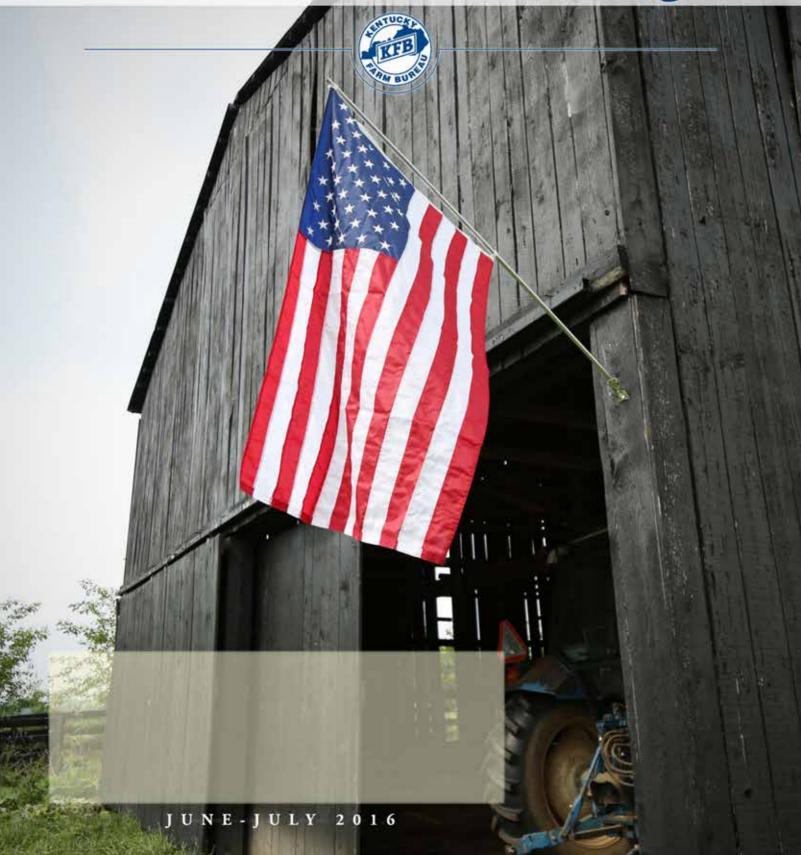
# Kentucky FARMOREAU.NEWS

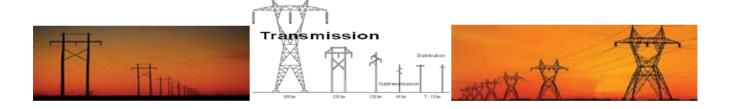




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KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU NEWS Volume 15 | No. 5 June - July 2016

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### Cover photo by Tim Thornberry

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entucky Farm Bureau is many things to our more than 470,000 members and in the following pages, we hope to share a bit of our story along with our commitment to Kentucky; its people and communities, our long time members and those who are new to KFB.

First and foremost, our organization serves as the voice of agriculture in Kentucky, which has been the case since its beginning nearly a century ago. Our advocacy efforts have helped achieve great advances for our farm and rural communities.



Those efforts proved successful during our last General Assembly session in which our members made their voices heard in Frankfort, pertaining to a number of ag-related issues. We were successful in helping to pass legislation that will benefit not only our agriculture communities but all citizens in the Commonwealth.

I can't tell you how proud it makes me feel to serve such a wonderful organization, when I see this coming together for the greater good of our industry. Much like the diversity we see in our agriculture industry, the same can be said about KFB when it comes to the endeavors we undertake related to such policy issues as education, government procedures, charitable initiatives and economic development, just to name a few.

For many of you, the insurance side of our organization is what you are most familiar with because that is how you were introduced to KFB.

Our Mutual Insurance Company was created in December of 1943 as a member benefit for the organization. That benefit has proven to be one of the most valuable in a long list available to our membership.

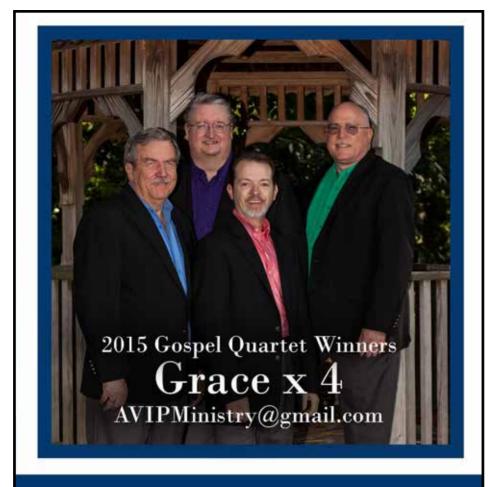
Our insurance agents and personnel are in every community, something no other insurance company can say. And most importantly – they are there when the worst happens.

Recently, I visited an area of the state that had been devastated by tornadoes. In seeing the destruction, I also saw a team of dedicated KFB staff and members working together to immediately help restore what had been lost.

Again, I felt great pride in being a part of KFB. Helping not only our members but our communities, rural and urban; it's what we do and we are dedicated to doing that every single day whether that service is insurance related or associated with agriculture.

For those of you familiar with all that KFB does and, who are active in this organization, I offer my most heart-felt thanks. For those of you just getting to know us, I welcome you, your comments and your ideas in making KFB an even stronger voice for agriculture and for all. The most important part of Kentucky Farm Bureau is Kentucky.

