Kentucky

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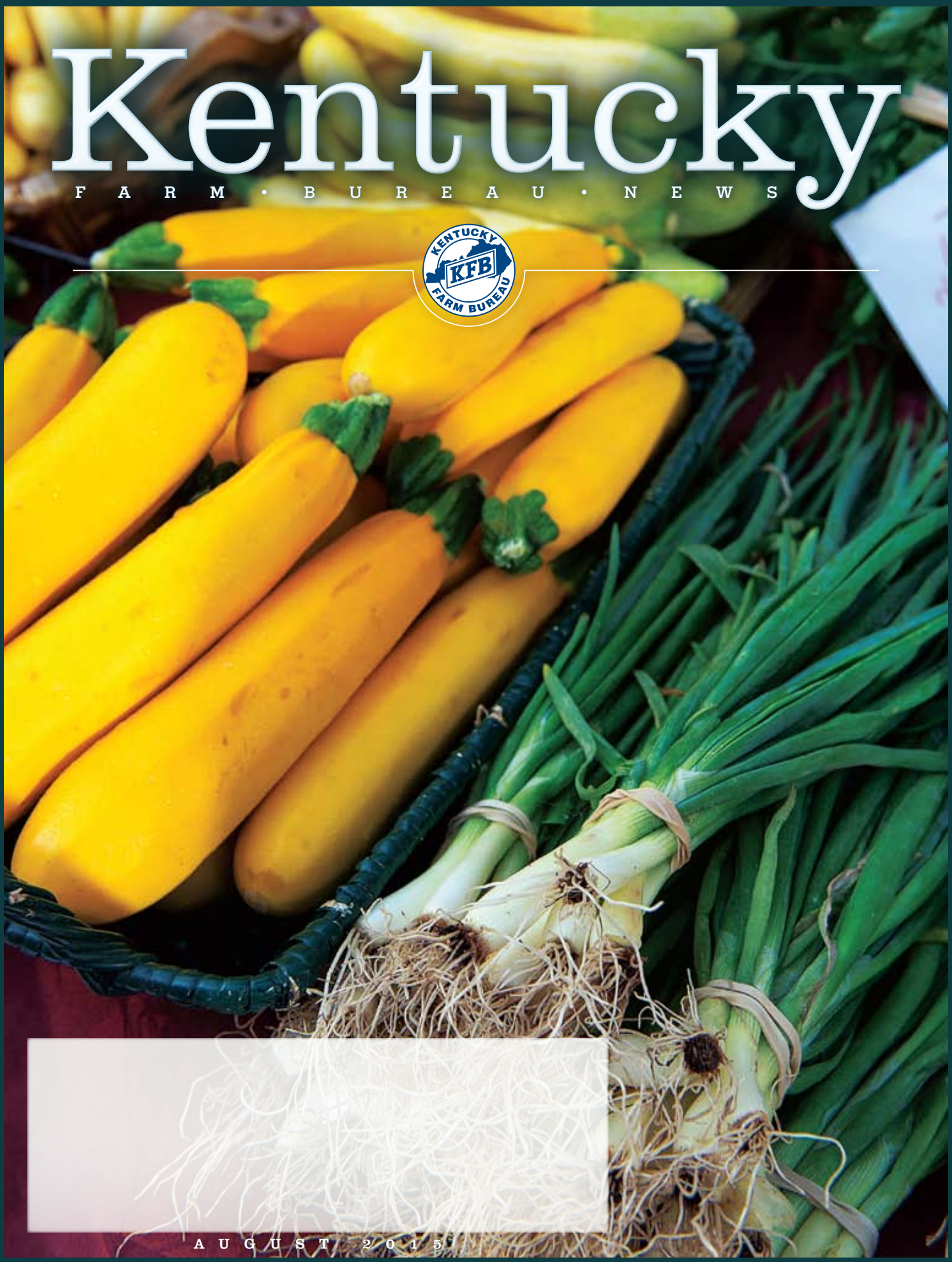

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KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU NEWS
Volume 14 · No. 6
August 2015

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ImDave.com
Lexington Farmer's Market

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August is an exciting time of year as harvest season approaches and we showcase our agriculture industry at the State Fair in Louisville. The fair has more attractions than ever before, but agriculture continues to be the foundation. As always, the second Thursday (August 27) is "Farm Bureau Day."

Kicking off this eventful day is the annual Kentucky Country Ham Breakfast. This 52-year-old celebration of Kentucky agriculture also has evolved into a "can't miss" political event. Farm Bureau members and guests from throughout the state fill the massive hall for a hearty breakfast, a program and then the auction of the grand champion country ham. Last year, the champion ham from Broadbent B&B Foods brought a record $2 million with Republic Bank and Hermitage Farms/Bridgeman Foods sharing that bid.

We're excited about the prospects for this year. All proceeds go to the charity of the bidder's choice.

The breakfast also features some good old fashioned politicking. Several of our political leaders are among the featured speakers while the audience is filled with state legislators and a variety of government officials from the local, state and federal levels. It's a great occasion for farmers and other agriculture interests to mingle with lawmakers and government officials.

Our gospel quartet contest follows the breakfast while judging takes place for the top exhibit in the "Pride of the Counties" section of the South Wing. KFB coordinates this popular attraction promoting communities and tourist attractions.

We also have a booth in the South Wing to greet fairgoers with give-aways and some friendly conversation.

At midday the activity shifts to our picnic in the air-conditioned comfort of the South Wing. That evening, KFB will be among the bidders for some of the animals in the 4-H and FFA "Sale of Champions" in Newmarket Hall.

Our day at the State Fair ranks up there with the annual meeting, the Congressional Tour and the Presidents/Vice Presidents Conference as staples of our program of work. Our staff works hard to assure that our members and guests enjoy the day. The Kentucky State Fair not only brings out the best in agriculture, but in KFB, as well.

Mark Haney
President
Kentucky Farm Bureau

KFB Day at State Fair is August 27

KFB Day at the State Fair is Thursday, August 27 with a full schedule of activities for members.

The 52nd Annual Kentucky Country Ham Breakfast and Auction will be held in South Wing Conference Center beginning at 7:30 a.m. The grand champion country ham will be auctioned with proceeds donated to charity. Last year's champion ham from Broadbent's B&B Foods fetched a record $2 million in a split purchase by Republic Bank and Hermitage Farms/Bridgeman Foods. In its history the auction has raised more than $8.9 million for charities, from 28 different winning bidders.

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

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

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

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

For years, the Senate was mired in gridlock and dysfunction. Republicans thought that needed to change, and last November the voters agreed. They sent a new Republican majority to Washington to get the Senate back to work for the American people.

In the past several months, we've reported more than 160 bills from committees and passed 60 bills in the full Senate on a bipartisan basis. And more than 25 bills have been signed by the president, including one that will help facilitate new international trade agreements so Kentucky farmers can sell overseas more of what they grow and produce here.

We've also made progress towards blocking some of the Obama Administration's excessive regulations.

One overreach of the EPA is its "Waters of the U.S." regulation, which classifies nearly all wetlands—including small ponds and ditches—as "navigable" waters and thus subject to interference from Washington. This regulation will hurt traditional farming practices by bringing the federal government into your backyard and making it more challenging to farm your own land. It's a serious threat to personal property rights.

That's why I fought to include language in a Department of Interior Appropriations bill that would prohibit the EPA from using funding to implement this regulation. The bill passed the Appropriations Committee and I'm looking forward to its passage by the full Senate.

I'm also cosponsoring a Senate bill that recently passed the Environment and Public Works Committee that would halt the "Waters of the U.S." regulation from going into effect until EPA and the Army Corps conduct a more thorough cost-benefit analysis on the impact this regulation would have.

