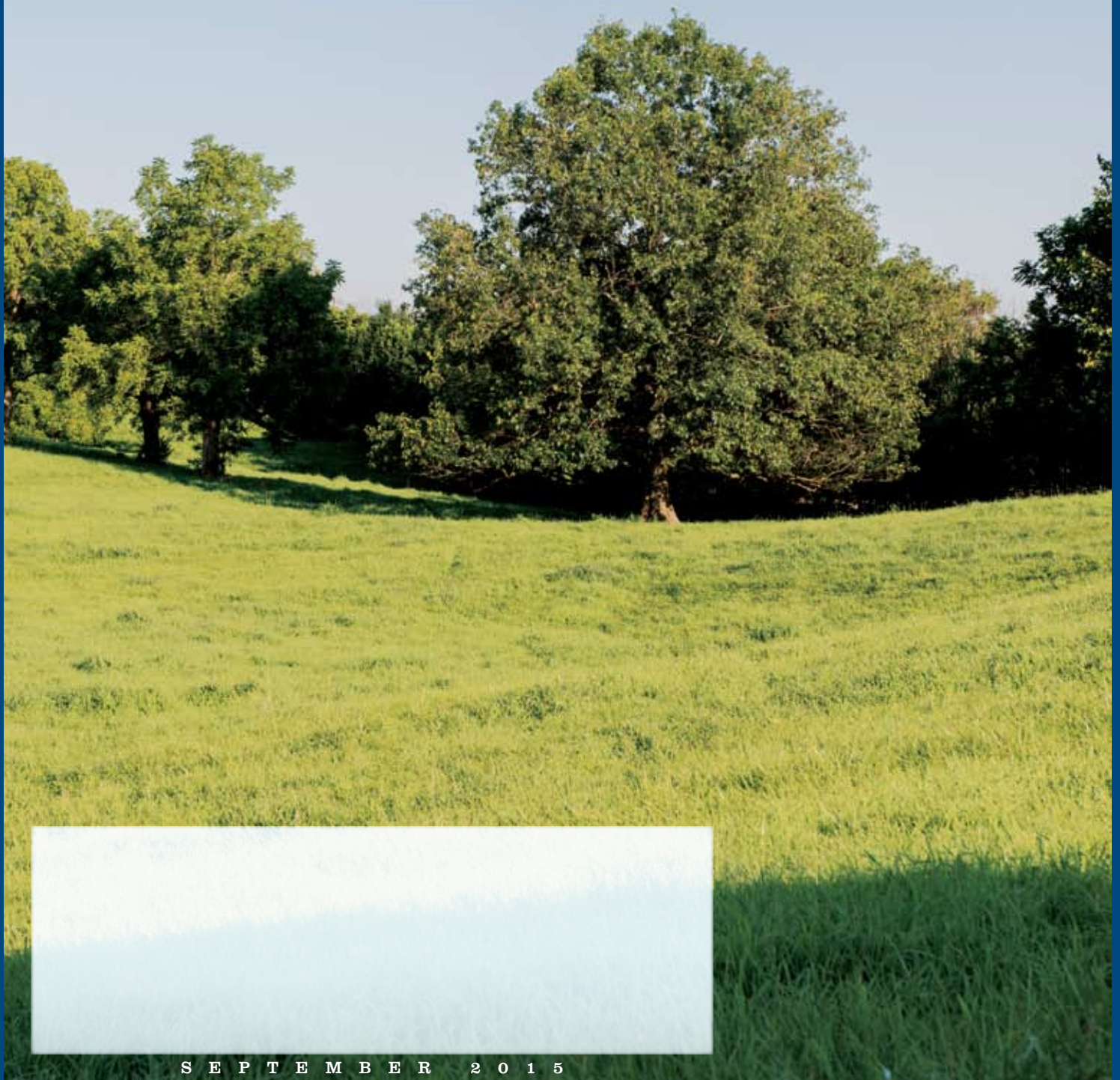


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KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU NEWS

Volume 14 • No. 7

September 2015

contents

**KFB Day
at State Fair** 6

**Ag
Feature** 8

**Beef
Tour** 12

**County
Corner** 16

Markets 20

Cover Photo by Dave Howard
ImDave.com

Kentucky Farm Bureau News is published ten times per year. Combined issues for December-January and June-July are sent to all members. The remaining eight issues go to regular members. Bulk postage rate paid at Lebanon Junction, Ky. Changes in address should be mailed to KFB Communications Division, PO Box 20700, Louisville, Ky. 40250.

