.

## Outstanding Youth are selected



Lilly Robertson and Cody Lee Burke.

ody Lee Burke of Fleming County, and Lilly Robertson of Logan County were awarded top honors in the 2014 Outstanding Farm Bureau Youth contest. They were selected from 22 district finalists out of approximately 400 young people who competed in county and district contests over the past several months. Judges met with finalists for personal interviews during the annual meeting, awarding points for each contestant's leadership record, conversational ability and scholastic achievement. KFB gave both Burke and Robertson a \$2,000 college scholarship, an expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., on the KFB Congressional Tour in February, a luggage set and watch.

Runners-up were Tanner Erlandson and MaKayla Campbell, both of Lincoln County. They each received a \$200 cash award and digital camera from KFB. Congeniality awards, which were voted on by their fellow contestants, were won by Taylor Nash of Shelby County and Lilly Robertson. KFB awarded them with \$100 cash prizes.

The 22 district finalists who performed at KFB's annual meeting included:

Allison Brockman, Adair County; McKenna Lewis, Anderson County; Rebecca Markham, Caldwell County; Luke Trapp, Campbell County; Rachel Drumm, Clark County; Breanna Cornett, Clay County; William Dubre, Cumberland County; Cody Burke, Fleming County; Jenna Harrod, Franklin County; Jordan Abell, Green County; Miranda Robinson, Greenup County; Blake Quiggins, Hart County; James Payne, Henderson County; Jonathan West, Knox County; Cayleigh Allen, LaRue County; MaKayla Campbell and Tanner Erlandson, Lincoln County; Lily Robertson, Logan County; Adam Cornette, Martin County; Caroline Smith and Wyatt Wood, McCracken County; and Taylor Nash, Shelby

All 22 contestants received luggage pieces and \$100 for winning district competitions.

### **Cameron Edwards wins Discussion Meet**



Cameron Edwards received the award from Scott Christmas and David S. Beck.

ameron Edwards of Webster County won first place in the final round of the KFB Discussion Meet, a debate-styled competition for young farmers that relies on an individual's skill in reasoning and logical discussion of issues. Edwards nine other entrants in the event, winning Kawasaki MULE donated by Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company and Jacobi Sales. He also won a trip to the national finals at the AFBF annual meeting.

competed with

Winners of the national contest will have their choice of either a 2015 Chevrolet Silverado or a 2015 GMC Sierra, courtesy of General Motors, and a paid registration to the 2015 AFBF Young Farmer & Rancher Leadership Conference. Three national runners-up

will receive a Case IH Farmall 55A, courtesy of Case IH, a \$2,500 cash prize and \$500 in STIHL merchandise, courtesy of STIHL.

Runner-up in the state Discussion Meet was Mary Courtney of Shelby County, who received \$1,000 cash from KFR

The two other finalists in the statelevel contest were Mike Meyer of Harrison County, and Casey Story of Fleming County. They each received \$200 cash awards from KFB.

KFB's Discussion Meet tests entrants on their basic knowledge of critical farm issues and their ability to respond in a panel setting to differing points of view. The topic debated by the four finalists was: "How can Young Farmers & Ranchers work to encourage membership growth and member engagement for the county, state and national Farm Bureau organizations?"

## Jack Trumbo is "Farmer of the Year"



helby County row crop producer Jack Trumbo was named the 2014 KFB "Farmer of the Year" during a ceremony at the annual meeting. Trumbo has been farming for over 60 years and is a long-time leader within KFB and the Kentucky Soybean Association.

Each year, KFB recognizes an individual for exemplary achievements in farming and in service to agriculture. Three Kentucky farmers were considered as finalists in this year's competition — Trumbo, Ronnie Cooper of Lincoln County and Keith Lowry of Graves County.