Mark Haney
President
Kentucky Farm Bureau



Kentucky Farm Bureau Gospel Quartet Contest August 25, 2016 at 9:15 a.m. Kentucky State Fair - South Wing Lobby C

To enter contest, contact Scott Christmas (502) 554-7862

# 2016 County Annual Meetings All times are local

### **Bourbon County**

October 6, 2016, 6:30 p.m. Legion Park

### **Bullitt County**

September 17, 2016, 6:00 p.m. Bullitt County Extension Office

### **Butler County**

September 13, 6:30 p.m. Eva J. Hawes Ag Expo Center

### **Carlisle County**

August 11, 2016, 6:00 Bardwell

### **Cumberland County**

September 23, 2016 6:00 p.m. Veterans Memorial Building

### **Daviess County**

August 18, 2016, 5:00 p.m. Reid's Orchard

### Franklin County

October 4, 2016, 6:30 p.m. Franklin County Extension Office

### **Henry County**

October 13, 2016, 7:00 p.m. Henry County Farm Bureau Office

### **Logan County**

September 17, 2016, 6:00p.m. Logan County Extension Office

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

### McCracken County

September 20, 2016, 7:00 p.m. St. Johns' Knights of Columbus Hall

### **McLean County**

August 27, 2016 5:00 p.m. McLean County High School

### **Meade County**

September 19, 2016, 6:00 p.m. Meade County Farm Bureau Community Building

### **Ohio County**

August 11, 2016, 6:30 p.m. Ohio County Extension Office, Meeting Room

### **Scott County**

September 20, 2016, 6:30 p.m. Scott County Extension Office

### **Shelby County**

October 1, 2016, 6:30 p.m. Shelby County Cooperative Extension Office

### **Simpson County**

September 1, 2016, 6:00 p.m. Agricultural building at the Jim Roberts Community Park

### **Taylor County**

September 13, 2016, 7:30 p.m. Taylor County Farm Bureau Office

### **Oldham County**

August 9, 2016, 7:00 p.m. LaGrange Farm Bureau Office

### **Trigg County**

August 12, 2016, 6:00 p.m. Trigg County Convention Center and Recreation Complex.

### **Wayne County**

September 26,2016, 6:00 p.m. The Aspire Center



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.

### KFB OFFICERS

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Eddie Melton	1st Vice President
Fritz Giesecke	2nd Vice President
David S. Beck	. Executive Vice President

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# comment

reetings! Thank you for taking the time to read through this magazine and learn more about the many different facets of – and benefits to – your membership with Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB). I hope you can see that KFB



loves Kentucky, its people and communities. As a matter of fact, we were built for them.

KFB Insurance was launched as a membership benefit back in 1943 to provide farmers security and stability for those times in life when the unexpected happened. For more than seven decades, KFB Insurance has stood tall in that role and delivered on its promise to families across the Commonwealth. We are rooted deep in Kentucky's communities and strive to do our part to make this state a great place to live. I am proud to be a part of this legacy of restoration and service, both as an employee and as a member myself, and I am equally proud that you choose to join us.

As I look ahead to all the future holds for this great company, I am encouraged to know that its continued success has such an outstanding partner in the KFB Federation and its vast network of volunteer leaders serving in each of our 120 counties. These dedicated, service-oriented families truly are the lifeblood of our organization. While the company was formed to serve them, in so many ways our volunteer leaders support KFB Insurance through their contributions to the local communities. The road is paved smooth and the relationships are welcoming and friendly thanks to their efforts.

At KFB Insurance, we similarly take great pride in our relationship with you, the member. It's a priority. And your community is important to us, too. That's why you will find our employees and agents involved, giving back and embracing Kentucky's culture and heritage wherever you live in the Bluegrass State.

Our advertising campaigns remind Kentuckians that we are "Big on Commitment" and that we do, indeed, have agents everywhere. KFB Insurance is a homegrown company built to serve the people of Kentucky. Whether it's helping you celebrate a new house, a new car or a new baby, or helping you pick up the pieces after a devastating storm, our agents, claims staff and employees – who are also your neighbors – want you to feel safe and protected.

So as you, too, look ahead to what the future holds for you and your loved ones, I thank you for choosing to partner with Kentucky Farm Bureau Insurance for that journey. We share your love for this great Commonwealth, all of its people, and towns both large and small. That's why we are oftentimes quite literally just around the corner if you ever need us.

John Sparrow
CEO

KFB Mutual Insurance Company



Cow comfort is a main focus of the research being conducted at UK. Monitoring devices are used to gather data related to a number of topics related to each animal.

here is perhaps no other area in the agriculture industry more demanding than the dairy sector with a seven day work week and many operations running 24 hours a day.

But for those who choose to be in the dairy business, it is a passion either

passed down from generation to generation or acquired through the desire to maintain a sector of the ag industry that has been in demand since the founding of the country.

Kentucky is making great strides from a research standpoint to make it better, more productive and maybe even a little easier for the hundreds of dairy producers located across the state and, perhaps more importantly, to make it better for the cows.

The University of Kentucky (UK) College of Agriculture, Food and Environment recently completed work on a facility located at the Coldstream Dairy Research Farm that will help in those efforts. The Dairy Housing, Teaching and Research Facility will operate with cow comfort a priority, according to Dr. Jeffrey Bewley, UK dairy specialist and associate extension professor.

He said the structure was created not only with cow comfort in mind but in a way that would be very similar to what dairy producers are familiar with in their everyday operations.

"We tried to design a barn that was representative of what a lot of our farmers in the state are building," said Bewley. "While there are some things here that might be unique researchwise, we didn't want to build something that wasn't related to what the farmers would see. We wanted to build a functional facility that we could learn from and help the producers."

Much of the program at UK focuses



 Dr. Jeffrey Bewley, UK dairy specialist and associate extension professor works with one of the cows at the Dairy Housing, Teaching and Research Facility.

on precision dairy monitoring which allows each cow to be studied in a variety of different aspects including breeding cycles, disease detection,

# New Dairy Research Facility Built with Cow Comfort in Mind

time in which the cows are standing or lying down, how much time the animals spend eating and the physiology of the cow, to name a few.

The new facility helps in those respects. It also contains a real-time location system that serves much like a

GPS for cows and records where each cow is located at all times.

"We're basically trying to improve the life of the animal and hopefully with this type of technology we can detect when the cows are sick sooner so that we can intervene and have more chances at success," said Bewley.

Construction-wise, rubber mats are located in areas where the cows walk, eat and drink so they never have to step on concrete in the facility. There is also a bedding area which utilizes 12 inches of sawdust that is mechanically stirred twice a day to form a dry material that minimizes odors from manure and urine and allows for a comfortable area where the cows can rest.

The barn will also contain mechanical curtains that are activated based on ambient conditions protecting the cows from rain and colder temperatures; six grooming brushes with 24/7 access for the cows; and large fans and soakers to keep the cows cool in the hot weather months.

"Our goal is to make a very, very comfortable environment for the cows," said Bewley. "We thought about the cows first and not people first."

