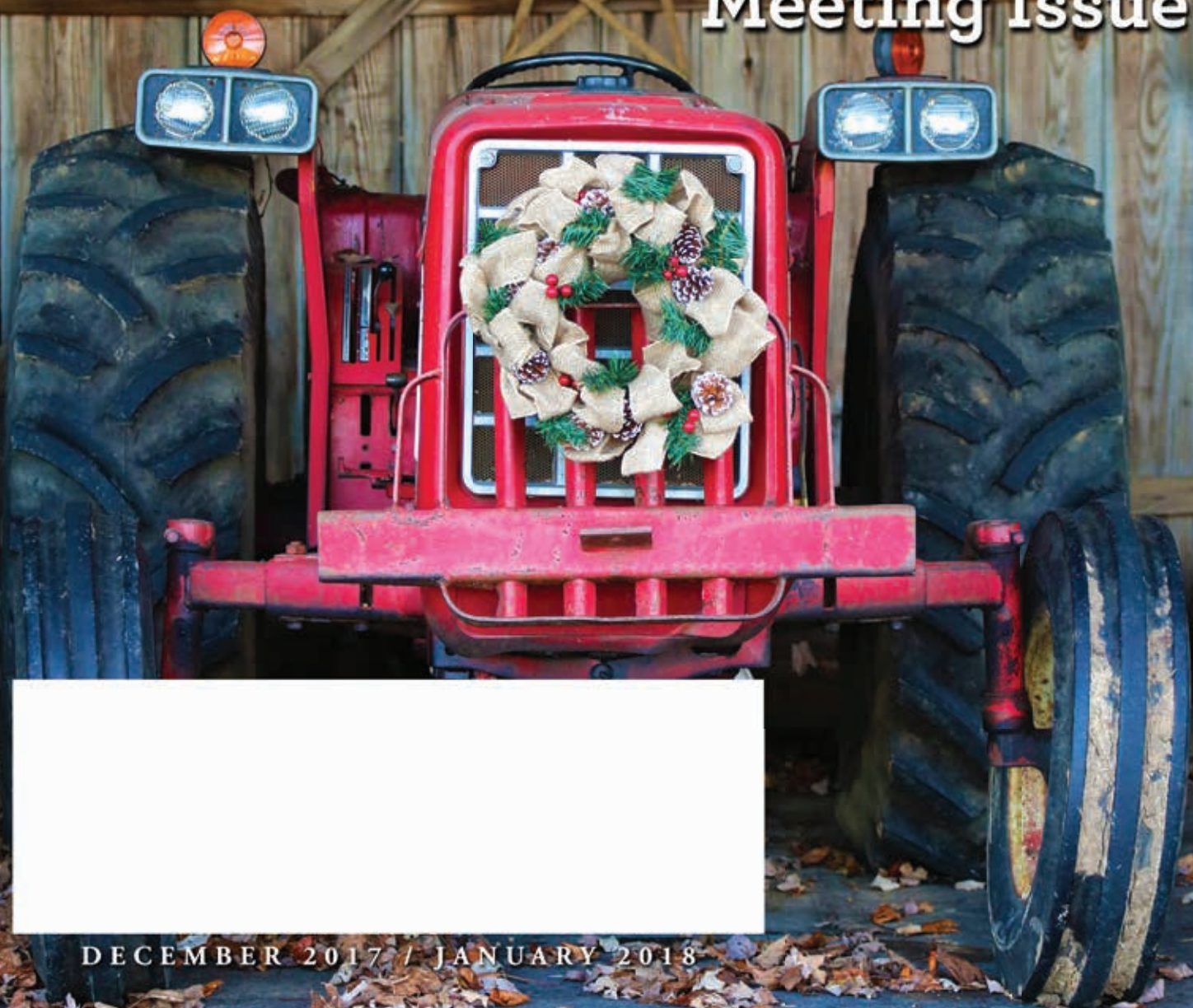


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2017 KFB Annual Meeting Issue



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KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU NEWS
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Christmas Tractor in Franklin County

Interior graphics by Melissa LaRoche

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As we prepare to close out another year on the farm and at Kentucky Farm Bureau, it is good to see continued growth in our organization. But so often we confuse adding members as a sole source of gauging that growth.

For me, it's as much about what we do as members as it is about how many of us there are. The growth I'm speaking of not only comes from increasing our numbers, but from being more vocal in our efforts to be strong advocates for agriculture; being a solid organization for our members in both rural and urban communities; and our willingness to speak up about issues to legislative and Congressional leaders.

In return, I think those leaders, at all levels, have a great respect for KFB and the more than 478,000 members that make up this wonderful organization. I think our efforts have given us credibility not only in the agricultural arena but as community partners throughout the state, as well.

Growth means knowing when to not only stand up for a particular issue, but when to listen to others who may or may not always agree with us as an organization. Growth is as much about learning as it is earning.

In completing our recent annual meeting, we hope those who attended took advantage of the many informational/educational sessions that were available and spent time with old and new friends alike. It is perhaps the most special time of the year when we can look at our accomplishments of the passing year, and look forward to new opportunities in the months ahead.

But there will also be new challenges that we will recognize, embrace, overcome, learn from and ultimately grow from as individuals, as a collective farm family, as an industry and as an organization.

With the New Year, there will be those opportunities to advocate for our priority issues on many different levels. A new session of our General Assembly begins and we will be there ready to share our thoughts on matters related to agriculture and concerns in our rural communities.

It is the year of the Farm Bill, and we will have collective recommendations ready for our Congressional delegation. It will also be an election year for several local, state and federal offices. And Farm Bureau members vote in a big way which serves as yet another chance to have our voices heard.

But let's also remember how important it is to embrace our non-farming friends, family, neighbors and acquaintances to hear their concerns when it comes to issues they have questions about. Let's help them to understand how important agriculture is to all of us.

As we ready ourselves for 2018, may we always strive to learn more, listen more, advocate often and grow in our agricultural endeavors and as an organization.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Mark Haney
President
Kentucky Farm Bureau

Kentucky Farm Bureau

SETS STATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITY ISSUES FOR 2018

Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) concluded its 98th annual meeting with its Board of Directors approving priority issues for the 2018 legislative session and continuing advocacy efforts. The organization's delegates adopted policy positions at its business session.

STATE PRIORITIES

Agricultural programs and services priorities included: maintaining the 50 percent allocation of Master Settlement Agreement funds to the Agricultural Development Board; support continued funding of the Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share program; support an efficient, well-administered and adequately funded Kentucky Department of Agriculture; and the recommendation that sufficient funding be made available to maintain a strong grain elevator inspection program for the protection of farmers, and to protect the farmer-financed Grain Insurance Program.

Priority issues related to taxation, included: Kentucky's tax code should be reformed based on sound economic

principles; strongly oppose freezing the state real property tax rate; support the provisions of House Bill 44 which states property taxes should continue to be limited to four percent plus new growth. Any proposals to exceed that four percent should automatically go to voters. Also a priority is maintaining Kentucky's sales tax exemptions for production agriculture.

Support of the rural secondary and county road aid programs along with the continuation of the 22.2 percent allocation of the state gasoline tax revenue for rural roads was a priority issue approved by the Board, as well.

Rural communications continues to be a priority at KFB with support of sufficient broadband services across the state and the support of efforts and incentives to improve all telecommunications in rural Kentucky.

A state priority related to effective wildlife management that will reduce the wildlife population in an effort to alleviate continued crop damage, automobile accidents, human injuries, and loss of life was approved.

Other state priorities of note included support of the Kentucky Water Resources Board and the recommendation that state water resource policy and regulations be based on adequate scientific research data.

In addition, priority issues related to regulatory authority and support of opportunities for woodland owners were approved.

NATIONAL PRIORITIES

From a national perspective, the support of modifying USDA Rural Development broadband programs to increase access to broadband service that meets or exceeds FCC standards was approved, as was supporting immigration reform that includes restructuring the H-2A program to streamline the process making it more reliable, economical, and simple for farmers to participate.

Health care reform was another priority, specifically supporting increased access to Association Health Plans and the support of changes to current health care law that will stabilize the market, encourage competition that will reduce health care costs, and increase consumer choice.

Crop insurance priorities were also high on the KFB national priority list including maintaining federal crop insurance at current levels to provide an effective agricultural safety net, and the support of crop insurance initiatives to maintain the integrity of crop insurance.

In relation to trade, a priority supporting fair and open multilateral trade agreements that will open new markets and expand existing markets for U.S. agricultural products was approved, along with regulatory reform priorities to support a thorough regulatory review to ensure regulations do not impose an undue economic burden on any segment of society and the regulatory process is transparent, and results achievable.

KFB Past President Sam Moore was honored at the KFB Annual Meeting for his years of service on the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board. Pictured from left: KFB President Mark Haney, Moore and Warren Beeler, Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy.



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

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comment COLUMN



I was 18 years old when I first came to know anything about Farm Bureau. Asked to serve on my county's board, I suddenly had a front row seat to true leadership in action. Not only that, this was an opportunity to work closely with respected community leaders and find solutions to issues that would arise from time to time. What an experience! This involvement with Farm Bureau helped me in my life at home, on the farm, and in the Capitol.

My time serving on the Garrard County Farm Bureau Board was invaluable. The leadership I saw there is the same kind of leadership I see in Farm Bureau at the state level. Our organization is fortunate to have strong leaders who know that leading where you stand is necessary during these changing and challenging times.

