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KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU NEWS
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A foggy morning in the valley. Franklin County

Interior graphics by Melissa LaRoche

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As most of you know, my brother and I operate an apple orchard in Pulaski County as part of our overall farming operation. The farm has been in our family for five generations and I can't remember a time when we haven't had to share a little of our produce with the local wildlife population.

This is expected from farmers whether they are raising corn, soybeans, fruits and vegetables, or really any kind of food product and for the most part, we don't mind to share a little.

However, with certain wildlife populations growing in numbers, a little has turned into a lot. That varies from region to region but in some areas of the state, the situation has gotten so bad, our producers are looking for some help to solve this growing problem. I have heard accounts of yields being cut in half on the outside rows of some field crops largely due to wildlife damage.

We will soon be planting this year's crops and at a time when net farm incomes have dropped and commodity prices have decreased, the last thing farmers need is lost productivity.

One of Kentucky Farm Bureau's 2017 priority issues is related to these wildlife populations. Specifically it says to, *"Seek effective wildlife management that will reduce the wildlife population in an effort to alleviate continued crop and livestock losses, automobile accidents, human injuries, and loss of life."*

But this isn't just an agriculture issue. Last year our insurance company saw millions of dollars in claims due to collisions with just deer, not to mention other species including turkey and elk.

To put this into perspective, according to information from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, the estimated white-tailed deer population in the Commonwealth is 827,355, a three percent increase from the previous year's population. That means there's an average of 20.9 deer per square mile all across the state.

Another species of wildlife that is increasing in numbers is the black bear. It is estimated that Kentucky is now home to approximately 1,000 bears with almost half of this population residing in three counties in the eastern part of the state. There has been a significant increase in property and crop damage caused by that growing black bear population and it's critically important we properly manage their numbers.

While I know these animals are beautiful to see, an over-population can be detrimental to crops, to property and even to human life. The Insurance Information Institute notes that 150 human lives are lost each year due to deer-vehicle collisions.

Another problem with these expanding wildlife populations deals with disease. Some ailments in wildlife can be passed on to livestock which creates another set of problems for farmers.

We want to live in harmony with these animals; there is no doubt about that. But unless we find sensible ways to keep their populations under control, the crop losses we see now will only increase as will other accidents, and one accident, be it on the farm or on the road, is one too many.



Mark Haney
President
Kentucky Farm Bureau



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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

Advocating for Agriculture in the New Congress & Administration



Farm Bureau policy enjoys alignment with the Trump administration on issues like regulatory reform and tax reform. But there are challenges on the trade and agriculture labor front. It is vital that America's farmers and ranchers make their voices heard in both Congress and the White House.

Recently, over 200 Kentucky Farm Bureau members came to Washington to make their voices heard. Over the next several weeks, the Kentucky voices will be amplified by farm families from all across the nation as over 6,000 members make their visits to the Capitol.

American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall regularly highlights how critical it is to have a united voice in plowing the field and planting the seeds for success on the tough issues farmers and ranchers face. This starts with ensuring we have the right leaders fighting for our cause.

Agriculture has strong leaders in Congress and we pray President Trump fields a team equally strong. Scott Pruitt, for example, has been confirmed to head EPA and we welcome his commitment to rolling back rules, such as WOTUS, that negatively impact farmers and ranchers.

We are anxious to get former Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue confirmed as Secretary of Agriculture. President Duvall noted that we “couldn’t ask for a finer gentleman or a stronger champion for our farmers and ranchers.” Gov. Perdue will bring his talents as a leader and agri-business experience to USDA and show he will fight for our interests.

As we wait for the Trump team to get in place, we are working with Congress to unravel regulations that are strangling farmers and ranchers and stifling innovation, and on tax reform to lower tax rates and eliminate the death tax, among other tax relief measures.

While we have been encouraged on regulatory and tax reform, there are a couple of areas that have raised concerns regarding the policy goals of the new administration if not done correctly. Ag labor and immigration, and trade, fit this bucket. President Duvall has noted, if we cannot get the labor to harvest our crops here in the United States, we will be importing our food. Farm Bureau supports protecting our borders, but we cannot leave our farmers holding the bag. We need access to a stable, legal workforce that helps us feed America with American-grown food.

And on trade, we have made our frustrations clear regarding pulling back on trade agreements so important to agriculture. We are working with other agricultural groups to make sure agriculture has a seat at the table when the Trump administration begins shaping its approach to trade. With the agricultural economy in a tough situation, the importance of maintaining and expanding existing export markets, as well as establishing new markets, is critical.

Thank you for standing up for agriculture, for working together to meet the objectives set forth in Farm Bureau Policy, and for being such a strong, vibrant voice for U.S. farmers and ranchers.

Dale Moore
Executive Director Public Policy
American Farm Bureau Federation



KFB 2017 Congressional Tour

An annual tradition continues

Each year, Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) members make their way to Washington, D.C. to meet with federal legislators, hear from American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) policy experts and show their support for agriculture during the annual Congressional Tour.

This year, nearly 300 members made the trip to Washington, D.C. to continue the organization's grassroots policy development process and present their 2017 national priority issues to the Kentucky federal legislative delegation.

Congressional Tour attendees met with legislative leaders to discuss these priorities set forth during KFB's annual meeting held last December and to hear about issues concerning agriculture and rural communities from each member.

KFB President Mark Haney said coming to Washington demonstrates

how important advocacy is to members and farm families in general.

"It has always been important to have our voices heard at the local, state and national levels when it comes to farm policy. But now more than ever, we need to let our lawmakers know what the issues are on our family farms," he said. "We have seen volatile commodity markets, lower net farm income and regulatory initiatives that have all placed burdens on our operations. Coming to Washington with the number of members we have, it makes a statement that Kentucky agriculture is ready to engage with our Congressional delegation in finding ways to strengthen our industry not only for us but the generations to follow."

County leaders were first briefed on the current political environment in Washington by the staff of KFB and

American Farm Bureau Federation including information about national farm policy and issues affecting them directly.

Dale Moore, AFBF Executive Director, Public Policy led a discussion on current issues surrounding agriculture. He also talked about the importance of letting lawmakers know what farm families face each day in their farming operations, especially as discussions of a new Farm Bill begin to take place.

"We have a lot of leadership we can count on as we move forward in this Farm Bill process which has kicked off," said Moore. "One of the responsibilities that you will have is to let these members know, when you're visiting with them, what is important to you and the issues you are dealing with."

