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KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU NEWS

Volume 14 • No. 10

December 2015

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Cover photo by Tim Thornberry

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It's hard to believe, but another year is coming to a close and what a year it has been. From all indications, we have set a couple of production milestones this growing season as soybean producers grew a record crop and corn yields reached record levels.

While those are great accomplishments and indicative of the performance levels our farmers have reached, we are in the midst of lower net income realized on the farm, not only here but across the country. We still see volatility in crop prices and continue to have some concerns over federal government intervention in many areas that directly affect our producers.

But, I'm optimistic as we move into the New Year. I have no doubt that Kentucky is home to some of the most diversified farming operations in the country, the most productive and innovative farmers in the world and some of the best and most productive farmland anywhere.

The coming year holds promise but we must be diligent in our efforts to move forward on issues that benefit our farm families.

It's imperative that our County Farm Bureaus stay strong and continue to be the backbone of this organization. Likewise, we need to encourage our lawmakers both at the state and national levels to support legislation that will be in the best interest of our agriculture industry.

Congress will likely tackle many tough issues that will have a direct impact on agriculture including the Waters of the U.S. regulation, new immigration reform and the ratification of the Trans Pacific Partnership.

On the state level, we welcome a new governor and agriculture commissioner to Frankfort and support their efforts to keep agriculture the strong economic engine it has become not only for our rural communities but for the state as a whole.

In 2016, we will elect a new U.S. president. It is vital that we educate ourselves about these candidates and make an informed choice of who will not only be best for agriculture but who will be best to lead our country in a very complex world.

As we ended our annual meeting, I couldn't help but feel blessed for all those who have made this a great organization for nearly a century and those who will make it great in the future.

Because of you, our members, I am confident that Kentucky Farm Bureau will remain the strong voice of agriculture for our farm families and the people those families impact every day, every year.



Mark Haney

President

Kentucky Farm Bureau

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

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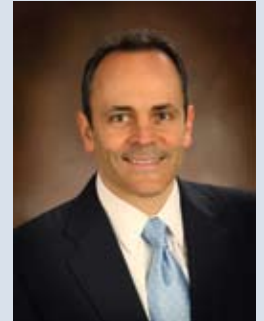
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C O L U M N

Agriculture is a critical component of Kentucky's economy. All across our state, Kentucky farms are generating food for our table and jobs for our economy. My travels across Kentucky over these past two years have afforded me the chance to meet some of America's finest food producers. I understand the challenges they face and am committed to ensuring our agriculture community grows and thrives.



As a child, some of my fondest memories are related to my involvement with agriculture, through 4-H and other activities. The social highlight of my life as a youngster was sleeping in the dairy barn above my animals at the county fair each year. I learned much from the connection to our rural landscape and, in particular, the connection to our agricultural heritage.

I can appreciate what it takes to raise both crops and animals. There are both hardships and triumphs. I have tremendous respect for our farming community. It is a wonderful way of life!

Our farming industry must remain stable and sustainable. My commitment to the agriculture community as I take the reins of Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky is that the voices of our farmers will be heard.

We are blessed with the safest and most affordable food system in the world thanks to the efforts of our farm families. Improvement, as evidenced by some of our record crops grown this season, will ensure that this continues.

Doing more with less is something we have all faced over the past several years as our economy changed in ways we could never have imagined. But Kentucky agriculture enjoyed some of its most profitable years during that same time period thanks to the diversification efforts made possible by programs such as the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund. That investment in agriculture has benefited every Kentuckian.

Because of their strong desire to persevere, even in the toughest of times, the farmers of the Commonwealth have made agriculture one of our top industries. They are a driving force in the progress we have made and will continue to make in our rural communities.

Thank you to Kentucky Farm Bureau for being the voice of agriculture, and thank you to the agriculture community for playing such an important role in our Commonwealth.

Governor Matt Bevin

Kentucky Farm Bureau sets priority issues for 2016 legislative session

Maintaining the present allocation of the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) funds to the Agricultural Development Board was a main priority set by the Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) Federation board of directors for the upcoming 2016 General Assembly.

KFB concluded its 96th annual meeting with its board of directors approving priority issues for the 2016 legislative session. The organization's delegates adopted policy positions at its business session.

KFB President Mark Haney said it was important to continue the support of the 50 percent investment in agriculture from MSA funds as well as keeping the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy in place, active and working forward. Other priority issues related to agriculture programs and services set forth by the board included:

- Support continued funding of the Soil Erosion & Water Quality Cost-Share Program.
- Support an efficient, well-administered and adequately financed Kentucky

Department of Agriculture.

- Recommend sufficient funding be made available to maintain a strong grain elevator inspection program for the protection of farmers, and protect the farmer-financed Grain Insurance Program.
- Support a Grain Center of Excellence at the University of Kentucky Research and Education Center at Princeton.

The topic of taxation also proved to be an important subject discussed by board members and delegates. The board approved priority issues relating to taxes specifically noting Kentucky's tax code should be reformed based on sound economic principles to create a more competitive business climate.

Priority issues were adopted to strongly oppose freezing the state real property tax rate; support the current provisions of House Bill 44 (KRS 132.010) noting revenue from property taxes should continue to be limited to 4 percent plus new growth and proposals to exceed 4 percent should automatically go to the voters. Also approved was the support of maintaining

Kentucky's sales tax exemptions for production agriculture as a priority.

Water issues have long been a concern of KFB. Included in the 2016 legislative priorities was the support to establish a Kentucky water resource management program which will create, support, and advocate a coordinated effort to manage water resource projects across the Commonwealth.

Haney said during his Presidential address that state water resource policy and regulations should be based on adequate scientific research data.

Concerning national issues, the board supported federal crop insurance programs being maintained at current levels to provide an effective safety net for agriculture; a priority to oppose the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) exceeding legislative authority in the implementation of the Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act programs; support of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) providing technical assistance for the development of additional water resources for irrigation and livestock use; and support reform of the H-2A program to streamline the process making it more reliable, economical and simple for farmers to participate. Reforms should include moving from Adverse Effect Wage Rate (AEWR) to an agriculture prevailing wage.

U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell, who addressed the closing session of the annual meeting, said while there were many things going on at the federal level that were good for agriculture, there were many that aren't including too much government regulation.

"The GMO labeling issue is a hot issue right now and we think this kind of labeling clearly ought to be voluntary," he said.

Concerning Waters of the United States regulation issued by the EPA, McConnell said every puddle in America could potentially be regulated under these regulations.

Governor-Elect Matt Bevin addressed members during the annual commodity luncheon held on Thursday. He said he understood issues facing the ag industry and thanked KFB for its efforts in being the voice of agriculture.

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

The annual meeting of the policyholders of Kentucky Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2016, 10:00 a.m. (Eastern), at the home office of the company, 9201 Bunsen Parkway, Louisville, Kentucky, for the purpose of (1) electing directors of the company, (2) to receive the annual report of its officers, and (3) to consider any other business that may come before said meeting.

 Secretary

NOTICE ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING OF THE FB INSURANCE COMPANY

The annual meeting of the stockholders of The FB Insurance Company will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2016, 11:30 a.m. (Eastern), at the home office of the company, 9201 Bunsen Parkway, Louisville, Kentucky, for the purpose of electing directors of the company and to consider any other business that may come before said meeting.

 Secretary



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Elections held during Kentucky Farm Bureau's 96th annual meeting



Pulaski County farmer Mark Haney was re-elected president of Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) on the concluding day of the organization's 96th annual meeting. Also re-elected were Webster County's Eddie Melton as First Vice-President and Hart County's Fritz Giesecke as Second Vice-President. They comprise KFB's Executive Committee along with Executive Vice President David S. Beck.