And there's no doubt about it, Kentucky is facing a lot of obstacles whether it's the looming budget cycle or other policy challenges you care about. Leadership is needed and while it's not always easy, it's always necessary. It must be provided not only in Frankfort but throughout our state, in both our rural and urban communities. Having Farm Bureaus in all 120 counties provides the kind strong leadership needed on the local level.

In Frankfort, I understand the issues that are important to you because those issues are also important to me and many more that serve in the legislature. While we often hear so much that is not positive about what's going on in the Capitol, there are so many good people there on both sides of the aisle trying to do what is right for the people of Kentucky.

Since 1792, when the first legislative session was held shortly after Kentucky became a state, elected officials have been coming together to create laws and do the will of the citizens of the Commonwealth. The way we do this may have changed over the years but the reasons we do this have not - to listen to our constituents and make this state the best it can be.

It's going to be a tough session coming up but I remind myself of what I learned on the Garrard County Farm Bureau Board - **challenges create opportunities**. While many difficult decisions will have to be made in 2018, I believe we have the ability to accomplish many great things. I will "lead where I stand" to do everything I can to make that the case.

To do this however, it is vital to have the Kentucky Farm Bureau continue its tradition of standing as a strong advocate for agriculture and rural America. In 2018 just like in years before, Kentucky Farm Bureau will help lead us through challenging times and serve as a model by which we can all live.

Jonathan Shell

Kentucky House Majority Floor Leader
Farm Bureau Member

Quotes from Kentucky Farm Bureau’s 98th Annual Meeting: “Lead Where You Stand”

This year’s Kentucky Farm Bureau Annual Meeting theme, “Lead Where You Stand,” was evident throughout the course of the four-day gathering with record attendance, capacity commodity meetings and a host of local, state and federal leaders on hand to speak to attendees.

KFB members had the chance to not only hear from the organization’s leadership but from some of the most visible and influential ag and government leaders in the state and country.

KFB PRESIDENT MARK HANEY TALKS ABOUT MEMBERSHIP, RELATIONSHIPS AND LEADERSHIP:
“The strength of our organization is our membership for both the Insurance Company and the Federation and when we come together and operate in a joint effort, it’s amazing at the things that we can accomplish,” he said. “Success is something we celebrate at this annual meeting and the successes we have along the way really come because we have great partnerships and relationships with our local Farm Bureaus, as well as other organizations, ag commodity groups and state agencies. And we will work to maintain and make those relationships even stronger than they are today.”

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER MITCH MCCONNELL AND THE FARM BILL:
“We are moving forward [on the Farm Bill] and it’s an item for next year. I can’t imagine I won’t be calling it up when they tell me it’s ready,” said McConnell. “This is a Congress very oriented toward rural America, and I think we are going to be pretty sensitive to getting the Farm Bill as right as we can.”

EPA ADMINISTRATOR SCOTT PRUITT SPEAKS ABOUT REGULATIONS:
“We have some work to do with respect to regulations. The Waters of the U.S. rule (WOTUS) was an overreach. That’s getting fixed. We have a proposal in place to withdraw that rule and to get a definition to replace it. You should

expect a replacement to the WOTUS rule by mid-year next year; a final rule, and that rule is going to focus on navigability. It’s going to focus on what Congress intended with respect to that definition to provide that clarity across the Commonwealth of Kentucky and across the country.”

KENTUCKY AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER RYAN QUARLES DISCUSSING THE AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY:
“Kentucky agriculture plays a dominant role in our economy; whether it is at the local, state or even the federal level, Kentucky fights above its weight class when it comes to economic development. A recent survey showed that 200,000 jobs in Kentucky are directly or indirectly related to agriculture. We have a \$45 billion economic impact, and when you consider that our state’s total gross domestic product is about \$190 billion, it kind of reflects that no matter where you go in this state, agriculture plays a big role in economic development.”

LOUISVILLE MAYOR GREG FISCHER SPEAKS ABOUT THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE FARM AND THE CITY:
“We are all connected together in so many different ways. Louisville’s success in many ways is a result of our amazing Kentucky farm industry that we have here in our state. Farmers and ranchers all over our Commonwealth are raising Kentucky Proud meat and produce that we love to brag about on our menus each and every day in our city and in our farmers’ markets, as well.”

KENTUCKY HOUSE MAJORITY FLOOR LEADER JONATHAN SHELL TALKS ABOUT INFRASTRUCTURE:
“When we go into session in 2018, there are many things that we have to start focusing on... We’re going to be working on infrastructure. The things people always care the most about in Frankfort, whenever the budget comes around, are the roads and bridges.



As a rural Kentuckian; as someone who lives in a rural community and on a rural road, I know the importance of rural infrastructure. I will take that into this budget cycle and into this session understanding what rural development and rural infrastructure means to our state. Know that you have many, many allies in that as we go through that budget process.”

KFB EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT DAVID S. BECK EMPHASIZES LEADING WHERE YOU STAND:
“Our success and growth is based on local and state volunteers, leaders and staff, always focusing on our mission of serving and representing our members while addressing new challenges, constantly evaluating our progress, and looking to the future without forgetting the past. These individuals, ‘Lead Where They Stand.’ Regardless of their circumstances or their responsibilities, they lead with trust and accountability; often displaying humility and a servant heart; anticipating change with a clear vision and the ability to stand in any situation. As we go forward, we will continue to be mindful of the mission that guides and directs our daily work in carrying out the purpose and responsibilities of this organization and to assure that its success and growth are always relevant and meeting the needs of the members.”

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Butler and Mercer County Farm Bureaus

HONORED AS KFB'S 2017 "TOP COUNTY"



Butler County Farm Bureau



Mercer County Farm Bureau

Recognized for its outstanding programming and for having a positive impact on both the community and its membership, Butler and Mercer County Farm Bureaus were honored as Kentucky Farm Bureau's (KFB) "Top County" in 2017. This is the first time there has been a tie for the award.

Volunteer leaders from Butler and Mercer Counties received the award at a recognition breakfast held during the 98th KFB annual meeting at the Galt House Hotel in Louisville.

The "Top County" announcement headlined more than 70 membership program and insurance honors presented during an awards breakfast. Butler County, which has 2,032 members and a variety of successful service programs, was also honored as the Top County in the membership category for counties with 2,600 or fewer members. Mercer County (3,480 members) received recognition among the counties with 2,601 to 4,200 members, and Hardin

County (13,522 members) won top honors among counties with more than 4,200 members.

IN OTHER AWARD PRESENTATIONS:

- Outstanding County Farm Bureaus were designated in all eleven of Kentucky Farm Bureau districts. The recipients were: Bath, Butler, Campbell, Clark, Fulton, Harlan, Hopkins, Logan, Madison, Mercer, and Pulaski Counties.
- Gallatin, Mason, and Nelson Counties received Top Growth Awards for having the largest percentage of membership gain from 2017.
- Pacesetter Awards were given to counties in the three membership size classifications that were the first to achieve a membership gain during the year. The large county award went to Gallatin County, followed in size by Mason and Nelson Counties.
- 11 counties won honors for having

the highest member retention totals in their districts. Those winners were: Boyle, Breckinridge, Franklin, Leslie, Lewis, McCracken, Monroe, Pike, Pulaski, Spencer, and Union Counties.

- Wayne County was honored for having 54 consecutive years of membership growth.
- Logan County was recognized as the Most Improved County Farm Bureau.
- Three awards were given for most effective county Farm Bureau information programs. Mercer County won first place, Daviess County was second and Fayette County was third.
- 70 Counties won the awards for policy growth and profitability produced by their local Farm Bureau agencies. Bullitt, Fulton, Harlan, Oldham, Pendleton, and Russell counties came closest to the growth goal set for that county.

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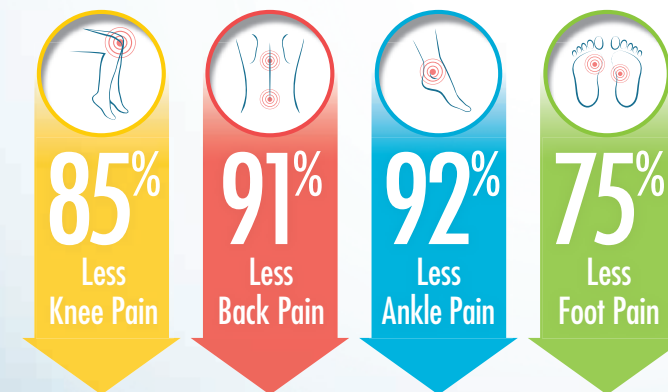
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Mark Haney Re-Elected President of Kentucky Farm Bureau



KFB President Mark Haney

Voting delegates at the 98th Annual Meeting of Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation re-elected Pulaski County farmer Mr. Mark Haney as president of Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) on the concluding day of the organization's meeting. Also re-elected were Webster County's Mr. Eddie Melton as First Vice-President and Hart County's Mr. Fritz Giesecke as Second Vice-President. They comprise KFB's Executive Committee along with Executive Vice President Mr. David S. Beck.

Mr. Haney has served on the Executive Committee for 18 years and has been a state director since 1993. For many years he chaired the State Resolutions Committee. He is a past president and current board member of the Kentucky Center for Agriculture & Rural Development, past president of the Kentucky Center for Cooperative Development and past

chairman of the Kentucky Horticulture Council and a current board of directors member for Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company.