Trumbo grows cereal rye, corn, soybeans and winter wheat on his 2,170-acre farm. Starting out on his father's farm at a young age,, he had a hand in farming for many years before diving into fulltime farming at the age of 42. With the help of his wife, Gwyn, to handle the finances and paperwork, Trumbo grew his operation to several thousand acres with land in five sur-

The three finalists for Farmer of the Year were (from left) Keith Lowry of Graves County, Ronnie Cooper of Lincoln County and Jack Trumbo of Shelby County.

rounding counties.

Land management is a focal point for his farm today, and incorporating practices like seasonal crop rotation, 100% no-till farming, waterway maintenance and the creation of buffer zones have helped minimize erosion and runoff. He has also taken advantage of technology as it became available and affordable, including the introduction of auto-steer, variable rate and geo-spatial applications to reduce the waste of fuel, fertilizers, herbicides and seed.

Trumbo additionally expanded his business to include planting, spray application, harvesting and bush-hogging to assist neighboring farmers. He also partners with other farmers to bale, store and deliver wheat straw for the horse industry and rye straw for land-scaping.

Trumbo has been an active member of Shelby County FB since 1994 and

served as president for four years. He is a member of the KFB Soybean Advisory Committee, past-president of the Shelby County Extension Service, and is a 30+ year member and past master of the Wingate Masonic Lodge #161. He has served since 2000 with the Kentucky and American Soybean Association boards.

Judges visited the "Farmer of the Year" finalists during the fall to conduct interviews and see each operation. The KFB Federation awarded Trumbo with a \$1,000 prize and the other finalists received \$250. The three finalists were presented with a KFB jacket.

Trumbo will represent Kentucky in the Swisher Sweets/Sunbelt Ag Expo Southeastern "Farmer of the Year" contest next fall. He will compete with nine other state winners for a \$15,000 award from Swisher International and other sponsor-based prizes.

## Richard Preston recognized for Service to Agriculture



Richard and Alana Preston receive the award from KFB President Mark Haney and Executive Vice President David S. Beck.

ardin County farmer Richard Preston received the annual award for Distinguished Service to Agriculture.

During a 35-year farming career, Preston, 67, has made a mark with farm organizations and youth groups like 4-H and FFA. He's been widely recognized for his innovative production practices and as an advocate for using sound science on the farm.

Preston has one of the most unique stories of any farmer. He was raised on a small hobby farm near Glendale with aspirations of being a farmer. His exemplary academic achievements led to a scholarship at the University of Kentucky, where he earned a degree in Chemistry. Later, he landed at Yale University on a graduate fellowship, earning a Doctorate Degree in Physical Chemistry.

In 1977, Preston was working as a research physicist at the University of California when he decided to come

back to Hardin County and start a farming operation. He purchased 40 acres of cropland and some used equipment. He started out raising corn and hogs. Today, he and his wife, Alana, farm over 2,000 acres of row crops and have four employees

Those who nominated Preston for the prestigious award say he has worked diligently to improve the quality and economics of his farming operation and become an effective advocate for various scientific principles, particularly with conservation practices. He produced a video for the Kentucky Corn Growers Association promoting sound conservation practices and helped the Kentucky Division of Water implement computer monitoring for determining farming's effect on streams.

"Richard has a strong desire to serve others," said Rodney Grusy, Hardin County agricultural extension agent. "He has a strong desire to make a difference. He's well respected and a tremen-

dous asset to agriculture."

"I can't imagine a better volunteer leader than Richard Preston," said Kentucky Corn Growers Association President Russel Schwenke. "His contributions to the farming community, industry and our organization have been countless. He is uniquely equipped with a very strong academic background in science; he focuses those skills in all facets of our organization."

Preston has served on KCGA's board for 11 years and has been active with Hardin County Farm Bureau for 12 years. He has spent much of his adult life teaching and coaching youth and young farmers. He taught the first computer programming class in Hardin County schools, as well as Physics at Elizabethtown Community College. He's been a strong FFA and 4-H supporter plus has been a PTA Chapter President and a youth baseball and basketball coach.

His daughter, Leslie Meredith, a teacher at West Hardin Middle School, was the 2013 recipient of KFB's "Excellence in Ag Literacy" award. He and Alana have five other adult children.