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

Kentucky House Majority Floor Leader Rocky Adkins received an award from KFB President Mark Haney, center and KFB Public Affairs Director Jeff Harper, right. Adkins served as the keynote speaker during the Public Affairs Breakfast held at the 2015 KFB Annual Meeting.

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

Giesecke serves as the chair of KFB's Beef Cattle Advisory Committee and is a member of KFB's Health Care Task Force. He also serves on the executive committee of the U.S. Meat Export Federation. Giesecke has been an active member of the Hart County Farm Bureau for over 30 years where he has held a variety of leadership positions, including county president. He additionally served 25 years as county supervisor for the local soil conservation district. Giesecke and his wife, Lydia, have a daughter and a son, and farms in Horse Cave, KY.

A complete list of board members can be found on page 5.

Leadership for two of KFB's key advisory committees was also announced during the organization's annual meeting. Kent Moore of Daviess County is the new chair of the Young Farmer Advisory Committee and Betty Farris, of Butler County, was re-elected as chair of the Women's Advisory Committee.

The new vice-chair of the Young Farmer Committee is Jay Campbell of Logan County and the new secretary is Tiffany Ison of Mercer County. Rolling off the committee are immediate past chairs Matt and Amanda Gajdzik of Shelby County.

The Young Farmer Committee is comprised of both singles and married couples. Those members for 2016, including the officers, are: Jay and Trisha Campbell of Logan County; Matt and Stacy Collier of Greenup County; Eric and Amy Holbrook of Breathitt County; Alan and Heidi Hubble of Lincoln County; Zack and Tiffany Ison of Mercer County; Jeremy and Christi Jones of Clark County; James and Julie Lyons of Scott County; Kent and Danya Moore of Daviess County; Caleb and Leanne Ragland of LaRue County; Nick and Audrey Roy of Adair County; and Nathan and Chelsea Wilson of Fulton County.

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

Members of the 2016 Women's Advisory Committee, including officers, are: Vickie Bryant of Monroe County; Mary Jayne Cannon of Fleming County; Pam Chappell of Owen County; Tracey Edgington of Garrard County; Betty Farris of Butler County; Sharon Furches of Calloway County; Judy Hayden of McLean County; Margaret Hensley of Clay County; Sue Litkenhus of Anderson County; Lisa Osborne of Greenup County; and Carol Sullivan of Taylor County.

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Affordable *New* Digital Hearing Aid *Outperforms* Expensive Competitors Delivers *Crystal - Clear* Natural Sound

Reported by J. Page

Chicago: Board-certified Ear, Nose, and Throat physician Dr. S. Cherukuri has done it once again with his newest invention of a medical-grade, ALL-DIGITAL, affordable hearing aid.

This new digital hearing aid is packed with all the features of \$3,500 competitors at a mere fraction of the cost. Now, most people with hearing loss are able to enjoy crystal clear natural sound — in a crowd, on the phone, in the wind — without suffering through “whistling” and annoying background noise.

After years of extensive research, Dr. Cherukuri has created a ***state-of-the-art*** digital hearing aid that's packed with the features of those expensive \$3,500 competitors — at a ***fraction of the price.***

Digital Hearing Aid Outperforms Expensive Competitors

This sleek, lightweight, fully programmed hearing aid is the outgrowth of the digital revolution that is changing our world. While demand for “all things digital” caused most prices to plunge (consider DVD players and computers, which originally sold for thousands of dollars and today can be purchased at a fraction of that price), yet the cost of a digital medical hearing aid remains out of reach.

Dr. Cherukuri knew that many of his patients would benefit but couldn't afford the expense of these new digital hearing aids. Generally they are not covered by Medicare and most private health insurance policies.

The doctor evaluated all the high-priced digital hearing aids on the market, broke them down to their base components, and then created his own affordable version — called the MDHearingAid *AIR* for its virtually invisible, lightweight appearance.

- ✓ Nearly *invisible*
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- ✓ No suffering with ‘*whistling*’ or background noise
- ✓ *Outperforms* \$3,500 models
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Affordable Digital Technology

Using advanced digital technology, the MDHearingAid *AIR* automatically adjusts to your listening environment — prioritizing speech and de-emphasizing background noise. Experience all of the sounds you've been missing at a price you can afford. This doctor designed and approved hearing aid comes with a full year's supply of long-life batteries. It delivers crisp, clear sound all day long and the soft flexible ear domes are so comfortable you won't realize you're wearing them.

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Mercer County Farm Bureau honored as Kentucky Farm Bureau's 2015 "Top County"

Recognized for its outstanding programming and for having a positive impact on both the community and its membership, Mercer County Farm Bureau was honored as Kentucky Farm Bureau's (KFB) "Top County" in 2015. This is the first time Mercer County has won the award. Volunteer leaders from Mercer County received the award at a recognition breakfast held during the 96th KFB annual meeting at the Galt House Hotel in Louisville.

The "Top County" announcement headlined more than 110 membership program and insurance honors presented during an awards breakfast. Butler County, which has 2,170 members and a variety of successful service programs, was also honored as the Top County in the membership category for counties with 2,600 or fewer members. Mercer County (3,351 members) received recognition among the counties with 2,601 to 4,200 members, and Bullitt County (5,900 members) won top honors among counties with more than 4,200 members.

In other award presentations:

- Outstanding County Farm Bureaus were designated in 11 of Kentucky Farm Bureau's 11 districts. The recipients were: Bath, Butler, Clark, Hopkins, Logan, Lyon, Madison, Mercer, Perry, Pulaski, and Scott Counties.

- McCreary, Mason and Bullitt Counties received Top Growth Awards for having the largest percentage of



Leaders of Mercer County Farm Bureau accept the "Top County" award from David S. Beck, KFB Executive Vice President, and Bradley R. Smith, KFB Insurance Companies Chief Executive Officer.

membership gain from 2014.

- Pacesetter Awards were given to counties in the three membership size classifications that were the first to achieve a membership gain during the year. The large county award went to Barren County, followed in size by Mason and McCreary Counties.

- 11 counties won honors for having the highest member retention totals in their districts. Those winners were: Butler, Campbell, Floyd, Knott, Lee, Lewis, Monroe, Pulaski, Trigg, Todd and Woodford Counties.

- Wayne County was honored for having 52 consecutive years of membership growth.

- Hancock County was recognized as the Most Improved County Farm Bureau.

- Three awards were given for most effective county Farm Bureau information programs. Mercer County won first place, Daviess County was second and

Harlan County was third.

- 108 counties won awards for policy growth and profitability produced by their local Farm Bureau insurance agencies. Anderson, Carroll, Estill, LaRue, Ohio and Wolfe Counties came closest to the growth goal set for that county.

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Keith Lowry of Graves County Named 2015 Kentucky Farm Bureau Farmer of the Year



Photo caption: Keith Lowry (right center) and his wife, Rita (left center), received the 2015 "Farmer of the Year" Award at Kentucky Farm Bureau's annual meeting in Louisville. Presenting the award is David S. Beck, KFB Executive Vice President (left) and Mark Haney, KFB President (right).

Vincent "Keith" Lowry of Graves County was honored as the 2015 Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) "Farmer of the Year" during the organization's 96th annual meeting in Louisville.

Each year, KFB recognizes an individual whose efforts not only strengthen the state's agriculture industry but also demonstrate service and leadership both on and off the farm. Three Kentucky farmers were considered as finalists in this year's competition – Lowry, John Bays of Knox County, and Mike Bach from Bath County. After a careful review of each finalist's nomination form and an on-site visit to their farms in October, the judging committee selected Lowry as KFB's 2015 "Farmer of the Year."

