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KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU NEWS
Volume 14 • No. 8
October 2015

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Cover photo by Tim Thornberry

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It would be hard to imagine anyone not knowing that election time is drawing near, with the number of television, radio, newspaper and online ads we see and hear every day. Yet, so many of the eligible voters in our state and country don't exercise the right to vote for their chosen candidates.



I vividly remember the first time I voted. I viewed it then as I do now, as a civic responsibility, an opportunity and indeed my duty to go to the polls and cast my vote.

It gave me a sense of pride in my community, my state and my country. That pride has never left me. We, as citizens of the Commonwealth and of the United States, have been given a say in who will run our government and the issues that affect our society by having that right to vote.

Not everyone in the world has that privilege and it's something I don't take lightly as I know many of you don't either. In an effort to make sure our farm families are as informed as they can be, this issue of KFB News includes the election guide that has become a regular part of this publication during election years.

I feel it's important to have as much information at our disposal before we make an important decision as to which candidate we would like to see in office and I hope this issue will be of help and value to you.

As we get closer to November 3, I encourage all of you to think about the right we have been given to cast our vote and show our support to those we would like to see in office. And I hope you get the same sense of pride I do in taking advantage of this special opportunity we have not only on this Election Day but every Election Day.

Mark Haney

President

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Art and writing entries sought for student conservation contests

Students and teachers looking for a creative classroom project this fall will find the perfect blend of fun and educational materials in the annual Conservation Writing and Art Contests, sponsored by Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) and the Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts (KACD).

This year's competition, featuring the 71st annual Writing Contest for grades 6-12 and the 41st annual Jim Claypool Conservation Art Contest for grades 1-5, focuses specifically on wildlife conservation. Students are challenged to examine the environment around them and promote efforts they and others can take to help preserve that wildlife habitat. Participants are tasked to share their ideas through short essays and artwork, persuading their readers and viewers to take action toward wildlife conservation efforts.

In last year's competition, students from 106 different counties submitted 17,028 writing entries while 47,356 art entries came from 97 counties.

Downloadable contest resource materials are available at kyfb.com/federation or conservation.ky.gov. Completed entries must be received at the student's local conservation district office by December 1, 2015.

Each county-level winner will receive a \$25 check for his or her entry. Regional winners are awarded a \$50 prize, and the overall state winners collect \$250 for first place, \$150 for second place and \$50 for third place, each presented during a special event in February at the Capitol Annex in Frankfort.

The annual Conservation Writing and Jim Claypool Art Contests are produced through the cooperative efforts of the Kentucky Division of Conservation, KFB, KACD, Division of Water, Energy and Environment Cabinet, Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Division of Forestry, Department of Education, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service.

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

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comment

C O L U M N

“To practice brotherhood, honor agricultural opportunities and responsibilities, and develop those qualities of leadership, which an FFA member should possess.”

This is the response the members give when the president asks, ‘FFA members, why are we here?’

Blue corduroy jackets have long been the catalyst that transformed high school students into dynamic and engaged citizens, and that tradition lives on today. If you have had the good fortune to interact with local FFA members, you would agree. The National FFA Convention is October 28-31, and will be broadcast on RFD-TV. Take the time to watch a session and you will have a renewed confidence in the next generation’s ability to lead strategically, morally, and responsibly.

Students in agricultural education courses engage in Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) programs, which allow them to put into practice the skills they have gained from their classroom instruction. From operating a lawn mowing business to researching how to increase food production to feed a growing world population, these students are truly living the part of the FFA motto of, ‘Learning to Do, Doing to Learn.’

Last year agricultural education students earned over \$18,500,000 from SAE programs. Consider the economic impact that made in local communities; the lessons learned about the importance of financial management; the satisfaction a student gets from knowing they are contributing to society.

Just as Farm Bureau believes in the value of grass root efforts, so does agricultural education. The most successful agricultural education programs and FFA chapters in the state have strong community support. Reach out to your local FFA chapter and volunteer your time and talent to help the future of agriculture realize their potential. If your school system doesn’t have agricultural education, I challenge you to start a dialogue in the community about changing that.

We will soon be challenged to feed over 8 billion people. Rural communities need young people to carry on the traditions and values that have long guided our culture. Our country needs individuals that are willing to be leaders locally and nationally. The answer is agricultural education and FFA – that’s why we are here.



Brandon K. Davis,
FFA State Advisor

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ELECTION



2015

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THE FOLLOWING PAGES
ARE A GUIDE TO THIS YEAR'S
STATEWIDE ELECTIONS

Gubernatorial Candidates



Jack Conway



Drew Curtis



Matt Bevin

Measure the Candidate Questionnaire Presented to Candidates for Governor

Attorney General Jack Conway and businessman Matt Bevin respond to policy questions.

Candidate Drew Curtis did not return the questionnaire before press time.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

The 2000 Kentucky General Assembly made a monumental decision to set aside 50 percent of the Master Settlement Agreement funds to diversify Kentucky agriculture. This created a mechanism for farmers to apply to county councils and the state Agriculture Development Board for funding of innovative agricultural practices.

The success of this process relies on close involvement from the Governor and the Legislative Oversight Committee. The Governor chairs the board and provides adequate staff resources that will facilitate the project approval process. If the governor is diligent with this process, Kentucky farmers can continue to make a solid transition into agriculture's new era.

1. How would you assure that Agricultural Development Funds are being invested to increase net farm income?

MATT BEVIN: I will work diligently as Governor and Chair of the Agricultural Development Board to create conditions that facilitate increased net farm income. After 16 years, it's time to comprehensively evaluate the Fund and the programs it supports. Programs that don't benefit farmers should be reduced or eliminated.

JACK CONWAY: I understand that farmers need a safety net to help them get past the lean years and increase net farm income. It's critical that Agriculture Development Funds are being used in efficient and innovative ways. As Governor, I'll appoint members to the Agriculture Development Board who share those views and work closely with them to ensure that the board has the resources to make the best decisions possible to help Kentucky farmers.

2. Would you diligently oppose any legislative effort to restructure the current allocation of the 50 percent of the Master Settlement Agreement funding going to agriculture?

JACK CONWAY: As Attorney General, I fought to protect the Tobacco Master Settlement because I knew that farming families didn't need more uncertainty. I was able to defend the settlement and win Kentucky an additional \$57 million in funds. I've been a consistent supporter of allocating 50 percent of Master Settlement funds to agriculture and will continue to support the allocation as Governor.

