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KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU NEWS  
Volume 15 | No. 9  
November 2016

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Cover photo by Tim Thornberry

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As I look at the calendar, it's hard to believe it's already November and soon another year will come to a close. It has been a busy but productive year at Kentucky Farm Bureau and the final few weeks of 2016 look to be just as eventful and, hopefully just as fruitful.

We are preparing for the 97th KFB Annual Meeting and I am looking forward to the many members who will make their way to Louisville to participate in learning opportunities, to reminisce about the events of our past while setting a course for our future, and to contribute to the process of choosing our upcoming policy issues, both at the state and national levels.

Now, more than ever, a strong voice for agriculture is critical. While we may not know all the issues a new administration or General Assembly will undertake, we can be diligent in our efforts to bring forth the issues that are important to our farm families and our rural communities.

As a member of the American Farm Bureau Federation's Executive Committee, one thing that has been of much discussion is the 2018 Farm Bill. You've heard me say this often that while passage of the bill is more than a year away, the fact is we must begin now to inform our members and the general public how important that piece of legislation is to all of us.

We begin a series of articles in this edition of the KFB News that will help better explain what the Farm Bill is and why it is important to everyone. Over the course of the next several months, different topics will be discussed ranging from nutrition programs to environmental policies, all of which are included in this very important bill.

We also want to take time to give thanks this month, and really every month, for the blessings bestowed upon us. Our thoughts naturally turn to food during this time of Thanksgiving. As farmers we hold the awesome responsibility in our hands of not only feeding our families and neighbors, but the entire world.

Unfortunately, too many citizens both here and throughout the country suffer from some level of food insecurity. One in six Kentuckians and one in five Kentucky school children don't have enough food and that to me, is unacceptable.

Our Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles has created a Hunger Task Force that includes representatives from a variety of organizations including KFB, to help find ways to solve this problem. You will read more from him about the initiative in this month's KFB Candid Conversations column.

It is easy to get caught up in our everyday activities and our busy schedules. But, as we prepare to enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday with our families and friends, let's remember those who are hungry or homeless or without loved ones of their own and remind ourselves that we should never become too busy to lend a hand to those in need.

**Mark Haney**

President  
Kentucky Farm Bureau



# KFB Annual Meeting

## Set for November 30-December 3

The 97th Annual Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation meeting will take place November 30-December 3 at the Galt House Hotels in Louisville.

Priorities include electing leaders, recognizing achievements, setting policy goals for the 2017 state legislative session, as well as establishing a wish list for Congressional action next year.

Events slated to take place during the meeting include the announcement of the state's Outstanding Young Farm Family, awards for county Farm Bureau achievements, top farm leaders distinguished service recognition, commodity and special interests conferences, women's leadership activities, KFB President Mark Haney's annual address, and the KFB Farmer of the Year Award, to name a few.

The final day will include KFB directors determining a priority list of issues to address in the coming year.

## Candidates for KFB Director

### District 1

Glenn Howell  
809 State Route 781 N, Fulton

### District 2

Kelly Thurman  
643 Barrett Hill Road, Livermore

### District 3

Fritz Giesecke  
3474 S. Jackson Hwy, Horse Cave

Pat Henderson  
2261 Hwy 2202, Irvington

### District 4

Larry Clark  
1153 Robert Landis Road, Greensburg

### District 5

Randy Chrisman  
1168 Buckley Lane, Lawrenceburg

### District 6

Terry Rowlett  
8222 Carrollton Road, Campbellsburg

Sharon Spencer  
2245 Ninevah Road, Frankfort

### District 7

Kim McCoy  
161 Kim McCoy Road, Burkesville

Victor Rexroat  
821 Rexroat- Butcher Road, Russell Springs

### District 8

David Campbell  
2745 KY Highway 78, Stanford

### District 9

Shane Wiseman  
5826 Ecton Road, Winchester

### District 10

Carroll Amyx  
1743 Sandfield Road, Campton

### District 11

Cloyce W. Hinkle  
P.O. Box 101, Artemus



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

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

#### KFB DIRECTORS

Tripp Furches ..... Murray  
Glenn Howell ..... Fulton  
Kelly Thurman ..... Livermore  
Eddie Melton ..... Sebree  
Mary Kate Kordes ..... Central City  
Fritz Giesecke ..... Horse Cave  
Larry Thomas ..... Elizabethtown  
Pat Henderson ..... Irvington  
Russell Poore ..... Russellville  
Jay Coleman ..... Cave City  
Scott Travis ..... Cox's Creek  
Randy Chrisman ..... Lawrenceburg  
Joe Paul Mattingly ..... Raywick  
David Chappell ..... Owenton  
Terry Rowlett ..... Campbellsburg  
Mark Haney ..... Nancy  
Danny Wilkinson ..... Columbia  
Kim McCoy ..... Burkesville  
David L. Campbell ..... Stanford  
Terry Lawson ..... Mt. Vernon  
Alex Barnett ..... Cynthia  
Shane Wiseman ..... Winchester  
David McGlone ..... Grayson  
Carroll Amyx ..... Campton  
Bige Hensley ..... Manchester  
Cloyce Hinkle ..... Artemus  
Marshall Coyle ..... Owingsville  
Betty Farris ..... Roundhill  
Kent Moore ..... Owensboro  
Roger Fannin ..... Harlan  
Nancy Cox ..... Lexington  
Brandon Davis ..... Frankfort  
Nick Carter ..... Lexington

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## comment COLUMN



Today's Career and Technical Education (CTE) has come a long way from that of the past. If you haven't visited a CTE class recently, you might be surprised – students are reaching new depths of knowledge, using this knowledge to think, reason and solve real world problems, and are graduating from high school on pathways that will lead them to available jobs and promising careers.

These days, CTE is on a level playing field with traditional academic classes, and works hand-in-hand with those courses to reinforce, strengthen and give our students the applied skills and knowledge they need to compete and succeed in the 21st century. Many Kentucky students recognize the opportunity CTE offers them, with 138,838 high schoolers enrolled in CTE courses.

Still, there are some parents, students and even some educators who view CTE as having lesser value than traditional classroom learning. That couldn't be further from the truth.

Our CTE students are developing highly-desirable skills and knowledge through 16 national Career Clusters that utilize cutting-edge technology and applied, hands-on learning that puts them on track to enjoy careers in fields like engineering, information technology, health sciences, manufacturing and agriculture.

In addition, Kentucky CTE students have the opportunity to participate in eight career and technical student organizations, which promote leadership development, civic engagement, and the mastery of the 21st century professional skills that employers so desperately say that today's youth are lacking. These organizations are an integral part of the CTE experience for students.

Our state's CTE students also benefit from our nationally-recognized Tech Ready Apprentices for Careers in Kentucky (TRACK) program, a partnership between the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) and the Kentucky Labor Cabinet that provides high school students career pathway opportunities into registered apprenticeship programs.

Additionally, as a national leader in CTE, Kentucky is one of 24 states and the District of Columbia that received grant funds to help align career education with high-demand jobs through the New Skills for Youth initiative.

KDE also has been committed to strengthening the engagement of employers and Kentucky's critical industry sectors within the work of CTE. An example of this has been the creation of the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (WIB) Business and Education Alignment committee. This committee, composed of approximately 40 industry leaders from across the Commonwealth, inform CTE curriculum development projects, serve as a voice for robust work-based learning opportunities, and also approves the valid industry certification list for K-12 accountability on an annual basis.

Kentucky Career and Technical Education is turning out well-educated, well-trained students, who, in turn, are helping to drive our Commonwealth's economy and industry. These students are enabling Kentucky to attract and expand business and empowering the state to be at the forefront of creating new industry like never before. In short, Kentucky Career and Technical Education is helping to propel our students and our state to new heights.

**Stephen L. Pruitt**

Kentucky Education Commissioner

# Annual KFB Golf Classic

Celebrates Education  
by  
Raising Scholarships Funds

The 21st Annual Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) Golf Classic proved to be a success once again in the organization's efforts to help member families send their children to college. This year, more than \$41,000 was raised signifying an all-time high for the event. All of the money goes toward the scholarship fund and serves the state Farm Bureau scholarship program.

Since it was established in 1953, the KFB Education Foundation has awarded approximately 1,637 scholarships worth more than \$2.5 million dollars to students of KFB member families. This year, 256 golfers participated and 54 hole sponsors stepped up to help make the Golf Classic possible.

David Beck, KFB Executive Vice-President said supporting education is a huge part of what KFB is all about.

*"Since so much of our policy at Kentucky Farm Bureau is related to education, this event is one of the single most important things we do," he said. "Over the years, students from all across Kentucky have attended college thanks, in part to the contributions made by our Education Foundation. And no matter what field of study they choose, ultimately this investment in our young people and their futures will benefit them, their families and all of Kentucky."*

During award recognitions for both morning and afternoon flights, Beck personally thanked all those in attendance and the sponsors for helping to make the annual event such a success for so many years.

The first place winning team in the morning flight was CIA Custard while the Bracken County Farm Bureau team took top honors in the afternoon flight.



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# KFB Marketbasket Survey

## Shows a Third Quarter Drop in Food Prices

After a slight increase in food prices was experienced during the second quarter of 2016, third quarter results returned to declines, according to the latest Kentucky Farm Bureau Marketbasket Survey.

