

Kentucky

F A R M • B U R E A U • N E W S



AUGUST 2016

2016 County Annual Meetings

All times are local

Barren County

September 17, 2016, 6:30 p.m.
Barren County Trojan Academy

Bracken County

October 4, 2016, 6:00 p.m.
Bracken County Extension Office Brooksville

Boone County

September 13, 2016, 6:00 p.m.
Boone County Enrichment Center (Lower Level) Florence

Calloway County

September 06, 2016, 6:30 p.m.
Calloway County Farm Bureau Board Room

Campbell County

September 11, 2016, 4:00 p.m.
Sts. Peter and Paul Social Center, California

Carroll County

October 3, 2016, 7:00 p.m.
Carroll County Farm Bureau Office

Clark County

October 6, 2016, 6:00 p.m.
Clark County Farm Bureau Office

Fayette County

Sept 27, 2016, 5:00 p.m.
University of Kentucky Boone Center

Fleming County

August 10, 2016, 11:00 a.m.
Fleming County Farm Bureau Office

Gallatin County

October 3, 2016, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Gallatin County Farm Bureau Office

Grant County

September 15, 2016, 6:30 p.m.
Grant County Farm Bureau

Graves County

August 13, 2016, 11:30 a.m.
Graves County High School Cafeteria

Harrison County

September 29, 2016, 6:00 p.m.
Harrison County Extension Office

Knox County

September 29, 2016, 6:00 p.m.
Knox County Farm Bureau Office

Leslie County

August 17, 2016, 4:00 p.m.
Leslie County Farm Bureau

Lewis County

August 7, 2016, 12:30 p.m.
Ruggles Camp, Tollesboro

McCracken County

September 20, 2016, 6:00 p.m.
St. Johns' Knights of Columbus Hall

McCreary County

September 15, 2016, 6:00 p.m.
South Kentucky RECC Community Room

Marion County

October 10, 2016, 7:00 p.m.
Knights of Columbus Hall

Mason County

October 5, 2016, 7:00 p.m.
Mason County Extension Office

Nelson County

October 11, 2016, 7:00 p.m.
Nelson County Civic Center

Nicholas County

July 28, 2016, 6:00 p.m.
Vice Community Center Carlisle

Owen County

October 7, 2016, 10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.
Owen County Farm Bureau Office

Pendleton County

September 22, 2016, 6:30 p.m.
Pendleton County Farm Bureau Office

Perry County

August 15, 2016, 6:00 p.m.
Perry County Extension Office

Robertson County

September 17, 2016, 6:00 p.m.
Robertson County High School

Russell County

September 9, 2016, 6:00 p.m.
Russell County Fair Grounds

Spencer County

September 26, 2016, 7:00 p.m.
Spencer County Extension Office

Trimble County

August 18, 2016, 7:00 p.m.
Trimble County Extension Office

Warren County

September 24, 2016, 5:30 p.m.
South Warren High School



KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU NEWS
Volume 15 | No. 6
August 2016

Contents

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN	3
COMMENT COLUMN	4-5
HUNGER TASK FORCE	6
FFA, A DAY OF SERVICE	7
YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARD WINNER	8
FFA AGRISCIENCE COMPETITION	9
2016 KFB SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS	10-12
KFB ON TOUR	14-15
NATIONAL NEWS: GMO LABELING BILL	16-17
MARKETS	20
KFB CANDID CONVERSATIONS	28-29

Cover photo by Tim Thornberry

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The summer season holds special meaning for me and my family, as I'm sure it does for many of you. It is a time for us to enjoy the warm weather and special events that come only during these summer months.

It's also a time when other families are making their way to many of our farms to get fresh produce and enjoy the atmosphere that can only be found on our local farms.

In addition, we are anxiously awaiting the coming harvest, participating in events such as county fair shows and expos, as well as tending to the everyday needs of our farming operation.

To say the least, those of us in the agriculture industry are really busy right now. Often my work duties take me away from home, as well. But, it's always good to get back to the love and support of my family in Pulaski County as well as my Kentucky Farm Bureau family.

You know, there is nothing so valuable and endearing as the relationships we have with our loved ones and every Kentuckian is seen as a part of our extended family. We offer that love and friendship to all because, as agriculturalists, we touch the lives of each and every citizen in this state in some form or fashion.

We will see that kind of camaraderie during the Kentucky State Fair as citizens from all across the state and from all walks of life come together to celebrate the summer and the bounty agriculture has provided to us all.

One of the most exciting times of summer, for me, comes during the State Fair and the many activities in which KFB is involved throughout the course of the event including Kentucky Farm Bureau Day and our annual Ham Breakfast and Auction.

For the past 53 years this event has raised more than \$9 million for a variety of charitable causes through a diverse group of valued bidders all dedicated to our communities and our state.

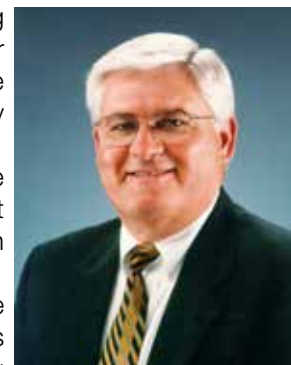
The Ham Breakfast is one example of how KFB is dedicated to the citizens of Kentucky and we should never forget why we do what we do even when we are in the midst of one of our busiest times of the year.

It's easy to get caught up in our activities on the farm and as an organization in our efforts to advocate for agriculture at both the state and national levels.

But just like our families are at the heart of our work efforts, for both the Federation and the Insurance Company, all of Kentucky is at the heart of what we do every day.

In the coming weeks, many of you will notice a new marketing effort created at KFB to express our feelings for this state and its people, be they farmers or not, be they members or not. In our everyday endeavors at our organization, we hope those feelings are evident through our actions. But sometimes, it just needs to be said: KFB Loves Kentucky.

As we move through the remainder of our summer activities, we look forward to the coming harvest, the State Fair and, as always, the valuable time we spend with our friends and families.



Mark Haney

President
Kentucky Farm Bureau

comment

COLUMN



Kentucky businesses are drowning in a sea of red tape and we intend to do something about it. It is time to throw a lifeline to Kentucky's employers.

The Farm Bureau was created, in part, by local businesses and chambers of commerce because those organizations knew a simple truth: the success of the business community is directly tied to the success of the farming community.

Those who work in Kentucky's agriculture industry recognize that a lack of restraint by regulatory agencies can have a devastating effect on the economic wellbeing of our Commonwealth. Every day, farm families are negatively affected by regulations that have gone unchecked. Often, the difference between keeping or losing the family farm comes down to whether or not farmers are able to bear the burden of unnecessary, outdated and counterproductive regulations.

This regulatory stranglehold is not only affecting the agriculture industry here in Kentucky.

Small businesses in every sector of our economy are so hampered by excessive and complex regulatory burdens, they don't even have time to run their business. And when they can't focus on growing their company, they can't invest in growing their operation or hiring additional people. Our farms are certainly an integral part of that overall business community.

Regulations are intended to protect the safety and financial interests of consumers and everyday citizens. They are not intended to hurt Kentucky farms by stifling economic growth, imposing high costs on job creators and impeding private sector investment.

Since the state's regulatory system was codified in 1974, the Legislative Research Commission estimates at least 15 percent of the more than 4,500 regulations have never been reviewed. Not even once in more than 40 years!

In today's environment of lower net farm income, the difference between profit and loss is slim, to say the least. Undue burdens from unneeded regulations can often make or break a year when it comes to profitability. Unless we eliminate some of this red tape, the cost of business and doing business for our farm families will likely continue to rise and our food producers can expect to pay more for everything from equipment to seeds.

The bottom line is that excessive regulation is driving up costs for Kentucky's consumers and hurting our economy. We must put a stop to these self-inflicted financial wounds. We can do this by eliminating outdated and unnecessary regulations and rewriting others with an eye toward creating safe, quality jobs for the people of our Commonwealth.

This is the reasoning behind our Red Tape Reduction Initiative. With your help, we want to identify costly, ineffective or outdated regulations that hamper business growth while doing nothing to make people or products safer. We then want to eliminate, change or simplify them. The first step is to review every single piece of regulation for usefulness, clarity and effect on business growth. Our goal is to get rid of at least 30 percent of these 4,500 regulations within the next three years.