Moore added that Kentucky Farm Bureau has a strong voice on matters he takes to the Hill.



"It's one of the opportunities we have in this great country we live in, to be a part of the process and you all are definitely a part of the process," he said. "You tell us what we need to be doing on your behalf and you also tell the men and women on the Hill what they need to be doing on your behalf, as well."

This year, Kansas Senator Pat Roberts, Chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee also addressed the group. He thanked members for being involved and said he is proud to be a champion for all of agriculture.

"In this Congress we are going to be writing a new Farm Bill, a bill that considers the needs of growers and producers all across the country who are facing some tough economic times," said Roberts. "It's going to be tough but I promise you we will get a Farm Bill. Our plan is to listen to the needs and suggestions of producers and stakeholders. Then and then only, we will produce a bill that will get through the Senate and the House and to the President's desk by the end of next year."

Roberts also told members that as they develop policies and priorities, to think about the mission of the existing Farm Bill programs.

"What's working and what isn't and I encourage you to think broadly about all of the challenges facing all of agriculture," he said.

In addition to KFB members meeting with their respective representatives to discuss priority issues, they also made their way to Capitol Hill to visit with and hear from Kentucky's two U.S. Senators, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Rand Paul. This annual meeting allows KFB leadership to officially present the Senators with copies of the current KFB Policy book.



Both Senators addressed a number of issues including tax reform, health care, regulatory reform and trade, as well as immigration.

"I'm a supporter of the H2A program. I'm not one of those who believes that there are Americans who are just dying

to do your tobacco work for you," said McConnell. "I think we need these guest worker programs; that is of course legal guest workers. I think we ought to make them more user friendly."

Paul agreed with McConnell in his support of guest worker programs and



AFBF President Zippy Duvall, left, spoke to members of KFB's Executive Committee before addressing the entire group.



The Outstanding Farm Bureau Youths Randi Morris and Jacob Patterson poses for a picture, one of many they took as part of their efforts to create social media post of their trip.

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Water Quantity Management

Harvesting one of earth's most precious natural resources

When considering what natural resources we need the most to survive, water ranks at or near the top. According to NASA Science, "So far, scientists know of no living things, even the smallest microorganisms that can live without liquid water."

Farmers certainly know how precious it is and depend on it to grow their crops, water their livestock and ultimately make a living. That being the case, it would only make sense to store or stock up on water when it is plentiful to utilize when it's not.

Water harvesting is a term often used when referring to this water-capturing act. At its simplest form, many people use rain barrels connected to their home gutters to catch rainwater for use on outside plants and gardens.

But when thinking about growing acres and acres of row crops, the amount of water needed is far beyond the capacity of a few rain barrels.

Mark Ferguson, State Resource Conservationist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service said there are two ways of thinking about water storage, one being structurally and the other through agronomic practices.

"When referring to water storage, most people think about ponds, reservoirs or water tanks, but one big thing they don't think about is the soil, itself," he

said. "The soil, especially cropland has a huge capability to hold water from rainfall. The soil acts like a sponge and can hold a tremendous amount of water. A soil with one percent organic matter in the top six inches can hold up to 27,000 gallons of water per acre."

Because of that capability, soil health becomes very important when related to the water holding ability of that cropland. Ferguson said specific conservation measures can not only help improve water quality but also conserve water and improve water efficiency to crops. Some of those measures include conservation crop rotation, no-till production practices, cover crops, mulching, mulch tillage, nutrient management and pest management.

While retaining moisture within the soil potentially holds the best promise for storing the largest of water supplies, structural measures can provide needed water supplies especially when related to the watering of livestock. That can mean something as simple as fenced ponds with limited livestock access, or something more mechanical such as pumping stations conveying water from wells to watering troughs.

In the same vein as the antiquated rain barrel, research at the University of Kentucky (UK) College of Agriculture, Food and Environment takes that idea to a larger scale although it works in much the same way.

Dr. Steve Higgins, Director of Animal and Environmental Compliance for UK's Agricultural Experiment Station has been working on a water capturing project at Owen County's Eden Shale Farm that utilizes different methods of retaining water and using existing resources.

Through the use of 3,000 gallon storage tanks and a system of cisterns, gutters and drain pipes rainwater runoff is captured from barns and is stored to use for watering cattle. In the case of the water containers, water flows to a trough made from a tractor tire utilizing gravity. The cisterns use a pump operating on solar energy to run water to a similar trough.

"The concept of this water harvesting is at least 3,000 years old so this is old-school. But we use practices the farmers can understand and want to see it make an impact in the first year because many of these operations are working on a shoestring budget," he said.

In addition to water harvesting, the farm space has been used to its optimum ability to feed and move cattle. All these projects tie together to help obtain the ultimate goal; making it and operations like it more profitable. But in doing so, the fringe benefits have included better utilization of existing resources and better conservation results.

"The focus here is really about making a profit. We are designing a

facility that takes advantage of access, location, shape, soil improvement and its organic material, and thus we are saving money on inputs," he said. "Now if you design it correctly, the environment and conservation takes care of itself."

Eden Shale is under the direction of Kentucky Beef Network's (KBN) five managers who are appointed by the Kentucky Cattlemen's Association while an advisory committee made up of three representatives from UK and KBN oversee the overall direction and goals of bringing farmers in to be educated on the practices created at the farm.

When discussing adequate water supplies, the farm community and urban users are generally responsive to each other's needs. But in the case of severe drought conditions, the two never want to be pitted against each other. Kentucky for instance, has grown its livestock production over the past two decades to the point it is the largest cattle producing state east of the Mississippi.

"Having the ability to water livestock in times of drought not only helps the producers but takes an added stress

off of municipal water supplies," said Gary Larimore, Executive Director of the Kentucky Rural Water Association. "One thing that will help especially, when it comes to livestock production, is further initiatives to help with surface water development."

Kentucky is positioned, through research efforts, legislative initiatives and a desire to maintain farmland for generations to come, to be a national model when it comes to wise use of its precious natural resources; something which will benefit not only farm families but all families.



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Understanding the Farm Bill:

And why it’s important to everyone

Title II of the Farm Bill is known as the Conservation Title and contains several programs that help farmers in their efforts to maintain good conservation practices. Agriculturalists fully realize the importance of taking care of their natural resources and being good stewards of the land is something understood universally.

Merriam-Webster defines the word conservation as, “a careful preservation and protection of something; planned management of a natural resource to prevent exploitation, destruction, or neglect; the preservation of a physical quantity during transformations or reactions.”