MATT BEVIN: Yes. The current allocation of the funds is appropriate, and I will oppose any effort to roll back the 50 percent allotment. I will work to restore discipline to all public spending, fully support our agricultural communities, and honestly communicate with citizens. The Agricultural Development Fund has had a transformative effect on rural Kentucky. We must work together to create the conditions that allow our farms and rural businesses to fully flourish.

respond to policy questions

RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The agriculture landscape in Kentucky is continuing to change. Among these changes is the look of our rural communities. Both agricultural and rural development is essential to a vibrant economy in the Commonwealth.

Today an increasing number of farm families depend on off-farm income to enable them to remain in agriculture. However, the lack of employment opportunities is forcing rural residents to move to urban areas. Kentucky's rural communities have a lot to offer companies who may be looking to locate, relocate or even expand a current business.

1. As Governor, what will you do to help attract employment opportunities to our rural communities?

MATT BEVIN: Our economy will grow with policies that support small businesses and make rural communities attractive to new investment. Economic growth and new job opportunities will result from reduced regulation and a lower tax burden. We must also do what we can to ensure Kentuckians are prepared for new job opportunities.

JACK CONWAY: Our rural communities need more better paying jobs but to attract those jobs they need the infrastructure of the 21st Century – broadband internet. As Governor, I will work to attract new employers to rural areas and help the employers already there grow by expanding broadband internet access through public-private partnerships. This investment will not only bring more jobs to our rural areas but also help our farmers use broadband technology to grow their businesses and access new farming techniques. Investing in that infrastructure would be one of my top priorities as Governor.

2. How will your administration maintain existing agriculture markets and create new marketing opportunities for Kentucky agricultural commodities?

JACK CONWAY: Supporting Kentucky's homegrown industries like agriculture is a key part of my jobs plan. As Governor, I'll work to secure Kentucky's position as the nation's top industrial hemp producer through bolstering promotion of our strong agricultural assets and central location. I'll also help to enhance marketing opportunities for Kentucky's locally grown products by bettering government coordination and partnerships with our farming community – including promotion of the Kentucky Proud brand.

MATT BEVIN: We will partner with farm organizations to expand existing markets and open new markets for Kentucky agricultural products. We will change public procurement rules to maximize state and local purchases of Kentucky farm products. We will reduce the regulatory burden on farms and farm businesses to allow them to prosper. Finally, we will fight back where needed against an overreaching federal government and its job suffocating myriad of unelected regulatory agencies.

3. What policies will you put into place to assist in recruitment of agricultural-based processing facilities or other types of facilities to promote Kentucky agriculture?

MATT BEVIN: We have a large number of agricultural processing businesses already in Kentucky that need regulatory and tax relief. My first priority will be supporting our homegrown businesses. Once we create the conditions that allow them to prosper, our recruitment of new companies will be much easier and I will be personally involved in that effort.

JACK CONWAY: We ought to be producing more products right here in Kentucky. As Governor, I'll work to create a processing plant site finder tool to make it easier for businesses to locate processing plants or establish cooperative processing plants for our agriculture communities. I will also designate an agriculture specialist within the Economic Development Cabinet that will be focused on making sure that as Governor, I am making the best decisions possible about where to focus incentives to maximize growth – including attracting and recruiting new processing facilities that could promote Kentucky agriculture.

4. How will your Administration focus resources to improve the quality of life in Kentucky's rural communities?

JACK CONWAY: As Governor, my top priority will be attracting and developing more good-paying jobs in our rural communities by making critical investments in infrastructure – including broadband. To give local leaders resources and flexibility for needed infrastructure investments, I'll also support the allocation of 22.2 percent of gas tax revenue to rural roads and initiatives like the flex program and the 80/20 program. I'll work to improve education opportunities by expanding early childhood education for Kentuckians across the Commonwealth and by improving coordination between Kentucky's Community and Technical schools and employers to make sure that students are getting trained for the jobs of the future. It's also critically important that rural Kentuckians have the health care they need, so I'll work to keep our rural hospitals healthy.

MATT BEVIN: We will restore discipline to the budget process and to state spending. I will use all the power available to me to make the smartest use of public resources, while reducing the tax burden on Kentuckians. Just like good farmers, state government will not spend what it does not have.

AGRICULTURAL APPROPRIATIONS

Agriculture remains one of the top industries of the state. Kentucky agriculture is very diversified and is continuing to grow. Last year agriculture generated over \$6 billion in revenue. Kentucky agriculture relies on many levels of infrastructure that are secured through the budget process. It is crucial that appropriations be made to support the systems on which

farming relies.

1. How will your Administration work to maintain adequate funding for research, extension and conservation programs that provide important services to Kentuckians?

MATT BEVIN: I will demand full accountability for the state resources spent on research, extension and conservation. We will comprehensively review all spending to eliminate waste, reduce public bureaucracy, and make best use of our limited resources. I will support full funding of effective programs, and eliminate funding for wasteful programs. In order for Kentucky to continue to fund certain government projects, we must grow our economy. A stronger economy will result in a larger tax base that will make funding of good projects easier for state government.

JACK CONWAY: I was proud to fight to protect Kentucky's Tobacco Master Settlement and the support it provides for Kentucky's agriculture community, including in areas of research and conservation. As Governor, I'll continue to protect the Agriculture Development Fund while working closely with the next Commissioner of Agriculture and legislators of both parties to make sure that our first state budget provides support for agriculture priorities.

2. The Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA) oversees numerous aspects of our economy from marketing our farm products under Kentucky Proud, inspecting gas pumps and scales that weigh food items are correct and inspecting amusement rides for safety. How will you ensure the KDA is funded properly and able to perform the duties they are statutorily mandated to deliver?

JACK CONWAY: Having a well-funded Department of Agriculture that can effectively advocate for Kentucky farmers is essential. As Attorney General, my budget was cut by 40 percent – so I understand how to do more with less and how to find efficiencies where necessary. As Governor, I'll work with the next Commissioner of Agriculture to make sure that the Department of Agriculture has the funding and staff it needs.

MATT BEVIN: All statutorily mandated duties of KDA should be funded. I will demand full accountability for the use of any state tax dollars. Like all of us, state government must learn to do more with less. I will support a KDA budget that is based on eliminating wasteful spending and making efficient budgetary decisions.

FISCAL AFFAIRS

Kentucky's tax policy should be based on public need and sound economic principles with tax dollars apportioned equitably among Kentucky citizens. We are a strong advocate of the original intent of House Bill 44, created in 1979. That law limits a county and state government to collect only a 4% increase in property taxes each year, or be subject to a recall referendum. Voters can decide to approve an increase above that amount on the county level. We strongly oppose any attempt to freeze the state real property tax rate. We also are protectors of the sales tax exemptions on production agriculture items.

1. With regard to property taxes, will you support

protecting the original intent of House Bill 44?