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2 Dependability based on longevity: 1987–April 2013 full-size pickup registrations.









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# "Voice of Kentucky Agriculture"

he Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation (KFBF) 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.

At the heart of the organization is its grassroots advocacy efforts which encourages each and every member to participate in the creation of its state and national priority issues.

Every county in the state has a Farm Bureau office devoted to serving member families and the community. Efforts to serve all members includes a variety of programs consisting of: price discounts on products and services; college scholarships; youth and leadership development; promoting roadside farm markets and farm commodities; enhancing agricultural education; young farmer programs, communications initiatives such as publications, radio broadcasts, an Emmy Award winning television program called "Bluegrass & Backroads"; and so much more. Simply stated, KFBF is a farm organization for all.



### **About KFB:**

# A Q&A discussion with the Kentucky Farm Bureau Executive Committee

**Mark Haney** has served as president of the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation (KFB) and Kentucky Farm

Bureau Insurance
Companies since
December 2008
and March 2009,
r e s p e c t i v e l y ,
following three years
as the first vice
president and seven
years as second vice
president of their
Executive Committees.



He is a member of the American Farm Bureau Federation's (AFB) Executive Committee, a director of the AFBF as a representative of the Southern region and a director of Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company.

Mr. Haney is a past president of the Pulaski County Farm Bureau and the Kentucky Center for Cooperative Development.

The Pulaski County native produces apples, peaches, and beef cattle in partnership with his brother, Don, near Nancy, Kentucky. They also operate a Farm Bureau Certified Roadside Farm Market, selling fresh produce from the farm, as well as cider, jellies, baked goods and other products.

## What is the mission of Kentucky Farm Bureau?

Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) serves as the voice of agriculture and is the largest ag advocacy organization in the state. More specifically, the organization enhances a way of life in the state from a variety of aspects; be it legislatively, a protection of assets, or advocating for the agriculture sector and rural economies; it's all about what is best for Kentucky.

For many decades, KFB has been a leader in helping communities when it comes to education of youth, leadership development, governmental issues, economic development endeavors, and so much more and it begins in these local communities through the county Farm Bureau organizations and a process which sets our policy and priority issues.

# Why is it important to advocate for agriculture?

Agriculture is the backbone of rural Kentucky, as it is nationwide and KFB is there to fill a gap when it comes to keeping issues of importance related to the industry moving forward. But agriculture affects everyone, not just rural residents in farm communities. I see our role in supporting agriculture's big picture as one that is based on a locally-centered, democratic system we have utilized as an organization since we began in 1919. We may have an issue that comes up with many different directions available to reach a solution. and through that democratic process we move through those differences to ultimately support what is best for our state, our farm communities and our rural economies. We want to be a part of varied interests and commodity groups and them, a part of us.

# What role does Kentucky play in shaping state and national farm policy?

KFB has long been recognized for its support of a vast and diverse assortment of issues that help to make our state stronger when it comes to agriculture, initiatives relating to rural areas, governmental issues and situations that ultimately affect all Kentuckians. At the end of the day, our ag industry is one that has a connection to all of our citizens and we, as an organization, have always strived to do what is best in those matters.

It's important to all of us to have a solid farm economy. KFB is recognized both statewide and nationally as a very strong organization; one of convictions, clarity and fairness. And it's because of what we have done here, in Kentucky, and through our vast membership of more than 470,000 member families, we are the fourth largest Farm Bureau in the nation.

This strength allows us to be noticed in what we say and stand for when it comes to our issues and the well-being of our communities both rural and urban. By having that strong voice nationally, we can be assured that Kentucky will always have a seat at the table during discussions and decisions of federal policy as it relates to agriculture and rural development. We have strong leadership in our local communities and a very talented staff which contribute to this recognition.

But there is a role to play in issues outside the realm of agriculture and we support many, such as health and safety, insurance matters, taxes, and education. Our members take a stand on issues they feel are important and we will continue, for many years, to take those stands while being tolerant of other ideas, as well. It's something we accept and embrace as part of our democratic freedom.

**Eddie Melton** serves as first vice president of KFB and Kentucky Farm Bureau Insurance Companies.

He was elected as first vice president in December 2010, following two years as second vice president of the Federation and one year on the insurance company's executive committee.



Mr. Melton represents District Two as a member of the Federation's board of directors and is chair of both the State Resolutions Committee and Health Care Task Force. He is an active member of the Webster County Farm Bureau where he has served in a variety of leadership positions, including president and chairman of the young farmer committee. He also serves as a director of Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company.

Mr. Melton produces corn, soybeans and beef cattle on his farming operations.

### What is KFB's policy process?

The policy process is a key component in understanding who we are as an organization and what issues are important to us. Representing an industry that affects all Kentuckians, our policies are related to a number of topics in addition to those directly related to agriculture, including research, environmental issues, transportation and economic development, to name a few.

Each year, policy resolutions are channeled from county Farm Bureaus to the state organization and reviewed by advisory committees and a Resolutions Committee comprised of members from the 11 districts that make up KFB across Kentucky.

During our state annual meeting, the chosen recommendations are taken to voting delegates who set forth our policy for the coming year along with a list of our upcoming priority issues. This same process is followed for national policy, as well.

# Why are policy recommendations so important to the organization?

In keeping with the grassroots origins of KFB, policy recommendations are a critical component in allowing county Farm Bureaus a voice in what issues are supported by the organization. These recommendations really exemplify who we are as a farm organization and what issues we consider to be important. For instance, education is one of the more prominent topics in our policy book demonstrating the importance our members place on the subject. If our members recommend a policy, it validates how important that is to them. This system has been in place for nearly a century and gives a sense of ownership to those local organizations in KFB as a whole.

## How important of a role do county Farm Bureaus play in policy recommendations?

If not for the input we see at the county level, it's safe to say KFB would not be the strong advocate for agriculture that it is today. As more and more people become farther removed from the farm, it takes more efforts to keep them informed and our members, who are located from one side of the state to the other, do just that; help to educate the public on ag matters with correct information. We as farmers, should never apologize for what we do but rather educate the public with the actual facts and information about the industry.

**Fritz Giesecke** serves as Second Vice President of KFB and Kentucky Farm Bureau Insurance Companies. He was elected to the Executive Committee in December 2010.