Preston also has worked diligently to bring the farm community closer to urban interests. Two examples: He has hosted public tours of his farm and served on the Hardin County Planning & Zoning Commission's subcommittee on agriculture and natural resources.

"His contribution is always outstanding," said Grusy, who served with Preston on the subcommittee. "He is able to communicate his ideas with perfection. They do not come any better or easier to work with."

"His philosophy is not simply to advocate for agriculture, but to develop and enhance advocacy and decision-making skills in other farmers," said Schwenke. "He sees a need for farmers to speak for themselves; he tirelessly and effectively encourages farmers to do so."

## Mercer County FB leader selected for service award

County's "Bill" James W. Waggener selected for the annual award for Distinguished Service to Farm Bureau. Waggener, 77, has been active with Mercer County Farm Bureau for 45 years. He served three terms as president and chaired the budget committee for 10 years. He currently serves on six of the county Farm Bureau's committees, chairing two of them. He has been a voting delegate to Kentucky Farm Bureau's annual meeting for 35 years and has served on the state organization's advisory committees for livestock marketing and education. He has attended five annual meetings of the American Farm Bureau Federation plus several of KFB's Congressional Tours.

A native of the Burgin community in Mercer County, Waggener has been farming

for 56 years, producing tobacco, cattle and grain. He also had businesses spreading lime and hauling feed and cattle. He was the first farmer in the area to grow no-till corn and did so from a machine he designed with the Allis-Chambers Company. The University of Kentucky showcased that machine in "field day" events.

Mercer County Farm Bureau leaders praise Waggener's tireless dedication to both the organization and the community.

"Our county directors look to Bill for leadership and advice, especially regarding financial matters," said Mercer County Farm Bureau President Jamie DeHart. "He is an asset to our board and our county."

"He is a dedicated and effective leader in the Burgin community," said Richard W. Webb, former superintendent of



Bill and Peggy Waggener

Burgin Independent Schools. "He is at the forefront of any progress that enhances the town. Not only is Mr. Waggener a proven leader, he also serves as a role model to others in how to communicate with others in an effective and positive manner."

In service to Mercer County Farm Bureau, Waggener played a key role in the 1997 opening of a modern office just south of Harrodsburg that serves both the Federation and the Insurance Agency. The county board, in fact, appointed Waggener to oversee the project.

As county treasurer, he spearheaded an investment fund to prepare for future growth.

Waggener also has championed youth organizations and agricultural education. He served 10 years on the Mercer County 4-H Council (including three years as president) and served FFA by

recruiting former students to form an Alumni Association to support a new FFA chapter at Burgin High School. He has been involved with many "Farm City Day" events to unite rural and urban interests.

His wife, Peggy, has long been active in Mercer County's women's program and with communications activities. The couple have two adult children.

Mercer County Insurance Agency Manager Leon Mayo describes Waggener as "a visionary" and "an anchor."

"His service has been most needed at the key times; conservative to protect us but yet the most visionary," Mayo said.

# **Annual Farm-City Banquet bountiful in Shelby County**



More than 400 attended the annual Farm-City banquet in Shelby County.

helby County FB joins with the Shelbyville Kiwanis Club to hold a hugely successful Farm-City banquet uniting rural and urban interests. Shelby County has seen tremendous change with urban sprawl from neighboring Louisville. But its

agricultural base has remained strong and highly recognized – fueling the traditional Farm-City banquet signifying the harvest season.

"This gives honor to the relationship between producers and consumers," said Ferenc Vegh Jr., a local KFB

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KFB Federation Executive Vice President David S. Beck was the keynote speaker.

Insurance agent who was program emcee for a 13th consecutive year.

Organizers say this is the oldest Farm-City event in the nation, having been initiated 60 years ago when 28 people assembled at the venerable Science Hill Inn in the heart of Shelbyville. The banquet now is held in the spacious "Floral Hall" at the county fairgrounds.

