



VOL. 3 NO. 10

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# KENTUCKY

F A R M B U R E A U N E W S



# COMMITTEE WANTS TOBACCO CHECKOFF VOTE

A committee involving Farm Bureau leaders from nine tobacco states will ask USDA to conduct a referendum on a checkoff to support an export promotion program.

Co-chaired by KFB President Marshall Coyle and North Carolina FB President Larry Wooten, the 17-member group decided to seek a vote on a growers' checkoff not to exceed 20 cents per hundredweight. The funds would support a new organization to promote exports of all types of domestic tobacco.

Farm Bureaus from Kentucky and North Carolina – which produce the large majority of burley and flue-cured tobacco -- have policy supporting the pursuit of new marketing opportunities

for tobacco. Joining the two production leaders on the committee are Farm Bureau officials from Tennessee, Georgia, South Carolina, Virginia, Indiana, Maryland and Missouri.

The group reached a consensus on several key aspects of a checkoff program, including: (1) Approval would be required of two-thirds of producers; (2) A refund provision would be available; (3) The program would cover all types of tobacco; (4) Assessment would be collected at the first point of sale; (5) Future referendums would be held upon petition from at least 10 percent of producers.

The committee is in the process of drafting a referendum request to USDA, which would conduct the vote.

Besides Coyle, KFB is represented on the committee by First Vice

President Mark Haney, Second Vice President John Hendricks and Director David Chappell, who chairs KFB's Tobacco Advisory Committee.

The committee also has representatives from the Burley Tobacco Growers Cooperative Association, the Council for Burley Tobacco, Flue Cured Stabilization and the Eastern Dark-Fired Tobacco Growers Association.

With domestic use shrinking, about half of burley and flue-cured production is going to export markets. Flue cured growers currently pay a 20-cent-per-hundredweight checkoff to support an export promotion program administered by Tobacco Associates, a Raleigh-based company. Meanwhile, the Burley Co-op promotes sales of its stocks on a limited basis.

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# “COMMENT”

Farm Bureau's tradition of public policy success stems from the good judgment, straight-thinking and moral integrity of our farm families. These are people who not only are dedicated to agricultural excellence, but to service to the industry as a whole. Their aim is two open-ended goals -- to improve net farm income and to enhance the quality of rural life.

That commitment is evidenced during our resolutions process which currently is gearing up in preparation for the annual meeting. I have the privilege to serve as chairman of the State Resolutions Committee, a dedicated group that works hard to facilitate the process. But it all begins at the local level, with county Farm Bureaus discussing issues and potential solutions. KFB and AFBF are behind the scenes, ready to provide information to help members in their deliberations.

Over the long haul, this approach has provided us with sound, accurate policies. Sometimes our policy originates from a casual conversation over a cup of coffee at the local diner. On other occasions an idea emerges from a spirited discussion at a county meeting. Whatever the instance, it's truly from the grassroots.

Next month the State Resolutions Committee will review dozens of recommendations from both county Farm Bureaus and the various advisory committees. It's a lengthy, deliberate process but an experience the committee members embrace because they recognize that policy is the foundation of our organization.

Policies express Farm Bureau's fundamental ideas on community, county, state, national or international issues. Once adopted, these policies become the plan for the year's work. They are the statements of what a majority of members have voted, after prolonged study and discussion. And then it is the responsibility of our public affairs professionals to work toward reaching the policy objectives -- not only by pursuing legislation, but also by tracking the implementation.

I look forward to working with the resolutions committee to ensure a relevant policy agenda at our annual meeting.



**Mark Haney**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

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

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# ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

***K**FB's Advisory Committees have been meeting in recent weeks to gain information, review issues and make recommendations to the State Resolutions Committee, which meets November 5-7. Following are summaries:*

## NATURAL RESOURCES

Rick Krause, senior director of congressional relations for AFBF, gave an update via conference call on climate change legislation and carbon sequestration. Steve Coleman, director of the Kentucky Division of Conservation, gave a report on several programs, including the soil and water quality cost-share program. He also discussed the revolving loan fund for infrastructure projects and ongoing efforts to repair dams.

Dan Figert of the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources gave reports on deer, turkey, elk and bear populations in the state and spoke about a quail recovery plan.

Deena Wheby gave an update on activities at the Natural Resources and Conservation Service, focusing on a restructuring of offices and landowners' programs.

Dr. Wilbur Frye, Executive Director of the Office for Consumer and Environmental Protection, reported on the progress of the state fuel and pesticide testing lab plus the farm and home safety program. He also briefed the committee on possible changes to the State Grain Insurance Fund.

Faye Brown of the Farm Service Agency spoke about the Conservation Reserve Program and training programs to prepare staff for administering programs in the farm bill.

Turning to policy issues, the committee recommended the following resolutions for consideration: Opposing the State Division of Water setting TMDLs (total maximum daily loads for the amount of pollutants a waterbody can receive) without up-to-date sampling of available data. Requesting that state government include agricultural representation in the process of developing TMDLs. Supporting the quail restoration program. Monitoring food

safety initiatives to ensure that they will build trust and reliability in Kentucky's agriculture industry.

On national issues, the committee called for language repealing the horse slaughter prevention act, for opposition to the use of EQIP money for the purchase of USDA operations' computers and support for adequate funding for the conservation technical assistant portion of NRCS.

KFB Director Larry Thomas of Hardin County is chairman of the Natural Resources Advisory Committee.