This initiative already has attracted more than 15,000 visitors to the website – RedTapeReduction.com – and has already resulted in more than 300 suggestions on ways to address ineffective and inefficient regulations. This feedback will allow us to help spur job creation and investment, and to keep government from burdening Kentuckians for no good reason.



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

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comment

COLUMN

We intend to fundamentally change the attitude of state government officials and employees from being regulation makers to regulation managers. Kentucky will have a state government focused on customer service, working to help bring businesses into compliance rather than simply penalizing them when they are not. More carrot and less stick. This is how state government will help our employers grow.

In order for this effort to be as successful as possible, we need citizens across Kentucky in both rural and urban areas to help identify these ineffective regulations. Through the years, Farm Bureau has supported many programs and efforts such as this that have helped not only our farm families, but all Kentuckians. The Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) has already given its support to this initiative. From tax issues, to environmental initiatives to infrastructure improvement measures, KFB has fought for agriculture and rural communities. They have worked in a nonpartisan manner to make sure every citizen in the state benefits.

We want to hear from you. Whether you own a farm or are a member of the Ag community, you know firsthand the heavy burden of red tape. As a citizen, you can play an integral role in the success of this initiative and help us unleash a tidal wave of job creation across Kentucky.

We encourage you to please visit our website at RedTapeReduction.com and use the online form to submit your comments. As the initiative continues, we will keep you posted on its progress.

During our most recent recession, Kentucky's agriculture industry weathered the storm with farm cash receipts reaching record levels because of wise investments and solid determination. We want that kind of progress to continue and expand to other industries.

With reduced governmental red tape, we know that can happen. No matter which side of the aisle you sit on, I think we can all agree that it is high time for Kentucky to make doing business in the state easier. I sincerely thank the Kentucky Farm Bureau for helping to move this initiative forward.

Governor Matt Bevin



Kentucky's Hunger Task Force.

Kentucky Department of Agriculture's Hunger Task Force includes KFB

For most people, food insecurity or hunger is not a part of their daily lives. But, unfortunately one in six Kentuckians do indeed suffer from some type of food deficiency.

Combating that trend has become a priority of Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles, who recently announced the formation of a Hunger Task Force to explore ways to alleviate the issue in this state.

Kentucky Farm Bureau's (KFB) Executive Vice-President David Beck has been asked to serve on that task force. He commended Quarles on the initiative and said KFB has a history of helping Kentuckians.

"Agriculture is so important to our economy and feeding the world is a part of our mission," he said. "We look forward to addressing these issues. KFB is Kentucky and we want to be a part of the solution."

Beck also said that in providing food for those who are suffering from hunger issues, the agriculture community is a natural fit to help solve this terrible problem.

Other members of the task force will include farmers, businesses, charitable organizations, faith groups, community leaders and, government entities. During a press conference announcing the initiative, Quarles said those members will bring their unique perspectives to this persistent problem.

"By bringing together the people who grow our food, sell our food, and distribute our food, we hope to find

novel approaches that could help to alleviate the underlying issues of hunger in Kentucky," he said.

The task force is one of a growing number of initiatives in the state that have been developed addressing food insecurities. From a grower's perspective, the Farm to Food Banks program has been helping to supply food to those in need. The initiative



Task Force members met for the first time at Gallrein Farms in Shelbyville.

was established by legislation which passed in 2009 and was sponsored by State Representative Tom McKee, who serves as chair of the House Agriculture and Small Business Committee.

The idea behind Farm to Food Banks is to sell "seconds" or food that may not be suitable for markets due to cosmetic appearances but certainly flavorful and safe to consume. Through this program, state food banks receive nutritious freshly grown, local produce and farmers utilize another revenue stream for their operations.

The Farm to Food Banks program was issued \$1.2 million as part of the 2016 biennial state budget.

Three years ago, another piece of legislation was passed making Kentucky farmers eligible to receive a tax credit equal to 10 percent of the value of edible agricultural products donated to food banks, according to information from the Kentucky Association of Food Banks.

The Hunger Task Force will be conducting regional meetings across the state as part of its efforts to curb hunger in Kentucky.

"These regional meetings will give the task force a clearer picture of the need as well as actions being taken locally to meet the need," said Quarles. "With this information, the task force can develop measurable, attainable goals for reducing hunger in Kentucky and a plan of action to achieve those goals."

Beck emphasized that KFB has been involved in other projects aimed at helping in the battle against hunger in Kentucky at both the state and county levels.

"KFB has a history of working with groups like Hunters for the Hungry and others by both the insurance company and the federation while county Farm Bureaus participate in local projects to help those in need," he said. "We look forward to continuing that tradition and being a part of this task force."

FFA Students Get Opportunity to Assist in the Battle against Hunger

Each year as part of the state FFA Convention, students from across the state show up a day early to participate in "A Day of Service."

This community involvement activity has sent FFA chapters to various areas to help in a variety of community-based projects from cleaning parks to building fences at horse farms.

As part of this year's FFA Convention, Laurel County FFA members made their way to God's Panty Food Bank to help fill boxes for those in need of food assistance.

The two chapters, from North and South Laurel High Schools spent the day working together filling box after box while learning a valuable lesson about food insecurity and some very real-world lessons.

Taylor Hoskins a recent graduate from North Laurel and a member of her FFA chapter's executive committee said the experience made her and other students realize how fortunate they are.

"Not only does this give us time to bound with our friends and make new ones, it helps give back to the community," she said. "It makes me feel better when I do things for other people."

Hoskins added that she thinks those involved in agriculture aren't afraid to help others no matter the circumstances.

"We are the next generation and

it's really important that we see what's going on in the real world," she said.

Kristanmina Hall, a senior at South Laurel and president of the school's FFA chapter said it's good there are places like God's Pantry that can give to those in need.

"I'm surprised at the number of people they help and it's a big job they do here," she said.

Hall's fellow FFA chapter officer Emily Wiley said participation in the project by neighboring schools was an opportunity to learn teamwork while learning to give back.

"Our chapters have worked together before to help each other for the better," she said. "But now I see fighting the food crisis in general needs a lot of help from those in the community. It's insane to see how many people, especially children are suffering. It hurts to know they are struggling to get the food they need."

Both chapter advisors see the benefits for their students in working at the food pantry but both know how much FFA and the ag community do to help others.

Brandon Fawbush, the advisor from North Laurel said it was his chapter's second year of participating in A Day of Service activities at God's Pantry.

"FFA provides opportunities for students, maybe opportunities they

would not have otherwise, and seeing that firsthand for themselves is a good character builder. I think it's great to have our students come here and display that affection for someone else," he said. "Community service should be beneficial to both parties and in this situation we're gaining as much as we're giving."

South Laurel's advisor, Jason McWhorter said he hopes the experience of community service is something his students will carry with them in the years to come.

"Opportunities like this are not everyday occurrences and I hope it's something they remember and pass on to their children," he said.

The last line in the FFA motto is "Living to Serve," something members are demonstrating locally and across the country. The community service project at God's Pantry is another example of just what that means.



FFA students from Laurel County participated in "A Day of Service" at God's Pantry Food Bank as part of this year's state FFA Convention.

UK College of Ag Student Chosen as Alltech Young Scientist Award Winner

Alonna Wright, an Agricultural and Medical Biotechnology major at the University of Kentucky, College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, was named the 2016 Alltech Young Scientist undergraduate award winner during ONE: The Alltech Ideas Conference held in Lexington last May.

Wright was one of 191 nominees from around the world vying for the honor which goes to one undergraduate and one graduate student each year who are nominated by their professors and have submitted scientific papers written on specific agriscience related topics.

Wright's research paper focused on biological control of agricultural pests, in particularly *Helicoverpa zea* or the corn earworm.

"I had heard about this pest before and knew it could do damage and had seen it but I didn't really know how bad it was until I began working with it," she said. "Now I will preach to anyone who will listen as to how bad this insect is."

Her research focused on biologically causing sterility within the corn earworm and ultimately lowering the amount of pesticides used to control it. Wright's hope is that within two to three generations of the pest's life cycle, it will be controlled enough to reduce populations and greatly suppress the damage it causes, which is, by some estimations, as high as seven percent in the U.S. corn crop.

Seeing the need for this type of



Alonna Wright, an Agricultural and Medical Biotechnology major at the University of Kentucky, College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, was named the 2016 Alltech Young Scientist undergraduate award winner.

research firsthand was something Wright had a chance to experience by growing up on a farm in Butler County where she also participated in FFA and

4-H before going to The Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science at Western Kentucky University her junior year in high school.