Kentucky has emerged as a leader in “preservation and protection” efforts which begin, for many, at a young age. Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) serves as the principle sponsor of the Jim Claypool Art and Conservation Writing contest hosted by the Kentucky Division of Conservation (KDC) for students from the elementary age through high school. The essay portion of the competition dates back to 1944 and each year, thousands of entries are received from students throughout the state.

Having a population that has regard for and knowledge of conservation measures is essential to the success of related programs whether they are initiated at the local community level, through educational endeavors or through legislative efforts such as the Farm Bill.

Pat Henderson, a KFB state director, former state president of the Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts and former executive board member of the National Association of Conservation Districts said people may think of conservation in different ways, but ultimately it means the same thing; taking care of the environment for future generations.

“You’re always going to need conservation measures. You have a finite amount of land and more of it is going under blacktop every year; you have a finite amount of water and a growing

population which means less is available to divert to non-people related uses,” he said. “So, we have to be more efficient in how we use our natural resources and that’s what conservation is all about.”

David Rowlett, President of the Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts echoed those sentiments.

“With limited land resources and a growing population, good sound conservation practices are needed to reduce our soil loss and to improve soil health to make our land more productive,” he said.

Soil erosion, soil health and adequate water supplies normally top the list of conservation priorities for the farming community. Rowlett noted that by increasing organic matter in the soil, water can be retained for dryer periods and captures more carbon from the atmosphere.

“Soil conservation and clean water have never been any more important than they are now,” said Rowlett. “Agriculture has a responsibility to both rural and urban areas to do as much as possible to make sure we have a good clean and plentiful water supply.”

Henderson said good soil conservation generally means cleaner water supplies and he firmly believes that farmers are the best stewards of the soil in existence.

“Something that helps in those efforts is the fact that Kentucky farmers have been very fortunate to have numerous programs and funding sources to allow the state to be a leader in cost share programs for conservation,” he said.

One landmark event in Kentucky’s conservation efforts was the creation of the Agriculture Water Quality Authority, established by the General Assembly which provided farmers a mechanism for developing a conservation plan. By following that plan an operation was considered to be in good faith and if problems arose a first step would be to correct the problem through remediation rather than a fine.

Another milestone event was the expansion of the Kentucky Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share Program created during the time when a system to distribute tobacco settlement dollars was being established. This initiative provided initial funding in the amount of \$9 million per year for various conservation-related cost share projects.

Those tobacco settlement dollars created the Kentucky Agriculture Development Fund which has not only provided revenue for statewide initiatives but also a county cost share program (CAIP) which has helped with individual projects on the farm including many related to conservation.

Additionally another important cost share program is Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) widely used by farmers all across Kentucky and provided with in the Conservation Title of the Farm Bill.

Part of the history of conservation in Kentucky also relates to some of the first no-till production practices started in Christian County more than two decades ago. Since then, Kentucky has become known for its no-till or minimal-till production practices. Through these practices, less erosion has been the result which has led to cleaner water supplies.

Henderson credits these programs and the effort provided by Kentucky Farm Bureau to support these initiatives as playing a pivotal role in establishing the Commonwealth as a national leader in conservation measures.

“Some of these programs provided funding other states did not have at the time to help establish good practices on the farm,” he said. “We’ve been fortunate enough to have had some major dollars invested in conservation efforts in this state but the job’s not finished yet. It will always be a continuous job to preserve the air, water and soil that will benefit both farm families and non-farmers alike.”

Improving natural resources is the ultimate goal of all conservation efforts while improving net farm income is also paramount for farm families. Henderson

said those two go hand in hand and makes the analogy that if you like to eat, then you should have an interest in farm conservation measures and the importance of good stewardship to ensure the future of farming.

Key programs of the Conservation Title of the Farm Bill

This information is provided by the USDA:

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to plan and implement conservation practices that improve soil, water, plant, animal, air and related natural resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland. EQIP may also help producers meet Federal, State, Tribal, and local environmental regulations.

Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) are competitive grants that stimulate the development and adoption of innovative approaches and technologies for conservation on agricultural land. CIG uses Environmental Quality Incentives Program funds to award competitive grants to non-Federal governmental or non-governmental organizations, American Indian tribes or individuals. Producers involved in CIG must be EQIP-eligible.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) helps build on existing conservation efforts while strengthening operations. CSP is for working lands. It is the largest conservation program in the United States with 70 million acres of productive agricultural and forest land enrolled in CSP. Thousands of people that have made the choice to voluntarily enroll in the program because it helps them enhance natural resources and improve their business operation.

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a land conservation program administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). In exchange for a yearly rental payment, farmers enrolled in the program agree to remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production and plant species that will improve environmental health and quality. Contracts for land enrolled in CRP are 10-15 years in length. The long-term goal of the program is to re-establish valuable land cover to help improve water quality,

prevent soil erosion, and reduce loss of wildlife habitat.

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is an offshoot of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), the country’s largest private-land conservation program. Administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA), CREP targets high-priority conservation issues identified by local, state, or tribal governments or non-governmental organizations. In exchange for removing environmentally sensitive land from production and introducing conservation practices, farmers, ranchers, and agricultural land owners are paid an annual rental rate. Participation is voluntary, and the contract period is typically 10–15 years, along with other federal and state incentives as applicable per each CREP agreement.

The programs contained within Title II of the Farm Bill help farmers in their natural resources management efforts be it in creating conservation plans for their operations or in land preservation. And while Kentucky has been fortunate enough to have been on the receiving

end of support dollars both at the federal and state levels, continued support is essential to maintain natural resources for farm communities as well as their urban neighbors.

Rowlett said money from the USDA for technical assistance is very much in need to complete conservation practices and to assist farmers with conservation plans. This one-on-one technical assistance is provided through a district conservationist and support staff on an individual basis.

“Federal and state dollars to assist farmers in completing necessary conservation plans and technical assistance is very much needed in all areas of Kentucky,” he said. “This assistance is also needed for our flood containment areas. These 200 plus PL566 dams (created by the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954) in Kentucky are well beyond their life expectations and need attention. With these water containments, ample supplies of water are provided to many areas, and flood and erosion control are enhanced.”

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In Kentucky, there's so much to live for.