## POULTRY

This committee, chaired by KFB Director Randall Heath of Graves County, met at the Christian County Extension Office. State Veterinarian Dr. Robert Stout discussed his agency's role with the poultry industry and its work in developing an emergency animal management plan. His colleague, Dr. Sue Billings, gave a review of various disease testing programs. It was noted that poultry production within urban areas could present disease control problems. Ms. Billings noted that any laws addressing that situation would have to be initiated at the local level.

KFB Commodities Director Jeff Harper discussed ongoing energy efficiency research and the Country of Origin Labeling law. Darwin Newton of the USDA/ARS research center at Western Kentucky University discussed research on utilizing animal waste as a nutrient and energy source. He also spoke about the center's research on methods to reduce ammonia content in poultry litter.

The committee recommended a resolution, on both the state and national levels, supporting increased weight limits for trucks hauling agricultural products.

## FEED GRAINS, WHEAT AND SOYBEANS

This group met at UK's Research Station in Princeton. Committee member and KFB Director Steve Bolinger of Christian County gave an update on the state's grain insurance program. He said the grain insurance board, of which he is

a member, is considering recommending an increase in the fund coverage from \$100,000 to \$250,000 per farmer.

KFB National Affairs Director L. Joe Cain discussed the farm bill's provision for row crop producers and the ramifications for Kentucky agriculture. He and committee chairman Eddie Melton, a KFB Director from Webster County, spoke about carbon credit trading and the Kentucky Corn Growers Association program. KCGA, said Cain, is pursuing a trading program for forestry.

UK grain crops specialist Dr. Jim Herbek gave an overview of some of the research projects at the Princeton center, including studies involving canola varieties, no-till wheat and soybean seeding rates. His colleague, Dr. Lloyd Murdock, then spoke on crop input costs and the importance of soil fertility. He also touched on fertilizer application rates, use of poultry litter and the effects of erosion on crop yields.

There was a lengthy discussion about basis and the effect of cash grain prices. The committee decided to invite a speaker to address this issue at the feed grains conference at the annual meeting.

The committee forwarded a resolution supporting the increased coverage under the grain insurance program.

## POLITICAL EDUCATION

Chairman Tripp Furches, a KFB Director from Calloway County, introduced Roger Thomas, the executive director of the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy. Thomas presented an overview of GOAP programs and went on to speak about the importance of political awareness and education. He also noted that the legislation enacted to create GOAP and Kentucky's agricultural development initiative has been recognized nationally for its significance. (KFB, of course, strongly supported that measure, which had Thomas, who was chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, as its key sponsor.)

Drew Graham of the UK College of Agriculture invited the members to attend a meeting at UK of the legislature's Joint Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources. The meeting is part of UK's "Ag Roundup" Week for

alumni and friends, added Graham, who is also a former state legislator.

Les Fugate, deputy assistant secretary of state, spoke about voter education programs.

Turning to policy, the committee recommends language endorsing staggered terms for members of city governing bodies (policy already endorses that provision for county government).

### FORAGES

This meeting was held in Hopkinsville in conjunction with the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council's summer grazing and hay production field day. The meeting began with a briefing from KFB Commodities Director Jeff Harper. He commented on the Drought Mitigation Advisory Council's work. The committee then discussed disaster insurance available through the Supplemental Resource Assistance Program.

Tom Keene, a UK forage specialist, reported on various industry events plus a grant the university received to study biomass energy production and the use of switchgrass as a fuel source.

Kim Fields then gave a report on the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's forage testing program. She noted that KDA now has a website available to link buyers and sellers.

In policy, the committee recommended a statement urging KDA to expand the personnel in its hay testing program.

KFB Director Terry Rowlett of Henry County is chairman of the Forages Committee.

### COTTON

This group, chaired by Fulton County FB President Glenn Howell, met at the Fulton County FB office. KFB National Affairs Director L. Joe Cain opened the meeting with an overview of the new farm bill. A conference call was then placed to AFBF Congressional Relations Director Tara Smith and Public Policy Director Paul Schlegel. Ms. Smith spoke about farm bill issues, focusing on the Average Crop Revenue Election program. Schlegel addressed the proposed Clean Water Restoration Act.

Cain followed with a discussion on the Country of Origin Labeling program which was about to take effect.

KFB Public Affairs Director Laura Knoth explained the pending application for a referendum among cotton

producers to support a boll weevil eradication program.

This committee had no policy recommendations.

### SAFETY AND RURAL HEALTH

KFB Executive Vice President David S. Beck gave the first report, providing an overview of the organization's safety program activities. He said KFB places special emphasis on promoting safety measures through the use of various media, including publications, radio and video sources. The Communications Division regularly issues news releases on safety issues, Beck noted.

The committee then discussed planned activities in recognition of National Farm and Home Safety Week. KFB Broadcast Director Mike Feldhaus spoke about a partnership with the Kentucky State Police on the production of public service announcements on various safety and law enforcement issues. He played two of the PSAs for the committee's review.

Dale Dobson spoke to the group about the Kentucky Department of

Agriculture's farm safety program. UK farm safety specialist Dr. Mark Purschwitz gave a briefing on tractor rollover protection and the need to provide resource guides to farm families.

Ken Blum of Kentucky Life Line Screening spoke about providing skin care screenings to KFB members. Also, Dr. Terry Bunn spoke about the Kentucky Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) program.

In policy, the committee approved language supporting KDA's agricultural safety program and calling for an expansion in funding and services. Another recommendation calls for enforcement of laws requiring complete roadside cleanup and removal of debris from accident scenes. Under "Health," the group recommends language supporting "more timely disclosure by drug companies of testing results unfavorable to their products."