Lowry began his career in farming in 1976 with 200 acres of cropland and a tobacco crop. That operation has grown considerably over the past 39 years and today includes 2,400 acres of wheat, half of which is grown for seed; 3,400 acres of corn, which is marketed to two poultry operations; and 3,400 acres of soybeans grown for seed production.

In addition to the crops, Lowry Farms

has a fleet of eight trucks that haul fertilizer and seed beans, along with an excavating business. Lowry's operation is currently 85 percent no-till but he hopes to raise that to 100 percent. He also plans to expand the grain handling facility to better market the crops and continue his work in seed production.

Lowry has spent 21 years as a director with the Graves County Farm Bureau, 11 years as its secretary/treasurer, and attended the Washington, D.C. trip in 2013. His community service activities have been extensive, as well having served as a mentor at Graves County High School from 2010-2014, being awarded the Graves County School Friends of Education Award in 2014, received the Rotary Humanitarian Award in 2014, named Master Conservationist in 2002 and has served as Graves County Conservation District Board Chairman for 11 years.

The other Farmer of Year finalists included John Bays of Knox County and Mike Bach of Bath County.

Judges met in mid-October to conduct interviews with the finalists and visit the farms. The "Farmer of the Year"

recipient was announced at KFB's 2015 state annual meeting in Louisville on December 4 and received \$1,000 from the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation. All three finalists will be given a KFB jacket, and the runners up will each receive \$250 from the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation.

In addition to the statewide recognition and prizes, KFB's "Farmer of the Year" winner will represent Kentucky in the Swisher Sweets/Sunbelt Ag Expo Southeastern "Farmer of the Year" contest, the South's most prestigious agricultural award, in Moultrie, Georgia, October 18-20, 2016. Last year's winner received a \$15,000 cash award plus \$2,500 as a state winner from Swisher International, the use of a Massey Ferguson tractor for a year from Massey Ferguson North America, a \$500 gift certificate from the Southern States cooperative, the choice of either \$1,000 in cottonseed or a \$500 donation to a designated charity from PhytoGen, and a Columbia jacket from Ivey's Outdoor and Farm Supply.

Scott and Shea Lowe named Kentucky Farm Bureau's 2015 Outstanding Young Farm Family



Scott and Shea Lowe (center) received the 2015 "Outstanding Young Farm Family" award during Kentucky Farm Bureau's annual meeting in Louisville. Presenting the award are Mark Haney, KFB President (left) and David S. Beck, KFB Executive Vice President (right).

Scott & Shea Lowe of Calloway County were honored as Kentucky Farm Bureau's (KFB) 2015 "Outstanding Young Farm Family" during the organization's 96th annual meeting in Louisville. Each year KFB awards this distinction to a couple, under the age of 35, who has exhibited the strongest farm management skills, most consistent financial growth and highest level of involvement in both Farm Bureau and the community.

Scott Lowe is a first-generation farmer who took his boyhood fascination with farming and turned it into a reality. Leasing his first two acres of land from a neighbor in 2000, he split a crop of dark-fired tobacco 50/50 with that neighbor and used the profits to begin his journey into the world of farming.

"My whole life, I have always dreamed of farming. I've always had a passion for agriculture," said Scott. "I was fortunate enough through middle school, high school and college to have a neighbor that allowed me to work for him during the summer on his farm."

Newly married to Shea, also a first-generation farmer, and partnering with her to make a bigger commitment to farming as a family, they launched Lowe Farms in 2002. Through incremental expansion of crop acreage and the acquisition of additional equipment and barns, Scott's dream of becoming a full-time farmer came true.

Upon graduation, he began pursuing this reality on his own land. Today the Lowes operate on an 845-acre farm, growing corn, soybeans and dark-fired tobacco, and tend a small herd of beef cattle. Over the past several years, they have also implemented several new farming practices, added various pieces of equipment and installed facilities to assist with cost efficiencies, improve conservation efforts and expand their employee base.

While Scott is in charge of the row crops, it is Shea who over-



Scott & Shea Lowe

sees the tobacco, which is their number one cash crop.

"I love raising our kids on the farm. We are first-generation farmers and we know the opposite of what farm life is; it's a good life but I think this is a grand life," said Shea. "We're putting our kids in an atmosphere that very few on this earth have the opportunity to take advantage of."

Scott and Shea are both active on the Calloway County Farm Bureau board of directors where Scott serves as the Chair of its Young Farmer Committee. They have both served on KFB's State Young Farmer Committee, Scott as its Vice Chair, and he is currently a member of KFB's Dark Tobacco Advisory Committee. The Lowes also regularly contribute their time in leadership roles to several other industry- and community-focused groups.

In addition to receiving statewide recognition as the newest "Outstanding Young Farm Family," the Lowes won a Case IH Scout courtesy of KFB Insurance and Case IH, an Apple iPad



Brad & Karen Hines

from Republic Bank & Trust, \$1,000 cash from Premier Crop Insurance, a \$750 Dyna-Gro Seed voucher from Crop Production Services, a \$500 voucher from Southern States Cooperative, and a voucher for 12 bags of seed corn from Pioneer Seed.

They also received an expense-paid trip to compete in the American Farm Bureau Federation's (AFBF) national young farmer contest next month in Orlando, FL.

Winners of the AFBF national contest will take home their choice of either a 2016 Chevrolet Silverado or a 2016 GMC Sierra, courtesy of General Motors, and a paid registration to the 2016 Young Farmer & Rancher Leadership Conference in Kansas City, MO., in February, 2016.

Outstanding Young Farm Family Finalists

Brad & Karen Hines

Growing up on his family's dairy and tobacco farm in Hart County, Brad Hines worked as a diesel technician at Jacobi Sales and ran his own diesel truck and farm equipment repair business after graduating college. Knowing he wanted to return to his agricultural roots full-time, Hines purchased his first 113-acre farm at an auction in 2005. Today he manages a 1,350-acre operation where he raises beef cattle and grows alfalfa, corn, soybean, tobacco and wheat. His wife, Karen, who was also raised on a farm and actively involved in FFA, 4-H and livestock clubs throughout her youth, works as a nurse at a regional hospital in addition to assisting with the farm's management and office work. In addition to farming their own land, Brad has also created additional income over the years through his diesel repair business and by providing custom planting and harvesting services on approximately 500 acres of land belonging to neighboring farmers. As the couple also continues to learn and implement more effective agriculture management practices,



Wesley & Jennifer Poole

employ single-season calving and new breeding techniques for their cattle, and gain newer and larger facilities and equipment, their productivity has steadily increased each year.

Brad and Karen have both been members of Hart County Farm Bureau since 2001, are active members of the County, Kentucky and National Cattlemen Associations and participate in many other local industry and community-focused activities.

The Hines' second place finish earned them 250 hours free use of a Kubota tractor, an Apple iPad from Republic Bank & Trust, \$750 cash from Premier Crop Insurance, a \$500 Dyna-Gro Seed voucher from Crop Production Services, a \$300 voucher from Southern States Cooperative, and a voucher for 8 bags of seed corn from Pioneer Seed.

Wesley & Jennifer Poole

Beginning with just 20 acres and a small home right after high school, Wesley Poole, and now his wife, Jennifer, have worked diligently over the past 11 years to build their Daviess County farm into its current 625-acre size. Working mostly independently, Wesley has expanded the farm to grow corn, soybeans and tobacco as well as raise cattle and a large number of turkeys. The couple has continued to increase their on-farm efficiencies by utilizing land that wasn't suitable for crops as space for new turkey housing. Additional structures – tobacco barns, an equipment storage shed, workshop and a bunkhouse for hired laborers – and other equipment acquisitions have also been acquired to increase efficiencies and keep costs low.