A crowd of around 400 was on hand for a cookout dinner and program that included a keynote address from David S. Beck, Executive Vice President of KFB Federation. Other speakers included Shelby County Judge-Executive Rob Rothenburger and Shelbyville Mayor Thomas Hardesty.

Shelby County FB handled all of the dinner arrangements. Agency Manager Pat Hargadon (who headed the cooking team along with colleague Pat Murphy) presented a Shelby County FB "Associate Member of the Year" award to Tom Becherer, the long-time head football coach at Shelby County High School.

Beck noted that he has spent a lot of time in Shelby County during his career at KFB.

"There is tremendous ag leadership in Shelby County," he said. "I can't think of a better community to share that ruralurban partnership. Agriculture is big business here."

The KFB leader went on to address some of the challenges facing farmers. With the world population expected to soar in the years ahead, "our farmers will have to meet greater demands for food. They will be doing it with less land, less water, less labor, less chemicals and less fertilizer. And they will be producing for a more sophisticated consumer," Beck said.

He said KFB would be focusing on ways to provide Kentucky farmers with more access to water resources. "We've got to better manage our water resources," he said. "You'll be hearing a lot about this issue in the future."

# KFB hosts legislative meeting



House and Senate Ag Committee Chairmen Tom McKee (left) and Paul Hornback (right) with KFB Public Affairs Director Jeff Harper.

FB drew high praise from House Majority Floor Leader Rocky Adkins during the organization's annual meeting of legislative leaders, KFB's Executive Committee and commodity group leaders. "I'm honored to be a member of Farm Bureau; I have a deep respect for what you do," said Adkins, a 27-year member of the House of Representatives and its majority leader since 2004.

He congratulated KFB for maintaining influence in Frankfort despite the decline in the number or rural legislators. "You need to continue to shape policy," he advised,

Joining Adkins at the KFB State office were House Ag Committee Chairman Tom McKee, Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Paul Hornback and House Appropriations and Revenue Committee Chairman Rick Rand. They spoke to the KFB leaders and agriculture officials about potential issues for the 2015 "short session" of the General Assembly.



Majority Leader Adkins

The lawmakers said it is unlikely that any significant legislation will emerge from the 30-day session.

"These short sessions are to modify and adjust," said Adkins, a Democrat from Elliott County.

Hornback, a Shelby County farmer and former KFB Director, informed the group of his dissatisfaction with appointments to the State Fair Board. He said the board has been "diluted" of agriculture representatives.

"We (agriculture) have lost a lot of our influence on that board, and yet agriculture brings in 50 percent or more of the revenue. What built that Fairgrounds? Agriculture," said Hornback.

Hornback said he was looking at legislation to assure that agriculture has more representatives on the board. (past KFB President Marshall Coyle of Bath County is a board member)

McKee, the 2014 recipient of the KFB Distinguished Service to Agriculture award, mentioned several ag issues he anticipates, including discussions about "right to farm" legislation to protect animal agriculture producers. "We want to protect animal agriculture,' he said, "but we have to be very careful about how we do it."

Representative Rand assured the group he would continue to look out for the fiscal interests of farmers. "There's only six to eight House members who are ag people; so I feel I need to work for you," said Rand, who was raised on a Trimble County farm.

The meeting included representatives from the Kentucky Corn Growers Association, Kentucky Soybean Board, Kentucky Small Grain Growers Association, Kentucky Horticulture Council, Kentucky Cattlemen's Association, Kentucky Poultry Federation, Kentucky Dairy Development Council, Kentucky Thoroughbred Association, Kentucky Pork Producers Association, Council for Burley Tobacco, Kentucky Equine Education Project and Kentucky Sheep and Goat Producers Association.

Following the state issues segment the group discussed national issues with staff from Kentucky's Congressional delegation, with all eight members represented.



Representative Rand

## **Executive Committee tour**

**KFB**'s Executive Committee last month visited farms and Farm Bureau offices in west Kentucky, with stops in Caldwell, Trigg, Calloway, Graves, Carlisle, Fulton, Ballard, Livingston and Lyon counties.