Under "Food Quality" the committee wants to add language noting support of irradiation of food products "to extend shelf life."

KFB Director Frieda Heath of Graves County is chairperson of this committee.

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# KFB ANNUAL MEETING TO INCLUDE CONFERENCE ON HEALTH CARE ISSUES

**A** KFB task force charged with developing policy recommendations for health care reforms has decided to hold a conference at the organization's annual meeting in December.

The task force made that decision during a meeting last month in which health care industry officials outlined a wide range of problems facing the industry in Kentucky. Representatives from the Kentucky Hospital Association, Kentucky Medical Association and the Center for Excellence in Rural Health cited numerous issues contributing to the high cost of health insurance and lack of competition in the market.

After obtaining a wealth of information and insights from the industry officials, the task force asked KFB Executive Vice President David S. Beck to include a health care conference among those held on the second day of

the annual meeting (which will be Thursday, December 4). Plans are to have presentations from industry officials (perhaps those who addressed the task force), plus a question-and-answer session.

"This conference can serve as a report to our membership," explained Task Force Chairman and KFB Second Vice President John Hendricks, a Clark County farmer. "It's important that our members understand the complexity of this issue .. that there's no simple solution. It will be valuable for them to hear from these experts."

KFB President Marshall Coyle said at the end of last month's four-hour meeting that "this has really opened my eyes to the challenges we face. Like everyone else, I knew we had problems with rates and accessibility. But I didn't realize the problems were so complex. This obviously is not something we can rush into with simple resolutions."

The group met with Sarah S. Nicholson, Vice President of Government Relations for the Kentucky Hospital Association; Marshall E. White III, Director of Public and Government Relations for the Kentucky Medical Association; Patrick Padgett, Executive Vice President of KMA; Dr. Whitney F. Jones, a Professor of Medicine at the University of Louisville; and Dr. Baretta Casey, Director of the Center for Excellence in Rural Health.

Dr. Casey perhaps offered the most profound assessment by commenting: "I don't think the problem is the health care . . . it's the health care system."

The KHA and KMA officials lamented a number of issues, but emphasized three critical problems: (1) Exorbitant costs for malpractice insurance; (2) A serious shortage of medical professionals, particularly in rural areas, and (3) The high number of Kentuckians (an estimated 500,000) without health insurance.

Ms. Nicholson and White cited tort reform as a key issue for driving down costs and enticing more doctors to practice in Kentucky. White noted that all of the surrounding states have enacted some form of tort reform that reduced the cost of liability insurance. He said he knew a Kentucky obstetri-

cian who relocated to Indiana because liability insurance was costing \$80,000 a year.

White also noted that Kentucky is 2,300 physicians below the national standard.

Ms. Nicholson said KHA is "very concerned" about the lack of nurses and pharmacists.

Every official who addressed the task force mentioned a serious shortage of specialists in rural areas – a situation that forces some to travel great lengths for services as basic as childbirth.

White brought up another key issue: Administrative costs for the two leading health insurance carriers in Kentucky are above the national average.

Hendricks asked the KMA officials to cite what they feel should be the top priorities for reform. In order, their reply was tort reform, stabilizing the market and expanding the utilization of wellness programs. Ms. Nicholson's recommendation was medical liability reform plus "anything to increase health insurance coverages."

Dr. Casey said another deficiency is a fragmented system of medical specialists that leads to higher costs and often to duplicative and unnecessary services.

"We have placed medicine in silos; have forced patients to visit different silos to obtain care," she explained. "We need a team approach; groups working together to treat individual patients. Medical teams would save costs for all entities in the long run and raise the quality of life for patients."

Dr. Casey also called for more primary and community care centers in rural areas. "We need more safety net providers," she said.

The task force is in the process of obtaining more information about health care costs in the state. KFB's public affairs staff is assisting with the research.

Beck, who is an ex-officio member of the task force, underscored the importance of the mission.

"American Farm Bureau and other states know we are working on this; they are interested in what we are doing," he said during opening remarks.

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# CPC Field Day has beefy bargains

As field days go, it's hard to beat the bargains available at the "Fall Field Day" conducted by CPC Commodities LLC.

Hundreds of farmers from south-central Kentucky and nearby north-central Tennessee turned out for the annual event at the company's farm supply center and cattle operation near Fountain Run in Allen County. Besides a complimentary cookout lunch with steak and some tasty side dishes, visitors had access to door prizes, giveaways from exhibitors and sizeable discounts on the company's wide variety of farm supply and animal care products.

CPC Commodities specializes in animal feed and livestock care products but also handles many basic farm supplies.

Also featured was a series of workshops on various aspects of production for beef, dairy, equine and goat producers.

KFB was among the exhibitors, operating its member services display adjacent to the workshop area inside CPC's massive warehouse. Former KFB Director Al Pedigo, who serves on the board of Allen County FB and is well known among the state's cattle and burley tobacco industries, handled the grilling of hundreds of ribeye steaks.

Allen County is in the heart of Kentucky's beef cattle belt. Neighboring Barren and Warren counties rank first and second, respectively, in beef cow numbers and Monroe County, whose border is near the CPC Center, joins Allen County in the top 10. CPC, in fact, has the largest herd in the state.



TOP: FIELD DAY VISITORS TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE BARGAIN PRICES FOR FARM SUPPLIES.

MIDDLE: THE COOKOUT PACKED 'EM IN FOR A RIBEYE SANDWICH.

BOTTOM: FORMER KFB DIRECTOR AL PEDIGO HANDLED THE COOKING CHORES. HE CURRENTLY SERVES ON THE BOARD OF ALLEN COUNTY FB.