Join us in driving distraction-free.



dis•tract•ed driv•ing (n.): any activity that could divert a person's attention away from the primary task of driving

You snap a picture of a cherry-red barn just off the side of the road, perfectly illuminated by a brilliant sunset. You plug the address of your next destination into the GPS as you leave your parking spot. You quickly reply to a friend's text with a smiley face while coasting to a stop sign.

Although common activities, these are all forms of distracted driving.

The notion of distracted driving is age old — it goes as far back as the invention of the automobile itself. Since driving down the street became a “*thing*,” there have been external distractions — like billboards or people on the side of the road. Internal distractions are nothing new, either — tuning a radio, fiddling with the air conditioner or parenting from the front seat.

In 1983, distracted driving took on a new meaning. That year, cellphones were introduced to the American marketplace.

PREVALENCE

Today, the number of cellphones in the U.S. surpasses the country's population. According to a recent study by AT&T, 70 percent of people admit to using those cellphones while driving.

The telecommunications company's research also shows that 4 in 10 smart phone users admit to checking social media while driving, 3 in 10 surf the web, and 1 in 10 video chat. This means that every person you pass on the roadway could be engaged in an entirely different world: watching a movie trailer, sending an e-mail, or video chatting with out-of-state relatives.

EFFECTS

Studies conducted internationally have all come to the same conclusion: Driving while using a smartphone

increases the risk of injury or property damage *fourfold*.

Driver distractions now join alcohol and speeding as leading factors in fatal and serious injury crashes. According to the American Psychological Association, the skills of a driver using a cellphone are actually more impaired than someone who has had too much to drink.

LEGISLATION

States across the nation have enacted laws in an effort to keep their roads distraction-free. Text messaging is now banned in 46 states and Washington, D.C., and talking on a hand-held device is banned in 14 states and D.C.


In Kentucky, there is a texting ban, but no laws restrict talking on a hand-held phone. Drivers younger than 18 are restricted from both texting and using a hand-held device.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

According to AT&T, more than 90 percent of people say they know the dangers of texting and driving, yet many still find ways to rationalize their distracted driving.

Help us create a change in attitude surrounding this on-the-rise social ill. Behind the wheel, take a break from technology. Make Kentucky's roads a safe place to be, and join Kentucky Farm Bureau in driving distraction-free.

43%



Distracted driving was noted as a factor in 43% of crashes — 58,000 collisions — on Kentucky's roadways in 2015. That same year, driver distraction contributed to 182 fatalities in the Bluegrass State.

* Kentucky Office of Highway Safety

Types of distracted driving



Texting while driving falls under all three types of distracted driving, occupying the driver's hands, eyes and thoughts.

1. VISUAL

Visual distractions cause your eyes to wander off the road.

2. MANUAL

Manual distractions cause you to take one or both hands off of the wheel.

3. COGNITIVE

Cognitive distractions preoccupy your mind from the task of driving.



Tips to keep Kentucky's roads safe:

- Remove temptation! Put your phone on silent while driving.
- Make music playlist selections and plug in GPS coordinates before hitting the road.
- Secure children and pets in their seats before you leave. If they need your attention, pull off the road and put the vehicle in park.
- Don't send or read texts while your car is in drive!

in•at•ten•tion blind•ness (n.):



the tendency to look at but not fully see objects

Estimates indicate drivers using cellphones look at — but fail to see — up to 50 percent of the information in their driving environment.

* National Safety Council

Sending a text takes your eyes off of the road for an average of 4.6 seconds. At 55 mph, that's like driving the length of a football field blindfolded.

* Virginia Tech Transportation Institute

Join us in driving distraction-free.



COUNTY CORNER

Snapshots of County Farm Bureau activities



Check yourself

Place a check mark beside the things you've done while driving in the past month.

- | | |
|---|--|
| Posted on social media <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Took a selfie |
| Reached for your phone <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Read an e-mail |
| Had a complex conversation <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Plugged an address into GPS |
| Selected music on your phone <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Picked an item up off the floor |
| Wrote something down <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Liked a post on social media |
| Texted someone <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Watched a video |
| Video chatted <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Took a photo |
| Reached into the back seat <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Ate a snack |
| Made a hand-held phone call <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Searched through the console |
| Searched through your contacts <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Surfed the web |
| Sent an e-mail <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Groomed yourself in mirror |

*In Kentucky, there's so much to live for.
Join us in driving distraction-free.*



HARRISON COUNTY

Members of the Harrison County Farm Bureau met with Senator Steve West and Representative Mark Hart at the HCFB building.



SCOTT COUNTY

KFB President Mark Haney and Scott County Farm Bureau President Darcy Smith at 2017 Presidents/VP Conference.



WOODFORD COUNTY

Pictured from left front: Ann Miller, Versailles City Council and Mayor Brian Traugott, with Melissa Tomblin, Woodford County FB President presenting food basket for Food Check Out Week.



ANDERSON COUNTY

Pictured from left: Anderson County FB President Tim Dietrich, Senator Mitch McConnell and Anderson County FB Vice-President Ed Barnes at Anderson Chamber of Commerce meeting.



LETCHER COUNTY

Letcher County participating in Food Checkout Week.



GALLATIN COUNTY

Bobby Smith promoted Food Checkout Week at Save A Lot in Gallatin County.



MUHLENBERG COUNTY

The Food Checkout Week display at Muhlenberg County Farm Bureau.

Markets

COUNTY SOYBEAN YIELDS RANGE WIDELY

Kentucky's 2016 soybean production totaled a record-high 89.00 million bushels, up 310,000 bushels from the 2015 crop. This was accomplished with 30,000 fewer harvested acres and a 1.0 bushel higher average yield of 50.0 bu/acre. USDA's recently-published county production data (only 62 counties estimated by USDA-NASS) shows 2016 soybean yields had an extremely wide range of nearly 20 bushels (36.7 to 56.5 bu/acre), a little narrower than 2015's 23.8 bushel range (31.1 to 54.9 bu/acre). Of the 62 counties reported, 38 had a 2016 yield greater than their 2015 yield; this ranged from 1.0 bushel to as much as 16.9 bushels in Simpson County. The other 24 counties saw year/year yield declines ranging from 0.1 bushels to a large drop of 13.4 bushels in Butler County. Meade County had the state's highest yield of 56.5 bu/acre. The next three counties were Pulaski at 54.9, followed closely by Hart and Mercer at 54.8 bushels. A total of 35 counties had average yields greater than the state average yield. Only eight of the 35 had larger yields in 2015. The counties with the lowest yields were located mostly north of Interstate 64, but a few were in western Kentucky. Note that several counties, some with significant soybean production, do not have yield or production estimates due

to insufficient producer-provided data required by USDA-NASS publication standards. For 2016, there are 13 Kentucky counties without estimates which did have yield and production estimates published for 2015. Their 2015 production totals ranged from 30,000 bushels to 4.8 million bushels. This lack of county yield data also affects calculation of ARC-CO payments. The same situation exists for corn.