This marks the sixth quarter out of the last seven in which food prices have dropped, denotes the survey which represents the average total cost of 40 basic grocery items. The decrease of 1.39 percent was led by a 9.64 percent decrease in the poultry category which includes the price of eggs. In fact, it was a \$.32 decrease in extra-large eggs and a \$.31 drop in large eggs that brought that category price down.

During the fourth quarter of 2015, extra-large eggs were surveyed at \$2.88 per dozen. The latest survey found the price to be \$1.66.

Overall the cost of the items totaled an average of \$118.51 as compared to the \$120.16 recorded during the second quarter of 2016.

In addition to poultry, the next largest decline came by way of the beef category which dropped by 2.99 percent.

The largest increases, category wise, were attributed to pork which jumped by 3.68 percent followed by fruits and vegetables which experienced a 1.04 percent increase.

### National food prices

Kentucky food price decreases reflected a similar trend as indicated by the latest national Consumer Price Index (CPI) information which denoted a consistent decline in the food at home index which has seen slight decreases over the last seven months with the most recent monthly decline being .1 percent.

According to the CPI information

provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the food at home index has decreased 2.2 percent over the past year, keeping with an overall decline experienced this year in all the major food group categories. The biggest decline is noted within the "meats, poultry, fish, and eggs" expenditure category which has seen a 6.3 percent drop since September 2015.

The most recent American Farm Bureau (AFBF) Fall Harvest Marketbasket Survey also denoted price drops in some food categories over the past year.

According to information from AFBF, the informal survey shows the total cost of 16 food items that can be used to prepare one or more meals was \$49.70, down \$4.40 or 8 percent compared to a survey conducted a year ago. Of the 16 items surveyed, 13 decreased and three increased in average price.

Egg prices dropped significantly due to production recovering well from the 2014 avian influenza, according to John Newton, AFBF director, market intelligence. Milk prices are down substantially from prior years, particularly compared to record-highs in 2014, due to the current global dairy surplus.

"For all commodities in agriculture there is a lot of product on hand and prices are depressed," Newton explained.

### Agricultural economics in food prices

Whether or not U.S. grocery prices fluctuate from one quarterly survey to the next, Kentuckians and all Americans continue to enjoy some of the lowest food prices in the world. Shoppers in the U.S. spend only about 10 percent of their disposable income on food each year. Those costs remain far lower than any other country in the world thanks to many of the agricultural efficiencies utilized in America. Today the average U.S. farmer produces enough food and fiber to provide for about 154 people – a significant jump from an average of 19 people per farmer back in 1940.

Yet while more food is now being produced on less land, the farmer's share of the retail food dollar in America is down. According to the USDA's Food Dollar Series, a farmer earns less than 16 cents per dollar spent on food, down significantly from the 31 cents earned in 1980.

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# KFB Advisory Committees:

## A summary of the 2016 meetings

**K**entucky Farm Bureau (KFB) policy emerges from several sources. While most recommendations come from county Farm Bureau annual meetings, another source is through KFB's Advisory Committees, which hold meetings between August and November to assess the condition of their respective area of interest and consider suggestions for potential changes to KFB's state and national policies.

These committees deal with topics ranging from all the farm commodities common in Kentucky to issues of importance to rural areas (education, transportation, etc.) KFB's leadership selects the committee members based on their knowledge of the topic. If possible, the committees have members from all areas of the state.

The advisory committee meetings also involve officials representing the particular areas of concern, most commonly from commodity groups, universities, business and government.

Following are summaries from recent meetings:

### EDUCATION

The Education Advisory Committee, chaired by Shane Wiseman, met at the Jessamine Career and Technical Center (JCTC) on September 13. Kathy Fields, Superintendent of Jessamine County Schools, welcomed the committee and expressed appreciation for the meeting being held at the technical center.

Dexter Knight, Principal, JCTC, also welcomed the committee. Mr. Knight acknowledged the relationship that

Kentucky Farm Bureau has with Career and Technical Education (CTE) in the state. Mr. Knight thanked Kentucky Farm Bureau for sponsoring the CTE teacher awards given at the Kentucky Association of Career and Technical Education Summer Conference.

Other presenters at the meeting included Gary Burdine, Head of Adult Agriculture Education, Jessamine County; Elizabeth Gordon with Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA); Mike Armstrong, Executive Director, KY School Boards Association; and Mike Ross, who gave a report on the Kentucky Adult Agriculture Education program along with Bryan Alvey who discussed the Governor's Red Tape Initiative.

The committee reviewed both KFB and American Farm Bureau (AFB) policy making recommendations for both.

### ENERGY AND TRANSPORTATION

The Energy & Transportation Advisory Committee, chaired by David Campbell, met on September 20 at the LG&E and KU Cane Run Generating Station in Louisville. Dave Tummonds, General Manager, Cane Run Generating Station, LG&E/KU, welcomed

the committee and gave an overview of the generating station.

David Sinclair, Vice President, Energy Supply & Analysis, LG&E/KU, gave the committee an extensive report on "Delivering Reliable, Low-cost Energy Now and in the Future."

John-Mark Hack, Commissioner, Department of Vehicle Regulation, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, gave a report on the role of his department and discussed the importance of public safety and the importance of his department collecting road fund money efficiently and using the funds wisely.

Juva Barber, Executive Director, Kentuckians for Better Transportation (KBT), discussed that in the 2015 session KFB was part of a coalition that helped stabilize the road fund but that the fund is still feeling the loss of the approximate \$190 million on an annual basis.

Rick Bender, Executive Advisor, Department for Energy Development and Independence gave a brief report and stated he wants his agency to become the "go to" agency for energy issues.

The committee made recommendations for KFB policy.



## FARM LABOR

Chaired by David Chappell, the Farm Labor Advisory Committee met at the KFB State Office in Louisville on August 11. The committee participated in a joint morning session with the Tobacco and Dark Tobacco Advisory Committees chaired by Scott Travis.

Ms. Karen Garnett, US Department of Labor WHD, provided a federal wage and hour update. She noted the Department recently hosted grower and worker training sessions in Springfield, Owensboro, and Glasgow.

Rick Alexander, Agriculture Workforce Management Association, reported on the current challenges with the H-2A program.

Stacie Rockaway, Congressman Massie's Representative, reported that there is no legislation regarding the H-2A program that will reach the floor during this session.

Joe Cain, KFB, updated the joint committees with a summary of the Courtney Farm H-2A worker situation and provided an overview of Governor Bevin's Red Tape Reduction Initiative request.

Jeff Gatewood, Department of Workforce Investment, reviewed with the committee the 2016 H-2A totals.

The committee then considered KFB policy and AFB policy relating to Farm Labor and had no recommendations.

## POLITICAL EDUCATION

Committee Chair Marshall Coyle oversaw the meeting which was held at the KFB Frankfort Headquarters on September 20.

Wilson Stone, State Representative, spoke about the upcoming election and commented how important KFB is to Kentucky in advocating for rural Kentucky and agriculture.

Jonathan Shell, State Representative, spoke about the importance of political involvement in Kentucky.

Steve Doan, General Counsel, Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy (GOAP), provided the committee with an overview of GOAP and their recent activities.

Matthew Selph, Assistant Executive Director, State Board of Elections, spoke about the upcoming General Election and how their office has been preparing since January for this November election.

Jeff Harper, KFB, gave the committee an overview of Governor Bevin's Red Tape Reduction Initiative and also advised the committee that the Campaign Management Seminar held earlier this year was a full class of 25 and received great reviews from the participants.

The committee reviewed and made recommendations to KFB policy and reviewed AFB policy with no recommendations.

## TAX

Chair Pat Henderson led the meeting which was held at the KFB State Office. David Beck, KFB Executive Vice-President welcomed the committee and thanked them for their service. He also discussed the possibility of holding a tax conference.

The committee then heard from Ms. Pat Wolff, Senior Director, AFB Congressional Relations. She gave an update to the committee, via conference call on AFB Federation's outlook for the lame duck session of Congress and discussed some expiring tax provisions including the biodiesel tax credit.

The committee discussed the legislation filed during the 2016 session of the Kentucky General Assembly regarding agricultural land assessment and the potential impact a change on how these assessments are conducted could affect farm owners. Committee members also discussed Governor Bevin's red tape reduction initiative and had some recommendations to be submitted to the Governor's Office for consideration.

He committee considered KFB policy with recommendations and considered AFB policy with no recommendations.

## DAIRY

The Dairy Advisory Committee meeting was held on September 27 at the KFB State Office in Louisville and chaired by Terry Rowlett. KFB Mark Haney welcomed the committee stressing the important work the committee does in representing the dairy industry as well as reviewing and helping implement policy.

Dr. Robert Stout, Kentucky State Veterinarian, reported on a number of issues his office was currently involved in while Dr. Charles Townsend, Burkman Mills, provided an overview of the FDA's Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) that will go into force the first of January in 2017.

Joe Cain, KFB, provided an overview of several federal issues including the black vulture livestock protection sub-permit, farm labor reform, international trade (TPP) and farm bill reauthorization.

Maury Cox, Kentucky Dairy Development Council (KDDC), reported that the National Dairy Leaders Conference will be held in Kentucky November 15 & 16 and reported how the dairy compliance grant is being used

to help producers develop Ag Water Quality plans and nutrient management plans.

Eunice Schlappi, KDA, reported on the upcoming Young Dairymen's Tour while Denise Jones, Kentucky ADA, reported on World School Milk Day, Hunger Action Month and fall district meeting activities.