LEFT: KFB STAFF MEMBERS DWIGHT GREENWELL AND JOE ROGAN MANNED THE MEMBER SERVICES DISPLAY. ROGAN IS THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR FOR AREA FOUR.



FARM PRODUCTION NEWS

# CRUSHING BLOW...

## HIGH WINDS DAMAGE CROPS

**A**t a time when more than 90 percent of Kentucky's corn crop was in the dent stage, remnants of Hurricane Ike roared through parts of the state and put another dent into some crops.

The September 14 wind storm damaged corn, soybeans and tobacco in the Purchase Region and along the Ohio River corridor from west Kentucky to east of the metro Cincinnati area. Reports from the Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service indicated damage to a moderate amount of corn and small volumes of soybeans and



HIGH WINDS DAMAGED THIS STORAGE SHED ON AN OLDHAM COUNTY FARM.

tobacco.

Fortunately, much of the corn was far enough along to be salvaged as good silage, providing that the farmer

moved quickly to chop it before it dried completely. That's exactly what Bullitt County farmers Jim Robards and George Henderman did.

"I've been chopping it out every day," Henderman said seven days after the damage. Henderman, who is Vice President of Bullitt County FB, said he had a 20-acre field with downed stalks.

Bullitt County FB President Jim Robards had corn damaged in both Hardin and Bullitt Counties. "It (the wind) made streaks through some fields," he said, adding that he not only chopped the crop but also turned some cattle loose on the ground "to clean it all up."

The dent stage is the best stage for salvaging stalks that are broken or crushed. According to KASS about 93 percent of the state's corn crop was at that level when the storm hit. When stalks are broken or crushed they dry rapidly, making it imperative to chop as soon as possible.

KASS Director Leland Brown said many producers were taking that step but others were going to harvest damaged fields because "they want to get the crop up because of the (high) price."

Dry weather is a bigger problem for Kentucky agriculture than wind damage. On September 22, 92 percent of the state's topsoil was rated "very short" or "short" of moisture while 90 percent of the subsoil was in that classification. Governor Steve Beshear had requested drought declarations for many counties.

Gary McGruder, another Bullitt County farmer, said he hadn't seen a decent rain in five weeks. "It's not looking good for crops in my area," he said.

Farmers were continuing to report that soybean yields, both full season and double crop, would be reduced because of dry conditions. Harvest is behind schedule for corn and soybeans.

Additionally, more than half of pastures were reported in poor condition.



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FARM PRODUCTION NEWS

# ALLOWAY COUNTY FAMILY GROWS TOBACCO “BOTHWAYS”

BY BILL HOLLERAN  
KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Tobacco production has fallen sharply since the “buyout” program was put in place, but the crop remains a mainstay in the fabric of Kentucky’s agriculture. Many farm families like the Mitchell Paschall family in Calloway County have diversified, but continued to have tobacco as a principal enterprise.

Mitchell, wife Jana and their son Kody are proof that fulltime careers in production agriculture are still possible with hard work and determination. Mitchell and his brother, Mark, who is president of Calloway County FB, were raised on a row crop and tobacco farm in the west Kentucky county.

“I remember going with granddaddy when I was a kid to the tobacco barns,” Mitchell recalls. “He would always feel the leaves first thing when he went into the barn. Fire curing tobacco is really more art than science, and it’s hard to tell someone how to do it. It’s just something you grow up knowing about. We use sawmill slabs and sawdust to set the fires and you really have to know what you’re doing. You can cure it too slow or too fast. If we cut tobacco on Monday we would normally fire it on Friday. The first two fires dries it out, and the last two puts the finish or

shine on it.”

Paschall says they have found it better to cut the dark and leave it on the ground to wilt and then come back, spear it and take it out of the field before it sunburns.

“Science still hasn’t come up with a magic formula for fire-curing dark tobacco,” he explained.

There’s a big demand for dark tobacco this year with contract prices at around \$2.50 per pound compared to around \$1.75 for burley tobacco. Paschall has nearly 200,000 pounds of dark contracted

adding that they are raising about 3 ½ acres of burley for seed.

Migrant workers collect the pollen and then it is screened and dried out. Once dried, the pollen is brushed on to each of the flowers on the plant. When the plant is pollinated and the seed pod forms, the pods are removed and the seed is collected.

The Paschalls also raise 20 acres of seedless mini-watermelons for Farm-Whey Produce Company, 350 acres of soybeans and 80 acres of field corn. And they have a commercial tree nurs-



MITCHELL PASCHALL HAS FIELDS OF DARK (LEFT) AND BURLEY TOBACCO.

with Conwood and 25,000 pounds of burley with Philip Morris.

The increased demand prompted Paschall to build new curing barns. The family also produces seed for Workman Tobacco Seed of Murray.

“Tobacco seed production is very labor intensive, often requiring nearly 1,000 hours of labor per acre,” said Jana,

ery and a greenhouse with bedding plants and tobacco transplants.

Paschall said the horticulture enterprise has been competitive with tobacco revenue.

Says Jana: “Our only down-time is January, and that’s when we attend nursery trade shows to market our trees and shrubs.”

# DIVERSITY ON *display* IN CLARK COUNTY

Three uniquely different and successful farming operations within a few miles of each other along Todds Road in eastern Clark County were showcased at the annual “Agriculture Day” conducted by Clark County FB. The young, the old and several in between were among some 35 farmers who participated in the event which culminated with a cookout dinner.

