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The options farmers have in how they grow their crops play a key role in providing consumers with a wide variety of foods. Farm Bureau supports and, if necessary, defends production practices that ensure safe and healthy food. We also are agreeable with common-sense, science-based regulations on farming practices.

We draw the line on unfounded proposals, such as inconsistent labeling requirements on food products made with genetically modified ingredients known as "GMOs."

AFBF currently is addressing this issue by supporting the Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act (HR 4432). This would establish a national standard for labeling of food products made with genetically modified ingredients. This bipartisan legislation affirms the sole authority to the Food and Drug Administration to require mandatory labeling on such foods if they are found to be unsafe. The proposal protects consumers by eliminating confusion caused by a 50-state patchwork of GMO labeling laws that would increase food prices and establish burdensome new supply chain requirements for farmers.

Kentucky Congressman Ed Whitfield joined with Representatives Mike Pompeo of Kansas and G.K. Butterfield of North Carolina in introducing the legislation. Besides AFBF, this bill is supported by the American Fruit and Vegetable Processors and Growers Coalition, American Soybean Association, National Corn Growers Association, International Dairy Foods Association plus more than thirty other trade organizations that are part of the Coalition for Safe, Affordable Food.

Farmers stand behind the health and safety of biotech foods, ingredients and products. However, opponents of GMOs want to confuse consumers with special labels, varying from state to state. Biotech labeling has become a national issue that requires a national solution. H.R. 4432 will establish national standards and hopefully eliminate consumer confusion. And it will affirm the Food and Drug Administration's role in governing the use and labeling of biotechnology, as well as the agency's status as America's foremost food safety authority.

KFB thanks Congressman Whitfield for supporting our position and taking a lead toward establishing a policy that benefits both farmers and consumers.



Mark Haney

President

Kentucky Farm Bureau

Breathitt Lab project approved; Ag Fund is \$31.1 million for FY15

Construction of a new Breathitt Veterinary Lab in Hopkinsville has been a state priority issue for KFB for several years, and now can go off the list after the General Assembly approved \$32.4 million in funding. Governor Steve Beshear included the long-awaited project in the Executive Budget and the House and Senate gave approval.

The budget had other benefits for agriculture, including \$6 million in FY2015 for the environmental stewardship program and \$950,000 per fiscal year for aid to local conservation districts. The Ag Development Fund was earmarked for \$31.1 million in FY15 and \$12.2 million in FY16. The county share is \$19.3 million for FY15 and \$9.8

million for FY16.

The Breathitt Veterinary Center is part of Murray State University. It's an animal disease lab devoted to protecting Kentucky's animal agriculture industry and is especially vital to the state's sizeable poultry industry. The facility needs to be upgraded to ensure national accreditation and to meet contemporary demands.

KFB and other agriculture groups had been pushing for the Breathitt Lab project for several years.

The General Assembly also passed a KFB-backed bill aimed at tackling the problem of a huge deer population in Kentucky that is hindering both farmers and motorists.

House Bill 448, a bipartisan measure with House Agriculture Committee Chairman Tom McKee as the lead sponsor and Representative Tommy Turner as co-sponsor, establishes a process to make it easier for landowners to eradicate wildlife that are causing problems. The proposal would allow a landowner to have a designee to remove depredating wildlife. Current law restricts that to just the landowner or tenant.

House Bill 448 also enables landowners to dispose of the animal on their farm without a permit or tag, streamlines the process of removing the carcass from the farm to have it processed or donated to charity and stipulates that inedible parts (such as antlers) may not be used for any purpose.

KFB worked with the Kentucky Division of Fish and Wildlife and Kentucky League of Sportsmen to develop the legislation.

KFB Public Affairs Director Jeff Harper described the 2014 session as a good one for the organization.

"We were able to accomplish several of our priority issues," he said. "We appreciate the members of the General Assembly and their recognition that agriculture is a vital component of Kentucky's economy."

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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 C O L U M N

Fruit and vegetable sales through direct market, auction and independent grower-shipper wholesale sales should increase in 2014 – weather permitting. Produce demand has been very strong, particularly in local markets. Direct markets remain an important channel for most of our producers, accounting for over half of the gross sales for produce in Kentucky. Over 2,500 vendors sold in farmers markets in 2013 and the number should go higher based on early registrations with KDA. On-farm markets – including the Kentucky Farm Bureau Certified Roadside Markets, wineries, CSAs, and direct-to-retailer marketing, in conjunction with “buy local” merchandising and agritourism, continue to grow the industry. Auction and other wholesale channels have also experienced rebounded growth in number and scale.

The most recent planting intentions data indicates a total of around 13,000 acres of produce crops in Kentucky. Fruit crop acreage was an estimated 3,000 acres and vegetables were estimated at 10,000. Kentucky had around 10,500 acres in all produce in 2002. While Kentucky remains a relatively minor produce supplier, sales growth in Kentucky has significantly outpaced that of surrounding states, especially for fruit.

A number of important issues, however, will shape commercial fruit and vegetable production in Kentucky. A recent survey of the SE horticulture Extension specialists pointed to labor management and compliance with new food safety standards as the top issues influencing production at this time. These will remain key industry drivers during the next few years. In spite of these challenges, more growers are being drawn to produce as a means to tie in to the rising consumer demand in local products. Gross sales will continue to be driven by higher-value direct marketing at farmers' markets, directly off the farm, and direct to foodservice. Wholesale opportunities will continue to expand as demand for local products remains strong in local markets. Overall produce acreage will continue to move higher and higher-value market channels should see sales increasing over the next few years.



