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2016 KFB *Election Guide*

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KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU NEWS

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Cover photo by Tim Thornberry

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I was always taught that being a good citizen comes with a set of civic responsibilities, such as being active in our community endeavors; being good stewards of our resources, natural and otherwise, and being involved in the political process, whether we agree with particular government policies or not. Being involved makes us better and makes our country better.

As Election Day approaches, we are once again reminded of the privilege we have as citizens of the United States to have a voice in our government and who runs it at all levels.

On November 8, we get the opportunity once again to have a say in the race for a U.S. Senate seat, numerous state House and Senate elections and the selection of our next U.S. President. Whether you choose to vote in every election or not, it's hard for me to imagine living in a place that didn't allow the voting freedom we have in this country, and there are still places like that in the world.

This edition of the KFB News contains our Election Guide that includes the names of those in contested races for the Kentucky House and Senate. The names of those running in contested Congressional district races and the U.S. Senate seat race are included, as well. This section also contains the U.S. Senate Measure the Candidate (MTC) Questionnaire answered by Sen. Rand Paul and Lexington Mayor Jim Gray. I hope it is useful as you prepare to exercise your civic responsibility to vote.

In our efforts as an organization to keep our members informed, several MTC forums have been held across the state during the last few months to allow you to hear from candidates and allow those seeking office to hear from you.

Of all the things I'm proud of when it comes to KFB initiatives, these forums always rank near the top for me because I can think of nothing quite as important as being informed about those who will ultimately have a hand in creating our local, state and federal laws.

Another example of civic involvement comes by way of philanthropic endeavors, in both small and large ways. Many of our members demonstrate this kind of dedication to their local communities every day.

Judge Jimmy Don Robinson is an excellent example of that. This Ballard County Farm Bureau Board member has dedicated most of his life to his community, his state and his country as an Army veteran, former District Attorney, and former District Judge.

A ceremony was recently held where Judge Robinson officially donated his 534 acre farm, which has been in his family since 1845, to the Murray State University Foundation, Inc. to benefit future generations involved in agriculture.

This wonderful gift, made in honor and memory of Judge Robinson and his late wife Dr. Charlene Robinson, will be invaluable to students from across the state and demonstrates a selflessness and devotion to one's community that comes from such a dedicated citizen.

Mark Haney

President
Kentucky Farm Bureau

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comment COLUMN

On October 19, over 60,000 FFA members will arrive in Indianapolis, sporting their blue corduroy jackets, to mark the beginning of the 89th annual National FFA Convention. For some members, this may be their first of many trips away from home. Others will arrive with anxious expectation as they prepare to turn their hard work into results in their respective Career Development Event.



Regardless of what they will be participating in while there, all of these members will know that they are in for an experience of a lifetime as the lights dim before the opening session. National FFA Convention holds a special place in the hearts of all members who have attended because it provides members from all across the nation with the opportunity to grow, show, and sow.

While in Indianapolis, members are exposed to so many things that develop them in their FFA careers and lives. Chapter members think they know each other until they go away on a trip like this together, but come home closer than ever and prepared to face the year's challenges. As they wade through a constant sea of blue, they are able to meet new friends and build relationships that will last a lifetime. To cap off the learning experience, all members have the opportunity to hear world famous keynote speakers and attend trainings with the focus of growing into better chapter and community leaders.

Among other things, the National FFA Convention includes national Career Development Events. The top teams from each state come together to demonstrate their skills related to agriculture career areas. These skills were learned in the agriculture classroom and are the same skills that they will need to succeed in the agriculture industry.

But what is likely most impactful at the convention are the seeds that are sown in the lives of members. Convention serves as a great motivator and inspiration to students as they are reminded of the immense scope of organization and cause. There is absolutely nothing like witnessing thousands and thousands of members standing up in unison and beginning with, "To practice brotherhood....". Members and chapters are reminded that they are not alone and are playing a part in something larger than themselves as they see the results of the hard work of over 629,000 members nationwide.

Like National Convention, in the last few years of my life I have been reminded over and over again of the ability of Kentucky Farm Bureau to grow, show and sow. I have witnessed how their involvement inspires large amounts of growth in the lives of youth, young farmers, and families all around the bluegrass. Their constant stand for the truth is more than evident as they tirelessly serve as the 'Voice of Kentucky Agriculture'.

Perhaps most importantly, Kentucky Farm Bureau serves as a beacon of light as they sow seeds of character, dedication, family values, and a hard work ethic while strengthening communities through their agricultural involvement. Kentucky FFA is proud and forever thankful for the ardent support that Kentucky Farm Bureau displays towards the FFA Organization and agricultural education. Their investment proves, yet again that they are truly, 'Big on Commitment'.

Ben Pinkston
Kentucky FFA President



Dean Tony Brannon announced a new FFA scholarship with Ballard Memorial High School FFA members. A photo of Eagle Rest Plantation is in the background.

Ballard County Farm Donated to Murray State University for Agriculture Research and Education

Jimmy Don Robinson has spent most of his life in public service. He is an Army veteran having served during the Berlin and Cuban crisis, rising to the rank of Infantry Captain in the Reserves; a former District Attorney and District Judge. He also served as an Assistant Attorney General as well as in many positions during his tenure at the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. But of all the titles he processes, perhaps his favorites are that of "husband" and "farmer."

Robinson and his late wife Dr. Charlene Robinson were married on June 17, 1975 and began their lives together as owners and operators of Eagle Rest Plantation which has been in his family since 1845. The farm has been recognized by the National Cattlemen's Association as one of the oldest cattle ranches in the U.S. under continuous family ownership.

But the plantation has been home to many other endeavors throughout the years. Robinson said that after the Civil War, his great grandfather began raising thoroughbreds on the farm until 1922. The farm also became noted throughout much of the Southeastern United States for the quality mules produced on the farm, a byproduct of the thoroughbred business.

After Robinson's great grandfather's death, members of the family began to raise different crops including hay and tobacco on separate tracts of the farm until the end of World War II. It would be several years later that Robinson, his wife and his parents began to bring the original farm tracks back together.

Today, Eagle Rest Plantation is of such historical importance, it has been designated as a Kentucky Landmark and Kentucky Sesquicentennial Farm.

But Robinson's love for his wife was unparalleled, even by the family farm. He once told her if anything ever happened to her he would tear the house down, salt the land, lock the gates and look for a war and get his commission back. Fortunately she convinced him to do otherwise before she passed away from cancer in 2006.

In keeping with his ongoing love of agriculture, his land and a promise he made to his wife to keep the farm together, Robinson has generously donated all of its 534 acres along with two houses to the Murray State University (MSU) Foundation, Inc. The donation will benefit the Hutson School of Agriculture, students, faculty, staff, and regional and state agricultural initiatives.

"I am very pleased to make this gift to benefit Murray State University. I have enjoyed working with the Murray State officials during the past year as



A plaque detailing some of the history of Eagle Rest Plantation and the Robinsons is located at the farm.

we addressed the details and future of Eagle Rest Plantation. This is a large, historic farm and it means a great deal to me and my family," said Robinson.

The Ballard County Farm Bureau Board Member and his wife dedicated much of their time to serving their community. He noted that this gift will benefit Ballard County, regional and state agricultural programs and students for many years to come.

"It will be exciting to have Murray State's physical presence in Ballard County as an educational, agricultural and economic development driver," said Robinson. "I hope the students can get practical experience here and I think it will benefit those in and around Ballard County."

Kentucky Farm Bureau Executive Vice President David Beck said the Robinsons have been well known for their service and leadership to their local community and region for many years.



A sign honoring Judge and Dr. Robinson was unveiled at the ceremony and will be placed on the property.



KFB Executive Vice-President David Beck presented Judge Robinson with a Certificate of Achievement during the dedication ceremony.

"Now, they're continuing that by making their farm available to MSU. As we think about all the values that will come from this generous gift we think about the impact it will have," he said. "It will serve as an opportunity to do research and, in addition to that, it will also extend opportunities to students and give them a firsthand experience to be on the farm."

Dr. Bob Jackson, president of the Murray State University Foundation acknowledged the magnitude of the gift made by the Robinson family.

"I've known Judge Robinson for many years, and we are very grateful for his generosity and vision. In addition, this will be a wonderful legacy for Judge and Dr. Robinson as a marker to recognize their lives of public service in Ballard County and the region."

Jackson added that Eagle Rest Plantation is valued at \$2.6 million and is one of the largest gifts ever made to benefit the university and its agricultural programs.

Hutson School of Agriculture Dean Tony Brannon said the gift of this historic farm will allow expansion of the school's research and numerous agricultural initiatives.

"It will enhance our many agricultural programs and affords a tremendous opportunity for our students, faculty and staff," he said. "This is an institution-changing gift and we are extremely appreciative to Judge Robinson as we continue to advance Murray State University's Hutson School of Agriculture as a national leader in agricultural education and research."

Judge Robinson said he thinks it's very important to provide agriculture education to upcoming generations.

"There are still a lot of students interested in agriculture and in having something like this farm close, they'll actually get hands-on experience," he said.

A ceremony marking the occasion was recently held in Ballard County bringing together representatives from the college, the community, Kentucky Farm Bureau and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture to show their appreciation to the Robinsons. State Rep. Steven Rudy was also present. He said through this gift, the legacy of the Judge and his wife will live on.