Mr. Giesecke represents District Three on the Federation's board while serving as chair of the Beef Cattle Advisory Committee and as a member of the Health Care Task Force, In addition, he



serves on the Board of Directors for the United States Meat Export Federation representing KFB members.

He is an active member of the Hart County Farm Bureau where he has served in a variety of leadership positions, including county president. His cattle operation is located in Horse Cave, Kentucky.

# How many local Farm Bureaus are there in Kentucky?

There is at least one county Farm Bureau office located in each of the 120 counties of Kentucky, something that makes the organization unique in that, no matter where you live, be it in the more rural areas of the state or in our more urban areas, Farm Bureau has a presence and is there to help better the lives of each and every member.

# Why is it important to have so many local organizations?

Taking care of our members is something KFB takes very seriously.

In fact, it is at the very core of our existence. Having offices in each county assures each member family they have that connection to the organization as a whole both at the state level but also from a national perspective. When it comes to agriculture advocacy, KFB has long been a strong voice in policy and priority issues for the AFB. This local presence has helped KFB become a strong advocate for farm communities here and in some respects for all the country. This strength is not only critical to those rural area economies but also to the state's overall economic wellbeing.

# What effect do county Farm Bureaus have on overall agriculture issues?

Local Farm Bureaus are at the heart of creating policy and priority issues that are reviewed and refined annually. We have seen many initiatives move forward to become organizational programs and even laws because of the involvement that begins at the county level. Often an idea arises first in our local communities whether it is related to a farmer trying to protect his or her livestock, a tax issue or something regarding natural resources such as adequate water supplies. Having a presence at that county level ensures issues, no matter where they might arise in the state, will be heard.

**David S. Beck** began serving as executive vice president for KFB on

January 1, 1995. In this position he has overall administrative responsibility for KFB's programs and services, and he manages the organization's staff and its finances.



Starting his career with KFB in May

1977 as an area field service director in central Kentucky, Mr. Beck was named to the chief executive officer's position by the Kentucky Farm Bureau Board of Directors, following 12 years of service as director of governmental affairs and assistant to the executive vice president.

He is also serving as corporate secretary for the Kentucky Farm Bureau Insurance Companies and is a member of their Executive Management Team.

In addition to his service to many civic and church organizations, in 1992 he was selected Outstanding Agriculture Alumnus of the Year by the Murray State University (MSU) Agriculture Alumni Association and in 2016 was selected as a Distinguished Alumni by the Murray State Alumni Association.

# What is some of the history of Kentucky Farm Bureau?

KFB got its start in much the same way as other state Farm Bureaus, by way of business groups and organizations who knew the value in a strong agriculture community and how valuable that farm economy was to the overall well-being of those states, as a whole. At the same time farmers were looking for an organization that could help with issues that were important to them. The local businesses and chambers of commerce knew that if the farm community did well so did the business community.

In the early 1900's the Louisville Board of Trade teamed with the Kentucky Bankers Association to create a strategic plan for the future of Kentucky. Meetings were held around the state and a plan containing several ideas was developed including the creation of a farm organization to represent agriculture and improve net farm income. KFB was created in 1919 and was one of the first states to be involved in creating the AFB.

To this day, even though KFB is led by farmers, we have good relationships with the business community because it takes all of us to move Kentucky forward.

### What is the importance of member benefits?

Even in the early days of the organization, the need for member benefits was recognized and creating those benefits became a priority. Insurance was hard to come by in rural Kentucky back then, including insurance for health and protection of assets. This need continued through the 1920's and 1930's.

But, in the 1940's we partnered with a new company called Blue Cross for health care while working with other state Farm Bureaus that already had these types of insurance benefits to get property and casualty assistance for Kentucky members. Eventually those insurance benefits would grow from protecting just livestock to covering farms, homes, automobiles and the rest is history.

Today, KFB Member Services works extensively to identify needs of member families so benefits can be added or modified to fit those needs. Benefits for the farm, for the home; identity theft, security, health, travel, automobiles and banking are an example of what KFB does to assist its member families in making their lives better. Member services have helped to stabilize membership of which we have had consistent growth for over 50 years in this state.

# What are some of the highlights of KFB's involvement in farm policy both on the state and national levels?

Time after time the process of discovering a situation or an idea through local Farm Bureaus, advisory committee meetings or at annual meeting gatherings, has led to solutions, new regulations or even new laws and it has worked well for Kentucky and the member families we represent.

Some examples that stand out include the Farmland Assessment Constitutional amendment which has had a tremendous impact on the protection of farmland. House Bill 44, which was passed in 1979, contains a provision that limits annual revenue from property taxes to no more than a four percent hike plus new growth. This law benefits every property owner whether on a farm or in an urban area. In the 1980's there were problems with grain elevator bankruptcies but thanks to a new law supported by KFB, there is now a farmer financed, state government administered insurance for grain; and this year, KFB was instrumental in getting House Bill 529 passed, which will create the Kentucky Water Resource Board to help water related issues in a proactive way.

At the federal level, we've been involved in every Farm Bill and not just the language but the implementation of the bill as well as working with the EPA upon its creation on matters such as protection of wetlands.

We've also been involved at both the state and federal levels in the development of tax policies, positive ground water and water quality legislation, the tobacco quota buyout and implementation of the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board, environment issues and advocacy for better roads.

And these are just a few of the many initiatives in which KFB involvement helped to bring about positive change for all Kentuckians.

### Does KFB have policy relating to nonfarming issues? (education, philanthropy, rural community issues, etc.)

While we are a farm organization, so much of what KFB does affects all Kentuckians. Issues and ideas of which our members support are important to them whether it is education, transportation, taxes or environmental policy. All KFB policies are member driven and we encourage participation at all levels of the organization.

A couple of great examples of our initiatives that have benefited so many include our scholarship foundation and the tradition of our Country Ham Breakfast and Auction held each year at the state fair.

Since 1953, approximately 1,637 scholarships worth over \$2.53 million dollars have been awarded to Kentucky students by the KFB Education Foundation.