All advertising accepted subject to publisher's approval. Advertisers must assume liability of content of their advertising.

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Harvest season is a good time to talk about safety precautions in our rural areas. Accidents

involving tractors and the handling of livestock continue to be a great concern in Kentucky, but the most alarming trend is with all-terrain vehicles.

Once used solely for recreational purposes, ATVs have become popular for farm chores. Unfortunately, that has resulted in a significant increase in serious, disabling injuries among ATV users and riders.

According to a Kentucky State Police report, there were more than 100,000 ATV injuries reported nationally in 2011, with 327 deaths. In Kentucky, there were 12 ATV-related deaths in 2012.

Much of the problem can be attributed to children and youth operating ATVs designed for adults and the failure of riders to wear protective gear. No one under the age of 16 should be operating an adult-sized ATV and no one under six should be operating any type of ATV.

All riders and operators should always wear an approved safety helmet and protective eyewear.

Thanks to rollover protective structures (ROPS) and educational programs, we've made great strides in reducing tractor accidents. However, tractor overturns are still the leading cause of fatal accidents for farmers and farm workers. Most tractors in use today have ROPS, but the goal should be 100 percent.

Across all industries, the agriculture/forestry classification has the highest rate of occupational deaths, followed by transportation, mining and construction. That's a problem we must continue to address. I encourage county Farm Bureaus to participate in promotional and educational activities for National Farm Safety and Health Week, which is September 20-26.



Mark Haney

President

Kentucky Farm Bureau



Tim Thornberry

Tim Thornberry is new editor of KFB News

Tim Thornberry is the new editor of KFB News, succeeding Roger Nesbitt, who retired effective September 1.

Thornberry comes from the Kentucky Department of Education's Office of Career and Technical Education, where he worked for 13 years. He was editor of the CTE newsletter, responsible for feature writing and photography used online and in publications, wrote and distributed press releases and created various video segments promoting career and technical education. He has also worked as a freelance agriculture correspondent in Kentucky since 1995, writing regularly for Farm World, Kentucky Forward, Business Lexington and Progressive Dairyman. Prior to that, he worked in state government as a photographer for the Office of Creative Services after spending four years as a freelance photojournalist for The State Journal in Frankfort.

A native of Anderson County, Thornberry attended Lexington Community College and the University of Kentucky. He also received a photography certification from the New York Institute of Photography.

He is the recipient of many photography awards from the Kentucky Press Association, Landmark Community News, Farm World and the Kentucky Association of Government Communicators. He received KFB's Communications Award in 2010.

"I am confident Tim will be a quick and true asset to this organization," said Executive Vice President David S. Beck. "His work as a journalist and photographer, in addition to his extensive knowledge of the state's agricultural community, fit perfectly into our overall communications strategy."

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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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Editor Roger Nesbitt

Art Director David Brown
..... Pioneer Publishing
..... Lexington, KY

Advertising Casey McNeal
..... Times-Citizen Communications
..... 800 798-2691 (ext. 334)

Circulation Kelley Parks
..... (502) 495-5112

comment

C O L U M N

Since 1937, KFB has been doing member publications. Whether in the form of a newspaper, newsletter or glossy magazine, the goal has been to inform members of what we are doing for them, what's going on in the agriculture industry and where we stand on priority issues.

Policy issues always have driven our communications program. That's because in the political arena so vital to KFB's success, information truly is power. Knowledge is enlightening; it empowers people to act. For any advocacy organization like KFB, members simply cannot work effectively without the facts and the knowledge of where matters stand. That's where the value of member communications is realized, and why KFB has devoted vast resources to its communications work.

I'm proud to say I have devoted most of my 20 years at KFB to disseminating information via publications work. Since 2001, I have edited KFB News, beginning in a newsletter format and advancing to a four-color magazine in 2002. This issue is the 166th that I've put together over 14 years. And it is my last, as I have moved on into retirement, effective at the end of August.

I could fill this magazine recalling all the memorable experiences and wonderful people that have been part of my career at KFB. What immediately comes to mind: Flying around the state with Senator Mitch McConnell and KFB President Bill Sprague for news conferences assailing a proposal to have the Food and Drug Administration regulate tobacco growing. Having 30,000 promotional posters that I developed distributed at a UK football game. Coordinating an advocacy program that shifted public opinion to produce a winning result in a statewide referendum on annual legislative sessions. Being part of the process that developed Kentucky's historic agricultural development initiative through House Bill 611. Reporting on the long and difficult process that resulted in the tobacco buyout.