"And I'm certain the research Murray State University does on this farm will benefit the farmers of this community,

this state, this nation and all of God's creations," he said.

During that ceremony, Brannon announced a new scholarship that will be given each year to a Ballard Memorial High School FFA member to Murray State in the name of the Robinsons.

Judge Robinson, who is fighting a cancer battle now himself, will live out the rest of his life at the plantation.

A sign that will be placed at the farm in honor of the couple was also unveiled during the ceremony. Brannon fittingly closed the event with a blessing and told the audience, regarding the gift and what it will mean to all, "The best is yet to come."



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WHETHER RENTING OR BUYING, FARMLAND IS AN INVESTMENT THAT REQUIRES A PLAN

By Steve Allard, Chief Credit Officer

UNCERTAINTY, RISK AND INTEREST RATES

While global events and government fiscal policy is out of the realm of what farmers can regulate, they can take control of their own financial risks. I encourage farmers to understand the importance and magnitude of every buying decision, whether it's discretionary spending, fixed operational costs or spending on variable input costs like seed, chemicals and fertilizer. Locking in today's lower interest rates by converting short-term variable rate loans into long-term fully fixed rate loans is an additional way to mitigate risk. Fixed and variable costs impact the competitiveness and flexibility of every farming operation, and there is a great deal of variability from one piece of land to the next in yield potential and input costs to raise a crop.

Input costs and reasonable yield

Costs can be managed several ways. Consider how farmers arrive at the yield goals they are shooting for. When going for profitable crop yields, there is a law of diminishing returns on inputs. That's why managing inputs appropriately and with good data is important. The key is in understanding yield potential on the land you're farming and applying inputs to achieve reasonable goals.

Each field, by nature, has a limit to its predictable or reasonable yield. One strategy is to look at yield data over a 10- to 20-year period and fertilize with the amount of fertilizer and legume nitrogen credits needed to produce the best yield that's likely in an average year. There's a big difference in how you view yield and how that will add to the overall cost of the operation. You can compare your own historical field data to university data to determine pounds of nutrients needed to produce a bushel of corn. Crop consultants, agronomists or land-grant universities are all resources that have data to determine ideal fertility rates.

Cost of land

Whether you are financing and buying land or renting it, it's wise to look at the land's historical profit potential with reasonable yield and commodity price expectations.

This is a time when farmers might be negotiating with landlords on new terms. For those rental rates, it is a much different market today than it has been in the recent past. Every rental arrangement has specific components and a history that needs to be considered. But we do see rents being renegotiated with varying degrees of success. Farmers who approach landlords with good production records can show the true value of the rented land in relation to the price per bushel that is likely in today's commodity markets.

Competition for rented land remains high. Farmers may have a longer-term view that includes budgets and cash flows for 2016. Some are willing to pay rents at levels that provide a very modest or negative return in hopes of possessing land rights when stronger future grain prices return. Real data and prices that are available today may aid in the negotiation with landlords. It's not always going to be foolproof, but with good yield data and reasonable expectations, you can be in a better position to decide whether it's worth working the land to farm it for minimal profit until grain prices rebound.

If you plan to expand by buying land with credit, the key to success is very similar to a rental negotiation. Bring yield and input cost data and have discussions with your lender to talk about the income you would expect by marketing a crop to pay off the loan. Having good information and a plan can reduce your uncertainty as well as your lender's.

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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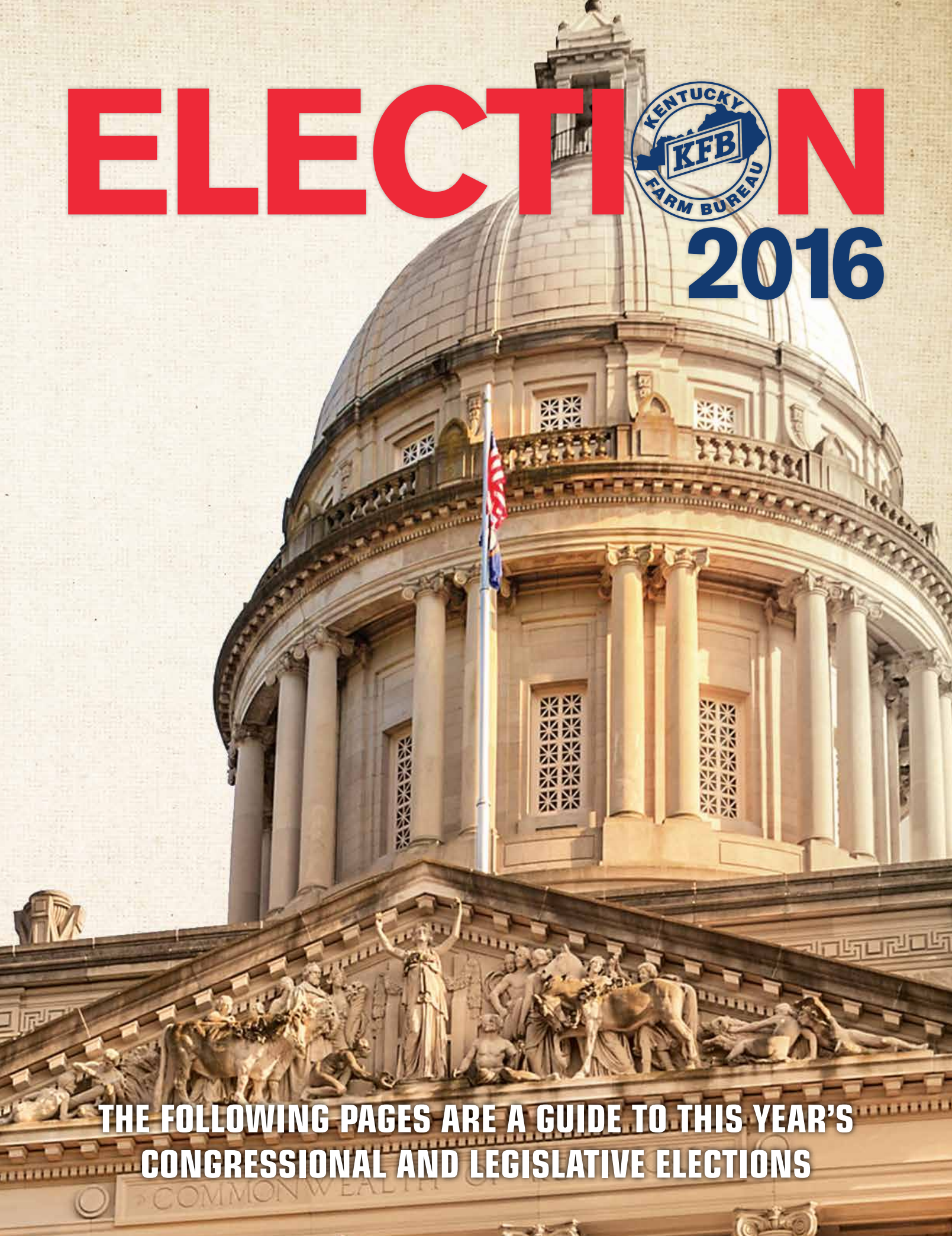
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ELECTION



2016



**THE FOLLOWING PAGES ARE A GUIDE TO THIS YEAR'S
CONGRESSIONAL AND LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS**

2016 U.S. SENATE CANDIDATES' RESPONSES TO POLICY QUESTIONS



JIM GRAY



RAND PAUL

NATIONAL FARM POLICY

A strong agricultural base is essential to any nation's long-term success and security. Farmers in the United States produce the world's safest, most abundant and most economical supply of food and fiber. Agriculture also plays a significant role in the production of renewable energy.

1. How would you further strengthen national farm policy to protect our nation's safe and nutritious food supply by ensuring American agriculture remains a viable industry?

RAND PAUL: I will continue to work to get the government out of the way of farmers by opposing EPA overreach such as the WOTUS rule, fixing the H-2A program, opening up markets through my Fuel Choice Bill, and reducing regulatory burdens through the REINS Act.

JIM GRAY: A safe and nutritious food supply is mutually beneficial to farmers and consumers. Agriculture viability should be ensured by protecting the federal crop insurance program. To dial up the demand for Kentucky agricultural products we also have to encourage better trade to open up markets for Kentucky goods.

And we can't do it with our fathers and grandfather's infrastructure. Modern commerce requires bridges, roads and the highway of the future, high-speed internet. We should work to recruit more agribusinesses like Champion PetFoods which my company built in Auburn,

near Bowling Green. That's a new customer for many Kentucky farmers who supply Champion with a variety of products.

Additionally, I support agricultural education programs, and had I been in the Senate I would have voted for the 2014 Farm Bill.

2. In what ways should revenue assurance and crop insurance programs play a more significant role in national farm policy?

JIM GRAY: American agriculture helps supply not only food and fiber for the United States, and the world, but also provides a way of life for many farm families. I support programs that support Kentucky's agricultural exports. Revenue assurance and crop insurance are safety nets that are essential to the livelihood of our farmers and I'll support them.

RAND PAUL: I've stood by crop insurance in federal legislation having voted to repeal the \$3 billion crop insurance cut in the DRIVE Act and voted against an amendment to the farm bill, which would have stripped crop insurance for tobacco.