Kentucky farmers across the state have spoken to me about the need to fight back against this administration's wrongheaded policies. I'll use every tool at my disposal as Senate Majority Leader to stop the EPA from carrying out "Waters of the U.S." and other detrimental regulations that block our farmers from reaching their full potential.

Senator Mitch McConnell

Ag officials voice support for grain research center

The large group of attendees listened to comments from Ryan Bivens of the Kentucky Soybean Association. Bivens is a LaRue County FB leader and a nationally-recognized grain producer.

KFB President Mark Haney spoke to the committee as Steve Coleman awaited his turn.

KFB President Mark Haney was among a group of state agriculture leaders who appeared before the state legislature's Interim Joint Agriculture Committee to express support for a proposed "Grain Center for Excellence" at UK's Research and Education Center at Princeton.

The lawmakers held a July meeting at the UK farm in West Kentucky to learn about the proposal for a $24 million facility to provide research and support services for Kentucky's grain industry. Dr. Nancy Cox, Dean of the UK College of Agriculture, Food and the Environment, and other UK officials outlined the project to the committee of Senate and House members. The panel is co-chaired by two farmers with extensive Farm Bureau backgrounds: Senator Paul Hornback of Shelby County and Representative Tom McKee of Harrison County.

Dean Cox framed the purpose of the meeting by noting that the project has widespread support in Kentucky's agriculture community. "We partner with a lot of folks," she said while addressing the need for unity to achieve results. "I'm very proud to be an ag dean in this state."

Under the proposal the new research facility would be constructed on land acquired on the west side of the 1,360-acre farm just south of Princeton, with $3 million estimated for land purchase and $16 million for construction.

Following the UK presentation a string of commodity group leaders were called on to give their input about the project. Weighing in were leaders from the Kentucky Cattlemen's Association, Kentucky Corn Growers and Small Grains Associations, Kentucky Soybean Association and Kentucky Poultry Federation. The Kentucky Pork Producers Association also had leadership present.

Haney wrapped up the two-hour hearing by expressing KFB's support.

"We couldn't be more supportive," he said. "This is necessary if we are to continue to maximize the production we have. We (farmers) can do our part but advances have to come from research."

Haney serves on a task force for the project that also includes KFB 1st Vice President Eddie Melton, Director Tripp Furches and Executive Vice President David S. Beck.

Haney also touched on the work of KFB's Water Management Working Group and its goals to look for ways to enhance water resources for farmers. Joining him in discussing that project was Working Group Chairman Steve Coleman, who was a long-time Director of the Kentucky Division of Conservation. Coleman told the lawmakers the KFB group will "look at all ways to efficiently manage water resources." He added: "We're not just looking at agriculture's needs, but the state as a whole."

He and Haney touched on some of the issues involved, including drought mitigation and groundwater monitoring.

Senator Hornback and Representative McKee expressed optimism about the UK proposal and said it will be on the agenda for consideration in the 2016 session.

Conway and Bevin meet with KFB Directors

KFB President Mark Haney makes opening remarks, flanked by Matt Bevin (left) and Jack Conway.

Kentucky farmers should be pleased to know that the two candidates for governor support the agricultural development fund, the rural road fund, the property tax structure that benefits agriculture, expanding broadband access and providing adequate resources for the agriculture colleges and Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

Democrat Jack Conway and Republican Matt Bevin also agree that the EPA needs to drop its controversial proposal to expand regulatory authority over waterways. They are bullish on vocational agriculture along with the community and technical college system. And they praised KFB's current effort to develop recommendations for enhancing water resources for farmers and rural communities, pledging that they would cooperate with the project.

However, all that good news doesn't mean all was positive when the two men met with KFB's Board of Directors for a "Measure the Candidate" forum at the state office. In fact, they clashed often during the two-hour meeting witnessed by a herd of news media.

KFB President Mark Haney moderated the forum, which often got testy as the candidates exchanged criticisms. Under the guidelines they gave opening and closing statements and fielded questions on the topics of the state's agricultural development fund, agricultural appropriations, fiscal affairs, water management, education, rural economic development, rural infrastructure, insurance issues and environmental and regulatory policy.

Both men opened with pitches to appeal to the group of farmers from throughout the state. Conway quickly noted: "I'm one generation removed from a family farm in Union County." Bevin then began by telling of his involvement with 4-H as a youth.

Conway often was on the offensive, claiming Bevin is on record in opposition to economic "safety net" provisions in federal farm policy, government rural development programs and the sales and use tax exemption for farm production items. Bevin countered by accusing Conway of distorting the views he has expressed verbally and on his campaign web site.

They took shots in their respective closing remarks.

Bevin went first, and blasted Conway for supporting Obamacare and refusing to defend the state's ban on same-sex marriage. The wealthy businessman added: "If you have to leave your farm to one of the two of us, who would you leave it to?"

For winning a coin flip held beforehand, Conway had the last word. He began by claiming that Bevin had not made clear his positions on federal farm policy and rural development strategies. After citing a list of accomplishments on agriculture and other issues during his two terms as Attorney General, Conway said "I have a record of putting Kentucky first."

To underscore their support for farmers, both Conway and Bevin made reference to KFB's mission statement during their opening remarks. "Agriculture is a big part of what we are here in Kentucky," exclaimed Conway. Said Bevin: "Your mission statement talks about finding solutions. That's what being governor is all about.'

Young farmer summer outing

A picnic was held at Breaks Interstate Park.

A group from District 8 reviewed policy issues with Area Program Director Brad Wilkerson leading the discussion.

Young farmer program director Scott Christmas (left) and committee chairman Alan Hubble prepared for the opening luncheon program.

The group assembled at the East Kentucky Expo Center for a luncheon.

The summer outing for KFB's young farmers and their families was based in Pikeville and featured a variety of fun-filled activities. Foremost was some outdoor adventures such as a zip line, horseback riding and rafting. And as always, there were several tours of area attractions.

There also was business to attend to. After the first rounds of the Discussion Meet, four finalists emerged to compete in the finals at the KFB annual meeting in December. The "final four" are Randy Adams of Anderson County, Kyle Kelley of Owen County, Mary Courtney of Shelby County and Cody Rakes of Fayette County.

Finalists in the Outstanding Young Farm Family also were announced. They are Scott and Shea Lowe of Calloway County, Brad and Karen Hines of Hart County and Wesley and Jennifer Poole of Daviess County.

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

KFB President Mark Haney was on hand along with his wife, Marlene. He kicked off the second day with an address in which he emphasized the importance of the young farmer program. "I think you will find that our board significantly wants to do whatever we can for the young farmer program," he said.

The traditional "Eggs and Issues" breakfast featured a briefing from KFB Public Affairs specialist Bryan Alvey. Following that, the young farmers assembled by districts for a policy development session.

The event attracted around 280 from 62 counties.

Policy Development Meetings

Hundreds of county FB leaders from throughout the state participated in the District Policy Development Meetings. Staff members from the Public Affairs Division conduct the sessions to provide a framework for policy development at the county annual meetings. All topics are open for discussion but the focus is a close examination of some issues in which counties have expressed great interest.

Participants are given a document with background information on the respective issues. This year's list includes water resources management, the proposed "Grain Center of Excellence," wildlife control and issues involving transportation and the state budget. KFB public affairs staffer Bryan Alvey gave an overview of the issues.

He began by noting the purpose of KFB's Water Management Working group, a 20-member task force charged with developing recommendations to enhance water resources throughout the state. "This is a long-term project," Alvey explained, "to develop ideas to help both rural and urban areas address water resource problems."

The widespread problem of black buzzards killing livestock was the chief topic of discussion. One county leader said he saw 15 of the buzzards on his farm that day. Alvey advised those with problems to apply for the special permits administered through KFB. The permits allow a farmer to kill up to five of the buzzards, but all kills must be reported and recorded, Alvey explained.