Tim Woods

Agricultural Economist
University of Kentucky



Is “TMDL” a problem for farmers?

Second In A Series

The acronym TMDL may be new to some farmers in Kentucky, but it is gaining the attention of farmers across the nation. A TMDL, short for Total Maximum Daily Load, is a study of a lake, reservoir or stream that assists regulators in determining how much pollution is occurring in the waterbody, and helps formulate a plan for reduction of that pollution. In Kentucky, TMDLs are developed for streams that have been assessed by the Kentucky Division of Water as not meeting water quality standards. The most common pollutants in Kentucky include pathogens, nutrients and sediment.

The Kentucky Division of Water, which handles the TMDL process, has found various impairments in parts of hundreds of waterbodies throughout the state, from the Levisa Fork in the east to the Clarks River in the west. The list includes hundreds of creeks plus major waterways like Lake Cumberland, Green River, Kentucky River, Cave Run Lake, Barren River Reservoir, Herrington Lake, Tennessee River, Cumberland River and Licking River.

In Kentucky, more than 300 TMDLs have been developed on hundreds of streams, lakes and reservoirs across the state since 1995. The pollutant most commonly addressed by these TMDLs is E. coli bacteria or pathogens stemming from things such as failing septic systems, pet waste or livestock production. In this example, Kentucky has a numeric water quality standard that gives a specific number limit to the amount of bacteria that can be in the stream and be safe for people to be in contact with the water and have healthy populations of aquatic animals.

The TMDL is there to help regulators understand the input of pollution that a stream can take and still be able to function as a healthy stream. The mathematical formula in a TMDL divides the total amount of a pollutant in the stream into pieces that could be allowed by permitted activities, nonpoint source activities and a mathematical margin of safety. Since TMDLs are developed for streams that are currently not meeting their designated uses, the TMDLs all call for a reduction in the amount of pollution that should be going to the stream. A TMDL may have very specific requirements for wastewater treatment plant limits or limits to other permitted discharges in the area. Although confined animal feeding operations fall into the permitted activities, most of Kentucky's agriculture falls into the nonpoint source category of pollution. The requirements for reduction of

nonpoint sources, like agriculture, aren't as defined.

The high-profile court battle over the Environmental Protection Agency's authority to enforce TMDLs on the Chesapeake Bay Watershed has left some Kentucky farmers concerned about TMDLs in their area. State officials say farmers have nothing to fear, but some farmers are skeptical, fearing that TMDLs could lead to wider restrictions on agricultural field runoff and fertilizer use.

"Kentucky's situation is totally different from the Chesapeake Bay in many ways," said Peter Goodmann, Director of Kentucky Division of Water. "The laws regulating agriculture vary from state to state, and in Kentucky we have the Agriculture Water Quality Act. It is important for the agriculture community to understand that a TMDL isn't going to require a specific action on a farm. The TMDL document is there to help the community understand what amount of reduction is necessary for the stream to be healthy and allow all of the nonpoint source contributors to develop cooperative approaches to reach the goal of a healthy stream."

TMDL might not mean trouble for Kentucky farmers, but they have created a stir nationally in what has become a tug-of-war between states and the federal government over balance of power. After EPA announced it would enforce the Chesapeake Bay standards, American Farm Bureau Federation filed a lawsuit challenging the agency's authority to do so under the Clean Water Act. After losing a decision in U.S. District Court last fall, AFBF filed an appeal, and then Attorney Generals in 21 states, including Kentucky and Indiana, filed briefs in support of AFBF's assertions. Joining AFBF in the legal action are groups like the National Corn Growers Association, National Pork Producers Council, Fertilizer Institute, U.S. Poultry and Egg Association and National Association of Home Builders.

Joe Cain, KFB's Commodity Division Director, says the outcome could have a significant impact on the regulatory landscape.

"There's a critical issue here as to whether EPA can reach beyond the language of the Clean Water Act and micromanage how states meet federal water quality standards," Cain said. "Congress deliberately structured the Clean Water Act to involve states in the decision-making process. We've done that successfully though the Ag Water Quality Act. Partnerships have been developed to address environmental issues in a positive way based on real science and best management practices that are economically practical and effective," he said.

TMDLs are being developed for Floyd's Fork Creek, which runs through Jefferson, Oldham and Henry counties.

In August: Protecting water quality at the farm level.

Forestry industry



is on an upswing



It's mid-April, and sawmill owner Susan Glasscock is expressing the same concern as a Kentucky farmer: The ground needs to dry up.

An incredibly wet 2014 has stifled the timber harvest for Glasscock Sawmill Inc., sticking the 49-year-old family operation in Spencer County with a shortage of sawlogs. With springtime in bloom, Susan and her husband, Carl Glasscock, are anxious to get some logging done in the forests they work in Spencer and surrounding counties. The market price is up for cedar, their primary product, and prospects look good in the export market, she explained.

And on this day, as landscaping season was gearing up, they sold the last pile of mulch they had on hand.

"The weather has really slowed things," Susan lamented. "We are anxious to get going."