"I grew up around agriculture and I knew from an early age it was an important field to be in and knew I wanted to do something in agriculture because it is so close to my heart," she said. "My ag-experience definitely shaped me and growing up around all those farms I saw all kinds of issues like drought and diseases."

Coupled with her love of science, Wright decided her impact in the ag world would be through genetics.

"It took me a long time to figure

out I could work with agriculture and genetics and that they weren't mutually exclusive," she said.

Wright credits her studies at the The Gatton Academy for setting the stage she now occupies from a research standpoint. In addition to her studies at UK, Wright is currently an assistant research associate at Lepidext, LLC.

It isn't unusual to have agriculture students at the Academy with so many of its attendees coming from rural areas. Gatton's Derick Strobe, the assistant director of academic services said students from every Kentucky county and from all walks of life enroll there.

"Like all of our students, those who hail from rural Kentucky counties discover new context to understand the world they have grown up in. One realizes that agriculture can be researched and improved upon by a computer scientist, a mathematician, or a biotechnologist alike," he said. "Everyone at The Gatton Academy is so proud of Alonna's continued commitment to research, and we cannot wait to see what she accomplishes next while she pursues her Ph.D."

In winning the prestigious award from Alltech, Wright was offered a fully funded Ph.D. position and \$5,000.

"The more I work with this project, the more I realize how much of an impact it's going to have," she said.

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FFA Agriscience Competition Features Future Ag Scientists

There is no denying that modern technology and advances in the bio-technology field have touched all sectors of society including agriculture.

Nowhere was that more evident than during this year's agriscience competition held at the state FFA Convention.

Scores of students brought their projects for judging and to vie for the top awards. Subjects ranged from on-farm construction projects to in-depth research studies on a variety of topics.

Rebekah Cowherd is a "veteran" at this competition participating for the third year in a row. Her analysis of water on the farm should open eyes to real, scientific facts about agriculture and water quality, she said.

The project is actually a continuation of a study Cowherd, a senior at Taylor County High School, began last year looking at mineral content in various sources of water causing a condition known as nutrient pollution, something that has become an issue and occurs when too many nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen are found to be over abundant in certain water supplies.

Cowherd said she is often reminded that certain factions are quick to blame agriculture, especially livestock production, as being part of the cause, something she wanted to prove wrong, if possible.

She first analyzed the mineral content in tap water versus spring water. This year Cowherd took that a step farther and analyzed spring water comparing it to water supplies in areas that were livestock accessible. Her research took her to 12 different locations within her home county.

"Whenever I tested the livestock-

access waters, it had the same fluctuation as spring water not subjected to livestock," said Cowherd. "There are groups that think these minerals from animal defecation are showing up in these water sources, but when looking

competed in this year's event.

"I think this is a wonderful competition for students who may not be able to exhibit those leadership or speaking skills but still have a very scientific mind and want to showcase that curiosity into the natural sciences and into agriculture," she said.

Epps pointed out that these students have to use the scientific process to determine the answers to a problem therefore creating skills they will take with them long after they have left school.

"Everything from understanding the process, finding a solution and being able to present that to others, those are all key components you need as an adult," she

said.

Cowherd came away with the win in her category, Environmental Services/Natural Resource Systems Division 2, marking the third straight year she has been named as a first-place winner. But more importantly to her, she feels as those she has dispelled a belief about agriculture that generally was a consensus among many non-farming organizations.

"I am so excited to be able to represent my county and my chapter while being an advocate for agriculture," she said.

Cowherd also has a rich family history to defend when it comes to agriculture having lived on a farm that has been in her family since the Revolutionary War.

"I'm a science nerd but I'm also a young farmer and while I don't know what I want to do when I get older, I really enjoy this kind of work," she said. "Doing this kind of research is also helping me find my career."



Rebekah Cowherd stands next to her research project while holding her first place award during this year's agriscience competition at the FFA State Convention.

at these results, it's not."

In conducting this research, Cowherd said she attempted to debunk some of the myths that exist about polluted water supplies coming from agriculture and while there were certain specifics she couldn't test for, overall her findings were positive.

"While I wasn't able to identify the different minerals in the water samples, I was able to determine there were comparable levels of minerals in the areas tested," she said. "I wasn't really surprised in what I found because agriculture does such a good job of trying to take care of run-off problems. There are so many accusations thrown at agriculture for things that (farmers) are fighting against."

Rebekah Epps, an associate professor of agricultural education at the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment's Department of Community and Leadership Development said 86 competitors in six different categories

2016 Scholarship Recipients

KFB and county Farm Bureau organizations provided 327 college scholarship grants this year totaling \$489,000. The scholarships were awarded to recipients who displayed the greatest levels of academic excellence, involvement in extracurricular activities, leadership abilities and financial need. Scholarship sponsors and the recipients are:

Sam Moore Scholarship – \$4,000

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

Leadership in Agriculture Scholarships – \$3,000 each

Awarded to students of farm families attending a Kentucky college or university.
Lilly Robertson, Logan County; Zachary DeBord, Pulaski County

KFB Young Farmer Scholarship – \$2,000

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

KFB Young Farmer Scholarship – \$1,000

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

Beautification League of Louisville Scholarship – \$1,000

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

KFB Employee Child Scholarship – \$2,000

N. Sydney Bright, Oldham County

KFB Mutual Insurance Company Scholarships – \$2,000 each

Carlin Robinson, Clay County; Morgan Skaggs, Edmonson County

KFB Insurance Agents Association Scholarship – \$1,000 each

Molly Morgan, Cumberland County; McKayla Sprowles, Taylor County

Paul D. Everman Scholarship – \$3,000

Ada Rothrock, Oldham County

KFB Federation Scholarships – \$1,000 each

Allison Brockman, Adair County; Matthew Miller, Ballard County; Holly Young, Barren County; Margaret Brown, Caldwell County; Lydia Schneider, Campbell County; Halley Burge, Carter County; Cameron Kenner, Franklin County; Randa Morris, Garrard County; Abigail Horsley, Grayson County; Drue Hodges, Green County; Grace Hall, Hardin County; Jacob Bingham, Knott County; Elizabeth Hughes, Logan County; Samuel Gray, Lyon County; Hayden Crain, Metcalfe County; Joseph Rushing, Monroe County; Jessica Merriman, Nelson County; Erin Fitzpatrick, Pendleton County; Hyden Brewer, Perry County; Ryan Goodlett, Shelby County; Taylor Thompson, Taylor County; Morgan Welden, Union County; Jonathan Stubblefield, Webster County; Adair County Farm Bureau - \$1,000 each
William Hadley, Jessica Simpson

Allen County Farm Bureau – \$1,000

Madison Jones

Allen County FB/Ralston Bewley – \$500

Tyler Ausbrooks

Anderson County George Cotton Memorial Scholarship – \$1,500 each

Adam Sanderson

Anderson County Farm Bureau – \$2,000 each

Andrew Mitchell, Ben Tinsley

Anderson County Farm Bureau – \$1,500

Lane Marquardt

Ballard County Farm Bureau – \$1,000 each

Madison Cooper, Matthew Miller, Neely Williams

Bath County Farm Bureau – \$1,000 each

Cameron Thompson, Macey Denise Maze

Bell County Farm Bureau “Pat Biggerstaff Scholarship” – \$1,000

Keith Brock

Bell County Farm Bureau “Ray Reed Scholarship” – \$1,000 each

Katlyn Barnwell, Stephen Baughn, Matalie Brock, Hannah Engle, BreAnna Ferguson, William Jones, Makayla Keyes, Sophia Knuckles, Larry McGeorge, Logan Mills, Alayna Miracle, Jackson Pearson, Kellie Rutherford, Alexandra Smith, Laurne Spurlock, Tiffany Sutton, Ashley Sweat, Acacia Tribel

Boone County Farm Bureau – \$1,000 each

Erica Sandlin, Emily Wells

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

Clayton Robinette

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

Cole Stewart

Breckinridge County Farm Bureau – \$1,000 each

Conner Campbell, Mary Hinton

Bullitt County Farm Bureau – \$2,000 each

Kelsi Allen, Derricka Ison, Logan Koch, Adrianna Milligan, Matthew Terry, Kariann Whicker