Mr. Haney has also served as former president of the Pulaski County Farm Bureau, and is a current member of the American Farm Bureau Federation's Executive Committee and Board of Directors.

He and his brother, Don, produce apples and peaches near Nancy, KY, where they also raise beef cattle. They sell fresh produce from their orchards – as well as cider, jellies, baked goods and other products – at a KFB Certified Roadside Market located on the farm. He and his wife, Marlene, have two sons and a daughter.

Mr. Melton, a former president of Webster County Farm Bureau, is chairman of KFB's State Resolutions Committee and also chairs KFB's Farm Bill Working Group. Mr. Melton

additionally serves on the board of directors for Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company. He and his wife, Regina, have a daughter.

Mr. Giesecke serves as the chair of KFB's Beef Cattle Advisory Committee. He also serves as KFB's representative for the U.S. Meat Export Federation and the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board. Mr. Giesecke has been an active member of the Hart County Farm Bureau for over 30 years where he has held a variety of leadership positions, including county president. He additionally served 25 years as county supervisor for the local soil conservation district. Mr. Giesecke and his wife, Lydia, have a daughter and a son, and farms in Horse Cave, KY.

RETURNING BOARD MEMBERS ARE:

Randy Chrisman of Anderson County; Marshall Coyle of Bath County; Jay Coleman of Barren County; Patrick M. Henderson of Breckinridge County; Greg Drake of Butler County; David McGlone of Carter County; Shane Wiseman of Clark County; Kim McCoy of Cumberland County; Dr. Nancy Cox of Fayette County; Glenn Howell of Fulton County; Larry Clark of Green County; Brandon Davis of Green County; Larry Thomas of Hardin County; Roger Fannin of Harlan County; Alex Barnett of Harrison County; Terry Rowlett of Henry County; Cloyce Hinkle of Knox County; David L. Campbell of Lincoln County; Joe Paul Mattingly of Marion County; Kelly Thurman of McLean County; Vickie Bryant, Women's Committee Chair, of Monroe County; Mary Kate Kordes of Muhlenberg County; David Chappell of Owen County; Terry Lawson of Rockcastle County; Scott Travis of Spencer County; Victor Rexroat of Russell County; and Carroll Amyx of Wolfe County.

New to the board this year are Sharon Furches of Calloway County; Don Miniard of Harlan County; and John Pedigo, Young Farmers Committee Chair from Allen County.

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Miranda Chaplin

WINS KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU'S DISCUSSION MEET

Miranda Chaplin of Bourbon County won first place in the final round of the Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) Discussion Meet, a debate-styled competition for young farmers that relies on an individual's skill in reasoning and logical discussion of issues. The event was one of the highlighted activities during KFB's annual meeting in Louisville.

Chaplin bested three other entrants in the final event, winning a Kawasaki MULE donated by Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company and Jacobi Sales. She also won a trip to the national finals in Nashville, Tenn. as part of the American Farm Bureau Federation's annual convention, January 5-10, 2018.

Runner-up in the state Discussion Meet was Cody Rakes, who received \$1,000 cash from KFB.

The two other finalists in the state-level contest were Lilly Robertson of Logan County and Taylor Jones of Gallatin County. They each received \$200 cash awards from KFB.

KFB's Discussion Meet tests entrants on their basic knowledge of critical farm issues and their ability to

respond in a panel setting to differing points of view. The topic debated by the four finalists was: "With a growing demand for U.S. farm products abroad, how can agriculture overcome public skepticism of foreign trade to negotiate new trade agreements and open new world markets?"



Miranda Chaplin (center) receives congratulations from KFB Young Farmer Program Director Jackson Tolle (left) and KFB Executive Vice President David S. Beck.

NOTICE

ANNUAL POLICYHOLDERS' MEETING OF KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY

The annual meeting of the policyholders of Kentucky Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company will be held on Tuesday, March 13, 2018, 10:00 a.m. (Eastern), at the home office of the company, 9201 Bunsen Parkway, Louisville, Kentucky, for the purpose of (1) electing directors of the company, (2) receive the annual report of its officers, and (3) to consider any other business that may come before said meeting.

David S. Beck secretary

NOTICE

ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING OF THE FB INSURANCE COMPANY

The annual meeting of the stockholders of The FB Insurance Company will be held on Tuesday, March 13, 2018, 11:30 a.m. (Eastern), at the home office of the company, 9201 Bunsen Parkway, Louisville, Kentucky, for the purpose of electing directors of the company and to consider any other business that may come before said meeting.

David S. Beck secretary

Distinguished Service Awards

Each year, Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) recognizes two individuals for their distinguished service to agriculture and to Farm Bureau.

During the organization's annual meeting, this year's honorees were presented their awards from KFB President Mark Haney and Executive Vice President David S. Beck.

Jack C. Roberts of Wayne County was chosen as the Distinguished Service to Farm Bureau Award winner for 2017. In addition to his farming operation that consists of livestock and fruits and vegetables, he has been an active Farm Bureau board member for 58 years. He also served on the KFB State Board of Directors from 1985 to 1998 and the KFB Insurance Company Board from 1994 to 1999.

During that time he helped grow membership in the county from 300 to the over 4,000 current members. He has also led efforts to support many different community organizations and events. Through that leadership, Wayne County Farm Bureau gives back more than \$10,000 annually to the local community.

In addition to his continued leadership in Farm Bureau, Mr. Roberts served on the Wayne County school board for 24 years and also served many terms on the Wayne County Conservation District. Roberts, an army veteran, has also been active in his church for more than 60 years.

He is active in the Cattleman's Association, a past member of the Kentucky Corn Growers Promotion Council, and a member of the Kentucky Soil and Water Commission.

The Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award went posthumously to Fayette County's James Barton, Jr. He spent 62 of his 83 years on his farming operation, and 37 years of that with Barton Brothers Grain.

The family farm consists of tobacco, grain, livestock, and fruits and vegetables. Barton began farming with his father and did so while in high school and college. He bought his first farm in the early 1960's. Today, his brother, two sons and a grandson still operate the farm and over



Jack Roberts (center) received the 2017 Distinguished Service to Farm Bureau Award presented by KFB President Mark Haney (left) and KFB Executive Vice President David S. Beck.



Accepting the 2017 Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award on behalf of James Barton are his son, John Barton and wife Betty Barton (center). KFB President Mark Haney (left) and KFB Executive Vice President David S. Beck made the presentation.

the years, all six of his children and most of his grandchildren have been involved during their school summer breaks.

Agriculturally, Barton was known as an early innovator in many agricultural practices including no-till production, round hay bale technology and precision agriculture. He was also a leader in the selling of loose tobacco leaves and baled tobacco.

Additionally, Barton was instrumental in many leadership activities including being a founding member of the Kentucky Corn Growers Association, Secretary of the National Corn Growers Association, a founding member of the Kentucky Hemp Growers Association, president of the Burley Producers Market Association and a member of the Central Kentucky Pork Producers.

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Tresa Skaggs

RECEIVES EXCELLENCE IN AG LITERACY AWARD

Tresa Skaggs of Henderson County, a teacher at East Heights Elementary School in Henderson, is the recipient of Kentucky Farm Bureau's 2017 Excellence in Ag Literacy Award. The announcement was made at the organization's 98th annual meeting, held at the Galt House Hotel in Louisville.

KFB's Excellence in Ag Literacy Award recognizes and rewards teachers who excel in their efforts to incorporate agricultural concepts throughout their core curriculum. Nominations were made for a variety of pre-kindergarten through 12th grade teachers who use their classrooms

to help students comprehend the value of agriculture as it impacts their personal well-being economically, environmentally and socially.

For winning the award, Skaggs received \$500 cash and an expense-paid trip to the National Ag in the Classroom Conference June 26-29, 2018, in Portland, Maine where she will represent Kentucky in the national competition.

Skaggs has been teaching for 12 years and started at her current position four years ago. She incorporates agriculture into many of her classroom activities including hands-on projects, leadership initiatives, and team building

events. By doing so she said her students are better able to understand the impact of American agriculture on their personal lives through these hands-on problem solving projects.

Some of those activities include making ice cream in a bag to learn how milk gets from the cow to the table; making a small greenhouse so students could witness seed germination; and a leadership program known as the "Leader-in-Me Agricultural Club, to name a few.

Skagg graduated from Murray State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture and her Master's Degree in Special Education comes from Georgetown University.

Jay and Trisha Campbell of Logan County

WIN EXCELLENCE IN AGRICULTURE AWARD

Jay and Trisha Campbell of Logan County won top honors in Kentucky Farm Bureau's (KFB) Excellence in Agriculture Awards program during the organization's 98th annual meeting in Louisville.

The Excellence in Agriculture competition awards first, second and third place distinctions each year to individuals or couples under the age of 35 who contribute to and exhibit leadership growth from consistent involvement in Farm Bureau and other agriculture and civic-oriented organizations. To qualify, contestants must not have the majority of their income subject to normal production risks associated with farming.

For the win, the Campbells will go on to represent Kentucky in national competition at the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) annual convention, held in Nashville, Tenn. January 5-10, 2018. The Campbells were also presented with a John Deere Gator, courtesy of Farm Credit Mid-America, and an expenses-paid trip to the AFBF annual meeting.

Jay and Trisha Campbell come from farm families where working in tobacco, corn, soybeans, wheat and cattle were a part of their daily chores as youth. And while their parents taught them the value of hard work, discipline and respect, the leadership and focus of being involved in FFA confirmed for both that agriculture was going to be their way of life.