I think many would agree that besides the establishment of the tobacco program back in the 1930s, the agricultural development and tobacco buyout programs are the most significant policy developments in the history of Kentucky agriculture. KFB was at the forefront of both. I consider my involvement (although minor in scope) as among my most significant career achievements.

I've worked with four KFB Presidents: Bill Sprague, Sam Moore, Marshall Coyle and Mark Haney. To use an old term, "they're good country people." They share two valuable leadership traits -- good listeners and reasoned consensus builders. I truly enjoyed working for them.

It has been an eventful and interesting 20 years. I'm thankful for the experience.



Roger Nesbitt

KFB Day at



Representatives from Fathers Country Hams and Republic Bank posed with various officials after the auction of the champion country ham.

Another large crowd was on hand for KFB's annual Country Ham Breakfast at the State Fair. For the eighth time, Republic Bank and Trust Company was the winning bidder, at \$400,000 for the 14.1-pound ham from Father's Country Hams (Charles Gatton) of Muhlenberg County.

KFB now has helped raise more than \$9.3 million for local charities, educational institutions and non-profit organizations through the auction's history. All money raised through the auction is donated directly to the charity of the winning bidder's choice.

Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer, Governor Steve Beshear, U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell and Agriculture Commissioner James

State Fair



Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell had a word with Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer. They were among the guest speakers. At left is KFB First Vice President Eddie Melton and at right is Rip Rippetoe, President and CEO of the Kentucky State Fair Board.



A view of the stage for the breakfast. Governor Steve Beshear, Senator Mitch McConnell, Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer and Agriculture Commissioner James Comer were among the speakers.



Miss Kentucky Clark Janell Davis with the blue ribbon country ham.



Champion gospel quartet Grace x 4 of Lexington performed at the picnic. From left are Brian Damon, Dean Weddle, Robert Gray and Jerry Herndon.

Comer were the guest speakers. Kentucky Congressmen Bret Guthrie, John Yarmuth and Andy Barr also were on hand along with Lieutenant Governor Crit Luallen, Attorney General Jack Conway, Secretary of State Alison Lundergan Grimes, Treasurer Todd Hollenbach, Auditor Adam Edelen, around 25 state legislators plus University of Kentucky President Eli Capilouto and University of Louisville President James Ramsey.

Governor Beshear, who has attended the event each year of his eight years in office, received a standing ovation in appreciation

for his strong support for agriculture. He praised KFB for its work on behalf of Kentucky's agriculture industry.

Other highlights of KFB Day at the Fair were the gospel quartet contest, picnic and the participation in the 4-H and FFA Sale of Champions that evening. KFB Insurance Company purchased the grand champion steer.

Laurel County's exhibit was judged tops in the Pride of the Counties contest. That section of county promotional exhibits in the South Wing is one of the fair's most popular attractions.

Weisenberger Mill



By Ray Bowman

Entering the front door of Weisenberger Flour Mill, the roar of adjacent South Elkhorn Creek was unmistakable.

More than two inches of rain the day before had swollen the normally gentle waterway into a raging torrent boiling fiercely over the spillway that was created to help power the mill.

Phil Weisenberger says he's seen it higher, though. "We keep everything up off the floor, because the creek does occasionally get into the building."

The creek has provided the water to power the mill's twin turbines since the

1800's and, indirectly, still does. The turbines now run an electric generator. "We generate electricity that goes out to Kentucky Utilities, then we purchase electricity back from KU," explained Weisenberger. "Water's not turning the mill like it did a hundred years ago, but the mill is still water-powered, in a round-about way."

Selling the power to KU and then buying it back makes perfect sense when you think about the consistency it provides. Even in times of drought, the mill keeps turning. "That's pretty much why the initial shift was made," Weisenberger affirms. The first change was from water to diesel engines and then to electricity, with the generator

bringing the mill full circle, back to an energy source derived from water turning the turbines. "My great, great grandfather started the mill in 1865, and then in 1913, his son built the mill that's here today. The turbines are still there and we're using one of them to power the generator."

The blending of charm, tradition, consistency and modern-day efficiency also carries over to the company's product line and overall philosophy.