The tour began at Brookfield Farm, a large-scale tobacco and vegetable operation guided by brothers Jeff and Benny Webb. In a lot behind the venerable Pine Grove Store where the Webbs sell their produce, Clark County FB President John Hendricks welcomed the group to the tour, explaining that opportunities for diversity was the focus.

Jeff Webb said tobacco had long been the mainstay but “we’re just trying to see if we can be successful with produce.” The brothers are raising a whopping 130 acres of burley tobacco, but have added sweet corn, green beans, watermelons, cantaloupe, tomatoes and yellow squash to the economic mix. They sell some at a location in Lexington and much at the Pine Grove site at the junction of busy Todd and Combs Ferry Roads. He said that on average 3,200 cars pass by each day.

The enterprise is blessed, said Jeff, with “darn good dirt and plenty of water.”

Second stop up Todds Road was Payton’s Greenhouse Farm, where Butch and Janet Payton have done well on just 12 acres with tons of mums plus bedding plants, pumpkins, peppers, Christmas trees, vegetable plants and flowers. Butch is a retired postal worker who waded into the enterprise in a big way once he found the time for it. He said businesses has been good “because of word of mouth.”

A big boost came from a feature article in The Lexington Herald-Leader.

This is the first time in 39 years that a tobacco crop wasn’t raised on their farm. This spring they sold 20,000 flowers and 6,000 tomato plants. They have 2,500 mums and 6,000 pansies, as well as an acre of pumpkins and gourds.

“This is proof,” said Hendricks, “that you can do well with small acreage.”

Third stop was Brookfield Farm, a large commercial beef cattle operation on a 2,000-acre farm that formerly was one of the top purebred Hereford operations in the nation. Manager Ben Roberts spoke about the breeding and marketing program for an Angus-Hereford mix. More than 500 head were bred in May. Around 400 calves are sold each year, he explained.

The tour also featured presentations, with UK ag economist Kenny

Burdine addressing winter feeding options and a beef cattle market outlook; and Jim Akers of Bluegrass Stockyards speaking about the requirements for stockyards and cattle producers under the new Country of Origin Labeling law (which took effect September 30.)

Assisting with the event from Clark County were the Cattlemen’s Association, FFA, Soil Conservation Service and Extension Office.



THE GROUP SAW MOUNDS OF MUMS AT PAYTON'S GREENHOUSE FARM.



ABOVE: KFB SECOND VICE PRESIDENT JOHN HENDRICKS WELCOMED THE GROUP ON THE TOUR. HENDRICKS IS PRESIDENT OF CLARK COUNTY FB. INSET: BEN ROBERTS EXPLAINED THE BENEFITS OF THE CATTLE CHUTE AT BROOKFIELD FARM.



FFA STUDENT NICOLE JOHNSON STEERED THROUGH THE ATV SAFETY COURSE AT THE BULLITT COUNTY EVENT.



WENDY McCUTCHEON SHOWED SOME YOUNGSTERS HOW TO CARE FOR A HORSE, AND HOW TO BE CAREFUL AROUND THEM.



FARM IMPLEMENTS, A FIRE TRUCK AND AN EVAC HELICOPTER WERE AMONG THE DISPLAYS IN BULLITT COUNTY.

# SAFETY IN THE SPOTLIGHT

**N**ational Farm Safety and Health Week was recognized last month by a variety of local events conducted by county Farm Bureaus and other ag groups. One example came in Bullitt County, where Bullitt County FB joined with the extension service to conduct a farm and home safety field day at the extension office near Shepherdsville.

The event combined presentations from safety specialists with some interesting outdoor demonstrations and displays. The props included an evac helicopter, a fire truck, farm implements, a pleasure pony, ATVs and the State Police's mobile substance abuse information center.

Inside, visitors could choose topics such as food preservation, poisonous plants, water safety, gun safety, bicycle safety, car seat safety and radon safety.

A special treat was a cookout lunch.

According to the National Safety Council, during the past year there were 715 deaths and 80,000 disabling injuries attributed to agriculture. The Farm Bureau Safety and Health Network and the National Safety Council sponsor safety week every spring and fall in order to reach farm families at two key times of the year -- planting and harvest.

Since children especially are at risk for farm-related injuries, many Farm Bureaus are focusing on talking directly to school students about farm safety.

In Bullitt County, FFA students participated in the ATV safety program conducted by Dale Dobson of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture. Following a 30-minute presentation, the students drove through an obstacle course.

Bullitt County FB President Jim Robards and VP George Henderman were among those working the event along with county extension agent Darold Akridge and his staff.

# MARKETS

COMPILED BY

ED McQUEEN,

DIRECTOR OF MARKET INFORMATION

## TRENDS IN THE BROILER MARKET

The U.S. broiler industry is experiencing several trends as outlined in USDA's Livestock, Dairy & Poultry Outlook. In response to high feed costs and declining profitability, the number of chicks being placed for growout has dropped about three percent from year-ago levels. And the recent number of broiler-type eggs being placed in incubators portends a continuation of this pattern (September 1 inventory down five percent from a year ago).

Third-quarter broiler meat production is running about two percent ahead of 2007. The trend has been for a substantial increase (16 percent) in the harvest of very heavy broilers, those weighing more than 7.75 pounds, live weight.

USDA reports that the increased number of very large broilers has put more breast meat on the market, leading to price declines. In August, wholesale prices for boneless/skinless breast meat in the Northeast market fell to \$1.29 per pound, down 21 cents from May 2008 and down over 30 cents from a year earlier. At \$1.30 per pound in August, boneless/skinless thigh meat was priced higher than breast meat, possibly for the first time ever, according to USDA.

