

All Around Kentucky



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Photo by Elias Coblentz

GERANIUMS AND OTHER BRIGHT SUMMER FLOWERS ARE IN FULL BLOOM AT THE FAMILY-OWNED HINTON'S ORCHARD AND FARM MARKET IN HODGENVILLE. FOR MORE SCENES FROM HINTON'S AND INFORMATION ABOUT OTHER KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU CERTIFIED ROADSIDE FARM MARKETS THROUGHOUT THE STATE, SEE STORY ON PAGE 10.

LOVE ON THE FARM HAS FARM BUREAU RING TO IT

By Lindsey Coblentz
KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

Love can bloom in the oddest places - school, work, dairy farm ...

For Sarah Huff, 25, and Colby Guffey, 28, it was the latter. "I had stopped out at his family's dairy one evening. We just got to talking and decided, 'Hey, why don't we go to dinner?' It just kind of moved on from there," she said.

Five years later, Sarah and Colby are engaged and still helping each other on

the farm and supporting each other in their Kentucky Farm Bureau activities.

Colby is president of Clinton County Farm Bureau, and Sarah currently heads its women's advisory committee.

Sarah and Colby grew up together in the small town of Albany. "We've basically known each other forever," said Sarah.

Colby said the friendship continued through college at almost opposite ends of the state; him at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green and her at Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond.

See ENGAGING COUPLE, page 14

Food prices hit farmers' wallets, too

By Rachael Kamuf
KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

Meet Steve Bolinger, small business owner, family man and an American consumer.

He's also a farmer who shares his non-farm neighbors' angst when he stops to fill the family car with gasoline or picks up a loaf of bread selling for more than \$2 at a grocery near his home in Pembroke in Western Kentucky.

"I wish I got something just near that for my wheat," Bolinger said after a long day

See FARMERS, page 11

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Benefits of 2008 farm bill extend well beyond the farm

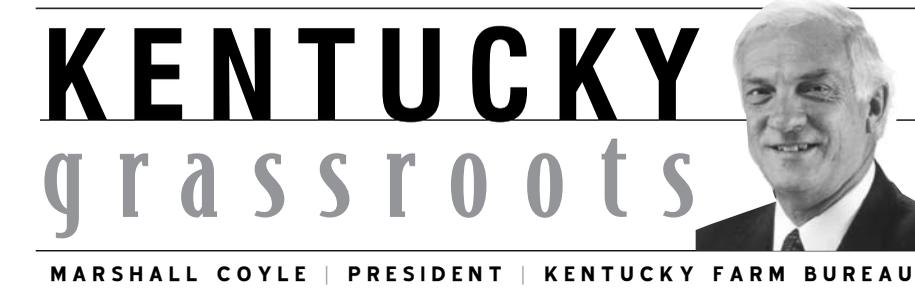
Energy is a national security issue of vital importance because it controls so much of our economic output.

We rely heavily on oil, but our domestic production is about half of what it was 33 years ago, and there hasn't been a major oil refinery built in the United States in 30 years. This is despite the fact that we have ample supplies of crude oil beneath our land and seas.

The United States became a powerful and prosperous nation through hard work, vision and self-sufficiency; never depending on other parts of the world for survival. But today, our dependence on foreign oil is strangling our economy.

Thank goodness we haven't allowed that to happen with our agriculture industry. Imagine if we had to depend on foreign sources for much of our food? Would we have an ample supply? Would it be affordable? Would it be safe?

One of the greatest testaments to the importance of agriculture to a nation's citizens came with the fall of the Berlin Wall, for it was the Soviet Union's inability to feed



its citizens that led to the decline of the Communist government there. And after World War II, the European community ramped up systems of subsidizing agriculture because those nations wanted to ensure a sufficient supply of food after wartime food shortages.

As a grassroots farm organization serving the interest of farm families and rural communities, Kentucky Farm Bureau works for public policies that boost the nation's economic well-being. We reflect our agricultural roots as farmers are well known for their independent spirit and believe in a strong, self-sustaining economy.

We support the development of biofuels

because they lessen our dependence on foreign oil, lower the cost of gasoline, improve the environment and create a good market for farmers.

We're strong advocates for a national farm policy that protects our supply of food and fiber, but we do not support protectionist trade policies because we understand the importance of free trade in the global economy.

The fact that we are a nation whose farmers produce an abundance of high quality food (in fact, in recent years about 30 percent of our agricultural production went to exports) is a source of great pride at Farm Bureau. This affirms that our farm

policy has succeeded with the primary mission of providing food security for our nation.

The farm bill recently adopted by Congress promises to maintain that tradition by providing an economic safety net for farm families. The legislation, which sets the policy for the next five years, also includes a high level of resources for food and nutrition programs for children, as well as programs to protect our precious natural resources.

The farm bill touches all of us in some way.

Among many things, the new farm bill provides emergency food assistance for disaster victims, lending programs for beginning farmers, food safety programs, more fresh fruits and vegetables for school children, support for local farmers' markets, expansion of food banks, boosts specialty crop research and preserves forestland and wildlife habitats.

There's also an energy provision that stays

See GRASSROOTS, page 4

New electronic lure may catch too many fish; one state bans it.

A bass every seven minutes.

by Mike Butler

YALESVILLE, CT – A new fishing technology that set a record for catching bass in Mexico is now showing its stuff in the U. S. It has out-fished shrimp bait in Washington State and beat top-selling U. S. lures three to one in Florida. The new technology is so effective one state, Wyoming, has banned its use.

The breakthrough is a tiny, battery-powered electrical system that flashes a blood-red light down a lure's tail when its moved in water. Fish think it's an injured prey and strike. Some fishing authorities, like those in Wyoming, think that gives fishermen too much of an advantage.

They may be right. Three fishermen using a flashing lure in Mexico caught 650 large-mouth bass in just 25 hours. That's a bass every seven minutes for each person, and a record for the lake they were fishing. They said the bass struck with such ferocity they hardly lost a strike.

In Florida two professionals fished for four hours from the same boat. One used a flashing-red lure; the other used some top-selling U. S. lures. The new, "bleeding" lure caught three times as many fish.

Before reporting this, I asked a veteran fisherman in my office for his opinion. Monday morning he charged into my office yelling "I caught six monster fish in an hour with this thing! Where did you get it?"

Then I phoned an ichthyologist (fish expert).

"Predators - lions, sharks," he said, "will always go for the most vulnerable prey. Fish are predators, so if a fish sees a smaller fish bleeding, it knows it's weakened and will strike."

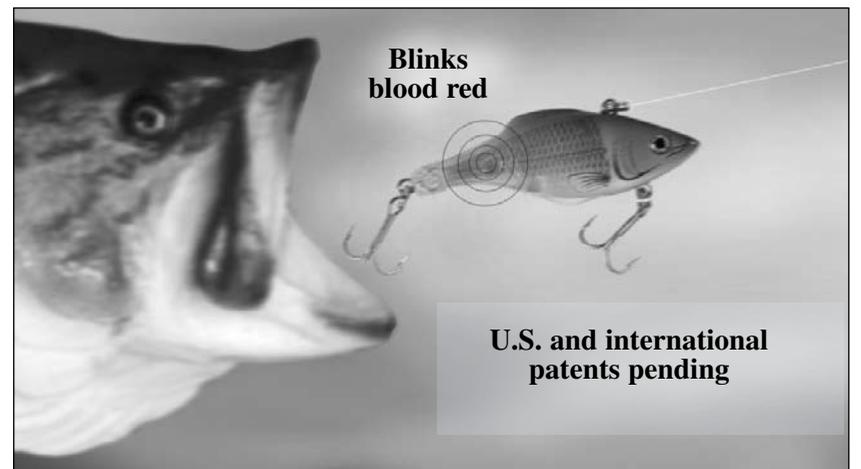
"If a lure could appear to be a live, bleeding fish, a few fishermen could probably empty a lake with it."