MATT BEVIN: Yes. We do not need a higher property tax burden on Kentuckians. Our state is in a full-blown financial crisis. We must take a comprehensive look at our entire tax system, including property taxes. I believe we should aggressively reduce the tax burden on Kentuckians, but we must also be free and willing to explore all available options for reform of our tax system.

JACK CONWAY: I support the full intent of House Bill 44. House Bill 44 protects our agriculture community from fluctuations in local property tax assessments. Kentucky's farmers need more certainty, not less.

2. Under your administration, will the current sales tax exemptions for agricultural inputs remain safe?

JACK CONWAY: As Governor, I will support the current tax exemptions that Kentucky's farmers receive for agriculture inputs because these exemptions keep Kentucky farms thriving.

MATT BEVIN: I do not have any intention of altering the current sales tax exemptions for agricultural inputs. Given the dire financial state of our Commonwealth, however, there is always a possibility that such exemptions will come under scrutiny at some future time. I fully commit to always communicating openly and honestly with agricultural representatives about sales tax exemptions, and to do everything in my power to reduce the tax burden on all Kentuckians.

3. Would you support including items associated with the equine industry and poultry industries as well as veterinary medicine and vaccines be included as exempt from the sales and use tax?

MATT BEVIN: The seemingly inconsistent patchwork of exemptions is one of the fundamental problems with our highly complicated and burdensome state tax system. We will carefully review all current and proposed exemptions in the full context of creating an equitable tax system that promotes economic growth and reduces our overall tax burden.

JACK CONWAY: As Governor, I would support additional sales and use tax exemptions for items associated with the poultry and equine industries as well as with veterinary medicine and vaccines. Exemptions that help make Kentucky's agriculture industry grow and stay strong are worthwhile investments.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND REGULATORY ISSUES

Complying with environmental regulations is something farmers face daily whether it is in their livestock operations, or crop production practices. Regulations in Kentucky must be based on sound science and not create undue financial burdens on typical farming operations.

Recent federal regulations including the Waters of the US final rule and Endangered Species critical habitat designations are just a couple of examples of regulations that could each pose serious financial and compliance burdens on Kentucky

farmers. The Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Authority oversees water-related regulation of agriculture within the state and utilizes realistic and effective best management practices that protect and improve water quality in Kentucky.

1. How will your Administration work to utilize the Ag Water Quality Act to protect the environment without subjecting farmers to overly restrictive or costly regulations?

JACK CONWAY: I will support the Kentucky Water Quality Authority as created by the Agriculture Water Quality Act. Kentucky agriculture and environmental leaders – not the federal government – are best qualified to take care of our water quality issues.

MATT BEVIN: Every state regulation will be subjected to a cost-benefit analysis. We can create conditions that allow farmers to thrive while also protecting our rich water resources. These goals are not exclusive of one another. The AWQA is proof of this fact by requiring collaboration between farmers and regulators. Our administration will always work diligently to ensure that no unnecessary regulations are put on Kentucky farmers. Additionally, we will review existing regulations to see if there are any that can be rolled back.

2. What actions will your Administration take to ensure decisions regarding water quality standards remain the sole and proper authority of the state of Kentucky?

MATT BEVIN: I will fight back against any unlawful or unnecessary federal regulation relating to water quality. We can and should make all decisions regarding water quality in Kentucky and, as Governor, I will not be afraid to stand on the 10th amendment and fight back against federal regulations.

JACK CONWAY: As Attorney General, I have a record of standing up for Kentucky farmers and their authority over water quality standards. I joined the American Farm Bureau to oppose Environmental Protection Agency attempts to overreach and overregulate waterways. Just this year, I sued the EPA over the agency's new Waters of the United States rule – another attempt to dramatically expand their authority into regulating farms and streams. As Governor, I'll continue that record of standing up for Kentucky farmers.

3. When federal regulations threaten Kentucky's economic viability, what actions do you anticipate your Administration could take to mitigate the impacts they might have on Kentuckians?

JACK CONWAY: I have a record of putting Kentucky first as Attorney General. I sued the EPA when it tried to overreach its authority, potentially harming Kentucky farmers, and I'll continue to fight against federal government overreach as Governor.

MATT BEVIN: As Governor, I will always maintain open communication with our congressional delegation, our chief advocates in Washington, DC. I will also use all the power at my disposal to defend Kentucky from unwarranted federal regulatory intrusion. When regulation is necessary, its authority should always be as local as possible.

RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

An essential function of government important to agriculture is maintaining rural roads. Farm to market roads are critical to the agriculture industry in the state. Currently, 22.2% of the road fund budget is used for maintenance and new construction of rural roads.

Continued investment in our rural communities is critical. Expansion of broadband internet and cellular service to rural areas are essential in today's agriculture economy. Increased accessibility to markets, current commodity pricing, crop research, and up-to-the minute weather conditions are just a few of the necessities which broadband accessibility can provide for farmers.

1. Will you support the rural secondary and county road aid programs and continuation of the 22.2% allocation of the state gasoline tax revenue for rural roads?

MATT BEVIN: Yes. Transportation infrastructure is essential to economic prosperity, and I am fully committed to the best rural roads we can afford. I will comprehensively review all public spending.

JACK CONWAY: I will continue to support the rural secondary and county road aid program and the continuation of the 22.2 percent allocation of gas tax revenue for rural roads. I also support programs that give local leaders more flexibility – like the flex program and the 80/20 program. As Governor, I'll ensure that my transportation secretary works with rural leaders to make sure they have the funds they need for critical infrastructure projects.

2. What initiatives will your administration take to bring better broadband and cellular services to rural areas?

JACK CONWAY: Bringing broadband to rural areas will be one of my top priorities as Governor. Governor Beshear and our leaders in SOAR have made good progress in working to expand broadband to Eastern Kentucky through a public-private partnership. As Governor, I'll support more public-private partnerships to better broadband and cellular access for all of Kentucky – especially in our rural areas.

MATT BEVIN: I will explore ways to incentivize the communications industry to make the best possible services available to rural Kentucky. I would support any incentives that are economically fair, and would result in the infrastructure needed to improve broadband and cellular services in rural areas. Market solutions are preferable to governmental solutions. I will also collaborate with our congressional delegation to channel any available federal resources toward improved communications infrastructure in rural Kentucky.

EDUCATION

Career and Technical Education is a building block for a strong agricultural industry providing valuable leadership

skills and experience to students. It also provides the training and skills necessary to service our industry. Extended employment for Career and Technical Education teachers allows them to maintain salaries throughout the summer months as they provide instruction for students involved in activities such as judging teams and skills contests. During times of tight budgets, the legislature often considers removing extended employment for these personnel or denying them equitable raises.

1. Would you make it a priority in your budget proposals to continue the extended employment for career and technical education instructors and allow them to receive the same proportion of salary increases as other educators?