A recently-released University of Kentucky survey of the state's forestry industry offers plenty of encouragement, concluding that the industry has rebounded from some tough times to enjoy modest growth over the past two years, with prospects even better for this year. A survey report from UK forestry experts and economists was released at the annual meeting of the Kentucky Forest Industries Association. The Louisville Courier-Journal published a front-page article about the survey and the industry's current strength in the state.

The survey affirmed a widespread economic impact of the forest and wood industries in Kentucky. It estimated a total economic impact of \$12.8 billion in 2013, with more than 59,000 jobs tied to the industry. Direct jobs was listed as 27,574 with a direct industry economic impact of \$7.9 billion.

The forest and wood industry is made up of six subsectors:

Glasscock Sawmill is located a few miles southwest of Taylorsville, along the Salt River.

logging, primary wood manufacturing, pulp and paper manufacturing, secondary wood manufacturing, paper converters and wood residue manufacturing. There are about 700 industry facilities in 109 counties.

Kentucky is the leading producer of hardwood sawlogs among southern states and ranks in the top five nationally. It is also among national leaders in hardwood forest products and exports, particularly with wooden barrels used by distillers.

Glasscock Sawmill Inc. specializes in cedar fencing, railroad ties, barn lumber and cedar cants and posts. "We sell mulch and sawdust like crazy," Susan said.

The company hasn't seen an effect from a rebounding construction industry, but continues to do good business with railroad ties and cedar cants and posts (4X4 or 6X6) for the export market, primarily to China. But it has been struggling in recent years as operating costs have soared for fuel and insurance, according to Susan.

A conversion from diesel-powered generators to electric "should really be a boost," she said.

The company has five employees.

The UK report says the economic impact from the forestry industry was up 3.3 percent since 2011 while employment grew by more than four percent. Logging and milling have shown the most growth. Kentucky is growing twice as many new trees as are being harvested a year.

Kentucky's wood related exports rose in 2013 with more than \$210 million shipped. The leading destinations were Europe, Canada, Mexico and Asia, the report said.

Morgan County Nursery rebounds from tornado



Governor Steve Beshear cuts the ribbon on the new building. To the left of him is State Senator Ray Jones and to the right are State Representatives John Will Stacy and Hubert Collins, and then Magistrate Frankie Spencer and Leah MacSwords, Director of the Division of Forestry. Second from the left is Len Peters, Secretary of the Energy and Environment Cabinet.

Another step in Morgan County's recovery from the devastating March, 2012 tornado came last month with the reopening of the Kentucky Division of Forestry's Morgan County Nursery. Governor Steve Beshear was on hand for a ribbon cutting ceremony at the 50-acre nursery a few miles west of West Liberty. He was joined by Energy and Environment Cabinet Secretary Len Peters, Forestry Division Director Leah MacSwords, State Senator Ray Jones of Pike County, State Representatives John Will Stacy of Morgan County and Hubert Collins of Johnson County, Morgan County Magistrate Frankie Spencer and Kentucky Division of Conservation Director Kim Richardson. Also on hand was former State Representative Adrian Arnold of Montgomery County.

The same tornado that hit West Liberty nearly wiped out the nursery, destroying the main office, two barns, equipment storage building and a cooler containing over 400,000 seedlings. Damage was placed at just over \$13.1 million.

The Beshear administration chose to rebuild the nursery, which was started in 1960 and produces around 1.5 million seedlings a year. It is one of two state nurseries; the other is in Gilbertsville in west Kentucky. The nurseries produce around 50 species of hardwoods and conifers that are available to the

public.


"This nursery is too important to the state not to rebuild," Beshear said at the ceremony. He noted that the only buildings left standing after the tornado were the superintendent's home and a small chemical storage building.

Governor Beshear praised the staff for continuing to operate on a limited basis and persisting through the rebuilding process, which began in September 2013.

Ms. MacSwords recognized Farm Bureau during her opening remarks.

Here is a view of the 50-acre site of the Morgan County Nursery. In the background you can see where the tornado came over a hill.





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Kentucky Congressmen urge FDA to reconsider “spent grains” regulation

Senator Mitch McConnell is leading members of Kentucky’s Congressional delegation in urging Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Commissioner Margaret Hamburg to reconsider the agency’s interpretation regarding how spent grains – a byproduct from Kentucky Bourbon Whiskey – are regulated and used to feed Kentucky’s dairy cows and beef cattle. Joining Senator McConnell on a letter to Commissioner Hamburg were Senator Rand Paul and Congressmen Hal Rogers, Ed Whitfield, Brett Guthrie, Thomas Massie, and Andy Barr.

In the letter, the members say they have heard from Kentucky’s distilling and livestock producers on a regulatory matter proposed by the FDA that would impede the long-standing, symbiotic relationship between the Commonwealth’s distilleries and its farmers. The proposed rule would tentatively place new regulations on what distilleries do with spent grains -- the natural byproduct of the distillation process.

In the letter they wrote, “the distillation process requires a combination of corn, rye or barley. The leftover liquid byproducts—the spent grains—are then typically provided to farmers for use as animal

feed. Changing the regulations for these spent grains could result in distilleries disposing of the byproducts rather than their allowing farmers continued access to them. This is problematic for Kentucky because the disposal of spent grains would be costly, as rural municipal wastewater facilities are generally ill-equipped to handle the volume of spent grains produced by distilleries. One distiller in our state has indicated their company would have to dispose of 400,000 gallons of spent grains per day, which would swamp their local wastewater treatment plant. As a result of this lack of existing infrastructure, under this proposed rule, distillers would be required to form treatment plans for excess distillers’ grain. This daunting task would cost distillers millions of dollars that could otherwise be spent creating long-term jobs.