The Pooles are active members of the Daviess County Farm Bureau and Kentucky Young Farmer Association.

For their third place finish, the Pooles won 100 hours free use of a New Holland tractor, an Apple iPad from Republic Bank & Trust, \$500 cash from Premier Crop Insurance, a \$250 Dyna-Gro Seed voucher from Crop Production Services, and a \$200 voucher from Southern States Cooperative, and a voucher for 6 bags of seed corn from Pioneer Seed.

Benjamin Pinkston and Reagan Miller win Outstanding Farm Bureau Youth contest

Benjamin Pinkston of Mercer County and Reagan Miller of Warren County were awarded top honors in the 2015 Outstanding Farm Bureau Youth contest. Both winners were recognized during the December 3 general session of Kentucky Farm Bureau's (KFB) 96th annual meeting, held at the Galt House Hotel in Louisville.

Pinkston and Miller were selected from 22 district finalists out of approximately 400 young people who competed in county and district contests over the past several months. Judges met with finalists for personal interviews during the annual meeting, awarding points for each contestant's leadership record, conversational ability and scholastic achievement. KFB gave both Pinkston and Miller a \$2,000 college scholarship, an expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., on the KFB Congressional Tour in February 2016, a luggage set and watch for winning the contest.

Runners-up in the contest were James



Benjamin Pinkston of Mercer County (left center) and Reagan Miller of Warren County (right center) received the 2015 Outstanding Farm Bureau Youth awards from Betty Farris, Chair of KFB Women's Committee (left) and David S. Beck, KFB Executive Vice President (right).

Payne of Henderson County and Gracie Furnish of Harrison County. They each received a \$200 cash award and digital camera from KFB. Congeniality awards, which were voted on by their fellow contestants, were won by Furnish and Wyatt Wood of McCracken County.

KFB awarded both of them with \$100 cash prizes for the honor.

The 22 district finalists who performed at KFB's annual meeting included: Elizabeth Brown and Wyatt Wood, McCracken County; Bailey Peterson, Muhlenberg County; James Payne, Henderson County; Shelbi Pendergest, Grayson County; Blake Quiggins, Hart County; Reagan Miller, Warren County; Braden Burks, Barren County; Emily Hamilton and Benjamin Pinkston, Mercer County; Micheala McCane and Alex Wheatley, Franklin County; Sarah Harne, Casey County; Zachary DeBord, Pulaski County; MaKayla Campbell and Tanner Erlandson, Lincoln County; Gracie Furnish, Harrison County; Zachary Plummer, Fleming County; Miranda Robinson, Greenup County; Ethan Wells, Pike County; Emily Hayre and Travis Lewis, Laurel County.

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

Randy Adams wins Kentucky Farm Bureau's Discussion Meet

Randy Adams of Anderson County won first place in the final round of Kentucky Farm Bureau's (KFB) Discussion Meet, a debate-styled competition for young farmers that relies on an individual's skill in reasoning and logical discussion of issues.

Adams bested three other entrants in the final event, winning a Kawasaki MULE donated by Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company and Jacobi Sales. He also won a trip to the national finals in Orlando, FL., as part of the 97th American Farm Bureau Federation's annual convention, January 8-13, 2016.

Winners of the national contest will have their choice of either a 2016 Chevrolet Silverado or a 2016 GMC Sierra, courtesy of General Motors, and a paid registration to the 2016 AFBF



Randy Adams (center), winner of the 2015 Discussion Meet at Kentucky Farm Bureau's annual meeting in Louisville, is presented with his award by David S. Beck, KFB Executive Vice President (right), and Scott Christmas, KFB Director of Agricultural Education, Women and Young Farmer Programs (left).

Young Farmer & Rancher Leadership Conference in Kansas City, MO. February 12-15, 2016. Three national

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

Runner-up in the state Discussion Meet was Kyle Kelly of Owen County, who received \$1,000 cash from KFB.

The two other finalists in the state-level contest were Mary Courtney of Shelby County and Cody Rakes of Fayette County. They each received \$200 cash awards from KFB.

KFB's Discussion Meet tests entrants on their basic knowledge of critical farm issues and their ability to respond in a panel setting to differing points of view. The topic debated by the four finalists was: "How do we balance agriculture's water needs with maintaining vibrant communities? How do historical water rights influence this discussion?"

Dane Milligan honored for Distinguished Service to Agriculture

Ohio County farmer Dane Milligan has been named winner of Kentucky Farm Bureau's (KFB) annual award for Distinguished Service to Agriculture. He was honored at the organization's 96th annual meeting at the Galt House Hotel.

Dane Milligan (center left) received the 2015 Distinguished Service to Agriculture award next to his wife, Donna Milligan (center right), at the organization's annual meeting, held in Louisville. The award was presented by David S. Beck, KFB Executive Vice President (right), and Mark Haney, KFB President (left).

His many achievements in farming and service to the agriculture industry began at the age of 9 for the now, 75-year-old Milligan. He was an active participant in 4-H raising and showing beef calves. While in high school, Milligan became active in FFA while raising corn and soybeans on the family farm. He began full-time farming after high school while attending Western Kentucky University where he earned a B.S. in agriculture.

Today, along with his son and grandson, Milligan farms more than 5,000 acres of owned and rented land on which corn, soybeans and cattle are raised. He became the first person in the county to practice minimum and no-till farming. His grandson becomes the 6th generation of the Milligan family to be involved in farming.

From a community standpoint, Milligan's contributions to the agriculture industry have been numerous. He helped select the location and design of the Ohio County Extension Building and as a Jaycee officer, he and fellow members purchased the Ohio County Agricultural Fair Grounds. He then served for two years as Ohio County fair board president.

His involvement with KFB and the local Farm Bureau organization has also been extensive. Milligan has held nearly every agriculture leadership position during his 61 year membership with the Ohio County FB including president and eight-year member of the KFB State Board.



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Mary Nelle White recognized for Distinguished Service to Farm Bureau



For the past 62 years Mary Nelle White of Union County has dedicated her life to her family and farm while also serving her local Farm Bureau organization in a multitude of capacities. Because of that service, she has been named winner of the 2015 Distinguished Service to Farm Bureau Award and honored at Kentucky Farm Bureau's 96th annual meeting at the Galt House Hotel.

White, at the age of 80, remains active in the family's multi-generational farming operation taking care of the farm accounting. White Farms consists of 13,000 acres of livestock and grain production.

White has served Union County Farm Bureau as president and vice-president numerous times over the years developing several outstanding programs. It was under her leadership the Union County Farm Bureau building was con-

Mary Nelle White (center) received the 2015 Distinguished Service to Farm Bureau award at the organization's annual meeting, held in Louisville. The award was presented by David S. Beck, KFB Executive Vice President (right), and Mark Haney, KFB President (left).



structed and done so under the projected cost. During her tenure, Union County Farm Bureau had a state Young Farm Family winner, a state Discussion Meet winner, a state Excellence in Ag winner and a National Young Farmer and Rancher Chair.

In addition, she has served for many years as a voting delegate at the KFB Annual Meeting and has been an American Farm Bureau Federation Women's voting delegate.

White has also served on many KFB committees including as the District 2 Women's Chair on the State Resolutions Committee; she has worked with the Conservation District for 23 years; and under her leadership, the Union County Farm Bureau began a Safety Day program for 5th grade students that has continued for 22 years.

She has worked to promote member benefits and insurance services in her community while initiating projects to bring education about agriculture to county school libraries including a program called "Bushel for Books." White has also provided the local radio station with Public Service Announcements promoting Farm Bureau and agriculture.