3. How would you support young and beginning farmers in future farm policy?

RAND PAUL: Getting federal regulators and an overreaching federal government out of the way is the best way to give future farmers the opportunity to succeed. Their success shouldn't be dependent upon their ability to

fill out forms correctly and dodge unnecessary regulations, but on their ingenuity and skill in agriculture.

JIM GRAY: As a seventh-generation Kentuckian, I'm focused on what's best for Kentucky. Agriculture is a big part of that. We must continue to cultivate programs like 4-H and FFA to foster more student leaders in the agricultural industry. I saw the enthusiasm Fayette County students have at the Locust Trace AgriScience center which is a model for agriculture education. We should support broadening agriculture education to show our children the career opportunities that exist in Kentucky agriculture.

4. What modifications would you support to USDA's crop insurance program to ensure producers have an effective safety net should a disaster occur?

JIM GRAY: While I'm not a farmer, I respect and understand the essential role agriculture plays in Kentucky's economy and life. You can count on me to be an advocate for Kentucky farms and carefully consider all proposals and adjustments based on their merits. And I will be seeking the advice of Kentucky farmers and agricultural leaders before making decisions.

RAND PAUL: We should eliminate loopholes and use that money to ensure program integrity for real disasters. Like the so-called Prairie Potholes loophole, where some plains-state farms have planted no crops for as many as 14 years in a row and collect more than \$300 million in crop insurance payments annually.

TRADE

Kentucky has a very diverse, and robust, agricultural industry. Cash receipts for agriculture in Kentucky for 2015 totaled over \$6 billion. Since 2001, farmers have made extensive investment to enhance their production, but now increased market access is needed to increase net farm income for Kentucky farmers. The World Trade Organization (WTO) and free trade agreements (FTA's) affect how U.S. farmers compete on the world market, and uniform international phytosanitary guidelines are critical to trade.

We strongly believe in fair and open world trade. We also believe that crops produced with biotech traits are safe and important to meeting the rising world demand for food. As new traits are developed, they should be closely tested with the use of sound science. When approved, these new food products should be aggressively supported through domestic and foreign trade policy.

1. How should FTA's, including the current Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) and future Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (T-TIP) be developed to enhance market opportunities for Kentucky and U.S. farmers?

RAND PAUL: Markets work best when there are as few distortions as possible interrupting the free-flow of goods in the international market place. I believe that trade deals should focus on expanding available markets for U.S. and Kentucky farmers through international agreements.

JIM GRAY: I recognize that agriculture is a business, and like all business agriculture is dependent on trade. I will support trade deals that are good for Kentucky and oppose those that aren't. We should carefully consider all trade deals to determine what is fair and beneficial, prioritizing our agricultural needs. Kentucky farmers, workers and businesses need an advocate to deliver good outcomes and be an effective voice in the Senate.

2. What market policies should be in place to ensure U.S. farmers can participate in fair and open world trade?

JIM GRAY: Our farms produce the best yield, bar none. When competing on a level playing field, they win. Trade partners with fewer regulations, harmful tariffs and currency manipulation in place aren't playing fair. We must advocate that all potential trade agreements are fair and beneficial to Kentucky farmers, if they aren't we should oppose them.

RAND PAUL: I believe that we need to work to expand the available international market place for goods to be traded in a competitive and fair process that benefits Kentucky farmers.

3. What are your views on how foods containing GMO crops should be labeled for the domestic market and treated in international trade agreements?

RAND PAUL: I oppose state and federal mandated labeling. Farmers are going to end up bearing the paperwork and legal burden of complying with those laws. I've introduced legislation, which would stop the federal government from charging farmers with criminal penalties under the new labeling law.

JIM GRAY: Studies have found that GMO products do not pose a threat to health or ecology. Until sound science and research show differently I cannot support GMO labeling. However, we need to ensure the agricultural industry is on an equal playing field should states begin passing GMO labeling laws.

FISCAL POLICY

The national debt continues to grow and threatens our nation's economic stability. Farmers must watch their bottom line to remain financially stable, just as the federal government should. Balancing the federal budget and reducing the national debt through spending restraint and reducing the rate of growth rather than increasing the American tax burden will be important to the economic recovery and growth of our country.

1. What is your level of concern about the size of our nation's deficit?

JIM GRAY: Unlike my opponent, my record is one of working across the aisle, bringing folks together for the greater good. That's real. We overcame a \$30 million deficit in Lexington by working with Republicans and Democrats on the city council. We reformed our pension and health care systems which have fundamentally changed the financial position of Lexington. And we were

able to make investments in critical infrastructure that businesses rely on and that gives them optimism about the city they call home. The results are clear, we added more than 15,000 new jobs in Lexington in five years. And those new jobs are producing real revenues that can be reinvested and help reduce our debt. On the federal level, we should use the same approach. We need to balance the budget in a way that keeps our country safe and invests in growing and expanding the middle class. It's good for business and it's good for workers.

RAND PAUL: Our nearly \$20 trillion deficit is unacceptable and I've pledged to not vote for a budget that wouldn't balance in a reasonable amount of time. I've focused my time in the Senate on ways we can reduce our deficit by cutting spending and proposing budget blueprints to balance the budget.

2. What measures would you support to reduce deficit spending and our national debt?

RAND PAUL: I support amending the Constitution to require a balanced federal budget. I've also proposed three balanced budgets to balance the budget in five years, without raising taxes, and grow the economy through comprehensive tax reform that simplifies and cuts taxes for all families and businesses.

JIM GRAY: As a businessman and a Mayor, I understand the importance of governing responsibly. We must go line-by-line and cut wasteful programs that don't work and streamline those that do, while keeping our country safe. We have to grow the economy and use the added revenues to invest and reduce the debt. I often say that we can't shrink ourselves to greatness and growing the topline should be top priority. America has a long history of building ourselves out of adversity and it is time we do it again.

3. How do you feel agricultural spending should be affected in future budget considerations?

JIM GRAY: I will support investing in future farm bills. I will advocate for improved access to capital for beginning farmers including programs like USDA beginning farmer loan program. Our family business got its start with a \$25,000 Small Business Administration loan and over fifty years we built facilities for some of Kentucky's largest employers. So our family knows how important access to capital really is. It can help build the American Dream.

Furthermore, career and technical education programs like the Locust Trace AgriScience center are essential tools for preparing our students for success in the future. Kentucky's agriculture is critical to our home, as well as the entire country. Our goal should be to grow the agricultural industry in Kentucky.

RAND PAUL: I've worked to save farmers money with the Full Expensing Act, which permanently removes the dollar limitation on the expensing provisions of the tax code, allowing businesses to deduct 100% of their business expenses. Combined with my tax plan, we'll leave more money in the paychecks of farmers in America.

REGULATORY REFORM

Regulations should be based on sound science that balances economic and social costs with real and achievable benefits. The cost of regulatory compliance is huge and potential permitting requirements will mean farmers might be spending more time on paperwork than farming. Farmers must be experts on labor, environmental, endangered species, transportation, health care and tax rules, just to name a few. With an increasing world population, farmers will be called on to produce more food, fiber and energy than ever before, but will be hampered in doing so if unrealistic and burdensome regulations are implemented.

1. What latitude should regulatory agencies have when issuing rules and regulations under legislation passed by Congress?

RAND PAUL: Under the REINS Act that I had introduced in the Senate, regulatory agencies would need a joint resolution of approval from Congress before any major agency rules became enacted. This would allow us the opportunity to increase transparency in the Federal regulatory process.

JIM GRAY: In 40 years in business and as mayor, I've learned that a balanced approach to regulation is best. Stop lights and restaurant inspections keep people safe. But regulators can go too far. It's our job as elected officials to bring affected parties together with regulators so that everyone can understand different perspectives. It is important that regulators have the facts and consider all options and all potential outcomes of their decisions. My opponent proposes we take the slash and burn approach. But we all know a balanced approach is the right one to ensure food safety and protect the investments we've all made - both private and public.

2. What responsibility does Congress have when passing legislation that federal agencies must enforce?

JIM GRAY: We need to advocate solutions to problems before they are problems, and we need to do it in a way that works for Kentucky farmers. Again, keeping Kentuckians safe is important but regulators can go too far. It's our job as elected officials to bring affected parties together with regulators so that everyone can understand different perspectives. It is important regulators have the facts and consider all options and all potential outcomes of their decisions.

RAND PAUL: Our founders established checks and balances on the different branches of government to avoid giving any one branch more authority than the others. And in this case, Congress needs to act as a check on an out-of control executive legislating through agencies when Congress won't pass its bills.

3. What role should litigation play in determining federal regulations or rules?

RAND PAUL: Activists shouldn't get to create regulations against farmers by suing under the Endangered Species Act and environmental laws. I've

co-sponsored legislation to stop the abusive sue and settle practices that EPA and environmental activists are using to increase regulations they can't pass through Congress and the law doesn't require.

JIM GRAY: Rules and regulations can create problems. So what we're really talking about is problem solving. Litigation is a tool and can sometimes be effective. But understanding all the options and working to actually make a difference is what an effective US Senator should do for Kentucky.