Jason Niernan, FMMO, reported he thought milk prices could rise through the end of the year. Dr. Michelle Arnold, UK Diagnostic Lab reported the lab accreditation progress and reported UK was looking to hire a new position in the UK dairy department.

The committee did not make any KFB policy recommendations but did to AFB policy.

## EMERGING AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES

The Emerging Agricultural Enterprises Advisory Committee meeting was held September 7, at the KFB State Office in Louisville and chaired by Joe Paul Mattingly.

Dr. Tammy Horn Potter, Kentucky State Apiarist, KDA reported that Kentucky is emerging as a major player in producing bees wax, honey and queens and discussed the Kentucky Pollinator Protection Plan.

Luke King, Special Projects Manager, Office of Agricultural Marketing & Product Promotion, KDA, discussed the Industrial Hemp Research Pilot Program that the 2014 Farm Bill authorized state Departments of Agriculture to create.

Dr. Lee Meyer, UK Extension Professor, reported on the University's hops research that is taking place at the Robinson Center in Quicksand. He also discussed several other initiatives including industrial hemp and local food.

Aleta Botts, Executive Director, Kentucky Center for Ag & Rural Development, reported that KCARD is receiving 150-200 inquiries per month which is an increase of about 40 from last year.

Fran McCall, KFB, discussed agritourism insurance and liability on the farm with the advisory committee. She said farmers need to protect themselves and plan ahead instead of waiting till something happens.

Chairman Mattingly provided an overview of Governor Bevin's Red Tape Reduction Initiative request.

The committee considered KFB and made recommendations. They also reviewed AFB policy with no recommendations made.

## FEED GRAINS, WHEAT, & SOYBEAN

The Feed Grains and Wheat Advisory Committee, and Soybean Advisory

Committee, joint meeting was held August 9 the KFB State Office in Louisville. The committees participated in a joint morning session with the Natural Resources Advisory Committee.

Committee Chairs included, respectively, Tripp Furches, Kim McCoy and Larry Thomas. KFB President Mark Haney welcomed the group and discussed several of the issues facing Kentucky farmers.

Peter Cinotto, USGS, provided committee members with a thorough overview of existing water resources in Kentucky and reviewed efforts to plan and monitor future water resources.

Peter Goodmann, KDOW, provided members a review of the initial Kentucky Water Resources Board meeting and some of their immediate goals and objectives.

Lewis Bradley, Bayer Crop Science, provided an overview of his company's Bee Care program and reviewed Kentucky's Pollinator Protection Plan.

Joe Cain, KFB, updated the joint committees with a preview of Farm Bill discussions that were beginning and reviewed the request for comments on EPA's atrazine registration review.

The Feed Grains and Wheat Advisory Committee and the Soybean Advisory Committee discussed various issues related to crop insurance with Mr. Larry McMaster, USDA, RMA-Jackson via conference call.

Fred L. Sipes, Kentucky Soybean Association, noted they are keeping an eye on the Farm Bill and Crop Insurance.

Richard West, KDA, discussed the Grain Insurance Fund which protects farmers against the financial failure of grain elevators and other license businesses that buy or store their grain in Kentucky.

The committees reviewed both KFB and AFB policy.

## NATURAL RESOURCES

After the joint morning session with the Feed Grains and Wheat Advisory Committee, and Soybean Advisory Committee, the Natural Resources Committee heard reports from various agencies.

Mark Ferguson and Randy Smallwood, NRCS, discussed the DUNS/SAMs Numbers matter while Kimberly Richardson, Kentucky Division of Conservation, gave a brief overview of financial and staffing issues.

Dan Figert, Kentucky Fish & Wildlife Services, gave a report on animal population in the state. He noted the bear

population is growing; now bears are in the eastern half of the state.

Anna Lucio, KDA, gave a brief overview of the Department of Agriculture. Peter Goodmann, Kentucky Division of Water, announced that the draft Nutrient Reduction Strategy will be released soon to the public for feedback.

Dr. Gary Palmer, UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, discussed various Extension personnel and the areas they work with.

Darwin Newton, USDA ARS unit at WKU, notified the committee members of a name change and location change for the USDA ARS.

The committee had general discussion on state regulations with various agencies reporting they were directed to have reports back to Governor Bevin by early December on regulations falling under their oversight.

The committee considered KFB and made recommendations. They also reviewed AFB policy with no recommendations made.

## TOBACCO & DARK TOBACCO

The Tobacco Advisory Committee, and Dark Tobacco Advisory Committee, chaired by Scott Travis, held its joint meeting August 11 at the KFB State Office in Louisville. The committees participated in a morning session with the Farm Labor Advisory Committee.

The afternoon session included Terri Lemire, USDA RMA who provided a tobacco crop insurance program update.

Joe Cain, KFB, reported on a recent Farm Bureau tobacco crop insurance conference call that discussed ideas surrounding potential modifications to tobacco crop insurance policies for tobacco for 2017 and beyond.

Greg Harris, Council for Burley Tobacco, reported that the Council for Burley Tobacco voted to support ending the quality adjustment program and are keeping an eye on GAP issues.

Pat Raines, Burley Cooperative, reported they are providing dollars to University of Kentucky for research, but have less to give than in previous years.

Dr. Will Snell and Dr. Bob Pearce, UK Extension, reported that the prevalence of smoking in the U.S. has dropped from 17 percent to 15 percent and that e-cigarette growth pattern has also slowed.

The committee considered KFB and AFB policy making recommendations to both.

## FORAGE

The Forage Advisory Committee meeting, chaired by David McGlone, was held September 28 at the KFB State Office in Louisville.

UK's Dr. Ray Smith reviewed several forage-related topics including results of the university's research.

Bret Winsett, Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council, discussed the recent KFGC Field Day at Eden Shale Farm and the successful effort to fill the UK forage extension position vacated by Dr. Garry Lacefield.

Jim Wade, KDA Forage Testing Program, provided a brief overview of the KDA hay testing program and reported increased interest in testing haylage.

Jeff Harper, KFB, provided an overview of Governor Bevin's Red Tape Reduction Initiative request.

The committee reviewed state and national policy relative to forage and submitted two recommendations on Kentucky Farm Bureau policy to the state resolutions committee for consideration.

## ROADSIDE FARM MARKETS

The Roadside Farm Markets Advisory Committee, chaired by Russell Poore, met at Mulberry Orchard in Shelbyville on September 1. Matt and Amanda Gadjzik welcomed the committee members and gave a brief overview about their operation.

KDA's Sharon Spencer reported there are still Kentucky Proud promotional grants available, as well as the SNAP grants, although the Horticulture Cost Share Grants were not funded this year.

Melanie Blandford, also with KDA, outlined Commissioner Quarles Hunger Incentive and Amelia Wilson reported over 450 agritourism venues are registered with the Kentucky Farms are Fun Program.

Kimberly Clay, representing the Department of Travel and Tourism, discussed changes to their website and the new culinary tourism website.

Aleta Botts, KCARD, outlined their available grant programs, encouraging anyone who wants to apply to begin the process as far in advance as possible.

UK's Dr. Tim Woods reviewed the university's efforts in the areas of food safety, available value-added services, crop diversification, and high-tunnel work.

Fran McCall, KFB, updated the committee on the Roadside Farm Markets Program, which is in its 21st year with 88 markets, (5 new) in 60 counties.



KFB's Jeff Harper spoke to the group about a tentative proposal with Aetna to provide incentives to Medicaid participants to purchase fresh food and other items from members of the Roadside Market program.

## BEEF CATTLE

Fritz Giesecke chaired the Beef Cattle Advisory Committee held September 15 at the KFB State Office in Louisville.

KDA's Tim Dietrich reported that the replacement heifer sales are about to begin across Kentucky and producers are concerned about prices. Numbers for the CPH sales were down this spring, most likely due to high feeder calf prices.

State Veterinarian Robert Stout reported about two main issues affecting the beef industry in Kentucky - the Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) including the need for continuing education for both the producers and veterinarians, and the BVD-PI issue.

Dr. Michelle Arnold, representing Dr. Craig Carter with the UK Veterinary Diagnostic Lab, stated they are seeing an increase of Anaplasmosis cases and are continuing the efforts to educate producers and veterinarians on the VFD.

Dr. Debbie Reed, Director of the Breathitt Center, stated their new facility should be complete at the end of October. She also reported about an increase of mold cases in Western Kentucky and reminded the group that their lab is equipped to do BVD-PI testing.

Dr. Richard Coffey, University of Kentucky, summarized current events at the university, including their beef research programs, rapidly growing student numbers, construction projects, and their current need for additional classrooms.

Dave Maples reported for the Kentucky Cattlemen's Association, reviewed current issues facing the beef industry including the volatile market, trade concerns with Brazil and Japan, the GIPSA bill, and the need for a TTP trade bill.

Joe Cain, KFB, gave a national affairs update and reviewed the GIPSA bill, TTP, the GMO labeling bill, water issues, and Black Vulture Depredation permits while Jeff Harper updated the committee on the Governor's Red Tape Reduction Initiative.

The committee reviewed state and national policy and made three policy recommendations, two state and one national.

## EQUINE

Alex Barnett chaired the Equine Advisory Committee which met at the Fayette County Extension office on September 8.