MATT BEVIN: Technical education is an essential part of a prosperous future for Kentucky. It will be a priority for me to ensure that all educators are fairly compensated based on their performance. It is far past time that technical education attains an elevated status in our public education programs.

JACK CONWAY: Making sure that our career and technical education instructors have the resources they need and recognition they deserve for preparing Kentucky's students for the jobs of the future will be a priority of mine. I support fair pay for our career and technical education instructors.

2. Would your administration place a high priority on Career and Technical Education to ensure it is a strong component of the Kentucky's current educational framework?

JACK CONWAY: Prioritizing Career and Technical Education is one of the key parts of my jobs plan. As Governor, I'll make sure that Kentucky's Career and Technical Education schools have the resources they need and are training workers for the jobs of the future. I'll put a focus on the Kentucky Community and Technical College System and request that schools conduct an annual assessment to identify the top three leading industries for growth in their communities to ensure that they are providing customized training programs that meet the needs of employers.

MATT BEVIN: Yes. Any good education system should be designed around preparing people for the workforce. Many students will be most successful coming out of career and technical training. As Governor, I will make vocational training a high priority as discussed in my Blueprint For a Better Kentucky.

3. How would you assess the current education system in Kentucky, and what ideas do you have to make it a stronger, more effective, results-oriented system?

MATT BEVIN: We have some excellent public schools in Kentucky, but we are generally underperforming. Too many schools are failing our students and families. Our system is top-heavy with administrators who at times add little educational value. We must reduce educational bureaucracy, maximize local control and introduce high performance standards for everyone in public education. Performance/Outcomes based funding will be a primary focus of our administration.

JACK CONWAY: As There is always room for improvement when it comes to educating our kids and making sure that we are getting the best return on our investment. Across every level of education in Kentucky, I'll encourage creative, local solutions and more local control – because local leaders know best what their students need. I've pledged to expand access to early childhood education and to encourage our preschool programs to work collaboratively to get more of our young children on the path to life-long learning. I'm passionate about expanding early education in Kentucky because we can't afford to let this opportunity pass us by. For high school, I'll establish a program linking local employers and higher education institutions with our schools to make sure that teenagers get a better awareness of the career and education opportunities available to them after graduation, helping them to make smart choices about their future. I want to make sure our community and technical schools are teaching our students the skills they need to get hired, so I'll call for an annual assessment from these schools to identify the top three growing industries in their communities. I'll also encourage more apprenticeship opportunities and ways to link students with employers.

INSURANCE

Kentucky Farm Bureau got in the insurance business to service our members back in the 1940's because farmers had difficulty getting affordable insurance coverage for farms, homes, and automobiles. Kentucky needs strong insurance companies capable of paying claims during disasters like the recent wind and ice storms.

1. What is your opinion regarding state-based regulation of insurance and the possible pre-emption by the federal government?

JACK CONWAY: As Governor, I'll work to protect Kentucky's right to regulate its own insurance industry.

MATT BEVIN: Insurance should be regulated at the state level whenever possible. There is no need for federal regulations, especially for agricultural insurance.

2. How would you propose changes to the current legal environment in Kentucky that seems to encourage lawsuits and litigation?

MATT BEVIN: Frivolous lawsuits increase costs for everyone and primarily benefit only the wealthy trial lawyers. Our farms and businesses operate under a constant threat of being sued for outrageous reasons. Property owners should be immune from any liability when someone is trespassing on their property. I will support tort reform and "loser pays" legislation that requires plaintiffs to pay the costs incurred by defendants when the plaintiff loses a case.

JACK CONWAY: I am committed to making sure that Kentuckians always have access to the courts, but there are areas of reform that we can target as a Commonwealth to prevent frivolous lawsuits and litigation. Too many out of state firms are targeting the nursing home industry in this state. I support ideas like requiring a certified independent expert to assess the merit of the lawsuit to help make sure that Kentucky doesn't encourage volume litigation.

3. Would you support tort reform in the Commonwealth to help make Kentucky more business-friendly?

JACK CONWAY: Any reforms we make must also keep the courts open and accessible to Kentuckians. I support limited reform to make sure that Kentucky doesn't encourage volume litigation.

MATT BEVIN: Yes! Tort reform must be enacted. Doing so will attract additional employers and subsequent jobs to the Commonwealth.

4. Beginning in 2014 Kentucky opted to expand Medicaid coverage. In 2017 Kentucky will have to begin paying a portion for this expansion. As Governor, what is your plan to address the cost of expanded Medicaid?

MATT BEVIN: We cannot afford 25%+ of Kentuckians being on Medicaid. Of financial necessity, it must be scaled back. I will apply to CMS for 1115 waivers (as other states have successfully done) in order to better customize a solution to address the healthcare needs of the Commonwealth. We must work to restore the principal of personal responsibility in Kentucky. People must understand that they are primarily responsible for their health. A growing economy with meaningful jobs in which people are supporting themselves is our best course of action.

JACK CONWAY: A study commissioned by Governor Beshear from Deloitte Consulting found that not only will the Medicaid expansion pay for itself, it will generate \$30 billion for Kentucky's economy over the next six years. As Governor, I'll make the tough decisions about what we can and can't afford and scale back if necessary. I do not support kicking the hundreds of thousands of Kentuckians who have benefited from the expansion off their health insurance.

WATER MANAGEMENT

The Water Management Working Group (WMWG), a 20-member task force assembled by Kentucky Farm Bureau, is charged to develop recommendations that will enhance the quality and quantity of water resources accessible for agricultural production in the state and help alleviate demand pressure on municipal water supplies. Its mission is to research the emerging critical issue of inadequate water supplies available for agricultural production, examine potential actions to solve deficiencies and make recommendations for bringing new and reliable water sources to key areas in Kentucky that will benefit both agriculture and municipal water customers.

1. Do you support the efforts of the Water Management Working Group and will you commit your administration to continue to work with this group as they move forward?

JACK CONWAY: I support the Water Management Working Group and will work with this group as Governor. Protecting our water resources and finding new and reliable water resources is key to keeping Kentucky's agriculture economy strong.

MATT BEVIN: The WMWG is a great example of a positive proactive approach to a pressing issue by the business community. Kentucky Farm Bureau took the initiative to develop this innovative group, and I applaud the organization's leadership in this area. My administration will do all we can to fully collaborate with the WMWG.

2. Will you support updating the Kentucky's Drought Mitigation Plan to address agriculture's water needs during a crisis?

MATT BEVIN: I commit to working with the agricultural community to develop and implement the most effective Drought Mitigation Plan we can achieve together. The best solutions to public challenges are produced through collaboration between the public and private sectors, and I welcome the opportunity to work together on this issue.