WATER

Abundant water resources are critical to agriculture's continued success, but increasing population places increased demand on water resources. Many areas of the country currently struggle with inadequate water resources, drought or infrastructure issues. Kentucky Farm Bureau's Water Management Working Group was appointed to evaluate and plan for Kentucky's future water needs for both agriculture and urban use. Capturing water during abundant times for use during drought means additional water resources must be developed and current water resources monitored to prevent Kentucky from facing the water shortages many areas now face.

1. What funding and support do you feel the federal government should provide in developing or expanding water resources?

JIM GRAY: Some of the country's greatest job creating investments have been through water projects. As an example, Roosevelt's New Deal program funded the Kentucky Dam in Gilbertsville in 1938. When appropriate the federal government should play a role in assisting states and communities in developing water resources. History has shown the Army Corps of Engineers certainly has an opinion about waterways and my view is they should be supporting these projects financially to help Kentucky find solutions to water needs.

RAND PAUL: The federal government needs to get out of the way of farmers. I applaud the creation of the Water Management Working Group and their part in creating the Water Resources Board. Policy decisions that affect water resource quality and quantity should be developed by those who know best.

2. What technical support should federal agencies provide for the initial development of water resources for agricultural use?

RAND PAUL: Through the Farm Bill, we could change Natural Resource Conservation Service guidelines for approving technical assistance to allow NRCS technicians to provide assistance in developing on-farm water resources to be used during times of drought. This could include the building of surface water resources, wells, and retention ponds.

JIM GRAY: I am committed to making sure the Soil Conservation Districts and the NRCS and their

technicians have the resources available to provide the expertise that farmers need.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

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

Of particular concern is the effort to redefine waters of the United States under the Clean Water Act. Currently the Clean Water Act regulates truly navigable waters and streams with both permanent and seasonal flows, but removing the word 'navigable' from the definition of waters of the U.S. would open the door to the broadest possible interpretation of the law. This could significantly impede common agricultural practices, impose additional unfunded mandates on state and local governments, and limit some uses of private property.

1. What steps would you take to assure that all Federal regulations affecting production agriculture are based on sound science, include a cost benefit analysis and have achievable goals?

JIM GRAY: I recognize that sustainable agriculture must continue to be a viable career choice in our state. I strongly support evidence-based policymaking, and I will apply close scrutiny to regulatory proposals based on unscientific claims. Sound science will be my guide when reviewing proposed regulations.

RAND PAUL: One of the actions that I have already taken is introducing the REINS Act. By introducing this act, Congress would have been allowed to oversee Federal regulations affecting agriculture and ensure that they were based on sound science and would have been affordable and maintained achievable goals.

2. What impact would removing the term "navigable" from the definition of "waters of the U.S." have on American agriculture? Would you support such legislation or any regulation that would redefine 'Waters of the U.S.'?

RAND PAUL: I oppose the idea of removing "navigable" from the definition of "waters" regulated by the federal government. However, understanding the impact the current definition of "navigable" had on our farmers, I introduced the Defense of Environment and Property Act to clarify navigable waters as waters that are navigable-in-fact.

JIM GRAY: The definition of navigable should not include streams and ponds that are not navigable. With any legislation we must examine each piece of it, and as I said in the farm bureau forum, I would not support the total repeal of Waters of the United States. We should bring farmers and regulators together to understand the implications of regulatory language on our businesses – our farmers – and address the problems the language creates. A senator just complaining about regulations isn't going to make an ounce of difference or put one Kentuckian back to work.

3. What efforts would you recommend to make sure the environment is protected but regulations do not create an undue economic burden relative to the Clean Water Act?

JIM GRAY: Farmers are stewards of the environment. Environmental protection should not come at the cost of economic growth. I do not believe in imposing regulation that stifles growth without balancing the overall effect by including measures designed to offset the costs associated with the regulation.

RAND PAUL: Farmers already have an incentive in ensuring they keep their water sources clean because they depend on the water for healthy crops. These non-legislative entities should not be allowed to create laws that create a burden on farmers and depress their ability to economically succeed in the marketplace.

4. What can be done to minimize the impact recently announced Clean Water Act rules will have on agriculture?

RAND PAUL: I have fought the WOTUS Rule by cosponsoring a resolution to nullify it, which Obama vetoed. I also fought the WOTUS rule through my Defense of Environment and Property Act, which nullifies the WOTUS rule and redefines navigable waters as navigable in fact and relatively permanent bodies of water.

JIM GRAY: Whenever we're discussing changes in regulation, we should consider all of our options and all of the outcomes, and we need to take a balanced approach. We should make sure the regulations stemming from the Clean Water Act work for Kentucky's economy and farmers without perpetuating environmental problems.

FARM LABOR

Farmers routinely face a shortage of workers to perform labor on many aspects of production often placing in jeopardy the planting or harvesting of perishable crops. Often, migrant workers are the only group willing to perform many tasks, but securing legal workers can be a bureaucratic nightmare. The H-2A program is utilized by many Kentucky farmers to secure laborers for tobacco production but it is in dire need of simplification and reform. Domestic laborers simply are not available, or do not want to perform the tasks required with many agricultural jobs.

1. What legislative reforms would you support to help farmers secure a willing, legal workforce?

JIM GRAY: Access to a reliable, skilled workforce is essential to farmers and the agriculture industry. Unlike Senator Paul, I support comprehensive immigration reform that addresses border security and stabilizes our agricultural workforce.

RAND PAUL: I'm drafting a bill to reduce regulatory burdens on farmers by removing red tape from the H-2A program. Through my bill, regulatory burdens on farmers would've been reduced by making the H-2A worker program more efficient and getting them their workers on time and at a lower cost.

2. How can the H-2A program be reformed to make it easier, and more cost effective, for all Kentucky farmers to utilize, or should we develop a new program to provide stability to our farm labor market?

RAND PAUL: I support the option to have correspondence done electronically rather than through snail mail, allowing staggered start and end dates, and guaranteeing workers can return if the farmer wants them back. Maintaining this program by making it more efficient will allow American agriculture to remain strong and competitive.

JIM GRAY: I support reform of the H-2A program to streamline the process and make it more reliable, economical, and simple for agribusiness to participate.

3. What additional efforts would you support to help farmers be able to secure the necessary labor to produce our country's food, fiber and energy?

JIM GRAY: I support the development of an effective migrant worker program to address labor needs within the agricultural industry.

RAND PAUL: I plan to vote against special favors to organized labor and I'll work to stop wage controls that unfairly hurt farmers. I also believe reforming the H2A program will give us the opportunity to reduce the regulatory burdens on farmers in their search for a willing and legal workforce.

WILDLIFE ISSUES

Depredation by nuisance wildlife is a problem many farmers face. Crop destruction from wild pigs or non-migrating geese, loss of livestock to coyote or black vultures as well as property losses from deer annually total into millions of dollars lost. Most recently, Kentucky Farm Bureau was able to secure a statewide depredation permit that would allow livestock producers to protect their herds from black vulture depredation. While this has been helpful, it does not provide a long term solution to the problem.

Another area of concern is how farmers and landowners deal with threatened and endangered species. Designation of critical habitat under the authority of the Endangered Species Act sometimes places restrictions on a landowner's ability to manage their resources in ways that could actually benefit the recovery of threatened and endangered species.

1. What measures would you support to allow farmers the ability to protect crops and livestock from wildlife depredation?

RAND PAUL: I support measures to renew the depredation permit from Fish & Wildlife and to delist black vultures from federal protection. I've previously worked with our Congressional delegation to secure the statewide depredation permit from Fish and Wildlife, which allowed Livestock Protection Sub-Permits to be issued to livestock producers.

JIM GRAY: Farmers should have the ability to protect their crops and livestock against predators, and reform

of the Endangered Species Act should include removing safe species from any list of endangered species.

2. What initiatives do you feel would be successful in building a partnership between federal agencies tasked with overseeing implementation of the Endangered Species Act and local farmers and landowners?

JIM GRAY: It's time to build a stronger Kentucky. As I've learned from experience, it is so important that we bring everyone together around a table to discuss solutions that include common goals. No agreement is perfect but we've learned in Lexington through our pension reform effort that when everyone is at the table compromise is possible. And that reform produced tremendous results, even being characterized as "the most effective pension reform in the country" by a leading expert.

RAND PAUL: I've introduced the Endangered Species Management Self-Determination Act, which would've delisted a species after 5 years only to be relisted after a joint resolution by Congress and the consent of the Governor of that state. This would've allowed people who know landowners best to act on their behalf.

HEALTH CARE

Access to affordable health care continues to be a high priority for our members. The cost of health care is a direct out-of-pocket expense for farmers like other small business owners. We support comprehensive affordable health care for all U.S. citizens and believe health care is primarily the responsibility of the individual. We support efforts to improve health care delivery and foster health care competition. We support federal tax policies that encourage individuals to prepare for future health care needs. Patient rights to choose physicians and methods of treatment should be protected.

1. What steps would you advocate that could provide all Americans with affordable, quality health care?

RAND PAUL: ObamaCare's regulations have caused insurance companies to reduce physician networks, increase premiums and deductibles, and recently caused the planned mergers of insurance companies, which has resulted in decreased competition. I support repealing ObamaCare, particularly the provisions that are causing market disruption, increasing costs, and harming businesses and their employees.