Bullitt County Young Farmer Scholarship – \$1,000

Kariann Whicker

Bullitt County Young Farmer Scholarship – \$750 each

Kelsi Allen, Adrianna Milligan

Butler County Farm Bureau – \$1,000

Olivia Neighbors

Caldwell County Farm Bureau**- \$1,000 each**

Dakota Gill

Calloway County Farm Bureau**- \$500 each**

Abby Gibson, Hannah Ray, Adyson Scott

Campbell County Farm Bureau**- \$1,000 each**

Hayden Hiller, Logan Kramer, Amanda Lloyd, Katie Reis, Allison Wendling, Bailey Wertz

Carroll County Farm Bureau Insurance**- \$500**

Elliann Yocum

Carroll County Farm Bureau - \$750

Allie Simmons

Casey County Farm Bureau - \$500

Dakota Salyers

Christian County Farm Bureau**- \$2,000 each**

Bailey Downs, Joshua Isenhoff, Christina Ligibel, Isabella Norrid

Clay County Farm Bureau**- \$2,000 over 4 years each**

Andrew Cheek, Robert Nicholson, Cailen Robinson, Whitney Ruth, Blake Smith, Danielle Smith, Delbert Smith

Crittenden County Farm Bureau**- \$1,000**

Dylan Hicks, Dylan Hollis, Megan Sherrell, Jayden Willis

Cumberland County Farm Bureau**- \$500 each**

Olivia Brewington, Lane Dubre, Sierra Long

Daviess County Farm Bureau**- \$2,000**

Lauren Beyke, Joseph Booker, Emma Carmon, Monica Smith

Edmonson County Farm Bureau - \$1,000

Aaron Decker

Fayette County Farm Bureau - \$20,000

Keriann Ferguson

Fayette County Farm Bureau - \$10,000

Connor Krolak, Ryan Power

Floyd County Farm Bureau - \$2,000 each

Sarah Greene, Sydney Hackworth, DeAnna Kidd, Zach Justice

Floyd County Farm Bureau - \$1,000 each

Emily Sparks, Dylan Stone

Gallatin County Farm Bureau - \$500

Elijah Cromer

Garrard County Farm Bureau - \$2,000

Randa Morris

Grant County Farm Bureau**- \$1,000 each**

Hannah Hopperton, Hayley Leach

Greenup County Richard Dupay Memorial Scholarships**- \$1,000 each**

Miranda Robinson, Micah Leslie

Greenup County Raymond Imel Memorial Scholarship - \$1,000

Amber Brown

Greenup County Clarence Imel Memorial Scholarship**- \$500**

Evin Reed

Hancock County**Farm Bureau Scholarship****- \$1,000 each**

Lindsey Hagman, Ethan Powers, Anna Winchell

Harlan County Farm Bureau Insurance**Agents****- \$500 each**

Leanna Asher, Brittany Messer

Harlan County Farm Bureau**- \$1,500 each**

Kaitylynn Creech, Taylor Howard, Whitney McIntyre, Alisha Rhymmer, Meredith Rowe, Elyssa Slusher

Harrison County Farm Bureau**- \$1,000 each**

Travis Fry, Mary Grace Furnish, Paityn Wiglesworth

Hart County Farm Bureau**- \$500 each****Noah Carter, Autumn Walters Henderson County Farm Bureau****- \$1,000**

William Wilson

Henderson County Farm Bureau - \$750

James Payne

Henderson County Farm Bureau**- \$500 each**

Michaela Boeglin, John Dawson, Kayla Gabhart, Kelly McIndoo, Kelsey Nobles, Ashley Skaggs, Logan Thrasher

Henry County Farm Bureau**- \$500 each**

Jakob Becley, Joseph Fischer, Jaycie Heath, Andrew Mahoney, Colt McGuire, Caleb Potts

Hopkins County Farm Bureau**- \$2,000 each**

Nicklaus Ashby, Douglas Center, Jocelyn Herring

Jefferson County Farm Bureau - \$16,000

Cassidie Cartwright, Larissa Heck

Jefferson County Farm Bureau - \$1,000

Madison Farris, Larkin Mann

Johnson County Farm Bureau**- \$1,000 each**Emily Williams
Kenton County**Warren VanHorn Memorial Scholarship****- \$1,000**

Hailey Ison

Kenton County**"William Durr Memorial Scholarship"****- \$1,000**

Jacob Dickens

Knott County Farm Bureau - \$1,000

Hannah Hurt

Laurel County Farm Bureau - \$4,000 each

Garrett Napier, Cody Reed

Lawrence County Farm Bureau**- \$2,000 each**Alayna Gauze, Amanda Kelly, Grant Kiser
Letcher County Farm Bureau - \$1,000 each
Ted Allen, Melissa Bartley, Erinly Cornett,
McKenzie Gibson, Alison Hobson,
Courtney Jackson, Alexis Stambaugh, Holly Thomas, Blake Watts**Letcher County Farm Bureau****- \$500 each**

Karen Amburgey, Melody Coots, Grace Landis, Donella Madden, Sabrina Taylor

Livingston County Farm Bureau**- \$1,000 each**

Carlie Cooper, Colton McGrew, Audrey Zimmerman

Logan County Farm Bureau - \$500

Lilly Robertson

Lyon County Farm Bureau - \$500

Courtney Finley, Samuel Gray

Madison County Farm Bureau**- \$1,000 each**

Allen Baker, Sierra Fish, Keeley Foley

Magoffin County Farm Bureau**- \$1,000 each**

Chance Allen, Amanda Craft, Landon Howard

Marion County Farm Bureau**- \$500 each**

Allison Buckman, Paige Cecil, Chelsea Childers, Katelyn Daugherty, Samantha Daugherty, Taylor Edelen, Nicole Smith

Martin County Farm Bureau**- \$1,000 each**

Kyla Horn, Lakin Kirk, Julia Preece

Mason County Farm Bureau**- \$1,000 each**

Christian Arn, Courtney Barnoski, Colton Campbell, Megan Fulton, Arely Gutierrez, Jenyfer Gutierrez, Matthew Moore, Cristen Moran, Jacob Riggins

McCracken County Farm Bureau**- \$1,000 each**

Aaron Kaler, Caroline Smith

Meade County Farm Bureau**- \$1,000**

Michael Embry

Mercer County Farm Bureau**- \$1,000**

Benjamin Pinkston

Mercer County FB Young Farmers**- \$1,000**

Emily Hamilton

Metcalf County Farm Bureau**- \$500**

Rayanna Boston

Monroe County Farm Bureau**- \$1,000 each**

Alexis Boles, Rhea Ann Hammer

Montgomery County Farm Bureau**- \$2,000**

Andrew Gilvin

Morgan County Farm Bureau**- \$2,000**

Jordan Bradley, Alison Nantell, Dee Sparkman

Muhlenberg County Farm Bureau**- \$1,000 each**

Jessica Ashley, Bailey Peterson

Nelson County Farm Bureau**- \$600 each**

Elayne Bischoff, Clayton Carter, Payton Carter, Taylor Case, Erika Clark, Easton Culver, Shelby Dones, Carly Douglas, Lesley Downs, Taylor Duncan, Lucas Fenwick, Jacklyn Gillispie, Hollyn Howard, Huston Lanham, Heather Martin, Natalie Quisenberry, Taryn Roby, Shelby Sanders, Kyle Schenck, Loren Schuler, Kayla Shields, Taylor Southern, Abigail Wathen, Amy Wathen, Brittany Woodward, Rachel Young

Oldham County Farm Bureau - \$2,000
Emma Workman**Oldham County FB Current****College Student****- \$2,000**

Krista Fitzgerald

Oldham County FB/Boyd Johnson**Honorary Scholarship****- \$3,000**

Lauren Siers

Pendleton County Farm Bureau**- \$500 each**

Ambraly Pugh, Zachary Rogers

Pulaski County Farm Bureau**- \$1,200 each**

Autumn Hunt, Carrie Molden, Jake Pierce, Jesse Whitaker

Russell County Farm Bureau**- \$2,000 each**

Susannah Roy, Brittany Simpson, Erin Wolford

Scott County Farm Bureau**- \$700 each**

Valerie Bohannon, Katie Creech, Bailey Hawkins, Rebecca Hayes, Trey Ogle, Jordan Reed, Makayala Willhoile, Cassie Woosley