ANIMAL PRODUCT SECTOR IS MAJOR EXPORTER

USDA reported in the February "Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry Outlook" report that the latest red meat, poultry, and dairy trade data show that foreign demand accounts for a significant share of U.S. animal products production. In 2016, beef exports accounted for 10.1 percent of commercial production. Asia was the largest export market, accounting for 63 percent of beef exports. The U.S. poultry sector (broilers, other chicken, and turkey) exported 15.6 percent of production, with a large number of small importers combining for 56 percent of export shipments. Last year, 21 percent of U.S. pork production was exported, with Asia (45 percent) and Mexico (31 percent) taking most of our exports. Similarly, Asia (55 percent) and Mexico (24 percent) were the top destinations for dairy exports which totaled 18.3

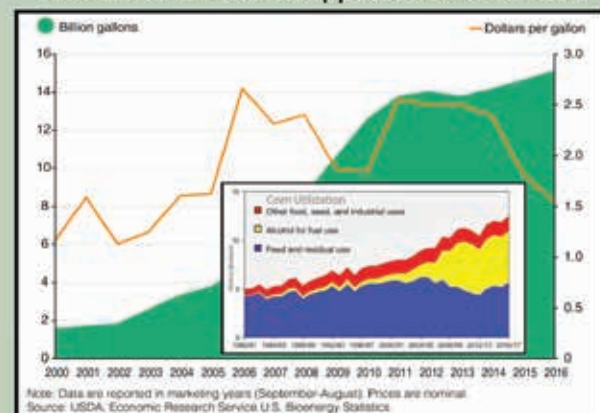
percent of production on a skim-solids milk equivalent basis. Almost 4 percent of U.S. lamb and mutton production was exported in 2016 – Mexico and several Caribbean nations accounted for 81 percent of the total. The U.S. egg industry exported more than three percent of its production, split more or less evenly between Mexico, Asia, Canada and the "Other" group.

MILK PER COW RISES IN KENTUCKY AND U.S.

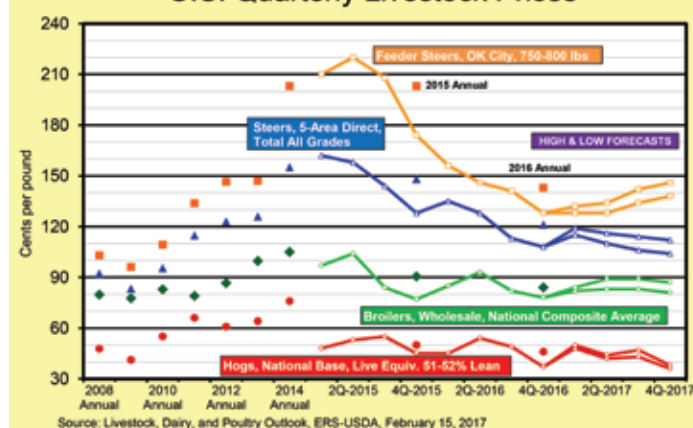
Annual production of milk for the United States during 2016 was 212 billion pounds, 1.8 percent above 2015. Annual milk production has increased 14.4 percent from 2007. Production per cow in the U.S. averaged 22,774 pounds for 2016, 378 pounds above 2015's production. The average annual rate of milk production per cow has increased 12.7 percent from 2007. The average number of milk cows on U.S. farms during 2016 was 9.33 million head, up 0.2 percent from 2015. The average annual number of milk cows has increased 1.5 percent from 2007.

Kentucky's milk production last year totaled 1.048 billion pounds, down 2.7 percent from 2015. The number of cows fell nearly five percent, but production per cow increased 2.3 percent to 18,069 pounds. Among the 50 states, milk per cow in 2016 ranged from 11,667 to 25,980 pounds.

U.S. Ethanol Fuel Disappearance and Price



U.S. Quarterly Livestock Prices



Down the Backroads

By Tim Thornberry

I remember the first time I heard the word conservation; I was in the 5th grade. Each week our class members filed into the school's gym for an hour to hear our local conservation officer speak to us about the subject. He explained what it was and why we should care about it.

I can't remember his name but I do remember his face and the uniform he wore and the fact that he always seemed excited to talk to us about taking care of our natural resources. I learned to never litter and never leave the water running while I brushed my teeth.

As 5th graders, I'm not sure we fully understood what natural resources were. But we did know, from living in a rural community, how green the pastures in which we walked each day were, how clear the streams where we caught crawfish seemed, how refreshing the water tasted from the natural springs we could drink from and how blue the sky was on a cool fall morning.

When you grow up on a farm or in the country, I think you have an inherent knowledge, love and compassion for the environment around you whether you know anything about conservation or not.

I looked up the word in the dictionary which said "A careful preservation and protection of something." In this case it is the environment around us.

As I grew older and more in tune to what preservation of our environment meant, I also heard more about the causes that were leading to the perceived demise of our woodlands and air; our streams and pastures.

Farming seemed to be on or near the top of all environmental groups' lists. But how could that be? The farmers I knew took great care of their land and water in much the same way as they took care of their crops and animals.

Farm families knew long before environmental organizations came

along that in order to ensure their land would be suitable for future generations, they had to treat it kindly.

Good soil is money in the bank for a farmer. It's as simple as that. Over the past two to three decades, Kentucky producers have gone from conventional tillage practices to being the leader in no-till production. They have learned the value of fencing off water supplies and that the use of GMO crops can save money and send fewer chemicals into the soil.

A lot of people would have us believe otherwise but the truth of the matter is, farmers are the original good stewards of the land. By the way, I still never litter nor leave the water running when I brush my teeth.

We all are stakeholders when it comes to taking care of our earth, down the backroads.



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Farm Bureau Presidents Panel Offered Insight to Ag Issues

In the midst of one of the biggest farm shows in the world, Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) hosted the second annual Presidents Panel featuring three state Farm Bureau presidents to discuss current agricultural-related issues.