Today, Jay works as an agricultural education teacher and Trisha is a nurse using those skills to advocate for ag and teach her patients about healthy choices in diet and lifestyle. In addition to their daily jobs, the couple also sells beef both by the quarter as well as retail cuts through their home business. They are also still closely connected to their families' farms located near their home. The parents

of three plan to continue in their efforts to be strong advocates for agriculture through FFA, their involvement in Farm Bureau and through local and state ag-related events.

Second place in the contest went to Evan Michael Tate of Hancock County who was awarded \$400 courtesy of KFB. Mike and Shelley Meyer Harrison County placed third and received \$300 from KFB.



Pictured from left: KFB President Mark Haney, Trisha and Jay Campbell, Mark Barker, Senior Vice President of Farm Credit Mid – America, award sponsor, and KFB Executive Vice President David S. Beck.

Amber Dotson and Braedon Price

WIN OUTSTANDING FARM BUREAU YOUTH CONTEST

Amber Dotson of Bourbon County and Braedon Price of Warren County were awarded top honors in the 2017 Outstanding Farm Bureau Youth contest. Both winners were recognized during the November 30 general session of Kentucky Farm Bureau's (KFB) 98th annual meeting, held at the Galt House Hotel in Louisville.

Dotson and Price were selected from 22 district finalists out of approximately 400 young people who competed in county and district contests over the past several months. Judges met with finalists for personal interviews during the annual meeting, awarding points for each contestant's leadership record, conversational ability and scholastic achievement. KFB gave both Dotson and Price a \$2,000 college scholarship, an expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. on the KFB Congressional Tour in February 2018, a luggage set and watch for winning the contest.

Runners-up in the contest were Madison Goodlett of Spencer County and Logan Bechanan of Nicholas County. They each received a \$200 cash award and digital camera from KFB. Congeniality awards, which were voted on by their fellow contestants, were won by Haley Varney of Franklin County and Reed Campbell of Lincoln County. KFB awarded both of them with \$100 cash prizes for the honor.

THE 22 DISTRICT FINALISTS WHO PERFORMED AT KFB'S ANNUAL MEETING INCLUDED:

Grace Sink, Trigg County; Jacob Hunter, Graves County; Mauri Collins, Crittenden County; James Edmonds, McLean County; Katelynn Bunnell, Hart County; Alex Burke, Breckinridge County; Shelby Reno, Logan County; Braedon Price, Warren County; Madison Goodlett, Spencer County; Levi Cocanougher, Mercer County; Haley Varney, Franklin County; Alex Wheatley, Franklin County; Presley Woodrum, Casey County; Matthew Stewart, Pulaski County; Lauren Rowlette,



Amber Dotson, left and Braedon Price were congratulated by KFB Women's Committee Chair Vickie Bryant and KFB Executive Vice President David S. Beck on being named Outstanding Farm Bureau Youth.

Madison County; Reed Campbell, Breathitt County; Jennings Collins, Lincoln County; Amber Dotson, Clay County.

All 22 contestants received luggage pieces and \$100 for winning district competitions. Bourbon County; Logan Bechanan, Nicholas County; Grace Clark, Montgomery County; Justin Arnett, Montgomery County; Alexis Halsey,

Darren Luttrell

NAMED KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU FARMER OF THE YEAR



Pictured from left: KFB President Mark Haney, Darren and Debbie Luttrell, and KFB Executive Vice President David S. Beck.

Darren Luttrell of Ohio County was honored as the 2017 Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) "Farmer of the Year" during the organization's 98th annual meeting in Louisville.

Each year, KFB recognizes an individual whose efforts not only strengthen the state's agriculture industry but also demonstrates service and leadership both on and off the farm. Three Kentucky farmers were selected as finalists in this year's competition. They included Luttrell, Richard Preston of Hardin County, and Lisa Robards of Bullitt County.

KFB initiated a "Farmer of the Year" awards program as a way to recognize its members for their commitment to excellence in agriculture, efficiency in farming practices, sound financial management and outstanding leadership in their county Farm Bureau and other civic organizations.

Since 1982, Luttrell has been a part of the family farming operation and has seen production acres double from 1,800 to 3,600 consisting of corn and soybeans. He also operates eight broiler houses and raises 380 head of beef cattle.

In addition, he has also been associated with a leading agriculture

technology company as a dealer for the last 16 years. While this part of his overall farming experience is not a major revenue contributor, Luttrell said it has allowed him to know and utilize their technology quickly and work with some of the best and most progressive farmers in the area.

The Luttrell operation is a true family farm. His two sons are both involved full-time on the farm primarily focusing on the grain and cattle operations while wife Debbie helps him with the poultry business.

Luttrell has used different precision farming tools over the years to help reduce input costs and has always been willing to try new farming practices.

He would like to expand his grain system and grow more acres in the future. He also plans to give his sons more responsibility in the decision making process on the farm.

"The key to our future is a well-executed succession plan that will ensure a successful operation for many years to come," said Luttrell.

He has been active in the Ohio County Farm Bureau, the local Chamber of Commerce, his church and the local school system where he is known as "Farmer Luttrell" and has helped teach children about life on the farm.

In being named Farmer of the Year, Luttrell received \$1,000 from the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation and all three finalists will be given a KFB jacket, and the runners received \$250 from the Federation.

In addition to the statewide recognition and prizes, Luttrell will represent Kentucky in the Swisher Sweets/Sunbelt Ag Expo Southeastern "Farmer of the Year" contest, the South's most prestigious agricultural award, in Moultrie, Georgia, in October of 2018. Last year's winner received a \$15,000 cash award plus \$2,500 as a state winner from Swisher International, the use of a Massey Ferguson tractor for a year from Massey Ferguson North America, a \$500 gift certificate from the Southern States cooperative and a Columbia jacket from Ivey's Outdoor and Farm Supply.

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Rae Wagoner

HONORED AS KFB'S 2017 COMMUNICATIONS AWARD RECIPIENT

Rae Wagoner, Communication Director for the Kentucky Soybean Board, was named the winner of Kentucky Farm Bureau's (KFB) 2017 Communications Award. She was recognized on November 30 during the general session of KFB's annual meeting at the Galt House in Louisville.

The Communications Award, which consists of a plaque and \$300 cash prize, has been presented by KFB annually since 1960. Media outlets, county Farm Bureaus and other agriculture-related agencies nominate candidates whose outstanding journalism work has created a better understanding of Kentucky's agriculture industry over the last year.

Ms. Wagoner was nominated by the Mercer County Farm Bureau for the

commendable work she produces daily on behalf of Kentucky agriculture.

Ms. Wagoner is currently working as communication director for the Kentucky soybean Board. As communication director, Ms. Wagoner publishes the Kentucky Soybean Sentinel Quarterly. She does most of the writing, photography, layout, design, and ad sales. She also manages the website, and social media platforms.

Ms. Wagoner has also worked with the Paducah Sun's Agriculture Outlook, Webster County Ag Families, Ag Families magazine published by the Kentucky New Era, and the Farmer's Pride.

Ms. Wagoner has served as a member of the Ag Chat Foundation, the American Society of Association Executives, and State Staff Leader of Commonground.



Pictured from left: KFB Director of Communications B. Todd Bright, Rae Wagoner and KFB Executive Vice President David S. Beck.

Carol Hinton

RECEIVES 2017 FARM PUBLIC RELATIONS AWARD

Carol Hinton, a Breckenridge County Extension Agent with University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension, is the recipient of Kentucky Farm Bureau's (KFB) Farm Public Relations Award. She was recognized on November 30 during the general session of KFB's annual meeting at the Galt House in Louisville.

Having grown up on a farm in Hardin County, Ms. Hinton has worked as the county extension agent for the past twenty four years. She was one of the first female agriculture agents in Kentucky.

As the county extension agent, Ms. Hinton works with the community in determining, prioritizing and addressing county needs relating to agriculture and natural resources.

In addition, she counsels with community members to provide input and feedback regarding extension's work in the area. She designs and implements programs based

on identified needs and provides educational opportunities.

Ms. Hinton also creates multiple newsletters, flyers, and Facebook posts that produce awareness about current topics in the agriculture industry. These efforts have resulted in positive promotion of agriculture in Breckinridge county.

A graduate of Western Kentucky University and the University of Kentucky, Ms. Hinton serves with many professional organizations including the soil conservation committee, Chamber of Commerce, and the Kentucky County Agents Association, to name a few.

She currently has her own farm where she raises show pigs.

Ms. Hinton is the recipient of many awards related to her work including a Newsletter Award from the Kentucky Association of County Agriculture Extension Agents, a Diversity Award from the University of Kentucky, and a Supporting Agent Award from the Air and Waste Management Association.

Ms. Hinton was nominated for the KFB Farm Public Relations Award by Breckinridge County Farm Bureau 1st Vice President Greg Moore.



Pictured from left: KFB Director of Communications B. Todd Bright, Carol Hinton and KFB Executive Vice President David S. Beck.

Kentucky Farm Bureau Outstanding Young Farm Family

Ben and Katie Furnish of Harrison County were honored as Kentucky Farm Bureau's (KFB) 2017 "Outstanding Young Farm Family" during the organization's 98th annual meeting in Louisville. Each year KFB awards this distinction to a couple, under the age of 35, who has exhibited the strongest farm management skills, most consistent financial growth and highest level of involvement in both Farm Bureau and the community.