Shelby County Farm Bureau - \$1,000

Kaitlyn Goode, Abby Willis

Shelby County FB/Roy V. Catlett**Scholarship****- \$1,000**

Eloise Lyons

Simpson County Farm Bureau**- \$1,000**

Tyler Potty, Sydney Willingham

Spencer County Farm Bureau**- \$2,000 each**

Tyler Goodlett, Makala Hatzman, Ryan Linton

Taylor County Farm Bureau**- \$1,500**

Isaac Thompson, Kelsey Woodrum

Taylor County Farm Bureau - \$2,500

Korri Briggs

Trigg County Farm Bureau - \$500 each

Josie Carr, Taylor Gray, Stephen Humphries, DeAnna Ladd

Trimble County Farm Bureau**- \$1,000 each**

Ashley King, Destiny Schroeder

Warren County Farm Bureau**- \$4,000 each**

Morgan Askins, Hudson Gifford

Warren County FB/R.O. Buchanan**Scholarship****- \$4,000**

Morgan Mason

Washington County Farm Bureau**- \$500 each**

Abby Caller, Haley Hardin

Wayne County Farm Bureau**- \$2,000 each**

Amazing "Grace" Bradley, Molly Dalton, Benjamin Duncan, Regan Roberts

Webster County Farm Bureau - \$1,000

Emily Johnson, Kayleigh Wood

Whitley County Farm Bureau - \$3,000

Michael Harris

Wolfe County Farm Bureau - \$600

Dakota Parks

Wolfe County Farm Bureau - \$1,000

Amanda Trent

Woodford County Farm Bureau**- \$2,100**

Will Blaydes, Michaela Hood

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Kentucky Farm Bureau on Tour



The Certified Roadside Farm Market Tour included a stop at Huber's Orchard, Winery and Vineyard in Starlight, Indiana.

Agriculturally speaking, Kentucky farmers are fortunate to have an array of organizations that help lead, guide and teach all in an effort to help make their day to day operations better.

Another addition to that list of assets is agricultural tours offered by Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) to its members, the most recent of which were the KFB Beef Tour and the Certified Roadside Market Tour.

Joe Cain, director of KFB's Commodity Division said these tours are helpful in that producers get a chance to visit operations not only close to home but in other states where they learn from their peers.

"As blessed as we are in Kentucky to have all the ag-related organizations that help our farmers be more efficient and ultimately more successful, being able to learn from other producers in other places has proven to be invaluable to our members who have attended these tours in the past," he said. "Whether it's down the road or across the country, learning from our farm neighbors is a tried and true practice."

John C. Hendricks Beef Tour

This year's John C. Hendricks Beef Tour took attending KFB members to Tennessee, Virginia and North Carolina to see a variety of cattle operations along with an historical tour of Thomas Jefferson's Monticello in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Fritz Giesecke, KFB Second Vice President, is a cattle producer from Hart County and serves as current chair of the Beef Cattle Advisory Committee. He said this tour has proven very helpful to Kentucky beef producers during a time when the cattle industry in this state has grown and improved to the point of being one of the best in the country.

"As a whole, the beef cattle business in this country has become the best in

the world and by learning from other producers we have brought many of those ideas back home to enhance our own cattle industry," he said. "Today,



Ellis Farms near Old Fort, North Carolina is one of the farms included in this year's Beef Tour.

Kentucky is the leading cattle producing state east of the Mississippi and ranks 8th nationally."

Some of the stops for Beef Tour attendees included the Bush Brothers Livestock facility located in Newport, Tennessee, the Mountain Research



Certified Roadside Farm Market Tour participants posed for a group photo at Schultz Fruitridge Farm in Mattawan, Michigan.

Station in Waynesville, North Carolina, Baldwin Family Farms in Yanceyville, North Carolina, Olde Dominion Ag Complex in Chatham, Virginia, and Mossy Creek Farm in Mount Solon, Virginia, to name a few.

This year was the 11th for the Beef Tour named after former KFB First Vice-President John C. Hendricks who also served as the chair of the KFB Beef Cattle Advisory Committee. He knew the value of educational opportunities and how the knowledge gained on these tours would benefit producers here. The tour is named to honor his memory.

Certified Roadside Farm Market Tour

For the Certified Roadside Farm Market Tour, attendees headed north to see an array of operations with stops in Indiana and Michigan.

This tour provides a unique opportunity to visit operations that have successful farm marketing programs and to learn different types of promotional strategies that can be used in Kentucky's farm markets.

This year marks the 15th for the Certified Roadside Farm Market Tour which originated as a benefit to the members of the KFB Certified Roadside Farm Market Program.

KFB President Mark Haney attended the tour and said it's always interesting to visit other markets to get an idea of what makes them successful and learn from those successes.

"No matter how long you've been in the roadside farm market business,

it's never too late to learn something new and that's exactly what we do on these types of tours," he said. *"When we all learn from each other collectively, it makes the industry stronger which benefits not only the producers but consumers, as well."*

A few of the highlights on this year's tour included Huber's Orchard, Winery and Vineyard in Starlight, Indiana, Fair Oaks Farms in Fair Oaks, Indiana and Brookside Farms in Paw Paw, Michigan.

The KFB Tours are made possible in part because of great sponsors that support the activities. Sponsors of this year's Beef Tour included KFB Federation and Insurance, Farm Credit Mid-America and Cargill while KFB and Farm Credit Mid-America sponsored the Certified Roadside Farm Market Tour.



George Winn, owner of G&E Farms in Gretna, Virginia spoke to Beef Tour attendees.



Those attending the Beef Tour made a stop at Michie Tavern in Charlottesville, Virginia.

GMO Labeling Bill Passes Congress

New law to help fight against misinformation



With the passage of the National Biotech Disclosure Bill, Congress has created legislation that will finally preempt individual state laws, like the one passed in Vermont, which could have meant a piecemealed variety of rules and regulations.

But passage did not come without concessions and won't have everything all sides in the issue had hoped for, but it will have something they can work with.

The bill, proposed by Sens. Pat Roberts (Chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee) and Debbie Stabenow, was a compromise based on tough choices, noted American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) President Zippy Duvall.

"The package would establish mandatory GMO labeling, something that American Farm Bureau policy firmly opposes. However, the bill also holds the key to minimizing damage to agriculture from either a state-by-state patchwork of labeling mandates or labeling that is misleading to consumers and disparaging of agricultural technology," Duvall said.

One thing working in the favor of GMO proponents is support from some of the brightest minds in the world. Last May the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) released a report that "reaffirmed what thousands of other studies have found, and what farmers, scientists and educated consumers have known all along: genetically engineered crops are safe and beneficial to agriculture, human health and the environment," according to a statement from AFBF.

Passage from the Senate came after the NASEM report which also noted, a label for food made from genetically engineered crops is not needed because those foods are as safe to consume as any other.

In addition to the NASEM report, a letter from more than 100 Nobel Laureates was sent to the leaders of Greenpeace, the United Nations and governments around the world stating their support for GMO technology.

"Scientific and regulatory agencies around the world have repeatedly and consistently found crops and foods improved through biotechnology to be as safe as, if not safer than those derived from any other method of production. There has never been a single confirmed case of a negative health outcome for humans or animals from their consumption. Their environmental impacts have been shown repeatedly to be less damaging to the environment, and a boon to global biodiversity," denoted the letter.

After Senate passage, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell thanked Roberts for his leadership on the bipartisan bill.

"I'm pleased the Senate came together in a bipartisan manner to pass important biotechnology legislation that will provide our farmers with more certainty and protect middle-class families from having to pay more for the food they purchase while also ensuring consumers have access to more information about food products," he said.

Specifics of the bill include:

1. The bill would preempt state labeling mandates such as a Vermont law that, otherwise, would have gone into effect in July and sets a de facto national labeling requirement.
2. States could set labeling standards, but not in excess of the federal standard.
3. The bill puts USDA (as opposed to some other agency with less

knowledge of agriculture) in charge of writing the rules for how the labels look and what they say, and it gives USDA two years to complete the rulemaking process.

4. Meat and dairy products would not be considered GMO products just because the animals were fed GMO feed. Products, such as soup, in which meat is a primary ingredient would be exempt even if there is a small amount of a biotech ingredient.

5. USDA would have no authority to require recalls of products that do not comply with the labeling requirements, and there would be no federal penalties for violations. The bill would not prohibit states from fining companies for violating state standards.