The policy development process will be moving into high gear through the county annual meeting "season," plus KFB's various advisory committees have begun their meetings, in which policies are reviewed for potential recommendations. What emerges from the counties and advisory committees goes before the resolutions committee in early November.

This year's annual meeting is set for December 2-5.

Above, dozens of county Farm Bureau leaders came to Springfield for the District 5 Policy Development Meeting.

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2015 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

KFB and county Farm Bureau organizations provided 315 college scholarship grants this year totaling $399,550. The scholarships were awarded to recipients who displayed the greatest levels of academic excellence, involvement in extracurricular activities, leadership abilities and financial need. Scholarship sponsors and the recipients are:

Sam Moore Scholarship – $4,000

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

Courtney Moore, Pendleton County High School

Leadership in Agriculture Scholarships – $3,000 each

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

Amanda Gilles, Apollo High School; Wesley Estes, Logan County High School.

KFB Young Farmer Scholarship – $2,000

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

Cole Hamilton, Daviess County

KFB Young Farmer Scholarship – $1,000

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

Stacy Thacker, Garrard County

Beautification League of Louisville Scholarship – $1,000

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

Jacob Flairty, Campbell County High School

KFB Mutual Insurance Company Scholarships – $2,000 each

Sarah Bault, Adair County High School; John Johnson, Fleming County High School.

KFB Insurance Agents Association Scholarship – $1,000 each

Macy Kaiser, Lincoln County High School; Kristen Tackett, Pikeville High School.

Paul D. Everman Scholarship -- $3,000

Edward Beahm, Breckinridge County

KFB Federation Scholarships – $1,000 each

Bradii Walton, Conner High School; Allison Sandefur, Bourbon County; Tiffany Tate, Breckinridge County; Phyllis Holloway, Caldwell County High School; Joel Reddick, Carlisle County High School; Caitlyn Oakes, Todd County Central High School; Hannah Contini, Garrard County High School; Aaron Thomas, Hancock County High School; Hannah Sharp, Central Hardin High School; Kaily Scott, Hart County High School; Peyton Rodriquez, Hickman County High School; Alisha Samuel, Hickman County High School; Bethany Kirby, Lee County High School; MaKayla Campbell, Lincoln County High School; Sierra Morris, Logan County High School; Caitlin Travis, Lyon County High School; William Porter, Magoffin County High School; Victoria Carter, Mercer County High School; Nathaniel Reed, Metcalfe County High School; Isaac Brown, Ohio County High School; Samantha Woerner, Robertson County High School; Jacob Covington, Scott County High School; Adrian Alvarez-Bobe, Martha Layne Collins High School; Jacob Barnett, Spencer County High School; Allison Cooper, Wayne County High School; Katelyn Spencer, Woodford County High School.

Allen County Farm Bureau - $1,000

Kristine Gillenwater, Allen County-Scottsville High School.

Allen County FB/Ralston Bewley - $500

Jonathan Towery, Allen County-Scottsville High School.

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

Marissa Barnes, Morehead State University; Kayla Gunnels, Brandon Boggs, Cameron Peyton, Anderson County High School; Teri Crutcher, Christian Academy of Lawrenceburg.

Ballard County Farm Bureau -- $500 each

Logan Pickett, William Gordon, Carlie Pace, Caitlyn Meinschein, Karley Wray, Lee Chandler, Jesse Rollins, Marlee Ried, Harley Stephens, Haley Bohn, Jode Tilford and Emily Sullivan, Ballard Memorial High School.

Barren County Farm Bureau -- $500 each

Sara Butler and Trevor Baise, Barren County High School.

Bell County Farm Bureau -- $1,000 each

Kalee Capps, Heather Bingham, Brandy Sanders and Chase Nelson, Pineville High School; Micah Robbins, Major Edwards, Laura Gibson and Hannah Wilford, Middlesboro High School; Trevor Lowe, Dalton Patterson, Sidney Helton and Johnathan Wilson, Bell County High School.

Boone County Farm Bureau -- $1,000 each

Jessica Fortner, Cooper High School; Madison Simpson, Walton-Verona High School.

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

Kevanna Daniels, Fairview High School.

Boyle County FB/David Sparrow Memorial Scholarship -- $1,000

Julia Little, Boyle County High School.

Breckinridge County Farm Bureau -- $1,000 each

Madison Shrewsberry and Colton Masterson, Breckinridge County High School.

Bullitt County Farm Bureau -- $2,000 each

Austin Rhodes, Gabrielle Childress and Emily King, Bullitt East High School; Hannah Mooney.

Bullitt County FB Young Farmers Scholarship -- $1,000 each.

Emily King and Gabrielle Childress, Bullitt East High School.

Butler County Farm Bureau -- $1,000

Lillian Moore, Butler County High School.

Caldwell County Farm Bureau -- $1,000 each

Rebecca Markham, Caldwell County High School.

Calloway County Farm Bureau -- $500 each
Danielle Potts and John Venice, Calloway County High School; Samuel Cook, Murray High School.

Campbell County Farm Bureau -- $1,000 each
Madison Bertram, Jordyn Boesch, Jamie Henley and Justin Schack, Bishop Brossart High School; Megan Straus, Pendleton County High School; Luke Trapp, Campbell County High School.

Carroll County Farm Bureau -- $750
Taylor Schirmer, Carroll County High School.

Casey County Farm Bureau -- $500
Lukas Patterson, Casey County High School.

Christian County Farm Bureau -- $2,000 each
Katherine Garnett and Caroline Noel, Hopkinsville High School; Lilly Colley, Christian County High School; Brady Trapnell, Heritage Christian Academy.

Clay County Farm Bureau -- $2,000 over 4 years each
Breanna Cornett, Jacob House, Jamia Gibbons, Lesley Roberts and Dakota Byrd, Clay County High School; Brittany Combs, Pulaski Southwestern High School.

Crittenden County High School -- $1,000
Jacob Berry, Crittenden County High School

Cumberland County Farm Bureau -- $500 each
Brooklyn Branham, Andrea Mann and Monica Poindexter, Cumberland County High School.

Daviess County Farm Bureau -- $2,000
Kelsey Ann Settles, Owensboro Catholic High School.

Daviess County FB Insurance Agents -- $2,000 each
Shawna Jo Aud, Whitesville Trinity High School; Lillie Goetz, Owensboro Catholic High School.

Daviess County Tom Curtsinger Scholarship -- $2,000
Amanda Gilles, Apollo High School.

Fayette County Farm Bureau -- $20,000
Rachel Hart, Henry Clay High School.

Fayette County Farm Bureau -- $10,000
David Ehlert, Locust Trace Agriscience Center; Aaron Clark, Henry Clay High School.

Fayette County Farm Bureau -- $2,500
Brett Barton, Lexington Catholic High School.

Floyd County Farm Bureau -- $2,000 each
Eddi Akers and Dustin Rogers, Betsy Layne High School; Tyler Price, Allen Central High School; Summer Shepherd, Prestonsburg High School

Floyd County Farm Bureau -- $1,000 each
Nicholas Kendrick, Betsy Layne High School; Tanner Shepherd, Allen Central High School.

Garrard County Farm Bureau -- $2,000
Emily Major, Garrard County High School.

Grant County Farm Bureau -- $1,000 each
Conrad Jaconette and Bethany Lawrence, Grant County High School.

Grayson County Farm Bureau -- $500 each
Brena Ashley, Weston Boone, Haley Brooks, James Ray Decker, Corbyn Goff, Lynda Higdon, Jordan Horsley, Alexander Milam, Gabriella Shartzer, Savannah Shelton, Courtney Vincent, Logan Ramsey, Madison Willis and Wyatt Skaggs, Grayson County High School.