In 2003 Ben bought his first group of cows and raised his first tobacco crop utilizing the farming background he grew up with on his parents' 176 acre cattle and burley tobacco operation. From that point he expanded significantly on what his father had started and purchased his first farm of 46 adjoining acres in 2005.

Over the next decade he would continue to grow through purchased and leased land. Today, he and his family operate on more than 2,200 acres of owned and leased land. Farm production includes stocker steers, burley tobacco, corn, soybeans, wheat, mixed hay and, for the last three years, industrial hemp.

The Furnishes also custom harvest hay for a neighboring farm, and custom harvest grains for neighboring farms when needed. Katie has a degree in nursing and works part-time as an RN at their local hospital. The couple has three children. Ben, who has a degree in agriculture economics, uses the Kentucky Farm Business Management program to help compare his family operation to others of the same size in an effort to improve and be more profitable.

The couple plans to expand their stocker operation in the future, while also looking "heavily" at expanding their feeder calf operation. This would allow for another source of natural fertilizer and lower their input cost without sacrificing crop yields.

Ben and Katie are members of Harrison County Farm Bureau and are active in many other organizations. They also enjoy many family activities including being active in their church and participating in local recreational baseball.



Ben and Katie Furnish (center) accepted the KFB Outstanding Young Farm Family Award from KFB leadership and program sponsors.

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Pastor Joe Haynes: "I normally don't write product reviews, but this company impressed me so much that it compelled me to write a review. *I am a middle-aged diabetic.* My diabetes usually never gives me problems, but I am always concerned about my feet. Recently I got an infection in a toe, presumably from trimming the toe nail too far back. In any case, it was a painful issue that also prevented me from wearing shoes. I could only wear open-toed sandals. As a pastor, I felt quite out of place with such casual footwear. One parishioner gave me a bottle of Steuart's Propolis Tincture and a bottle of Steuart's Wound Cream.

By the time I received this, I also had a finger that was infected, presumably from using the same trimmer. I used the Tincture for the first couple of days along with the Wound Cream. Later, I used just the Wound Cream. I was amazed with the quick healing process. I had the sore on my toe about 2 weeks before I started using Steuart's products. The pain subsided after 4 days of using Steuart's Wound Cream. The toe took about three weeks to heal, but finger only took a week".



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CANDID CONVERSATION

WENDELL ROBERTS

KFB Candid Conversation presents a discussion about the topical issues facing the agricultural industry in a question and answer format with a member of the agricultural community. In this column, Caldwell County Farm Bureau President Wendell Roberts talks about an event held at his farm each year that teaches children the basics of agriculture and how it relates to them.

What exactly is the Farm to Plate event in your county all about?

Farm to Plate is an agriculture literacy initiative that focuses on educating 3rd grade students at Caldwell County Elementary School. This event is organized by students in the Agriculture Department at Caldwell County High School. This annual event is different every year because it is held at various farms in Caldwell County. Since my granddaughter is the Agriculture Teacher at CCHS it has been easier for her to host the event at our Family Farm. The Tour is a two-day event and allows the students to trace their food from the grocery store to the farm.

How did this project get started and how long has it been going on?

The high school has been doing this activity for many years! We now have three generations of students attending the tours and it has been held at our family farm for three years now. We saw a real chance to keep students connected to the farm and to gain a better understanding of how agriculture affects us all.

Why is it important to teach these children about agriculture?

Many of these students have never experienced being on a farm and this is our opportunity to educate them on the importance of growing their food and educating them on where their food comes from. There is more and more of

a movement, especially from a younger consumer to understand more about their food sources and we think this is a way to get real information out to them.

Does it ever surprise you at the number of local farmers and agriculture enthusiasts who want to take part in Farm to Plate?

My granddaughter, Magen, contacts almost 30 adult volunteers who are directly involved in agriculture to help with the event. They range from chemical specialist, retired teachers and Farm Bureau members. Most of the volunteers expect to be contacted and enjoy the event and they seem to get as much out of the day as the students.

FFA seems to play a big role in this event. How important is that organization when it comes to teaching a new generation about agriculture?

FFA creates the entire event, we simply host it, and help acquire funds to pay for food, travel and substitutes. Donations come from the local Natural Resource Conservation Service office and the Caldwell County Farm Bureau. You can tell when the FFA members are leading groups or teaching students they are gaining much needed leadership skills and communicate easily with the participants. Many of the former FFA members that developed and facilitated lessons at Farm to Plate Day are now pursuing degrees to be Agriculture Teachers because of this event.

Do you get a lot of feedback from those involved in Farm to Plate?

We get a lot of feedback from the teachers but no direct communication with the parents and we would like to see that change. Parental involvement in such a project would really help to fortify what we are trying to teach them when they come to the farm. Often



Wendell Roberts

while shopping locally we occasionally see students that run up and say "Hey aren't you that farmer that I visited this year with my class!" It's always exciting to know that the student remembers the trip!

What is the reaction of high school students who have been a part of Farm to Plate?

The high school students are very thankful that they have the opportunity to share their love for agriculture and combat agriculture literacy. And I think this is has much to do with the fact that the FFA students we have now, went to the program when they were younger. If you plant that seed at a young age, these young people are likely to remember and carry it with them into adulthood and hopefully on to the next generation.

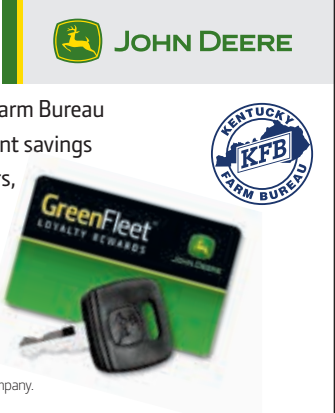


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KPPA ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA
FRIDAY (January 19, 2018)
6:30 PM — KPCW Banquet & Auction - Ballroom A
Scholarship Auction—Auctioneer Scott VanSickle
Door Prizes 6--\$50

SATURDAY (January 20, 2018)
7:00 - 9:00 a.m. — BREAKFAST (Hartland Café)
All meetings will be in Meeting Room 1 Sloan Convention Center
8:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. — Interviews for 2019 KPPA Officers and 2019 National Delegates - Crosswinds Board Room

9:00 a.m. — National Pork Board Report
- William Winkelman Vice President - Producer & Industry Relations
Stephen Herring, National Pork Board
9:30 a.m. — Cody McKinley, Director National and State Relations, National Pork Producers Council
10:00 a.m. — Rebecca Mackey
10:00 a.m. — Ladies Program - Rosie Cochran
10:00-1:00 — Free Show Pig Clinic - Lunch included
Online Pre-Registration required (Salon C)
10:30 a.m. — Charles Snively, Secretary of Energy and Environment Cabinet

11:00 a.m. — Hog and Grain Markets - Dr. Steve Meyer, Vice President, Pork Analysis, Express Markets Inc. Analytics
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. — LUNCH (Hartland Café)
1:00 p.m. — Farm Presentation
• Caleb Ragland—Shady Rest Farm
2:00 p.m. — 2018 KPPA Annual Meeting
• KPPA Financial Report - Benji Hudnall
• Election of 2019 KPPA Officer and National Delegates
5:00 p.m. — Kentucky Pork Producers Association Banquet (Ballroom D)
• Awards
• Quilt Drawing



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It goes without saying that maintaining and improving these methods of transportation is a priority for these businesses including the agriculture community which not only depends on transportation modes to get to these markets but for day-to-day operations on their farms.

Kentucky Farm Bureau is a member of the Kentucky Infrastructure Coalition (KIC), which is made up of a diverse

group of leaders and organizations working together to support efforts to keep the state's infrastructure viable and sustainable.

But to fully understand how important this issue is to both large and small communities alike, a variety of perspectives need to be heard in order to get a clear picture of issues related to Kentucky's infrastructure needs.

KELLY THURMAN

McLean County Judge Executive,
KFB State Director

"We are an agriculturally driven community and one of the largest ag producing counties in the state. Transportation and the movement of those goods is vital to us. To have that infrastructure in place where we have good roads, good bridges and the availability of the rivers near us for

navigation, it's just vitally important that we partner with the coalition and councils to keep these roadways and bridges in good repair. They can easily deteriorate and it's left up to county and state governments to ensure they are in good condition and that requires dollars. With budgets as strained as they are on county levels and in particular on rural counties, those dollars become even more important to us and the availability of them to help assist in keeping these structures and roadways in good repair. The day-to-day livelihood of McLean County depends directly upon the condition of these state highways and county roads. Our citizens want good roads and they certainly pay taxes and are entitled to that. We have a responsibility to try and ensure we have the best highway system we can provide and that goes for our navigable waters, as well. We've got our hands full with a limited amount of money, a limited amount of resources and the more that we can all work together and collaborate on how to do this either regionally or statewide, the better it is for everybody concerned."

BRUCE TODD

Henderson County Magistrate &
President of the Kentucky Magistrates &
Commissioners Association

"Interstates, highways, streets, county roads and rural roads are the lifeblood of Kentucky. They provide us opportunities to transport children, families, corn, and coal. Roads connect us and they are truly the path to fiscal prosperity. One of our primary goals as elected county leaders is to maintain and expand our valued infrastructure," he said. "As the President of the Kentucky Magistrates & Commissioners Association, the protection and growth of resources are continually one of our priorities. KIC is a worthy coalition and an endeavor that we are proud to support."