Broiler exports for 2008 are estimated at a record 6.67 billion pounds, up 13 percent from 2007. But 2009 exports are expected to drop to 6.28 billion pounds.

## BEEF CONFERENCE OCTOBER 28

The Kentucky Beef Conference on October 28 at the Fayette County Extension Office aims to teach producers how to plan today for tomorrow's markets. The program will cover cattle market trends, feed cost management and livestock price risk protection insurance. Randy Blach from Cattle-FAX will speak on marketing strategies for 2009.

Contact your local extension agent to pre-register by October 22. Registration is \$10 and includes lunch. KFB is a co-sponsor of the event.

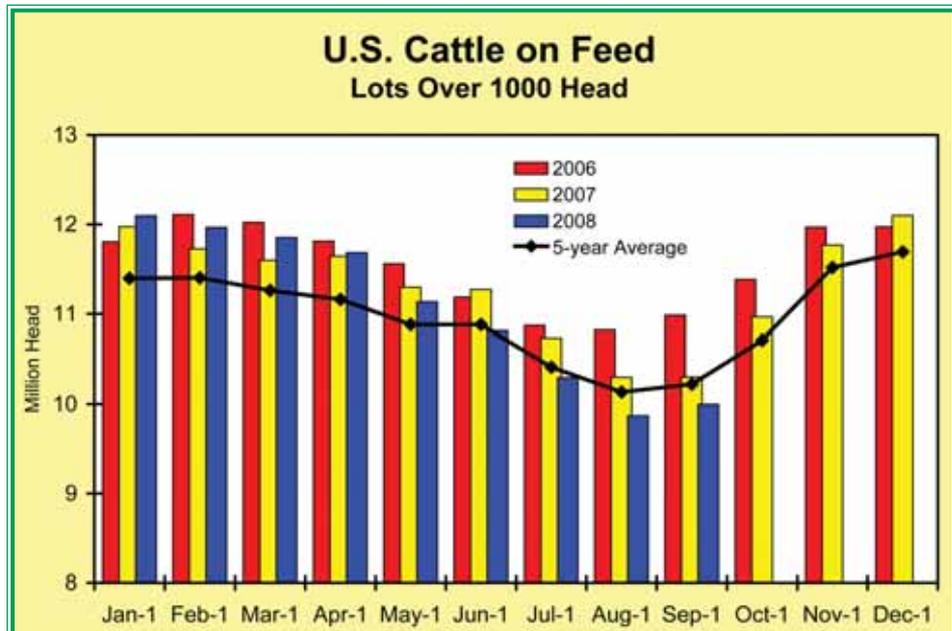
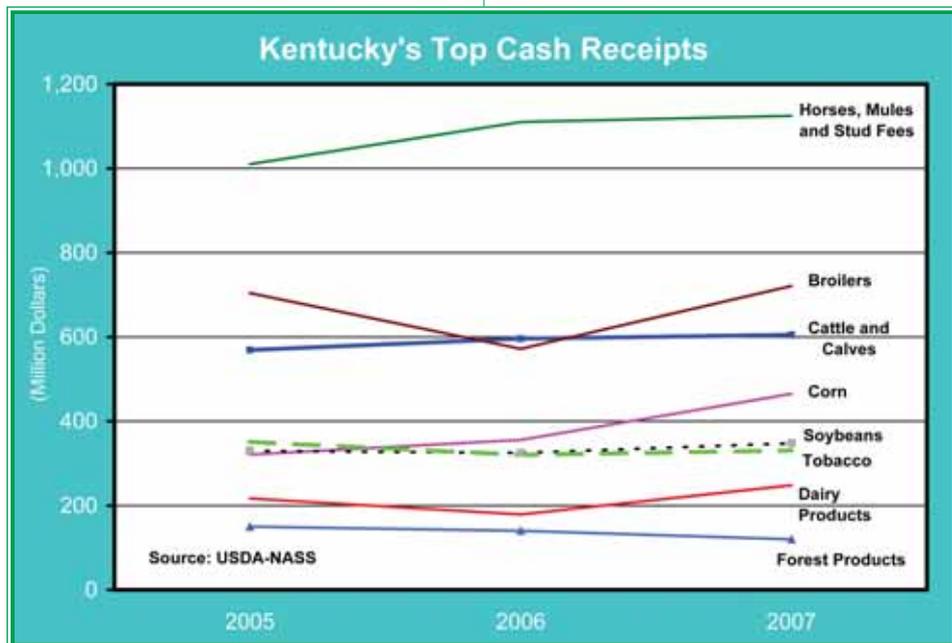
## STATE AG RECEIPTS UP 10 PERCENT

2007 cash receipts on the sale of farm commodities in Kentucky totaled \$4.43 billion, up 10 percent from the 2006 value of \$4.03 billion, according to the Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service.

Livestock and livestock product sales generated \$2.96 billion, up 11 percent from the 2006 level, while crop cash receipts totaled \$1.47 billion, up nine percent. The leading source was the sale of horses and stud fees, totalling \$1.13 billion, up \$15 million

from a year earlier. Sales of all poultry (broilers, eggs and other poultry) totaled \$874.6 million, up 29 percent from 2006. Broiler receipts made up \$721.3 million of the poultry total. Cattle and calves were third with \$605 million, up two percent from 2006. Corn (the largest crop) was fourth with \$465.3 million, up 31 percent.

Livestock and livestock products made up 67 percent of the total cash receipts for 2007. Of this, horse sales and stud fees made up 38 percent, all poultry was 30 percent and cattle and calves 20 percent.