Greenup County Richard Dupay Memorial Scholarships -- $1,000 each
Samantha Potter, Greenup County High School; Chelsea Bridges, Raceland High School.

Greenup County Raymond Imel Memorial Scholarship -- $1,000
Jordan Moore, Greenup County High School.

Greenup County Clarence Imel Memorial Scholarship -- $500
Emily Billups, Greenup County High School.

Hardin County Farm Bureau -- $1,000 each
Madeline Boyd, Hope Crim, Sarah Wells, Brittany Brangers, Rebecca Mackey, Leslie Langley and Erin Masterson, Central Hardin High School; Griffin Davis and Emily Thomas, Elizabethtown High school; Shelby Enlow, Thomas Nelson high School; Grace Green and Wade Roemer, John Hardin High School; Marie Noel and Clayton Heibert, University of Kentucky; Katie Bowles and Kyle Mobley, Elizabethtown Community College.

Harlan County Farm Bureau -- $1,500 each
Sarah Saylor, Allison Blanton, Charleigh Mefford and Shyla Blevins, Harlan County High School; Rachel Stanton, Harlan County High School.

Harrison County Farm Bureau -- $1,000 each
Jacob Barnes, Clay Arthur and Shane Palmer, Harrison County High School.

Hart County Farm Bureau -- $500 each
Chad Wilson, Ellen Metcalfe and Zackery Nichols, Hart County High School.

Henderson County Farm Bureau -- $1,000
Makayla Darnell, Henderson County High School.

Henderson County Farm Bureau -- $500 each
Andrew Day, Tiana Patton and Sallie Norman, Henderson County High School.

Henry County Farm Bureau -- $500 each
Eric Gidzinski, Jacob Buckley and Justin Yount, Henry County High School.

Hopkins County Farm Bureau -- $4,000
Amelia Iliohan, Madisonville-North Hopkins High School

Hopkins County Farm Bureau -- $2,000 each
Faith Adamson, Hopkins County Central High School; Payton Carver, Madisonville-North Hopkins High School.

Johnson County Farm Bureau -- $1,000 each
Seth Ratliff and Zachary Salyer, Johnson Central High School

Kenton County "Warren VanHorn Memorial Scholarship -- $1,000
Noah Galvin, Covington Catholic High School.

Kenton County "William Durr Memorial Scholarship" -- $1,000
Nicole Ziege, Simon Kenton High School.

Knott County Farm Bureau -- $1,000
Simon Christon, Knott County Central High School

Laurel County Farm Bureau -- $4,000 each
Noah Bronnert, South Laurel High School; Hannah Gray, North Laurel High School.

Letcher County Farm Bureau -- $1,000 each
Katla Branham, Charley Mullins and Michela Hardin, Jenkins High School; Dalton Bates, Amber Crawford, Luke Potter and Tyler Daylong, Letcher County Central High School; Brian Nickles, Knott County Central High School.

Livingston County Farm Bureau -- $1,000 each
Jaden Hopkins, Magdalyn Moodie and Nicole Fox, Livingston Central High School.

Logan County Farm Bureau -- $500
Wesley Estes, Logan County High School.

Madison County Farm Bureau -- $1,000 each
Bailee Rowlette, Jena Marie Dooley and Casey Walker, Madison Southern High School; Bethany Cruse, Madison Central High School.

Magoffin County Farm Bureau -- $1,000 each
Jenna Williams, Isaac Watson and William Porter, Magoffin County High School.

Marion County Farm Bureau -- $625 each
Kaitlyn Spalding, John Purdon, Joseph Peterson and Brittany Jones, Marion County High School.

Marshall County Farm Bureau -- $2,000
Kenyan Fox, Marshall County High School.

Martin County Farm Bureau -- $1,000 each
Hannah Fitch and Samuel Ward, Sheldon Clark High School.

Mason County Farm Bureau -- $1,000 each
Jordan Frodge, Megan Pfefer, Hannah Shields, Cara Woods, Tyler Ellison and Ryan Johnson, Mason County High School.

McCracken County Farm Bureau -- $1,000 each
Karah Braboy and Emily Olmeda, McCracken County High School.

Meade County Farm Bureau -- $1,000
Kaylee Compton, Meade County High School.

Menifee County Farm Bureau -- $500 each
Codey Meeks, Shelby Rose, Duane Steele, Alexandria Heaton, Zackery Smallwood and Mandolyn Wells, Menifee County High School.

Mercer County Farm Bureau -- $1,000
Jesalyn Bradford, Burgin High School.

Mercer County FB Young Farmers -- $1,000
Taylor Worthington, Mercer County High School.

Monroe County Farm Bureau -- $1,000 each
Kodi Thompson and Nicholas Turner, Monroe County High School.

Morgan County Farm Bureau -- $2,000
Stephen Lacy, Morgan County High School.

Muhlenberg County Farm Bureau -- $1,000
Joseph Reed, Muhlenberg County High School.

Nelson County Farm Bureau -- $600 each
Rachel Young, Chandler Young, Melissa Schenck, Keaton Miller, Huston Lanham, Quinton Lyvers, Taylor Duncan, Jenna Bell, Skyler Ballard and Brittany Bowling, Nelson County High School; Neha Patel, Rebecca Filiatreau, Jeremy Ashworth and Clayton Brooks, Bardstown High School; James Hutchins, Hannah Carter, Chance Bodine and Camille Dant, Bethlehem High School; Evelyn Tichenor, Kyle Schenck and Payton Carter, Thomas Nelson High School.

Oldham County Farm Bureau -- $2,000
Kendra Stevens, North Oldham High School.

Oldham County FB Current College Student -- $2,000
Georgia Ray, Murray State University.

Oldham County FB/Boyd Johnson Honorary Scholarship -- $2,000
Jeffrey McCall, Oldham County High School.

Owen County Farm Bureau -- $1,000
Michael Wash, Owen County High School.

Pendleton County Farm Bureau -- $500 each
Robert Hall and Melissa Combs, Pendleton County High School.

Pike County Farm Bureau -- $1,000 each
Kristen Tackett and Nicholas Taylor, Pikeville High School; Brandon Hatfield, Phelps High School.

Pike County Farm Bureau -- $500 each
Kaitlyn Howell and Brady Spradlin, East Ridge High School; Abigail Smallwood, Shelby Valley High School; Makaylee Justice, Pike County Central High School.

Pulaski County Farm Bureau -- $1,200 each
Bradley Correll and Shellye Stevens, Pulaski County High School; Trevor Farmer and Julia Wilson, Southwestern High School.

Robertson County Farm Bureau -- $400
Maria Delgado-Torres, Robertson County High School.

Rockcastle County Farm Bureau -- $500 each
Samantha Callahan and Hannah Prewitt, Rockcastle County High School.

Russell County Farm Bureau -- $2,000 each
William Fenske, Dawson Godby and Kimberly Miller, Russell County High School.

Scott County Farm Bureau -- $500 each
Hines Jones IV, Julia McClain, Julia Stiglich, James Johnson, Julie Jager, Carly Walls, Holyann Huber, Andrew DeRossett, Prisilla Thorn, Ryan Wiggins and Jacob Covington, Scott County High School.

Shelby County Farm Bureau -- $1,000
Kelli Armstrong and Kyler Dugle, Shelby County High School.

Shelby County FB Current College Student Scholarship -- $1,000
Nancy Cottrell, University of Kentucky.

Shelby County FB/Roy V. Catlett Scholarship -- $1,000
Taylor Nash, Martha Layne Collins High School

Simpson County Farm Bureau -- $1,000
Taylor Pinson, Franklin-Simpson High School.