KFB President Mark Haney along with Tennessee Farm Bureau President Jeff Aiken and Illinois Farm Bureau President Richard Guebert participated in the panel discussion which took place in front of attendees and agriculture leaders at the National Farm Machinery Show (NFMS).

Mike Adams with AgriTalk served as moderator of the discussions which included state, national and international issues facing the agriculture industry.

Haney said having a panel discussion such as this demonstrates the importance of agriculture in Kentucky, these surrounding states, and really all across the country.

"Each of the states that were represented has something that is a priority issue for them like water is for us in Kentucky for instance, but from a global level, we all have in common the issues such as re-authorization of the Farm Bill and how it affects everyone, and immigration and the labor force to

work on the farm which is becoming so very important," he said. "And there are many ag issues getting national attention right but I don't think anything has caught on more in recent weeks than that of trade. It affects the business world and certainly affects agriculture."

Haney pointed out that the panel discussion provides an opportunity to discuss global issues such as trade and explain how it affects people at the local level.

"We at Farm Bureau have that ability to keep our members informed about these issues and that's an important advantage I think we have over a lot of other organizations," he said.

Aiken said the NFMS provides an excellent venue to bring farmers together to hear and discuss issues, in Farm Bureau's efforts to be the Voice of Agriculture.

"The way our policy is developed with the grass roots process, it allows every farmer to voice their opinion and their concerns about the issues that are important to our industry," he said. "For these three states to come together and discuss those issues is an ongoing part of that process."

Aiken added that there are common concerns all farmers are facing and it's critical to come together, speak as one voice and try to get resolutions to some of the problems facing agriculture today.

Guebert said the Farm Bureau members in Illinois are just like others in that they are interested in many of the same things such as what the Farm Bill will look like and water issues, something of great importance in the Midwest.

"We also hear a lot about trade and challenges we're going to face because we all know that trade and exports are vitally important to Midwest agriculture and the U.S. economy," he said. "With declining numbers, farmers all need to work together more and unite our voices to talk about things that are really important to agriculture."

Haney said the NFMS is the best place in the world to plan something relative to agriculture.

"At this time of the year if you want to see folks in the farm community, you better plan something around this week and this event because we are all going to be under one roof at one time or another," he said. "This venue is a staple in farm country."

2017 Presidents and Vice-Presidents Conference

This year's Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) Presidents and Vice-Presidents Conference saw nearly 300 attendees, representing 116 counties, make their way to Louisville to hear from KFB leaders and staff who discussed many topics including legislative updates, member benefit news and local issues, to name a few.

American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall also attended the two day meeting and was the keynote speaker opening the conference. He said there are many issues to focus on in the coming year and being engaged is important as farmers move forward in 2017. Duvall also talked a lot about sustainability and what that means to agriculture.

"Sustainability has become a buzz word. No one knows sustainability better than agriculture. We should own that word. We reduce, we reuse, we recycle and we do more with less than any other American in this country," he said. "Sustainability means we've got to have good sound rules around the GMO labeling law. Sustainability means we've got to have good farm labor. Sustainability means we need to have an infrastructure across this country second to none in this world. Sustainability depends on trade (which is) absolutely crucial to agriculture."

Duvall also acknowledged the importance of local organizations and the contributions made at the grassroots level.

Day two of the meeting brought attendees together to hear from KFB President Mark Haney who talked about tackling big issues and the importance of planning, be it on the farm or in the organization, to get those big issues under control.

Some of the topics he spoke of included farm labor, immigration, regulatory reform, the Farm Bill and water resources.

"We attack those issues like you attack issues on the farm and in your county. We will work methodically with a plan put in place to get the outcome



AFBF President Zippy Duvall, right, greets Shelby County FB President Larry Williams, left and Shelby County FB Board Member and Past President John Wills.

we're looking for," he said. "But it will take engagement beginning at the local level and a unified voice to tell lawmakers what is needed and then expect some answers."

He also talked about trade, saying it is the answer to low commodity prices.

"When you talk about the fact that every third row of corn has to be exported, you can only do that through trade. We live in a global society and we recognize that and we are going to continue to be in a global market even if we don't pass new trade legislation. But agriculture can expand with trade initiatives and that's rural development at its finest all across America."

In his closing remarks, Haney challenged local Farm Bureau leaders to know the top, most important issues in their counties.

"Identify those and talk about them with your board so they can discuss those issues and be able to have an informed comment at the right time," he told the group. "We won't know, at the state level, what's important to you unless you have them identified and you tell us. That's how we get big things accomplished."

Several new Farm Bureau county leaders were on hand for the conference.



KFB President Mark Haney

Melissa Tomblin is the new Woodford County Farm Bureau President. She said the local organization is very connected to the community, something Farm Bureau is known for.

"I have met many new people within Farm Bureau and other presidents, and hopefully I can take back a lot of what I've learned and start new programs or enhance our current programs," she said. "Our main goal this year is here to get our youth more interested in our programs like our variety shows and district contests."

The 2018 Farm Bill

KFB Takes Active Role in Farm Bill Discussions

Late last year Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) President Mark Haney announced the formation of a Farm Bill Working Group to initiate discussions with agriculture officials, commodity organization leaders and other related stakeholders across the state concerning the reauthorization of the Farm Bill.

Since then, a series of meetings have been held in various locations to gather information which will be used to ultimately present a cohesive message to lawmakers informing them of where Kentucky agriculture stands on issues overseen by the farm legislation.

Haney said the input given by those participating in these meetings is important and will help Kentucky agriculture to have a strong voice when legislators begin to debate the bill later this year.

"We think now is an important time to have these conversations as Farm Bill meetings began to take place in February," he said. *"This is agriculture's most important piece of legislation so it is crucial to have a unified voice when making recommendations to our elected leaders."*

KFB First Vice President Eddie Melton is serving as coordinator of the discussion committees. He said the meetings being held now will help to prioritize the issues that shape the

language of what will become law.

"This final bill will be something our farm families will have to live with throughout the five-year life of the bill so it's important to be on the same page when making recommendations to our Congressional delegation," he said. *"These meetings are providing a venue to do just that."*

There are eight sub-committees that have been created as part of the working group to address all the titles of the Farm Bill. Larry Thomas, a farmer from Hardin County, a KFB state director and member of the Farm Policy committee said the bill is important especially from a safety net standpoint for producers.