“Additionally, spent grains have a long history of being fed to livestock. This is due to its high protein content and affordability as distillers typically charge a nominal fee or offer spent grains to farmers free of charge. Any action by the FDA inhibiting our distillers’ abilities to offer farmers spent grains would cost farmers an inexpensive and invaluable source of nutritious animal feed, driving up their costs as well.”

Dave Maples, President of the Kentucky Cattlemen’s Association, and Eric Gregory, President of the Kentucky Distillers Association, voiced support and appreciation for the lawmakers’ effort to assist their respective industries.

“Our highly regulated distillers have been offering spent grains as a safe, natural and viable feed source to Kentucky’s farmers for generations. It makes absolutely no sense to discard a product with a long history of safe use as animal feed and turn it into landfill waste, especially in this era of sustainability,” said Gregory.

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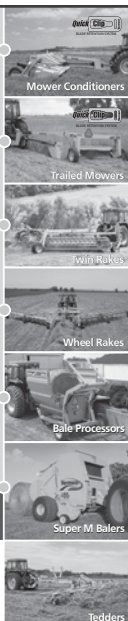
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NEW GM PROGRAM

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The new Bonus Cash offer can be stacked with all other offers available to eligible Farm Bureau members, such as Owner Loyalty (discounted employee, dealership employee and supplier pricing is excluded). Additionally, members are eligible 30 days after becoming a member – a reduction from the previous 60-day eligibility requirement. The \$500 "Bonus Cash" offer can be used on the purchase or lease of all 2013, 2014 and 2015 Chevrolet, Buick and GMC models without exclusions in states that participate in the GM program.

To take advantage of the GM program discounts through FB Member Advantage!, members should log on to fbverify.com/gm where eligibility will be confirmed once a member enters his/her membership number and zip code. A certificate will be made available online that must be printed and taken to the dealership of choice for presentation to the sales person. There is no limit to the number of certificates that a member may print or use. Certificates expire after 60 days.

"Farmland" movie previewed



KFB played host to a special screening of the new feature length documentary, "Farmland," from Academy Award-winning filmmaker James Moll. Released on May 1 in several major metropolitan areas, the feature-length documentary follows the new generation of American farmers and ranchers, examining the lives of six farmers in their 20s from various parts of the nation.

"Farmland" chronicles the farmers' high-risk/high-reward jobs and their passion for a way of life that has been passed down from generation to generation, yet continues to evolve. The project was initiated by the U.S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance (USFRA) to promote a better public understanding of agriculture and farm life. Farmland was produced by Moll's Allentown Productions, with support from USFRA. KFB is an affiliate member of the organization.

KFB's directors, officers and staff joined with agriculture leaders for a private screening at the Kentucky Science Center. KFB President Mark Haney welcomed the group of more than 120, explaining the purpose of the movie project.

"Over the past 10 years or so we've noticed a change in what people think about food production," Haney said. "They want to know about their food. We want to respond by showcasing what current day agriculture looks like. We want consumers to see production techniques and to hear farmers talk about how they produce our food. This film does that."

The opening of the 71-minute film is powerful, showing a young Pennsylvania woman attending to her small vegetable enterprise and saying "It takes great skill to grow crops." Viewers also learn about a cattle rancher, organic vegetable producer and hog, poultry and row crop farmers.

New Program Director named for Area 6

Brad Wilkerson has been named Area Program Director for Area 6, effective June 2. His area includes Boyle, Clark, Clay, Estill, Garrard, Jackson, Jessamine, Lincoln, Madison, Mercer, Owsley and Rockcastle counties.

Wilkerson comes to KFB from Southern States Cooperative, where he was store manager in Jessamine County. He holds a degree in Agriculture Education from the University of Kentucky. He is from Boyle County, where he also previously managed a Southern

States store and held other positions.

KFB Executive Vice President David S. Beck said he chose Wilkerson because of his strong background with agriculture in Central Kentucky. "That type of experience will serve him well as he guides and assists county Farm Bureau leaders," Beck said.

Wilkerson replaces Lynn Parsons, who retired from the position late last year but continues to serve the organization in an advisory capacity.



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Green scheme

Wilson Nurseries loves to grow



Wilson Nurseries in Frankfort is among the largest operations enrolled in KFB's Certified Roadside Farm Markets Program, consisting of a huge retail garden center and nursery, a 75,000 square-foot greenhouse growing operation, a Shelby County farm for growing trees and shrubs, a nine-acre wholesale distribution center in Lexington, a landscaping business plus an on-site café.

Owner Jennifer Wilson recalls that when one of her employees suggested she join the KFB promotional program several years ago, "I didn't think we'd fit into that program; I assumed it was for roadside stands at the farms."

After learning about the program and its diverse mix of enterprises, Mrs. Wilson signed up, and Wilson Nurseries is now one of the crown jewels among the 106 program participants.

"We're big, but I feel we are a good fit for the program," Mrs. Wilson said. "We're all about growing things. We want to be the place for plants. We have a lot going on, but it all fits together and makes a whole."