6. Products that are certified organic

by USDA could be labeled as non-GMO.

The legislation moved rather quickly through the House as the August recess approached. A message from the Whitehouse came to House members the day before the vote stating the president's praise of the "bipartisan effort" and that he would sign it into law.

Duvall said, upon final passage of the GMO disclosure legislation, that work could now begin on putting in place a uniform, national labeling system that will provide balanced, accurate information to consumers.

"Genetically engineered crops have a decades-long track record of safety and benefits for agricultural productivity and our environment," he said. *"This legislation helps to continue those benefits by avoiding the confusion of differing and potentially misleading labeling standards from state to state. The next stop is the president's desk. We are pleased that Congress has moved quickly to finish the job."*

"Genetically engineered crops have a decades-long track record of safety and benefits for agricultural productivity and our environment,"
- Zippy Duvall
President, AFBF

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University of Kentucky IFAL

IFAL has Provided Leadership Opportunities for more than Three Decades

Investing in the state's youth is something Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) has a long history of doing through a variety of programs. One of those is the Institute for Future Agricultural Leaders (IFAL) program which has provided a unique summer leadership conference for high school junior students for the past 31 years.

This five-day event brings students to Murray State University (MSU) and the University of Kentucky (UK) and allows them to explore different fields of study for careers in agriculture while giving them a glimpse into college life by touring the schools and meeting with faculty members.

The program also allows students to tour different agricultural locations as well as become more familiar with Farm Bureau including a FB 101 session

and their participation in the discussion meet, a debate-styled competition developed by the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) for young farmers, and is something held at each IFAL event.

According to information from AFBF, this event is designed to simulate a committee meeting where discussion and active participation are expected from each participant helping build their basic discussion skills, develop a keen understanding of important agricultural issues and explore how groups can pool knowledge to reach consensus and solve problems.

KFB's Jackson Tolle, the assistant director of Agriculture Education, Women, and Young Farmer Programs said of all the activities enjoyed by the students attending IFAL, the discussion



Dr. Tony Brannon, Dean of the MSU's Hutson School of Agriculture spoke to IFAL students during their stay on campus.



Murray State University IFAL



UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment's Dean Nancy Cox spoke to UK IFAL attendees during a dinner reception.

meet is likely the most beneficial when it comes to expanding their knowledge about agricultural issues.

"For many of the students, the discussion meet is the first time they have participated in this type of debate forum and I think it really brings out their knowledge and opinions about current agriculture issues," he said. "It's exciting to see them go from being students of agriculture to true ag advocates."

Dr. Tony Brannon, Dean of MSU's Hutson School of Agriculture and Dr. Nancy Cox, his counterpart at the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment visited with and addressed the students attending IFAL.

Brannon said the most important crop for agriculture is likely the young agriculture leaders produced by this program.

"Not only is IFAL about leadership, it is about educational opportunities; opportunities to find your place in agriculture," he said. "IFAL is important to MSU and MSU agriculture; we couldn't be more pleased with our involvement with this great program."

Brannon pointed out that while students involved in this leadership experience get to interact with KFB members, they get to interact with the faculty and staff.

"It's very important to be comfortable in your choice with education and to make relevancy of your education, so we try to interact with the students as much as possible to show them the great diversity of our faculty, our staff and the many opportunities for careers in agriculture."

Cox pointed out the value of this long running relationship that UK has with the IFAL program.

"We are honored to help host IFAL on campus for over 30 years," she said. "This is one of many valued partnerships with KFB and it is one of our favorites because of the smart and creative young participants."

KFB President Mark Haney also visited with this year's UK-IFAL group. He told students his hope was that they had learned about agriculture and how it applies to daily life.

"I want to encourage you in every way, that as you begin to choose a career, you consider agriculture and the

opportunities available," he said.

Haney also pointed out to students the diverse needs in the agriculture industry and how big the demand is in many of the ag sectors.

Allie O'Neill, a student from Carlisle County said she enjoyed many things about the IFAL program including the farm tours.

"I plan on majoring in agronomy or maybe agri-business and this has been a great experience. I would recommend it to other students," she said.

Noah Sallie, a student from Montgomery County said he learned more about leadership, how to better communicate and to be strong in what

one believes.

"I've seen how agriculture affects everyone and by meeting farmers while at IFAL, it's been an inspiration and makes me feel like I can be a farmer and make a great impact," he said.

Over the years, IFAL alumni have made their mark in the state's agricultural industry including current Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles.

"IFAL helped prepare me to focus on a career in agriculture and agriculture policy," he said. "I encourage all of Kentucky's high school students to seriously consider going to IFAL this upcoming year."



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Markets

U.S. WHEAT YIELD SETS RECORD

In the July Crop Production report, the USDA forecast the United States winter wheat yield at a record high 53.9 bushel per acre, up 3.4 bushels from the June forecast and up 11.4 bushels from last year. This yield forecast exceeds the old record high by 6.1 bushels per acre, set in 1999. If this yield is realized, total winter wheat production would total 1.63 billion bushels, up 19 percent from the 2015 crop. In its Wheat Outlook report, USDA stated that 11 states growing Hard Red Winter (HRW) wheat have record-high yield projections. Thanks to the HRW states, the All Wheat yield also sets a new record high -- 51.3 bushels per acre, up 4.2 bushels from the previous record set in 2013.

With this year's projected yield of 74.0 bushels per acre, Kentucky producers have exceeded 70.0 bushels per acre for four consecutive years. Compared to 2015, the wheat yield is up 1.0 bushels per acre and the crop size is down six percent at 30.3 million bushels.

Excellent wheat growing conditions around the globe pushed 2016/17 world wheat production to a projected 738.5 million metric tons, beating last year's record crop. The record crop results in projected 2016/17 world ending stocks at a record-high 253.7 million tons.

SOYBEANS: RECORD PLANTINGS AND SUPPLIES IN 2016/17

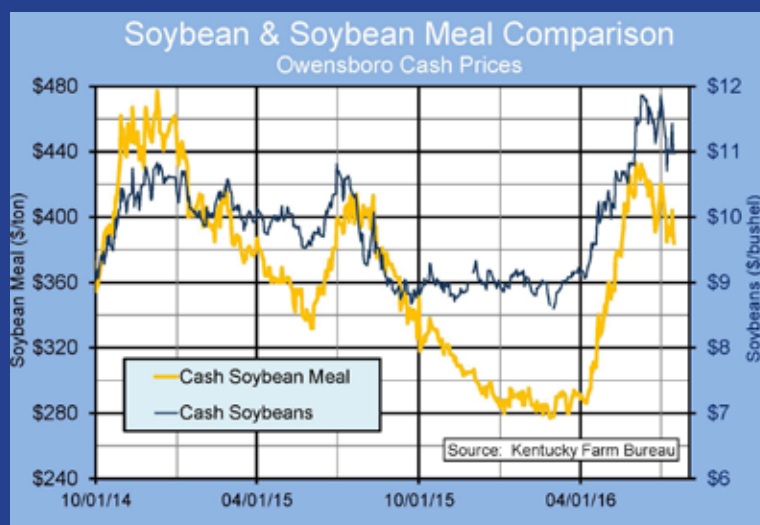
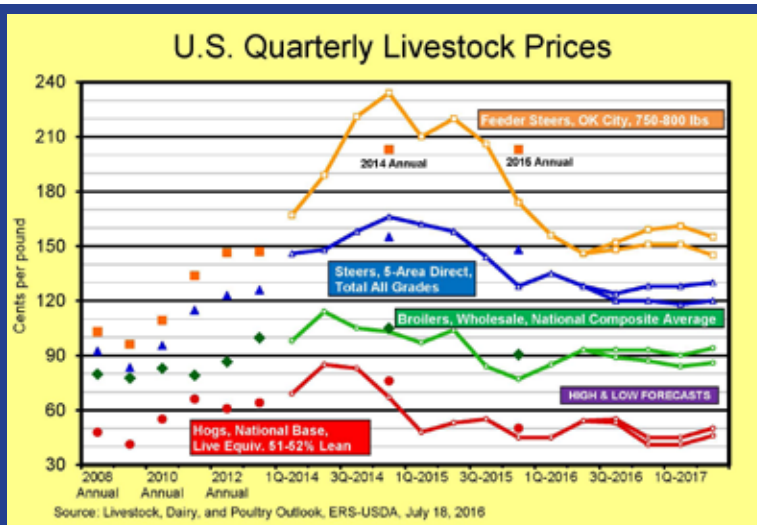
In response to high prices and favorable field conditions, U.S. producers planted an estimated record-large 83.7 million acres of soybeans this year. USDA projects record-high harvested acreage of 83.0 million acres. All-time highs for sown soybean acreage were set this year in Minnesota, North Dakota, Ohio, Michigan and Wisconsin, according to USDA's Oil Crops Outlook report. Using a trend yield of 46.7 bushels per acre, the current USDA production forecast is for 3.88 billion bushels, just 49 million bushels short of last year's record crop. Adding this production to a likely ample September 1 stocks carryover raises total expected soybean supplies for 2016/17 to an all-time high 4.26 billion

bushels. According to the last Grain Stocks report, U.S. soybean stocks on June 1 (9 months into 2015/16 marketing year) totaled 870 million bushels, up 39 percent from a year earlier and a 9-year high. However, this is not a sign of poor demand. Indeed, total use through the first three quarters of 2015/16 exceeded all years except 2014/15. Cumulative soybean crush for September 2015-May 2016 of 1.438 billion bushels is a record pace.