Last November, the Kroger supermarket chain began offering 125 new Kentucky Proud products in 88 of its stores across the Commonwealth. Included in that was a number of flours and mixes produced by Weisenberger

grinding along nicely



Phil and Mac Weisenberger examine a sample of corn meal.

Mills.

Kentucky is not widely recognized as a wheat producer, but all the flour milled by Weisenberger is grown in the Commonwealth. “We grind soft, red winter wheat here. Primarily we’re getting it from Hardin County, some from Shelby County. All of our grain, for that matter – all the wheat, all the corn – is from Kentucky, less than 100 miles from the mill.”

“Obviously, we’ve had to increase the volume of some of the products. The Kroger arrangement has increased orders for some things but our main focus remains food service,” Weisenberger noted. “For a small company like us, it takes a little more labor

and time to produce the small packages.”

“We do things in small bunches, which is how we keep an eye on the quality of things. My dad (Ernest “Mac” Weisenberger) and I are always right here.”

“Nothing much has changed here,” muses Weisenberger, who represents the sixth generation of the family to operate the mill. “The way we package things, the way we grind the flour – all that hasn’t changed much. As time goes on, doing things the same has made us different.”



County Annual Meetings

ADAIR COUNTY

September 29 7 p.m.
Cranmer Dining Hall

ANDERSON COUNTY

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

BARREN COUNTY

September 19 6:30 p.m.
Trojan Academy

BATH COUNTY

September 19 6 p.m.
Agriculture Center

BELL COUNTY

September 24 6 p.m.
Farm Bureau office

BOURBON COUNTY

October 1 6:30 p.m.
Legion Park

BOYD COUNTY

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

BRACKEN COUNTY

October 6 7 p.m.
Extension Office

BRECKINRIDGE COUNTY

September 22 6 p.m.
FFA Camp

BULLITT COUNTY

September 19 6 p.m.
Bullitt County Extension Office

CALDWELL COUNTY

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

CAMPBELL COUNTY

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

CARROLL COUNTY

October 12 7 p.m.
Farm Bureau Office

CASEY COUNTY

October 1 6 p.m.
Ag Expo Center

CLARK COUNTY

October 8 6:30 pm
Farm bureau office

CLINTON COUNTY

September 10 6 p.m.
Fairgrounds

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

September 25 6 p.m.
Veterans Memorial Building

FRANKLIN COUNTY

October 13 6:30 p.m.
Extension Office

GALLATIN COUNTY

October 5 10 a.m.
Farm Bureau office

GARRARD COUNTY

September 22 6:30 p.m.
Forks of Dix River Baptist Church

GRANT COUNTY

September 12 7 p.m.
Williamstown FB Office

GREENUP COUNTY

November 2 6 p.m.
Farm Bureau office

HARDIN COUNTY

September 18 6:30 p.m.
Central Hardin High School

HARRISON COUNTY

September 24 6 p.m.
Extension Office

HART COUNTY

September 26 6 p.m.
Fairgrounds

HENRY COUNTY

October 8 7 p.m.
Farm Bureau Office

HARLAN COUNTY

September 19 Noon
Farm Bureau office

JACKSON COUNTY

September 21 6 p.m.
Energy Farm

JEFFERSON COUNTY

November 10 7:30 p.m.
Farm Bureau office

KNOX COUNTY

October 1 4 p.m.
Farm Bureau office

LAUREL COUNTY

October 13 5:45 p.m.
Farm Bureau Office

LAWRENCE COUNTY

October 20 6 p.m.
Down Home Café

LESLIE COUNTY

September 22 4 p.m.
Farm Bureau office

LOGAN COUNTY

September 12 6 p.m.
Extension Office

LYON COUNTY

September 11 6 p.m.
Lyon County Elementary School

MAGOFFIN COUNTY

September 14 6:30 p.m.
Extension Office

MASON COUNTY

September 28 7 p.m.
Extension Office

MCCRACKEN COUNTY

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

MCCREARY COUNTY

September 17 6 p.m.
RECC meeting room

OWEN COUNTY

October 5 6 p.m.
Extension Office

PENDLETON COUNTY

September 26 6 p.m.
Farm Bureau office

PIKE COUNTY

September 24 6 pm
Hilton Garden Inn

PULASKI COUNTY

October 13 6 p.m.
Southwestern High School

ROBERTSON COUNTY

September 19 6 p.m.
Robertson County High School

ROCKCASTLE COUNTY

September 18 6 p.m.
Roundstone Elem. School

ROWAN COUNTY

October 6 6:30 p.m.
FB Office

RUSSELL COUNTY

September 11 6 p.m.
Fairgrounds

SHELBY COUNTY

October 3 6:30 p.m.
Extension Office

TAYLOR COUNTY

September 14 6 p.m.
Middle School Cafeteria

WARREN COUNTY

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

WASHINGTON COUNTY

September 17 7 p.m.
Mackville Community Center

WAYNE COUNTY

September 28 6 p.m.
Aspire Center

WHITLEY COUNTY

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

WOLFE COUNTY

September 15 6 p.m.
Extension Office

WOODFORD COUNTY

September 15 7 p.m.
Addies Pavillion

Commodity Division tops with tours