I told him three almost did.

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There is a U.S. company that offers a kit of three blinking lures (one each for shallow, middle and deep water) called the Bite Light® Each lure is a different color. They work in fresh or salt water, contain rattle attractants inside and last 100 hours in the water. The battery is replaceable.

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grassroots

Continued from page 3

the course in the development of biofuels plus spurs advances for other energy sources.

While everyone is feeling pain from high fuel prices, farmers are being hit from several directions.

They're not only spending more for their food, but they're also paying skyrocketing prices for the fertilizer, diesel fuel, electricity and farm chemicals needed to grow food. As a result, the cost of producing an acre of corn has more than doubled. And livestock, dairy and poultry producers are struggling with tight margins.

Farmers also are unfairly getting some of the blame for the high grocery bills. The anti-biofuels crowd wants you to believe that soaring corn and soybean prices are to blame. But there's a mountain of economic research showing that's simply not true. Yes, it's a factor. But only a small one. The primary culprit is — you guessed it — energy costs.

Let's hope Congress can develop an energy policy that's as effective as our farm policy.

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Rachael Kamuf, Editor
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Loretta Lyons named Kentucky Farmer of the Year

By Lindsey Coblentz
KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

The first woman to ever be nominated for Southeastern Farmer of the Year is a Kentuckian.

Loretta Baxter Lyons of Monroe County is a contender for the honor as the Kentucky Farm Bureau Farmer of the Year for 2008. She is the only woman Kentucky Farm Bureau has selected for the honor in the three times the organization has taken part in the 10-state competition.

Lyons is taking the distinctions in stride. "Not too many women farm, I guess," she said.

The contest recognizes farmers' dedication to agricultural excellence. Contestants are judged on efficiency in farming practices, quality of their financial management and leadership in community organizations. The winner receives \$1,000.

Lyons began farming in 1961, when she and husband Hade Lyons bought their first 150 acres from a neighbor in the Sand Lick community. They purchased their first tractor for \$3,100 and borrowed relatives' equipment to raise their first crops of tobacco and hay.

At the same time, both were pursuing their college degrees to become teachers.

In 1965, they built a dairy farm and began milking about three dozen Holstein cows. The operation had grown to 120 cows before the herd was sold in 1999.

She faced a difficult choice in 1976 when Hade died after suffering a heart attack. "At age 34, I was faced with a major decision - whether to sell the farm and continue my teaching career or become a full-time farmer."

In the end, the young mother and widow decided to keep the farm.

Lyons said the hardest part was making all the decisions herself. "We had always discussed all the major decisions that we made," she said. "I would go to bed at night and wonder what I was going to do."

Lyons now manages a contract dairy heifer



Loretta Lyons

raising program named Hade's Triple K Dairy Inc. after her husband and their three children, Kerry, Kevin and Kela. Kerry is the president of the operation. Kevin is the Monroe County Extension Service agent for agriculture and natural resources, and Kela is a physician in Bowling Green.

Triple K purchases Holstein calves from a farm and sells them back to the same farm about 20 months later, when each cow is seven months' pregnant, weighing in at about 1,150 pounds. The operation began with about 110 calves and now fluctuates between 800 and 900 animals.

The farm also started a cash grain enterprise after leasing a 300-acre grain farm in the spring of 2007. The Triple K operation covers 1,140 acres; the fam-

ily owns 695 and leases the additional land.

Lyons' interest in farming extends beyond Monroe County; she is a charter board member of the Kentucky Agriculture Heritage Center and is involved with Kentucky Women in Agriculture.

A gospel music fan, she also plays the piano at her church.

As the winner of the Kentucky Farm Bureau Farmer of the Year competition, Lyons will represent the state in the Southeastern Farmer of the Year contest, which is sponsored by Swisher International and the Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition.

Lyons will be competing with farmers from Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia for the top honor.

Swisher International will award \$2,500 to each state winner. The company also will cover \$250 in travel expenses and three nights lodging for each state winner to travel to the Sunbelt Expo in Moultrie, Ga., in October, when the winner will be named and presented with a \$14,000 check.

Young part-time Kentucky farmers wanted for national ag competition

Staff report
KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

Kentucky Farm Bureau is sending out the call to young part-time farmers to take part in the annual Excellence in Agriculture Contest that rewards people involved in agriculture who also have full-time occupations.

The contest is open to men and women between 18 and 35 who are active in farming, agriculture education, extension service or ag-related businesses.

Entrants are judged on their involvement in agriculture, leadership ability and participation in Farm Bureau and civic and community organizations.

The state winner will be announced in December at the Kentucky Farm Bureau annual meeting and will receive a John Deere Gator utility vehicle, courtesy of Farm Credit Services, other prizes and an all-

expense paid trip to compete against other states' winners.

The national Excellence in Agriculture Award will be presented in early January during the American Farm Bureau annual meeting in Texas. The top prize will be a 2008 Dodge Ram1500 pickup truck. The winner also will have expenses paid to attend the American Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Rancher Leadership Conference that will be held in February.

Runners-up in the national contest receive U.S. Savings Bonds and a Stihl Farm Boss.

The deadline for applying to compete is Oct. 31.

More details on the contest are available at each county Farm Bureau office in the state. Or contact Jay McCants, director of Kentucky Farm Bureau's young farmer programs, for information. He can be reached by calling 502-495-5000 or by e-mail at jmccants@kyfb.com.

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Fifty-nine students chosen for scholarships

Fifty-nine Kentucky students have been chosen to receive scholarship grants totaling \$88,500 from programs administered through the Kentucky Farm Bureau Education Foundation, which has distributed more than more than \$1.4 million to high school seniors in Farm Bureau member families.

The 2008 recipients, who received individual scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$4,000, were:

Leadership in Agriculture Award Scholarship (\$3,000): Brian Reynolds, son of Donald and Patti Reynolds of Magnolia; and Patricia Smith, daughter of John Brent and Patricia Smith of Smithfield.

Sam Moore Scholarship (\$4,000): Kristi Skelton, daughter of Kevin and Lynn Skelton of Bagdad.

Kentucky Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co. (\$2,000): Alesha Compton, daughter of Bridgett and Jackie Chapman of Columbia; and Morgan Lee, daughter of Lisa Lee Brown of Elizabethtown.

Kentucky Farm Bureau Insurance Agents Association (\$2,000): Ashton Baile, son of Lewis and Norma Bailey of Bagdad.

Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation (\$1,000): Kaile Vierstra, daughter of Ken and Lisa Vierstra of Horse Cave; Kari Cornett, daughter of Jeanette Cornett of Pineville; Carolyn Butts, daughter of David and Dixie Butts of Princeton; Rachel Talent, daughter of Ron and Connie Hopkins Talent; Sarah Myers, daughter of Steve and Cheryl Myers of California; Amy Roberts, daughter of Russell and Christine Roberts of Winchester;

Haylie Canham, daughter of Steve and Kathryn Canham of Georgetown; Kendall Corbin, daughter of Kent and Barb Corbin of Flemingsburg; Nathan Kitchens, son of Joe and Jeanne Kitchens of Dry Ridge; Lauren Ison, daughter of Tim and Karen Ison of Greenup; Whitney Churchman, daughter of Richard and Gail Churchman of Cecilia; Brittany Green, daughter of Don and Cindy Green of Hardyville;

Stephen Porter, son of Tom and Sara Porter of Madisonville; Brooke Sherrard, daughter of Louie Allen and Holly Sherrard of Shepherdsville; Victoria R. Wilson, daughter of Grayling and Vicki Wilson; Victoria C. Wilson, daughter of Mike Wilson and Stacy Logsdon of Livermore; Daniel Brooks, son of Paul and Theresa Brooks of Harrodsburg; Lindsey Thomas, daughter of Eddy and Lisa Thomas of Tompkinsville;

Joshua Dabbs, son of Steve and Teresa Dabbs of LaGrange; Adrienne Cromer, daughter of Richard and Patricia Cromer of Brodhead; Danielle Skaggs, daughter of Glen W. and Loretta Skaggs of Olive Hill; Rachel Hollingsworth, daughter of Jay and Judy Hollingsworth of Georgetown; and Charles Phipps, son of Charles and Brenda Phipps of Hazel Green.

Allen County Farm Bureau (\$1,000): Travis Ogles, son of Teddy and Kathy Ogles of Scottsville.

Boone County Farm Bureau (\$1,000): Jacob Rouse, son of Greg and Tina Rouse of Union.

Bullitt County Farm Bureau (\$2,000): Kaitlyn Hobbs, daughter of Billy and Arlana Hobbs of Mt. Washington; Ciera Lowery, daughter of Stan and Leigh Ann Lowery of Mt. Washington; Katherine Mitchell, daughter of Dennis and Diana Mitchell of West Point; and Megan Slater, daughter of Steve and Connie Slater of Mt. Washington.

Christian County Farm Bureau (\$1,000): Colton Ellis, son of Kenneth and Sheryl Ellis of Hopkinsville; and Ross Roeder, son of Ronnie and Rita Roeder of Hopkinsville.

Crittenden County Farm Bureau (\$1,500): Jennifer Harris, daughter of David and Tina Harris of Salem; and Elise Hill, daughter of Stephen and Martha Hill of

See SCHOLARSHIPS on page 13

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Naturalist John James Audubon work preserved at Henderson state park

By Mac Lacy

SPECIAL TO KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

It's a nice, tree-lined drive away from the traffic on U.S. 41 in Henderson into the shade and serenity of John James Audubon State Park - just enough of a drive in to the centerpiece stone-and-timber museum to forget about the cars and convenience stores left behind.

It is the entrance to a retreat of some stature. The idyllic preserve honors the man many regard as America's father of wildlife habitat preservation and illustration who lived and worked here for almost a decade.

John James Audubon was born in Haiti in 1785 on a sugar plantation owned by a French military officer. He spent much of his childhood in France and came to America at age 18 with an interest in birds and the outdoors that would last his lifetime. A renaissance man of sorts, Audubon played the flute and violin, was an avid hunter and frontiersman and loved to draw.

"Hunting, fishing, drawing and music occupied my every moment," he wrote later in life. "Cares I knew not, and cared naught about them."

He became an artist of some stature while he ran a general store in Louisville, which at that time was the primary Ohio River port between Pittsburgh and New Orleans. In 1810, he moved down river to Henderson, where he and his wife began raising two sons and lived in a log cabin.

"Audubon's artwork keeps growing in popularity," said park manager Mark Kellen. "There is still a lot of interest from European countries where he sold much of his early work as well as from the states. It's both birding enthusiasts and American art enthusiasts who come here to see his work."

Unlike many white settlers at the time, Audubon held no malice toward the native Americans living in the area.

"Whenever I meet Indians, I feel the greatness of our Creator in all its splendor, for there I see the man naked from His hand and yet free from acquired sorrow," he wrote.

"Audubon was as much a naturalist as an artist," said Kellen. "We're talking about the early 1800s, and he was an accomplished outdoorsman who

earned the Indians' respect. Our museum has a full set of Indian dress that was given to him by native Indians."

In Henderson and later in New Orleans, Audubon did the lion's share of his work on his "Birds of America," still regarded

as an iconic contribution to early American art. This huge compilation of paintings included more than 400 hand-colored prints of American birds the artist had studied.

There was immediate interest for the book in Great Britain due to British people's continued fascination with the former American colonies. The cost of printing the book was astronomical for 1826 - \$115,640 - and the work was acclaimed abroad and at home as masterful.

John James Audubon State Park has the largest collection of the artist's work on display in the world. The 700-acre preserve also has cabins and a full-service campground, hiking trails and a nine-hole golf course.

The park is very personal to me because I worked there for a year and a half while I finished my degree in journalism at the University of Evansville, just across the river in Indiana, in the late 1970s. I worked at the park as a campground manager and groundskeeper and played the wooded golf course on late afternoons when I probably should have been studying.

"Hunting, fishing, drawing and music occupied my every moment,"

— John James Audubon

IF YOU GO

John James Audubon State Park is on U.S. 41 North in Henderson, just across the Ohio River from Evansville, Ind. For cottage or campground reservations or information, call 270-826-2247. Or visit the Kentucky State Parks' Web site, www.parks.ky.gov.



Conservation competitions going on-line

Staff report
KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

The Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts and Kentucky Farm Bureau are taking a different approach to their joint conservation writing and art competition.

Rather than printing thousands of copies of a tabloid-size publication for distribution to school children statewide, the information and entry rules for the annual contests will be placed on the organizations' Web sites.

"This is one way we can help to reduce consumption and waste," said Terri Bradshaw, director of public relations at Kentucky Farm Bureau. "This is a perfect way for us to 'Go Green.' If we say we support conservation, then we have to practice what we preach."

Steve Coleman, director of the Kentucky Division of Conservation, also called the new format leading by example. "Conservation consists of big and small efforts."

Kentucky Farm Bureau is a long-time sponsor of the program because of its commitment to conservation, Bradshaw said. "Farming is supported by our natural resources. And there is an old saying, 'If we take care of the land, the land will take care of us.'"

The 2008 edition, "Working Trees: Kentucky's Renewable Future," will continue to be a lesson on the importance of everyone's role as a steward of Kentucky's natural resources. It also will include a teacher's guide and entry forms for the 64th annual writing and James Claypool Conservation Art contests.

The writing contest is open to students in grades 6-12. Posters may be submitted by first through fifth graders.

Regional and county-level winners will receive \$100 and \$50 U.S. Savings Bonds, respectively. Savings bonds of \$100 to \$500 will be awarded for third- through first-place finishers at the state level.

State winners will be recognized at the Kentucky Farm Bureau annual meeting in December and the Kentucky Association of Conservation District's convention in 2009.

"Working Trees: Kentucky's Renewable Future" will be available Aug. 1 on the Internet at www.kyfb.com and www.kacde.org.