Record soybean supplies should further encourage 2016/17 demand. USDA forecasts new crop soybean exports at a record 1.920 billion bushels. Domestic soybean crush may use 1.925 billion bushels. The net result is 2016/17 ending stocks of 290 million bushels, down from the projected 350 million this year. As USDA gets a better idea in August of potential soybean yields, these supply-demand forecasts are likely to change.

OVERVIEW OF THE U.S. CATTLE INDUSTRY

The USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) has produced an excellent publication that should be of interest to most cattle producers as well as others. The "Overview of the United States Cattle Industry" report provides an official periodic review of changes in the U.S. cattle industry and its impact on cattle supplies and disposition. The report highlights data from a variety of cattle and beef related reports, as well as the Census of Agriculture. It takes an in-depth look at imports, exports, cattle life cycle, and weather conditions. Additionally, the report gives a brief overview of survey and estimation procedures as well as terminology used in NASS cattle publications. This report was last published in December 2010.



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COUNTY CORNER

Snapshots of County Farm Bureau activities



Boone County

Boone County President Bob Schwenke (on the right) presented one of the Boone County Farm Bureau scholarships to Erica Sandlin. Pictured from left: Her parents David and Tonya Sandlin, Erica, and Bob Schwenke.



Franklin County

Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles and Sharon Spencer, Franklin County Farm Bureau President during Franklin County Farm City Day.



Harrison County

Harrison County FB set up and served hog dogs at Farmers Market on May 14. This was a service to regular and associate members alike. Pictures are state board member Alex Barnett and President Randy Wade.



Pulaski County

Pulaski County Farm Bureau leaders dish up free ice cream for hundreds in celebration of June Dairy Month.



Robertson County

Robertson County legislative appreciation event at Blue Licks State Park held May 5.



Taylor County

The Taylor County Member Appreciation Day.



Trimble County

Trimble County Farm Bureau Scholarship presentations. Jerry Oak is the Trimble co VP and Carols Pyles is the Trimble co President. Presentation made on 6-16-16.



Webster County

Members of Webster County Farm Bureau recently had the opportunity to visit one of the local elementary schools in the county and read to the students about agriculture and ag safety. Pictured are Brenda Stull, Webster County Farm Bureau member and students of Dixon Elementary school





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KFB Regional Teacher Workshops



Sunny Acres Farm provided a picturesque backdrop for teachers attending a session to learn about educational opportunities at the Kentucky Derby Museum.

Kentucky Farm Bureau's (KFB) efforts to provide educational opportunities are not just focused on students but teachers, as well, as evident through regional teacher workshops held each summer.

The workshops highlight a variety of state and national agricultural lessons designed to address Kentucky's core competences while thematic lessons and materials enhance learning retention and help instructors teach Mathematics, Social Studies, English, and Science through real-life application.

A total of six hours of professional development and/or EILA credit may be earned depending on school district approval through participation in these workshops. This year's workshops highlighted several agricultural lessons that were designed to broaden students' educational experiences and deepen their desire to learn.

"These events offer quality ag lessons which demonstrates how educators can incorporate agriculture into math, science, social studies and English, said Scott Christmas, KFB Director of Ag Education, Women & Young Farmer Programs. "Each year we strive to share fresh ideas that will aid their efforts so whether you are a first time attendee or a past participant, we have something new."

Five workshops were held across the state this year and included several tours of local farms and ag-related facilities, breakout sessions with the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's Mobile Science Activity Center and the Agriculture Literacy Grown in Kentucky program, and many other hands-on learning activities, along with presentations from various ag-related organizations.

Caleb Miller, a kindergarten teacher at Cochrane Elementary in Jefferson County has attended the regional workshops before and wants to bring information about agriculture to his classroom.

"Giving the students that hands-on experience is really important. So much of their time is spent swiping screens," he said. "They need to get outside and really learn about where their food comes from and what activities are healthy. It's really



Teachers attending the workshop held in Jefferson County got a science lesson while visiting KDA's Mobile Science Activity Center.



Darleen Horton, a retired environmental coordinator and resource teacher led a session called, "Sowing Seeds of Learning."

important they get these lessons when they are really young."

Miller added that even though he teaches in an urban area, being in Kentucky, there is so much agriculturally going on and it's a place where there are so many people that know how to grow food in a healthy way.

"I love to concentrate on being positive and healthy living and when you plant these 'seeds' at an early age, they are going to know it forever," he said. "And it's important to bring that hands-on learning atmosphere to the classroom."

Miller added that he would encourage other teachers to take advantage of the workshops in the future.

Christmas said there is no greater priority for a teacher than selling their students on the value of education.

"I can't imagine a better method to do that than the utilization of agriculture in the classroom," he said. "Agriculture lends itself well to illustrate to these students the value of what they are learning today and how it will be applied in the future."

Sponsors for this year's workshops included, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Kentucky Agriculture & Environment in the Classroom, the Kentucky Derby Museum and the Southeast United Dairy Industry Association.



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Teachers show off their artistic skills by smashing fruits to create a quilt and demonstrate the different colors that come from fruits and plants.





Being a teacher and advocate goes hand-in-hand. Everybody is going to teach other people somehow; they may not always be in a classroom setting, but, be it a parent, someone in a local organization or just a person hanging out in their local store drinking coffee, they are going to have opportunities to advocate for agriculture.

-Dr. Kimberly Bellah

KFB Candid Conversations:

Teaching the Next Generation of Ag Educators

KFB Candid Conversations presents a discussion about the topical issues facing the agricultural industry in a question and answer format with a member of Kentucky's agricultural community. In this inaugural column, the value of agricultural education is discussed with Murray State University Associate Professor Dr. Kimberly Bellah who is the lead agricultural teacher educator at MSU. She finished her Ph.D. in agricultural education with a secondary focus in agricultural communication at the University of Florida and was raised in California where she participated in FFA and 4-H before going to California Polytechnic State University.

Dr. Bellah brings a national perspective to teacher education at MSU with her involvement in teacher preparation and continuing education workshops.

What is one of the first things you talk about with new students when it comes to agricultural issues in the classroom?

The key concept that all of us need to remember is, tell your story and how you've lived your story. Don't try to argue with people who have a different viewpoint because everyone is passionate about what they know to be true and whether that knowledge is based in fact or what they've heard, that doesn't change their level of passion. Whenever you're advocating for anything in agriculture, it is most critical to not only tell your story but also really listen to the other person with intent to understand their perspective. You can't convince if you don't first listen to understand where they're coming from. Until someone feels like they are being heard they're not going to be willing to listen.

Do you find that many of your students have some of the same misconceptions about agriculture as do those not involved in the industry?

Absolutely. I teach students at

the collegiate level, most of whom are agricultural majors and I believe they have somewhat of an agricultural background even if it is a bit of a non-traditional one. They too, get sucked into some of the rumors and misconceptions about agriculture that everybody else does on both ends of the spectrum. They sometimes hear someone else state a fact or quote a statistic and they won't go check that out for themselves and so they believe it to be true. Sometimes, even a person who is perceived to be pro-agriculture will quote something that isn't correct. They are fooled, especially by GMO foods and products because they hear so much that is being promulgated out there.