"In my opinion the highest priority of the Farm Bill is the crop insurance title because that is the safety net for the highest percentage of farmers," he said. *"It is especially vital for young farmers to have a good crop insurance program. They don't have their feet under them yet and without good crop insurance, in the event of a disaster, they would be out of business."*

Melton said it is those types of priorities that need to be brought to the attention of the legislators who will craft the final bill.

"We want our lawmakers to know where we stand on these issues and the ag community knows better than

anyone what needs to be a part of our next Farm Bill," he said.

Melton added that he hopes to have a set of recommendations ready to be handed over to Congressional lawmakers by early spring.

Many ag-related agencies from both the state and federal levels have played a pivotal role in the Farm Bill discussion process including the Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA).

John McCauley, who serves as KDA's Director of Agriculture Policy said Kentucky is in a unique position when it comes to input on the next Farm Bill with U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell serving on the Senate Agriculture Committee as well as being the Senate Majority Leader; newly elected Congressman Jamie Comer serving on the House Ag Committee; and state Commissioner of Agriculture Ryan Quarles serving as communications committee chair for the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture.

"We have a real opportunity to put a Kentucky twist on the 2018 Farm Bill, more so than at any time since the bill was first passed in 1933 under President Franklin D. Roosevelt," he said.

For more information about the Farm Bill, visit the web page: <https://www.kyfb.com/federation/commodities/2018-farm-bill>.

Early Eastern Tent Caterpillar Egg Hatch Anticipated for Central Kentucky

It is likely eastern tent caterpillars will begin to hatch soon, according to Lee Townsend, University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment extension entomologist.

"Eastern tent caterpillars are among the first insects to appear in the spring. Consequently, they can cope with the erratic temperature swings that are common in Kentucky. This year's unseasonable warmth points to abnormally early activity," Townsend said.

Eggs from a mass Townsend collected on Feb. 17 hatched after a weekend indoors.

"Although the temperature was artificially high (in the lab), clearly (outside) conditions are close to prompting eastern tent caterpillar hatch," he said. "In addition, black cherry leaf buds are starting to open. High and low temperatures from Feb. 17-24 are about 20 degrees above seasonal normal. Egg hatch this year may beat the previous record soundly."

According to Townsend, that record was March 14, 2012. The latest observed hatch since 2011 was April 4, 2013.

Arborist Larry Hanks has provided first observed egg hatch in Scott County since 2011.

"It is important for horse farm managers to keep these hairy caterpillars in mind and, barring a significant weather change, to begin watching early for developing tents. If the warm weather continues, they may become visible in black cherry trees in pasture and paddock tree lines in seven to 10 days," Hanks said.

When mature, the 2- to 2 ½-inch long, hairy caterpillars wander from their developmental sites along fence lines. Consumption of large numbers of caterpillars by pregnant mares precipitated staggering foal losses in the Mare Reproductive Loss Syndrome outbreak of 1999-2001. MRLS can cause late-term foal losses, early- and late-term fetal losses and weak foals. UK researchers conducted studies that

revealed horses will inadvertently eat the caterpillars, and the caterpillar hairs embed into the lining of the horse's alimentary tract. Once that protective barrier is breached, normal alimentary tract bacteria may gain access to and reproduce in sites with reduced immunity, such as the fetus and placenta.

If practical, farm managers should plan to move pregnant mares from areas where black cherry trees are abundant to minimize the chance of caterpillar exposure. The threat is greatest when the mature tent caterpillars leave trees and wander to find places to pupate and transform to the moth stage.

Eastern tent caterpillars are also a significant nuisance to people living near heavily infested trees. The caterpillars may wander hundreds of

yards in search of protected sites to spin cocoons and pupate.

To get rid of active caterpillars, Townsend recommends pruning them out and destroying the nests if practical. Farm managers can use any one of several biorational insecticides registered for use on shade trees as needed. These types of insecticides are relatively non-toxic to humans. Spot treatments to the tents and the foliage around them can be applied according to label directions, which vary by product.

For more information about how to assess trees for egg masses, the UK Entomology publication, Checking Eastern Tent Caterpillar Egg Masses, is available at:

<https://entomology.ca.uky.edu/ef449>.



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CANDID CONVERSATION

A discussion of national agriculture issues with AFBF President Zippy Duvall

KFB Candid Conversations 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, the issue of national farm policy is discussed with American Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall who is in his second year as the AFBF leader. Duvall lives in Greene County, Georgia where he owns a poultry, cattle and hay production operation.

In traveling the country, what are some of the concerns you are hearing from producers at their local levels?

As I've traveled the country, the two biggest issues I hear, depending on what kind of farm I'm on, is either regulatory reform or ag labor. It is really important to them that we focus this year on trying to find some solutions in those two areas. That doesn't mean other issues aren't just as important, but those are the ones that are in the front of their minds right now; ones that affect them day-in and day-out. Trade, tax reform, and the Farm Bill are all just as important but when you're standing there on their farm they wonder who's going to help them pick their crop that afternoon or what regulation they are going to have to take time out of their day to try and straighten that out.

With a new administration in Washington, do you have reason to be optimistic about some kind of regulatory reform?

Sure. Regarding regulatory reform, this president speaks our language and says for every new regulation that is released under his watch, they will have to do away with two old ones and that's exactly what we like to hear. He talks about doing studies on how



“When we talk about sustainability in our country today, it has become a buzz word and it's really a word that farmers and rancher know better than anyone...I'm asking our farmers to reclaim ownership of that word because it really belongs to us.”

it affects the economy when we put those regulations into effect. Are we getting a value out of that regulation or just spending more money. He talks about transparency and people having a say into what goes into these regulations. The one that is in the front of our minds is the EPA's Waters of the U.S. It's held up in the court

system right now so we're hoping to get something done with that. But we need this President to ask for it to be reconsidered before July. Hopefully he will do that and if he does, we have the opportunity to go back to the drawing board or maybe even do away with it. The movement is heading in the right direction for us to get some relief there.

What would you say to the President about the status of international agricultural trade?

It hasn't been but just a few months ago that the people I represent, the farmers and ranchers of America, and the people that live in the Rust Belt, paved the road to the Whitehouse for Mr. Trump and he needs to hear the desires and needs from those areas. I see that he has met with the labor unions that represent a lot of the workforce in the Rust Belt and I would like to have the opportunity to sit down with him and some of the commodity leaders and talk about the other group and remind him that it's crucial we face issues like immigration, like farm labor and liketrade. Trade is going to be a big one. We support him. We helped him get there. He withdrew us from TPP and I want to tell him that cost us \$4.4 billion across America. We don't hold that against him but we want to know how he's going to replace that promise we had in that treaty or how he can make it better because he said he would make trade better for everyone. Trade means 20 to 25 percent of income to our farmers and we can't survive as an industry without it.