In service to her community, White served on the Sturgis Rest Home Board for many years, treasurer of the Sturgis Little League and still serves as her church's treasurer.

Local Extension Agent Ranklin Powell said she has been a strong supporter of the Union County Extension Service, FFA and Farm Service Agency along with being a leader with 4-H.

Left, Kentucky Farm Bureau President Mark Haney addressed the 96th KFB annual meeting and discussed many of the issues facing the agriculture industry. He asked members to be knowledgeable, engaged and involved when it comes to telling the story of agriculture. Haney also thanked members for all they do for the organization.

Kentucky ag economy slows in 2015, but cash receipts still in top three

Kentucky agricultural cash receipts in 2015 are projected to be off 8 percent from last year's record high, falling to \$6 billion—still the third highest on record. On the national front, the U.S. Department of Agriculture projects cash receipts are down 10 percent from 2014. The outlook for 2016 remains depressed.

"One of the major contributing factors to a slumping U.S./Kentucky ag economy is the decline in ag exports responding to the strengthening U.S. dollar, weak overseas economies, and mounting crop and livestock supplies," said Will Snell, extension professor in the University of Kentucky Department of Agricultural Economics.

Snell and other UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment faculty, including Kenny Burdine, Todd Davis and Tim Woods, all from the Department of Agricultural Economics, Jeff Stringer, from the Department of Forestry, and Kentucky Farm Business Management Program coordinator Jerry Pierce, shared their agricultural economic outlook for 2016 and an overview of 2015 during the Kentucky Farm Bureau 96th annual meeting Dec. 3 in Louisville.

Though Kentucky crop and livestock receipts are expected to decline 16 and 3 percent, respectively, in 2015, other factors managed to slightly counterbalance the weakened markets.

"Record high grain yields and strong spring/summer cattle prices, coupled with solid poultry and equine sector figures, helped partially offset depressed fall cattle and grain prices, as well as falling tobacco revenues," Snell said.

Tobacco acreage was down, as were yields. This was the first year without tobacco buyout payments.

Though the cash receipts are often touted, Snell said net income levels are a more accurate reflection of the commonwealth's agricultural economy.

According to UK's estimates, Kentucky net cash income likely will dip below \$2 billion in 2015 and approach the 2010-

2012 average of \$1.4 billion in 2016. The state's net cash income peaked at \$2.75 billion in 2013, before slipping to \$2.5 billion in 2014. Declining cash receipts coupled with the end of tobacco buyout payments are the major cause for the projected decline this year and next.

"The bottom line is, after several great, great years, 2015 and 2016 will be a challenge with net income plummeting," Snell

said. "Hopefully, farmers put away some of their profits from previous years to weather the current downturn in the ag economy."

Kentucky continues to be livestock-dependent. Poultry remains the top agriculture enterprise with 22 percent of projected 2015 sales, followed by equine and cattle, each with 16 percent projected sales, and soybeans and corn at 13 percent sales.

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Christmas Tree Farms: A True Buy-Local Business

There is something to be said about a real Christmas tree during the holiday season. Not that fake trees aren't handy, but for most who continue the tradition of getting a real tree each season, the look, smell and feel of it are beyond compare.

At least that is what Marla Jackson thinks; and rightfully so. The long-time employee at the Hutton-Loyd Tree Farm said while the Christmas season is the busiest time of year for the nursery, it is always a fun time, as well.

This family-owned tree farm and Kentucky Farm Bureau Roadside Market member rests quietly in the rolling hills of northeastern Kentucky near Morehead. But after Thanksgiving, it turns into an extension of the North Pole complete with decorations and families from all across the region coming to find their prized trees.

In addition to the busy Christmas season, there is plenty to do the remainder of the year including the cultivation of landscaping trees and shrubs to local customers both on a large scale and small. The tree farm has also become a haven for nature lovers, a challenge for rural hikers and a grand venue for weddings and special events. There is even a cabin on the farm that can be rented and often serves as the resident "honeymoon suite."

"There our 1124 acres of fields, forests, and waters on this farm and it is so

much more than just a Christmas tree farm, although we certainly love this time of year," said Jackson. "People come to the farm to picnic, hike, mountain-bike or just enjoy the outdoors."

Like so many of the diverse farming operations across the state, Hutton-Loyd is a destination that brings people to the farm who have never been a part of farming life or are at least a few generations removed.

Dale Barker, a Christmas tree farm owner in Fayette County and president of the Kentucky Christmas Tree Association said Hutton and Loyd is the largest of member farms but there are several active members that are located across the state.

"Many people enjoy a home-grown tree and this is something they can do with their family. There are quite a few of us in this and we put a lot of time in trying to put out a good product," he said.

Barker also said that many of the Christmas tree farms do other types of production on their farms including landscape-type products and agri-tourism venues.

And some of the farms were once home to more traditional farming operations, as well.

"On my particular farm, my grandparents raised tobacco and cattle for 50 years and now I grow Christmas trees on it," he said.



Hutton and Loyd has been selling Christmas trees for about 25 years which would mean they are into their second generation in an area of the state known for its timber industry.

The Christmas tree farms not only allow people a chance to experience the thrill of cutting their own tree but Barker said it brings those removed from the farming environment closer to agriculture.

He also emphasized there is room for more Christmas tree farms because the majority of producers don't sell as many trees as they could each year in order to make sure there are plenty of trees for future Christmases.

Jackson said Hutton and Loyd has been selling Christmas trees for about 25 years which would mean they are into their second generation in an area of the state known for its timber industry.

Barker said that while the Christmas tree business is just a small portion of the overall industry, it is an important one. Because of his hard work with the trees and that of other producers, future generations will continue to have the opportunity to find their perfect Christmas tree when December rolls around each year.

To learn more about Christmas tree farms in KFB Roadside Market program, go to www.kyfb.com/federation/markets. To learn more about the Christmas tree industry in Kentucky, go to www.kychristmastreefarms.com.

Don't know much about (food) history

By Ray Bowman

Mention food history in casual conversation and you might get a few blank stares. You might hear a few clever quips about that surprise that was found in the back of the refrigerator or the bottom of the freezer. Perhaps someone discovered a long-forgotten artifact at the rear of the pantry. (That's really food archaeology, but why quibble about a good joke.)

The reality is that, as America's fascination with their food – what it is and where it comes from – continues to grow, food history is likely to become a very important component of the conversation.

"You are what you eat," may be a medically inaccurate observation, but our culture and society are, in many ways, shaped by our food choices.

Rachel Laudan is an astute observer and chronicler of food history and trends, having authored many articles on the topic and having two critically-acclaimed books to her credit.

Laudan was born in England and grew up on a farm before leaving at age 18 to do a year's voluntary service in Nigeria, teaching at a girls' school. Upon her return to Great Britain, she did undergraduate work in geology at Bristol University before earning a Ph.D. in history and philosophy of science at University College in London. Since then, she has traveled the world teaching and writing about who we are and what we eat.

Often, modern observers bemoan the current state of food and dietary choices, longing for "the good old days" when food was purer and simpler. When asked about those romantic times, Laudan simply states "I don't think they existed."

"Clearly, some things may have been better, but by and large our food is



Rachel Laudan, author of *Cuisine and Empire*, a book about the history of food.

much better today than it was in the past," according to Laudan.

"It's amazing to me how quickly people have forgotten what things were like in the past," Laudan continues. "Growing up on a farm, the fruits and vegetables were wonderful in late summer. By March, my father was saying 'I long for something green.'"

Laudan echoes a familiar observation, that today's society has little or no exposure to farms and actual food production and may take for granted the ready availability of meat and produce year-round. "It's an enormously appealing idea to think that if you are dissatisfied with the present that somehow there was a past that was much better."