The annual Country Ham Breakfast & Auction has enabled KFB to help raise nearly \$9.3 million for dozens of Kentucky charities, educational institutions and non-profit organizations through the 52-year history of the auction. All money raised through this event is donated directly to the charity of the winning bidder's choice.

Above all, KFB is Kentucky and our members Kentuckians. A good, strong, viable agriculture sector helps build and strengthen our rural communities and benefits all.







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The UK Wildcat made an appearance at this year's Ag Field Day

# University of Kentucky Agricultural Field Day Sets Attendance Record

Por countless students, the annual University of Kentucky (UK) Agricultural Field Day has been a springtime event to look forward to as a way to meet others, compete in a number of events and gain information about the school's agriculture programs.

This year marked the 46th anniversary of the event with more than 2,000 individuals in attendance marking a new record. Participants included several from Ohio and Indiana, signifying that Field Day has become not only a premiere experience for Kentuckians but for students in other states, as well.

Stacy Vincent, an assistant professor of agriculture education at UK and a board member of Fayette County Farm Bureau heads up the day's activities along with the help of several of his students.

"I teach a class called 'Youth Organizations' and each student in the class is responsible for one part of Field Day," he said. "The purpose is so they gain valuable organizational and facilitation skills."

For the attendees, there are several competitive events in which they take part including quiz bowl, horticulture, engineering and technology, floriculture, the equine industry, nurseries, forestry, veterinary science, land and soil, livestock judging, meat judging and food science, according to information from UK.



Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles greeted students during the opening ceremony.

Vincent emphasized that, as more and more students involved in agriculture education aren't connected to a working farm, several of the activities included in the Field Day competitions weren't associated only with agriculture.



More than 2,000 students from across Kentucky made their way to the 2016 UK Ag Field Day.

"While we had production agriculture events, we had some competitions more about job skills development, job interviews and how to present information, for instance," he said.

And the schools competing weren't just from rural areas. This year's third place overall team was from Seneca High School in Louisville which has a strong FFA program and Locust Trace in Fayette County which won first place in the veterinarian science competition. Seneca also placed first in the floriculture event.

"It wasn't just farm boys and farm girls coming in here participating and winning competitions," said Vincent.

In addition to the student-related activities, their teachers, along with 4-H agents in attendance had the

opportunity to participate in workshops and training sessions throughout the day.

"We want to make sure the teachers leave feeling like they, as well as their students have gained something from Field Day," Vincent added.

Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner greeted students and teachers during the event's opening ceremony. He said as an FFA student he participated in Field Day many times.

"Events like this not only allow students to network but also hone their competitive skills and explore career opportunities," said Quarles. "It also gives schools like UK's College of Agriculture the opportunity to showcase what they have to offer potential students."

He noted how significant it is to be supportive of agriculture literacy, especially in a society that doesn't understand agriculture.

"It's important that we teach students and expose Kentuckians at a young age where your food comes from and production practices so they're not taught wrong," said Quarles. "It's also important that we have field days such as this one so we can demonstrate what's new in agriculture and focus on educating people on how modern agricultural practices affect their lives."

He added it's wonderful that so many young people who don't have a farm background are attracted to the ag industry because of the career opportunities, the science involved and the economic development aspect of agriculture.

Vincent pointed out how popular agriculture education at the secondary level is due to students finding it interesting and realizing once they get to the college level, they can make a good living in the industry.

"A current research study notes there will be thousands of jobs that will go unfilled this year in the agriculture industry because of a shortage of people to take those positions," he said. "So, it's a good time to be an agriculturalist, I believe. And we need them in all backgrounds."

UK's Agricultural Field Day is helping to pave the way for these future agriculturalists and the 2017 version is already in the planning stages, set to take place April 20 next year.



Floriculture was just one of the many events held during this year's Ag Field Day.



Livestock judging was one of the more popular competitive events.



Derby Pie, which is still made in Louisville from a secret family recipe, was created more than 60 years ago.

here are a few things that strictly belong to Kentucky including, but not limited to, the greatest two minutes in all of sports, the Kentucky Derby; Corvettes, one of the most recognized cars in the world which are built in Bowling Green; the Louisville Slugger, arguably the most used bat in all of Major League Baseball and George Clooney, born in Mason County and one of best known people on the planet.

From a cuisine standpoint, Kentucky also has a few claims to fame, besides of course the famous chicken, including the often imitated but never duplicated Derby Pie which is still made in Louisville from a secret family recipe created more than 60 years ago.

Kern's Kitchen has been home to this delectable dessert since its beginning and Alan Rupp, grandson of the famous pie's inventors has been in the family business for more than four decades.

He said the pie was originally developed in the 1950's by his grandparents, Walter and Leaudra Kern and uncle, George Kern, who ran a local restaurant called the Melrose Inn. Derby Pie which got its name by pulling suggestions out of a hat, became the signature dessert for that restaurant.

"Grandma, Grandpa and Uncle

# Derby-Pie®

# a Kentucky Tradition

George got together and worked on it. I don't know what their inspiration was but they named it in 1954 and started selling it," said Rupp. "That reputation as a restaurant item I think helped grow the retail side and that pie you could get at Grandma's kitchen is the same pie you can get now and serve to your guests."

Through the years, the process of making the pies is still very much the same at Kern's but instead of baking three pies at a time as was done when the business started, 160 at a time are now baked in the rotation ovens used at Kern's. All told, about 120,000 pies are baked there each year.

"The process really starts with the dough. It's made in-house from an old recipe from Grandma and Grandpa, It's what they started with and we're really proud of that," said Rupp.

From there the other ingredients including the nuts and chocolate go in and are baked to a specific time at a specific temperature before being boxed and shipped.

Rupp got started in the family business by helping his grandparents during the busy Derby time in 1973 while attending college and he has been around since.

He said the Derby Pie name is something that draws the attention of consumers but once they taste it, that's what really gives it the "bang."

Rupp said, "You get the smoothness of the chocolate, the crunch of the nuts and the flaky

crust and everything just really goes together nicely."

That recipe has stood the test of time and even though production has ramped up, the dough is still handmade, the eggs are still hand cracked, the pies are still baked by one person and the family's secret recipe remains a secret. Even the mix-room, which is located in the middle of the bakery, has a curtain which is pulled whenever the ingredients and being put together.