JUVA BARBER

Executive Director of Kentuckians
for Better Transportation

"Transportation is what connects Kentucky to the world and the world to Kentucky. The Kentucky Infrastructure Coalition is proud that Kentucky Farm Bureau is one of our more than 30 partner organizations. Manufacturers, farmers, economic development leaders, residential and commercial contractors, engineers, local leaders and more than 40,000 transportation workers understand that safe, reliable, efficient transportation is essential to Kentucky's economy. The coalition is advocating for transportation funding solutions that are dynamic, long-term and sustainable, so we can take care of current obligations and anticipate future needs."

ALEX BARNETT

Harrison County Judge Executive,
KFB State Director

"As a farmer, in order to get our products to market, we need to maintain all of our roads and bridges. They have to have the capacity to handle the newer, heavier farm equipment and loads. In our county, we have replaced about 25 bridges since I came into office and the majority of those were under the 18 ton threshold and needed to be replaced. And there are a couple of larger bridges that hopefully the state will help with. But my administration has put a high priority on infrastructure. We need to make sure the bridges and roads are in good shape so our residents can get to work and our children can get to school."

MARK HANEY

Kentucky Farm Bureau President

"I don't have to tell our farm family members how important transportation issues are to them and to KFB. Our various modes of transportation are essential in getting our products from the farm to markets locally, regionally, across the country and around the world," he said. "According to information from the USDA, in recent years, U.S. agricultural movements represented 30 percent of all ton-miles moved on the U.S. transportation system. It goes without saying that maintaining and improving these

methods of transportation are priorities for agriculture, and really, for all industries and individuals who call Kentucky home. From an agricultural perspective, the necessity of a solid transportation infrastructure is somewhat simplistic in nature even though solutions to keep it sustainable aren't. In order to get food from the farm to the table, we have to have a well-maintained transportation infrastructure. The coalition supports long-term, sustainable funding that provides adequate revenues for all modes of transportation so our state can maintain the infrastructure in place today and build what is needed in the future. As we move forward, I feel certain we can maintain and enhance our transportation infrastructure through diligence, education and advocacy efforts made possible when we work together."

To learn more about the Kentucky Infrastructure Coalition, visit their web site at www.kickstartky.com.

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2017 Kentucky Farm Bureau Agricultural Tour

In keeping with a long-standing tradition, the 2017 Kentucky Farm Bureau Agricultural Tour continued this year taking KFB executive committee members from the Federation and leadership from the Insurance Company to a number of venues including county offices and rural businesses throughout several counties. This year the group traveled to the central and south central region of the state.

KFB President Mark Haney said the tour is a way to help stay connected with

the local Farm Bureaus which serve as the foundation of the organization. It also provides an opportunity to see firsthand how partnerships in local communities help to strengthen both the organization and those communities, as well.

"This tour allows those of us at the state office to hear from our members and staff at the local level; to hear about their successes, their concerns and any issues they may be facing," he said. "But it's also about recognizing the relationships we have with those rural and sometimes not so rural areas as we

strive to make Kentucky a better place to live for everyone."

This year's agenda included stops in Mercer, Garrard, Boyle, Lincoln, Rockcastle, Madison, Pulaski and Russell Counties.

Zack Ison, a past president of Mercer County Farm Bureau said there is real value in being a part of KFB and its grassroots method of advocating for agriculture and serving rural Kentucky.

"To really understand Farm Bureau, you have to see what is going on at the local level as it relates to the Federation and the insurance company. Through their collective efforts, our communities are better because of KFB's presence," he said. "Having our state leaders here at home and knowing they recognize what we are doing, is so important and really unique to the organization. It strengthens us and it really gives me a sense of pride to be a part of it."

During the visit to Boyle County, tour attendees saw one of the high school's agriculture education classrooms and heard from FFA members and ag teachers.

Boyle County High School Principal Mark Wade said the success of the programs at that school and in most ag-ed programs has a lot to do with good relationships.

"Partnerships and relationships are very important. I attended IFAL in 1996 and I still have (connections) with some of those people and we have students who have attended and they come back raving about the relationships that are built in (the program)," he said. "I think the relationship between Kentucky Farm Bureau, the schools and the local boards are phenomenal.

And what we have going on right here is proof of that relationship."

Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) President Michael Benson met with KFB members and leadership during the Madison County meeting. He said given the challenges faced in state government, partnerships with private businesses and other entities are very important.

"The long standing partnership we've had with (organizations like) Kentucky Farm Bureau are so important now in moving forward. And so the relationships we've developed and built, and will continue to foster, are beneficial to us and more importantly to our students," he said. "We will continue to focus on those and we are very grateful for the Farm Bureau and all it does for us."

EKU is one of two state universities in which KFB sponsors "Collegiate Farm Bureau," a program that brings together agricultural students on college campuses to engage them in educational activities and serves as a way to learn more about agriculture and the organization.

Laurel County Farm Bureau Board Member Sonny Osborne said the people there are fortunate to have Farm Bureau as part of the community as the organization offers programs and support to help in many ways.

"Laurel County Farm Bureau lends a helping hand to our farmers by offering several pieces of farm machinery available for their use for a small rental fee which is used to maintain the equipment," he said. "We are also proud to support farmers' markets, farm to table programs, along with many other agricultural programs."

Tiffany Harper, the Pulaski County Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Agent and her counterpart in Cumberland County, Chelsea Anderson were present at the Pulaski County gathering. Harper said much of what is done at the county level from an extension standpoint is supported by important partnerships with organizations such as KFB.

"They afford us the ability to put on programming and supply us with resources to provide educational opportunities and the ability to create

programs for producers and their specific needs," she said. "They also help us to provide services to the counties at reduced prices or for free and a number of other programs that are critical to the economic development of our counties."

Harper added that KFB is also a strong advocate at the legislative level when it comes to supporting the needs of agriculture including extension.

Anderson said KFB also helps with connections to the school system as members will attend, with extension personnel, to bring attention to agriculture education.

"They also partner with us on a lot of different field days in the elementary schools and county programming with commodity specific groups," she said. "Without Farm Bureau, there are many programs that we would not be able to do."

Anderson pointed out that Cooperative Extension was built from the grassroots level up and so was Farm Bureau and without either one, the local producers would not get their voices heard.

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Pictured from left: Senator Paul Hornback, KFB's Jeff Harper and Representative Richard Heath.

Commodity Leaders Hear from Lawmakers during Legislative Meeting

Kentucky's Senate and House Agriculture Committee Chairs Senator Paul Hornback and Representative Richard Heath, along with Representative Steven Rudy, Chair of the House Appropriations and Revenue Committee met with the state's ag commodity leaders last month during the annual Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) Commodity/Legislative Meeting held in Louisville.

The annual gathering allows commodity leaders to hear some of the issues that will be in front of lawmakers in the coming General Assembly session as well as to ask questions related to their specific industry sectors.

The 2018 session is one in which a budget bill will be on the table and Hornback said, it's important to make sure the budget considers the importance of agriculture throughout the state and what the industry means to Kentucky's economy.

"It's going to be a tough budget but I think, in agriculture, we need to make a stand that we are important, too," he said. "A lot of the programs that we have, that look like they are being paid to just assist farmers, help every citizen whether it is through the environment or feeding the people throughout the Commonwealth. So we need to be sure to protect our part of the budget."

In doing that, Hornback said agriculture has to speak with one voice.

Heath noted some specifics, legislatively, that will be important to the farming and rural communities including items related to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture as well as a look at a transportation bill passed last year and needs a "revisit" in order to be more inclusive for agriculture.

"When we passed our truck weight variance bill last year it was our understanding it applied to all livestock sectors and now the Department of Transportation says it doesn't. So we have to go back and revisit that," he said.

Heath added that a redraft of the bill is already in the works and the hope is to get that legislation looked at once again and make sure all of the livestock industry is included.

He also had a bit of advice for constituents as the session draws near. Heath said they should stay in contact with their representatives.

"They should make sure they know who their representative is and make sure they maintain an open dialogue," said Heath. "I know many of the farmers I represent, I have their numbers in my phone and we can text each other or they can drop in my place of business to see me."

He emphasized that constituents shouldn't always assume that lawmakers know what's on their minds or issues that are affecting them. They should make a point to see those representatives and let any concerns be known.

Rudy offered the same advice and he will likely hear from a lot of citizens because it will be his committee that helps craft the budget that will be so important in this next session.

"Advocate, keep an open mind, stay informed, and let us know where you stand on issues, because we need



Representative Steven Rudy

to hear it," he said in describing what farm constituents can do regarding the legislative process. "If there is a problem I may or may not be able to solve it, but I guarantee if I don't know about it, I cannot solve it."

Rudy also said from a budget perspective, getting this one completed won't be easy.

"It will be, without question, the toughest budget and the toughest decisions ever made by the General Assembly as far as spending the

taxpayers' money," he said. "The state desperately needs comprehensive tax reform, which, if it is done the right way, could align our tax code with our economy."

From an agricultural standpoint, Rudy said he will stay committed to listening to farmers and including them in the dialogue as this session moves forward.

"As we look at the way we fund certain things, such as rural and secondary roads and allocate tobacco settlement money, I will assure the

farmers and the interested groups that they will have a seat at the table as we are in these discussions," he said.

Rudy added that even though this will be a tough session, it can be a successful one.

"I really believe we are heading down the right path and I really believe there are brighter days ahead," he said. "For all those challenges, Kentucky is still the best place to live and I wouldn't want to live anywhere else."