The deadline to submit school winners' entries to local Farm Bureau or conservation district offices is Nov. 1 to be considered for state awards.



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Sandyland Acres Haunted Hayride

Petersburg · (859) 689-4283

Sweet Home Spun in the Low

Dutch Meetinghouse

Pleasureville · (502) 878-4814

The Greenhouse in Gertrude

Brooksville · (606) 782-0033

Thieneman's Herbs & Perennials

Louisville · (502) 491-6305

Tower View Farm & Nursery

Jeffersonton · (502) 267-2066

Turnpike Gardens

Cox's Creek · (502) 538-8025

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Monticello (606) 307-4514

Burton's Nursery & Garden Center

Campbellsville · (270) 789-1239

Chaney's Dairy Barn

Bowling Green (270) 843-5567

Cravens Greenhouse

Albany · (606) 387-8583

Dennison's Roadside Market

Horse Cave · (270) 786-1663

Double Hart Farm

Corbin (606) 523-0465

Fairview Pumpkin Farm

Harrodsburg (859) 734-7904

Frenchvalley Farms

Jamestown · (270) 343-5052

Habegger's Amish Market

Scottsville · (270) 618-5676

Haney's Appledale Farm

Nancy · (606) 636-6148

Hinton's Orchard & Farm Market

Hodgenville (270) 325-3854

Jackson's Orchard & Nursery

Bowling Green · (270) 781-5303

Kenny's Farmhouse Cheese

Austin (270) 434-4124

Lee's Garden Center

Hodgenville · (270) 358-9897

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Springfield (859) 336-3075

Mariner's Rest Produce

Danville (859) 319-3508

McQuerry's Family Farm Herbs-N-Heirlooms

Paint Lick (859) 792-8268

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Somerset · (606) 679-2640

O'Daniel Farms

Bowling Green · (270) 782-3932

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Danville (859) 236-1775

Purnell Farm & Stables

Nicholasville (859) 885-0005

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Lancaster · (859) 792-3392

Sinking Valley Vineyard & Winery

Somerset (606) 274-0223

Three Springs Farm

Elizabethtown · (270) 360-0644

Warren Farm Greenhouse

Richmond · (859) 328-7005

Windward Oaks Farm & Orchard

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Broadbent B & B Foods

Eddyville · (800) 841-2202

Christian Way Farm

Hopkinsville · (270) 269-2434

D & M Produce

Ledbetter · (270) 898-6312

Greenscape Nursery

Kirksey · (270) 489-2756

Lost Valley Farms

Bremen · (270) 525-9720

The Country Barn

Elkton · (270) 885-4843

Trunnell's Farm Market

Utica · (270) 733-2222

Turner Valley Produce

Russellville · (270) 726-3983

Zook's Produce

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Call or e-mail today for your free directory :: www.kyfb.com :: roadside@kyfb.com :: (502) 495-5000 ext. 7226

Farm markets bursting with fresh fruits and vegetables

By Lindsey Coblentz
KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

Fresh fruits and vegetables bursting with flavor and colorful blossoms are ripe for the picking at the 82 Kentucky Farm Bureau Certified Roadside Farm Markets located across the state.

There is something for everyone at these markets, with everything from mouthwatering peaches to festive Christmas trees available throughout a season that extends to the holidays at some locations. Entertainment for visitors of all ages is offered at some with hayrides and seasonal festivals scheduled in addition to food items to make each trip special.

One thing visitors will always find at a Kentucky Certified Roadside Farm Market is value as a requirement of participation is that a majority of each market's product must be produced locally.

That is a key ingredient in what makes the Kentucky Farm Bureau roadside market special, said Jeremy Hinton, who co-owns Hinton's Orchard and Farm Market in Hodgenville with his wife Joanna. "We want to make sure we provide a fresh, quality product."

Hinton, who has been a member of the program since opening the orchard in 2002, said the publicity Kentucky Farm Bureau gives its farm markets has kept his business booming at minimal expense to him and other participating operations.

"Farm Bureau publications go to a lot of people, and that gives us a lot of exposure," he said, adding "there's no way" he could afford the other promotional space that

Kentucky Farm Bureau uses to publicize the program.

Sweet, crunchy apples, juicy peaches and festive pumpkins are currently the staples of the Hintons, who also offer homemade jellies and apple butter and are in the process of growing their merchandise.

"We're trying to expand all the time. This is the first year we've had flowers and bedding plants," he said.

The orchard is a hit with children during the autumn season.

"We see 1,500 to 1,600 kids in the fall," said Hinton. Hayrides, a grain bin play area, and the ever popular corn maze keep

youngsters flocking to Hinton's every year.

In honor of the nationwide celebration of Abraham Lincoln's birthday 200 years ago near Hodgenville, this year's maze will be a Lincoln penny. How is Hinton making the special bicentennial maze? "It's a secret," he said with a smile.

For Hinton, the farm market business is all about people. "There are a lot of really great people we get to work with everyday and get to see their kids grow up, and they get to



Joanna and Jeremy Hinton are raising their children, Jacob and Joslyn, on the farm they operate as Hinton's Orchard and Farm Market in Hodgenville. The Hintons have special events to entertain other families as well as sell food items and flowers during the growing season.



watch our kids grow up. It's a lot of fun."

The newest addition to Kentucky Certified Roadside Markets is the Roadside Rewards program. Market visitors can pick up a rewards card at any of the certified markets throughout Kentucky and collect stamps to earn a free gift. For every \$20 customers spend at a certified farm market, they will receive a stamp that can be redeemed after 10 stamps are collected.

"Quite a few folks have already turned in

those cards, so we believe that it's working," said Jeff Harper, Kentucky Farm Bureau's commodity director.

The Certified Roadside Farm Market program was started in 1996 to help Kentucky farmers in the transition from tobacco production to other sources of income. "Kentucky agriculture is diversifying," Harper said. "We believe that this program does provide producers a service."

In striving to increase farm income, he said, consumers benefit from easier access to affordable fresh fruits and vegetables and a pleasant excursion to a colorful world of flowers and fun.

Certified markets are listed in an annual directory brochure and distributed at state parks, tourist sites and other locations throughout the state. A map and information about each certified farm market are included to guide visitors to the market that is right for them.

For more information about Kentucky Certified Roadside Farm Markets or to request a brochure, contact Harper at roadside@kyfb.com or visit www.kyfb.com online and click on the Roadside Market link.

Kentucky Farm Bureau taping safety tips for State Police

Staff report

KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

Kentucky Farm Bureau is teaming up with the Kentucky State Police to promote safety at home, on the road and the farm.

Mike Feldhaus, director of broadcast services at Kentucky Farm Bureau, is producing spots with state troopers to air on his daily Across Kentucky radio show, a three-minute program that is carried by 125 stations. The public service announcements also are available at no charge for all stations.

"This is a logical partnership for Kentucky Farm Bureau, which has a long

history of promoting safety in all aspects of daily living for its member-families," said Terri Bradshaw, who heads up the organization's safety program.

There is a concentration on road safety, Bradshaw said, because one-in-five drivers likely will be involved in a collision this year.

There were 864 fatalities on Kentucky roads last year, she said. "Kentucky Farm Bureau and the Kentucky State Police want to drastically reduce that number."