A written report from Dr. Robert Coleman was distributed, and Dr. Richard Coffey also reported on the University of Kentucky's equine programs.

Dr. Robert Stout, State Veterinarian, accompanied by new KDA employee Richard Nolan, reported on diseases being addressed in 2016.

Patricia Goodwin reported on behalf of the MSU Breathitt Veterinary Center that their building project is going well and they expect to move in at the end of October.

Dr. Craig Carter reported for the UK Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, stating 90 percent of their work is performed on live animals, although approximately 1,500 postmortem tests are done each year.

Gidget Cropper, FSA, reviewed their Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP), and the Conservation Reserve Program for grasslands.

Laura Prewitt reported to the committee for the Kentucky Horse Park while Chauncey Morris, Kentucky Thoroughbred Association, discussed the Chinese Breeders Cup, and their work on Federal HR384 concerning uniformity on drug policy across all states.

Katie Ross, Kentucky Horse Council, stated they have trained 30 local officers to level one, and 35 to level two in working with abuse cases, and has conducted a short course to educate people about horse abandonment.

KFB's Joe Cain updated the committee on the Horse Protection Act, and Jeff Harper reviewed the Red Tape Reduction Initiative.

The committee considered state and national policies, made two recommendations for Kentucky policy, and one for AFBF policy.

## HORTICULTURE

The Horticulture Advisory Committee, chaired by Russell Poore, met at Mulberry Orchard in Shelbyville on September 1.

Fran McCall, KFB, presented a report about Roadside Farm Market membership

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**KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU**

in 2016. Five new markets are among the 88 markets enrolled.

Jeff Harper spoke to the group about a tentative proposal with Aetna to provide incentives to Medicaid participants to purchase fresh food and other items from members of the Roadside Market program.

Sharon Spencer, KDA, reported there are still Kentucky Proud promotional grants available, as well as the SNAP grants.

Aaron Lowe, FSA, briefly outlined upcoming deadlines for acreage reports. Mac Stone reported for the Kentucky Horticulture Council, stating their focus for the next two years is to help members achieve their GAP certifications, and to provide cost share grants for GAP audits.

Joel Wilson, president of the Kentucky Vegetable Growers Association, reported they are exploring a check-off program to fund research at UK, and outlined the Association's concerns about abuse of the Kentucky Proud program, and labor and water quality issues.

Dr. Bob Houtz, University of Kentucky, reviewed their current research areas, and requested ideas for future research topics.

KFB's Joe Cain reviewed impending H2A labor issues, such as visa delays and increasing costs of using the program.

The committee considered Kentucky Farm Bureau and American Farm Bureau policies, and made no recommendations for changes.

## MEMBER BENEFITS

The Member Benefits Advisory Committee, chaired by Glenn Howell, met at the KFB State Office on August 24.

Todd Bright, Director, KFB Communication Division, addressed the committee on the importance of social media within the organization.

Dwight Greenwell, KFB, gave the committee a membership report stating there are 465,006 members to date which is 7,326 ahead of this time last year.

The committee discussed the need for a password protected portal containing member benefit discount codes and other relevant information. This would allow only paid members to access member discounts and will add to the perceived value of member benefits.

## POULTRY

Jay Coleman chaired the Poultry Advisory Committee held September 13 at the KFB State Office in Louisville.

State Veterinarian Dr. Robert Stout, along with new Poultry Program Coordinator Edmond Thompson, summarized KDA's poultry-related activities for the past year.

The committee discussed various aspects of the Veterinary Feed Directive which will go into effect in 2017.

Thompson summarized his activities dealing with poultry swap meets, stating most buyers and sellers are now in compliance with current regulations.

Jamie Guffey, Kentucky Poultry Federation, stated they support the inclusion of high-path AI in the current regulations, which only applies to low-path AI. He also said biosecurity is a major issue currently facing the industry. Dr. Tony Pescatore reported for the University of Kentucky, stating the College of Agriculture,

Food, and Environment currently has 700 undergraduates has added two instructors and a new academic advisor for the pre-vet program.

A written report from the UK Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory was included in the meeting packets. Dr. Carey Laster, representing Dr. Debbie Reed from the MSU Breathitt Veterinary

Center, stated there have been a few delays but they hope to be in their new facility by mid-November. Joe Cain, KFB, updated the committee on national affairs issues, including water issues and farm labor.

Jeff Harper updated the committee on Governor Bevin's Red Tape Reduction Initiative.

The committee reviewed state and national policies, recommended no changes.

## SAFETY AND RURAL HEALTH

The Safety and Rural Health Advisory Committee met September 19 at the KFB State Office in Louisville with Randy Chrisman presiding as chair.

The committee received training from Rick Strohmeier, Kentucky Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company, on how to respond to an active shooter in the work place.

State Police Officer Robert Purdy, Kentucky State Police, briefed the committee on rural crime, the drug scourge in Kentucky, and police interactions.

Dale Dobson, Safety Program Director at KDA, discussed the Turtle Tube, a rescue sleeve designed for use during grain silo rescues which was co-developed by firefighters and farmers. He also reviewed the

"Share the Road" initiative.

Dr. Deborah Reed, University of Kentucky, described the "Farm Dinner Theater," sponsored by the Center for Disease Control and highlighted growing concerns over increased suicide rates among farmers.

In reviewing Kentucky Farm Bureau and American Farm Bureau policies, three new policies and two language amendments were recommended for state policy. One new policy and one language amendment were recommended for national policy.

## SWINE

The Swine Advisory Committee, chaired by Danny Wilkinson, met at the Kentucky Pork Producers Office, Elizabethtown, September 20.

State Veterinarian Robert Stout reviewed the new Veterinary Feed Directive and emphasized the continuing need for education for both the producer and veterinarians.

Bonnie Jolly, Executive Director of the Kentucky Pork Producers Association, Maurice Heard, and Dr. Dennis Liptrap, President of the KPPA, met with the elected officials and their staff about TTP, the GIPSA bill, and the need for a Foot and Mouth Disease Vaccine Bank.

UK's Dr. Coffey discussed current enrollment in the animal science department and the continuing need for additional classroom space to accommodate student needs.

Fran McCall, KFB, reported on information received from Dr. Craig Carter, Director at the University of Kentucky Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, and Dr. Debbie Reed, Director at the Breathitt Veterinary Center, who were absent from the meeting.

Dr. Stout added that the University of Kentucky Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory had just received their full national accreditation by the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians and the Breathitt Lab will be starting this process soon after their new lab opens.

The committee reviewed state and national policy and submitted four state policy recommendations and one recommendation for national policy.

"The Communication, Sheep and Goat and Forestry Advisory Committees met after the November KFB News print deadline.





## THINK LIQUIDITY AND ASSET UTILIZATION DURING TIMES OF REDUCED MARGINS

By Vince Bailey, Vice President Credit-Agribusiness

### BULLETPROOF YOUR BALANCE SHEET

Whether crop prices are high or low, it's wise to watch balance sheets closely and check how you stack up to performance benchmarks across the industry. With grain prices trending lower, the focus for many has shifted from expansion to maintaining what they currently have. This holding position may be prudent. However, production must continue and new opportunities will present themselves despite the fact that you're managing finances with a sharp pencil.

At Farm Credit, we encourage growers to keep an eye not only on expenses, but also on asset utilization and fixed costs as they relate to GFI (Gross Farm Income). Consider various fixed cost ratios using capital interest, principal payments and land rents as a percent of GFI to measure how effectively you are utilizing assets.

Especially when margins are tight, farmers need to dig deep into learning how fixed costs and inputs relate to production capacity. We're talking about utilization of equipment and fixed assets. Are you getting the right kind of utilization? Are you overequipped? Are you underequipped? Do you have more labor than you really need? What inputs give you the best value? Capital is a finite source, so every dollar allocated to an underutilized asset is a dollar that can't be deployed to liquidity or working capital when needed.

Evaluating your balance sheet isn't just about the information or analysis Farm Credit uses to approve loans. Fiscal awareness is valuable for any grower who is trying to stay efficient during times of low crop prices and tight margins. Low commodity prices mean there will be farmers who have to operate at a loss for a year or two. The more knowledge you have of your cash burn rate (cash required to cover shortfalls in cash flow), the more confident you can be in how long you can operate at a loss until crop prices turn around. Understanding your burn rate will also help determine what new opportunities you can take advantage of. The key thing to remember is you can't burn what you don't have.

### How do you stack up?

Working with operations of all shapes and sizes has given us experience seeing what success looks like for each operation, as well as how individual farms can start to slip into financial trouble. In addition to looking at each farm's profit and loss numbers, we can benchmark farms and see how they compare against the key financial metrics of successful farms.

The chart below shows a few common financial ratios for grain farms. These are guides and not absolute measures. Each farming operation is unique, but being significantly outside these measures will often create challenges.

Working capital (current assets minus liabilities) is a measure of the amount of funds available to meet the payment of all current liabilities. Working capital compared to VFP (Value of Farm Production) relates the amount of working capital to the size of the operation. The higher the ratio, the more liquidity the farm operation has to meet current obligations and, more critically, how much adversity can you withstand before asking your lender for additional operating funds. Another way to think of this is working capital per acre, which equates to commodity price and bushels per acre, and eventually determines how you develop your risk management plans. The ratio varies across farm types and other farm characteristics. Further explanation of how to calculate ratios is available from the University of Illinois at <http://www.farmdoc.illinois.edu/finance/financialcharacteristics/ratios.htm>.