"I fear this may not be a carefully thought-out position," Laudan observes. "The invocation of grandmother or great-grandmother (pertaining to food availability and choices) might perhaps be a fairy tale, a myth."

As Laudan notes on her web site, "Don't eat anything your grandmother wouldn't recognize," is an oft-repeated slogan.

Well, our grannies were born sometime from 1880 to 1970. That may seem a pretty long period and so it is. Historically speaking though, it's massively unrepresentative of most of culinary (kitchen) history."

The idea of remembering things better than they actually were is nothing new. In chapter 7, verse 10 of the book of Ecclesiastes, the writer admonishes his readers "Do not say, 'Why is it that the former days were better than these?' For it is not from wisdom that you ask about this."

Rachel Laudan's ambitious food history, *Cuisine and Empire* provides some of that necessary wisdom. Reviewing the project in the New York

Review of Books, G.W. Bowerstock observes "Her bibliography and notes bear witness to her deep learning, and her book, in its scope and originality, gives deserved prominence to a long-neglected theme in world history. It is a triumph, pointing the way to a wholly new kind of historiography that can hold its own with more familiar work on political, economic, social, and intellectual history."

The point being, things are not as bad as some might lead you to believe. All manner of food is readily available and safer than it has ever been in history. To borrow from an old Carly Simon song, "these are the good old days."

Rita Taulbee receives Excellence in Ag Literacy Award

Rita Taulbee, a teacher at Lebanon Junction Elementary School in Bullitt County, is the recipient of Kentucky Farm Bureau's 2015 Excellence in Ag Literacy Award. The announcement was made at the organization's 96th annual meeting, held at the Galt House Hotel in Louisville.

KFB's Excellence in Ag Literacy Award recognizes and rewards teachers who excel in their efforts to incorporate agricultural concepts throughout their core curriculum. Nominations were made for a variety of pre-kindergarten through 12th grade teachers who use their classrooms to help students comprehend the value of agriculture as it impacts their personal well-being economically, environmentally and socially.

For winning the award, Taulbee received \$500 cash and an expense-paid trip to the National Ag in the Classroom Conference

June 20-24, 2016 in Litchfield Park, Arizona, where she will represent Kentucky in the national competition.

Taulbee has been teaching for the past 14 years and joined the staff at Lebanon Junction Elementary 12 years ago. Her interest in gardening coupled with her passion for education has generated many learning opportunities for her students. Creating an outdoor vegetable garden in which students learned about growing plants proved to be a perfect way to incorporate science lessons into real-life applications.

"The impact this has had on our students is beyond belief," she said in her application for the award. "My students have come to me over the past several years and said they never knew they could do this. Others have told me how they have put their skills to use at home in their own gardens."

In teaching the students about growing plants, Taulbee's students have learned where the vegetables come from as well as a more cost effective way to grow them. They gathered prices for seeds, soil and pots versus buying the plants already started thus providing lessons in math and helping with their reading skills. The students have also kept written journals complete with drawings and pictures to track their progress.

Since its beginnings as a vegetable garden, students are now learning about other applications like how to construct a butterfly garden. Taulbee said her students' goal for this year is to raise enough vegetable to donate the surplus to a food kitchen or a shelter.

Taulbee graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from Murray State University and received her master's degree from Indiana Wesleyan University.

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Membership EasyPay®

All members who enrolled in Membership EasyPay® before October 25 were entered into a drawing for an iPad from the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation. Michael Brangers in Jefferson County is the winner. Pictured from left to right is John Blackford, Agency manager in the Lyndon office and agent who services the winner; Stacy Sipes, Area 3 APD; Michael Brangers, winner of the iPad, Calvin Shake, President of Jefferson County Farm Bureau and Dwight Greenwell, Director of Member Services.

Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) members enjoy an array of benefits simply by paying their annual membership dues. In an effort to make that task as easy as possible, KFB is offering a program called Membership EasyPay®. Now members can automatically have their membership dues taken out of their bank account via Electronic Funds Transfer; no check to write, no stamp to buy, no envelope to mail.

Matthew W. Ingram, KFB Assistant to the

Executive Vice President and Director, Organization Division, said the program is a convenient option for members to pay their membership dues without having to worry about it or even think about it.

"Many of our members enjoy and utilize technology in various ways and this is one more way to conveniently pay for something without fear of forgetting about it," he said. "Once a member signs up for the program at their county Farm Bureau office or online, the payment will automatically

come out of their chosen account the next time it is due."

Ingram pointed out that membership dues are an easy, low-cost investment to be able to enjoy the many benefits available to them through KFB and using the Membership EasyPay® program will ensure they never forget about it.

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KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

Cameron Edwards wins



Cameron Edwards (center left) received the 2015 Excellence in Agriculture Award at Kentucky Farm Bureau's 96th annual meeting, held in Louisville. The award was presented by Brad Burke, for Farm Credit Mid-America (center right), Mark Haney, KFB President (left), and David S. Beck, KFB Executive Vice President (right).

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Excellence in Agriculture award

Cameron Edwards of Webster County won top honors in Kentucky Farm Bureau's (KFB) Excellence in Agriculture Awards program during the organization's 96th annual meeting in Louisville.

The Excellence in Agriculture competition awards first, second and third place distinctions each year to individuals or couples under the age of 35 who contribute to and exhibit leadership growth from consistent involvement in Farm Bureau and other agriculture- and civic-oriented organizations. Candidates for this contest, although furthering the message and vitality of agriculture in the state, must not have the majority of their income subject to normal production risks associated with farming.

For the win, Edwards will go on to

represent Kentucky in national competition at the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) annual convention, held in Orlando, FL, January 8-13, 2016. Edwards was presented with a John Deere Gator, courtesy of Farm Credit Mid-America, and an expenses-paid trip to the AFBF annual meeting.

Edwards is the manager of an environmental services company that collects reusable bio materials and processes them to be used at facilities that produce alternative fuels. He has also worked in the family agri-tourism business and has participated in many agricultural training programs including the AFBF Grassroots Outreach Advocacy team and the Partners in Agricultural Leadership training program.

Second place in the contest went to

Clint Hardy of Daviess County. He was awarded \$400 courtesy of KFB. Stephen and Ashley DeBord of Pulaski County placed third and received \$300 from KFB.

When Edwards competes for top national honors next month in Orlando, he will be vying for his choice of either a 2016 Chevrolet Silverado or 2016 GMC Sierra, courtesy of General Motors, and a paid registration to the 2016 AFBF Young Farmer & Rancher Leadership Conference in Kansas City, MO, February 12-15, 2015. Three national runners-up will receive a Case IH Farmall 45A, courtesy of Case IH, a \$2,500 cash prize and \$500 in STIHL merchandise, courtesy of STIHL.

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KFB Hosts Legislative Meeting



Above: Rep. Tom McKee, Chair of the House Agriculture and Small Business Committee, left; and Sen. Paul Hornback, Chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee, right, joined KFB Policy Director Jeff Harper in a meeting with state commodity-group leaders and Kentucky Farm Bureau's Executive Committee to hear about issues that will likely be of interest in the 2016 Kentucky General Assembly.

Below: Rep. Rick Rand told the group how important agriculture is to the state and how important Ag Development Funds have been in creating a strong ag industry.

KFB's annual legislative meeting brought state commodity-group leaders and Kentucky Farm Bureau's (KFB) Executive Committee together to hear from key legislators about issues that will likely be of interest in the 2016 Kentucky General Assembly.

