

VOL. 9, NO. 2



FEBRUARY 2009

KENTUCKY

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



2009 State Priority Issues

HEALTH CARE

- Support changes in Kentucky's health insurance laws that will stabilize the market, encourage competition, and increase consumer choice.
- Associations should be able to provide adequate health insurance. We oppose any action that would impede that ability.

AGRICULTURE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- Maintain allocating 50% of the Master Settlement Agreement funds to the Agricultural Development Board.
- Support Ag Development Funds being spent for improving net farm income of farmers in production agriculture.
- Restore funding for the Murray State University Breathitt Veterinary Center.
- Protect the farmer-financed Grain Insurance Program.
- Support continued funding of the Soil Erosion & Water Quality Cost-Share Program.
- Restore funding for agriculture through the General Fund rather than using Tobacco Settlement Funds to fund all existing agriculture initiatives and programs.
- Support the debt service for state projects being taken from the General Fund rather than from the Agricultural Development Fund.
- Protect the farmer-financed Grain Insurance Program.
- Recommend sufficient funding to maintain a strong grain elevator inspection program.

TAXATION

- Support the current provisions of House Bill 44 (KRS 132.010). Revenue from property taxes should continue to be limited to 4% plus new growth. Proposals to exceed 4% should automatically go to the voters.
- Oppose reinstatement of an estate tax.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

- Support effective wildlife management that will reduce the wildlife population in an effort to alleviate continued crop and livestock losses, automobile accidents, human injuries, and loss of life.

TRANSPORTATION

- Support the rural secondary and county road aid programs and continuation of the 22.2% allocation of the state gasoline tax revenue for rural roads.

PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS

- Protect the rights of Kentucky's landowners when dealing with regional planning issues, eminent domain laws, or smart growth initiatives.
- Support increased enforcement and penalties for trespassing with ATVs.

ENVIRONMENTAL & NATURAL RESOURCES

- Limit local government's ability to implement agricultural regulations that are more stringent than state regulations.
- Support increased emphasis on forest and timber industry issues.

ANIMAL CARE

- Oppose legislation that would give animal rights organizations or any public agency the right to establish standards for the raising, handling, feeding, housing or transportation of livestock, poultry, aquaculture and fur-bearing animals.

ENERGY

- Encourage the expanded use of renewable fuels and recommend tax incentives to increase production and utilization.
- Support implementation of the state energy policy that promotes renewable fuels and protects our current low cost electricity rates.



“COMMENT”

Farmers across the nation are revving up for what President Obama has said will be a major component of his presidency -- a renewed focus on renewable energy. Farmers should expect to ramp up our efforts to provide clean, green energy to fuel the country.

Farmers have long been proponents and suppliers of renewable fuels. It is Farm Bureau's belief that America must transition to a nation fueled by clean, renewable, domestic energy to achieve long-term economic growth, create a cleaner environment and shield our economy from unreliable foreign energy sources.

With the same goal in mind, President Obama has said he will strive to create five million "green-collar jobs" during his administration, which means growing jobs at home. U.S. ethanol production already accounts for 250,000 home-grown jobs, and that number is growing. But it doesn't stop there.

Cellulosic ethanol is the next worthy target. Until efficiency improves, incentives may be necessary to encourage production and handling of the cellulosic crops that drive this promising sector. Current reports indicate that grain-based ethanol continues to own a comparative economic advantage over second-generation, cellulosic biofuels. America's enterprising farmers will do what they can to move this notion to commercial reality.

So how do we do it?

Farm Bureau supported passage of the Renewable Fuels Standard. That measure transitions our domestic fuel supply to non-petroleum based biofuels. It also provides a federal commitment to conservation and energy efficiency, as well as the targeted, responsible domestic production of a broad array of energy resources. Although passed, some provisions in the bill still need to be implemented.

Meanwhile, Farm Bureau will continue to advocate for more access to our domestic oil and natural gas supplies. Access to offshore drilling would open up areas as close as three miles off the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts and part of the Gulf of Mexico. The more than 20-year congressional ban on offshore drilling was not extended in the last Congress, which means we are one step closer to furthering oil exploration in our own country.