JIM GRAY: I learned in my business that you don't throw the baby out with the bath water if you've got a project or a program that isn't perfect but needs some work. Kentuckians have benefitted from the Affordable Care Act. I support fixing the Affordable Care Act, which has greatly expanded health insurance coverage in Kentucky. Democrats and Republicans must work together to draft legislation that works within the framework of the ACA to hold down healthcare costs while keeping protections, rights, and benefits within the law.

CONGRESSIONAL RACES

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JAMES R. COMER

R – Tompkinsville

www.jamescomer.com

SAMUEL L. GASKINS

D – Hopkinsville

www.samgaskinsforcongress.com

TERRY MCINTOSH

Write-In – Paducah

www.terrymcintosh.solutions

----- 3rd District -----

JOHN A. YARMUTH

D – Harrods Creek

www.yarmuthforcongress.com

HAROLD BRATCHER

R – Louisville

www.bratcherforcongress.com

----- 4th District -----

THOMAS MASSIE

R – Garrison

www.thomasmassie.com

CALVIN SIDLE

D – Highland Heights

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----- 6th District -----

ANDY BARR

R – Lexington

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NANCY JO KEMPER

D – Lexington

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U.S. SENATE CANDIDATES

RAND PAUL

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JIM GRAY

D – Lexington

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BILLY RAY WILSON

Write-In – London

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2016 KENTUCKY SENATE DISTRICT RACES

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Breckinridge, Edmonson, Grayson,
Hart, Larue, Meade
• Stephen Meredith (R-Leitchfield)
• Leslie Stith (D-Gutson)

----- 11th District -----
Boone
• John Schickel (R-Union)
• Leah King (I-Burlington)

----- 17th District -----
Grant, Kenton (part), Scott
• Damon Thayer (R-Georgetown)
• Charlie Hoffman (D-Georgetown)

----- 19th District -----
Jefferson (part)
• Morgan McGarvey (D-Louisville)
• Larry West (R-Louisville)

----- 21st District -----
Bath, Estill, Jackson, Laurel, Menifee,
Powell
• Albert Robinson (R-London)
• Janice Odom (D-Clay City)

----- 27th District -----
Bourbon, Fleming, Harrison, Lewis,
Mason, Nicholas, Robertson, Rowan
• Stephen West (R-Paris)
• Charles Linville III (D-Paris)

----- 33rd District -----
Jefferson (part)
• Gerald Neal (D-Louisville)
• Shenita Rickman (R-Louisville)

2016 KENTUCKY HOUSE DISTRICT RACES

----- 1st District -----
Ballard, Carlisle, Fulton, Hickman, Mc-
Cracken (part)
• Steven Rudy (R-Paducah)
• Michael Murphy (D-Paducah)

----- 2nd District -----
Graves, McCracken (part)
• Richard Heath (R-Mayfield)
• Jesse Wright (D-Mayfield)

----- 3rd District -----
McCracken (part)
• Gerald Watkins (D-Paducah)
• Joni Hogancamp (R-Paducah)

----- 5th District -----
Calloway, Trigg (part)
• Kenny Imes (R-Murray)
• David Ramey (D-Murray)

----- 6th District -----
Lyon, Marshall, McCracken (part)
• Will Coursey (D-Symsonia)
• David Watson (L-Benton)
• Paula Rush Robinson (R-Benton)

----- 7th District -----
Daviess (part), Henderson (part), Union
• Suzanne Miles (R-Owensboro)
• Joy Gray (D-Owensboro)

----- 8th District -----
Christian (part), Trigg (part)
• Jeffery Taylor (D-Hopkinsville)
• Walker Thomas (R-Hopkinsville)

----- 10th District -----
Breckinridge, Hancock, Hardin (part)
• Dean Schamore (D-Hardinsburg)
• T W Shortt (R-Radcliff)

----- 11th District -----
Daviess (part), Henderson (part)
• David Watkins (D-Henderson)
• Robert Mills (R-Henderson)

----- 12th District -----
Daviess (part), Hopkins (part), McLean,
Webster
• Jim Gooch Jr. (R-Providence)
• James Townsend (D-Dixon)

----- 13th District -----
Daviess (part)
• Jim Glenn (D-Owensboro)
• D J Johnson (R-Owensboro)

----- 14th District -----
Daviess (part), Ohio
• Tommy Thompson (D-Owensboro)
• Matt Castlen (R-Maceo)

----- 15th District -----
Hopkins (part), Muhlenberg
• Brent Yonts (D-Greenville)
• Melinda Prunty (R-Belton)

----- 16th District -----
Logan, Todd, Warren (part)
• Martha Jane King (D-Lewisburg)
• Jason Petrie (R-Elkton)

----- 19th District -----
Edmonson, Warren (part)
• Michael Meredith (R-Brownsville)
• John Wayne Smith (D-Smith
Grove)

----- 20th District -----
Warren (part)
• Jody Richards (D-Bowling Green)
• Melinda Hill (R-Bowling Green)

----- 23rd District -----
Barren, Warren (part)
• Danny Basil (D-Glasgow)
• Steve Riley (R-Glasgow)

----- 24th District -----
Green, Larue, Marion
• Terry Mills (D-Lebanon)
• William Reed (R-Hodgenville)

----- 25th District -----
Hardin (part)
• Jim DuPlessis (R-Elizabethtown)
• Michael Dile (D-Elizabethtown)

----- 27th District -----
Hardin (part), Meade
• Jeff Greer (D-Brandenburg)
• Rachele Frazier (R-Brandenburg)

----- 28th District -----
Jefferson (part)
• Charles Miller (D-Louisville)
• Michael Payne (R-Louisville)

----- 30th District -----
Jefferson (part)
• Tom Burch (D-Louisville)
• Waymen Eddings (R-Louisville)

----- 31st District -----
Jefferson (part)
• Steve Riggs (D-Louisville)
• Sarah Provancher (R-Louisville)

----- 33rd District -----
Jefferson (part), Oldham (part)
• Jason Nemes (R-Louisville)
• Rob Walker (D-Louisville)

----- 37th District -----
Jefferson (part)
• Jeffery Donohue (D-Fairdale)
• Mark Wilson (R-Louisville)

----- 38th District -----
Jefferson (part)
• Denny Butler (R-Louisville)
• McKenzie Cantrell (D-Louisville)

----- 39th District -----
Fayette (part), Jessamine (part)
• Russ Meyer (D-Nicholasville)
• Robert Gullette III (R-Nicholasville)

----- 40th District -----
Jefferson (part)
• Denise Horlander (D-Louisville)
• George Demic (R-Louisville)

----- 42nd District -----
Jefferson (part)
• Reginald Meeks (D-Louisville)
• James Howland (R-Louisville)

----- 43rd District -----

Jefferson (part)

- Darryl Owens (D-Louisville)
- John Mark Owen (R-Louisville)

----- 45th District -----

Fayette (part)

- Stan Lee (R-Lexington)
- Pam Sigler (D-Lexington)

----- 46th District -----

Jefferson (part)

- Eric Crump (R-Louisville)
- Alan Gentry (D-Louisville)

----- 48th District -----

Jefferson (part), Oldham (part)

- Ken Fleming (R-Louisville)
- Maria Sorolis (D-Louisville)

----- 49th District -----

Bullitt (part)

- Linda Belcher (D-Shepherdsville)
- Dan Johnson (R-Mt. Washington)

----- 50th District -----

Nelson

- James DeWeese (D-Bardstown)
- D. Chad McCoy (R-Bardstown)

----- 53rd District -----

Anderson, Bullitt (part), Spencer

- James Tipton (R-Taylorsville)
- James Sargent (D-Lawrenceburg)

----- 54th District -----

Boyle, Casey

- Daniel Elliott (R-Danville)
- Bill Noelker (D-Danville)

----- 55th District -----

Jessamine (part) Mercer, Washington

- Kim King (R-Harrodsburg)
- Tobie Brown (D-Harrodsburg)

----- 56th District -----

Fayette (part), Franklin (part), Woodford

- James Kay (D-Versailles)
- Daniel Fister (R-Versailles)

----- 58th District -----

Shelby

- Rob Rothenburger (R-Shelbyville)
- Cyndi Skellie (D-Shelbyville)

----- 61st District -----

Boone (part), Grant, Kenton (part), Scott (part)

- Brian Linder (R-Dry Ridge)
- Kevin Napier (D-Georgetown)

----- 62nd District -----

Fayette (part), Owen, Scott (part)

- Chuck Tackett (D-Georgetown)
- Phillip Pratt (R-Georgetown)

----- 64th District -----

Campbell (part), Kenton (part)

- Lucas Deaton (D-Independence)
- Kimberly Moser (R-Taylor Mill)

----- 67th District -----

Campbell (part)

- Dennis Keene (D-Wilder)
- Matt Teaford (R-Highland Heights)

----- 70th District -----

Bracken, Fleming, Mason, Robertson

- John Sims Jr. (D-Flemingsburg)
- John VanMeter (R-Maysville)

----- 72nd District -----

Bath, Bourbon, Fayette (part), Nicholas

- Sannie Overly (D-Paris)
- Curtis Kenimer (R-Paris)

----- 73rd District -----

Clark, Madison (part)

- Donna Mayfield (R-Winchester)
- John Hendricks (D-Winchester)