Rupp credits most of the popularity of the dessert because of the efforts made to keep it as much like the pies his grandparents and uncle made in the beginning. He added that while it may have the name Derby, this popular dessert is enjoyed by customers throughout the year.

Kern's Kitchen has a relatively new facility better suited than the first home kitchen to bake and ship the thousands of pies created there each year. But it is still very much a family business and even though the Derby Pies are making their way around the world now, it is that hometown touch that makes it a Kentucky original.



Alan Rupp looks over a batch of pies just before taking them out of the oven.



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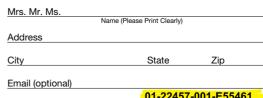


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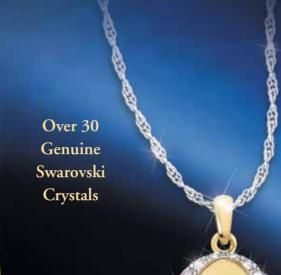
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This structure was an antique business owned by local Mayfield businessman Dwain Warren. Most of the building was destroyed by the storm.

# Kentucky Farm Bureau and Storm Season: The Mayfield Tornado

entuckians live in a beautiful place but unfortunately it is also in a part of the country prone to severe weather outbreaks, especially in the western portion of the state.

The people of Mayfield know this all too well. On May 10 a tornado struck the area leaving several homes, barns and businesses damaged, some of which were completely destroyed.

While the damage was devastating for those affected, luckily there were no deaths or serious injuries.

Kentucky Farm Bureau leaders both at the county and state levels immediately reacted to the disaster.

Mike Cartwright, the KFB agency manager in Graves County said he and his office staff watched the storm move through the area from their building knowing there was going to be a great amount of damage caused by the tornado.

He immediately informed the staff to be prepared for calls. One such call

came from local businessman Dwain Warren, the owner of a local antique store.

"I was not at the business at the time of the storm but I got a phone call and was told the store was destroyed," he said.

And that it was. Most of the structure was completely blown away and while people were in the building at the time of the tornado, no one was hurt.

"I don't think anybody had a scratch and that's unbelievable," added Warren. "That's just by the great mercies of God that anyone could make it through, so I'm very thankful for that."

KFB President Mark Haney led the state team on sight after the storm hit. He said it's remarkable the amount of damage that can be caused by such a weather event in an instant.

"It's amazing what just a minute or two can mean in the destruction to a lifetime of assets and we were there with a team to try and put lives back together as quickly as possible," he said.

John Sparrow, CEO of the KFB Mutual Insurance Company, also visited sites in Mayfield affected by the storm. He said whenever the reports start coming in about potential bad weather,



Much of what was left and undamaged in the antique store was boxed up and moved shortly after the tornado struck.



John Sparrow, CEO of the KFB Mutual Insurance Company, right, shakes hands with Dwain Warren, whose business was severely damaged by the Mayfield tornado. Also pictured are KFB President Mark Haney, left, and KFB 1st Vice-president Eddie Melton.

it's a time of concern for everyone.

"When the winds blow and the radars flare up, we start getting anxious, as well, because we know what it could bring," he said. "The interesting part of that is our organization really steps up. We had claims folks who were talking to our affected members here the day of the storm. It's a testimony to this organization that we are very comfortable knowing we are going to be able to deliver on the promise that we made to those customers."

Haney added that it's difficult to see something a person has worked for all their life reduced to rubble and knowing that something like this storm is a reality of the world in which we live.

"But it's also very comforting to know you have an insurance company that is going to take care of it," he said. "Those are the things that make us feel good about what we do and why we do it. That's the business we're in."

### Tornado facts:

According to information from the National Weather Service (NWS), in an average year, 800 tornadoes are reported nationwide, resulting in 80 deaths and over 1,500 injuries.

- Tornadoes can occur at any time of the year.
- In the southern states, peak tornado occurrence is in March through May, while peak months in the northern states are during the summer.

- In some states, a secondary tornado maximum occurs in the fall.
- Tornadoes are most likely to occur between 3:00 and 9:00 p.m. but have been known to occur at all hours of the day or night.
- The average tornado moves from southwest to northeast, but tornadoes have been known to move in any direction. The average forward speed is 30 mph but may vary from nearly stationary to 70 mph.



Some areas in Graves County suffered extensive damage due to the tornado that struck on May 10.

## What to do when bad weather strikes:

The NWS notes, the key to tornado survival is a safety plan.

"Your plan at home should be known by everyone in the home and practiced at least twice each year. Children who may be at home alone should know what to do and where to go even if no adults are there."

- Get as low as possible completely underground is best.
- Put as many barriers between you and the outside as possible.
- Stay away from doors, windows and outside walls.
- Bathrooms, closets, hallways and under stairs may be adequate safe areas in the event a basement or underground shelter is not available.
- If caught outside and no shelter is available, lie flat and facedown on low ground, protecting the back of your head with your arms. Get as far away from trees and cars as possible.
- If in a car and no other shelter is available, you may be able to drive out of its path by moving at right angles to the tornado. If you are caught by extreme winds or flying debris, park the car as quickly and safely as possible -- out of the traffic lanes. Stav in the car with the seat belt on. Put your head down below the windows; cover your head with your hands and a blanket, coat, or other cushion if possible. If you can safely get noticeably lower than the level of the roadway. leave your car and lie in that area, covering your head with your hands. Avoid seeking shelter under bridges, which can create deadly traffic hazards while offering little protection against flying debris.

To view the KFB Minute relating to the Mayfield tornado, go to:

https://youtu.be/FL2mOnUNybg

# COUNTY CORNER Snapshots of County Farm Bureau activities



### **Boone County**

Boone County Farm Bureau donated \$500 to help offset expenses for the Walton-Verona FFA to attend the FFA State Convention. Pictured from left are: Brent Perry, Walton-Verona FFA Secretary, Micah Alford, Walton-Verona FFA member, Lillie Herbstreit, Walton-Verona FFA Vice President and Eddie Coyle, Boone County Director and Board Secretary showing off the 1973 Charter Certificate of the Walton-Verona FFA. Mr. Coyle was a charter member of the Walton-Verona FFA.



### **Harrison County**

Harrison County hosted a health fair where breakfast was served to attendees. Pictured are President Randy Wade and board member and Ag Agent Jessica Barnes.