JACK CONWAY: Kentucky's Drought Mitigation Plan is badly in need of updating. I support the work that the Water Management Group is doing to improve the plan and will work towards implementing needed changes as Governor.

3. What strategies do you foresee being effective in meeting future water needs that will allow Kentucky's economy and the agriculture industry to grow and prosper?

JACK CONWAY: The Kentucky Farm Bureau's creation of the Water Management Working Group is a great example of what I think is needed and would support as Governor to address the water needs of Kentucky's agriculture economy. The group assembles leaders from across Kentucky to find sensible solutions to the water needs of our farmers. That kind of inclusive and collaborative approach is what I will use as Governor when addressing the needs of our agriculture community.

MATT BEVIN: While we are blessed with an abundance of clean water in Kentucky, we need to explore and encourage innovative water conservation efforts. This is true not only in urban areas. We also need to encourage adoption of new water conserving, agricultural irrigation technologies. As a conservative, I believe that aggressively managing wasted water is the best means of ensuring adequate water supplies in the future.

Archive video of the Kentucky Farm Bureau Measure the Candidates forum for Governor can be seen in its entirety at youtube.com/kentuckyfarmbureau.

Constitutional Candidates

AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER



RYAN QUARLES (R)

Birthplace:

Georgetown, KY

Current residence:

Georgetown

Education: Bachelor's –
University of KY, Master's

– Harvard University, Juris Doctor –
University of Kentucky

Occupation: Attorney, Farmer

Elected Positions: State Representative
– 62nd District

Marital Status: Single

Website: ryanquarles.com



**JEAN-MARIE
LAWSON SPANN (D)**

Current Residence:

Bowling Green

Education: Bachelor's –
Western Kentucky

University

Occupation: Marketing Executive

Elected Positions: None

Marital Status: Married, 1 child

Website: Jeanmarieforky.com



Archive video of the Kentucky Farm Bureau Measure the Candidates forum for Agriculture Commissioner held on October 6 can be viewed at kyfb.com/livestream. Answers to a candidate questionnaire will also be available in late October at kyfb.com. A video of the event is archived in its entirety at youtube.com/kentuckyfarmbureau.

SECRETARY OF STATE



**ALISON
LUNDERGAN
GRIMES (D)**

Birthplace: Maysville,
KY

Current Residence:
Lexington

Education: B.A.

Political Science, Rhodes College; Law
Degree, American University

Occupation: Business Attorney

Elected Positions: Current Secretary of
State

Marital Status: Married

Website: alisonforkentucky.com



**STEPHEN L.
KNIPPER (R)**

Birthplace: Covington,
KY

Current Residence:
Erlanger

Education: Bachelor's –
Northern Kentucky

University

Occupation: Project Manager

Elected Positions: Erlanger City
Council

Marital Status: Married, 6 children

Website: knipperweb.com

Constitutional Candidates

ATTORNEY GENERAL



ANDY BESHEAR (D)

Birthplace: Lexington, KY
Current Residence: Louisville
Education: Bachelor's – Vanderbilt University,

Juris Doctor – University of Virginia School of Law

Occupation: Attorney

Elected Positions: None

Marital Status: Married, 2 Children

Website: andybeshear.com



WHITNEY WESTERFIELD (R)

Birthplace: Hopkinsville, KY
Current Residence: Hopkinsville
Education: Bachelor's – University of Kentucky,

Juris Doctor – Southern Illinois University School of Law

Occupation: Attorney

Elected Positions: State Senator, 3rd District

Marital Status: Married, 1 child

Website: whitneywesterfield.com

TREASURER



RICK NELSON (D)

Birthplace: Harlan County, KY
Current residence: Middlesboro
Education: Bachelor's – Cumberland College, graduate of Eastern Kentucky

University

Occupation: Retired teacher

Elected Positions: State Representative 87th District

Marital Status: Married, 1 child

Website: ricknelsonky.com



ALLISON BALL (R)

Current Residence: Prestonsburg
Education: Juris Doctor – University of Kentucky
Occupation: Attorney
Elected Positions:

None

Marital Status: Single

Website: ballforkentucky.com

AUDITOR



MIKE HARMON (R)

Birthplace: Harrodsburg, KY
Current Residence: Danville
Education: Eastern Kentucky University
Occupation: Insurance

agent

Elected Positions: State Representative 54th District

Marital Status: Married, 1 child

Website: harmonforauditor.com



ADAM EDELEN (D)

Birthplace: Flaherty, KY
Current Residence: Lexington
Education: B.S. Degree, University of Kentucky
Occupation: Business

consultant

Elected Positions: Current State Auditor

Marital Status: Married, 2 children

Website: adamedelen.com

Farm to Campus gives students a taste of Kentucky



By Ray Bowman

Amanda Langlitz grew up on a 300-acre farm in New York where her family raised produce. Now she is the General Manager of food services at Transylvania University where she works closely with the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's Farm to Campus program to help Transy students connect to the source of their food. She thinks that's a pretty logical progression.

In October 2014, Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture James Comer visited the Lexington, KY campus to officially recognize the universi-

ty's involvement in program.

The Kentucky Proud Farm to Campus Program helps participating higher education institutions place farm-fresh Kentucky Proud foods in their foodservice systems and shelf-stable Kentucky Proud products in their campus retail outlets.

Transylvania joined Asbury University, Campbellsville University, Eastern Kentucky University, Georgetown College, Morehead State University, Murray State, University of Louisville, University of Pikeville and Western Kentucky University in the program.

The Department of Agriculture partners with the schools to assist with buy-local efforts.

"Everyone has been great in providing resources," Langlitz said. "We have a great relationship with the Department of Agriculture and our local food coordinator."

Ashton Potter Wright was appointed Lexington's local food coordinator in June 2014.

"When we first started, all we knew was how to get the produce," Langlitz acknowledged. "That's the easy part."

With the assistance of their partners, locally grown meats and shelf-stable packaged products have also been identified through the Kentucky Proud program.

Langlitz noted that providing local food is a bit of a balancing act.

"When production is at its peak,



school's not in session," she said.

For instance, Langlitz pointed out when summer berries are in season, they obtain all they can. The berries are then prepared and frozen on-site so that they may be used throughout the year.

"It's about telling the story," Langlitz explained. "Each year we have more and more students coming from out of state, so they don't even know what (Kentucky Proud) means."

To illustrate the importance of local food and their origins to incoming freshmen, the University sponsors a "Taste of Kentucky" for the students and their parents.

Langlitz admitted that the Farm to Campus program only provides a part of the food necessary for the meals they serve. She says her operation is taking a year to determine what percentage of the total food needs can be provided locally.