----- 74th District -----

Menifee, Montgomery, Powell

- David Hale (R-Wellington)
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----- 75th District -----

Fayette (part)

- Kelly Flood (D-Lexington)
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----- 78th District -----

Harrison, Pendleton, Scott (part)

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Fayette (part)

- Susan Westrom (D-Lexington)
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----- 81st District -----

Madison (part)

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----- 82nd District -----

Laurel (part), Whitley

- Regina Bunch (R-Williamsburg)
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Harlan (part), Perry

- Fitz Steele (D-Hazard)
- Chris Fugate (R-Chavies)

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Bell, Harlan (part)

- Rick Nelson (D-Middlesboro)
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Breathitt, Estill, Lee, Madison (part), Owsley

- Cluster Howard (D-Jackson)
- Toby Herald (R-Beattyville)

----- 92nd District -----

Knott, Magoffin, Pike (part)

- John Short (D-Hindman)
- John Blanton (R-Saylorsville)

----- 93rd District -----

Martin, Pike (part)

- Chris Harris (D-Forest Hills)
- Norma Kirk-McCormick (R-Inez)

----- 94th District -----

Letcher, Pike (part)

- Angie Hatton (D-Whitesburg)
- Frank Justice II (R-Pikeville)

----- 95th District -----

Floyd, Pike (part)

- Gregory Stumbo (D-Prestonsburg)
- Larry Brown (R-Prestonsburg)

----- 96th District -----

Carter, Lawrence

- Jill York (R-Grayson)
- Josh McGuire (D-Grayson)

----- 97th District -----

Johnson, Morgan, Wolfe

- Hubert Collins (D-Wittensville)
- William Wells (R-West Liberty)

----- 98th District -----

Boyd (part), Greenup

- Lew Nicholls (D-Greenup)
- Danny Bentley (R-Russell)

----- 99th District -----

Elliott, Lewis, Rowan

- Rocky Adkins (D-Sandy Hook)
- Wendy Fletcher (R-Morehead)

----- 100th District -----

Boyd (part)

- Kevin Sinnnette (D-Ashland)
- Eric Chaney (R-Catlettsburg)

Markets

U.S. AGRICULTURAL TRADE SURPLUS EXPANDING

In its Outlook for U.S. Agricultural Trade, USDA forecast our nation's agricultural trade surplus for fiscal year 2017 will expand to \$19.5 billion, up \$5.6 billion from the upwardly-revised estimate for FY 2016. Fiscal 2017 agricultural exports are projected at \$133.0 billion, up \$6.0 billion from the revised fiscal 2016 forecast of \$127.0 billion, largely due to higher exports of oilseeds and products, horticultural products, cotton, and livestock, dairy, and poultry. Oilseeds and product exports are up \$2.7 billion to \$31.0 billion, driven by record soybean export volume and higher prices. This includes \$21.2 billion of soybeans and \$4.4 billion of soybean meal. Horticultural product exports are forecast to increase \$1.4 billion, led by tree nut exports. Exports of livestock, dairy, and poultry products are up \$800 million to \$25.8 billion, primarily due to higher poultry and dairy exports. This category includes \$16.3 billion of livestock products, \$4.8 billion of poultry products and \$4.8 billion of dairy products. Grain and feed exports are forecast unchanged at \$29.3 billion, although corn exports may jump \$500 million to \$9.4 billion. Agricultural exports to China are forecast \$3.5 billion higher at \$21.5 billion, primarily due to increased soybean, tree nuts, and pork exports.

U.S. agricultural imports are forecast at \$113.5 billion, \$400 million higher than fiscal 2016. Increases in import values are expected for horticultural and tropical products, which more than offset reductions in livestock, dairy, and poultry products.

U.S. EXPECTS RECORD SOYBEAN PRODUCTION AND USE

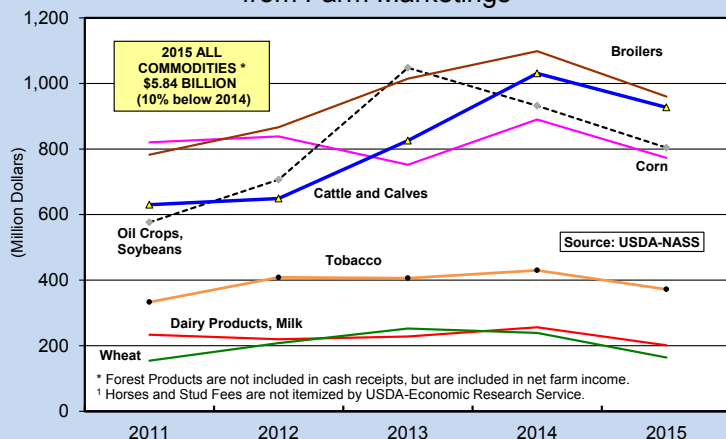
USDA's September Crop Production report forecast a record-high average U.S. soybean yield of 50.6 bushels per acre. The nine Midwestern states accounting for 56 percent of U.S. sown acreage are expected to have record high yields. The record yield combined with a record 86.6 million harvested acres results in a record 2016 soybean crop forecast of 4.20 billion bushels. Along with record production, the U.S. is experiencing record use of soybeans. In September, USDA raised its forecast of 2015/16 soybean exports by 60 million bushels to 1.940 billion bushels based on an unprecedented surge in July-August exports, largely attributable to atypical summer shipments to China and a waning of trade from South America. This change lowered 2015/16 ending stocks to 195 million bushels which is only 4 million more than 2015/16 beginning stocks. If the production forecast is realized, total U.S. soybean supplies will be 281 million bushels above a year ago. With the large

increase in supply, USDA expects demand to be supported as well. U.S. soybean exports for 2016/17 are forecast at an all-time high of 1.985 billion bushels. Similarly, rising demand for soybean products may boost domestic soybean crush to a record 1.950 billion bushels. Record demand for U.S. soybeans won't use the entire crop, so 2016/17 ending stocks are forecast at 365 million bushels, up 170 million from 2015/16. USDA updates these forecasts monthly.

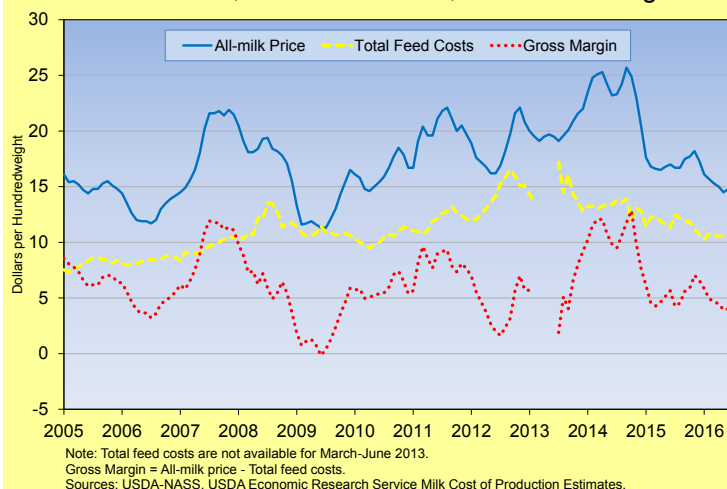
RED MEAT AND POULTRY DISAPPEARANCE UP IN 2016

Red meat and poultry per capita disappearance on a retail basis in 2016 is projected at 214.8 pounds per person, up four pounds from last year and the highest level since 2008. Disappearance is the quantity of red meat and poultry that is used in U.S. domestic markets; exports are excluded. Poultry accounts for 51 percent of the total red meat and poultry disappearance; it includes 91.5 pounds of broiler meat and 17 pounds of turkey. Total red meat's share of disappearance is 49 percent and is comprised by 55.2 pounds of beef per person, 49.9 pounds of pork, and 1 pound of lamb. With rising production levels of beef, pork and chicken, USDA forecasts 2017 per capita disappearance at 217.6 pounds per person.

Kentucky's Top Cash Receipts from Farm Marketings¹



All-Milk Price, Total Feed Costs, and Gross Margin



Down the Backroads

By Carilynn Coombs

Having grown up in the far Western Kentucky tiny town of Fancy Farm, witnessing the political process was just something you were raised with thanks to the notoriety of the Fancy Farm Picnic which began in the late 1800s.

As a child, it was hard for me to understand why so many candidates wanted to come to this annual event but it was obvious, the right to vote for any of them was something of importance to my family and instilled in me by my parents from an early age.

I grew up in the shadow of the picnic grounds always looking forward to the carnival atmosphere that would surround the event. The food was good and plentiful, the crowds were large and the picnic was just something we all participated in.

The same was true on Election Day. It was just something my family did. There wasn't an excuse big enough to stay at home on that day; at least it looked that way to me.

Voting was something my family was happy to do and taught their children to do the same, almost as if it was a duty to fulfill.

I didn't quite understand it so much before I reached voting age, but I knew as soon as I was old enough, I wanted to exercise this civic right that I had witnessed all of my life.

With being raised on a farm, I also knew how seriously farmers take their right to vote. I can remember going to the polls with my mom and watching the process. If I was lucky, I also received a sticker, which was the highlight of the trip.

Farmers have instilled in their children and families the values that make up the very foundation of this country and how we fought for a freedom to have a say in how our government operates. They understand the risks that come with not voicing your opinion and make sure on that Tuesday in November their families are at the polls.