Spencer County Farm Bureau -- $2,000 each
Tyler Goodlett, Daniel Cooper and Rachel Sibert, Spencer County High School.

Taylor County Farm Bureau -- $1,500
Rylee Beard, Taylor County High School.

Taylor County Farm Bureau-FFA -- $2,500
Rachel Hinton, Taylor County High School.

Trigg County Farm Bureau -- $500 each
Hannah Major, Taylor Butts, Hannah McNeily and Jonathan Fuller, Trigg County High School.

Warren County Farm Bureau -- $4,000 each
Anna Gray and Thomas Sumner, Warren East High School

Warren County FB/R.O. Buchanon Scholarship -- $4,000
Corbin Cowles, South Warren High School.

Washington County Farm Bureau -- $500 each
Amanda DeWitt, Kari Russell and Stephen Carney, Washington County High School.

Webster County Farm Bureau -- $1,000
Hannah Pritchett, Webster County High School.

Whitley County Farm Bureau -- $3,000
Hanna Logan, Whitley County High School

Roadside Markets Program turns 20

This summer marks the 20th anniversary of KFB's Certified Roadside Markets Program. The program provides collective advertising, promotional items, educational tour opportunities and other marketing and promotional benefits. This year there are 101 markets enrolled, as compared to 25 in 1996.

There are seven markets that have been involved from the beginning. One of them, Haney's Appledale Farm, is operated by KFB President Mark Haney and his brother, Don.

Mark Haney vividly recalls the development of the roadside markets program, and logically so, because it was his idea.

"Back then we didn't have anything to promote these markets – everything was about production," said Haney, who at that time was in his fourth year on the KFB Board of Directors. "Farm Bureau had never embraced anything like this, but I thought if we could just get some trade moving among the Farm Bureau family it would help some people. I saw that South Carolina had a program. We sort of patterned ours after theirs."

After a program logo was adopted, the next big step was publishing and distributing a guide to the markets. For many years the colorful brochure was available at interstate rest stops throughout the state. It is still widely distributed.

In the early years the program mainly involved farms selling fruits and vegetables. It evolved, however, to encompass a wide range of enterprises such as nurseries, greenhouses, farm wineries, custom food operations and agritourism businesses. This growth coincided with the state's historic agricultural development initiative sparked by the availability of tobacco settlement funds.

The "original seven" market participants provide a good example of this transformation in the state's farmscape, as they've expanded and/or implemented significant changes in reaction to the marketplace. Appledale Farm added an on-site bakery that, among several items, produces fried apple pies and caramel apples that are hugely popular.

"We've had to make a number of changes to make our market more attractive to visitors," Haney explained. "Folks want to come here to be entertained. We added the bakery and displays of educational materials like harvesting equipment. We do a lot of school tours. Today, it's all about providing an enjoyable experience and fresh products."

Bray's Market in Trimble County has cashed in on homemade ice cream after operator Carlos Pyles completed a course at Penn State University. He added an ice cream parlor at their market center off U.S. 42, a few miles west of Bedford.

Catering to kids has benefitted Imel's Greenhouse in Greenup County. Operator Kenneth Imel added a playground, petting zoo and hay bale maze. Imel's plays host to hundreds of school tours and is extremely busy during the fall season. Some schools visit from as far as 40 miles away.

Gallrein Farms in Shelby County has been a top operation for many years. Twenty years ago, it was strictly a spot to buy their famous sweet corn plus other fresh produce. But over the years Bill and Randi Gallrein made a series of changes to provide more for an expanding customer base in the metro Louisville area. They added greenhouse space adjacent to their market center to meet the exploding demand for plants. Inside the market area they added a bakery. Then there was the construction of a 6,500-square-foot pavilion for special events such as weddings and company functions. (KFB has used the facility on several occasions.) A petting zoo also was established, which is why Gallrein's is a popular spot for school tours.

Haney said it's been gratifying to watch the program evolve along with the marketplace.

"We've been able to enhance folks in this business," he said. "Today we are dealing with a variety of operations that I feel benefit from the branding aspect of the program. Our program and others, like the Kentucky Proud program, has enabled Kentucky to do a great job of promoting this industry. This local foods movement is big; we've made changes to adapt."

Celebrating 20 years in the

Dennison's Roadside Market
Hart County
(270) 786-1663

Bray Fruit
Trimble County
(502) 255-7296

Haney's Appledale Farm
Pulaski County
(606) 636-6148
Haneyappledalefarm.com

Roadside Markets Program

Gallrein Farms
Shelby County
(502) 633-4849
Gallreinfarms.com

Bray Orchard & Roadside Market
Trimble County
(502) 255-3607
Brayorchards.com

Imel's Greenhouse
Greenup County
(606) 473-1708

Reed Valley Orchard
Bourbon County
(859) 987-6480
Reedvalleyorchard.com

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WEST

Ashley's Acres/Tom's Feed Cattle Service/Fulkerson Farms
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Blue Boy Lawn, Landscape & Garden Center
Madisonville (270) 821-7476

Broadbent B & B Foods
Kuttawa broadbenthams.com (270) 388-0609

Brumfield Farm Market
Madisonville brumfieldfarmmarket.com (270) 821-2721

Cates Farm
Henderson (270) 823-6150

Cayce's Pumpkin Patch
Princeton caycespumpkinpatch.com (270) 365-2132

Christian Way Farm
Hopkinsville christianwayfarm.com (270) 269-2434

Country Fresh Meats & Farmers Market
Sturgis countryfreshsturgis.com (270) 333-0280

Father's Country Hams
Bremen fatherscountryhams.com (270) 525-3554

Five Mares Farms
Benton www.fivemaresfarm.com (270) 366-7615

Happy Hollow Farms
Calhoun (270) 499-3774

Jim David Meats
Uniontown littlekentuckysmokehouse.com (270) 822-4866

Lola Nursery & Greenhouse
Salem (270) 988-2704

McKinney Farm
Russellville mckinneyproduce.com (270) 726-6284

Metcalfe Landscaping
Madisonville (270) 821-0350

Poore's Nursery & Farms
Russellville (270) 542-4828

Reid's Orchard
Owensboro reidorchard.com (270) 685-2444

Stoltzfus Produce
Pembroke no phone

The Country Barn
Elkton (270) 885-4843

Trunnell's Farm Market
Utica trunnellsfarmmarket.com (270) 733-2222

Zook's Produce
Herndon no phone

SOUTH CENTRAL

Baldwin Farms
Richmond baldwinfarmsky.com (859) 582-5785

Berrylicious Orchard
Woodburn (270) 392-0211

Cardwell Family Farms
Morgantown (270) 999-0975

Chaney's Dairy Barn & Restaurant
Bowling Green chaneysdairybarn.com (270) 843-5567

Crawford Farms
Elizabethtown crawfordpumpkins.com (615) 574-8470

D & F Farms
Somerset (606) 382-5214

Daynabrook Greenhouse & Farm
Harrodsburg www.daynabrook.com (859) 734-7863

Dennison's Roadside Market
Horse Cave (270) 786-1663

Devine's Farm & Corn Maze
Harrodsburg devinescornmaze.com (859) 613-3489

Double Hart Farm
Corbin (606) 523-0465

Frenchvalley Farms
Jamestown (270) 566-1757

Brian T. Guffey Livestock & Produce
Albany (606) 688-1528

Habegger's Amish Market
Scottsville (270) 618-5676

Hail's Farm
Somerset (606) 274-0011

Haney's Appledale Farm
Nancy haneysappledalefarm.com (606) 636-6148

Heavenly Haven Farm
Columbia hhfarmfun.com (270) 465-9597

Hinton's Orchard & Farm Market
Hodgenville hintonsorchard.com (270) 325-3854

Jackson's Orchard & Nursery, Inc.
Bowling Green jacksonsorchard.com (270) 781-5303