Sen. Paul Hornback, Chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee, Rep. Tom McKee, Chair of the House Agriculture and Small Business Committee, and Rep. Rick Rand, Chair of the House Appropriations and Revenue Committee told the gathering most of the activity will be centered around the budget in this upcoming session. But there are agriculture-related issues they will be watching and supporting throughout. Each also thanked KFB for the organization's efforts in agriculture advocacy.

During his discussion, Hornback said one of his priorities for the upcoming session is to revisit a bill that would allow an increase in weight-limit restrictions for vehicles carrying certain agricultural products including poultry from their point of origin to the first market. He said he will try once again to get legislation passed to allow for this exemption for the state's number one agriculture commodity.

Hornback also said he would be supportive of the proposed Grain Center for Excellence in Princeton, something KFB supports and a facility Hornback said will benefit producers across the state.

All three legislators spoke of the benefits Kentucky agriculture has enjoyed because of the Agricultural Development Fund and how important it is to keep the intent of HB 611 intact.

Hornback encouraged everyone in attendance to speak with their legislators about the importance of ag development dollars and noted the portion of funds going to non-ag initiatives, such as early childhood

development programs, was also having a great impact across the state.

McKee said, with a new administration, his hope is that everyone is committed to maintaining the 50 percent of the MSA money going toward agriculture and maintaining the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy, which has become a national model.

"As we look at the budget, we're challenged to make sure that ag has its rightful place and I'm sure that we will come to the conclusion that it will," he said.

McKee also said issues pertaining to water were always important and offered his help in any matters that would arise pertaining to this "precious commodity."

He reiterated the importance of the Grain Center for Excellence saying it was a top issue going into this session.

Additionally, McKee brought up the matter of GMO labeling saying some states had passed legislation pertaining to mandated labeling and since the issue is "out there," it should be thought about very carefully and noted that some people still don't understand that without GMO's, "we couldn't feed the world."

Rand said, having grown up on a family farm, he knows how important agriculture is and noted that while most of those farms may be small in nature, they make up a big and important industry in this state.

He pointed out, as an example, how much growth and the increase in quality the state's cattle industry has experienced and credited the investments made through the Ag Development Fund.



"I'm dead serious when I tell my colleagues that when we start the budget, that's ground zero for me; what we're doing with ag development dollars and how we're going to invest that," he said.

He also said that with fewer members of the General Assembly coming from an agriculture background, it's important to get together and agree on what the issues are as they move forward on matters related to agriculture and being, "on the same page."

Rand pointed out it's important to participate in the KFB legislative meeting to talk about the interest related to agriculture by all in attendance and the critical role KFB plays in making ag-related decisions.

"There's hardly anything that we do in agriculture in the state without having some conversations with Farm Bureau, and not just (about) agriculture but, education, transportation and any issue you can imagine that affects rural Kentucky," he said.

2015 KFB Agricultural Tour: West Kentucky

Over the course of the past decade, the Kentucky Farm Bureau Agricultural Tour has become an annual tradition of visits to county offices, agricultural businesses and farms across the state.

The 2015 tour included members from both the Federation and Insurance Company who visited a number of venues in nine West Kentucky counties including Daviess, Webster, Hopkins, Union, Crittenden, Christian, Muhlenberg, McLean and Ohio counties.

KFB Federation President Mark Haney brought words of thanks and spoke of a “family environment” that comes with being a KFB member. He spoke of how important the tour had become as a way to hear from county members across the state and listen to and address any thoughts or concerns they may have related to the organization or agriculture in general.

But he also had a consistent message to attendees; be the best advocates for agriculture you can be.

Haney told members that misinformation about agriculture was plentiful but those in the agriculture community could and should take opportunities to better inform the public through good, sound, scientific-based facts.

He discussed many issues with members including the need to make sure an ample water supply is available in the event situations, such as weather changes, would arise affecting a water supply.

Haney also said the Water Management Working Group has worked all year and is ready to start with recommendations on how to address water quantity issues.

Other topics mentioned and discussed during the tour included crop insurance, GMO labeling, environmental issues and the benefits of the ag development fund, to name a few.

KFB 1st Vice-President Eddie Melton told attendees that agriculture is important to their areas and farmers should be proud of what they do and never apologize for it. “We do the right things and don’t support anyone not doing the right things,” he said.

Fritz Giesecke, KFB 2nd Vice President, said he was thankful for all the county Farm Bureaus do and said the strength of organization is its county offices.

KFB Executive Vice President David Beck said while KFB does a lot of things, it is a farm organization and is committed to being a



KFB 1st Vice-President Eddie Melton addresses the gathering in Hopkins County.

farm organization. “We want to make sure we do what’s right for agriculture,” he said.

Beck also told the gatherings he was proud of the staff at KFB and encouraged members to utilize that staff to provide any help they needed.

From the insurance side of the organization, John Sparrow, incoming insurance CEO said he felt proud to serve an organization like KFB and it meant a lot to him to visit the



KFB President Mark Haney spoke to nearly 400 students during the Muhlenberg County Ag Day event held at the Muhlenberg County Agriculture and Convention Center.

county offices and see old friends as well as new members of the KFB family.

Current insurance CEO Brad Smith said the company is doing well and currently there are more policies in force than at any other time. He also thanked everyone for their work through the years and said it is much easier to retire knowing the company is in good shape.

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Commissioner Comer launches new mobile unit to teach Eastern Kentucky students about agriculture



Agriculture Commissioner James Comer, fourth from left, joins other sponsors of the new Eastern Kentucky Mobile Science Activity Center to cut the ribbon ceremonially launching the new unit at the Kentucky Exposition Center. (Kentucky Department of Agriculture photo)

LOUISVILLE, Ky. – Agriculture Commissioner James Comer on Friday cut the ribbon to ceremonially launch the new Eastern Kentucky Mobile Science Activity Center that will travel to schools and events throughout the region.

“The new Mobile Science Activity Center is designed to negotiate some of the challenging terrain that can be found in parts of eastern Kentucky,” Commissioner Comer said during the ceremony at the Kentucky Exposition Center. “This unit will enable us to reach more schools in the region so we can help educators teach their students

about the importance of agriculture in their everyday lives.”

The Eastern Kentucky Mobile Science Activity Center is a 36-foot-long trailer equipped with 10 iPad interactive workstations for students to conduct activities and investigations related to agriculture and the environment. It will be placed into service after the first of the year.

The new unit will join two 44-foot-long Mobile Science Activity Centers that travel to schools and events throughout the Commonwealth. The mobile units are administered by the Division of Agriculture Education and

Outreach in the Kentucky Department of Agriculture’s Office of Marketing.

The Eastern Kentucky unit is part of the Appalachia Proud initiative that Commissioner Comer launched in February 2014 to promote farm products and improve agricultural literacy in 37 eastern Kentucky counties.

The new MSAC was purchased and outfitted with support from Kentucky Agriculture and Environment in the Classroom Inc.’s member partners: the AgriBusiness Association of Kentucky, Farm Credit Mid-America, the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund, the Kentucky Beef Council, the Kentucky Cattlemen’s Association, the Kentucky Corn Growers Association, the Kentucky Dairy Development Council, the Kentucky Equine Education Project, Kentucky Farm Bureau, the Kentucky Goat Producers Association, the Kentucky Horse Council, the Kentucky Pork Producers Association, the Kentucky Poultry Federation, the Kentucky Retail Federation, the Kentucky Sheep and Wool Producers Association, the Kentucky Small Grain Growers’ Association, the Kentucky Soybean Board, and the Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association.