The general public must be a part of the team, she said. "We need to bring about a permanent shift in the safety culture, and we cannot underestimate the challenge this presents."

Topics covered in the public service announcements include state laws requiring seat belts; car seats for infants and children; the dangers of impaired driving; rules for traveling through road construction zones and during hazardous weather; crime prevention at home; and Trooper Island, a children's camp the State Police sponsors.

Feldhaus and troopers record 30-second spots for his show, with the first spot to run July 7. There also are 15 second segments. The PSAs will be posted on the Kentucky Farm Bureau Web site, www.kyfb.com, and also are being used by the State Police for its statewide phone system and Internet site.

Farmers also feeling pinch of higher fuel and food costs

Continued from page 1

on a combine beginning the harvest of his 2008 wheat crop.

Wheat, corn and soybeans – the staples of Kentucky's grain producers and the American food chain – are selling for historic prices on commodities markets. Despite the record levels, however, the amount of wheat that goes into a loaf of bread only costs about 16 cents, and there is no more than 8 cents worth of corn in a 12 oz. box of breakfast cereal priced at \$3.30.

The difference is packaging, advertising, transportation, production and grocers' cost of doing business. "There is a mark-up every step of the way," Bolinger said.

The unprecedented prices for the raw farm products are coming at a cost to farmers like Bolinger, who are feeling the pinch as both consumers and producers.

At the same time he saw gasoline for the family vehicle climbing to \$4 a gallon, the price for filling a diesel-fueled combine doubled to \$1,000 from last June. After 16 hours in the field, it was time to refuel the mammoth equipment he needs to harvest wheat, corn and soybeans.

He estimated that he and his brother-partner spent \$300 an acre to plant corn on the land they farm in Christian and Todd counties this year, when he just factored in seed, petroleum-based fertilizer and the herbicides needed to control weeds. "That does not include fuel, machinery, my time or land rent," said Bolinger.

Putting out a corn crop cost twice as much as 2007 without those additional expenses, he said. (The Bolingers own about 900 acres and lease an additional 2,100 acres to raise 1,400 acres of wheat and soybeans

(planted after wheat); 1,200 acres of corn and 30 acres of tobacco. They also have 25 head of beef cattle).

Bolinger isn't looking for sympathy, noting that his expenses are part of the business of farming. His discomfort or pain as a buyer of American farm products or gasoline is no different from someone who has never stepped foot on a farm, he said.

"Everybody feels the sticker shock," said Bolinger, who also serves on the Kentucky Farm Bureau board of directors. "Truckers are paying the same prices we are. ... We are just like everybody else. We are all in this together."

Earlier this year, the U.S. Department of Agriculture forecast a 5-percent increase in food prices in 2008.

Rising fuel costs, labor expenses, prolonged drought in Australia and demand for more food items among the growing middle class in such developing countries as China and Australia were cited in the prediction, with skyrocketing oil prices highlighted as the primary reason. According to U.S.D.A. reports, 44 percent of higher food prices could be attributed to fuel.

The U.S.D.A. projections were made before devastating floods in the American heartland. Flood waters curtailed production and damaged young plants already in the ground in Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Indiana, Wisconsin and Ohio and led to the closing of barge traffic along some Upper Midwest sections of the rain-swollen Mississippi River, the main artery for transporting grains to New Orleans from the Midwest for export.

Kentucky farmers in the extreme western Purchase area may have some flooding issues, too, as the National Weather Service cautioned on June 17 that Mississippi River bottom land in Ballard, Carlisle, Hickman and Fulton counties could be under water before the river recedes, resulting in crop loss.

The hardest hit areas were in Iowa – the largest corn-producing region in the world – where more than 16 percent of the farmland has been under water. Even more land has been too saturated from heavy rains for timely plant-

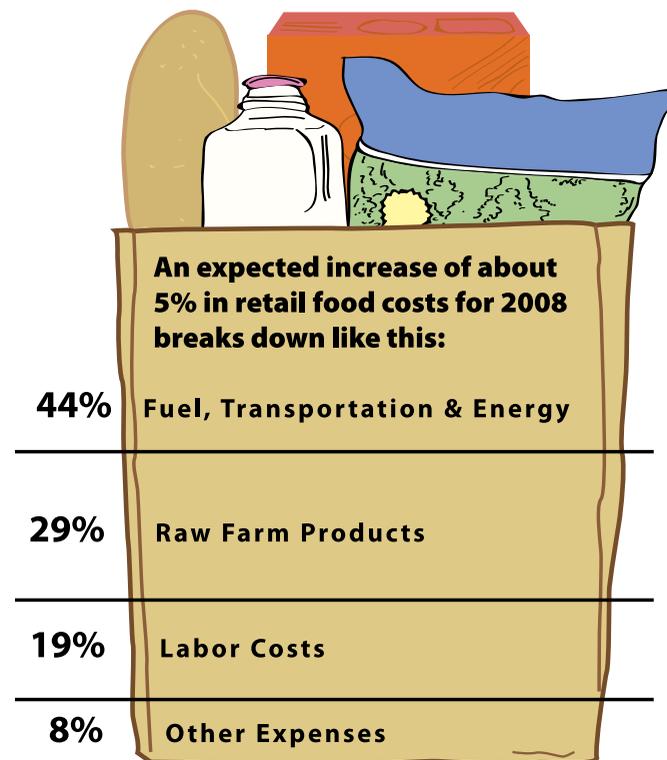
ing. Mid-June damage estimates to crops and personal property in communities throughout the state were \$1 billion and rising.

Because of the weather problems, corn, wheat and soybeans were trading sharply higher on futures markets on June 16. Corn hit \$8.07 a bushel for the first time ever that day before dropping below \$8 at close, soybeans were nearing \$16 per

"Everybody feels the sticker shock. Truckers are paying the same prices we are. ... We are just like everybody else. We are all in this together."

— Steve Bolinger
Pembroke farmer

Fuel, transportation and energy drive retail food prices



Source: American Farm Bureau Federation® Graphic; Consumer Price Index (CPI)

bushel and wheat hovered at \$9.

No one seems to know where the ceilings will be, although some economists told Reuters international business reporting service that they expected wheat prices to begin stabilizing because of increased global output.

Theoretically, Bolinger and other Kentucky grain producers could benefit from Midwestern farmers' plight this year. At the same time, they feel their suffering as the pain of last year's drought is all too real for them.

Bolinger remembers the anguish of crop failure in 2007 when an abnormal spring frost-freeze that damaged or destroyed tender young plants was followed by a drought that parched the entire Southeastern United States and continues in some areas.

The summer of no rain cut into corn and soybean yields and sent cattle, hog and chicken producers scurrying for scant supplies of hay and other supplements to keep their animals alive over the winter.

Speaking on KET's "Kentucky Tonight," Mark Haney, Kentucky Farm Bureau's first vice president, said he and other cattle farmers fed their livestock combinations of rice and soybean hulls, mixtures they never imagined they would use. "I think we will

see (more) alternative ways of feeding," Haney said as he addressed the issue of the high cost of corn that is a staple of feed.

When Haney, who also operates a family-owned orchard near Somerset, was exploring options because of the drought, corn was about \$4 a bushel. "It was a great year" for Iowa farmers, Bolinger said.