Many naysayers argue that fuel prices have fallen, so why bother? Granted, energy prices are down now, but we don't know how the economy will shake out. Further, our country was built on long-term vision and wherewithal, and it is certain that long-term energy demand will require production from all sources, including renewable fuels.

Focusing on clean-and-green, renewable energy not only provides jobs, but also a greater degree of energy independence. All forms of renewable energy represent a long-term investment in the American way of life.

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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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Bob Stallman

PRESIDENT
AFBF

ON THE COVER:

A RURAL SCENE IN SHELBY COUNTY.
PHOTO BY ROGER NESBITT

KFB gets national recognition



ABOVE, CURT AND CARRIE DIVINE WERE AMONG THE RUNNERS-UP IN THE EXCELLENCE IN AGRICULTURE PROGRAM. PRESENTING THE AWARD WERE (SECOND FROM RIGHT) ROGER PHELPS OF STIHL CORP. AND OUTGOING YF&R CHAIRMAN TOWNSEND KYSER.

CLARK COUNTY'S MIKE BROOKSHIRE WON AN AWARD FOR DEVELOPING A UNIQUE HITCH.

ABOVE: KFB PRESIDENT MARK HANEY AND HIS COUNTERPARTS KICKED OFF THE FIRST GENERAL SESSION WITH THE "PARADE OF STATES."

KFB President Mark Haney was elected to the AFBF Board of Directors during the organization's 90th annual meeting last month. In addition, KFB was cited for program excellence in four categories and Director Terry Gilbert of Boyle County was re-elected to a two-year term as chairperson of AFBF's Women's Leadership Committee. This will be the fifth term for Mrs. Gilbert, who formerly chaired KFB's Women's Committee.

More than 360 Kentuckians – including 25 voting delegates – were among some 5,100 who attended the annual meeting of the nation's largest farm organization.

Among other Kentucky highlights:

- Mike Brookshire of Clark County won the "most innovative" award in the "Farmer Idea Exchange" competition. Brookshire developed a new type of hitch for towing farm machinery.

- Curt and Carrie Divine of Union County were among three runners-up in the "Excellence in Agriculture" program for young farmers.

- Union County Farm Bureau was

among 15 county Farm Bureaus recognized for innovative programs. Union County's "bushels for books" program is a fund-raising campaign through which gifts of grain from local farmers are used to purchase agriculture books for the county's schools and public libraries.

• KFB received "awards of excellence" for its work in agricultural education and promotion, leadership development, member services and public relations and information.

- Holly Davis of Taylor County reached the semifinal round of the Discussion Meet, a competitive program in which young farmers discuss agriculture issues.

- Bart and Sarah Jones of Allen County were among the finalists in the Young Farmer "Achievement Award" competition.

Haney, who operates an orchard and raises beef cattle in Pulaski County, was elected KFB president in December. He said he was honored to have the opportunity to serve on the AFBF board and was

especially pleased to see KFB receive the awards for outstanding work.

KFB also was among the state leaders in membership growth for 2008.

"This continuing national recognition is a clear indication we're on the right track," Haney said. "There's no question we are widely regarded as one of the top states in terms of the scope and effectiveness of our program of work. It's a tribute to our staff and our volunteer leaders."

KFB staff was busy serving samples of Kentucky country ham at its exhibit in the popular trade show. In the nearby section for "idea exchange" participants, Kentucky was represented by Brookshire, Jim and Nancy Harmon of Marion County, Bill Payne of Lincoln County, Victor McElfresh of Bracken County, Eddie Warren of Madison County and Martin Thomas of Union County, which also had its "bushels for books" display in the section for county projects.

Delegates focus on the economy

As the new Congress and the Obama administration address the economic recession and climate change concerns, they must enact policies on taxes and the environment that promote economic growth, said delegates at the 90th AFBF annual meeting.

"Where Congress and the administration must propose and enact new laws and regulations to deal with our nation's challenges, Farm Bureau will work to ensure those new measures do not threaten farmers' and ranchers' profitability," said AFBF President Bob Stallman, "but, rather, capitalize on opportunities to maintain a strong agricultural economy and bolster rural America."

As Congress is expected this year to revisit the issue of climate change,

the delegates have reaffirmed their opposition to caps on greenhouse gas emissions that would drive up the cost of fuel, fertilizer and other inputs needed to produce farm commodities.