What needs to be done as far as farm labor is concerned?

The President has made some promises and so far he has proven he's going to deliver on those promises. Our issues are what the H2A program or a farm labor program looks like in his mind. We know he understands that because in his businesses, before he became President, he used H2B workers so I'm sure he has been educated on what a lot of the issues are. We want a workable system and what to talk to him about that. We support an adjustment of status, not amnesty, for people (immigrants) who have been here for years and years and have children here who are legal citizens. We want to make sure those people get treated humanely. You know we all may have broken a law and they did by coming here illegally and they should pay a fine or some circumstance should come from that but they are good people contributing to communities and they are embedded in communities and a big part of the economy. We hope

the President will listen to that and find some kind of solution.

How important are those seasoned migrant workers to agriculture?

Getting the same workers to come back on your farm every year is really crucial. The difficulties we are seeing right now is, many of the undocumented workers we have on our farms are leaving because they are scared and there really needs to be a solution to that. As they leave, that has put a huge demand on this very unworkable system we know as H2A. It's very expensive, very cumbersome and the need or desire to use that program because of the lack of undocumented workers or lack of American workers who won't do the job has almost quadrupled in the last five years. The man power in the foreign consulates and the man power in the federal government is just not there to handle that load. Right now, that is a tremendous problem for us and we either have to fix immigration with immigration reform, create a workable farm labor system or we've got to staff our federal government so they can handle the program we have. And this becomes more crucial everyday because we are getting closer to planting season.

What is your advice to new farmers just beginning their careers in the agriculture industry?

I would tell new farmers that if their desire is to be in agriculture, they have made one of the biggest decisions of their life and I can't think of a better place for them to be. The best days of agriculture are ahead of us. My word

of advice to them is to be patient. Help get through this difficult time we are in and start making plans for the future. Agriculture is like a rollercoaster ride; you just need to put the seatbelt on and hang on for the ride. You have to make sure you conserve in good and bad times and be ready for the highs and lows. For those who are out there right now and really struggling, I know what that's like. I was farming in the 1980s and there's never been a time like that for agriculture. You have to diversify, make sound business decisions, and be conservative to get through these tough times because there are brighter days ahead.

We hear the word sustainability used often today. What is true sustainability as it relates to agriculture?

When we talk about sustainability in our country today, it has become a buzz word and it's really a word that farmers and rancher know better than anyone because no one reuses, recycles or does more with less than farmers do. To be sustainable we have to have the GMO technology; we have to have broadband coverage across America; we have to have all the things that urban businesses have so we can be successful. For someone to say, in the name of sustainability, they won't use GMO products, for instance, is misleading the public because those GMO products helps us be more sustainable with taking care of our natural resources and being more profitable on our farms. I'm asking our farmers to reclaim ownership of that word because it really belongs to us.

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Deer Damage Mitigation

From the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

Since the dawn of farming, farmers have faced down many challenges and hardships. Sometimes that has meant calling on others for help, or for solutions to bigger issues.

Weed invasion led to the introduction of herbicides. Insecticides helped control insects. Irrigation techniques countered drought.

Today, farmers might be seeking ways to manage the deer population on their land. White-tailed deer are of great economic and aesthetic importance to Kentucky. However, an overpopulation of deer can result in negative consequences, such as damaged crops, landscapes, and forests, and safety concerns due to deer vehicle collisions.

Deer adapt quickly to their surroundings and are capable of reproducing quickly. Managing that herd

growth on your land becomes essential.

Kentucky's Department of Fish and Wildlife provides free technical guidance to landowners/farmers on addressing herd growth and deer damage. Privatelandswildlifebiologists can help design a multipronged herd management approach.

Fortunately for the farmer, there is an inexpensive and effective method for controlling a deer population – hunting.

Hunting is the primary tool wildlife professionals use for deer management, and a strong long-term hunting regimen can be quite effective. Deer populations can grow quickly where agricultural crops are adjacent to good deer habitat. Hunting year after year is necessary to maintain acceptable deer populations.

Providing hunting access not only reduces deer pressure on crops, but

also provides a source of food and recreation for hunters.

Some landowners lease their property to farmers and include the hunting rights as well. Others may split farming options and hunting rights among multiple individuals. All have a stake in the property's deer management. Conflicting viewpoints are common. However, Kentucky law gives landowners the ultimate say.

In some cases, landowners lease their property to hunters for sole access. Revenues from hunting leases may help to recover losses from damage or pay property taxes. Landowners should encourage hunters to take the deer they need to feed their family, but they should also consider donating harvested game to selected food pantries and shelters or Kentucky Hunters for the Hungry.

If the landowner allows hunting on the property and the hunters fail to remove enough deer, Deer Control Tags become an option. These tags are available at no charge to landowners where the deer season and bag limits are inadequate to control deer populations on the property. They allow hunters to take additional antlerless deer from the property during the season beyond their statewide bag limit.

Should Deer Control Tags be insufficient, Deer Destruction Permits might be another option. These permits allow landowners the ability to remove deer outside the season framework. They even may designate individuals to act on their behalf and remove deer under these permits. Destruction permits are for extreme cases and rarely needed as a first recourse unless there is a public safety or environmental threat.

State law already allows landowners and tenants (but not farmer/lessee) to kill wildlife in the act of causing damage. A landowner may designate someone to act on their behalf and remove deer under these circumstances. Landowners making such designations must do so by submitting a Wildlife Damage Designee Form to KDFWR staff. Report any deer killed using this method to Fish and Wildlife Law Enforcement within 24 hours.

The landowner is the ultimate conflicts arbiter between individuals leasing farming rights and hunting rights. This is where some challenges arise. All three parties have a stake in deer management. Their views may conflict. The landowner should be the point of mitigation between the farmer and the hunter. Lessees should work through the landowner to become a designee.

When damage becomes excessive, Kentucky Fish and Wildlife professionals can help. Call your local wildlife biologist or conservation officer (CO) at 1-800-858-1549 or search "Find My County Contact" on the website at (fw.ky.gov). The biologist or CO will schedule an on-site visit to document the damage and provide guidance on the best solution available. More at: <http://fw.ky.gov/wildlife/pages/deer-damage.aspx>.



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