The business was founded in 1979 by Jennifer's late husband, Charles Wilson. It started as a landscape contracting firm and retail garden center and quickly became established as a popular local source for quality plants and landscaping. In 1988 Wilson started growing trees and shrubs on a Shelby County farm.

The current retail nursery and garden center opened in 2001. It sits on a 24-acre site on the busy East-West Connector with many of the 50 greenhouses that are used to produce hundreds of varieties of plants. "We grow 99 percent of our perennials, annuals, flowers, shrubs, trees, grasses and vegetables," said Mrs. Wilson.

Wilson's pretty much has something for everyone. Beyond the enormous variety of plants is a large garden center packed with items for gardening and outdoor living. The prices and variety of items are on par with the "big box" stores.

Its landscaping operation offers the services of several professional landscape designers. The wholesale distribution company in Lexington has a

Wilson's offers hundreds of varieties of plants.

sizeable clientele that includes horse farms, golf courses and construction companies.

Spring launches a busy period that won't slow down until July. Business picks back up with the beginning of the fall season, when mums, pumpkins and other traditional autumn staples are in great demand. And, of course, Wilson's sells Christmas trees.

Mrs. Wilson cites a loyal customer base in Franklin County and surrounding areas. On weekends during the peak spring and fall sales seasons, she will draw customers from Lexington and Louisville, plus see license plates from other states.

"I love growing things and really enjoy interacting with our customers," she said. "Many tell me they look forward to coming here. They say 'this is my getaway place.' They enjoy the garden atmosphere, the color and the variety of plants."

She has about 120 employees. Many of them have a green thumb.

Wilson Nurseries' impressive retail center in Frankfort.



There are three varieties of strawberry plants.

"We have a great team behind this," Mrs. Wilson said. "I have managers who have been with us for 34 years. We have a very talented team of designers and growers who are very passionate about what they do."

Wilson's is celebrating its 35th anniversary this year with several special events. For more information go to www.wilsonnurseriesky.com.



The garden center has everything for outdoor living.

Jennifer Wilson says "I love growing things and interacting with our customers."

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Poultry demand soaring

Americans are buying more chicken as a cheaper alternative just as fast-food restaurants including Yum Brands and McDonald's add new menu items from wings to club sandwiches. The sales surge has sent wholesale prices to an all-time high, boosted profit for processors and left some companies unable to keep up with demand.

With whole birds at U.S. supermarkets selling at half the per-pound cost of beef or pork, Americans will eat the most chicken in three years, while tight supply and high prices send red-meat demand to an all-time low, government data show. In a year when farm income is set to drop because of crop surpluses, the U.S. Department of Agriculture says poultry farms will do well - with possibly the best profits since 1996, when USDA began tracking data.

Whole chickens sold by farmers in Georgia, the biggest producing state, rose 9.2 percent since the end of 2012 to a

record \$1.07 a pound on April 9, USDA data show. Wholesale beef gained as much as 26 percent over that period.

Surging meat and dairy prices are helping to spur the fastest gain in consumer food costs since 2011, government data show. Beef is up after the U.S. cattle herd started 2014 at the smallest in 63 years, following years of drought and high feed costs. Pork gained as a raging virus that kills piglets spread to 28 states. Cattle and hog futures reached records in March.

Even as demand increases, chicken supplies remain limited because producers were slower to expand output than they have during previous periods of improved profit. In March and early April, the number of broiler chicks placed for meat production were little changed from a year earlier, and egg hatchings trail the five-year and 10-year averages, USDA data show.

Between the ROWS


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By Ed McQueen

U.S. red meat production fell in 2013

Total red meat production for the United States totaled 49.3 billion pounds in 2013, down 0.5 percent from 2012, according to USDA's Livestock Slaughter 2013 Summary. Beef production totaled 25.8 billion pounds, down 0.8 percent. Veal production totaled 118 million pounds, down six percent. Pork production, at 23.2 billion pounds, was slightly below 2012. Lamb and mutton production totaled 161 million pounds, nearly unchanged.

Commercial cattle slaughter during 2013 totaled 32.5 million head, down 1.5 percent from 2012. The average live weight was 1,314 pounds, up 12 pounds from a year ago. Steers comprised 50.1 percent of the federally inspected (FI) cattle slaughter, heifers 28.6 percent, dairy cows 9.8 percent, other cows 9.8 percent, and bulls 1.7 percent. Commercial hog slaughter totaled 112.1 million head, one percent lower than 2012. The average live weight was up one pound from last year, at 276 pounds. Barrows and gilts comprised 97.0 percent of the total FI hog slaughter. Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter, at 2.32 million head, was up six percent. The average live weight was down eight pounds from 2012 at 135 pounds. Lambs and yearlings comprised 93.7 percent of the total FI sheep slaughter.

There were 831 plants slaughtering under federal inspection on January 1, 2014, compared with 826 last year. The 13 largest plants handled 55 percent of the total cattle harvested. The 12 largest hog plants accounted for 57 percent of the total. For sheep and lambs, three plants harvested 57 percent.