Continuing to support America's transition to energy independence through the production of biofuels, the delegates felt, was the right direction. They approved a policy supporting an increase in the ethanol-to-gasoline blend rate to more than the current 10 percent.

AFBF delegates also approved policies aimed at bolstering the rural economy. For example, the Obama-backed economic stimulus proposal should fund improvements to the nation's infrastructure, including expanding broadband Internet access in rural areas and funding the Water Resources

Development Act, which authorized construction of new locks and dams on the inland waterways.

The delegates indicated that federal lawmakers also should complete an unfinished immigration bill left over from 2008. They expressed support for immigration reform that provides a more efficient temporary worker program for agriculture. They voted to support improved training for employers to help them understand and better use the current H-2A seasonal agricultural worker program, and better information delivery for new users of the program.

Permanent repeal of the estate tax, which impedes farm families' ability to keep farms in the family, was another issue on which the delegates indicated renewed support.

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Women urged to expand roles



THE 2009 AFBF WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY KENTUCKY'S TERRY GILBERT (RIGHT).

During her address at the AFBF annual meeting, AFBF's Women's Leadership Committee Chairperson Terry Gilbert of Kentucky called on colleagues to explore non-traditional leadership roles.

"Farm Bureau needs strong women leaders. We are committed to helping equip you to be successful in recognizing and stepping up to non-traditional leadership roles," Mrs. Gilbert said.

Running for an office or chair position and telling agriculture's story in a new way, or from a new perspective, are two avenues she encouraged attendees to explore.

"There are also many other creative ways for each one of you to lead in a non-traditional role at your Farm Bureau – the sky's the limit," Mrs. Gilbert said.

In addition to stepping up to fill non-traditional roles, she encouraged members to become more involved in the legislative arena by lobbying elected officials at all levels of government on issues that are important to farmers and ranchers.

"Although agriculture faces many challenges today, our industry is respected and farm women continue to be seen as credible sources of information about the way food, fuel and fiber is produced," she said.

In 2008, program activities for the committee included raising funds for 10

scholarships for teachers to attend the National Ag in the Classroom conference through the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture's White-Reinhardt Fund for Education. The committee also awarded 29 grants to county and state Farm Bureaus to create or expand agricultural education programs.

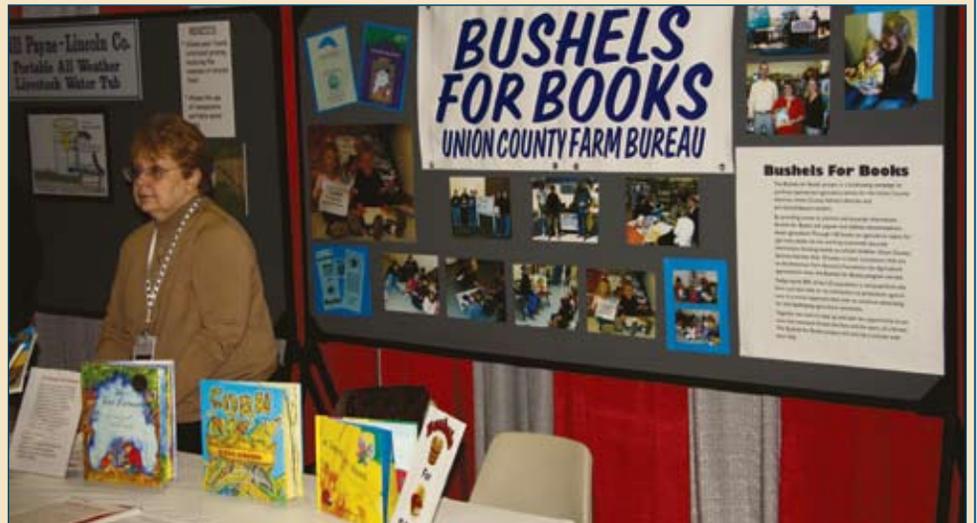
Women's conference March 6-7

KFB's Women's Leadership Conference is set for March 6-7 at the Holiday Inn University Plaza in Bowling Green. The agenda will focus on how to expand county programs and activities, plus features a trip to Nashville for shopping at Opry Mills and an evening of entertainment at The Grand Ole Opry.