Just Piddlin Farm
Woodburn justpiddlinfarm.com (270) 542-6769

Kenny's Farmhouse Cheese
Austin kennyscheese.com (270) 434-4124

Mammoth Cave Transplants
Brownsville (270) 597-2533

Marksbury Farm Market
Lancaster marksburyfarm.com (859) 754-4224

Roberts Family Farm
Guston robertsfamilyfarmky.com (270) 422-2361

Serano Alpacas & Yarns
Springfield SeranoAlpacas.com (208) 699-8570

Smith Creek Cabin
Greensburg smithcreekcabin.net (270) 932-4309

The Pumpkin Wagon
Elizabethtown www.thepumpkinwagon.com (270) 734-2156

Todd's Greenhouse, Inc.
Eubank toddsgreenhouse.com (606) 379-1375

Tracey's Taters & Maters
Greensburg traceystaters.com (270) 299-1148

Triple 'D' Greenhouses, Produce & Variety Shoppe
Greensburg (270) 299-5889

VanMeter Family Farm
Clarkson (270) 242-9056

Williams Country Market
Gravel Switch (270) 692-2493

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Alpine Hills Dairy Tour/Country Pumpkins
Dry Ridge AlpineHillsDairy.com CountryPumpkinsKY.com (859) 428-2445

Antioch Daylily Garden
Lexington antiochdaylilygarden.com (859) 293-0350

Ayres Family Orchard
Owenton ayresapples.com (502) 484-5236

Beech Springs Farm Market
Winchester beechspringsfarmmarket.com (859) 744-2868

Bi-Water Farm & Greenhouse, LLC
Georgetown biwaterfarm.com (502) 863-3676

Bluegrass Aquaponics
Versailles (859) 806-2696

Boone Gardiner Garden Center
Crestwood boonegardiner.com (502) 243-3832

Boyd Orchards
Versailles boydorchards.com (859) 873-3097

Bray Fruit
Bedford (502) 255-7296

Bray Orchard & Roadside Market
Bedford brayorchards.com (502) 255-3607

Callis Orchards
Bedford (502) 255-3316

Country Corner Greenhouse & Nursery, Inc
Shepherdsville countrycornergreenhouse.com (502) 955-8635

Eagle Bend Alpacas Fiber & Gift Shoppe
Burlington eaglebendalpacas.com (859) 586-5695

Evans Orchard & Cider Mill
Georgetown evansorchard.com (502) 863-2255

Gallrein Farms
Shelbyville gallreinfarms.com (502) 633-4849

George Gagel Farm Market, LLC
Louisville (502) 447-6809

Golden Apple Fruit Market
Lexington (859) 278-9128

Gregory Farms
Turners Station (502) 947-5469

Mayo Lane Market Wagon
Prospect kentuckyrivercrestfarm.com (502) 315-5111

McGlasson Farms
Hebron mcglassonfarms.com (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, LLC
Shelbyville mulberryorchardky.com (502) 655-2633

Reed Valley Orchard
Paris www.reedvalleyorchard.com (859) 987-6480

Sage Garden Café, LLC
Frankfort wilsonnurseriesky.com (502) 352-2725

Sherwood Acres Beef
LaGrange sherwoodacresbeef.com (502) 222-4326

Steepleview Farm
Sparta steepleviewfarm.net (859) 643-3339

Sunny Acres Farm
Jeffersontown sunnyacresfarmky.com (502) 643-6584

The Daylily Patch
Georgetown (502) 863-2778

The Farm at Landworks
Paris thefarmatlandworks.com (859) 987-1266

The Greenhouse in Gertrude
Brooksville (606) 782-0033

Tower View Farm & Nursery
Jeffersontown (502) 267-2066

Triple J Farm
Georgetown www.triplejfarm.org (502) 836-6786

Wilson Nurseries, Inc.
Frankfort wilsonnurseriesky.com (502) 223-1488

EAST

Black Barn Produce, LLC
River blackbarnproduce.com (606) 297-2600

Bramble Ridge Orchard
Mt. Sterling brambleridgeorchard.com (859) 498-9123

Buddies Produce
Salyersvillle (606) 349-2839

Country Garden Greenhouse
Beattyville (606) 424-9379

Fannin's Vegetables
West Liberty (606) 743-3343

Golden Apple Fruit Market
Whitesburg (606) 633-9763

Holliday Farm & Garden
Hazard Hollidayfarmandgarden.com (606) 436-2635

Hutton-Loyd Tree Farm
Wallingford hl-treefarm.com (606) 876-3423

Imel's Greenhouse
Greenup (606) 473-1708

Kentucky Roots
Louisa (606) 686-3276

Lucas Farms
Whitesburg (606) 335-0198

Townsend's Sorghum Mill and Farm Market
Jeffersonville townsendsorghummill.com (859) 498-4142

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County Corner

Snapshots of County Farm Bureau activities

BOONE COUNTY

A lunch with state legislators was held. Here, Burlington Agency Manager Mike Crane addresses the group. Standing at left is County President Bob Mauer.

BUTLER COUNTY

A customer appreciation day was held at the county office. From left are State Representative Suzanne Miles, Agent Bobby Smith, Maegan Hance (of Servpro), Candi Clark, Congressman Brett Guthrie, Dee Russ, Ashley Russ, Agency Manager James Runion, Jody Forgy, Agent Jack Clark, Debi Phelps, Penny Cole and County President Shane Wells.

GREENUP COUNTY

Pam Imel and Lisa Osborne worked on the memory garden at the county office in Greenup.

MASON COUNTY

Board member Mike Walton gave a presentation to sixth graders at an Ag Field Day sponsored by Mason County FB.

MERCER COUNTY

A demonstration from an Air Evac Lifeteam was among the highlights at a Community, Merchant and Member Appreciation Day. More than 250 members attended.

ALLEN COUNTY

A legislative appreciation dinner was held. Front row from left are Magistrates Roman Perry Jr., Dennis Harper and Tony Wolfe, State Representative Wilson Stone and Allen County FB resident Al Pedigo. Back row from left are Daweyn Albertson, John Pedigo, Paul Napier, Sandy Simpson (a field rep for Congressman Ed Whitfield), State Senator David Givens, Tim Thomas (a field rep for Senator Mitch McConnell), Dennis Arterburn, Marlin Moody, Sarah Jones and Bart Jones.

FRANKLIN COUNTY

The 57th annual Farm-City Field Day was held at Indian Ridge Farm, which is operated by former State Senator Fred Bradley. County Judge Executive Huston Wells honored the Bradley family with a replica of a sign that will be placed off Interstate 64. Fred's son, Buff Bradley, is a prominent thoroughbred trainer.

BARREN COUNTY

Barren County FB had a booth at the county ag festival. From left are women's chairperson Cynthia Rowland and Agency Managers Matt London and Josh Harden.

MAGOFFIN COUNTY

Board members met with State Representative John Short (second from right) to discuss issues.

FLOYD COUNTY

The county's scholarship winners posed for a photo with County President Eddie Akers (left), plus (at right) Vice President Saul Akers and Education Committee Chairman Fonzo Akers.

PULASKI COUNTY

Delivering Food to the Bethany House, Women & Children's Abuse Shelter were women's committee members Stacey Roy, Cynthia Garner, & Maggie Roy.