Farmers to plant more soybeans, less corn

USDA reported that Kentucky farmers intend to plant 1.50 million acres of corn, 30,000 less than 2013. U.S. corn growers intend to plant 91.7 million acres for all purposes in 2014, down four percent from last year. Soybean acreage in Kentucky is expected to total 1.70 million acres, up 50,000 acres from 2013. The U.S. soybean planted area is forecast at 81.5 million acres, up six percent from last year. Burley tobacco growers in Kentucky intend to set 75,000 acres for harvest, up 1,000 acres from 2013. For all burley states, growers intend to set 100,100 acres, up one percent. Kentucky producers intend to set 9,200 acres of dark-fired tobacco and 4,300 acres of dark-air tobacco. Farmers intend to harvest 2.60 million acres of all hay, unchanged from 2013. The U.S. hay harvest may cover 58.3 million acres, up slightly from 2013.

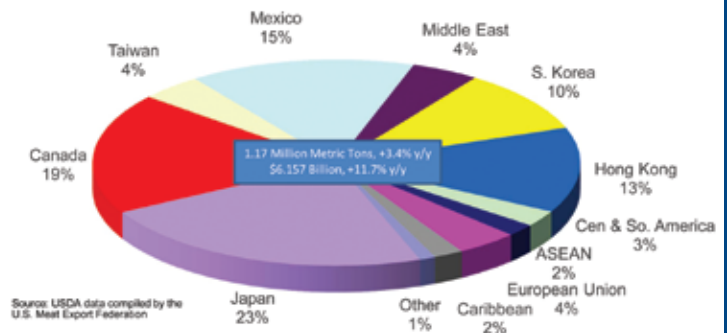
Record U.S. soybean imports expected

Because the United States exported soybeans at a rapid pace during the first half of the 2013/14 marketing year and export demand remained stronger, U.S. soybean stocks have tightened. As a result, USDA forecasts the U.S. will import a record 65 million bushels this year, up from 36 million in 2012/13. In April there were reports of soybean and soybean meal shipments from South America that were originally sold to China being redirected to U.S. ports. Several factors support this increase in U.S. soybean imports: (1) Brazil is forecast to export a record 1.635 billion bushels; (2) Brazil's soybean price has fallen relative to the U.S. price; and (3) Chinese buyers cancelled previous purchases for economic reasons. USDA's April forecast put 2013/14 ending U.S. soybean stocks at 135 million bushels, the lowest level in ten years.

U.S. Beef plus Beef Variety Meat Export Market Share

January-December 2013

Based on the Value of Weekly Exports, USDA/FAS



China's Net Grain Imports



FARM BILL EXPANDS LENDING PROGRAMS

USDA has reported increased opportunity for farmers as a result of the 2014 Farm Bill. A fact sheet outlining modifications to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) Farm Loan Programs is available.

The Farm Bill expands lending opportunities for thousands of farmers and ranchers to begin and continue operations, including greater flexibility in determining eligibility, raising loan limits, and emphasizing beginning and socially disadvantaged producers.

Changes that will take effect include:

- Elimination of loan term limits for guaranteed operating loans.
- Modification of the definition of beginning farmer, using the average farm size for the county as a qualifier instead of the median farm size.
- Modification of the Joint Financing Direct Farm Ownership Interest Rate to 2 percent less than regular Direct Farm Ownership rate, with a floor of 2.5 percent. Previously, the rate was established at 5 percent.
- Increase of the maximum loan amount for Direct Farm Ownership down payments from \$225,000 to \$300,000.
- Elimination of rural residency requirement for Youth Loans, allowing urban youth to benefit.
- Debt forgiveness on Youth Loans, which will not prevent borrowers from obtaining additional loans from the federal government.
- Increase of the guarantee amount on Conservation Loans from 75 to 80 percent and 90 percent for socially disadvantaged borrowers and beginning farmers.
- Microloans will not count toward loan term limits for veterans and beginning farmers.

Additional modifications must be implemented through the rulemaking processes. Visit the FSA Farm Bill website for detailed information and updates to farm loan programs.

Herbal Formula Eases Farmer's Aches & Pains

"I keep a jar of Steuart's Pain Formula by my bed and reach for it at night when my knee pain flares up. It knocks the pain right out," says Mike Marsden of Mabel, Minn. Marsden's been using Steuart's Pain Formula for about 4 years and says he's constantly recommending it to other people.

Steuart Laboratories originally developed Steuart's Pain Formula for race horses. Over the years, it has gained a following for treating other animals and humans. The cream contains extract 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.

Rose Johnson of Hazleton, Iowa, uses Steuart's Pain Formula to relieve the tissue pain caused by fibromyalgia, a disorder characterized by widespread pain and tenderness in joints, muscles, tendons, and other soft tissues. In addition to pain relief from Steuart's Pain Formula, she appreciates that the product causes no side effects.

Joel Sloan of Mabel was familiar with Steuart's Pain Formula because he used it regularly for treating dairy cows with mastitis. "It really helped the cows because it causes a heat action and gets the blood flowing in the udder," he says.

When Sloan was recovering from hernia surgery several years ago, his bowel and urinary function slowed down. "I rubbed some on my abdomen and in 20 min., I could feel the product working and my bowel and urinary function were restored. The pain was gone."

Mike Marsden uses Steuart's Pain Formula whenever his knee pain flares up.



Warren Ward of Pemberton, Minn., says his knees ached so terrible at night that he couldn't get to sleep without taking painkillers. "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 three days I had no pain in my knees, I went right to sleep at night, and I haven't taken a pain killer since.

"I like Steuart's product because there's no odor, it doesn't stain your clothes, and you don't feel a thing when you apply it. It's an excellent product and I know it works," Ward says.