# C O U N T Y A N N U A L M E E T I N G S

**ANDERSON COUNTY**  
Date: October 13, 2008 • 5:30 p.m.  
Place: Alton Ruritan Club

**BRACKEN COUNTY**  
Date: October 14, 2008 • 7:30 p.m.  
Place: Watson Community Building

**BOURBON COUNTY**  
Date: October 16, 2008 • 6:30 p.m.  
Place: American Legion Park

**BOYD COUNTY**  
Date: October 20, 2008 • 6:30 p.m.  
Place: Extension Office

**CARROLL COUNTY**  
Date: October 13, 2008 • 7:00 p.m.  
Place: Farm Bureau Office

**GREENUP COUNTY**  
Date: November 3, 2008 • 6:00 p.m.  
Place: Farm Bureau Building

**JEFFERSON COUNTY**  
Date: November 13, 2008 • 7:30 p.m.  
Place: County Office

**LAWRENCE COUNTY**  
Date: October 21, 2008 • 6:00 p.m.  
Place: Front Porch Restaurant

**MARION COUNTY**  
Date: October 13, 2008 • 7:00 p.m.  
Place: Lebanon Masonic Hall

**METCALFE COUNTY**  
Date: October 16, 2008 • 6:00 p.m.  
Place: Extension Office

**NELSON COUNTY**  
Date: October 14, 2008 • 7:00 p.m.  
Place: Civic Center

## OYFF FINALISTS ARE NAMED

Three finalists have been selected for this year's Outstanding Young Farm Family competition. The annual contest is open to farmers age 35 and under.

The finalists are Jeremy and Joanna Hinton, Hodgenville; Bart and Sarah Jones, Scottsville; and Shane and Stephanie Wiseman, Winchester. The winner and two runners-up will be announced at the annual meeting in December.

The Hintons operate Hinton's Orchard and Farm Market near Hodgenville. They grow apples, peaches, pumpkins and a variety of vegetables and raise Holstein calves for an area dairy.

Bart and Sarah Jones' farming operation consists of 120 purebred sows, 200 Red Angus and Simmental cows and 120 acres of burley tobacco on Red Hill Farms in Allen County.

The Wiseman family owns, manages and rents over 3,000 acres of land in Clark County and produces beef cattle, hay, corn, soybeans, wheat and tobacco.

In addition to an expense paid trip to the national competition, the winners will receive a Kubota RTV, sponsored by KFB Insurance and Kubota; \$1,000 from Premier Crop Insurance; a \$600 voucher from Southern States and a portable handgun safe from Misty Morn Safe Company.

Second-place finisher will receive 300 hours use of a Kubota tractor, \$750 from Premier Crop Insurance and a \$300 voucher from Southern States.

The third-place family will be awarded 100 hours use of a New Holland tractor, \$500 from Premier Crop Insurance and a \$200 voucher from Southern States.

The national winner will receive a 2009 Dodge Ram 3500, as well as paid registration to the 2009 Young Farmers and Rangers Leadership Conference.

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# FARM FILE

## producers finish training

More than 1,000 Kentucky food producers have completed training for best practices for growing, transporting and handling produce to minimize the risk of food contamination. Also, more than 710 farmers' market vendors also have completed training for a state protocol to offer samples at farmers' markets, according to the 2008 Annual Farmers' Market Report from the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

"Kentucky producers are dedicated to providing clean, wholesome food," Agriculture Commissioner Richie Farmer said. "This tremendous level of participation in these food safety training programs should ensure farmers' market customers that they can serve Kentucky Proud foods to their families with confidence."

The Good Agricultural Practices program was launched last year by the agriculture department, the state Department for Public Health and the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture. The sampling protocol was developed through a partnership of the KDA and the DPH.

The farmers' market report said vendors recorded estimated sales of \$8 million in 2007 in spite of a late freeze and severe drought. The number of markets in Kentucky has increased from 96 in 2004 to 120 in 2008, the report said, but the number of vendors declined from 2,015 in 2007 to 1,951 this year.

The report said few Kentucky farmers' markets are set up to accept credit/debit and EBT (food stamp) cards. The Kentucky Farmers' Market Association has been awarded a \$63,010 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to determine the economic feasibility of using EBT and credit/debit technology at rural farmers' markets and the economic impact of the sampling protocol.

The KDA's Farmers' Market Program provides technical assistance for Kentucky farmers' markets and offers Kentucky Proud promotional items at cost.

## KFB contracts with "markets" consultant

Kara Keeton, a Lexington-based communications consultant specializing in agriculture, has been contracted to provide oversight for KFB's Certified Roadside Market Program.

Keeton, a Burkesville native, will assist the 80 farm-based markets with statewide promotion and marketing activities. She will also assist Farm Bureau's commodity staff in identifying and researching new and emerging ag enterprises across the state.

Keeton served as communications

and public relations director for the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy and marketing coordinator of Alltech before establishing her own consulting firm in 2006. She will concentrate on developing and expanding the roadside market program to meet the growing demand for locally produced food and farm products.

Keeton holds a BS in agricultural communications and an MS in agricultural economics from the University of Kentucky.

## Women in Ag meeting begins October 29

Kentucky First Lady Jane Beshear will be the keynote speaker for the ninth Kentucky Women in Agriculture Conference October 29-31 in Lexington. The conference includes workshops, roundtable discussions and the popular Taste of Kentucky Proud Reception on October 30, where participants can sample homegrown foods and value-added Kentucky products.