KFB's Commodity Division provides opportunities for Kentucky farmers to observe operations in other states, with the hope that ideas will emerge to benefit those producers. Two of the most popular events are the annual tours for cattle producers and those participating in KFB's Certified Roadside Markets Program.

Over the years the John C. Hendricks Beef Tour has taken Kentucky producers to all of the major production areas of the nation. Participants have seen it all – massive Midwestern feed lots, southern cow-calf operations, Texas stockyards, beef processing facilities, research units at major universities, large commercial hay and feed producers, veterinary centers, etc. Named for the former KFB leader who raised cattle in Clark County, the beef tour attracts a maximum number of participants each year.

The roadside markets tour also has covered a lot of ground in its history, visiting most areas of Kentucky and parts of all the surrounding states, except Missouri. Tours also went to California, Oregon, Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina. The agenda has featured greenhouses, orchards, wineries, all scales of market facilities, wholesale and retail fruit and vegetable producers, agri-entertainment venues, processors, extension centers, etc.

This summer, the John C. Hendricks Beef Tour went to Montana, Idaho and Alberta, Canada while the Roadside Markets Tour ventured to the Finger Lakes Region of New York. Beyond the spectacular scenery, participants got a close look at a wide variety of agricultural and agritourism operations, as well as some research and food processing facilities.

Farm Credit Mid-America and KFB sponsored both tours; Cargill joined them as a sponsor of the Beef Tour.

Some photos are on the following pages.



The beef tour contingent at Holden Herefords in Montana. Commodity Division staffers Fran McCall (lying on the ground) and Ed McQueen (bottom row, far right) organize the event.



The roadside markets group at the New York State Experiment Station in Geneva, New York.

Beef Tour



A welcome to the Canadian Beef Centre of Excellence.



The group mingles with cattle at Rocking R. Cattle Company in Idaho.



Cattle at Missing Horn Ranch in Montana.



Hay and irrigation equipment at Myron Mast Ranch in Montana

Roadside Farm Market Tour



Executive Committee members Fritz Giesecke, Mark Haney and Eddie Melton at Fox Run Winery.



Fruit juices on display at Red Jacket Orchard farm market.



The Finger Lakes Produce Auction Center.

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Research explores no-till tobacco

By Katie Pratt

University of Kentucky tobacco extension specialists have partnered with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources to conduct research and promote conservation tillage to tobacco farmers.

Conservation tillage in tobacco has been around for a while. Much of the initial research was conducted by researchers in the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, but it wasn't readily adopted by a large number of growers.

"With conservation tillage, you're asking growers to make a big investment in equipment, and until they see it work on their land or their neighbor's property, they are hesitant to adopt it," said Bob Pearce, UK extension tobacco specialist. "What the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife is doing is helping get this research out to the growers."

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation awarded an environmental grant, funded by Altria and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, to the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources for the project. Fish and wildlife environmental scientists Jon Anderson and Brad Brown are providing technical assistance, education and equipment for farmers statewide to grow small plots of no-till tobacco. Since the program began in 2012, Anderson and Brown have worked with more than 100 growers of burley and dark tobacco and have implemented conservation tillage production on more than 800 acres of tobacco in the state.

Research has suggested mixtures consisting of different types of cover crops have greater benefits than the typical small grain cover crops historically used by tobacco growers. While mixtures have the potential to improve soil health and quality, their benefits have not been well documented in tobacco production systems.

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County Corner

Snapshots of County Farm Bureau activities

CAMPBELL COUNTY

A pedal pull for children was part of a farm-city day at Alexandria Fairgrounds. Campbell County FB President Gary Chaplin, Director Kevin Neltner and Agency Manager Tom Alford were among those conducting the event. More than 100 attended the first-ever event.