KFB President Mark Haney headed the delegation which also included Second Vice President Eddie Melton, Third Vice President Fritz Giesecke, Executive Vice President David S. Beck and five executives from KFB Insurance: Chief Executive Officer Brad Smith, Chief Operating Officer John Sparrow, Chuck Osborne, Vice President for Agency Support and Marketing, Jeff Koch, Vice President of Product and Risk Management and Ken Wilson, Director, Agency Support and Marketing.

The agenda featured the farms of Caldwell County FB President Wendell Roberts, KFB Director Tripp Furches of Calloway County, KFB Director Glenn Howell of Fulton County and Lyon County FB Director Chris Hooks.

In his remarks at the various stops, Haney stressed the importance of building relationships.

"One of the most important things we can do for our members is be advocates for them," he said at the first stop, the Roberts farm north of Princeton. "One way we can do that is by establishing relationships. We try to build good relationships that last."

Such relationships were evidenced by the special guests who met with the KFB contingent along the way. In Caldwell County, newly-elected County Judge-Executive Ellen Dunning came to meet the KFB officials. State Senator Stan Humphries spoke at the Trigg County FB office. The group at Furches Farm in Calloway County included Judge-Executive Larry Elkins, Murray Mayor



Jack Rose, County Magistrates Johnny Gingles, Bobby Stubblefield, Eddie Hale and Tim Todd plus Sheriff Sam Steger.

State Representative Richard Heath spoke during the meeting in Graves



KFB President Mark Haney speaks at the sizeable equipment shed at Furches Farm in Calloway County.



County, as did Representative Stephen Rudy at the Ballard County FB visit.

When talking agriculture, there was much discussion about water regulatory and supply issues, next year's farm bill implementation and controlling wildlife predation.

When talking insurance, rates and the status of earthquake coverage were the primary topics.

This marked the ninth year of the November tour to various regions of the state.



Above, At the equipment shed at the farm of Chris Hooks, Lyon County FB President John Rudolph welcomed the KFB visitors. Hooks is on the county's Board of Directors.

Left, Mike Cartwright, who has been with the Graves County FB Insurance agency for 39 years, spoke about the development of the agency's impressive office in Mayfield.



KFB President Mark Haney with Ballard Memorial FFA students (from left) Annie Cooper, Caitlyn Meinschein and Tristin Heil.



KFB Director Glenn Howell of Fulton County distributed gifts during the visit to his farm.

## Louisville teacher wins 'ag literacy" award

arleen Horton, a teacher at Cane Run Elementary School in Jefferson County, is the recipient of KFB's 2014 Excellence in Ag Literacy Award. The annual award recognizes teachers who excel with incorporating agricultural concepts throughout their core

Horton received \$500 and an expense-paid trip to the National Ag in the Classroom Conference June 16-20, where she will represent Kentucky in the national competition.

Horton began her teaching career in 1974. She joined the staff at Cane Run Elementary in 2009. She has made it her personal mission to bring agricultural concepts not only into her classroom but also to the entire school. She secured partnerships with local businesses for various projects such as a series of raised garden beds and an outdoor classroom teaching concept. She then guided her fellow teachers on the various ways to use the gardens to lead students through lessons covering everything from science and math to social studies, writing and fine arts.

"A huge disconnect in our country is related to the connection between farming and the dinner table," Horton said in her application for the award. "Using school gardens to engage children through gardening from the soil to the table is almost magical in the way children

> grow in ag literacy. Nature becomes the teacher and the teacher becomes the facilitator."