COMMON RATIOS FOR GRAIN FARMS

CATEGORY	TARGET	YOUR NO.	GOOD	CAUTION	ATTENTION
Liquidity (Working Capital/VFP)	20%		≥20%	20%-5%	<5%
Owner Equity (Net Worth/Total Assets)	55%		≥55%	55%-45%	<45%
Net Farm Earnings as % of VFP	20%		≥20%	20%-5%	<5%
Debt Coverage Ratio	130%		≥130%	130%-100%	<100%
Land Costs (P&I and Land Rent)/VFP	<30%		≤30%	30%-35%	≥35%
Equipment Costs (P&I and Lease)/Acres Farmed	≤\$65		≤\$65	\$65-\$85	≥\$85

The information in the report is derived from Farm Credit Mid-America's experience in rural and agricultural lending, and does not take into account the financial needs of particular individuals. This content is intended to be informational and is not a substitute for detailed advice on your specific situation.

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Shane Wiseman spoke to the tour attendees during the visit to his farm in Clark County.

## First Ever Bluegrass and Backroads Tour

For the last 13 years, television viewers from Kentucky and across the country have had the opportunity to visit some of the most picturesque sights the state has to offer and hear from some of its most interesting citizens by way of the Emmy Award winning show, Bluegrass & Backroads.

Each week, KET (Kentucky Educational Television) and RFD-TV patrons come along with B&B hosts Bob Shrader and Matt Hilton to see sights not always on the beaten path and learn more about Kentucky agriculture, state tourism sites and

talented artisans that are exclusive to the Bluegrass State.

As a way to bring the show to life, Kentucky Farm Bureau's first ever Bluegrass & Backroads Tour invited participants on a three day journey of some of B&B's favorite venues.

Shrader said over the years, he has heard people say countless times how much they would like to be there when the show is created.

*"We decided to take a group with us as we revisited some of our favorite places," he said. "It was really a lot of fun to share the behind the scene stories with the group as we traveled*



This pumpkin patch was indicative of some of the sights seen during the B&B Tour.





Woodford Reserve is a popular spot on the state's tourism circuit as it was on the B&B Tour.

to places around central Kentucky. Plus the group will be a part of an upcoming segment we will be featuring from the tour."

Hilton said the visits were exciting to him even though he had seen them all before.

"It was great to see how much most of these places had changed and grown since we first visited them as part of the show," he said. "I hope, in some way, we were helpful in their success as

much as they have been helpful to us in making B&B as popular as it has become."

During the inaugural tour, participants visited an assortment of locations all having been featured at one time on Bluegrass and Backroads including: Undulata Saddlebred Horse Farm, Gallrein Farm, Courtney Farms, Woodford Reserve Distillery, the Ale-8-One Bottling Company, farm of Kentucky Farm Bureau Board Member Shane Wiseman, Old Kentucky Chocolates, the Alltech Lexington

Brewing and Distilling Company, Talon Winery, Old Friends Thoroughbred Retirement Farm, Evans Orchard and the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History.

Plans for another B&B Tour are already being discussed with hopes it will become an annual event in the tradition of the many tours conducted by KFB. To learn more about Bluegrass and Backroads or to check television schedule times, go to

[kyfb.com/federation/bluegrass-backroads](http://kyfb.com/federation/bluegrass-backroads)



A retired thoroughbred relaxes on a cool fall morning at the Old Friends Farm in Scott County.



Bluegrass and Backroads Tour attendees take time for a group picture at Evans Orchard.





Sierra Newsome works with one of her horses and hopes to someday be an equine veterinarian

# Auburn's College of Veterinary Medicine and Kentucky Partnership:

## Helping students realize their educational dreams

Realizing what occupation one might have for an entire career is not something most high school students know, but Sierra Newsome, a junior at George Rogers Clark High School in Winchester, Kentucky, is not one of them. She has already started thinking about her future and how she wants to achieve her dream job.

*"I want to be an equine veterinarian so I'm taking agriculture, vet science and equine science classes," she said. "I hope, by taking these classes now, I can prepare myself for college and vet school."*

Newsome began her "career" in the equine industry at a very young age as a rider at a training facility near her home. Having ridden and worked with horses most of her life, becoming a vet seemed very natural to her.

And like many Kentucky students looking to become veterinarians, it was just as natural for her to want to attend Auburn University's College of

Veterinary Medicine (AU Vet Med).

*"I definitely want to go to Auburn because I think it is the best place to get my degree and I can get in-state tuition if accepted. That could make the difference for me as to whether I go to vet school or not," she said.*

Newsome is an example of the many high school students across the state who are preparing early in order to have a chance of getting into such a program as the one at Auburn.

Since 1951, Kentucky students looking for careers in veterinarian medicine have taken advantage of the partnership between this state and AU Vet Med to help realize their dreams of becoming veterinarians.

The partnership brings approximately 38 students from the Commonwealth to Auburn at the in-state tuition rate, something that makes the difference for many of these students in being able to afford this kind of specialized education.

Because of this agreement, a full one-third of AU Vet Med students are Kentucky residents, many of whom return to the state to practice.

Grady Cofield from Cadiz, Kentucky is in his fourth year at Auburn. His parents are both veterinarians at their family practice in Trigg County, as well as Auburn graduates. While this helped solidify his desire to carry on a family tradition, it was the in-state tuition and getting a head start in high school that helped him get to AU Vet Med.

*"I never really wanted to do anything else. I'll admit, I have some family ties to Auburn, but coming to the school as one of the partnership contract students made all the difference. Financially, I'm not sure I could have afforded it any other way," he said. "For Kentucky to be able to offer as good of an education as you get at Auburn, I think it's an excellent use of resources and allocation of assets."*



Kentucky and Auburn have enjoyed a partnership to help students become veterinarians since 1951.

Cofield added that because so many of the Kentucky students at Auburn end up returning to the state for their careers, this investment is also one of economic development value.

*"We're down here for a purpose, but then we want to come back home and start serving our communities,"* he said.

AU Vet Med Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Dr. Dan Givens said Kentucky students are a critical part of the fabric of the college and he speaks from experience being a native of the Bluegrass State and attending AU Vet Med by way of the Auburn-Kentucky partnership.

*"There are students in the Commonwealth who would choose not to go to vet school if they could not attend and pay in-state tuition,"* he said. *"This relationship creates an opportunity for those individual students."*

During the recent Kentucky Veterinarian Medicine Association's Mid-America Conference, officials from AU Vet Med hosted a luncheon and announced a new endowment that will go even further in helping students attend the prestigious vet school.

According to information from Auburn, *"An estate gift from Dr. H. B. 'Woody' Bartlett (a member of the class of '64) will establish the Bartlett Scholars Program at AU Vet Med, providing scholarships for deserving veterinary*

*professional and graduate students. The Haywood Bellingrath Bartlett Educational Endowment will support in perpetuity the Bartlett Scholars Program to recruit and educate students with a demonstrated interest in large animal medicine, surgery and theriogenology. The endowment will be established at \$10 million and will be expanded by up to fourfold as other components of the estate are settled."*

Full scholarships will be awarded to residents of Alabama or students enrolled from partner states, such as Kentucky, under the Southern Region Education Board (SREB) contract.

Dr. Calvin Johnson, AU Vet Med Dean said as the SREB partnership

moves forward, it's a matter of being advocates for the financial support from Alabama and Kentucky to be able to expand and maintain this relationship.

*"We look at this as a component of our educational process in our college that is integral and it's not a matter of if we're going to do it, it's a matter of how we're going to do it,"* he said. *"What we really enjoy about our relationship with Kentucky is, the students who go back to the Commonwealth, and most of them do, those students are prepared to pursue a variety of opportunities that the state offers and I think we are doing a good job of serving the state's needs from so many perspectives."*

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2016  
KENTUCKY STATE FAIR

Kentucky Red Angus junior members recently exhibited their Red Angus Cattle at the KY State Fair. They are shown here with Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture Ryan Quarles wearing their Red Angus-KY Proud Show Harness. The organization helps these young people to be leaders, innovators, stewards and advocates for the Red Angus breed, the beef industry and agriculture.

Pictured from left to right: Wyatt Banks, Quentin Sowder, Maddie Ethington, Josh Newton, Mackensie Walters, Keaton Walters, Hayden Clark, Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture Ryan Quarles, Will Banks, Walter Steely, Konner Walters, Reba Prather, Kaleb Roy, Kaitlyn Holloman, Craig Holloman.

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## “Down the Backroads”

By Carilynn Coombs

Being from a rural background many people can relate to food being the center of every celebration. In fact, that is normally my favorite part of our family gatherings. There happens to always be my favorite desserts from my mom and my husband's mamaw. Additionally, the grape salad my mother-in-law makes is to die for! And while we have many of these types of get-togethers often, the food festivities that take place this time of year are especially memorable.

Food has always been the center of celebrations even going back to biblical days including the wedding at Cana. We learned at an early age of the first Thanksgiving and how that tradition has continued for hundreds of years.

As I sit and think about it all this month, and how we celebrate food, I can't help but catch myself taking the quantity of food available to me for granted. And I have a farmer to thank for that. Not just my husband, my father-in-law, and my husband's uncle who all run our dairy farm but farmer's I have never met; farmers who take my family into account every day as they plant, grow, and harvest their crops; livestock producers who make sure the meat that goes on my plate at Thanksgiving is the safest in the world.