LOGAN COUNTY

A meeting was held with elected officials. From left is KFB Director Russell Poore, District Judge Ken Williams, Magistrate Thomas Bouldin, Judge-Executive Logan Chick, County Attorney Joe Ross, Magis-trate Jack Crossley, Jon Crosby (a field rep for Senator Rand Paul), Magistrate Jo Orange and Tim Thomas (a field rep for Senator Mitch McConnell).

markets

By Ed McQueen

Egg production down sharply

The latest Chickens and Eggs Report from USDA documents the reduction in table egg production in May and June resulting from the outbreak of avian influenza (HPAI) in key Midwest production areas. U.S. table egg production totaled 6.30 billion eggs during June 2015, down 11 percent from June 2014. This follows a nearly seven percent year/year decline in May egg production. About 75 percent of June's decreased production happened in Iowa – this state produced 19 percent of last year's June total table egg production. Egg producers are rebuilding the egg-laying flock, but this will take time. Egg-type chicks hatched during June 2015 totaled 46.9 million, up seven percent from June 2014. Eggs in incubators totaled 43.8 million on July 1, 2015, up seven percent from a year ago.

Egg prices rose sharply as supplies declined. The wholesale New York egg price averaged $1.70/dozen in the second quarter of 2015, up from $1.47 in the first quarter. USDA forecasts average egg prices to remain above $1.70 the rest of 2015 before falling back to $1.49-1.61 per dozen in the first quarter of 2016. However, a return of HPAI would alter forecasts.

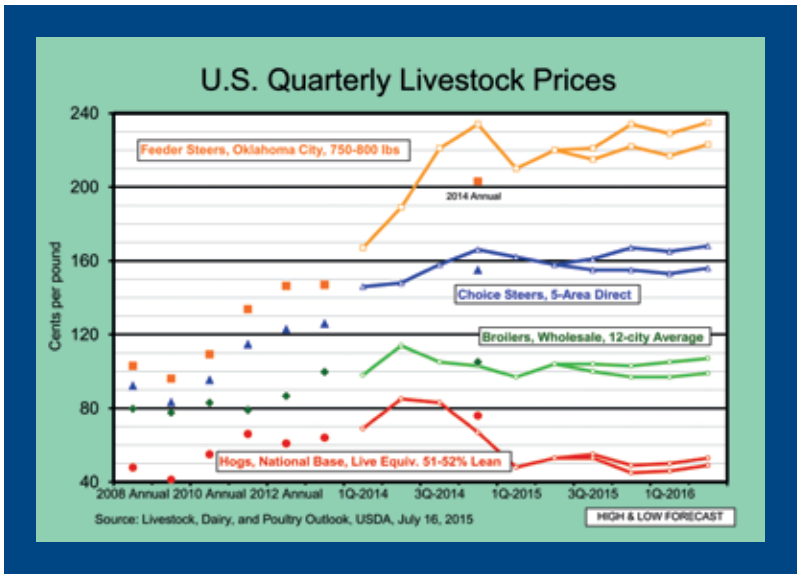
Corn used for ethanol up slightly

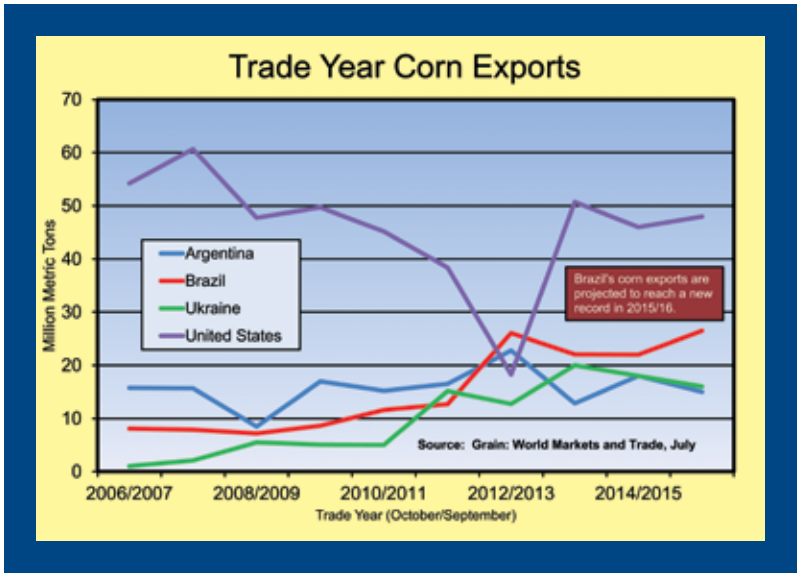
In February 2015, USDA began publishing the Grain Crushings and Co-Products Production report, which provides monthly statistics on feedstock consumption by alcohol producing facilities, as well as products and co-products produced. The data was previously provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

The July report stated that total corn consumed for alcohol and other uses was 507.1 million bushels in May 2015 (31 days). Total corn consumption was up nine percent from April 2015 (30 days) and up three percent from March 2015 (31 days). May usage included 90.6 percent for alcohol and 9.4 percent for other purposes. Corn for beverage alcohol totaled 3.23 million bushels, down two percent from April but up 32 percent from March. Corn for fuel alcohol, at 450.2 million bushels, was up 10 percent from April and up two percent from March. Corn consumed in May 2015 for dry milling fuel production and wet milling fuel production was 89.5 percent and 10.5 percent respectively. Dry mill co-product production of distillers dried grains with solubles (DDGS) was 1.89 million tons during May 2015, up 12 percent from April 2015 and up five percent from March 2015. Distillers wet grains (DWG) 65 percent or more moisture was 1.23 million tons in May 2015, up two percent from April 2015 but down three percent from March 2015. For 2015/16, USDA projects corn used for ethanol and by-products at 5.225 billion bushels, up 25 million from 2014/15.

Milk production edges higher

Milk production in the 23 major States during June totaled 16.4 billion pounds, up 0.7 percent from June 2014. May revised production at 17.2 billion pounds, was up 1.5 percent from May 2014. The May revision represented an increase of 12 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,895 pounds for June, no change from the record high of June 2014. The 23 State series began in 2003. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.63 million head, 56,000 head more than June 2014, but 2,000 head fewer than May 2015. Milk production in the United States during the April - June quarter totaled 53.6 billion pounds, up 1.4 percent from the April - June quarter last year.





County Annual Meetings

ANDERSON COUNTY
October 12 5:30 p.m.
Eagle Lake CC

BOURBON COUNTY
October 1 6:30 p.m.
Legion Park

BOONE COUNTY
September 8 6 p.m.
Extension Office

BOYD COUNTY
October 12 6:30 p.m.
Ken Franks Community Bldg.

BUTLER COUNTY
September 8 6:30 p.m.
Eva J. Hawes Ag Bldg.