Laws can greatly influence their business and livelihood relatively

quickly with increased regulation, paperwork, and cost. They work through those issues while still trying to manage the little profit they have made throughout the year.

In the words of my parents, "Why wouldn't we vote!"

I haven't missed a voting opportunity since that very first time. I wish everyone felt that way.

I remember studying in history class about our founding fathers and some of their famous quotes. One that I have always remembered is from Thomas Paine, who said, "Voting is the right upon which all other rights depend." I agree and hope we all take the time to vote on November 8.

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COUNTY CORNER

Snapshots of County Farm Bureau activities



BOONE COUNTY

Pictured from left: Mackenzie Wright (FFA Advisor for Walton-Verona High School), Micah Alford (Walton-Verona FFA member), Lillie Herbstreit (V.P. Walton-Verona FFA), Eddie Coyle (Boone County Farm Bureau member and board Secretary), (in back on right) is Brent Perry (Walton-Verona FFA Secretary).



CRITTENDEN COUNTY

A donation of \$1,000 was made to the Star Pack Backpack Program from Crittenden County Farm Bureau. The program sends nutritious, non-perishable foods home with elementary students each week. Pictured is Crittenden County Farm Bureau President Stephen Hill making the check presenting to Holly White, who coordinates the back pack program in Crittenden County.



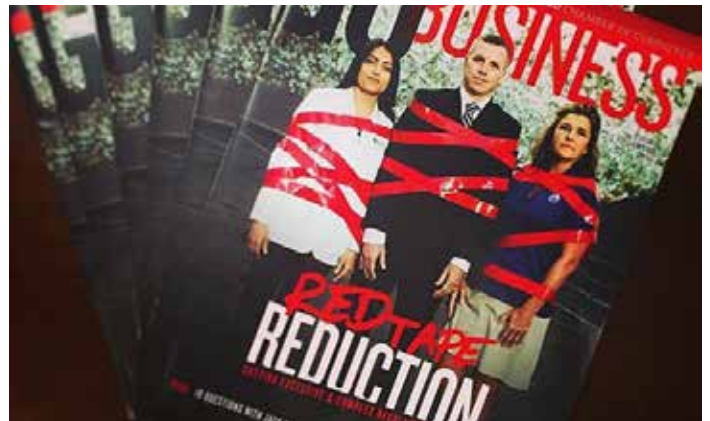
CLAY COUNTY

Clay County held their Annual Membership Appreciation event in September with 80 people in attendance.



FAYETTE COUNTY

Carrie McIntosh Fayette County Farm Bureau Executive Director and Congressman Andy Barr at the Bluegrass Stockyards groundbreaking.



DAVISS COUNTY

The Greater Owensboro Chamber of Commerce wanted to show, on the cover of the GO Business Magazine, a broad representation of those impacted by excessive regulations... small businesses, large corporations, utilities, education and agriculture. The article shared about the importance of necessary regulations to protect the people of the Commonwealth, but how we need to take advantage of the Governor's Red Tape Reduction Program by reporting outdated, unnecessary excessive regulations that increase the cost of operating and doing business.



LAWRENCE COUNTY

Lawrence County Farm Bureau federation and insurance company participated in Septemberfest.



HARLAN COUNTY

Harlan County Farm Bureau Young Farmer Committee toured the Apple Tree Farm in Cumberland, Kentucky which is Harlan County's new KYFB Official Roadside Market.

Left to Right: Dustin Miniard, Nathan Boggs, Marcus Creech, Cameron Sizemore.



ELLIOTT COUNTY

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



OWEN COUNTY

Owen County Legislative Appreciation Dinner. Pictured from left: David Chappell, State Rep. Chuck Tackett, State Senator Julian Carroll and County Judge Executive Casey Ellis.



SHELBY COUNTY

Abby Gajdzik making apple pies at Mulberry Orchard.



JACKSON COUNTY

Jackson County Farm Bureau Federation and Veterinarian, Joey Minter teamed up to offer Rabies and Parvo shots to small pets belonging to Farm Bureau members during a vet clinic held at the Jackson County FB office. Pictured are: Micah Ayers, Agent; Tanda Isaacs, CSR; Brenda Ayers, Agency Manager; FFA Students: Jordan Young, Justin Bowling, Will Moore, Autumn Wilson, Ethan VanWinkle, Josh Isaacs, Aaron Adams, Elmer Rader, April Morgan, Kelsey Morgan, Tanner Harrison, Jacob Ellis. Veterinarian, Joey Minter is in the center.

2016 County Annual Meetings

All times are local

BRACKEN COUNTY

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

FLOYD COUNTY

October 20, 2016 7:00 p.m.
Jenny Wiley State Park

GREENUP COUNTY

November 7, 2016 6:30 p.m.
Greenup County Extension Office

OWEN COUNTY

October 7, 2016, noon-4:00 p.m.
Owen County Farm Bureau Office

Reliable Workers Keep Farmers in Business

By David Knopf

Eastern Mountain Region Director
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Every farm requires laborers to plant, tend and harvest crops, or to feed and care for livestock. Some crops and livestock are more labor intensive, and farmers may resort to the H-2A Visa program to make sure their farm operations continue to run smoothly.

Originally designed for row crops, the H-2A Visa program allows employers to bring in non-immigrant foreign workers for temporary and seasonal agricultural work. The H-2A Visa program fills 150,000-180,000 jobs across the country each year.

According to Rick Alexander, executive director for Agriculture Workforce

Management Association, his agency helps about 550 employers in Kentucky and Tennessee find roughly 5,300 workers each year. AWMA primarily helps tobacco farmers, but they also find workers for some horse, nursery and vegetable farms.

We (NASS) conduct an agricultural labor survey twice each year in April and October. The April survey collects data for a specific week in January and April, and the October survey collects data for a specific week in July and October. Data is collected for the week containing the 12th of each month. The average field and livestock worker wage rate collected from the

survey becomes the Adverse Effect Wage Rate, which is currently \$10.85 per hour in Kentucky and Tennessee.

The biannual survey provides the basis for employment and wage estimates for all farm workers directly hired by U.S. farms. Agricultural labor is defined as any activity performed on a farm in connection with production of agricultural commodities. Caring for, harvesting and preparing tobacco is agricultural labor. So is breeding and raising thoroughbreds, but workers hired for boarding and racing of horses are not considered part of the survey.

Two farmers in Kentucky who've been using AWMA since 2013 to hire foreign workers are Tom and DeAnn Hughes, who own a 165-acre farm in Knob Lick. The Hugheses grow tobacco on 78 acres of their spread, while beef cattle and hay make up the rest of their farm. They tried to find local workers as their tobacco acreage increased over the years, but found it to be unreliable and sporadic. They currently hire nine foreign workers each year to harvest their tobacco.

"A pro to the program is a guaranteed work force," Tom said. "It's really one of the only ways to get skilled labor."

Tom and DeAnn figured out a "break-even" point when weighing the costs of using H-2A Visa labor, which includes financing the workers' transportation to and from their home, housing them, paying for utilities, providing transportation, and workman's compensation, among other requirements.

"Forty acres is the breaking point (for us) where it becomes cost-efficient," DeAnn said. "Less than 40, and it's just too expensive. I think that's a downside to the program. It's really limited to larger farms, because of the cost."

Farmers who hire H-2A Visa workers



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have to pay the workers 75 percent of the amount in the negotiated contract, regardless if their crops failed or couldn't be harvested, which DeAnn acknowledged as a source of anxiety for her and Tom, but not enough to keep them from hiring the reliable workers year after year.

Agricultural labor is important and can be a costly portion of farm operations. A common critique of the survey we hear from farmers is the wage rate doesn't adjust for the different skillsets required across the agricultural community; the argument being that harvesting tobacco and raising thoroughbreds are very different sectors of the ag community with different profit margins impacting how much workers could be paid. The bottom line is that in order to separate out those two sectors, we'd have to significantly increase the number of sampled farms. This is challenging for NASS, because response rates overall have been decreasing for the more than 400 surveys we conduct each year, and to add enough farms to the sample to split the survey is burdening more farmers during an already-busy time. Additionally the added cost of increasing the sample size would be difficult for our federal government's ever-tightening budget.

We need farmers to respond to this (and all) NASS survey, because we pride ourselves on providing accurate, timely, useful and unbiased data to the agricultural community. The more producers we have giving us information, the more accurate and reliable our data becomes.

AGRICULTURAL LABOR SURVEY FACTS

- NEVER asks source of laborers
- ALL farm sizes are important
- 425 farms sampled in Kentucky
- 425 farms represent the 20,000 farms that hire ag laborers
- Each sampled farm represents other similar farms
- All farms represented once and only once
- Farmers only source to report this information
- Asks if farmer uses H-2A Visa program

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CANDID CONVERSATIONS



Kentucky is set to lead research efforts with Grain & Forage Center of Excellence

KFB Candid Conversations presents a discussion about the topical issues facing the agricultural industry in a question and answer format with a member of Kentucky's agricultural community. In this column, Chad Lee, Director of the University of Kentucky (UK) Grain & Forage Center of Excellence discusses the expansion of the Center and the advantages that will come from its research efforts. The facility is part of the UK Research and Education Center located in Princeton, Kentucky and support for its funding was one of

KFB's 2016 priority issues.