Conference registration is \$90 and must be sent to Kim Moses at the state office by February 27. Hotel reservations should be made directly with the Holiday Inn University Plaza by calling (270) 745-0088.

AFBF
ANNUAL MEETING

Scenes from Annual Meeting



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP, THE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FINALISTS INCLUDED KENTUCKY'S BART AND SARAH JONES. SARAH IS FIFTH FROM LEFT ON THE FRONT ROW (WEARING PURPLE JACKET) AND BART IS STANDING BEHIND HER. UNION COUNTY FARM BUREAU HAD THEIR "BUSHELS FOR BOOKS" PROGRAM DISPLAY AT THE TRADE SHOW. BRENDA STENGER, WHO IS CHAIR OF THE COUNTY'S INFORMATION COMMITTEE AND CO-CHAIR OF THE WOMEN'S COMMITTEE, MANNED THE DISPLAY. A MARIACHI BAND PERFORMED AT A GENERAL SESSION. HOLLY DAVIS OF TAYLOR COUNTY REPRESENTED KENTUCKY IN THE DISCUSSION MEET.



Fiscal fiasco

FEDERAL BUDGET ANALYSTS SAY CONGRESS NEEDS A WAKE-UP CALL

Budget and policy analysts speaking at AFBF's annual meeting said America's future financial well-being is at risk because of a future, long-term federal budget deficit. Such

indebtedness, incurred by the federal entitlement programs of Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, could drive the United States to an unprecedented fiscal crisis in fewer than 40 years, they added.

The speakers were members of a collaborative venture known as the "Fiscal Wake-Up Tour." The non-partisan tour brings knowledgeable researchers and recognized experts before citizen groups so they can discuss the federal government budget situation.

Gene Steuerle, vice-president of the Peter G. Peterson Foundation, a non-profit entity formed to help restore fiscal responsibility to public budget making, explained that since the 1930s "we decided we would spend larger shares of our national income on health care and retirement. The question is whether we decide that is the way we still want to go."

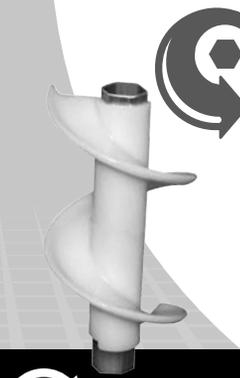
Bill Bixby, executive director of the Concord Coalition, a nonprofit organization formed to campaign for national fiscal responsibility, said entitlement programs now take 42 percent of the \$1.3 trillion federal budget. Two socio-economic trends will greatly enlarge this percentage over the course of the next five decades.

First, the percentage of citizens who are 65 or older will become a much larger portion of the national population. In 2007 this age group accounted for less than 13 percent of the population, but by 2047 it will constitute more than 20 percent. Second, health care costs continue to increase. In 2007 they absorbed approximately five percent of the Gross Domestic Product. Based upon current projections, they will amount to more than 20 percent of the GDP by 2047.

If correct, the projections warn of a historic challenge for the nation. A debt of such proportions for three programs is a novel phenomenon. Bixby argued that this trend is "unsustainable," leaving very few tax dollars for other federal programs.

Despite the dismal forecasts, all three speakers offered hope that policy decisions made now can begin to change the possible consequences ahead.

Note: KFB First Vice President John Hendricks is serving on an AFBF Federal Deficit Task Force that is developing recommendations for dealing with the fiscal crisis.



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Recession will impact crop demand

Farm income hit a record high in 2008 due in part to record prices for corn, soybeans and wheat, but an economist speaking at a crop outlook seminar at the AFBF annual meeting said farmers can expect lower prices this year.

Jim Sullivan, an agricultural economist and senior vice president of Informa Economics in Washington, D.C., said the global recession will mean weakening demand for corn, soybeans and wheat this year. For corn, the only strong driver for demand will be ethanol while biodiesel will be the top demand driver for soybeans.

"Last year was a good year for U.S. farms, but declining prices cloud the 2009 horizon. Volatility is still there, and we will see declining prices from

last summer's highs," Sullivan said.

"The only demand increase we can expect to see for corn this year and next year will be corn used for ethanol," he explained. In 2008, 30 percent of total U.S. corn production went to ethanol while it represented 35 percent of total domestic use. In 2009, ethanol is expected to climb to 34 percent of U.S. production and 38 percent of domestic use.