In addition to being teachers, do you find that you are teaching these young people to become agricultural advocates?

Being a teacher and advocate goes hand-in-hand. Everybody is going to teach other people somehow; they may not always be in a classroom setting, but, be it a parent, someone in a local organization or just a person hanging out in their local store drinking coffee, they are going to have opportunities to advocate for agriculture. It's really about being able to communicate that message to others without being as off-putting as some can be. When anti-agriculturalists approach people, they are often very aggressive, very loud and use very frightening terms that elicit an emotional response from those who are listening. We know that when we connect with people emotionally, it sits with them longer. That's why we say, tell your story because that's a way to connect emotionally and it will last a little bit longer.

What do you think is one of the most important things you teach students during your time with them?

The best educators are those who can establish a rapport with their

students and make connections with them. I hope that I teach them how to relate to their students and understand them. I don't like the term "teaching style" because I have to know how to use multiple teaching strategies to meet students' multiple learning styles. I have to understand how they learn and I have to adjust and use different strategies even in one class period to reach multiple intelligences. Hopefully, what students are learning from me is, they have to be adaptable and put the emphasis on a little "me" and a big "you." Minimize the importance on yourself in the classroom and maximize the importance of the students.

In your opinion, how important is agriculture education in our society both at the secondary and postsecondary levels?

It's priceless and immeasurable. Some think agricultural education is still the old ag-1-2-3-4 concept and that it's barbeque class or hoeing weeds class. One of the biggest compliments an agricultural teacher can have is that their classroom mirrors the population in the school. We have so many people who are so far removed from production agriculture and what it means to even have a family cow. Agricultural education is critical not just for producing FFA members but to give people a sense of how connected we still are to agriculture and how dependent we are on it for all of our daily lives. As soon as we relegate this kind of educational opportunity to only those who want to be farmers, or only those who are not going to college, or only those who want to major in agriculture, that's when we have so many misperceptions and so many social media errors. People have not had correct information given to them having not been taught about agriculture at a basic level. It's critical to start it in Pre-K and kindergarten and not wait until high school as an elective. It has to be a compulsory part of the curriculum from the very beginning.

New Kentucky FFA Leadership Training Center Director a Former Camper

Terry Shartzer never dreamed he'd become the director of the Kentucky FFA Leadership Training Center after attending camp there in the 1970's.

But this unique facility has a way of bringing people back, some as counselors, others as teachers and many as ag education advisors, all of whom were FFA camp attendees at one time.

Shartzer, originally from Grayson County, became one of those agriculture educators and spent his entire teaching career at Portland High School in Portland, Tennessee before being led back to the Center through, as he put it, God's plan.

"I loved what I was doing and knew that every single day I came to work, that was what God wanted me to do. But there came that point He let me know I needed to get home," said Shartzer.



Terry Shartzer, Director of the Kentucky FFA Leadership Training Center

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The Western Kentucky University alumnus grew up on a farm and knew his life would include agriculture but it wasn't until he did a stint as a student teacher, he decided the classroom was the place for him.

"When in front of those students and see that light come on for them, there's something about that which makes you feel like you're doing something good," he said.

Shartzer has a gleam in his eyes when he speaks of teaching and the FFA in general. And it is that emotional connection he brings back to the camp he attended so many years ago.

"The FFA is so organized from the top down to the local level and it doesn't take the students long to figure out they fit in to this gigantic organization," he said. But it takes all of us to make it work."

Shartzer said when looking at ag-ed as a whole, it covers so many aspects of education including science, math and language skills.

"We do all of that as part of the total program but we also teach work ethic and problem solving," he said. "Ag

students develop those skills and take them to new levels."

Shartzter, having spent his career in another state, has seen that the FFA and ag education models work everywhere but he admits the camp in Kentucky is a unique place to this state and the membership here.

"I've been to every state in the Union on agriculture trips and in classrooms in most every state and have seen that common thread we all share and that passion we have to help these students get out there and hoe their own row. That's what it's all about," he said. "But from the time the students arrive here until they leave, in almost everything they do from the classroom to the athletics to the general sessions, we are developing the tools and skills they will need to be successful when they graduate. To know that's been going on here since way before I came in the 70's and will continue to go on way into the future, it makes me proud to be a part of it."

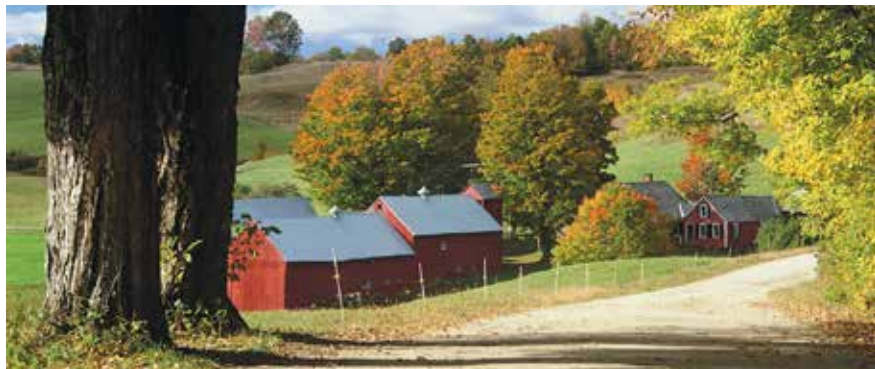
Campers have been coming to the Kentucky FFA Leadership Training Center since 1937 when they literally had to camp. Today there are cabins, teaching facilities, athletic areas, a modern cafeteria, and a large administrative building where all the general sessions are held complete with a wall filled with FFA jackets given to the camp from those who have attended over nearly 80 years of operation.

Shartzter said it is truly an awe-inspiring place that students will always remember, as he did.

"This is the home of the Kentucky FFA Association and the students take ownership when they are here and they want to come back and do things to help promote the camp," he said. "We have a lot of alumni support that allows students to get scholarships to attend and we have so many great sponsors who offer their support."

In speaking to Shartzter, it doesn't take long to hear the excitement in his voice and see the look of joy on his face as he talks about the camp and the opportunities it will present for the thousands of FFA members that make their way there.

"The world looks promising from camp because we do believe in the future here," he said.



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Census of Agriculture fuels USDA programs to help agriculture in America

David Knopf, Eastern Mountain Region Director, National Agricultural Statistics Service

Farmers are unique in that they touch every single American every single day, because we all eat. Ensuring a continuity of agriculture is important to all of us. To take the pulse of U.S. agriculture, we conduct a Census of Agriculture every five years which gives us a comprehensive analysis of agriculture in America and supplements information from more than 400 other surveys we conduct each year.

Our last census was in 2012, and the resulting data showed a decline in the number of new and beginning farmers compared to the previous census in 2007. On top of that decline, we saw the average age of American farmers trending upward to 58 years old. The USDA took these two pieces of information and recognized the need to encourage new and beginning farmers.

One result of analyzing the data and understanding the need to promote new

and beginning farmers can be seen in the 2014 Farm Bill. Among other things, it increased the flexibility for USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) to offer financial assistance programs to new farmers. Amanda Robertson, one of FSA's new beginning farmer regional coordinators works in Kentucky and Tennessee. She informs new and beginning farmers that the bill allows for broader application of disaster relief, disaster assistance, commodity insurance, farm start-up loans and agriculture-based loans, such as cattle loans to help them with start-up costs.

All of these programs have foundations in NASS surveys. We conduct more than 400 surveys annually, in addition to the Census of Agriculture every five years, and every response matters to make sure reliable data are available to administer the programs Amanda mentioned and many others. Long-time experts in the field know how important our data is, too.

"There is nothing better than the Census of Agriculture data to represent the small, limited-resource and minority farmer," said Dr. Marion Simon, Kentucky State University state specialist for small and part-time farmers. "USDA can target its program delivery by understanding how many and where these farms are located. These data have also helped USDA change programs as new trends emerge. The Census of Agriculture is the only way to know many of these small farms are there."

NASS employees and our National Association for State Departments of Agriculture enumerators work hard to get timely, accurate and useful data that gives a realistic view of agriculture in America. These surveys ultimately help our farmers in a variety of ways, whether it's through new and beginning farmer programs, FSA farm payments, crop insurance or agricultural production statistics. We at USDA NASS are working together with producers to keep agriculture in America growing.

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