CARTER COUNTY

KFB member Kenny Bowling grew this 70-pound cabbage.



MARTIN COUNTY

Martin Co hosts customer appreciation day!



MEADE COUNTY

Meade County FB sponsored this incredible corn maze at Roberts Family Farm, which is a participant in KFB's Certified Roadside Farm Markets Program.



MEADE COUNTY

Dr. Tony Brannon, Director of the Ag School at Murray State University, was the featured speaker at the annual farm-city breakfast at the County Fairgrounds.



PENDLETON COUNTY

Pendleton County FB had a booth at the county fair.



SCOTT COUNTY

A membership drive/customer appreciation fish fry was held at the Scott County Park. First row from left are Stewart Hughes, Johnny Cannon, Dianne Dawson, Jimmy Richardson and Alvin Lyons. Second row are Wayne Murphy, Ted Holland, Steve Schureman, Dale Glass and John Ruber.



WOODFORD COUNTY

A breakfast was held on the 50th anniversary of the Woodford County farm tour. From left are Woodford County FB Director Mike Cocanougher, Sheriff Wayne Wright, Judge-Executive John Coyle, State Representative James Kay, Loren "Squirrel" Carl and agency manager Courtney Roberts.



SHELBY COUNTY

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell spoke at a luncheon co-sponsored by Shelby County FB and the Shelby County Chamber of Commerce.



FRANKLIN COUNTY

A retirement party was held for agency manager Jim Costigan. From left are Vice President Coy Trapp, Jim Costigan and County President Sharon Spencer.



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Owen Co. FB leader will oversee ag events at Ky. Expo Center

Steve Kelly, who serves on the Board of Directors for Owen County FB, has been named Executive Director of Expositions for the Kentucky State Fair Board. In that capacity he will oversee the National Farm Machinery Show, the Kentucky State Fair and the North American International Livestock Exposition.

Kelly has served in the Kentucky Department of Agriculture since 2008 as Executive Director of Budget and Personnel and most recently as Deputy Commissioner. Prior to KDA, he worked in the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet for 19 years.

A native of Owen County, Kelly has extensive involvement in agriculture. Besides his work with Farm Bureau, he has served Owen County's Cattlemen's Association, Agriculture Development Board, Fair Board, 4H and the Cooperative Extension Board.

Kelly and his family own S & K Farms in New Liberty, a registered Charolais cattle operation.

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Frank Penn will head equine tax equity group

Long-time Fayette County FB leader Frank Penn has been appointed chairman of a Kentucky Equine Education Project (KEEP) Task Force charged with promoting state tax reforms to boost Kentucky's equine industry. KFB policy supports this initiative to have equine production items exempted from state tax, as is the case with other farm operations.

The KEEP Board of Directors approved Equine Tax Equity as a top priority for the 2016 legislative session.

"The Board's action demonstrates that KEEP represents all aspects of the equine economy, regardless of breed or discipline," said Corey Johnsen, KEEP Chairman and President of Kentucky Downs. "It's no secret that Kentucky is long overdue for tax reform and we will make a strong case for including Equine Tax Equity as part of any reform proposal. Over the next few months, we'll work to ensure that our next Governor and the Legislature understands the critical role horses play in Kentucky's economy."

The Equine Tax Equity Task Force will include a broad based coalition of horse industry leaders and representatives from outside the industry that recognize the importance of equine agriculture to Kentucky's overall economy.

"It's a matter of fairness," said Penn, owner of Pennbrook Farm. "Caring for horses is not any different from raising other livestock animals. Equine Tax Equity will boost Kentucky's economy, through increased equine activity as well as the accompanying indirect impact."

Penn is a recipient of KFB's Distinguished Service to Farm Bureau award. He and wife, Rita, have operated a commercial breeding and boarding operation for over 45 years. Penn also is prominent in the burley tobacco industry. He has served Fayette County FB for over 50 years in a variety of leadership roles and has served on KFB's equine advisory committee.

Herbal Formula Eases Farmers' Aches And Pains

"I read about Stuart'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 Stuart'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 Stuart's Pain Formula I am pain free. Prior to knowing about Stuart's I could not tolerate a whole day in my wheel chair."