Interim Joint Committee on Agriculture Hears from Top State Ag Leaders as General Assembly Session Approaches

Kentucky's top agriculture leaders testified during November's meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on Agriculture and discussed issues related to farming and rural communities.

As a new General Assembly session nears, Kentucky Farm Bureau President Mark Haney, Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy's Executive Director Warren Beeler and Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles spoke to lawmakers on a number of topics including current projects, successes and priorities that each organization will be dealing with in the coming year.

Haney first thanked legislators for their continued support and interest in agriculture. He said because of their efforts, the state's ag sector is benefitting from the money generated by the Master Settlement Agreement.

"Over the past two decades, we have seen many changes in the agricultural landscape of Kentucky. We have gone from a largely tobacco dependent ag economy to one with more diversity than perhaps any other state in the nation," he said. "Much of that change came about thanks to the foresight of the General Assembly in devoting half of the revenue that has come from the landmark Master Settlement Agreement to the state's agriculture industry."

Haney also talked about issues that farm families are facing now and in the

months ahead; those issues included taxation, the state budget, rural roads, rural communications, and wildlife.

"We are repeatedly asked to do more with less and we continue to meet that challenge," he said. "But we must have the support you, our legislators, have given us in the past and continue to give us. Thank you for seeing the value in our agriculture industry."

Beeler thanked the members, as well, for their continued support of the Agricultural Development Fund. He said the money that has been invested in Kentucky agriculture is money that is working in Frankfort.

"This money was meant to diversify (agriculture) away from tobacco and do other things and it has worked like a dream," he said.

Beeler showed committee members facts and figures related to the millions that have been invested in Kentucky's agriculture sector. He noted that it is the only money in Frankfort making money.

Quarles shared information about many of the projects going on in the Kentucky Department of Agriculture including the recent agreement with China that will send Kentucky bred horses to that country.

Quarles told lawmakers that it looks to be a robust year for crop production in Kentucky and the comradery between state's ag organizations is something to be proud of.

"I just want to say there is a lot to be proud of not with just our farm community and our 76,000 farms but how well we get along with each other," he said. "Farming in Kentucky is about family; it's about community. We are blessed with a great legislature that understands agriculture and that's not the case in a lot of other states."

He also discussed his Hunger Initiative and efforts being made along with the Kentucky Association of Food Banks to help Kentuckians who are suffering from food insecurities.

The 2018 General Assembly session begins January 2, 2018.



KFB President Mark Haney

NAILE: A Kentucky Tradition

MAKES AN IMPACT ACROSS THE COUNTRY

The North American International Livestock Expo (NAILE) is as well known to livestock producers in this state as any other agriculture-related event. But exhibitors from around the country and in other parts of the world make their way to the Bluegrass every fall to experience this 44 year old tradition solidifying its place as the largest purebred livestock exposition of its kind anywhere.

The numerous livestock divisions and the thousands of entries means good news for those exhibitors who have been making their way to this event for many years and those looking to make the NAILE a new tradition all their own. This year's event drew nearly 30,000 entries with competitors, exhibitors and attendees coming from 49 states and six foreign countries.



The 2017 NAILE drew nearly 30,000 entries with competitors, exhibitors and attendees from 49 states and six foreign countries.

Because the event brings so many people in from so many places, the NAILE also serves as a strong economic event for the region to the tune of more than \$8 million annually.

The Kentucky State Fair Board owns the NAILE and Marshall Coyle, a board member as well as a Kentucky Farm Bureau Past President Board member said the Expo has meant so much to so many.

"The North American is the greatest purebred show in the world and we pride ourselves on those that come and show their animals here," he said. "There are people that have been coming for years and tell us they wouldn't miss it."

Coyle said the Expo continues to grow with entries in all the livestock categories up this year as this show represents some of the finest animals in the country.

"I talked to a dairy exhibitor from California and I asked him how long it took to get here. He said it took 48 hours and three milking's but he wouldn't miss it and will continue to

come as long as he is able," said Coyle. "That demonstrates the importance of this show to all segments of the livestock industry and recognizes how important it is to have this in Louisville, Kentucky at the KEC."

But farm families are not the only people coming to the NAILE each year. The venue is visited by countless school children, groups and local residents who have made the event a regular occurrence this time of year. In fact, the NAILE is but one ag event held each year at the KEC that helps set it apart as one of the premiere agricultural centers in the country bringing in millions of visitors from all walks of life to be a part of these events.

Coyle said the NAILE is one of those shows which provides a perfect place for those not connected to agriculture to see firsthand the different kinds of livestock raised on farms across the country and allows them to become more familiar with farming.

In addition to the livestock, the NAILE host two other noted events

including the North American Championship Rodeo and the annual Farm-City Luncheon."

The rodeo serves as the circuit finals of the Pro Rodeo Cowboys Association with more than \$80,000 at stake for participants. The Farm City Luncheon is a long-standing event that brings the agriculture community together to recognized honor ag leaders, agri-businesses and to enjoy the Wing Tip Rodeo, a fun competition pitting a farm team against a city team for the year's "cow" roping honors.

The Agribusiness Award is one of the two awards presented at the Luncheon and is sponsored by the Agribusiness Industry Network. The award honors a Louisville-area agribusiness which excels in financial growth and stability, employee relations and contributions to the overall agricultural economy.

This year's winner is Courtney Farms, a family-owned and managed producer of vegetables, tobacco and livestock in Shelby County. Shane and Mary Courtney began their farming operation in 2008 and also grow grain and this year for the first time they are raising hogs and selling pork locally.

The Harold Workman Agriculture Leadership Award winner is also named during the Farm City event and is named in honor of the former long-time President and Chief Executive Officer of the Kentucky State Fair Board. The award was established as a tribute to the men and women who have given unselfishly of their time and efforts in Service to Kentucky's Agriculture Industry.

Warren Beeler, Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Agriculture Policy was this year's honoree. In addition to his duties at GOAP, Beeler is a producer from Caneyville, Kentucky and is one of the most noted livestock advocates and show judges in the country.

As is the case for most ag-related livestock events, young people have a prominent place at the NAILE. Youth exhibitors gain the chance to show their animals and share in Sale of Champions auction that totaled \$64,500 this year.

There are 10 youth judging contests, agriculture curriculum for school groups, 4-H/FFA livestock shows



Warren Beeler, Executive Director of the GOAP received the Harold Workman Agriculture Leadership Award from Dr. C. Oran Little.



Pictured from left: Gary Huddleston, Chairman, Agribusiness Industry Network, Mary and Shane Courtney, and John Launius, manager of economic development at Greater Louisville Inc.

and numerous education contests for young people to participate in. There is even a study room with internet

access to assist students in staying caught up on school work while attending the show.

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Down the Backroads

By Tim Thornberry

I remember Christmas Day, 1969 very well because it also turned out to be the day we moved to the farm. Understand, moving on that day was not on purpose or by design, but mostly because of one of the biggest snowstorms I had ever seen at that point in my life.

My family had originally planned this move to take place between the holidays. But that snowstorm swooped in and my dad made the monumental decision to do it on Christmas Day before the weather got too bad.

I believe now, it was also because we had extra family at our house all of whom turned into movers for the day.

As quickly as we unwrapped gifts, we packed them up again to make the seven mile journey to the farmhouse where I would spend most of my adolescent years into adulthood.

We still had our Christmas dinner only it turned into Christmas lunch. You can't ask a house full of guests to help you move on empty stomachs! So, we ate, we packed more and we moved fast while the snow piled up.

Obviously most of our things were already to go but it was still quite an experience. My brother, sister and I did all we could to help which meant mostly staying out of the way. And we did. The faster this move took place,

the faster we could get back to our Christmas gifts.

But I would come to realize later in life, there were more gifts to be had that day than those under the tree.

My uncles, aunts and older cousins jumped in to help because that's what family does. My grandfather didn't lift a lot but he drove his old truck back and forth until the last load was complete.

My mom made sure she could get to the lunch leftovers to ensure everyone had plenty to eat, because, well, it was one of those things that made her happy. I remember lots of laughter on a day that wasn't really all that much fun. Moving is never really all that much fun and especially on Christmas Day.

By the time we had finished, there were several inches of snow on the ground and really cold temperatures validating the decision my father had made earlier in the day. But we were warm, fed and in a home that would come to mean so much.

The gift of family could be found everywhere that day. And the farmhouse itself would serve as a gift to me for many years to come, even until today.

I learned to drive a truck in that long driveway and through the fields. I learned that all chickens aren't friendly. I learned that the bull in the fenced area next to the house would chase you if you got too close. I learned to put up hay, cut tobacco, and sleep under the stars because you could see the night sky better in the country.

Most of all I learned that a part of me would never leave that place and time. I don't ever plan on moving on Christmas but by doing so on that wintry day in 1969, I discovered that sometimes the best gifts; the ones that last the longest, are not under the tree but right in front of us, as we move down the backroads.

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QUALITY TOOLS AT RIDICULOUSLY LOW PRICES

800+ Stores Nationwide • HarborFreight.com

PREDATOR

Customer Rating

6.5 HP (212 CC) OHV HORIZONTAL SHAFT GAS ENGINE

SAVE \$230

NOW \$999

COMPARE TO \$1199

ITEM 60363/69730

ITEM 69727 shown

CALIFORNIA ONLY

COMPARE TO HONDA

MODEL: GX200T20K2

MODEL: KASC3AP80

13662229

LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 4/21/18*

U.S. GENERAL

Customer Rating

30" 5 DRAWER TOOL CART

8100 cu. in. of storage

704 lb. capacity

Weighs 120 lbs.