"When we know that, we'll be able to take the next step and how we can increase our involvement with Kentucky Proud," concluded Langlitz.



Facing page: Amanda Langlitz assists sous chef Darwin Gross in preparing a lunch at Transylvania University.

Above top, the William T. Young Campus Center at Transylvania University houses the school's food service operations.

Above, Kentucky Proud foods are designated as such in the food service line at the university.

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County Annual Meetings

BRACKEN COUNTY

October 6, 7:00 p.m.
Bracken County Extension Office

JOHNSON COUNTY

October 27, 6:00 p.m.
Johnson County Farm Bureau Office

MARTIN COUNTY

October 2, 9:00 a.m.
Martin County Farm Bureau Office

MORGAN COUNTY

October 8, 6:00 p.m.
Margaret Stacy Building
West Liberty

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County Corner

Snapshots of County Farm Bureau activities

CAMPBELL COUNTY

Campbell County farm/city day at Alexandria Fairgrounds featured a pedal pull for children in attendance. Pictured from left: Gary Chaplin, Campbell County president, Kevin Neltner, board member and Tom Alford, agency manager.



MERCER COUNTY

Pictured from left are Zach Ison and Jamie DeHart during the 5th district Young Farmer picnic.



BELL COUNTY

Bell County Ag day. President John Brock and agent Bob Dixon pass out Farm Bureau goodies and talk about Farm Bureau to over 600 student within the county.



SCOTT COUNTY

Scott County Farm Bureau at Farm Safety Week proclamation signing.

Front row: George Lusby Scott co Judge Executive.

Back row: Jimmy Richardson, Darcy Smith, and Dianne Dawson.



WOODFORD COUNTY

A roadside project is helping Woodford County Farm Bureau to promote safe driving on rural roads. Pictured from left: WCFB board member Ken Reed; Buen Smith, Woodford County engineer; Rick Wallin, WCFB board member; Mark Sims, Woodford County Road Department; Raymond Rogers Woodford County Road Department; Bill Barrows, WCFB board member; and Mike Duckworth, WCFB board. member.



TRIMBLE COUNTY

Trimble County Ag Day. From Left: Barbara Costellow Trimble co Agency Manager, Jonathan Turner Trimble co Board member, Joyce Teague Trimble co Board member.



Record imports to cut trade surplus sharply

The U.S. agricultural trade surplus is expected to fall by \$8.0 billion in fiscal 2016 to \$16.0 billion; this would be the smallest surplus since 2007. The trade surplus will be down primarily due to record-high U.S. agricultural imports of \$122.5 billion, \$7.0 billion higher than fiscal 2015. Increases in import values are expected for most products in 2016, with the largest gains in horticultural, and sugar and tropical products. The trade surplus peaked in fiscal 2014 at \$43.1 billion.

U.S. agricultural exports in fiscal 2016 are projected at \$138.5 billion, down \$1.0 billion from the revised \$139.5 billion forecast for fiscal 2015. This decline is primarily due to oilseeds and products, which are down \$4.4 billion to \$26.7 billion as a result of lower prices and export volumes of soybean and soybean meal. Grain and feed exports are forecast to be up \$1.1 billion from fiscal 2015, largely due to higher expected wheat shipments. Exports of livestock, poultry, and dairy products are up \$600 million to \$30.4 billion as higher export volumes more than offset a decline in prices. Horticultural exports are forecast up \$2.0 billion to a record \$36.5 billion. Fresh fruit and vegetables are forecast at a record \$7.6 billion, up \$200 million. Processed fruit and vegetables are forecast at \$7.8 billion, up \$300 million. Tree nuts are forecast at \$9.8 billion, up \$800 million. Canada, at \$21.8 billion, is expected to return as the largest U.S. export market for the first time since 2010 due to exports to China dropping \$2.0 billion to \$20.5 billion on lower soybean values. At \$24.0 billion, Canada is also the top country from which the U.S. imports agricultural products.

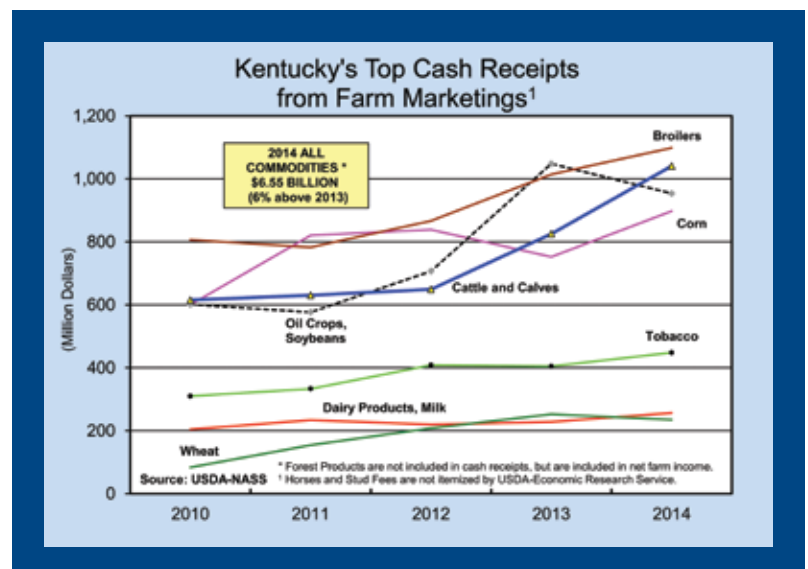
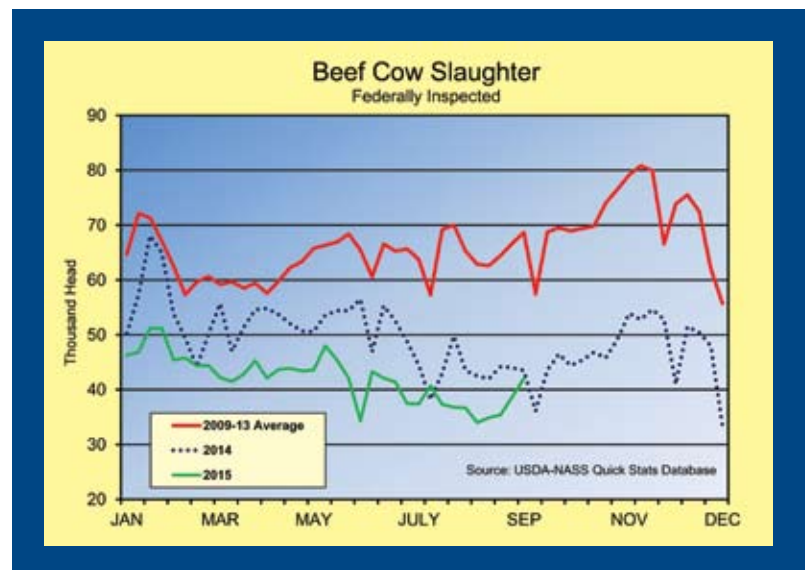
Cash rents unchanged in Kentucky

Cash rent for Kentucky agricultural cropland for 2015 was \$148.00 per acre, unchanged from 2014. The bordering states of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Tennessee had cropland rents of \$228.00, \$197.00, \$150.00 and \$101.00 per acre respectively. California led the nation with \$329.00 per acre for all cropland. The national cropland average was \$144.00 per acre, up \$3.00 per acre from 2014.