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Global wheat crop is record

Global wheat production for 2015/16 is forecast at 726.5 million tons, setting a record. This is the third consecutive record world wheat crop. The increased production more than offsets higher expected use, resulting in projected global ending wheat stocks for 2015/16 of 221.5 million tons. Projected stocks are 11.8 million tons higher than a year earlier, and are the highest ending stocks on record. This results in a stocks-to-use ratio of 31.0 percent. Despite the huge wheat supply, world wheat trade in 2015/16 (July-June) is projected at 156.2 million tons, down about five percent from 2014/15. Global competition is limiting U.S. wheat exports – down 12 percent on the year. However, USDA is projecting full-year exports of 925 million bushels compared to 854 million bushels for 2014/15. USDA projects the 2015/16 season average farm price at \$4.65-5.55, down from \$5.99 for 2014/15.

Record yield forecast for “other hay”

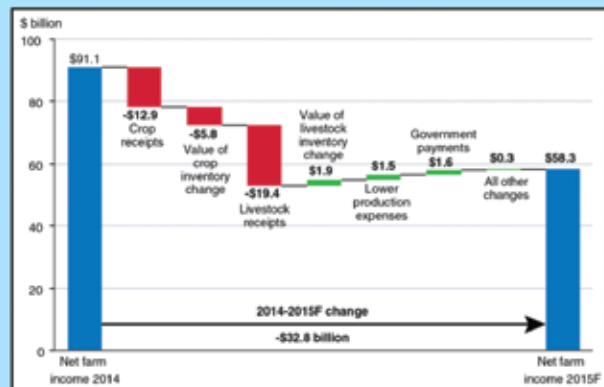
Forecast 2015 U.S. production of alfalfa, alfalfa mixtures and other hay are up from 2014 estimates by a combined 1.6 percent to 142.1 million tons, according to USDA. Based on August 1 conditions, yields for alfalfa and other hay are expected to average 3.39 (+1.8%) and 2.09 (+3.0%) tons per acre, respectively. The yield forecast for other hay would be record high and supports the third largest production on record behind 2003 and 2004. Harvested alfalfa and alfalfa mixture hay area is down 0.6 percent; other hay harvested area is projected down 1.2 percent relative to 2014. USDA noted that Arizona is expecting a record alfalfa yield, while Missouri, Montana, and Nebraska are anticipated to have record high yields in other hay. Larger hay crops combined with improved pasture and range conditions have resulted in much lower hay prices. Compared to a year earlier, the June 2015 prices of U.S. alfalfa and other hay were 20 percent lower and nine percent lower, respectively.

Kentucky hay production is forecast to be up from last year due to a ten percent jump in the yield of other hay -- from 2.00 tons/acre to 2.20 tons/acre. With harvested acreage unchanged at 2.10 million acres, other hay production is forecast at 4.62 million tons, up ten percent from last year. The average yield of alfalfa is forecast at 3.40 tons/acre, unchanged from 2014. Alfalfa hay production is forecast at 595,000 tons, six percent above the 2014 level due to the six percent increase in harvested acreage.

U.S. cattle herd expansion continues

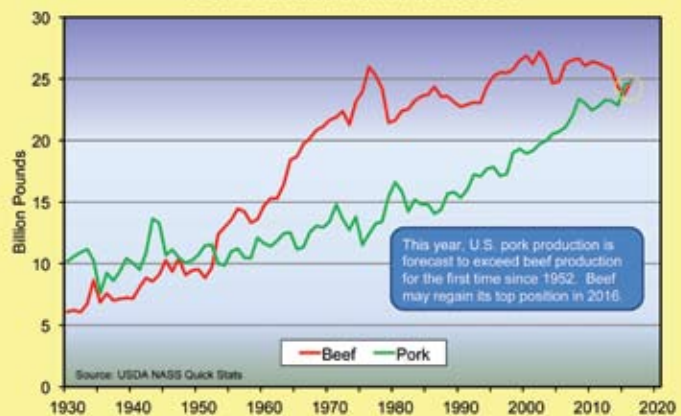
The latest Cattle report revealed that the July 1, 2015, U.S. cattle and calves inventory totaled 98.4 million head, an increase of 2.2 percent compared with a year earlier. This confirms continuation of the cattle herd expansion first identified in the January Cattle report which showed the cattle and calves inventory at 89.8 million head, an increase of 1.4 percent from January 1, 2014. According to USDA statistics, this is the first July 1 cattle inventory increase since 2006. Beef cows and heifers that have calved totaled 30.5 million head, or 2.5 percent more than July 1, 2014. Heifers weighing 500-plus pounds for beef cow replacements showed a 6.5 percent increase compared with July 2014. The report showed dairy herd increases as well -- up 0.5 percent from the previous year. The 2015 calf crop is forecast at 34.3 million head, up 1.2 percent from last year's calf crop. Excluding 2013 and 2014, the current U.S. beef cow inventory is the smallest one since 1962 when the cattle herd was growing rapidly, eventually peaking at 45.7 million head in 1975. The mid-year Cattle report does not provide state-level data.