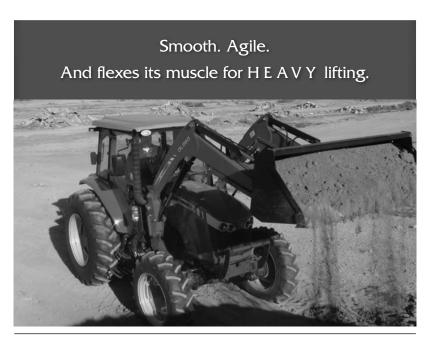
Horton's efforts have transformed the school's physical appearance. Before her arrival, Cane Run Elementary sat on a fairly plain plot of land. It now has 35 raised garden beds, a Native American Garden, pond with a stream and waterfall, pollinator gardens, fitness trail, sun dial, physical science space and an in-ground map of Kentucky.

Described by those who recommended her for the award as one who has a "raging passion for teaching" and "strives to provide an engaging learning environment," Horton believes that "more than plants grow in our gardens."

## **Dr. Garry Lacefield** selected for PR award

University of Kentucky forage specialist Dr. Garry Lacefield received the 2014 Farm Public Relations Award recognizing Kentuckians who significantly generate a better public understanding of agriculture.

A native of Ohio County, Dr. Lacefield has worked as a forage extension specialist for 40 years. During this time, he has authored and co-authored more than 300 extension publications, papers, articles and book chapters. He is co-author of the book, Southern Forages, the best-selling forage book in the country that has also been translated into five different languages, and just recently co-authored a new book, Forage Quotes and Concepts. Dr. Lacefield also is senior author of Cow Country News, a publication of the Kentucky Cattlemen's Association.



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## **Hardin County** couple win "Excellence

aron and Melissa Miller from Hardin County won top honors in KFB's Excellence in Agriculture Awards program . The competition awards first, second and third place distinctions each year to individuals or couples under the age of 35 who contribute to and exhibit leadership growth from consistent involvement in Farm Bureau and other agriculture- and civic-oriented organiza-

The Millers will represent Kentucky in national competition at the AFBF annual meeting in January. They were presented with a John Deere Gator courtesy of Farm Credit Services of Mid-America, and an expenses-paid trip to the AFBF annual meeting.

Aaron is currently a regional vice-president for Farm Credit Mid-America and a board member of the Kentucky Agriculture Council. Melissa works part-time for Forman Watson Land Title, LLC, and is a graduating member of the 2013-14 KFB Leadership Enhancement for Agricultural Development (LEAD) class. She formerly was director of the Kentucky Poultry Federation. The Millers also have a beef cattle operation on two farms in Hardin County. They live in Elizabethtown and have three children.

Second place in the contest went to Clinton Hardy of Daviess County. He was awarded \$400 courtesy of KFB. Emily Drury Milam, of Anderson County, placed third and received \$300 from KFB.

When the Millers compete for top national honors, they will be vying for their choice of either a 2015 Chevrolet Silverado or 2015 GMC Sierra, courtesy of General Motors, and a paid registration to the 2015 AFBF Young Farmer & Rancher Leadership Conference. Three national runners-up will receive a Case IH Farmall 45A, courtesy of Case IH, a \$2,500 cash prize and \$500 in STIHL merchandise, courtesy of STIHL.

#### Herbal Formula Eases Farmers' Aches And Pains

"I read about Steuart's Pain Formula in a farm magazine," says Rickey D. Snow, Hood, California. "I hurt my shoulder January 18th 2013, and had constant pain until the middle of March. My doctors could do nothing, within 10 minutes of applying pain formula, the pain was completely gone."

Warren Ward of Pemberton, Minnesota says his knees ached so terrible at night that he couldn't get to sleep without taking pain killers. "An orthopedic surgeon told me both my knees were shot, I had bone rubbing on bone, and I needed knee replacement surgery. Then someone told me about Steuart's Pain Formula. I started using it and in 3 days I had no pain in my knees. I went right to sleep at night and I haven't taken a pain killer since."

The cream contains extracts of the herbs Comfrey and Arnica in a liposome base that penetrates the skin rapidly, says Gary Steuart who founded the company in 1982. "People now use the product to relieve joint and muscle pain associated with arthritis and injuries," Steuart says.