Pasture cash rent for Kentucky was \$27.00, unchanged from 2014. Illinois was \$35.00 per acre, Missouri was \$34.00 per acre and Tennessee was \$20.00 per acre. The national pasture rent was \$14.00 per acre, up \$2.00 per acre from 2014. Variation between the states was significant. Iowa had the highest pasture rent at \$50.00, while Colorado reported pasture rent at \$5.00 per acre.

U.S. poultry exports down sharply

The outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) earlier this year has had various impacts on the U.S. poultry industry. For all segments, exports have declined significantly. Compared to a year earlier, July 2015 export shipments totaled 502 million pounds for broilers, down 21 percent; 40 million pounds of turkey, down 48 percent; and 22 million dozen of eggs and egg products, a 30-percent decrease. HPAI did not impact broiler production but import bans by some countries forced more chicken into the U.S. market which increased stocks (+25% y/y on August 31, 2015) and lowered prices (-17% from August 2014). USDA projects a 3rd-quarter broiler price of 83-84 cents/pound, down from \$1.04 in the 2nd-quarter and \$1.05 a year earlier. Broiler prices are expected to gradually rise above 90 cents/pound in early 2016. Turkey and egg production fell enough to cause a loss of exports and sharp price increases. USDA forecasts the New York price of Grade A eggs to average \$2.37-2.42 per dozen during the 3rd quarter of 2015, up from \$1.29 a year earlier. Future prices and exports of poultry products depend on resumption of trade and control of HPAI as migratory birds move south.



Louisville athletics joins Kentucky Proud team

Courtesy Kentucky Department of Agriculture

University of Louisville sports fans and event guests can enjoy Kentucky Proud foods at UofL athletic events as well as concerts and shows at the KFC Yum! Center through the university's exclusive hospitality provider thanks to a partnership that Agriculture Commissioner James Comer announced (recently).

"We appreciate the University of Louisville making this commitment to Kentucky Proud family farmers and small agribusinesses," he said. "This will create a wave of new Kentucky Proud fans who will demand fresh, local Kentucky Proud foods at UofL athletic events and at their favorite restaurants and groceries. We look forward to enjoying a long and fruitful relationship with UofL."

Centerplate, the hospitality partner and exclusive provider of food and beverage services across all of UofL's athletic venues, has agreed to purchase at least \$50,000 of Kentucky Proud products in the inaugural year of the partnership, including Kentucky Proud popcorn, grown by western Kentucky farm families and processed by Preferred Popcorn; burgers from The Chop Shop of Wolfe County and Omni Meats of Bowling Green; meats from Brooks Meats of Walton; and Kenny's Farmhouse Cheese of Barren County. These products are agricultural goods bought, sold, grown, raised, manufactured, or processed with sources clearly linked to Kentucky farms.

"Centerplate is exceptionally happy to bring these Kentucky Proud farm impact products to fans and guests of the world-class athletic events here at the University of Louisville," said Thomas Tazbaz, regional vice president for Centerplate. "There's no better way to provide a true taste of Louisville than to share the best of what Kentucky has to offer."

The products will be available at UofL athletic events at Papa John's Cardinal Stadium, the KFC Yum! Center, Jim Patterson Baseball Stadium, and the University of Louisville Golf Club, all via food and beverage distributor Sysco.

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Common Ground Hosts *“Fall on the Farm”*

For food writers, food bloggers and food lovers, it was a perfect day to watch, learn and eat, during the “Fall on the Farm” event hosted by Common Ground and the Sunny Acres Farm located in Jefferson County.

Common Ground is a multi-state initiative comprised of farm women members and supported by soybean and corn check-off dollars. Their goal is to start conversations between those farmers growing food and the consumers who buy, hoping to bring a heightened awareness of what agriculture is about and help get correct information into the hands of those consumers.

The goal of this event was to give the writers and journalists a close-up look at agriculture and even a chance to participate, by way of milking the resident dairy goat, before enjoying a meal of

locally produced foods prepared by Josh Moore, executive chef and partner at Volare Italian Ristorante.

Tommee Clark’s Sunny Acres, which is a one of the Kentucky Farm Bureau Certified Roadside Markets, has been in her family since 1949. One of its purposes for most of those years, in addition to growing crops and raising farm animals, has been to teach those wanting to learn where their food comes from and how it is produced.

Clark said it was a dream of her husband’s, and one that lives on after all these years. That dream has become a reality with an estimated 5,000 students visiting the farm each year, not to mention countless adult “students” eager to learn about their food sources.

“Whether it has to do with the food they buy or not, I think there are more and more people who want to be able to

Sunny Acres Farm, which is a one of the Kentucky Farm Bureau Certified Roadside Markets, hosted the Fall on the Farm event.

get out on a farm and see how things are raised,” said Clark. “And we want to encourage them to talk to the farmers when they visit.”

She added, sometimes people get confused about issues that come with farming and asking questions to those who are actually producing their food is a good way to become better informed. That connection with Common Ground has enabled Clark the opportunity to educate students and adult consumers alike.

“I love the fact that you can find common ground between the consumer and the farmer,” she said. “It’s about choices.”

Sunny Acres, like Kentucky farming in general, has a history of diversification and has given consumers many



Tomme Clark explained many aspects of farming to those attending the Fall on the Farm tour including information about corn and soybeans.



A meal of locally grown foods was presented to the Fall on the Farm attendees.

choices over the years.

It began as a hog farm; was home once to a dairy operation; hay and grain were added; tobacco came along in the 1960's and beef cattle have also been a part of the farm. Today direct sales play a huge part in the farming operation with beef and pork products, along with some vegetables making up the majority of products sold. Clark also includes value added products for the market.

Matt Michaud, Jefferson County's Farm Bureau executive director said the "Fall on the Farm" event provided a firsthand look at a working farm.

"We wanted to take the opportunity to meet with bloggers and others who are interested in food, livestock and agriculture to see what a farm like Sunny Acres does to promote agriculture, share what they do with the community, and provide an opportunity to ask questions they may have," he said.