These people are not only farmers, but husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, uncles, aunts, grandmas, and grandpas. They have just as much at stake with their own family as they do with providing food for everyone else. And I simply want to tell them thank you.

But beyond my little world are multitudes of people who don't celebrate the same bounty as my family. I think about them, too. While our family farms are feeding us, here at home and our neighbors down the road, we ask more and more for them to feed a hungry world.

And they have answered the call, as best as they can. Their hours are longer, their debt is larger but their

desire to do what they do is unmatched by long work weeks and the bills they create in maintaining our food supply.

Being able to supply your own food is a blessing but being able to supply food for those who can't is a calling and one I'm glad our food producers have answered.

To my family's farmers and all those across our country, I say thank you for the long, hard, days you put in and the sacrifices you make for people you know and those you don't.

To learn more about agriculture, go to [kyfbnewsroom.com](http://kyfbnewsroom.com).



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# Markets

## SOYBEAN DEMAND SETS RECORDS IN RECENT MONTHS

Although the 2015/16 soybean supply was 88 million bushels above 2014/15, season-ending stocks rose only six million bushels due to a strong finish for demand in the summer quarter. June-August 2016 soybean demand totaled 680 million bushels. This was a fourth-quarter record for soybean use, and for the first time ever, surpassed third quarter demand (664 million bushels). In September, U.S. soybean exports for 2016/17 got off to a fast start as export inspections were record-high for the month at 133 million bushels. USDA forecasts total export shipments for 2016/17 at 2.025 billion bushels, up 40 million from last month's forecast and 89 million above last year's exports. Despite a better export outlook, 2016/17 season-ending stocks are forecast to climb to 395 million bushels -- a 10-year high.

## NET EXPORTS OF RED MEAT AND POULTRY INCREASING

USDA forecasts for net exports (exports minus imports) of red meat and poultry in 2016 and 2017 show progressive increases, largely due to the expanding U.S. beef sector and expectations of solid growth in poultry and pork exports. U.S. beef exports are expected to increase by almost nine percent in 2016 and by almost seven percent next year, as U.S. beef production increases. Beef imports are forecast to decline by about 10 percent this year and 11 percent in 2017, as supplies in Australia and New Zealand tighten with herd rebuilding and larger U.S. supplies become available at lower prices. USDA data show net beef and veal exports improving from -1.11 billion pounds in 2015 to -550 million pounds this year. And the 2017 net export forecast is a minimal -50 million pounds.

Net poultry exports (broiler meat and turkey) are forecast to increase both this year (+4 percent) and in 2017 (+5 percent) due to stronger production, driven by lower feed costs and by strong foreign demand for relatively low-priced meat protein. Net pork exports are also forecast to increase strongly as export growth far outpaces

rising pork imports. USDA forecasts net exports in 2016 at 4.05 billion pounds, up 4.1 percent from last year, and net exports in 2017 will increase 4.6 percent from this year.

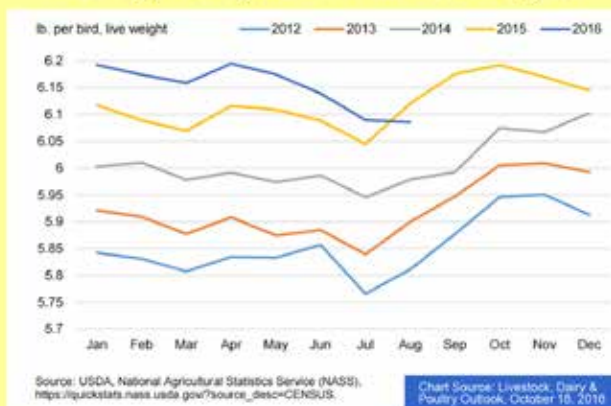
## LIVE CATTLE IMPORTS HEADED DOWN

The United States imported 98,209 head of cattle in August, 18 percent below the same period last year. Though live cattle imports from Canada were up about one percent in August, imports from Mexico were almost 33 percent lower. For the period January through August 2016, total cattle imports are down 17.2 percent from a year earlier. The total imports included 603,091 head from Mexico and 527,041 head from Canada. Imports began to decline around May, at the same time U.S. feeder cattle prices began to decline. Lower U.S. feeder cattle prices and fairly good pasture conditions in Mexico should continue to weigh on imports. Live cattle imports in 2016 are forecast at 1.75 million head, down 12 percent from last year.

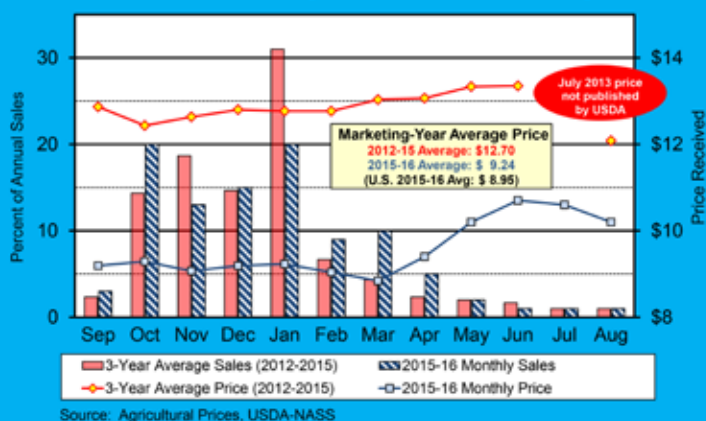
## HIGHER PORK PRODUCTION, LOWER PRICES EXPECTED

According to USDA economists, strong farrowing intentions and increasing litter rates suggest accelerated pork production in 2017. First-quarter 2017 pork production is expected to be 6.4 billion pounds, three percent above a year earlier. USDA forecasts second-quarter production up three percent and an increase of five percent in the third quarter. Total 2017 pork production is forecast almost four percent greater at 25.9 billion pounds -- or almost one billion additional pounds of pork. Larger hog supplies will almost certainly be reflected in sharply lower hog prices. Prices of 51-52 percent lean hogs are expected to average \$36-\$38 per cwt in the fourth quarter, 17 percent below a year earlier. Prices in 2017 are expected to average \$39-\$43 per cwt, about 11 percent below 2016 prices.

### Monthly Average Broiler Harvest Weights



### Kentucky Monthly Soybean Marketings 2015-2016 Marketing Year vs Previous 3-Year Average





# Understanding the Farm Bill

And why it's important to everyone



The Farm Bills of today contain multiple components and include mountains of information and regulations related to a variety of sectors including nutrition, the environment and rural development to name a few.

But, for farmers, this legislation provides a safety net of sorts that helps to ensure stability to weather catastrophic events that would put them out of business if not for the supports put in place by this legislation.

Crop insurance and agriculture disaster assistance are examples of safety net programs promulgated throughout the bill and re-examined every time a Farm Bill comes up in Congress for a vote. But it is the insurance programs that get the most attention.

Often these programs, while helpful, are hard to understand even for agriculturalist, but for those outside the ag realm, understanding how these regulations work, why they're important and how they affect the average consumer, is harder to comprehend.

Perhaps the simplest way to look

at safety net programs built within the Farm Bill is that of ensuring the safety of the nation's food supply and those who grow it.

That is critical considering farm and ranch families comprise just two percent of the U.S. population and those farmers and ranchers receive only 16 cents out of every dollar spent on food at home and away from home.

Kentucky Farm Bureau President Mark Haney said failure is not an option for U.S. farmers.

"When you think about the alternatives American consumers would have if those supplying their food go out of business, the choices are few and not very appealing," he said. "The strength of the economy in rural Kentucky is agriculture and it's what employs so many people in mid-America. If we weaken that system because we outsource food production to other places in the world, we're just really weakening our infrastructure within the United States."

Haney pointed out that the overhead of a farming operation is so capital intense, those farmers cannot afford

failure nor can their lending institutions, making safety nets like crop insurance all the more important.

*"You have to borrow that money and banks have to have assurance that you're going to be able to pay that money back so it's not whether or not we need crop insurance, it's a fact of life and the most important part of the Farm Bill,"* he said.

Haney emphasized the diverse use of crops as being a way to help non-agriculturalists understand the importance of the bill and the safe guards put in place.

*"Corn and soybeans have so many other uses other than for the food industry. Corn, for instance is used in fuel for automobiles and other types of machinery; it can be used to make corn plastics, cough syrup or cornstarch that is used in cosmetics and deodorants,"* he said. *"Soybeans can be used to produce biodiesel fuel, candles, inks, particleboard, in addition to healthy cooking oils. The Farm Bill is about so much more than food and is important to us all."*



## INSURING THE CROPS GROWN BY FARMERS

Since the crop insurance program's early beginnings in the 1930's, there has been some measure of support applied to it with the rules and regulations having been changed many times over the years. Currently, premiums for crop insurance are supported in part by the government and programs such as this are seen as invaluable to farmers, that is, if you are a farmer.

KFB First Vice-President Eddie Melton has seen what benefit crop insurance can be and said there are a lot of options for the farmer when it comes to this type of insurance.

*"You can pick different coverage levels but I decide how much risk I'm willing to take and match the premium for what I do,"* he said. *"However, with expenses where they are now, I wouldn't plant a crop without insurance. With the risks that are present now, you almost have to do it."*

Melton pointed out that there has only been one instance where he received an indemnity payment due to a crop failure and that was in 2012, the year of a severe drought that struck the region. That is generally the case with most producers;

they rarely have to rely on the insurance.