Steuart's first product – an udder ointment containing comfrey – was introduced in 1982. Today, the company manufactures and markets more than a dozen herbal and natural-oil healing and pain products for both human and animal use.

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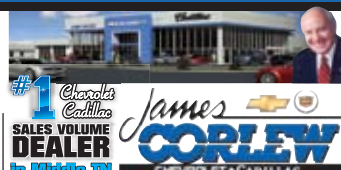


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KFB accepting “Farmer of Year” applications

KFB is accepting applications for the 2014 “Farmer of the Year” program. Eligibility and guidelines are included with the application, and can be downloaded at kyfb.com/federation/. All applications must be postmarked by July 1.

Entries will be narrowed down to the top three applicants and finalists will be announced in mid-August. Judges will visit the three finalists in mid-September to conduct interviews and see their operations in action. The winner will be announced at KFB’s annual meeting in Louisville on December 5.

KFB’s “Farmer of the Year” will receive \$1,000 from KFB Federation and will be presented with a commemorative award. The winner will represent Kentucky in the Swisher Sweets/Sunbelt Ag Expo Southeastern “Farmer of the Year” contest.

Specialty crop grants are available

Agriculture Commissioner James Comer is encouraging eligible Kentucky entities to apply for funding from the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program.

“This sector of Kentucky agriculture has enormous potential for growth,” Commissioner Comer said. “This funding will help us to realize that potential.”

The U.S. Department of Agriculture defines “specialty crops” as fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and horticulture and nursery crops. The Kentucky Department of Agriculture administers the U.S. Department of Agriculture grant in Kentucky. Eligible commodity groups, agriculture organizations, colleges and universities, producers, municipalities, state agencies, and nonprofit organizations may apply for funding under the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. Projects “must aim to enhance the production and competitiveness of Kentucky specialty crops,” according to the grant application. Applicants must live in Kentucky or have their business or educational affiliation in the Commonwealth.

A selection committee will review the applications and select the projects that have the greatest impact on Kentucky’s specialty crop industry. Successful applicants may be awarded up to \$50,000. Matching funds are encouraged but not required.

Applications must be submitted by close of business June 2. Applications sent by mail must be postmarked no later than May 31. Grant awards will be announced this fall.

For more information, including a downloadable application and application requirements, go to the Specialty Crop Block Grant page on the Kentucky Department of Agriculture’s website at www.kyagr.com/marketing/crop-block-grant.html.

AFBF calling for tax reforms

AFBF President Bob Stallman testified in the House Ways and Means Committee in support of several tax reforms to assist farmers and ranchers. “One of the major goals of tax reform should be to provide stable, predictable rules for businesses so that they can grow and create jobs,” Stallman said to the panel. “Farm Bureau believes that Congress should end its practice of extending important business tax provisions for one or two years at a time. This practice makes it very difficult for farmers and ranchers to plan and adds immense confusion and complexity.”

Stallman addressed the committee as part of a hearing addressing the economic disruption caused by the end of a series of tax deductions over the past several years. Committee Chairman Dave Camp (R-Mich.) has introduced a discussion draft of the Tax Reform Act of 2014 in an effort to stimulate discussion of how the tax code could be simpler and fairer, while at the same time aiding economic growth, job creation and wages.

In written testimony submitted to the Committee, Stallman called for extensions of several now-expired deductions to benefit the economy as a whole, including:

- Section 179 expensing, which allows small businesses to write off immediately capital investments of as much as \$500,000 instead of depreciating them over several years;
- Bonus depreciation, which is an additional 50 percent bonus depreciation for the purchase of new capital assets, including agricultural equipment;
- Cellulosic Biofuel Producer Tax Credit: a \$1.01 per gallon income tax credit for cellulosic biofuel sold for fuel plus an additional first-year, 50-percent bonus depreciation for cellulosic biofuel production facilities;
- A \$1.00 per-gallon tax credit for production of biodiesel and renewable diesel fuels;
- The Community and Distributed Wind Investment Tax Credit, which gives the option to take an investment tax credit in lieu of the Production Tax Credit and
- A provision encouraging donations of conservation easements.

Stallman reiterated the importance of Section 179’s immediate expensing to farming. “Farming and ranching is a capital intensive business,” he said. “In order to remain profitable and be competitive, farm equipment, buildings, and storage facilities must be continually upgraded and replaced. This provision allows agricultural producers to reduce maintenance costs, take advantage of labor-saving advances, become more energy efficient and adopt technology that is environmentally friendly.