Jack Zimmerman from Elysian, Minnesota is a disabled Afghanistan war veteran. He stepped on an IED in 2011 & lost both of his legs. He is confined to a wheel chair because of his injuries. "After I spend a day in my wheel chair I end up with a lot of back, neck, & shoulder pain. Within a half hour of applying Steuart's Pain Formula I am pain free. Prior to knowing about Steuart's I could not tolerate a whole day in my wheel chair."

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### **More Annual Meeting Photos**



KFB's Executive Committee presented Senator Mitch McConnell with a "Friend of Farm Bureau" award following his remarks at the closing business session. Senator McConnell has been honored many times by AFBF for his support of the organization's issues. He often says, in fact, that he agrees with Farm Bureau positions on virtually all issues. From left are Executive Vice President David S. Beck, President Mark Haney, Senator McConnell, First Vice President Eddie Melton and Second Vice President Fritz Giesecke.



Members of KFB's Resolutions Committee study the proposals that were under consideration at the business session. The 2014 annual meeting attracted a near-record crowd of 1,877 members.



AFBF President Bob Stallman enjoyed a light moment during his address at the Commodity Luncheon. The Texas rice and cattle producer touched on pressing issues and the need for farmers to educate consumers about production agriculture.

## **Survey shows** "Ky. Proud" is better known

entucky Proud was a hit in Kentucky's two largest cities in its early days but was largely unknown anywhere else in the state. That's no longer the case, a recent University of Kentucky survey shows.

In a survey of Kentucky consumers conducted in October, UK found that recognition of the Kentucky Proud brand outside the Lexington and Louisville markets grew by 46 percent in the past five years and now stands at 54 percent. Brand recognition in Lexington and Louisville also increased, and brand recognition statewide grew 12 percent to 69 percent. The survey was conducted to measure the brand's progress since a similar study in 2009.

The study found that brand recognition in the Louisville market was 80 percent, a six percent increase over 2009, and brand recognition in the Lexington market was 75 percent, up seven percent.

Among other key findings in the sur-

- 70 percent of respondents said they had seen the Kentucky Proud logo on food products, up 30 percent from 2009.
- 56 percent of respondents outside the Louisville and Lexington markets said they had seen or heard Kentucky Proud advertising or messaging, up 19 percent.
- 52 percent of respondents said they purchased a food product specifically because it was "produced or processed" in Kentucky, up 15 percent. Eighty-three percent of respondents said they purchased a Kentucky Proud item after seeing the logo on a product.

Kentucky Proud is the official state farm marketing program. It is funded by grants from the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund.

To find out more about Kentucky Proud, visit the new Kentucky Proud website at www.kyproud.com.

## Gagels win agribusiness award



Long-time Jefferson County FB leaders George and Barbara Gagel received the 22nd annual Agribusiness of the Year Award presented by the Agribusiness Industry Network. They operate George Gagel Truck Farm, a fourth-generation producer of vegetables, perennials and flowers in southwest Jefferson County. Their market was a charter member of KFB's Certified Roadside Farm Markets program.

The Agribusiness Industry Network makes the award each year at a Farm-City luncheon at the Kentucky Exposition Center. The network involves the metro Louisville area.





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# Kentucky farmers have record sales

\$5.67 billion in farm cash receipts in 2013, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

"These statistics prove that Kentucky's investments in diversifying and modernizing our agriculture industry and developing our local food economy are paying off," Agriculture Commissioner James Comer said.

Total farm cash receipts were up 16.8 percent over the total of \$4.86 billion for 2012, according to NASS.

Poultry and eggs remained Kentucky's top agricultural commodity in 2013 with farm sales of \$1.2 billion, 15.1 percent above the 2012 total, NASS reported. Soybeans were next at just over \$1 billion (a 45.5 percent jump over 2012), followed by cattle and calves at \$836 million (up 27.3 percent) and corn at \$766 million (down 12.2 percent). Cash receipts from sales of tobacco were down less than 1 percent at \$404.3 million.