He also noted that farm production is a matter of national security when it comes to producing food, fuel and fiber for this country, an aspect that should encourage everyone to take an interest in the Farm Bill.

*"We need to be able to take care of ourselves. If we don't grow our food, someone else will so it is definitely a safety and security issue,"* said Melton.

Joe Cain, Commodity Division Director at KFB said there is a basic concept to each insurance program and understanding that concept helps to bring comprehension to why the Farm Bill exist and why the general public should care.

*"While at the end of the day, the Farm Bill helps ensure farms stay in operation in the event of a catastrophic disaster, be it natural or market based, the broader picture is about maintaining proper food security,"* he said. *"We must maintain a safe and abundant food supply."*

What confuses non-farmers and often has been the point of much discussion is the federal support of crop insurance. Opponents of this support say the program is expensive and ineffective but

for those who have utilized the system, it has served as a way to keep their operations sustainable.

*"Without federal involvement, crop insurance would be so expensive, producers could not afford it. Each time they plant a crop, they are taking a huge risk but it's a risk they understand,"* he said. *"Keeping our food supply secure and affordable are just a couple of reasons these types of safety nets are put into the Farm Bill and necessary for everyone."*









Cain pointed out that there are different programs for different commodities and they function differently according to geographic locations. He also said that farmers are basically operating on faith that each time they plant a crop the weather and market conditions will be favorable enough to produce a profit.

*"Farming is an occupation that affects everyone so there is no other option but to protect it as best as we can. That's what the Farm Bill does,"* he said.

KFB will be hosting a series of meetings across the state to discuss the Farm Bill.

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# COUNTY CORNER

Snapshots of County Farm Bureau activities



## Menifee County

Menifee County FB members enjoyed good food and fellowship during a recent member appreciation luncheon.



## Elliott County

Elliott County Farm Bureau President Donnie Barker announcing door prize winners at their annual fish fry.

## Lincoln County

Lincoln County Farm Bureau Women's Committee hosted Kentucky Ag Adventures at Highland Elementary where students learned about agriculture, the number one industry in Lincoln County.



## Crittenden County

Pictured are Marty Hill and Crystal Wesmoland during fall on the farm at Crittenden County Elementary School presenting fun facts to students about Kentucky Agriculture.



## Union County

Union County Safety Day was held Oct. 6 at the John Arnold arena in Sturgis, Ky. All 5th graders in Union Co. attended.



## Mercer County

Mercer County Farm Bureau Women's Committee raised funds for the local Freear's Hope Foundation with Pink Porcelain Doll pumpkins. This foundation is at the Commonwealth Cancer Center in Danville and provides financial assistance to cancer patients and their families.



## Perry County

Perry County Board sponsors Member Appreciation Day, highlighting KFB and local member benefits.



## Green County

Green County Farm Bureau Membership Appreciation Day. Pictured from left are: Agent Mitchell Wright, KFB President Mark Haney, Director of Agency Support and Marketing Ken Wilson, Agency Manager Kevin Rigdon, Agency Support and Marketing Manager Chris French.



## Garrard County

Garrard County Farm Bureau and several other community volunteers had a Pep Rally for Life at the local high school in September.



# Kentucky Becoming a Leader in Career and Technical Education Innovation



One of the first things a company looks for when it comes to expansion, re-location or even in a start-up phase, is the availability of a well-educated, well-trained workforce. No matter the industry, qualified employees are a must for these businesses.

But building bridges between the educational community and business and industry (BI) isn't always easy. The needs of the BI community have changed over the past few decades and are more dependent on advanced technology and a workforce which has the ability and opportunity to gain those 21st Century skills.

Today's Career and Technical Education (CTE) sector is working to

meet those demands through a variety of Career Clusters that encompass everything from Information Technology to manufacturing, agriculture, engineering and marketing, to name a few.

According to the Association for Career and Technical Education, approximately 94 percent of all high school students are enrolled in or have taken some type of CTE class or program.

Laura Arnold, an associate commissioner in the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) heads up the CTE Division. She said the problem is and has been that even with that high level of participation, parents, students and even some educators don't

recognize the CTE of today.

"They still see 'vocational education' as being of lesser value than what is being taught in the regular classroom," she said. "And while we still have and need the traditional programs, so much as changed. If you visit a welding or automotive technology lab today, you'll find that modern technology has found its way into these CTE programs while spawning unbelievable transitions into the engineering, information technology and health sciences fields, for instance. If anything, the CTE programs that are in our schools today are just as valuable as anything we teach."

Matt Chaliff, an Agricultural Education Consultant with KDE and FFA Executive Secretary said technology has changed the way the world works and CTE is no exception.

"In addition to our traditional hands on laboratory activities, CTE teachers are now using online simulators to give students hands on experience related to classroom instruction," he said. "Mobile apps are becoming a bigger and bigger part of instruction in all areas. In agriculture for example, there are mobile apps that help with everything from diagnosing plant disorders in the field to calibrating spraying equipment. We're also seeing a greater focus on GPS technology and now agriculture drones are becoming part of the discussion in many agriculture classrooms."

One area Kentucky educational and government leaders are looking at to help fill the needs of BI is through apprenticeships. For years, many of the more traditional skills-related jobs have utilized this form of education. But, in reality, apprenticeships can be associated with more than 1,400 occupations in a variety of sectors including agriculture and healthcare.

Touted as the "other four-year degree," apprenticeships are now beginning even at the high school level in Kentucky thanks to a KDE program known as TRACK or "Tech Ready Apprentices for Careers in Kentucky" a partnership between the department's

CTE Division and the Kentucky Labor Cabinet to provide secondary students with career pathway opportunities into Registered Apprenticeship programs.

Mary Taylor, the Industry Training and Development Specialist with KDE said in her role as the BI liaison, one of her goals is to make sure high school CTE centers are providing skills to students that the business community needs.

"We need to start developing that pipeline sooner. BI needs qualified employees and we feel we are the pipeline to fill that," she said. "TRACK is a youth apprenticeship program that allows opportunities into registered apprenticeship."

Kentucky's youth apprenticeship program has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Department of Labor as one of the top youth apprenticeship programs in the country.

There is also a program recently announced by the Governor's Office called "Kentucky Trained. Kentucky Built" that will help get more people involved in apprenticeship training programs that exist throughout the state.

This, along with the TRACK program will work together to move students forward toward their career goals.

"The more employers who offer apprenticeships, the more opportunity we have to initiate the TRACK program thus creating more opportunities for students," said Taylor.

In being recognized at the national level, Kentucky is one of 24 states along with Washington, D.C. to receive grant funds established that supports states as they work to align career-focused education with high-skill, high-demand jobs.

The funds, totaling \$100,000 were phase one of what is being called the New Skills for Youth (NSFY) initiative, a five-year, \$75 million project. Kentucky applied for addition grant funds in October to create regionalized governance and delivery of CTE that is employer-led based on workforce data and needs.

CTE is also gaining momentum as being a way to close student achievement gaps noted Brigitte Blom Ramsey, executive director of the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence, a citizen advocacy organization working to move

Kentucky into the top tier of all states educationally. She said while the state has made tremendous progress in education moving up in the national rankings in education, there are still persistent achievement gaps across our state.

"One very promising way to increase achievement for all students and close achievement gaps is through a new vision for high-quality Career and Technical Education," said Ramsey. "CTE that encourages not just some, but all, students to connect their academic work in mathematics, science and other areas to real-life experiences that prepare them for high demand careers."

She pointed out a recent study from the Fordham Institute on the CTE program in Arkansas found that participation in CTE led to greater likelihood of high school graduation, enrolling in 2-year postsecondary program, and being employed with higher wages.

"In addition, a report from Stanford University concluded that if Kentucky were to lift all students to a basic level of proficiency our economy would grow by \$335 billion," said Ramsey. "We believe CTE can go a long way toward helping students master basic content and apply their knowledge in a way that will be relevant for them and for Kentucky's future."



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# CANDID CONVERSATIONS



## Agriculture's role in alleviating hunger in Kentucky

**K**FB 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 column, Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles talks about the Hunger Task Force created earlier this year to explore ways to alleviate the issue of food insecurity in this state. Kentucky Farm Bureau Executive Vice-President David Beck is a member of that Task Force.

### What prompted you to begin this initiative at KDA?

*As an FFA member in high school, every year our big project was a food drive conducted around Thanksgiving. The FFA chapter would challenge each home room to collect food so I grew up being exposed to the issue of hunger in Kentucky. While serving in the Kentucky Legislature, I was very supportive of the Farms to Food Banks Trust Fund and learned more about the tax credits available to farmers. As I traveled the state in 2015, I saw that hunger is an issue that affects every community, every county, every hometown and every main street in the Commonwealth. As Agriculture Commissioner, I felt that, coming from a state with a strong farming economy, we could do a better job from the farmer-up level. Partnering with the Kentucky Food Banks Association we developed the Kentucky Hunger Initiative as a unique and first-of-its-kind effort to address an issue that unfortunately affects one in six Kentuckians and one in five Kentucky school children. What prompted me to dedicate KDA's time to this major issue was compassion; I feel the farm community can play a more active role; and KDA already acts as the intersection between consumers and the farm world so I felt we could facilitate this discussion.*



Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles

### Do you think most people don't realize there is a hunger issue in Kentucky?

*Absolutely. Most Kentuckians don't realize how many people food insecurity affects but it's an unfortunate reality. This is not an issue that affects just rural Kentucky or parts of the state that are suffering from high unemployment, there are food insecurity issues in the most affluent neighborhoods in Kentucky. Hunger is such a complex issue that there are stigmas attached to those affected by it and unlike other issues affecting a large percentage of the population, hunger is often one that's often hidden; it's one*

*that unfortunately affects vulnerable populations such as children and the elderly more and it's one that's really hard to generalize because there are many different faces of hunger. I even have legislators who are surprised to learn of how big of a problem it is in their own districts.*

### Since the Hunger Task Force began its work, is there anything that has come about from the group that stands out to you?