Kentucky Department of Agriculture

UK’s Dr. Kenny Burdine, Winner of KFB PR Award



Kent Oyler, Greater Louisville, Inc. CEO, left, and Gary Huddleston, Agribusiness Industry Network Chairman, right, presented the 2015 Agribusiness of the Year Award to Hunter Wilson, Vice Chairman of the Kentucky Derby Museum Board of Directors. The Agribusiness Industry Network, in partnership with Greater Louisville Inc., the Louisville area Chamber of Commerce, annually honors a local business with the award. In its 23rd year, the Agribusiness of the Year honors a Louisville-area agribusiness which excels in financial growth and stability, employee relations and contributions to the overall agricultural economy.

Dr. Kenny Burdine, an Extension Livestock Economist and Assistant Extension Professor at the University of Kentucky (UK) College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, is the recipient of Kentucky Farm Bureau’s (KFB) 30th annual Farm Public Relations Award. He was recognized on December 3 during the general session of KFB’s annual meeting at the Galt House in Louisville.

Dr. Burdine, a native of Jessamine County, has worked at UK for 15 years. During this time, he has traveled extensively across the state conducting educational programs for beef, dairy, equine and forage producers in the areas of market outlook, profitability and risk manage-

ment. He has also been a regular speaker at livestock programs outside of the state.

Dr. Burdine is currently serving his second term on the Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation board, serves as chair of the North Central Extension Farm Management Committee, and treasurer for the Kentucky Forage and Grassland’s Council. He has also been named Outstanding Extension Specialist by the Kentucky Association of State Extension Professionals in 2005 and 2012.

In addition to his Extension work, Dr. Burdine teaches a livestock marketing course in the Department of Agricultural Economics.

ID Experts – Credit Monitoring Services

With the advancement of computer technology have come many conveniences for the general public ranging from online shopping to bill paying. But, along with those conveniences have been the constant threats of identity theft, a problem that affects countless individuals. According to the Federal Trade Commission, nearly 10 million identity theft incidences occur each year; that amounts to 19 people per minute who are affected by this crime.

Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) has teamed with ID Experts – Identity Theft Consultation and Restoration to offer a service to help combat this growing problem.

“All KFB members in good standing will automatically receive identity theft recovery services,” said Dwight Greenwell, KFB Director of Member Services. “For even greater peace of mind, we’re now offering credit monitoring – a proactive detection tool that informs you instantly of potential fraudulent activity related to your credit report.”

This service monitors all activities that are reported to TransUnion – one of the major credit reporting bureaus.

Individual monitoring is just \$50 a year; family monitoring is \$80 a year. Go to <http://GetVeriFID.com/kyfb/> to sign up today.

“Once activated, you will receive an email alert within 24 hours to inform you of a change to your credit report,” said Greenwell. “If no changes have occurred, you will receive a monthly all-clear email.”

He added that identity theft occurs when a thief uses an individual’s personal identification information, such as a social security number, an address, and/or credit and debit card numbers without permission with the intent of committing fraud or other crimes.

If a KFB member suspects that their identity has been stolen, they

call 1-866-827-4355 and speak with a trained Member Service Specialist.

After gathering some basic information, a thorough assessment of the member’s unique situation will be performed to determine the nature and extent of the identity theft event.

Once a determination has been made that a member’s identity has been stolen, the member is assigned a Personal

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comp at \$349.99

10269770

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SUPER COUPON

2500 LB. ELECTRIC WINCH WITH WIRELESS REMOTE CONTROL

BADLAND

Customer Rating ★★★★★

LOT 61258 shown 61840/61297/68146

SAVE \$200

\$59.99 ~~\$89.99~~ comp at \$259.99

10281650

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• Over 30 Million Satisfied Customers

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WOW! RAPID PUMP® 3 TON LOW PROFILE HEAVY DUTY STEEL FLOOR JACK

PITTSBURGH

Customer Rating ★★★★★

SAVE \$85

Weights 73 lbs.
LOT 61282 shown 68049/62326 62670/61253

\$84.99 ~~\$169.99~~ comp at \$169.99

10310113

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SUPER COUPON

MOVER'S DOLLY

HaulMaster

Customer Rating ★★★★★

LOT 60497/93888 shown 61899/62399

SAVE 54%

1000 lb. Capacity

\$8.99
comp at \$19.97

10290755

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SUPER COUPON

3-POINT QUICK HITCH

HaulMaster

Customer Rating ★★★★★

LOT 97214

SAVE \$120

2000 lb. Capacity
27-3/16" Clearance

\$79.99
comp at \$199.99

10303633

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POWDER-FREE NITRILE GLOVES PACK OF 100

HARDY

Customer Rating ★★★★★

5 mil thickness

SIZE	LOT
MED	68496/61363
LG	68497/61360
X-LG	68498/61359

Item 68498 shown

SAVE 56%

\$6.49
comp at \$14.97

10266275

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SUPER COUPON

CENTRAL PNEUMATIC 2.5 HP, 21 GALLON 125 PSI VERTICAL AIR COMPRESSOR

Customer Rating ★★★★★

LOT 69091/67847 shown 61454/61693/62803

SAVE \$349

\$149.99
comp at \$499

10294227

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Herbal Formula Eases Farmers' Aches And Pains

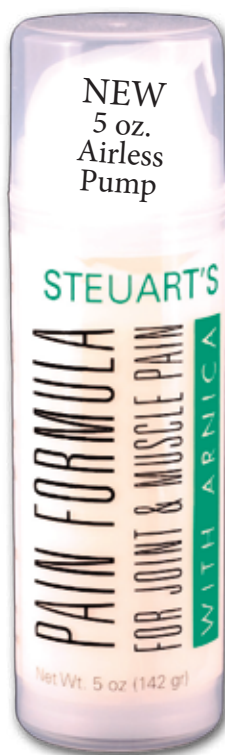
"I read about Steuart's Pain Formula in a farm magazine," says Rickey D. Snow, Hood, California. "I hurt my shoulder January 18th 2013, and had constant pain until the middle of March. My doctors could do nothing, within 10 minutes of applying pain formula, the pain was completely gone."

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

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

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

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PROVEN PERFORMANCE.

BRAND		COMPETITOR BRAND	% MOISTURE DIFFERENCE	NUMBER OF PLOTS	BECK'S YIELD ADVANTAGE
5140HR™* RM 105	VS.	DKC55-20	+2.3	36	+13.2
		DKC57-92	+1.7	36	+20.7
		P0506AM	+0.2	36	+14.7
		P0604AM	+1.7	34	+17.4
5829A4 RM 108	VS.	DKC57-92	+1.5	36	+23.0
		P0909AM	-0.7	36	+14.9
5840™* RM 108	VS.	DKC57-92	+1.3	36	+17.8
		P0909AM	-0.8	104	+8.8
5828AM™* RM 110	VS.	DKC60-67	+0.2	84	+3.5
		DKC61-54	-1.2	84	+2.7
		P1151AM	-0.5	70	+0.4
		P1257AMXT	-0.4	72	+1.8
6076SX RM 110	VS.	DKC60-67	+0.7	74	+9.1
		DKC61-54	-0.6	72	+7.9
		P1151AM	+0.1	72	+5.3
		P1197AM	-0.5	74	+0.2
6158AM™* RM 111	VS.	DKC60-67	-0.4	106	+9.8
		DKC61-54	-1.9	92	+7.3
		P1151AM	-1.3	76	+4.7
		P1257AMXT	-1.1	80	+6.3
6365AM™* RM 113	VS.	DKC62-08	+0.0	70	+5.2
		DKC62-77	+0.3	70	+5.7
		DKC64-87	-0.2	126	-0.6
		P1197AM	+0.0	72	+3.3
		P1257AMXT	+0.8	72	+10.1
		P1417AMX	-1.1	124	+4.4

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