Pre-registration is required to attend the conference and any of three pre-con-

ference workshops on October 29. The Unbridled Bluegrass Tour will visit Keeneland, research and agritourism farms, and shops in downtown Midway. There is also a retirement and estate planning seminar and a Homebased Microprocessor Workshop covering food safety, sanitation and home canning.

For registration forms and more information, visit [www.kywomeninag.com/page10.php](http://www.kywomeninag.com/page10.php).

## Livestock Disease Center moves forward

State and local government officials, including Governor Steve Beshear, joined representatives from the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture and state legislature to break ground on a \$28.5 million expansion and renovation of UK's Livestock Disease Diagnostic Center. The project was a legislative priority for KFB in the past two sessions of the General Assembly. KFB also is pushing for much-needed upgrades to Murray State University's Breathitt Diagnostic Center in Hopkinsville.

The UK Center is a full-service animal health diagnostic facility. Its faculty and staff handle one of the largest case loads in the nation, seeing 60,000 clinical cases and performing 5,000 necropsies (animal autopsies) on average every year. The laboratory also protects public health

by diagnosing many zoonotic diseases that can potentially affect the public sector.

"Enhancement of these facilities is absolutely essential if the college is to be able to fulfill its state-mandated missions for safeguarding animal health," said Scott Smith, dean of the UK College of Agriculture. "Our faculty and staff are to be applauded for managing one of the nation's heaviest veterinarian diagnostic workloads in crowded and outdated quarters. But now they will have the capacity to make a major step forward."

Improvements to the facility include the addition of wings for necropsy laboratories and administration, freeing up much of the existing building to increase overall laboratory space. These expansions will nearly double the size of the existing 38,000-square-foot facility.



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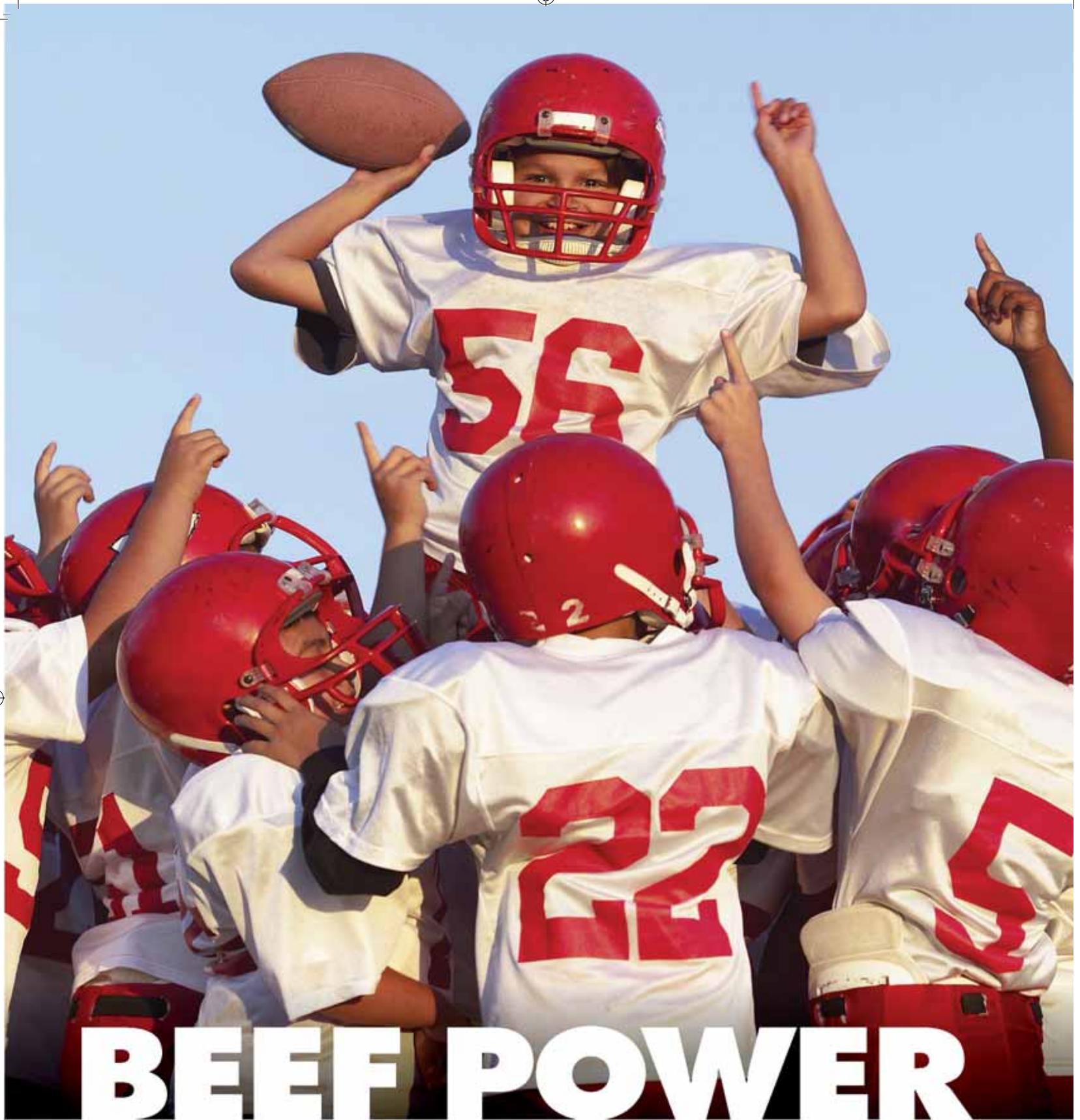
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