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Herndon · no phone

SOUTH CENTRAL

Baldwin Farms

Richmond · (859) 582-5785

Berea College Farm & Garden

Berea · (859) 985-3685

Burton's Nursery & Garden Center

Campbellsville · (270) 789-1239

Chaney's Dairy Barn

Bowling Green · (270) 843-5567

Chateau du Vieux Corbeau Winery

Danville · (859) 236-1775

Crawford Farms

Elizabethtown · (615) 574-8470

Cravens Greenhouse

Albany · (606) 387-8583

D&F Farms

Somerset · (606) 382-5214

Davis Family Farm

Greensburg · (270) 565-1336

Daynabrook Greenhouse & Farm

Harrodsburg · (859) 734-7863

Dennison's Roadside Market

Horse Cave · (270) 786-1663

Devine's Farm & Corn Maze

Harrodsburg · (859) 613-3489

Double Hart Farm

Corbin · (606) 523-0465

Family Fields i Market

Springfield · (859) 481-1516

Frenchvalley Farms

Jamestown · (270) 566-1757

Habegger's Amish Market

Scottsville · (270) 618-5676

Hail's Farm

Somerset · (606) 875-2972

Halcomb's Knob Farm Market

Paint Lick · (859) 925-9936

Haney's Appledale Farm

Nancy · (606) 636-6148

Heavenly Haven Farm

Columbia · (270) 465-9597

Hinton's Orchard & Farm Market

Hodgenville · (270) 325-3854

Jackson's Orchard & Nursery

Bowling Green · (270) 781-5303

Just Piddlin Farm

Woodburn · (270) 542-6769

Kenny's Farmhouse Cheese

Austin · (270) 434-4124

Mammoth Cave Transplants

Brownsville · (270) 597-2533

Marksbury Farm Market

Lancaster · (859) 754-4224

McQuerry's Herbs-N-Heirlooms

Paint Lick · (859) 792-8268

McKinney Farm

Russellville · (270) 726-6284

MeadowBrook Orchards & Farm

Elk Horn · (606) 787-4690

Owens Garden Center

Somerset · (606) 379-5488

Poore's Nursery & Farm

Russellville · (270) 542-4828

Roberts Family Farm

Guston · (270) 422-2361

Serano Alpacas & Yarns

Springfield · (208) 699-8570

Serenity Farm Alpacas

Raywick · (270) 692-8743

Sinking Valley Vineyard & Winery

Somerset · (606) 274-0223

St. Catharine Farm

Springfield · (859) 336-0444

The Pumpkin Wagon

Elizabethtown · (270) 734-2156

Triple 'D' Greenhouses

Greensburg · (270) 299-5889

Todd's Greenhouse & Florist

Eubank · (606) 379-1375

VanMeter Family Farm

Clarkson · (270) 242-9056

Williams Country Market

Gravel Switch · (270) 692-2493

NORTH CENTRAL

Alpine Dairy/Country Pumpkins

Dry Ridge · (859) 428-2445

Amerson Farm

Georgetown · (502) 863-3799

Antioch Daylily Garden

Lexington · (859) 806-5458

Ayres Family Orchard

Owenton · (502) 484-5236

Beech Springs Farm Market

Winchester · (859) 749-2776

Bi-Water Farm & Greenhouse

Georgetown · (502) 863-3676

Blue Ribbon Market

Union · (859) 393-4357

Boone Gardiner Garden Center

Crestwood · (502) 243-3832

Boyd Orchards

Versailles · (859) 873-3097

Bray Fruit

Bedford · (502) 255-7296

Bray Orchard & Roadside Market

Bedford · (502) 255-3607

Callis Orchard

Bedford · (502) 255-3316

Capture Your Heart Alpacas

Bloomfield · (502) 510-5185

Country Corner Greenhouse

Shepherdsville · (502) 955-8635

Croppers Greenhouse & Nursery

May's Lick · (606) 763-6589

Eagle Bend Alpacas Fiber & Gifts

Burlington · (859) 586-5695

Evans Orchard & Cider Mill

Georgetown · (502) 863-2255

Gallrein Farms

Shelbyville · (502) 633-4849

George Gagel Farm Market

Louisville · (502) 447-6809

Gregory Farms

Turners Station · (502) 947-5469

Golden Apple Fruit Market

Lexington · (606) 633-9763

McGlasson Farms

Hebron · (859) 689-5229

McLean's Aerofresh Fruit

Ewing · (606) 782-1112

Michels Family Farm

Sparta · (859) 643-2511

Morrison's Greenhouses

Louisville · (502) 969-0675

Mulberry Orchard

Shelbyville · (502) 655-2633

Redman's Farm

Morning View · (859) 356-2837

Reed Valley Orchard

Paris · (859) 987-6480

Ridgeview Greenhouse & Nursery

Shepherdsville · (502) 955-5939

Rivercrest Farm Market

Prospect · (502) 315-5111

Sherwood Acres Beef

LaGrange · (502) 222-4326

Steepleview Farm

Poplar Grove · (859) 643-3339

Sunny Acres Farm

Jeffersonton · (502) 643-6584

Sweet Home Spun

Pleasureville · (502) 878-4814

The Daylily Patch

Georgetown · (502) 863-2778

The Greenhouse in Gertrude

Brooksville · (606) 782-0033

Tower View Farm & Nursery

Jeffersonton · (502) 267-2066

Triple J Farm

Georgetown · (502) 863-6786

Sage Garden Cafe

Frankfort · (502) 223-1488

Wilson Nurseries

Frankfort · (502) 223-1488

EAST

Black Barn Produce

River · (606) 297-2600

Bramble Ridge Orchard

Mt. Sterling · (859) 498-9123

Country Garden Greenhouse

Beattyville · (606) 424-9379

Fannin's Vegetables

West Liberty · (606) 743-3343

Feathered Wing Farm Market

Greenup · (606) 932-8065

Golden Apple Fruit Market

Whitesburg · (606) 633-9763

Hutton-Loyd Tree Farm

Wallingford · (606) 876-3423

Imel's Greenhouse

Greenup · (606) 473-1708

Townsend's Sorghum Mill

Jeffersonville · (859) 498-4142



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