Sales of horses and mules totaled \$392.3 million in 2013, a 30.2 percent increase over the previous year. NASS revised its method of calculating equine sales to include only equine owned by Kentucky farms, explained David Knopf, director of the NASS Eastern Mountain Regional Field Office. The figure for horses and mules formerly included equine owned by farms and non-farms, Knopf said.

Cash receipts were balanced between crops (50.7 percent) and livestock (49.3 percent), the NASS report stated.





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In the Spring of 2013, I tried SumaGroulx, SumaGrow Inside on one Wheat & Hay Field, while my father did his field the regular way. At harvest, the SumaGroulx, SumaGrow Inside Wheat field went 82 bushel while Dad's field went 74 bushel. We also baled 840 bales of straw off 110 acres which is EXTREMELY good. We seeded two Hay fields. Dad's field was done two weeks prior to my field, but with SumaGroulx on my field, mine had already passed Dad's field in height and looked overall, healthier. I am VERY impressed!

Lawrence Hurst, Plymouth, Ohio



SumaGroulx can be used for better water infiltration. Back in field sooner. SumaGroulx even helped with the infiltration of the abundance of rain received during the rainstorms of April 2014, as shown above, allowing growers to get on the land sooner

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JD S660, '12, 908/649,



JD 9570, '08, 1283/823, CM, 20.8x38 dls, bin LL, 2wd, 18.4x38 dls, 2400/1760, 18.4x38 dls, 1115/915, CM, twin ro- hrs, 20.8x42 dls, 35, U9, spiral cnopper, ext, chopper, 2wd, 1.9% AT Valve, 2.9% for 5 2wd, CM, 18.4x38 rr, tor, self levelling shoe, 600/65R28 rear, rock 3 bar spike/rolling bas-



JD 9560W.



CR9040, '04, NH



'10, CIH 8120, '10, 955/714 McFarlane Reel Disk





CCS, pneum, res mgrs,



1770, 24-30, '09, KZ 3600, 16/31, '11, KZ 2700, 24-30", '96, 



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JD 4920, '04, 1970 hr. 120' boom, 20" spacing, 3264/2342, 800/32 tires, new pts........\$29,900 less Eductor, belly shields .\$115,900



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JD 4730, '09. hr, 800 g SS tank, 90' boom, 15" ctrs, traction ..\$167,900 ctrl...



















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JD 8130, '08, 3154 hr, JD 8520T, '03, 3824 hr, JD 8420, '02, 7581 hr, JD 8320, '02, 5453 hr, JD 8220, '03, 3328 hr, JD 8220, '02, 11374 JD 8300, '96, 6518 hr, 18.4x46 dls, mfwd, 4 24" belts-85%, 4 scv, 20 18.4x46 dls, ILS, 42 18.4x46 dls, 5 scv, AT 20.8x42 dls, mfwd, 22 hr, 2wd, 18.4x50 dls, mfwd, 3 hyd, 30 gpm, scv w/ 44 gal pump, frt frt wts, 42.5 gpm, pwr gpm, 5 scv, hid lits, 8 frt valve, active seat, 8 frt valve, active seat, 8 frt frt wts, 3 scv, 1000 pto, 540/1000 pto, 42.5 18.4x46 dls, #2800 rr fenders......\$115,900 spm, 4 scv ....\$69,900 wts .......\$67,900











JD 8200, '95, 5138 hr, 18.4x42 dls, 2wd, 1000 pto, 3 scv, radar



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JD 7930, '11, 1849 hr, JD 7810, '98, 8107 hr, JD 7410, '97, 4975 hr, AQ trans, 18.4x46 dls, 3 2wd, pq trans, 18.4x42 2wd, 16 spd, w/ lh rev, scv, AT ready .\$134,900





dls, has been under- 720 loader, cab, 2 scv hauled......\$45,900 .....\$47,90 \$47,900



JD 7410, '97, 4975 hr. Sunflower 2wd, 16 spd, w/ lh rev, 720 loader, cab, 2 scv... \$47.900



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