Michaud, who spoke to the gathering, also said even though the Louisville area is viewed as being mostly urban, there are still many farms in Jefferson County which add opportunities for consumers to learn more about agriculture even though they live in the city.

"There's an abundance of cow/calf operations in Jefferson County and a lot of grain being raised," he said. "There are many people in the county that don't know of the farmland here until they take a drive or a bike ride through some of the park land. It's eye-opening for them."

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<p>HOPKINSVILLE H & R Agri-Power 800-844-3918 www.hragripower.com</p>	<p>MURRAY McKeel Equipment Co. 800-852-9736 www.mckeelequipment.com</p>	<p>SHELBYVILLE Jacobi Sales Inc. 800-730-2684 jacobisales.com</p>



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As part of the YF&R competitions, winners in the Achievement Award, Discussion Meet and Excellence in Ag areas will receive their choice of a **2016 Chevrolet Silverado** or **GMC Sierra truck**, courtesy of Chevrolet. Three national finalists in each competition will receive a **Case IH Farmall tractor**, courtesy of Case IH, as well as a **\$2,500 cash prize** and **\$500 in STIHL** merchandise.



For more information about YF&R competitive events contact your state Farm Bureau or contact AFBF at yfr@fb.org or 202-406-3600.

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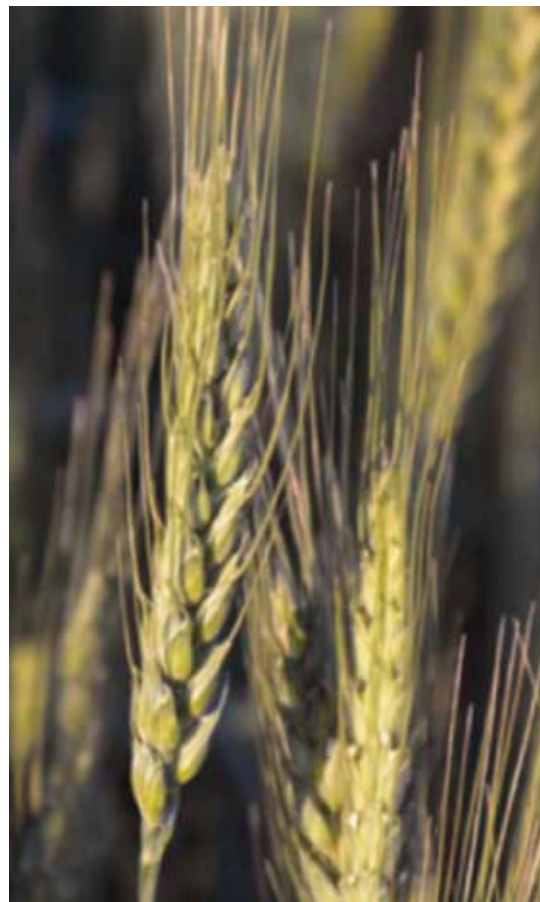


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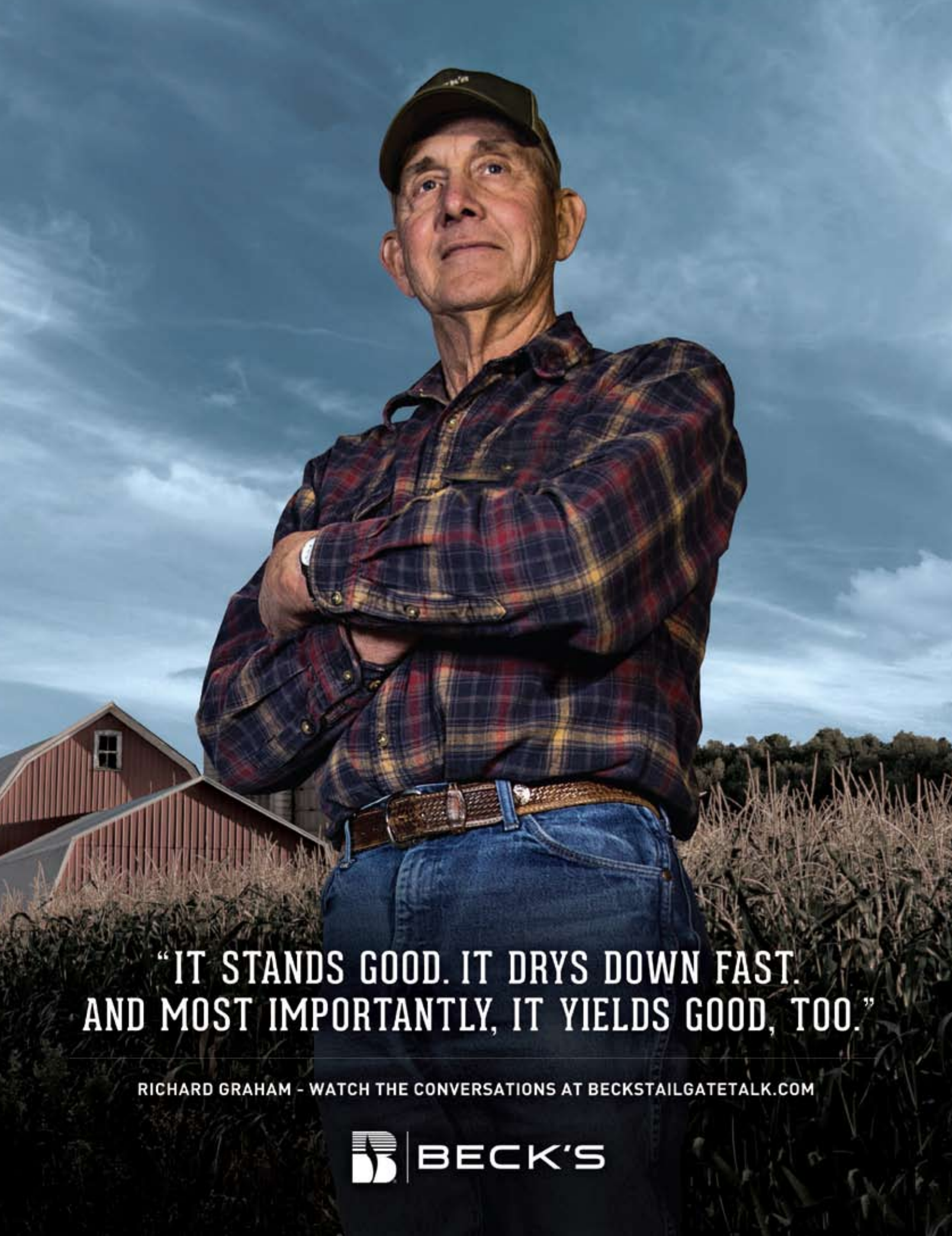
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