### **Bracken County**

Bracken County Farm Bureau participated in a Measure the Candidates meeting with the Chamber of Commerce for the house seat in the 70th district. Pictured from left: Ina McCord, Betty Newman, Margaret Bay and Louise Moneyhon.



### **Knox County**

The students pictured are teaching equine safety at the Knox County Ag Day. More than 1,300 students, vendors, and Farm Bureau members attended. Many state member services were represented as well as local member services. Pecan trees and plum trees were given out in celebration of Arbor Day



### **Elliott County**

Elliott County Agency Manager Bobby Adams and Vice President John-Paul Skaggs presented local Farm Bureau scholarships during Elliott County's recent High School graduation.



### **Owen County**

Sandy Bush and Pam Chappell working at the Owen County Safety Day.



### **Franklin County**

Attendees at the Franklin County Legislative Appreciation dinner included, back row from left to right: Ethan Whitt, Field Representative from Senator Mitch McConnell's office, Franklin County Judge Executive Huston Wells, Franklin County Magistrate Lambert Moore; middle row: KFB Area Program Director Mark Lyle, Franklin County Magistrate Don Sturgeon, KFB State Director David Chappell, State Representative Derrick Graham, KFB State Director Terry Rowlett; and front row: Franklin County FB President Sharon Spencer, Senator Julian Carroll, Franklin County Magistrate Marti Booth, State Representative James Kay



### **Robertson County**

Robertson County had a legislative appreciation event at Blue Licks State Park on May 5.



### **Hardin County**

Commissioner of Agriculture Ryan Quarles addressed the crowd at Hardin County Farm Bureau media appreciation luncheon.



### **Spencer County**

Ms. Waller's class from Taylorsville Elementary came for a show and tell with their chickens at the Spencer County FB Board meeting. The chickens were hatched with an incubator they purchased with grant money given by the Farm Bureau.



# Stop an



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

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

Golden Apple Fruit Market (859) 273-8629

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**Mulberry Orchard, LLC** 

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**Reed Valley Orchard** Paris reedvallevorchard.com (859) 987-6480

Sage Garden Café, LLC

Frankfort wilsonnurseriesky.com (502) 352-2725

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LaGrange sherwoodacresbeef.com (502) 222-4326

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

Jeffersontown sunnyacresfarmky.com 502-727-9536

**The Daylily Patch** 

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The Garden on 68, LLC Maysville (606) 584-4613

The Greenhouse in Gertrude

(606) 782-0033

**Tower View Farm & Nursery** 

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**Triple J Farm** 

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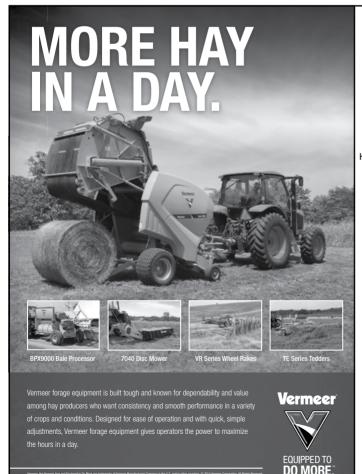
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From left: Alabama native Dr. John Thomas Vaughan and Kentuckians Dr. Abram G. Allen, Jr. and Dr. Steele Mattingly posed in front of their class photo taken in 1955.

# Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine Feels Like Kentucky Home for Vet Students from the Commonwealth

From a logistical standpoint, Auburn, Alabama and Kentucky are far apart from each other and different in many ways. But for thousands of students who hail from the Bluegrass State, Auburn, in particularly, Auburn University's College of Veterinarian Medicine (AU Vet Med), has been a home-away-from home for nearly three generations.

During the past 65 years, veterinary science students from Kentucky have had the opportunity to apply to the prestigious vet school at their in-state tuition rate thanks to a partnership between the Commonwealth and the college.

That agreement has become so prevalent, over half of the current practicing veterinarians in Kentucky are Auburn graduates.

In recognition of that partnership, two Kentucky graduates, who were among that first class under the agreement, recently came back to the campus to be recognized during graduation week activities.

Dr. Abram G. Allen, Jr., who continues to practice veterinary medicine at Reidland Veterinary Clinic in Paducah, Kentucky and Dr. Steele Mattingly, who focused on laboratory animal medicine at the University of Cincinnati, celebrated the occasion along with their classmate and Alabama native Dr. John Thomas Vaughan, who became the fifth dean at AU Vet Med. These individuals represented the Class of 1955.

In 1949, Dr. Redding S. Sugg, the third dean of the College, helped found the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), and through that board this

partnership began in 1951. A total of 12 Kentuckians participated that first year.

Today, approximately 38 students from Kentucky are accepted annually through the agreement.

Dr. Dan Givens, a Kentucky native from Greensburg, serves as Dean of Students at AU Vet Med. He said the Commonwealth's students are an integral part of the overall program.

"This agreement is very important to these students as it is to the University. They have the opportunity to learn at the South's first, and we think the best, college of veterinarian medicine and for many, this partnership made the difference in whether they attended a vet school or not," he said. "Ultimately, those students will all contribute greatly to the industry as they finish their studies and go out into the world of work either



The Kentucky members of Auburn University's College of Veterinarian Medicine (AU Vet Med) class of 2016 posed for a photo with members of the first AU Vet Med to graduate under the Kentucky-Auburn agreement

back home in Kentucky or throughout the country."

Dr. Brandi Brunson, senior lecturer in AU Vet Med's Department of Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology had the monumental task of chairing the committee which reviewed the Kentucky applicants for the incoming class. She said all the students are excellent and choosing is difficult.

"They have really good GPA's and a lot of experience in both the veterinary and animal realms with some really unique individuals," she said. "Those students in Kentucky are heavily relying on the state to subsidize the difference in the in-state and out-of-state tuition so they have somewhere to go that is fairly affordable."

Brunson also noted that, for students thinking about a career as a veterinarian, the sooner they begin to explore the career even at the high school level, the better off the students are in their efforts to come to a school like Auburn.

"The applicant pools these days are so competitive grade-wise and experience-wise, I tell students anything they can do that sets them apart in their academic and extra-curricular activities is certainly a benefit for application processing," she said.