*We have had standing room only HungerInitiative regional meetings which have been very encouraging. Some of the solutions that have been identified*



as parts of our recommendations are ones that I think most Kentuckians can get behind whether that's a backpack program to put food in school children's' backpacks on a Friday so they can come back ready to learn on a Monday without an empty stomach, to gardening efforts to perhaps partnering with our corrections systems to have those who are rehabilitating their life grow food for those in need. And of course the best investment we can make is to continue to support the Farms to Food Banks Trust Fund where food that would otherwise rot in the field is harvested and provided to the food banks. The benefit of the Trust Fund is that it benefits Kentucky agriculture and producers while we put high quality Kentucky food into the hands of those who need it the most. The most surprising part of this initiative so far is to see how many Kentuckians want to a part of the solution.

**The agriculture industry seems like a natural choice to help combat hunger issues. Could you elaborate on that?**

We are blessed in Kentucky to have a compassionate farm community. We have many strong agricultural organizations such as Farm Bureau, commodity groups or livestock organizations. And all of them have a similar approach to this issue that as farmers, we're already feeding the world and we can do a better job of helping those in our backyard when it comes to solving hunger. I feel that if we have an approach that involves those farmers who put the seed in the ground to the grocery stores to our food banks and restaurants where 40 percent of all the prepared food goes in the trashcan; if we include our charitable community and even our church community as well as our researchers in higher education, that we can identify some tangible, pragmatic solutions. Whether that be changes in regulations where it would make it easier for grocery stores to donate produce, or create a network of thousands of organizations that currently have some sort of anti-hunger initiative to get them connected perhaps through a better communications tool, KDA is best to facilitate this discussion

because we already represent a farm community that often puts an emphasis on helping your fellow neighbor.

**How important is it to bring all of these organizations together to help with this issue?**

Hunger is such a devastating issues that affects so many Kentuckians that we need to have a collaboration of entrusted organizations, be it a church in downtown Louisville, a non-profit in rural Kentucky or establish agricultural organizations. But we can all do a better job of working together. Often, we have identified duplication in the system which has caused resources to needlessly be spent and other times we found there may be two organizations in the same town that aren't aware of each other's presence. It's important that we take an inventory of what's working well, identify those areas that have a void and come up with recommendations that can be applied on a regional basis across the state.

**What is the main goal of the Task Force and how hopeful are you this**

**goal will be realized?**

As we conclude our 10 regional meetings, the Hunger Task Force is to develop a statewide strategic plan to better address hunger in the state. And we took time to listen to the needs of Kentucky because we realize it's a regional state and a one size fits all solution more than likely will not work. So, we want to make sure that we develop pragmatic, practical solutions that are a tailored fit to the regions of Kentucky. What may work in downtown Louisville may not work in deep Eastern Kentucky. We need to identify what we can do better, but also provide metrics so we can figure out, during my term as agriculture commissioner, what areas we can best invest in. We believe what's happening in Kentucky can be replicated in other states.

The next meeting of the Hunger Task Force will be November 22, at the Kentucky Department of Agriculture. For more information, go to

<http://www.kyagr.com/hunger>

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# Is lamb on its way back to the American dinner table?

By Ray Bowman

James Mansfield's flock has grown to 800 and he contracts with 47 producers in 17 Kentucky counties to assure the supply.

Sheep first made their way to North America on the second voyage of Columbus in 1493. The versatile animal quickly found its niche and the flocks began to improve and grow with the infusion of better genetics through the early 1940's.

It was during that time that the Bluegrass area of central Kentucky became a sheep focal point, with stories being told of all-night sheep sales in Danville and Paris and boxcar-loads of lambs being shipped out by rail.

But then something happened.

The national inventory of sheep topped 56 million in 1942, but a steady decline led to a 2006 count of a mere 6.2 million, the lowest since the introduction of the animal on what would become U.S. soil.

Reasons are unclear as to the precipitous fall from favor, but they range from available labor pools depleted by the second World War, poor quality mutton being served to GI's, restrictions on grazing and the general competition from other livestock and meats.

Obviously, something had to be done to improve the product and image, reinvigorating the industry and getting it back on its feet. Innovators rose to the occasion and the fortunes of ovine America once again began to rise.

One change that came about was a greater focus on hair sheep. Wool had

once been an economic driver in the sheep business, but increased foreign processing reduced the market until, today, the United States is responsible for less than one percent of all world-wide wool production, much of that being used for value-added limited production products.

Wool breeds are still important in this country for their larger carcass size and meat production, but hair sheep have become a very attractive option due to their quality meat, lower maintenance (no shearing) and adaptation to a range of varying environmental conditions.

One central Kentucky sheep producer longs for the glory days of Bluegrass lamb and has taken steps to do something about it.

James Mansfield owns Four Hills Farm in the Salvisa community of Mercer County and leases other property in Boyle County, just outside Danville.

Mansfield had worked in extension in North Carolina and raised produce in Oklahoma before settling in the Commonwealth.

"I moved here to Kentucky and saw all this beautiful grass and decided if I was going to have a farm, I had to use that great forage resource," he observed as he and wife Lynn Pruett took a break in the breezy alleyway of a historic Danville mule barn that has been converted for the feeding and

working of sheep. Around the turn of the 20th century, the barn housed mules slated for sale to the U.S. Army.

"We ended up buying 25 Katahadin ewes and kind of went from there," he says. "I grew up eating lamb and we found out these sheep had excellent quality meat." Mansfield notes his mother was an influence on his culinary choices, describing her as a cooking writer and an "early foodie."

A national grocery store chain became interested in Mansfield's product, which he designates as "New American Lamb," a Kentucky Proud product, and began to feature it in 11 of their regional retail outlets. "We had to jump through a lot of hoops to get the product, the logistics and the marketing just the way they wanted it, starting with just two stores and growing from there.

One of the contingencies is that lamb, usually a seasonal product, be available fresh, year-round. To facilitate this, Mansfield's flock has grown to 800 and he contracts with 47 producers in 17 other Kentucky counties to assure the supply.

"That's what I always wanted to do," Mansfield continues. "I always wanted to grow things I like to eat."

Hopefully, for Mansfield and others trying to expand the sheep industry in Kentucky, there's plenty of folks who will come back to entertaining lamb as a menu staple.



# Farm to Table Movement Brings Local Farms and Communities Together



While it may be called a variety of names such as Farm to Fork, Farm to City or Farm to Table, this local food movement that has grown exponentially in Kentucky and across the country has a common denominator; it brings the farm to consumers by way of a variety of events and programs, with the best food state producers have to offer at the center of attention.

Jessica Sullivan, the agency manager at the Bullitt County Farm Bureau, Hillview Office, recognized that fact and helped create the first Farm to Table event held in Mt. Washington.

*"After seeing many things about the initiative on social media and television, I thought Mt. Washington would be a good place to hold such an event because it has a good downtown area and the city is always looking to enhance its appeal to its citizens," she said. "Also, our Board of Directors was interested in doing something that would first, inspire people to think about agriculture and where their food originates, and to help them realize that Farm Bureau is about agriculture, as well as insurance."*

With that, the Farm to Table Dinner idea came together through the help of many local individuals and organizations. While the primary goal of having a Main Street dinner, complete with decorations and music, was to get the word out about local food while showcasing the downtown area, it was not about making money, according to



Sullivan. However what revenue that was made from the event was donated to the local CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) agency.

*"Making a profit was never part of the plan so making this donation to such a worthy cause seemed like the right thing to do," said Sullivan. "It was truly a group event for the community to do something and give back. We really do love the community and just want to help."*

More than 90 people made their way to the event, a number Sullivan hopes will grow for the next Farm to Table occurrence, something she hopes will happen.

Well-known local chef and restaurateur Joshua Moore prepared the meal using some vegetables he grows himself. He said most restaurants try to use local foods.

*"We're very focused on Farm*

*to Table and using fresh and local products," he said.*

Sullivan also said one reason so many initiatives like this one are popping up, is the presence of a generation that is more in tune to their food sources.

*"They want to know about their food and we need people to realize what a big role the farmer plays and the process of getting our food," she said.*

The five course meal consisted of all Kentucky products, most of which were locally grown or produced including a lamb hors d'oeuvre, a ground beefalo stuffed sweet pepper appetizer, a pasta dish and beef roast as an entrée, just to name a few. The meal was topped with apple crunch cake and a honey gelato.

*"We wanted to shine a light on our city, shine a light on Farm Bureau and, most importantly, shine a light on where our food comes from," said Sullivan.*



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