At \$7 a bushel, Bolinger – who remembers a few years ago when the price was \$1.85 – said he should have a profitable growing season, despite rising expenses. There is a big if in there, though, in the weather and the memories of the drought of 2007 are too fresh.

"It looks good now, but I don't have a crop yet. And I'm not guaranteed a crop," he said. "I can't go out today and sell my corn for \$7. It won't be ready before fall. Who knows what it will be then?"

Eventually, he said, good weather will return to the Midwest and prices will drop for everyone. "I think it could go back to \$4. It's a matter of supply and demand. A lot of the price now is speculation (based on fear there could be a food shortage). ... Iowa is going through some tough times, but those farmers will be back."

State Fair opening in August

Staff report
KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

Preparation is underway for this year's Kentucky State Fair that will be held Aug. 14-24 at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville.

Kentucky Farm Bureau Day at the Fair is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 21, with plans to help visitors beat the heat by keeping events in the air-conditioning of the Exposition Center's South Wing.

The 45th Annual Kentucky Country Ham Breakfast and Auction, a perennial sellout, will be held in South Wing Conference Center, beginning at 7:30 a.m. The grand champion country ham will be auctioned and the proceeds donated to charity. Tickets are \$22 and can be ordered by contacting Susan Ellis at 502-495-5000.



Photo courtesy of Kentucky State Fair Board

The annual Gospel Quartet Contest will follow the breakfast at 9 a.m. on the South Wing stage. The winning group will represent Kentucky in the National Quartet Contest and will perform at the Kentucky Farm Bureau annual meeting in December.

The Farm Bureau picnic will move from the lawn adjacent to South Wing C to the cool indoors of the building in rooms 201-205. The cost is \$10. To register, contact Jennifer Aponte at 502-495-5000.

The Kentucky State Fair gates will open daily at 7 a.m., with exhibits open from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Adult admission to the fair is \$5 in advance and \$8 at the gate. Children ages 3-12 and seniors age 55 and up will be admitted for \$2 in advance or \$4 at the gate. There also is a \$6 parking charge per vehicle.

Advance tickets are available at Kroger stores throughout Kentucky and Southern Indiana and online at the Kentucky State Fair Web site (www.kystatefair.org) until Aug. 13.

ROADSIDE REWARDS PROGRAM



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Pick up your "Roadside Rewards" card at any participating Certified Roadside Farm Market.

For every \$20.00 in purchases at any participating market, the card will be stamped once. When all ten spaces have been stamped, send the card to:

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Attn: Commodity Department
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Your "reward" will be a collector's series Burgoo Mug* from Louisville Stoneware, made exclusively for the Kentucky Farm Bureau Certified Roadside Farm Market program's customers!

*While supplies last. One per person, please. Burgoo mug available through August 31, 2008.



"The Voice of Kentucky Agriculture"



Scholarships

Continued from page 7

Marion.

Hopkins County Farm Bureau (\$4,000): April Duncan, daughter of Marlin and Monda Duncan of Manitou.

Hopkins County Farm Bureau (\$2,000): Joseph Porter, son of Tom and Sara Porter of Madisonville.

Laurel County Farm Bureau (\$2,000): Whitney Gay, daughter of Dale and Freda Gay of London.

McCracken County Farm Bureau (\$1,000): Drue Eberhardt, son of Don and Darla Eberhardt of Paducah; and Amanda Lehotan, daughter of Dave and Cindy Lehotan of Paducah.

McLean County Farm Bureau/Jack Taylor Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000): Lauren Sweeney, daughter of Michael and Penny Crumbaker of Island.

Mercer County Farm Bureau (\$1,000): Loran Crowell, daughter of Alan and Carrie Crowell of Salvisa.

Monroe County Farm Bureau (\$1,000): Christy Eubank, daughter of Johnny and Sherree Eubank of Gamaliel; and Ann Marie Gordon, daughter of Tim and Karen Gordon of Tompkinsville.

Russell County Farm Bureau (\$1,000): Adam Capps, son of Doug and Lisa Capps of Russell Springs.

Shelby County Farm Bureau (\$1,000): Jamie Cottrell, daughter of Mike and Renee Cottrell of Finchville; Ryan Jones, son of Cecil and Jody Jones; and Coy Phillips, son of Douglas and Myra Phillips of Shelbyville.

Trigg County Farm Bureau (\$500): Lloyd Bridges, Jr., son of Mary Bridges and the late Lloyd Bridges, Sr. of Cadiz.

Warren County Farm Bureau (\$4,000): Lauren Mahaney, daughter of Tammie and Terry Mahaney of Smith Grove; and Abigail Crawley, daughter of Bruce and Lee Ann Crawley of Bowling Green.

R.O Buchanan - Warren County Farm Bureau (\$4,000): Jonathan Price, son of Brent and Jill Price of Bowling Green.

Webster County Farm Bureau (\$500): Sakara Chandler, daughter of P.E. and Cathy Chandler of Dixon; and Mattea Cummings, daughter of Glenn and Sadona Cummings of Dixon.

Whitley County Farm Bureau (\$3,000): Sarah Prewitt, daughter of Stephen and Tammy Prewitt of Williamsburg.

For information on scholarships administered by individual county Farm Bureaus, visit their Web sites by going to www.kyfb.com and click on counties to select a specific county.

Old Cookbook Reveals “Amazing Details of Washington’s Dining Habits”

by Guy Coalter,
Special Features Writer

Canton OH, Special - With

hundreds of servants at her command... a person would think our first First Lady was a woman of leisure.

Not so... according to a new historical discovery. A long out-of-print volume entitled, “*The Martha Washington Cook Book*” shows Mrs. Washington personally supervised her entire household staff... and especially the kitchen and dining room servants.

Martha made sure every dish served at Mount Vernon... as well as in the first Presidential “*White Houses*” in New York and Philadelphia... was prepared exactly as called for in her personal cookbook.

The family cookbook was given to Martha at the time of her first marriage.

In 1749, beautiful seventeen-year-old Martha Dandridge married Daniel Parke Custis. As a wedding gift, the Custis family presented Martha with a family cookbook entitled *Booke of Cookery and Booke of Sweetmeats*.

Handwritten by an unknown hand, there is evidence the recipe book had been in the Custis family for generations. It is quite likely this was a family heirloom dating back to the early 1600s. In all, there were over five hundred classic recipes, dating largely from Elizabethan and Jacobean times, the golden age of English cookery.

Later, Martha Custis became a widow and in 1759 she married Col. George Washington. Washington was to become the Father of our country and its first President. Martha, of course, became our very first, “*First Lady*.”

Martha kept and used her family cookbook for over fifty years. In 1799, she presented the book to her granddaughter, Eleanor Parke Custis as a wedding gift when she married Lawrence Lewis.

The cookbook was handed down from mother to daughter until 1892 when the Lewis family presented it to The Historical Society of Pennsylvania where it still resides today.

In 1940, the Society gave permission to historian Marie Kimball to study the manuscript and prepare a cookbook entitled, “*The Martha Washington Cook*

Book.” Although now long out-of-print, an Ohio publisher was recently commissioned to reprint a limited edition of this rare and amusing piece of Americana.

Accordingly, a limited number of copies are being made available to the public at this time. Each volume is numbered and when the present printing is exhausted, there is no contract to print more. These cookbooks could very easily become valuable collectors items.



Martha Washington

“*The Martha Washington Cook Book*” includes facsimile copies of several actual pages from the one-of-a-kind original manuscript. Then, Mrs. Kimball chose over 200 delicious unique recipes from Martha Washington’s personal cookbook and completely modernized them so you can easily prepare them in your own kitchen!

The original recipes were written for a huge household including numerous servants. Many called for dozens of eggs and gallons of one thing or another. Marie Kimball “*trimmed*” each recipe to quantities of ingredients for a family of six.

You’ll get dozens of delicious recipes for Soups, Fish, Meats, Meat Pies, Poultry and Game, Sauces, Eggs - Mushrooms and Cheese, Fritters and Pancakes, Pastry - Pies and Tarts, Cakes, Creams and Jellies, Puddings, Preserves, and Beverages.

Perhaps more interesting for us history buffs is the detailed description of the

kitchen and dining habits in the George Washington household. Martha sat at the head of the table with her husband at her side to the right.

Despite dozens of servants around the table, either Martha or George always carved the meats to be served!

You’ll absolutely love dozens of other interesting details of this historical dining room.

“*The Martha Washington Cook Book*” is a beautiful perfect bound book you will be proud to display on your coffee table, bookshelf, or where ever you keep your very best books.

Your friends and neighbors are guaranteed to be envious... *and you are guaranteed to be completely satisfied with your cookbook*. You may examine and use it for a full three months and return it for a full no-questions-asked refund if you desire.

Although not available in bookstores, you may order your cookbook directly from the publisher. There is a strict limit however, of only two copies per customer.

To get your copy, simply write your name and address on a plain piece of paper. Mail it along with your remittance of only 19.95 plus \$3.98 postage and handling (total of \$23.93, OH residents please add 6% sales tax) payable to: James Direct Inc, Special Offer M522, 1459 S. Main Street, Box 3093, North Canton, Ohio 44720.

You may charge to VISA, MasterCard, Discover or American Express by including your card number, expiration date and signature. For even faster service, have your credit card handy and telephone toll-free 1-800-310-7610 and ask for Special Offer M522.

Act within the next 15 days and the publisher will include a free bonus... *a selection of delightful recipes from the personal cookbook of President Thomas Jefferson!*

“*The Martha Washington Cookbook*” makes an appreciated gift for any gift-giving occasion. Readers of this publication may request a second copy for only \$6.07 postpaid. (Total of \$30 for both.)

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<http://www.jamesdirect.com>

Engaging couple find love on a Clinton County farm

Continued from page 1

After he graduated, Colby said, "She'd come over and help me on the farm. It was pretty neat."

Colby works at his family's dairy farm and also is employed as a broiler technician at the nearby Equity Group poultry company. Sarah is a deputy clerk at the Clinton County Circuit Court Clerk's office.

They have shared many special moments since that first day at the dairy, said Sarah.

There was the summer soon after they started dating when Sarah had to return to ECU for the Governor's Scholar Program, where she served as a resident assistant. Her first night away, Colby drove to campus with a bouquet of flowers and waited in the parking lot to surprise her. "I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw him in that parking lot. It still makes me smile to this day."

While that time was unforgettable, Sarah said, nothing could hold a candle to their engagement. She and Colby had gone to this year's Kentucky Farm Bureau President's Conference in Louisville on Valentine's Day,

where Colby had a special evening planned. "To my surprise, he took me out on a dinner cruise," said Sarah.

Colby's original plans were to propose to her on The Spirit of Jefferson riverboat. "He had prepared to propose to me on the observation deck, but he decided not to because it was too dark," said Sarah.

He changed course, Colby said, because "I sure didn't want to drop the ring in the river, that's for sure."

After the dinner cruise, Colby took Sarah on a carriage ride, his next pick for the proposal. However, the carriage driver talked the entire ride, and Sarah said Colby couldn't get in a word amid the chatter.

Finally, the ride ended. Colby wasn't going to let the moment pass. "He told me you

need to just stand right here," Sarah recalled. He told her to close her eyes. "When I opened my eyes he was down on one knee.

"It was a total shock."

Colby was pleased with the outcome. "It turned out

pretty good," he said.

The couple has plans for a church wedding on July 12 with a reception at the Clinton County Fairgrounds. They will honeymoon on the sunny beaches of Cancun, Mexico.

Colby said he is ready for married life. "I'm not nervous," he said, "just excited."



Sarah Huff and Colby Guffey

Sarah and Colby plan to keep Farm Bureau in the family. Both sides of the family are members, and Colby's father is a former member of the state board of directors. Colby said working with the organization has been a great experience. "I really enjoy getting to meet people around the district."

They have dreams for their future, too. "I like to think of us 10 years down the road as a happy family, enjoying rural life," she said. "I'd like to see some children in there," Sarah said, with Colby adding that he hopes they will be able to own their own farm one day.

Today, they are just thankful to have each other. "She's the greatest thing that's ever happened to me," said Colby.

Sarah looks forward to their wedding day with a smile. "He is the love of my life, and I knew it from the very beginning of our relationship. I am the happiest I have ever been, and it's all because of him."

Case discounts available to KFB membership

Case IH products are the latest to join the list of merchandise available to all Kentucky Farm Bureau members at special prices.

Case is offering discounts of \$300 on its 31- to 60-horsepower DX Farmall tractors and \$500 on the 45- to 98-horsepower J Series and 110- to 139-horsepower Maxxum tractors.

"We are very pleased to add another company of the stature of Case as a provider of quality products and services at reduced prices to our family-members," said Dwight Greenwell, Kentucky Farm Bureau's director of member services.

Higher gasoline prices may make the discounts offered to members at selected hotel chains and the Kentucky State Park system especially attractive to more families this year as they make vacation plans. Kentucky Farm Bureau members who want to rent a car are eligible for additional savings when they use Avis or Budget vehicles.

For more details on the member-service program, exclusions and guidelines for proof of membership, visit www.kyfb.com or contact Greenwell at dgreenwell@kyfb.com.

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The Kentucky Farm Bureau Service Corporation offers this program to members as a cost-savings initiative only and in no way recommends, endorses or, guarantees this or any other elective medical procedure. It is solely the responsibility of the member to evaluate and elect to have the procedure performed. *CareCredit approval

Home gardens benefit health and pocketbooks

By Jeneen Wiche
SPECIAL TO KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

Trips to the grocery check-out lane are sending greater numbers of people to their back yards for sustenance.

It's too late for a summer garden, but there is time to prepare for such fall produce as greens, cold crops and root vegetables — and lay the ground, if you will, for planting warm weather foods next spring.

A good place to start is at local Extension Service offices where expert advice on planting and food processing is available.

Similar and different challenges are present in urban and rural areas. Rich loam may give way to sand and clay soils in some regions; in new subdivisions anywhere, disturbed subsoil is a grim reality. In all cases of less than ideal dirt, the solution is a system of raised beds.

A garden of mixed edible plants including fruits, vegetables, herbs and ornamentals planted on raised beds is a great way to supplement grocery shopping.

A series of four raised beds, four-feet wide on average (and as long as space and realistic ambition allows), with paths in between, prove accessible, easy to plant, water and weed. You can rotate crops from one year to the next to reduce pest problems and add more beds as your gardening skills increase.

My sister uses this system and feeds her family of four well with just a small plot of herbs, potatoes, onions, greens, peas, carrots, beets, beans, peppers and tomatoes. Instead of buying a bag of spinach for \$4, she pulls the same amount every couple of days from a crop that started with a seed packet that cost \$1.95.

I have more space for gardening, and my own personal experiences on saving money as I enjoy seasonal bounties. During April and May, I serve asparagus every evening; I grow enough salad greens to supply friends, too; in June the blueberries come in so I start making jam (which lasts until next June); in July we have squash, peppers and tomatoes. We eat potatoes and parsnips into winter.

As the season progresses, my trips to the grocery store become less frequent. I buy

See HOME GARDEN on page 16

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Home gardens

Continued from page 15

meat and some other staples but I spend very little otherwise.

There is a long list of health benefits from working in a garden and eating the results. The exercise involved in preparing, planting and caring for your garden is like a free trip to the gym. I use modified yoga moves as I stretch to weed, hoe and harvest.

The quality of the harvest provides benefits as well. Using composted manure to feed your plants slowly throughout the season eliminates the need for expensive (fossil-fuel-based) fertilizers. Rotating crops throughout your raised beds helps to reduce soil-borne diseases and eliminates the need for pesticides. Fresh vegetables picked at their peak and eaten in a timely fashion have higher nutritional value than those grown far away and hybridized for shelf-life and uniformity in shape and color.

Freezing is the easiest way to preserve food for later and retains more taste and nutrition. There are some tricks to the process, however: Vegetables contain enzymes that aid in growth and ripening and when

the vegetable is harvested these enzymes continue to work, pushing the vegetable past its peak in flavor and nutrition.

Check seed packets for optimum harvest time and any curing needs and store accordingly. Refrigerate for fresh eating and blanch for freezing right after harvest in order to retain flavor and nutrition.

Making jams and jellies is easy; pickling is,

too. Pressure canning is for the more ambitious.

Asparagus, cucumbers, peppers, beets and carrots can be pickled using any number of herbs, spices and vinegar. A hot-water bath in a large canning kettle seals the jars so they can be stored in the pantry for winter eating.

Berries can be turned into jams and jars

of jam by simply following the directions on a Sure-Gel packet. You won't have to buy store-bought jam again.

Not enough space in the back yard? Start small with a couple of tomato plants and as you grow more confident in your abilities and to put into the effort, consider enrolling in a community garden; or starting one with your neighborhood association, church or school.

Another great option is to shop at the many farm markets in the state. If you aren't going to grow it yourself at least support the local farmers in your community who do.

If you are uncomfortable in the kitchen, cooking fresh from the garden may change that. Fresh food really does taste better and preparation can be simple. Grilling, roasting and sautéing are the best ways to cook fresh vegetables to preserve taste and nutrition. A little olive oil, some herbs and maybe a little salt and pepper is all you need.

The financial saving, taste and satisfaction of growing some of your own food will likely win you over in one season.

Jensen Wiche writes a weekly syndicated garden column, co-hosts a radio program and produces a gardening segment for television in Louisville. Contact her at JWiche@aol.com or write to her at 2340 Connor Station Road, Simpsonville, Ky. 40067.



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Uncontrolled family pets imperil livestock

By Lalie Dick

SPECIAL TO KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

Bob Maurer is a Boone County shepherd who likes dogs but not those that have not been spayed or neutered and are uncontrolled.

Maurer is a Kentucky Farm Bureau member whose livelihood is a flock of 300 ewes. His market is mainly ethnic, but roaming pet dogs with a taste for warm blood don't comprehend cultural appetites.

"Dogs who kill once will return in three days to kill again," he said.

Maurer has at least one farm dog – neutered – that he "adopted" from an animal shelter. He knows that "fixing" a pet can be in the best interest of the animal and community at large – facts he encounters when he finds one of his sheep severely injured or killed by other families' roaming pets, although Boone County has a leash law.

Pet owners often are in denial. When confronting their masters after finding an injured or dead sheep, he often hears variations of such responses as:

"My dog is well-trained. My dog is collared and tagged. How dare you insinuate my dog is a killer?"

And then, "What do you mean, you shot at my dog."

Teresa Bottom of Shelbyville is on a mission to help the Bob Maurers of the state and at the same time lend a hand to pet owners.

Bottom, who also belongs to Kentucky Farm Bureau, is becoming well known outside her hometown for Lifebridge for Animals Inc., a unique nonprofit organization supporting the spaying and neutering of pets that she co-founded with husband Dudley, a retired energy executive.

Lifebridge works with animal shelters and veterinarians to make the procedure more affordable for pet owners and has an award-winning education component that she has taken to local elementary schools.

The program promotes responsible pet ownership, respect for all creatures – domesticated or wild – and safety tips. Instruction materials, including coloring books sponsored by local businesses and other donors, also are distributed at community events.

Bottom, a dog owner, supports selective breeding and has a soft spot for the mutts that often make the best pets. Spaying and neutering protects them and their families,

too, as pets and humans could be attacked by loose animals, including unaltered pets and coydogs – a mix of domesticated dogs and coyotes that pose a danger to

humans and farm herds.

"We promote humane education," focusing on kindness, respect, responsibility, fairness and compassion for animals,"



Shepherd Bob Maurer has built extra fencing and taken other precautions to protect his flock of 300 ewes from roaming pets and other predators.

she said. Bottom and other volunteers do not dwell on altering pets, Bottom said, but do "teach children that spaying and neutering are operations that keep pets from having babies. They can understand that easily. We don't go into any further details."

More than 600,000 domestic puppies and kittens are born every day in this country alone. The Humane Society estimates that only half the 6 million to 8 million dogs and cats taken to animal shelters this year will be adopted. An untold number will be dropped on the roadside or otherwise left to starve and find themselves victims of predators and disease.

Kentucky farmers are not alone in doing battle with sheep-killing dogs. Marauding canines chase or bring down other livestock such as goats, cattle, llamas and horses. Only coyotes kill more farm animals than dogs.

The U.S. Wildlife Services has reported that more than 33 million family pets and

See SHELBYVILLE WOMAN, page 18

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Shelbyville woman promotes responsible pet care

Continued from page 17

feral dogs roam loose at any time. Of the 5 million people they bite every year, a dozen or more – usually children – die.

An untold number are carriers of rabies and other diseases that can be transmitted to humans and pose a threat to wildlife, pets and livestock.

Maurer has gone to extra expense to build a tight fence to protect his flock. He has done his part.

Pet owners have responsibilities, too.

It's not enough to visit the vet's office for routine shots such as distemper, rabies and heartworm or pay the dog-tag fee. The comings and goings of the family pet, whether it's a German Shepherd or cocker spaniel, should be controlled.

Maurer the shepherd wants to increase the number of "pets" that stay at home and give pleasure to their owners. He sees no fair play, however, in allowing a proliferation of domestic animals that have two lives: One, loyalty to family; the other, a

nature-driven instinct to breed.

Lifebridge for Animals is an idea whose

time has belatedly come. For too long there's been a bad habit of discarding

unwanted cats and dogs left to starve at the end of someone's rural driveway.



Teresa Bottom, shown with her pet pug Schatzie, is a co-founder of Lifebridge for Animals. The Shelbyville organization stresses responsible pet ownership in appearances at schools and materials distributed to children and adults.

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