Kylye Roberts and Tamara Compton are two current Kentucky students attending AU Vet Med. Both said had it not been for the SREB agreement, vet school may have been out of the question.

"It just something I've always known about. If you've grown up in Kentucky and you want to be a vet, you already know you want to go to Auburn," said Roberts. "Auburn definitely puts emphasis on accepting the Kentucky students for the in-state seats. There's a lot less pressure and it's like one big family. It's almost like going to school back home."

Compton, who did her undergraduate studies at the University of Kentucky (UK), said without the in-state program

at Auburn she definitely wouldn't be there nor does she know what she would have done from a college and career standpoint.

"I have finished my second year here and it has been the easiest transition I could have imagined. It really is like a home away from home," she said. "It's easy to relate to people and you don't feel like an outsider here."

That Auburn connection remains with the students who attend long after they graduate. Dr. David McClary, who works Animal Elanco Health as a senior technical consultant in the company's dairy business unit, said without the partnership, he doesn't know how students, especially world, today's

would get their education in veterinary medicine.

"I think Kentucky would really be hurting for veterinarians if the program wasn't there to help those students," he said. "There is a tremendous debt of gratitude owed to the state and the support provided for veterinarian medicine."

McClary, is from Scottsville, Kentucky,



Dr. Allen looked through one of the modern exam rooms located at the AU Vet Med facility. He said many things had changed since he began attending in 1951.



Drs. Allen, Mattingly and Vaughn shared thoughts with this year's AU Vet Med class.

and graduated from Western Kentucky University before coming to Auburn to get his veterinarian degree in 1974. After working in mixed animal practices, he came back to Auburn to do a residency and served as an assistant professor there before going into industry-related work to conduct research.

Dr. Wade Northington is another Kentuckian who came to Auburn by way of the SREB partnership. His career included starting a large veterinary practice in West Kentucky, serving as a professor at Murray State University and director at the Breathitt Veterinary Center in Hopkinsville.

He said, first and foremost, the agreement between Auburn and Kentucky opens the door for students to receive a world-class veterinary medical education.

"If not subsidized by the Commonwealth of Kentucky, many highly qualified, motivated, deserving students would not be able to pursue veterinary medicine as a career option," he said. "Kentucky students comprise 30 percent of the AU College of Veterinary Medicine and are esteemed campus-wide for their leadership and excellence."

Northington, who was recognized as a Distinguished Alumni during the 2016 graduation ceremonies, emphasized that Kentucky receives great value from this long standing relationship and all efforts possible should be taken to preserve, and expand, this "tremendous opportunity" for its students.

He also noted the efforts made by Kentucky Farm Bureau over the years in supporting the program to increase the number of students included in the agreement.

The class of 1955 honorees enjoyed several events during their visit to Auburn including being recognized at a UK-Auburn baseball game, a dinner where many stories of their days at Auburn were shared, and a tour of the AU Vet Med facilities.

The celebration was capped by recognition during the graduation ceremony which included comments from both Kentucky's Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles and Alabama's Agriculture and Industries Commissioner John McMillian.

Mattingly, who worked for a period of time for Pitman-Moore, one of the companies that helped produce the first polio vaccinations, and nationally recognized for his achievements in improving the care of animals in

biomedical research, said coming to Auburn for the first time, was a very pleasant experience.

"We were treated well and there were a nice group of people here with really no stumbling blocks to get over," he said. "And Auburn still treats people that wav."

Allen said while things are so much different now than in the days when he attended, it was a pleasure to be back at the school. He offered a philosophical word of advice to this year's graduates that comes from his book, "Truity; The Essence of Truth."

"Truth cannot be possessed, it can only be shared. If we can share truth's function objectively, we will never need to possess truth subjectively," he said.

Vaughn, who now serves as Dean Emeritus at AU Vet Med said he remembers being younger than most of those first Kentucky attendees, many of which were war veterans. This led to the Kentuckians taking on a protective role in their relationship with Vaughn.

"I was figuratively adopted by the class of Kentucky students which established a relationship that has now gone on for 65 years," he said. "It's been a wonderful experience, accidental perhaps but a fortunate accident."

As the class of 2020 makes their way to South Alabama to join the Auburn family, those that have come before them have helped paved the way to a new Kentucky home by way of a partnership that looks to prevail for many more generations to come.



The Kentucky Barn is just one of many at AU Vet Med's large animal research facility. Many of the structures are fashioned after Kentucky's horse barns.



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# Task force begins discussion on combating hunger in Kentucky

Panel includes leaders in agriculture, government, business, charities, faith groups

The Kentucky Hunger Task Force began its search for innovative solutions to reduce food insecurity in the Commonwealth during its first meeting Thursday at Gallrein Farms in Shelby County. The Hunger Task Force is a product of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's first-ever Hunger Initiative.

"The members of the task force will bring a vast array of expertise and experiences to apply to this critical issue," Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles said. "This isn't a rural or urban problem, or even a regional problem. This is a problem for all of Kentucky. I'm grateful to everyone on the task force for committing their time and effort to the cause of helping Kentucky's most vulnerable citizens."

"Individuals, charities, businesses, and government all have a role to play in addressing hunger," said Tamara Sandberg, executive director of the Kentucky Association of Food Banks. "The Hunger Initiative will provide the opportunity for key stakeholders to work together to identify gaps and direct resources to fill those gaps. Together, we can help solve hunger in Kentucky."

Map the Meal Gap, an annual study by Feeding America, revealed that 17 percent of Kentucky's population – 1 in 6 – was food insecure in 2014, meaning they lacked access to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members.

The Hunger Task Force is part of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's Hunger Initiative, a first-of-its-kind effort to alleviate food insecurity in Kentucky. The objectives of the Hunger Task Force will be to study the sources of hunger, identify the unique issues that affect different regions of the Commonwealth, and take an inventory of resources that can be brought to bear against the hunger

problem in Kentucky.

The task force will hold a series of regional meetings throughout the state to hear from volunteers fighting hunger at the local level. Specific times and locations of the meetings will be announced at a later date.

For more information about the Hunger Task Force and the Hunger Initiative and a list of Task Force members, go to kyagr.com/hunger.



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