Lee came to UK in 2002 as a grain crops extension specialist based on campus where the majority of his research has been on corn, soybeans and wheat with ventures into other small grains where there has been an interest. A large part of his job has been focused on how to improve efficiency; increasing yields without spending more to get there.

His position takes Lee across the state at least 60 percent of the time to help farmers with issues or in educational efforts through workshops and field

days. He credits the skills he learned in FFA, 4-H and Farm Bureau youth programs as being most beneficial to him now on a day-to-day basis.

Where did the idea of the Grain & Forage Center of Excellence originate?

The idea really came from grain farmers. They recognized and appreciate the work that has been done over the years in this state. I came into a really good situation here 14 years ago where the University folks were all working together. But as the farmers were looking at the work being done at Princeton, they asked what we at the University could do to remain relevant in their challenges in moving forward. That's where the conversations got started and from that, the concept of the Grains Center came about. The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board gave us a grant for \$15 million which will largely go to improve facilities at Princeton. Anybody that goes to Princeton to learn or to work should benefit.

The Center has gotten a lot of attention and support. What makes this project so important?

It's important for many reasons. First, it's important because it's an idea farmers had to begin with. Our farmers in Kentucky are, by in large, extremely smart and extremely progressive. They recognize their limitations in their fields and operations and they recognize that they want to improve those. I think their ability to be honest about their strengths and weaknesses really allows us to work well with them. However, we continue to face that tension between trying to produce more to feed more people; to feed more livestock and do it in a way that we minimize our impact on the environment. Many times in the past, those two things have largely been separated from one another. As we move forward, we've got to do that together. We need to understand what practices help us improve yield. We need to identify if there are practices that are causing concerns and issues, and we've got to fix those. I think if you look at where farming is headed over the next 15 or 20 years, the infrastructure that we are going to be able to put into this Grain & Forage Center of Excellence and the expansion of acreage will allow

us to stay at the forefront of those issues to help our farmers be successful for another 20 or 30 years.

How do you view the changes in our agriculture environment over the last 20 years?

Kentucky farmers have historically had cattle, tobacco and grain crops but for those who recognized that they had soil types and situations that were conducive to row crops and as tobacco started to shift out, in some areas a lot more focus was put into those row crops.

Now, we have seen some shifting in terms of whose growing tobacco and the concentration of those acres and as that's happened some farmers decided they would try their fortunes in corn and soybeans. We have seen increases in those crops although our peak corn production acres was realized in 1917. Frankly, there were a lot of acres in corn back then that shouldn't have been. I also think, in talking with growers that have been around for a long time, when they grew up they did not place an emphasis on grains production. Today, for many farmers, grains is their primary source of income and is their primary focus.

If you put corn, soybeans and wheat together, they're on about 3 million acres in Kentucky and worth, depending on the year and yields, close to \$2 billion in our farm economy so they are a major player from an economic standpoint and from an acreage standpoint. However, we recognized that if we are really going to honor what our farmers in Kentucky face, we need to include forages in that mix. If you look at grain and forages together we're close to seven or eight million acres of the state in those crops. We have several forage farmers and researchers who joined our task force and they will help create a vision for forages with the Center of Excellence.

As more people become further removed from the farm, how do you explain to them the importance of this Center and the importance of supporting such a project?

We are so efficient at growing crops. We're so efficient at raising

cattle and producing milk and producing poultry that the average citizen doesn't even worry about whether or not we'll have enough food at the grocery store, they just know that we do.

They don't know all the complexities that go in behind that which has allowed us to get to this point. I think from one standpoint, everybody likes to eat so anything that we can do to improve agriculture ultimately benefits them. The other thing is everybody likes clean water and if we're doing things that allows us to safely produce food, feed, fiber and fuel, and in a way that is protecting our water and our environment, everybody could be in favor of that.

The thing that is often lost on the general public when they think farmers is, every farmer we've got in Kentucky, whether they are into cattle, dairies, poultry, forages, tobacco or row crops, they live on that land and work on that land. For the most part, when they think long term, they're not thinking five years, they're thinking the next generation;

will their son or daughter take over the operation. And they're looking at setting up the land in a way that it's better than when they took it from their parents.

What are some of the immediate goals and possible challenges coming up for the Center?

Our first goal is to cut the ribbon on the updated facility in less than three years and that's a tall order. But our first challenge is, we are responsible for matching that \$15 million KADB grant and we've got five years to secure an equal amount of funding. That's something we're very focused on have started that process. We're also hoping to get several new faculty once the facility is updated and expanded. But as we go through the process of putting in an irrigation system and put in soil systems and work with growers, there are all kinds of little challenges that come into play but they all go toward our ultimate goal of helping to improve the lives of farmers. And when we improve the lives of farmers, we improve the lives of everyone.



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CONCENTRATING ON THE JUDGE

Fleming County Annual Youth Livestock Show and Sale: 75 years of Benefit to Area Students

It isn't that unusual to see youth livestock shows and auctions this time of year, as fair season comes to a close and students are looking to reap the benefits of a long summer of showing their animals.

What is unusual is the fact that youth in Fleming County have been benefiting from their annual show and sale event for nearly four generations.

The 75th Annual 4-H and FFA Livestock Show and Sale is most likely the oldest of its kind in the state, according to Wayne Grannis, agency manager of the Fleming County Farm Bureau, who helps coordinate the event.

"We believe this is the longest continuously running show and sale in the state of Kentucky and, with 70 young people participating this year, we believe that is one of the largest numbers of participants of any county in the state," he said.

The show takes place at the FFA livestock and show barn located directly behind Fleming County High School and is truly a community-wide event.

Grannis said much of the credit for the show's longevity is directly related to the community support shown throughout the year for the students and their efforts.

"These children have worked all summer long and they get money for selling their animals because all the animals in the show go through the sale," he said. "Every business in town puts some sort of money into this and we couldn't do it if not for the support of all those businesses. There's a lot of community pride in this program."

Grannis pointed out that one of the greatest things about the event is the participation of students whose parents and grandparents have also competed during their youth.

"This continues to be a generational thing and people come back to participate," he said. "We think with what these students are learning through their projects and the hard work and effort they put into it, it's going to serve them well later on in life."

GENERATION TO GENERATION

Charles Cooper is a good example of someone who has participated in the show and has passed it down to his children and grandchildren.

"I started in 1953 and was lucky enough to win it my first year but I participated in it for 12 years," he said. "It was exciting and my daughters also showed for many years and now my granddaughter is showing."

Cooper added that he never had a doubt about wanting his children and grandchildren to participate and referred to the show as, "the best thing going."



Three generations of show/sale attendees. From left: Mary Jane Pettit, Laura Ann Pettit and Charles Cooper.



No show is complete without good food.



Students spent much of the year preparing for the show.

TEACHING THROUGH COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Lucinda Pease is an agriculture education instructor at Fleming County High School as well as a member of the current Kentucky Farm Bureau LEAD (Leadership Enhancement for Agricultural Development) program. She said the show is an ongoing project for her.

"As the animal science instructor it's up to me to get the barn area ready for the sale but we use the show ring other times of the year to teach students, especially those who want to get a start in it," she said.

In addition to teaching students how to prepare for the show, Pease said a lot of work goes on afterwards to make sure this event is the best it can be and that it will continue to be. The Fleming County Livestock Improvement Association, which serves as the committee that plans the event, is comprised of ag teachers, 4-H extension staff and other community partners that have a vested interest in the show. Members meet afterwards and throughout the year to evaluate the event and discuss any changes that might need to be made.

While the Annual 4-H and FFA Livestock Show and Sale in Fleming County takes place in September, the work that goes into this long-time event never really stops, noted Pease.

"Without our community's help, this wouldn't be possible and we have a great asset in our community that supports these students," she added.

This year's gross sales totaled approximately \$ 60,000, all of which came exclusively from the Fleming County businesses.

Mary Jane Pettit, is one of the daughters Cooper referred to. She said 1987 was the first year in which she participated and she continued until 1996.

"I grew up coming to this every year and since I quit showing, I've come back every year as a committee member and as the 4-H livestock leader in Fleming County," she said. Participating in the program teaches a good work ethic, good sportsmanship, having a positive attitude and it gives participants a chance to make good contacts through all the people they meet. That's something which will benefit them when they grow up, get into high school, go to college and throughout their careers."

Pettit's daughter, Laura Ann participated officially for the first time at this year's show. She said it's something she has thought about all year long.

"I started showing animals two years ago and have learned how to take care of them and love them every day," said the 5th grader. "My friends

always ask about showing the animals, what it's like and they congratulate me when I do well. But a lot of times I teach them something about the animals they don't know."

Laura Ann added that it was a little sad to know she would be selling her show animals but she knows that's part of animal agriculture. Incidentally, she won the Champion Steer class.

Serving as ring announcer for the 2016 show was Fleming County FFA Chapter President A.K. Philips, who has participated in this event and others across the country. In fact, his steer was named this year's Grand Champion at the Kentucky State Fair.

"I have been involved in the Fleming County show for about six years and it's one of our biggest events as an FFA chapter as well as one of the biggest events in the community," he said. "Everyone really comes together for this show and sale and after I graduate, I'll come back as part of the community to help as much as I can."

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