Net Farm Income by Component of Change



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, Farm Income and Wealth Statistics, August 25, 2015

U.S. Beef and Pork Production



Source: USDA NASS Quick Stats



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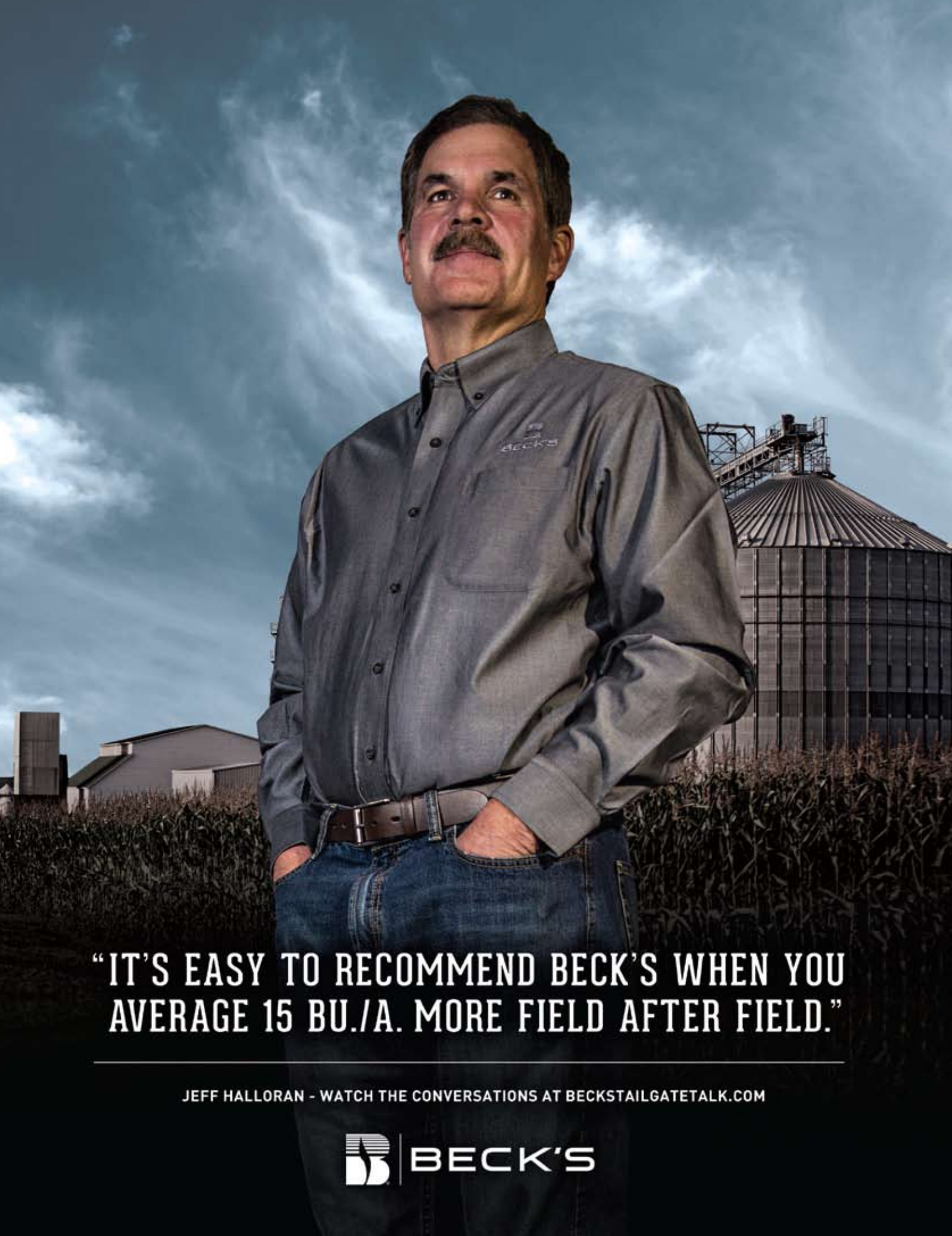
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