CALDWELL COUNTY
September 26 6:30 p.m.
UK Research Center

CAMPBELL COUNTY
September 13 4 p.m.
St. Peter & Paul Social Center

CARLISLE COUNTY
August 13 6 p.m.
Bardwell Baptist Church

CASEY COUNTY
October 1 6 p.m.
Ag Expo Center

CLINTON COUNTY
September 10 6 p.m.
Fairgrounds

CUMBERLAND COUNTY
September 25 6 p.m.
Veterans Memorial Building

FLEMING COUNTY
August 14 11 a.m.
Farm Bureau office

FRANKLIN COUNTY
October 13 6:30 p.m.
Extension Office

GALLATIN COUNTY
October 5 10 a.m.
Farm Bureau office

GRANT COUNTY
September 12 6 p.m.
Williamstown FB Office

GREENUP COUNTY
November 2 6 p.m.
Farm Bureau office

HARRISON COUNTY
September 24 6 p.m.
Extension Office

HART COUNTY
September 26 6 p.m.
Fairgrounds

HENRY COUNTY
October 8 7 p.m.
Farm Bureau Office

HARLAN COUNTY
September 19 Noon
Farm Bureau office

LAWRENCE COUNTY
October 20 6 p.m.
Down Home Café

LESLIE COUNTY
September 22 4 p.m.
Farm Bureau office

LOGAN COUNTY
September 12 6 p.m.
Extension Office

LYON COUNTY
September 11 6 p.m.
Lyon County Elementary School

MAGOFFIN COUNTY
September 14 6:30 p.m.
Extension Office

MASON COUNTY
September 28 7 p.m.
Extension Office

MCCRACKEN COUNTY
September 15 7 p.m.
St John's K of C Hall

MCCREARY COUNTY
September 17 6 p.m.
RECC meeting room

OWEN COUNTY
October 5 6 p.m.
Extension Office

PENDLETON COUNTY
September 26 6 p.m.
Farm Bureau office

PERRY COUNTY
August 18 6 p.m.
Farm Bureau office

ROBERTSON COUNTY
September 19 6 p.m.
Robertson County High School

ROCKCASTLE COUNTY
September 18 6 p.m.
Roundstone Elementary School

RUSSELL COUNTY
September 11 6 p.m.
Fairgrounds

SHELBY COUNTY
October 3 6:30 p.m.
Extension Office

TRIGG COUNTY
August 14 6 p.m.
Recreation Complex

TRIMBLE COUNTY
August 20 7 p.m.
Extension Office

WARREN COUNTY
September 19 5:30 p.m.
South Warren High School

WASHINGTON COUNTY
October 17 7 p.m.
Mackville Community Center

WHITLEY COUNTY
September 15 6:30 p.m.
Cumberland Falls State Park

Women's educational grants

KFB is accepting applications for its $1,500 Women's Educational Grant which is presented annually to assist non-traditional aged female college students who are working towards a degree. The grant is available to any woman who has been a KFB member for at least one year, is a high school graduate (GED is acceptable), and is interested in resuming educational studies after leaving school to fulfill either family or work-related responsibilities.

Applications must complete the application that can be found at kyfb.com/scholarships and return the requested material postmarked by October 23.

The annual grant is administered through the KFB Education Foundation. To learn more about the variety of KFB scholarships, visit kyfb.com/scholarships.

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"Farmers Grow" helps community groups

America's Farmers Grow Communities will partner again with farmers to award more than $3.3 million to community nonprofits across the country. In Kentucky, 35 organizations will receive donations in 2016. Sponsored by the Monsanto Fund, the program's purpose is to make a positive impact in rural communities by giving farmers a chance to direct $2,500 donations to eligible nonprofit organizations of their choice. Farmer enrollment for Grow Communities kicks off on August 1 and runs through November 30.

Since the program's inception, Grow Communities has helped fund a broad cross-section of organizations which reflect the makeup and character of rural America. For example, in Shelby County, farmer Bill Mitchell directed a $2,500 donation to the Center for Women and Families in Shelbyville. The organization used the funds to continue assisting men, women and children seeking help in situations of domestic violence.

Farmers have also directed donations to help fire departments purchase equipment and complete training, send FFA and 4-H groups to contests and conventions, provide food pantries with meals to serve those in need and boost agriculture curriculum in rural school districts. Other beneficiaries of the program have included health care organizations, youth and community centers, state parks and economic development programs, among many others.

Kentucky farmers can enroll in the program and find a complete list of program rules and eligibility information by calling **877-267-3332** toll-free or online at **www.GrowCommunities.com**.

Report on rural roads is bumpy

By Erin Anthony
AFBF

Far from the idyllic country roads featured in folk songs, the nation's rural transportation system needs vast improvements, according to a report recently released by TRIP, a national non-profit transportation research group. The report looked at the condition, use and safety of the nation's rural roads, highways and bridges. With significant deficiencies, a lack of safety features and fatal traffic crash rates significantly higher than all other roads and highways, travel on rural roads and bridges is bumpy, to say the least.

Specifically, TRIP found that in 2013, 15 percent of the nation's major rural roads were rated in poor condition and another 39 percent were rated in mediocre or fair condition. In 2014, 11 percent of the nation's rural bridges were rated as structurally deficient and 10 percent were functionally obsolete.

Rural transportation relies on three elements: water, rail and roads. Without any one of the three, our rural communities can't thrive.

America's rural roads provide the first and last link in the supply chain from farm to market, while boosting the tourism industry and supporting the growing production of energy, food and fiber. Deteriorated and deficient rural roads and bridges are hindering farm and ranch goods from reaching markets at home and abroad and making it more difficult for agritourism to succeed, ultimately throwing up a big roadblock for economic growth in rural America.

Like limited broadband access and minimal proximity to medical specialists, transportation infrastructure shortcomings in rural areas are often overshadowed by the problems on suburban and urban roads, despite rural Americans relying more on quality of their transportation system than their urban counterparts as the TRIP report notes.

TRIP made a number of recommendations to improve the safety and condition of rural roads. These include: modernizing major two-lane roads and highways to accommodate increased travel and implementing cost-effective safety improvements, including rumble strips, passing lanes and better lighting.

In Kentucky, KFB works to protect the state's rural road fund that utilizes a portion of the state gas tax.

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[1]Starting at price of $7,299 on a Z915B with 54" deck valid until August 31, 2015 or while supplies last. Taxes not included. Prices and models may vary by dealer. Restrictions apply. See dealer for details. Available in select counties only. [2]Offer valid until August 31, 2015. Subject to approved installment credit with John Deere Financial. Up to a 10% down payment may be required. Taxes could increase monthly payment. Some restrictions apply, so see your dealer for complete details and other financing options, including financing for Consumer use. Available at participating dealers. [3]Program available for warrantable repair on ZTraks, QuikTraks, and Commercial Walk-Behind mowers only at participating dealers and dealer participation will vary. Loaners used for commercial purposes provided within 24 hours. Loaners used for residential purposes provided within 72 hours. Some conditions and restrictions apply. Additional program offerings available for an added cost. See participating dealer for complete details and program offerings. [4]The engine horsepower and torque information are provided by the engine manufacturer to be used for comparison purposes only. Actual operating horsepower and torque will be less. Refer to the engine manufacturer's website for additional information.

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Learning kit now available

"Farm a Month: Where Does Our Food Come From?" is a new learning kit developed by the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture for pre-K to first-grade students.

The Farm a Month kit provides an exciting way for teachers, families and classroom volunteers to engage preschool and elementary-aged students in agricultural-based lessons throughout the year. The kit was developed with the goal of helping foster conversations about where food and fiber comes from.

"Premiere educational resources like the Farm a Month kit are an outstanding jumping-off point for young learners," said Julie Tesch, executive director of the Foundation. "But there is nothing quite like meeting a farmer face-to-face. We encourage educators and parents to also contact their local county Farm Bureau to connect with farmers and ranchers in their area."

Farm a Month kits are equipped with 12 activities, each focusing on a different commodity: maple syrup, popcorn, peaches, pears, apples, oranges, lettuce, grapes, cheese, pumpkins, turkeys and cranberries. Suggested snacks and related books to read are included for each activity.

A 36" x 24" map of the United States and reusable stickers are included in each kit to reinforce geography as students learn about where different foods are produced. Each activity also includes a "Meet a Farmer" feature, with stories about life on the farm from people across the U.S.

The Farm a Month kit is available for purchase for $25 online at **http://bit.ly/FarmaMonth**.

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***1** Offer available through 4/1/17. Available on qualified 2014 and 2015 Chevrolet vehicles. This offer is not available with some other offers. Only customers who have been active members of an eligible Farm Bureau for a minimum of 30 days will be eligible to receive a certificate. Customers can obtain certificates at **www.fbverify.com/gm**. Farm Bureau and the FB logo are registered service marks of the American Farm Bureau Federation and are used herein under license by General Motors. **2** Dependability based on longevity: 1987–April 2013 full-size pickup registrations.*

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