NOW \$1599

COMPARE TO \$1999

ITEM 61427/63308

69397/64059/64060/64061/95272 shown

COMPARE TO SNAP-ON

MODEL: KASC3AP80

13658209

LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 4/21/18*

PITTSBURGH

Customer Rating

1" x 25 FT. TAPE MEASURE

Thumb Lock

Rubber Wrapped Case

ITEM 69030

69031 shown

13657909

LIMIT 1 - Cannot be used with other discount, coupon or prior purchase. Coupon good at our stores. HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2887. Offer good while supplies last. Shipping & Handling charges may apply if not picked up in store. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 4/21/18. Limit one FREE GIFT coupon per customer per day.

HaulMaster

Customer Rating

3-POINT QUICK HITCH

2000 lb. capacity

27-3/16" Clearance

NOW \$799

COMPARE TO \$999

ITEM 97214

13658652

LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 4/21/18*

BADLAND

Customer Rating

2500 LB. ELECTRIC WINCH WITH WIRELESS REMOTE CONTROL

Weights 14.3 lbs.

11-1/8" L x 4-1/2" H

NOW \$499

COMPARE TO \$1799

ITEM 61840/61297/63476/61258 shown

13757866

LIMIT 3 - Coupon valid through 4/21/18*

PITTSBURGH

Customer Rating

RAPID PUMP® 3 TON LOW PROFILE HEAVY DUTY STEEL FLOOR JACK

Weights 73 lbs.

NOW \$799

COMPARE TO \$999

ITEM 61253/62326/61282 shown

13670590

LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 4/21/18*

HaulMaster

Customer Rating

3/8" x 14 FT., GRADE 43 TOWING CHAIN

5400 lb. capacity

NOW \$199

COMPARE TO \$649

ITEM 60658

97711 shown

13673210

LIMIT 7 - Coupon valid through 4/21/18*

HaulMaster

Customer Rating

1 TON CHAIN HOIST

10 ft. lift

SAVE 55%

NOW \$399

COMPARE TO \$899

ITEM 69338/996 shown

13675823

LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 4/21/18*

HaulMaster

Customer Rating

STEP STOOL/WORKING PLATFORM

350 lb. capacity

NOW \$199

COMPARE TO \$575

ITEM 62515

66911 shown

13695757

LIMIT 7 - Coupon valid through 4/21/18*

CENTRAL MACHINERY

Customer Rating

20 TON SHOP PRESS

Pair of arbor plates included

NOW \$1499

COMPARE TO \$2249

ITEM 32879

60603 shown

13702884

LIMIT 3 - Coupon valid through 4/21/18*

WARRIOR

Customer Rating

29 PIECE TITANIUM DRILL BIT SET

SAVE 83%

COMPARE TO \$60

ITEM 62281

61637 shown

13708320

LIMIT 8 - Coupon valid through 4/21/18*

HERCULES

Customer Rating

20 VOLT LITHIUM CORDLESS 1/2" COMPACT DRILL/DRIVER KIT

576 in. lbs. of torque

2.5 amp hour battery

Weighs 3.6 lbs.

NOW \$999

COMPARE TO \$1799

ITEM 63381

13709978

LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 4/21/18*

SUPER COUPON

Customer Rating

10" PNEUMATIC TIRE

300 lb. working load

NOW \$399

COMPARE TO \$599

ITEM 69385/62388/62409/62698/30900 shown

13711122

LIMIT 8 - Coupon valid through 4/21/18*

CENTRAL PNEUMATIC

Customer Rating

21 GALLON, 2.5 HP, 125 PSI VERTICAL OIL-LUBE AIR COMPRESSOR

Air delivery: 5.8 CFM @ 40 PSI, 4.7 CFM @ 90 PSI

NOW \$1499

COMPARE TO \$219

ITEM 69091/61454

62803/63635/67847 shown

13720515

LIMIT 3 - Coupon valid through 4/21/18*

PITTSBURGH

Customer Rating

3 PIECE CURVED JAW LOCKING PLIERS SET

LIFETIME WARRANTY

NOW \$699

COMPARE TO \$1997

ITEM 91684/64036

64035/61249 shown

13737628

LIMIT 9 - Coupon valid through 4/21/18*

HARDY

Customer Rating

MECHANIC'S GLOVES

SAVE 73%

NOW \$399

COMPARE TO \$1499

ITEM 62434, 62426, 62433, 62432, 62429, 62428 shown

13742335

LIMIT 6 - Coupon valid through 4/21/18*

CHICAGO ELECTRIC

Customer Rating

170 AMP MIG/FLUX CORED WELDER

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO WELD

NOW \$1699

COMPARE TO \$5499

ITEM 61898/68885 shown

13750546

LIMIT 6 - Coupon valid through 4/21/18*

CHICAGO ELECTRIC

Customer Rating

10" SLIDING COMPOUND MITER SAW

Powerful 15 amp motor

Blade sold separately.

NOW \$8499

COMPARE TO \$11499

ITEM 61971/61972/98199 shown

13751327

LIMIT 3 - Coupon valid through 4/21/18*

PITTSBURGH

Customer Rating

16 OZ. HAMMERS WITH FIBERGLASS HANDLE

LIFETIME WARRANTY

NOW \$299

COMPARE TO \$998

ITEM 47873 shown

13753776

LIMIT 6 - Coupon valid through 4/21/18*

*Original coupon only. No use on prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase or without original receipt. Valid through 4/21/18.

At Harbor Freight Tools, the "Compare to" price means that the specified comparison, which is an item with the same or similar function, was advertised for sale at or above the "Compare to" price by another national retailer in the U.S. within the past 90 days. Prices advertised by others may vary by location. No other meaning of "Compare to" should be implied. For more information, go to HarborFreight.com or see store associate.

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DECEMBER 2017 - JANUARY 2018

DECEMBER 2017 - JANUARY 2018

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THIS TRUCK'S A WINNER. NOW YOU CAN BE, TOO.



2018 FORD F-150



As a Kentucky Farm Bureau member, you are eligible to enter the Built Ford Tough F-150 Sweepstakes* for a chance to win a 2-year lease on a brand new 2018 F-150! To enter, visit fordspecialoffer.com/farmbureau/sweeps or text the word **SWEEPS** to 46786.**



Go Further

*NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. A PURCHASE WILL NOT INCREASE YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING. MUST BE LEGAL RESIDENT OF U.S. or D.C., 21 YEARS OR OLDER WITH VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE TO ENTER AND A CURRENT FARM BUREAU MEMBER. ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS MAY APPLY. Void where prohibited. Sweepstakes ends 9/30/18. For entry and official rules with complete eligibility, prize description and other details, visit fordspecialoffer.com/farmbureau/sweeps. Sponsored by Ford Motor Company, One American Road, Dearborn, MI 48126.

**Autodialed marketing messages will be sent to the number provided. Consent is not a condition of purchase or entry. Message and data rates may apply. Sweepstakes ends 9/30/18. For full rules, alternate means of entry, privacy policy, visit fordspecialoffer.com/farmbureau/sweeps.

***Program 35770: \$500 Bonus Cash offer exclusively for active Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia Farm Bureau members who are residents of the United States. Offer is valid through 1/2/2018 for the purchase or lease of an eligible new 2017/2018 model year Ford vehicle. Not available on Mustang Shelby GT350®, Mustang Shelby® GT350R, Ford GT, Focus RS or F-150 Raptor. This offer may not be used in conjunction with most other Ford Motor Company private incentives or AXZD-Plans. Some customer and purchase eligibility restrictions apply. You must be an eligible member for at least 30 consecutive days and must show proof of membership. Limit one \$500 Bonus Cash offer per vehicle purchase or lease. Limit of five new eligible vehicle purchases or leases per Farm Bureau member during program period. See your Ford Dealer for complete details and qualifications.

\$500 BONUS CASH***
For Kentucky Farm Bureau Members

Don't forget about your \$500 BONUS CASH!***
Get more info at fordspecialoffer.com/farmbureau/ky



2018 AFBF YOUNG FARMERS & RANCHERS

Competition Awards



The YF&R program helps young members shape their future and American agriculture through leadership development and personal growth opportunities. Three competitions enable members to showcase their leadership experience, communication skills and successful business plans as they compete against the best of the best from each state Farm Bureau.

As part of the YF&R competitions, the top four competitors in the Achievement Award, Discussion Meet and Excellence in Ag areas will receive:

**1ST
PLACE**

WINNER: A new Ford truck and paid registration to the AFBF YF&R Leadership Conference in Reno, Nevada courtesy of:

- Achievement Award: Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance
- Discussion Meet: Farm Bureau Financial Services
- Excellence in Ag: Country Financial

**2ND
PLACE**

RUNNER-UP: Case IH Farmall 50A, courtesy of Case IH.

**3RD
PLACE**

THIRD PLACE: Case IH 40" Combination Roll Cabinet & Top Chest and \$500 Case IH parts card, courtesy of Case IH plus \$2,000 of Stanley Black & Decker merchandise*
Courtesy of Stanley Black & Decker. * (PROTO, DeWalt, Stanley, Lenox & Irwin)

**4TH
PLACE**

FOURTH PLACE: Case IH 40" Combination Roll Cabinet & Top Chest and a \$500 Case IH parts card, courtesy of Case IH.

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LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY