

VOL. 7, NO. 7



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KENTUCKY

FARM BUREAU NEWS



A (vo-ag) class act . . .

CENTRAL HARDIN TEACHER WINS AG EDUCATION AWARD

Larry Hendrick says he's a very competitive person who loves sports and has had a life-long compassion for agriculture and rural life. That explains, he says, why he chose to be a vocational agriculture teacher and has spent 29 years at that trade, serving as an advisor to one of the state's top FFA chapters.

"I'm like a coach," he explained. "I get excited about the (FFA) competitions and working with the students to help them do their best. I like seeing where a student is when they start in our program and where they're at when they finish. It's very gratifying. That's what keeps me going."

And it's keeping Hendrick going strong. The head of the vo-ag program at Central Hardin High School recently was named Kentucky's Vocational Agriculture Teacher of the Year. His credentials are so impressive that the Kentucky Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association selected him for the prestigious award the first time he was nominated for it. He was nominated by a close friend from his college days: James Morgan, a vo-ag teacher at Apollo High School.

A visit to Hendrick's office at the high school just west of Elizabethtown provides ample evidence of why he is so highly-regarded: Dozens of plaques and banners signifying the successes of the Central Hardin FFA Chapter hang from the walls. His most recent pride and joy sits near his desk — the large trophy for 2007 State Parliamentary Procedure, an award co-sponsored by KFB.

Central Hardin has been named one of Kentucky's "gold" chapters for 22 consecutive years, and for the past 17 years has been among only 14 selected to represent the state at the national FFA Convention. A list of all the chapter and individual state and national awards fills a sheet of paper in Hendrick's application for the teacher award. So, too, does the list of his personal awards and activities with groups and organizations.

So, what makes Larry Hendrick a Hall-of-Fame-caliber "coach?"

"He's very dedicated; he loves what he's doing," said Steve Meredith, a Hardin County farmer and a former

National FFA President whose son, Alex, is the current FFA president. "He works his students hard and expects their best effort. He's a good role model for them."

Hendrick, 52, says he never wanted to do anything other than teach agriculture. He was raised on a small farm in Breckinridge County and was very active with FFA. He served as a state FFA officer in 1973-74 along with KFB Executive Vice President David S. Beck, who remains a close friend.

One of his FFA advisors at Breckinridge County High School was current KFB Director Pat Henderson. Hendrick credits Henderson and the school's other vo-ag instructor, Leon Smiley, with cultivating his interest in



LARRY HENDRICK PROUDLY DISPLAYS CENTRAL HARDIN'S "PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE" AWARD, ONE OF MANY STATE FFA AWARDS THE CHAPTER HAS CAPTURED OVER THE YEARS. KFB CO-SPONSORS THE CONTEST.

teaching.

He earned a degree in Ag Education from Western Kentucky University and then took the only related position he could obtain at that time

— working at the FFA Leadership Center in Hardinsburg, in the maintenance department.

"I took care of the grounds and worked in the bath house — it kept me connected (to FFA)," Hendrick said.

In 1978 he was hired as an adult education instructor in neighboring Hardin County. Two years later he went to East Hardin High School to teach adult and ag education. He came to Central Hardin in 1990 when the school was formed by a merger of East Hardin and West Hardin.

He is now the department head, working in tandem with fellow instructors Katy Doyle and Lloyd Horne, whom he largely credits for establishing a tradition of excellence. There are about 350 students in the ag education program and 167 in FFA.

Hendrick teaches a wide variety of courses, including animal science, ag economics, ag sales and marketing, communications skills, employment skills and leadership dynamics. He also teaches a young farmer class and has long been active with the Kentucky Young Farmer Program coordinated through state government.

A KFB member since 1978, Hendrick has served on the organization's Farm Safety Advisory Committee.

Hendrick beams with pride when discussing the many accolades for Central Hardin FFA, but that's surpassed by a mention of his three children: Cathy, a business student at the University of Louisville; Ed, a Western graduate who recently was hired as a vo-ag teacher at Nicholas County High School; and Michael, who is majoring in education at Western.

His philosophy about teenagers perhaps reflects why he's been so successful working with them.

"I'm one of those who's convinced that young people are good, and that if you give them responsibility, their value will show. Contrary to what some people think, I believe young people want their parents and teachers to give them responsibility, at least at some level. I believe the responsibilities involved (with vo-ag and FFA) set our students apart from many other students. They are guided and driven to meet responsibilities."

“COMMENT”

Addressing issues facing farm families and rural communities is a year-round chore at Farm Bureau, but our annual policy development program actually gets underway each July with district meetings throughout the state. County Farm Bureau leaders will be reviewing policies and making suggestions for consideration at the state level.

These meetings are at the foundation of what Farm Bureau is all about: Providing a “voice” for agriculture, service to our members, solving problems and improving the overall quality of life for all Kentuckians. Although it is not always easy given the diversity of our members, we strive to represent all of our farm families.

Our policy development process also involves the work of a number of advisory committees assigned to specific farm commodities, issues and other topics of importance to members. These committees are comprised of our county leaders, along with specialists in the respective fields of work from government, industry and the university system. These groups review our policy, consider suggestions and forward recommendations on to the State Resolutions Committee which is ably chaired by Mark Haney, our First Vice President. The State Resolutions Committee also handles the policy recommendations that come from county Farm Bureaus.

The district meetings will set the table for what's ahead. County Farm Bureaus will hold their annual meetings and vote on policy recommendations. The advisory committees will meet in the months ahead to provide some guidance for the State Resolutions Committee. And it all culminates during the lively business sessions at Kentucky Farm Bureau's annual meeting.

I've been involved with this system for over 30 years and feel it is a fair and reliable way to set policy. Finding answers to the problems depends on the commitment of volunteers and staff working through the issues. The more people involved in the process, the more ideas are brought to the table. That boosts the chances of reaching a positive consensus.

I urge our county leaders to participate in this process.



Marshall Coyle

PRESIDENT

KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

ON THE COVER:

SAILBOATS ON KENTUCKY LAKE.
PHOTO BY ROGER NESBITT

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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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Lawmakers address "vet" committee

Three state legislators have urged a KFB committee to develop ideas for addressing a critical shortage of large animal veterinarians in Kentucky.

House Appropriations and Revenue Committee Chairman Harry Moberly Jr., House Agriculture Committee Chairman Tom McKee and Rep. Don Pasley (who is a member of both committees) attended the initial meeting of a special committee appointed by KFB President Marshall Coyle. They expressed concern about the problem and predicted the General Assembly would be receptive to solutions.

Pasley, a Clark County farmer, described the large animal vet shortage as "a crisis that can only get worse." He urged the committee to explore all options and focus on potential incentives.

Mobley, the veteran chairman of the powerful A&R Committee, commended the group for "taking a thorough,

exploratory look at this" and said state lawmakers would be eager to look at options. "My charge to you is that we're very interested in this issue," he said, referring to the state legislature.

The move by veterinarians away from large animal practice such as cattle and horses toward specializing in pet care has been a troubling trend on the state and national levels. The American Veterinary Medical Association reports a 25 percent decline since 1990 in the number of vets who focus on large animals, with less than 10 percent currently focusing on that type of practice.

Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association President Aaron Goodpaster told the KFB panel that 25 Kentucky counties currently do not have a large animal vet.

Additionally, the U.S. Department of Agriculture anticipates a chronic shortage in regulatory practitioners for farm animals in the years ahead, said State Veterinarian Dr. Robert Stout.

Kentucky does not have a veterinary college but participates in a program that provides a subsidy for Kentucky students to attend Auburn University's College of Veterinary Medicine. Under the program administered through Kentucky's Council of Postsecondary Education, selected Kentucky students pay only the in-state tuition rate at Auburn, which is \$20,400, and the state pays the remaining \$22,000 to cover the school's full tuition for non-residents of Alabama.

Dr. Timothy Boosinger, Dean of Auburn's vet school, participated in the Farm Bureau meeting via teleconference. He expressed interest in expanding the annual number of Kentucky enrollees

from 34 to 40.

The program also sends two Kentuckians to the vet school at Tuskegee University in Alabama.

Several members of the committee, which is comprised of livestock producers, commodity organization leaders and state veterinary officials, cited economics as the root of the problem. Small animal practices are more financially lucrative, more manageable and more enticing to young people, particularly women, they said.

"We've been talking about the educational issue," remarked Dr. Stout, "but the economic issue may be even more important. We have to look at the practitioner; they have to make a living."

According to Auburn's records, less than a third of the Kentuckians who graduated from its vet school in the past five years took a position in a large animal practice.

Mckee, a Harrison County farmer, said he felt the legislature should approve funds for expanding the number of students at Auburn plus look at providing incentives such as grant and low-interest loans to vets beginning a large animal practice.

Committee Chairman John Hendricks, a Clark County farmer who is Second Vice President of KFB, said the group needed to meet with some veterinarians to get ideas on financial incentives.

The committee also includes KFB Directors Danny Wilkinson of Adair County and Kelly Thurman of McLean County. Wilkinson is chairman of KFB's Swine Advisory Committee and Thurman chairs the Dairy Advisory Committee.

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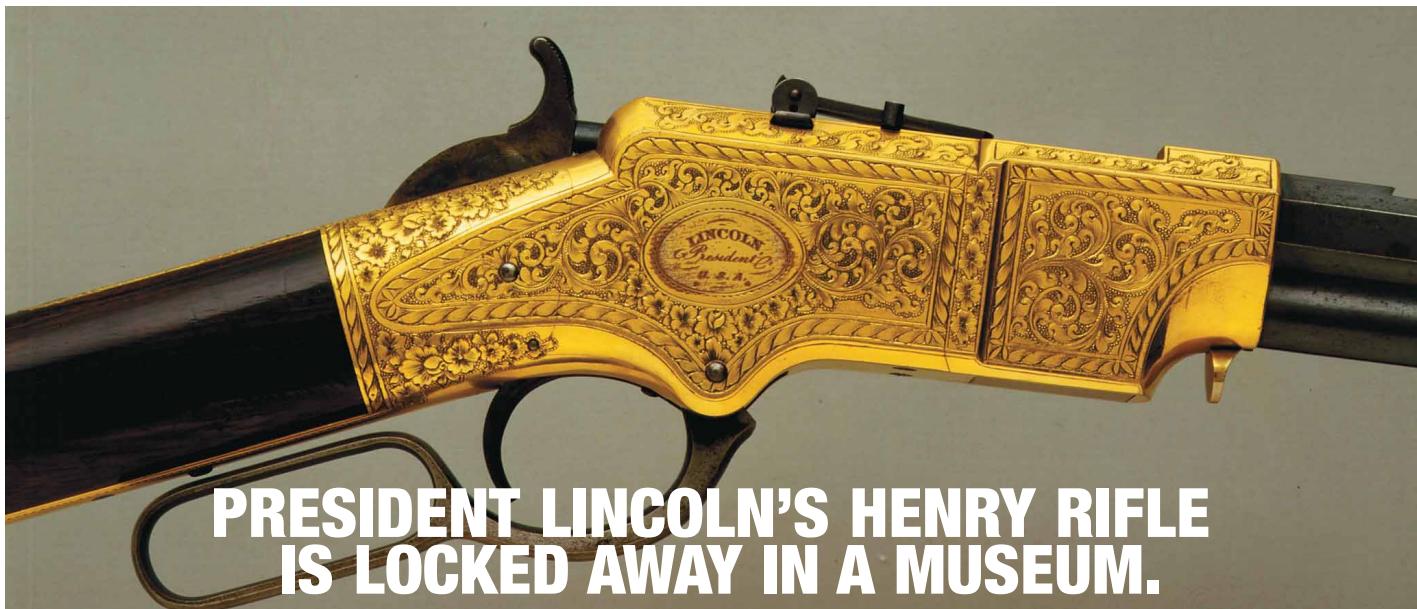
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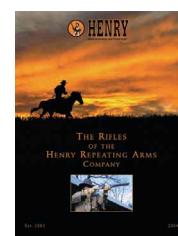
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KFB LEADERS PUSH FARM BILL PROPOSALS



SENATOR JIM BUNNING
ADDRESSED ENERGY
POLICY AND OTHER
FARM BILL ISSUES WITH
THE KFB LEADERS.



SENATOR MITCH MCCONNELL
CHATTED WITH KFB EXECUTIVE
VICE PRESIDENT DAVID S. BECK
AND PRESIDENT MARSHALL
COYLE DURING LAST MONTH'S
MEETING ON FARM BILL ISSUES.

PHOTOS BY JOE CAIN



FOURTH DISTRICT
CONGRESSMAN GEOFF
DAVIS GREETED THE
GROUP.

President Marshall Coyle led a small group of KFB representatives who traveled to Washington last month to discuss farm bill issues with Kentucky's Congressional delegation. The debate for the next version of the nation's farm policy is heating up in Congress; plans are to enact a law before the current one expires in September.

The KFB group wanted to outline the recommendations that emerged from a series of statewide meetings last year, plus stress the importance of farm

bill programs to the state's rural economy, Coyle said.

"I believe our trip was a success," said the Bath County farmer. "Based on the comments that were made, I feel that each lawmaker understands what's at stake and is committed to helping us reach our objectives."

The group met with six of Kentucky's eight members.

Congressmen Hal Rogers and Ben Chandler had committee meetings, so the KFB contingent met with the agricultural liaisons in those offices.

Senator Mitch McConnell complimented KFB for its diligence and persistence with the farm bill debate.

"Farm Bureau coming up and making their points early is extremely helpful to me," said the Senate minority leader. "I've found that Farm Bureau always understands the issues and makes their argument in a sensible way."

McConnell affirmed the widely-held belief that budgetary concerns will drive the process of crafting the bill.

While Coyle carried the lead in the discussion, KFB Director Eddie Melton of Webster County often was called on to explain the organization's position

on the commodity and conservation titles. Melton was chairman of the committee that spearheaded the process of developing recommendations from Kentucky agriculture.

The KFB contingent also included First Vice President Mark Haney, Second Vice President John Hendricks, Executive Vice President David S. Beck, Public Affairs Division Director Laura Knoth and National Affairs Director Joe Cain.

Among the issues on KFB's wish list are increased funding for conservation programs, a disaster assistance program, an expanded energy title, making horticulture eligible for the crop insurance program plus maintaining the basic framework of the current farm bill policy.

Cain said the Kentucky lawmakers have been responsive.

"I think we've accomplished our primary goal of letting them know we are actively engaged," Cain said. "The important aspect is that we are involved during the formulation process, rather than at the end. I think we've scored points with our delegation for having started work on this issue over a year ago."



FIRST DISTRICT CONGRESSMAN ED WHITFIELD LISTENED TO A POINT MADE BY KFB PRESIDENT MARSHALL COYLE AS HE VISITED WITH THE KFB GROUP.



KFB DIRECTOR EDDIE MELTON AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIVISION DIRECTOR LAURA KNOTH CHECKED SOME FARM STATISTICS WITH ASHLEY BROMAGEN, AN AIDE TO CONGRESSMAN JOHN YARMUTH.



FARMERS EMBRACE NEW TECHNOLOGY

BY LAURA SKILLMAN
UK COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

Technology has advanced at a rapid pace on the farm, from satellites guiding farmers through their fields to equipment allowing a tractor to steer itself.

"We're really at an exciting time with this technology," said Ben Koostra, an engineer associate with the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture. "What we've seen is in the past five or six years, the very early adopters started using this technology. But in just the last few years we've seen more and more people starting to use this stuff."

Farmers use global positioning satellites to pinpoint field locations for such activities as soil testing, field mapping and crop yield monitoring. This technology allows anyone with a GPS receiver to determine their location based on latitude and longitude as well as elevation. The GPS system can also be tied to a light bar with the ultimate goal to reduce overlaps and skips in fields. A light bar inside a tractor guides equipment through the field from pass to pass. If the driver gets off the path, the light bar shows the necessary adjustments.

Light bars have proven to pay for themselves, Koostra noted during the

recent UK wheat field day. The technology has improved, Koostra remarked, with systems today able to account for curves and slopes while earlier versions only allowed for straight line use. Few fields, especially in Kentucky, are perfectly straight, he noted. Auto steering is something that is also gaining popularity with farmers as the technology and quality of the equipment has improved, he said.

Auto steering basically takes the task of steering the tractor away from the farmer. Instead, GPS technology guides the tractor through the field. There are two main types of systems. One is a motor that attaches to the steering column and the other is an integrated hydraulic controller which taps into the hydraulics of the steering system. In both cases the computer automatically steers the tractor.

"We are seeing entry-level auto steer systems quite a bit with operations like spraying where you don't have to be ultra precise," he said. Technology systems have different accuracy levels and costs. Farmers need to do their research to determine the type of GPS system they will need to perform specific tasks. Low cost receivers on the market are accurate within three meters. As the price increases, so does the accuracy. The highest accuracy level can be

within an inch, but can cost tens of thousands of dollars. This technology uses real time kinematic receivers or base stations and uses radios to transmit information to field equipment, Koostra said.

Some companies and even farmers are developing base station networks within a geographic area with some people owning base stations and others paying a fee to use them. New technology is now also putting GPS systems onto the implement to ensure that it is tracking in the same path as the tractor. This technology will ensure accuracy on sloped fields where the implement may move at a slightly different angle than the tractor. This is important in central Kentucky because of the terrain, he said. Individual row or spray nozzle control is also being developed to account for turns in fields to eliminate overapplication or under-application or seed placement.

Farmers may view a planter with individual row controls at this year's UK field day on July 26 at the Research and Education Center in Princeton. Field day participants also will be able to see demonstrations of a tractor equipped with both types of auto steer technology.



NEW HERBICIDE AVAILABLE FOR ROUNDUP-READY CORN

Dow AgroSciences has received federal registration for SureStart™ herbicide, a new soil-applied foundation herbicide specifically designed for use in Roundup Ready® corn. Developed for the way growers prefer to control weeds in Roundup Ready corn, SureStart provides consistent, broad-spectrum control of early emerging grasses and both small- and large-seeded broadleaf weeds for up to six weeks.

"Because it can be applied from preplant up to 11-inch-tall corn, SureStart provides Roundup Ready corn a clean start from grasses and broadleaf weeds. University trials have shown these weeds compete for moisture, sunlight and nutrients, which reduce the yield and profit potential of corn," says Damon Palmer, product manager for Dow AgroSciences. "SureStart truly fits what growers need to complement glyphosate in a Roundup Ready system."

Three modes of action enable SureStart to deliver control of a broad spectrum of difficult-to-control grasses and broadleaf weeds, including lambsquarters, waterhemp, pigweed, common and giant ragweed, nightshade, velvetleaf, foxtails, crabgrass, barnyardgrass and many more.

In 2006 trials conducted throughout the Corn Belt, SureStart™ herbicide provided superior control of more weed species than commonly used foundation treatments in Roundup Ready corn. Bruce Maddy, product technology specialist for Dow AgroSciences, recommends applying 1.5 to 2 pts./A of SureStart as a pre-emergence application, though its flexibility allows applications any time from preplant up to 11-inch-tall corn.

"The use of SureStart is a critical first step in a two-pass program," Maddy says. "It allows growers to fol-

low with a single post glyphosate application at a labeled rate to later-emerging weeds that are smaller, more uniform and easier to control."

Maddy adds that SureStart helps growers manage the risk of yield loss associated with delayed glyphosate applications due to weather conditions or equipment problems. Data from 35 experiments in nine states over the course of two years found that a soil-applied herbicide followed by glyphosate yielded seven percent more than a post treatment of glyphosate alone.

For example, if a grower expects corn yields of 200 bu./A by protecting his crop with a soil-applied product like SureStart, he could lose 14 bu./A, on average, by attempting to control weeds with a single post-glyphosate spray. At today's \$3/bu. corn prices, growers can increase their gross revenue potential by more than \$40/A by using a soil-applied product like SureStart™ herbicide.

Maddy adds that with its three active ingredients, SureStart is the ideal tool growers can use to break the cycle of continual glyphosate use that has led to numerous weeds having been identified as either resistant or tolerant to glyphosate throughout the Corn Belt — weeds like maretail, waterhemp, lambsquarters, plus common and giant ragweed.

"The corn herbicide market is changing drastically with the rapid adoption of traits. After listening to growers and projecting future needs to maximize their production in Roundup Ready corn, we are excited to introduce SureStart herbicide," Palmer says. "SureStart will assist in the maximization of yield through broad-spectrum foundation weed control and help growers combat the increasing glyphosate resistance and tolerance problems that continue to plague growers' acres."

SPRAY CHANGE FOR "QUILT"

Syngenta announced that Quilt® fungicide can now be applied with a minimum of two gallons of water per acre (GPA) water volume for aerial applications and the reentry interval (REI) is now only 12 hours, giving growers and retailers a more convenient option for control of foliar diseases in corn, cereals, rice, wheat and grasses.

The new spray water volume, reduced from a minimum of 5 GPA, helps increase efficiency for aerial applicators. A lower spray water volume reduces the volume carried on the plane, increasing the number of acres covered while still providing the same level of broadspectrum disease control. In addition, the REI was reduced from 24 hours to 12 hours, allowing for greater application and crop production flexibility.

"The volume reduction provides applicators and growers a new, more efficient option for applying a fungicide," said Jamie Eichorn, Syngenta fungicide brand manager. "The use of fungicides in crops, such as corn, is expected to increase due to the potential disease incidence from more corn on corn rotations. Growers need to focus on protecting their investment from damaging foliar diseases, such as gray leaf spot, and fungicides such as Quilt will play a primary role."

With a new GPA and REI minimums added to existing benefits of broadspectrum disease control and the power of two proven brands, Quilt raises the bar on crop profitability. As demonstrated in onfarm Syngenta trials, Quilt produces a significant average bushel increase including an average of 15.5 bu/A in 2006 corn trials.

Quilt combines the preventive control of a strobilurin (Quadris®) with the curative properties of a triazole (Tilt®) to achieve exceptional control of yield-robbing diseases.

Value-able stuff



National conference focuses on value-added agribusiness

Numerous value-added agriculture ventures have popped up in Kentucky as a result of tobacco's decline and the tobacco settlement money targeted by the state legislature to offset the corresponding economic downturn. This development has attracted attention on the national level, as evidenced by the decision to hold the 9th annual National Value-Added Agriculture Conference in Lexington.

KFB was among the sponsors of last month's event which brought together dozens of economic development professionals, extension specialists, entrepreneurs and others to discuss value-added projects in community development, the bio-economy and tips for entrepreneurs. It was the first time Kentucky played host to the conference.

Tim Woods, a horticulture economist at UK who helped organize the conference, said the ag development initiative "was a major reason" behind

the decision to come to Kentucky.

The three-day conference was a showcase for value-added enterprises, community development and entrepreneurs. A broad agenda included success stories from several Kentucky agribusinesses that have emerged as a result of the state's agricultural development initiative. Many paid tribute to their support systems.

Lewis Shuckman, founder of the Louisville-based Kentucky Smoked Fish Company, credited the help of professionals for advancing his business to what he described as "the threshold of great things."

"You need to listen to people," Shuckman said to his fellow entrepreneurs during a panel discussion that also featured testimonials from three other successful entrepreneurs. "A lot of us wouldn't be where we are today without the advice and assistance from the university system and (government) agencies."



Nana's Nibblers



Peanut Butter Doggie Treats



Nana's Nibblers



Peanut Butter Doggie Treats

Shuckman noted that he has received financial assistance from Kentucky's Agricultural Development Board, marketing and promotional assistance from the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and technical assistance from extension.

A fellow panelist – Bill Webb of Sheltowee Farms Organic Mushrooms – also advised the group to utilize available resources. He said he has received financial assistance on both the state and federal levels, plus participates in KDA's "Kentucky Proud" program that promotes Kentucky farm products. Webb and Shuckman described how they developed regional markets for their products. They expressed much optimism about their growth potential.

Bob Perry, a food systems specialist at UK, explained how a group of south-central Kentucky cattle producers have enjoyed success with custom beef products sold under the "Green River

Cattle Company" label. The company's steaks and burgers were served at the Kentucky Derby this year.

GRCC, Perry noted, has received help from the Ag Development Fund, the Kentucky Proud program, the Kentucky Center for Agricultural and Rural Development, the Kentucky Cattlemen's Association and the UK College of Agriculture.

Perry said this is an exciting period for Kentucky agriculture because "we have great unity among farm groups that's really helping us to move forward."

The conference's breakout sessions offered a diverse menu of topics, including how to conduct a marketing feasibility study, linking farms with environmental projects, small-scale alternative fuels projects, community resources and a mentoring program for entrepreneurs.

Another session focused on success-

ful value-added enterprises in Montgomery County and featured two participants in KFB's Certified Roadside Farm Markets program: Townsend's Sorghum Mill and Farm Market; and Bramble Ridge Orchard. Both are also enrolled in the Kentucky Proud program.

The conference kicked off with a topic that's tops on everyone's list: Money. In particular, how and where to acquire working capital.

The presenters on financing issues were Joel Dahlgren, a Minneapolis attorney who specializes in the development and financing of ethanol and biodiesel plants; David Sparks of CoBank, a Denver-based financial institution for cooperatives; and Wayne Mattingly, the former Daviess County extension agent who's now with Independence Bank.

Sparks said a good business plan and good legal advice were essentials to

starting up any venture. When seeking financing, entrepreneurs must be mindful of "the five Cs" that lenders stress: character (integrity and organization), capital (a balance sheet), capacity (earnings), collateral and conditions.

Sparks and Mattingly agreed that lenders are most interested in the cash flow potential.

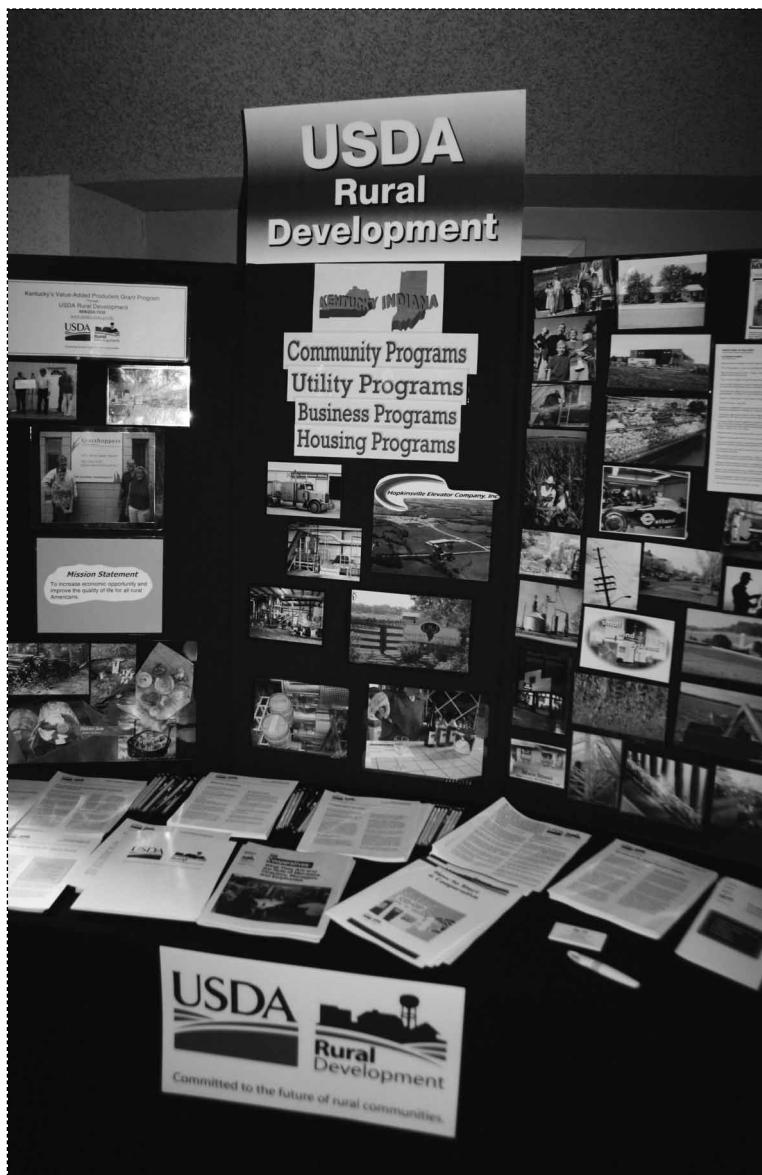
Another highly-informative session dealt with "MarketMaker," an interactive data base of food industry marketing and business information. Initiated by the University of Illinois four years ago as a service to meat animal producers, MarketMaker has been expanded for hundreds of products and over 100,000 businesses and 3,600 farms in five other states, with another five preparing to join the network. Kentucky is among the participants and received 71,000 hits in the first four months, according to program officials.



ABOVE: WAYNE MATTINGLY OF INDEPENDENCE BANK TALKED ABOUT FINANCING STRATEGIES. AT LEFT IS FELLOW PANELIST DAVID SPARKS OF CoBANK.

RIGHT: BILLY WEBB BROUGHT SOME MUSHROOMS FROM HIS SHELTOOEE FARMS.

FAR RIGHT: ONE OF THE EXHIBITS PROMOTED THE USDA'S RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.



ETHANOL CO-PRODUCTS STUDIED

As the ethanol industry expands, so does the supply of co-products, also called distillers grains and corn gluten feed. Knowing how and why these co-products are, or are not, utilized by livestock producers is important. Therefore, USDA, in cooperation with the Nebraska Corn Development, Utilization & Marketing Board, conducted a study to identify how many livestock operations were feeding co-products, which co-products were being fed and the characteristics.

Information was also collected about how the operations have used and would like to use co-products and related services. The study also identified concerns and barriers which prevented operations from feeding co-products. 9400 operations in a 12-state region (Ohio to Kansas to North Dakota) were surveyed. Of these, 1,276 indicated they had used co-products during 2006.

The survey found that the share of operations feeding co-products was: dairy cattle, 38 percent; cattle on feed, 36 percent; beef cattle, 13 percent; and hogs, 12 percent. The portion of operations that have considered using co-products was: dairy cattle, 22 percent; cattle on feed, 34 percent; beef cattle, 30 percent; and hogs, 35 percent.

The primary reason given by all types of operations for not feeding co-products was availability of supply.

All four types of operations used "spot" purchases as their primary contract means.

The adjoining chart shows the preferred forms of co-products. This USDA report is available at www.nass.usda.gov.

HOG BREEDING INVENTORY UP

The recent Quarterly Hogs and Pigs report confirms continued growth in the nation's hog herd. The June 1st breeding herd inventory, at 6.12 million head, was 0.9 percent greater than a year ago, and 0.6 percent larger than the March 1, 2007, inventory. The June 1st market hog inventory of 56.6 million head was 1.8 percent above the June 1, 2006, estimate. The total hog inventory of 62.75 million head is the largest herd size for June 1 since 1998.

CORN ACRES EXCEED EXPECTATIONS

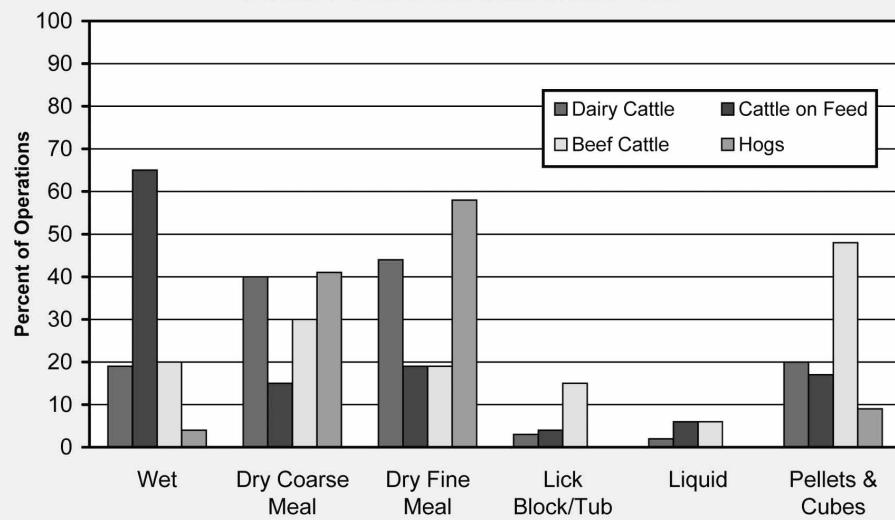
USDA's Acreage report showed that planting conditions and high prices kept the corn planters rolling longer than expected. U.S. farmers planted 92.9 million acres of corn in 2007, up 19 percent from 2006 and surpassing the March projection by three percent. The actual planted acreage is the highest since 1944. Nearly all states

increased their corn acreage, with state records in Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota and North Dakota. Kentucky's planted corn acreage of 1.42 million acres, the largest in 21 years, is 100,000 acres above March intentions, and 300,000 acres more than was planted in 2006.

U.S. producers expect to harvest 85.4 million corn acres for grain, up 21 percent from 2006 to the highest level since 1933.

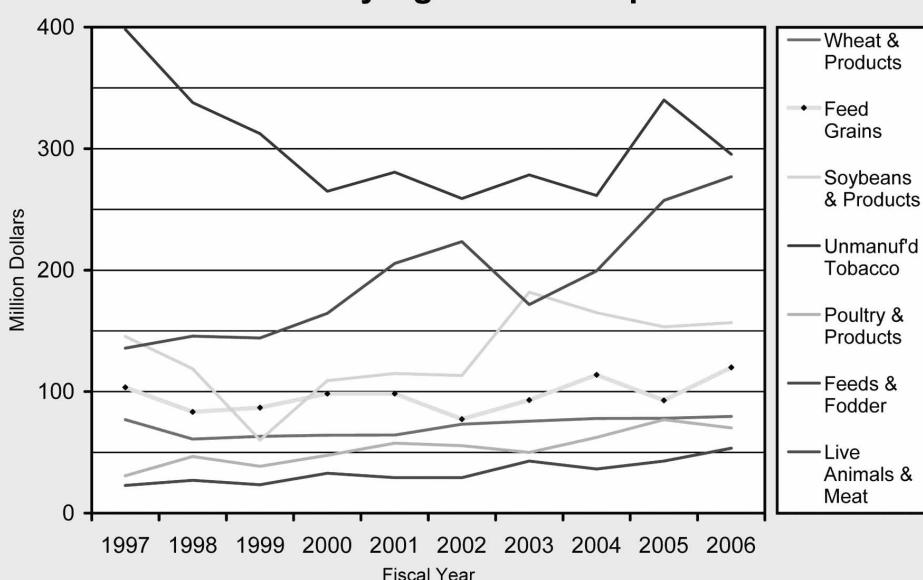
Preferred Forms of Ethanol Co-Products

Distillers Grains and Corn Gluten Feed



Source: "Ethanol Co-Products Used for Livestock Feed", USDA, June 2007

Kentucky Agricultural Exports



HOG HAVEN

WAYNE COUNTY COMPANY FINDS PROFIT WITH PORK PROCESSING



FROM KCARD

Editor's Note: KFB is among the KCARD cooperators. KFB First Vice President Mark Haney serves on the KCARD board.

Foothills Country Meats (Foothills) began in the late 1990's when Curtis Harris and other hog farmers in the Wayne County area decided to look at the opportunity to market home-grown pork.

Yet to realize a high profit for their finished hogs, they would have to add value to the meat. The answer was simple; provide customers with a high quality product in the cuts they want.

The concept has evolved into a thriving retail and wholesale meat processing business with unlimited potential in Monticello. The first Foothills processing facility was an old USDA meat processing plant in McCreary County, purchased by several of the producers. Though the focus of the business was the wholesale market, this first building had a small retail store.

In early 2000, the bottom fell out of the hog market and many of the farmers got out of raising hogs. The owners of Foothills had enjoyed success with the processing facility, so they gave up on the hogs but not the processing.

As the business continued to grow it became apparent that the small facility in Pine Knot was inadequate to meet the demands of customers. The wholesale market, which was the cornerstone of the business, was expanding and needed space to grow. So in 2004, a new location was found along Highway 90 in Monticello and construction began on the new facility.

"We knew what USDA expected, so we designed the building ourselves," explained Ryan Gregory, a partner and the manager of Foothills. "The layout is the way we wanted it; we have large cooler and freezer space, and we are just very satisfied with our plant."

Though the reason for building the new plant was to allow room for the wholesale market to grow, it has been the retail market that has grown exponential-



CURTIS HARRIS, MIKE FROST AND RYAN GREGORY IN THE PROCESSING ROOM AT FOOTHILLS COUNTRY MEATS.

ly in the new location.

"The growth in the retail market has been the most exciting thing about the plant here," said Harris. "It has grown and continues to grow, and I believe a key factor in that growth is our convenient location."

Harris had known about the business analysis services provided by the Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development (KCARD), because he worked with the organization on another investment project.

When KCARD restructured in 2005 to allow the staff to work with private agribusinesses along with cooperatives, Foothills turned to KCARD for business assistance.

"The first thing we did with Foothills is a Business Management and Operations Analysis program," explained Brent Lackey, a Business Development Specialist with KCARD. "We came down and spent a week interviewing individuals and reviewing records."

Gregory stands behind KCARD's work and said that Foothills has benefited extensively from KCARD's analysis.

Providing a high quality safe product to their customer, either wholesale or retail, is the foundation that Foothills has been built upon. Having a USDA inspector on site every day and selecting the highest quality meat for their customers is just a couple of ways that Foothills sets itself apart from everyday markets.

In fact this commitment to quality is the why customers will drive from 70

miles away to purchase product. From hogs and cattle to goats and sheep, Foothills will work with a customer to provide the cuts they want.

The growth Foothills has seen in their retail market has given them the opportunity to look additional services they can provide to their customer.

"We now have a smokehouse, and we are going to be able to do summer sausage, jerky, snack sticks, and more," explained Gregory.

Another customer service that is growing at Foothills is custom slaughter. In fact, Foothills is now promoting their whole hog package.

Foothills will price the hog by the pound hanging on the rail. Once purchased, the meat is cut, packaged, and vacuum sealed the way the customer wants it.



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- ◆ Date to be set - Farm Machinery auction, Madisonville, KY

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FARM FILE

POULTRY FEDERATION RECEIVES GRANT

The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board approved the Kentucky Poultry Federation for \$825,716 for a two component project including Statewide Educational Programming and a Poultry House Evaluation Project.

The educational needs of producers vary by location and integrator; therefore, the educational component has been designed around each of the integrators. The three mechanisms that make up the educational components of the proposal are Statewide Educational Programming, the formation of six Integrator Educational Advisory Committees, and the development and dissemination of 800 poultry management manuals.

To date, Kentucky has invested more than \$244 million to an array of county, regional and state projects designed to increase net farm income and create sustainable new farm-based business enterprises.

CHEAP LOANS AVAILABLE FOR FREEZE VICTIMS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture designated 118 counties in Kentucky as primary natural disaster areas due to freezing temperatures over the Easter weekend. The remaining two counties – Leslie and McCreary – were named contiguous disaster areas. The designation means farmers can apply for low-interest emergency loans to help them pay their essential farm and living expenses.

The arrival of unseasonably warm weather in March accelerated the growth of many crops. This event, combined with frigid temperatures over Easter weekend, devastated many of Kentucky's agriculture products, including apples, pears, peaches, grapes, wheat and alfalfa.

Kentucky farmers interested in applying for the assistance should contact their local Farm Service Agency office for further information.

IDEA EXCHANGE, COUNTY PROGRAMS TO BE RECOGNIZED

KFB members and County Farm Bureaus are encouraged to submit their innovative ideas for the Farmer Idea Exchange and the County Activities of Excellence contests. KFB will recognize the state's best entries during its annual meeting on December 6. These ideas and programs will compete nationally for the opportunity to be presented at the AFBF Convention next January in New Orleans.

The Farmer Idea Exchange Program encourages Farm Bureau members to share their innovative ideas so other farmers may cut costs, become more efficient, protect or improve the environment and increase their net income. Ideas may be entered in the following categories: Ag Equipment, Workshop, Buildings, Cropping Systems, Marketing-Management, Livestock-Equine, Conservation-Improved Efficiencies, and Safety-Health-

Accessibility. Nationally, up to 15 ideas may be selected for display as posters. The one entrant judged to be "Best of Show" at the AFBF Convention will receive one year's use of a New Holland TV-145 Bidirectional Tractor. Kentucky has had national exhibitors the past five years, including the top prize winner in 2003.

The County Activities of Excellence (CAE) program's purpose is to recognize and share successful county Farm Bureau programs and activities. Fifteen county Farm Bureaus from across the nation will be invited to display their program January 13-14 in New Orleans. A county Farm Bureau may enter one of these five CAE Program categories: Education and Ag Promotion, Leadership Development, Member Services, Policy Implementation, and Public Relations and Information.

BARREN COUNTY STUDENT WINS GARST SCHOLARSHIP

Loyd Britt of Glasgow, was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from Garst Seed Company through the National FFA Organization. Britt, a member of the Barren County High School FFA, will use the scholarship to study agronomy and crop science at Western Kentucky University.

Britt is one of 26 FFA students from around the country to receive a \$1,000 scholarship from Garst. The Slater, Iowa-based seed company committed \$75,000 to the FFA Collegiate Scholarship Program in 2005 as part of its 75th anniversary celebration. Garst pledged to award 75 \$1,000 scholarships over a three-year period.

COUNTY ANNUAL MEETINGS

BOURBON COUNTY

Date: October 18, 2007 • 6:30 p.m.
Place: American Legion Park

OHIO COUNTY

Date: August 9, 2007 • 6:30 p.m.
Place: Extension Office

BOONE COUNTY

Date: September 18, 2007 • 6:00 p.m.
Place: Extension Office

PERRY COUNTY

Date: August 14, 2007 • 6:00 p.m.
Place: Fire Station No. 2, Hazard

BOYD COUNTY

Date: October 22, 2007 • 6:30 p.m.
Place: Extension Office

ROCKCASTLE COUNTY

Date: September 21, 2007 • 6:00 p.m.
Place: Roundstone Elementary School

CALLOWAY COUNTY

Date: September 4, 2007 • 7:30 p.m.
Place: Farm Bureau Building

SHELBY COUNTY

Date: October 6, 2007 • 7:00 p.m.
Place: Stratton Community Center

DAVIESS COUNTY

Date: August 11, 2007 • 6:00 p.m.
Place: Apollo High School

TRIMBLE COUNTY

Date: August 21, 2007 • 7:00 p.m.
Place: Farm Bureau office

FLEMING COUNTY

Date: August 10, 2007 • 6:00 p.m.
Place: Industrial Park

UNION COUNTY

Date: July 26, 2007 • 6:00 p.m.
Place: Farm Bureau office

LEWIS COUNTY

Date: August 5, 2007 • 12:30 p.m.
Place: Ruggles Campground

WARREN COUNTY

Date: August 18, 2007 • 6:00 p.m.
Place: Warren Central High School

MADISON COUNTY

Date: July 16, 2007 • 6:30 p.m.
Place: Fairgrounds

UK field day in Princeton is July 26

BY LAURA SKILLMAN
UK COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

Every two years, the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture showcases the latest research and extension work conducted on its farm in western Kentucky as well as throughout the college. This year's event is July 26 at the Research and Education Center in Princeton.

The event also offers an array of educational and fun activities for youth and families. Approximately 2,000 people are expected to attend. Activities begin at 8 a.m. with a brief welcome ceremony. From 8:30 a.m. until 3 p.m., guests may participate in tours and view demonstrations and exhibits.

"We are excited to showcase the agricultural research that is being conducted by the University of Kentucky," said Don Hershman, UK plant pathologist and field day chairman. "Current trends in Kentucky agriculture will give producers added insight into new technology that is likely to go mainstream in the near future. This type of information will give those in attendance a competitive advantage."

This year's field day will feature 11 production-related tours focusing on beef cattle, tobacco, forages, pest management in grain crops, corn and soybean production, fertility management in grain crops, weed management in forages and pastures, and a precision agriculture equipment demonstration. Other tours include orchard/vineyard, ornamentals and vegetable crops. One tour will provide visitors with an overview of activities underway at the research center. All tours last approximately one hour and fifteen minutes and continuously run throughout the day.

More than 40 exhibitors from the College of Agriculture, agricultural associations and organizations will be inside an exhibits tent located near the large main tent area. All tours will begin from the main tent area.

With youth and family and consumer sciences activities also at field day, the program strives to have a bit of something for everyone.

"We are attempting to make this field day one that the entire family will want to attend," Hershman said.

There will be three family and con-

sumer sciences events held at specific times throughout the day and will be listed in the program visitors will receive upon arrival at the field day. In addition, there will be about 20 family and consumer sciences exhibits and displays. These activities will be in the air-conditioned main building with buses providing transportation from the main tent to the facility.

"This year's family and consumer sciences exhibits will have something for everyone such as how to have healthier homes, how to save money by using compact fluorescent bulbs and how to become a Master Clothing Volunteer," said Nancy Hunt, Crittenden County extension agent for family and consumer sciences and field day committee member. "Participants will get to taste some new recipes and attend presentations on Kentucky Foods and Making Our Homes More Secure. We are pleased to have exhibits coming from the UK School of Human Environmental Sciences, Kentucky Women in Agriculture and Master Foods Programs."

Youth activities will include every-

thing from farm safety to a vegetable derby to a mini-petting zoo. Kentucky Agriculture and Environment in the Classroom will set up its Mobile Science Activity Center. In all, more than 20 booths and activities are specifically aimed at young people attending this year's event.

"We are going to have activities of interest for youngsters up to teens," said Wanda Paris, Lyon County extension 4-H youth development agent and youth activities coordinator. "There will be hands-on activities, some educational things to do and some things just for fun."

Various commodity groups will provide lunch and participants may earn certified crop adviser continuing education credits.

The UK Research and Education Center is on Kentucky 91 South, 1.5 miles southeast of the Caldwell County Courthouse in Princeton. For more information, contact a county office of the UK Cooperative Extension Service or visit the UKREC Web site, <http://www.uky.edu/ag/rec>.



KFB'S SUSIE TANNER (LEFT) PRESENTED THE NEW KENTUCKY FFA OFFICERS WITH A GIFT DURING THEIR LUNCHEON AT THE ORGANIZATION'S ANNUAL MEETING IN LOUISVILLE. FOLLOWING MS. TANNER ARE PRESIDENT KIRBY O'DONOGHUE OF BRECKINRIDGE COUNTY, SECRETARY CELESTE LAURENT OF CALDWELL COUNTY, SENTINEL AMANDA MEADOWS OF FLEMING COUNTY, VP JOSH KERR OF RUSSELL COUNTY, REPORTER CHELSEA MCFARLAND OF BOURBON COUNTY, VP DANIEL HOWARD OF LAWRENCE COUNTY, VP CAMERON LEE OF NORTH LAUREL, VP NATOSHA MULHOLLAND OF OHIO COUNTY, VP CANDACE ORM OF SPENCER COUNTY, VP TYLER BURYSEK OF WARREN CENTRAL AND TREASURER AARON HARNED OF REIDLAND.

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