Sullivan sees a "decent" supply of soybeans in the United States and worldwide this year. The economist expects soybean prices, like corn prices, to be down in 2009. For wheat, there is an excess supply both in the United States and worldwide. "We will see stocks build for wheat, which should mean lower U.S. winter wheat plantings," Sullivan said.

One bright spot of the weak global economy for farmers is that fertilizer prices are coming down from last summer's record highs. Continued price softening is expected, and Sullivan encouraged farmers to delay their fertilizer purchases.

Cotton farmers can expect another challenging year in 2009, according to Sharon Johnson, senior cotton analyst with First Capitol Group in Atlanta, who also addressed the seminar.

"Cotton prices are under significant pressure as consumption and trade are negatively impacted," Johnson said.

The global recession is weakening demand for cotton products. "Nobody is going to the stores, and they're certainly not buying many cotton items," Johnson said.

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— KADB reviewing its program —

The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board (KADB) is looking at revising programs to better address the needs of Kentucky farm families and rural communities.

“It is imperative we do our best to ensure all producers are given the opportunity to enhance their agriculture operations as we continue the KADF investments throughout Kentucky,” said Roger Thomas, Executive Director of the Governor’s Office of Agricultural Policy (GOAP). “We look forward to receiving input and additional ideas concerning this concept as the evolution of the KADF continues.”

The KADB took the first step by approving a new project application timeline, which can be found by clicking on the “New KADB Deadline” link on the GOAP website, <http://agpolicy.ky.gov>. Beginning in March, projects (formally known as non-models) will be

considered for board action every other month, rather than the current monthly schedule. The KADB will continue meeting each month to discuss other business.

The KADB also enacted a county model program/menu “Blackout” period. This period of time will end March 20. The KADB and the GOAP staff will consult with county agricultural development council members, administrators, extension agents, agricultural leaders, legislators, and others in gathering feedback and suggestions to be used in a final proposal of changes for the 2009 programs.

During the “blackout” period, input will be sought for the following policy concepts:

- ✓ Offer all programs in a menu fashion (“County Agriculture Investment Program”) with no individual “model programs” being offered.

Model Programs would be renamed as “investment areas.”

- ✓ Revise the term limit on legal agreements for a County Agriculture Investment Program to be 12 months, regardless of investment area;

- ✓ Provide producers the opportunity to apply for funds in any of the investment areas that the County Agriculture Investment Program encompasses (a particular investment area may not be excluded);

- ✓ Revise the cost-share limit for 2009 to \$7,500 per producer; however, county councils will have the ability to reduce the maximum cost-share limit to a level that will be the same for all investment areas;

- ✓ Redefine “tobacco dependency” as follows: “A producer applicant who has received a Phase II check, a buyout check, or who grew and marketed tobacco during the previous growing/marketing season,” maintaining the policy that the sons and/or daughters of these individuals are tobacco dependent;

- ✓ Eliminate lifetime limits with the adoption of annual cost-share limits and the new producer definition;

- ✓ Only one program administrator in a county for the County Agriculture Investment Program;

- ✓ Standardize the producer application and scoring system, so that the same criteria and scoring will be used across the state.

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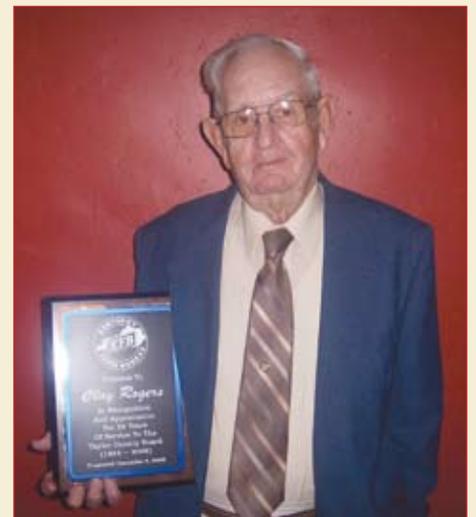
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KFB LEADERS HONORED FOR COUNTY COUNCIL WORK

Several KFB leaders were honored for their service to county agriculture councils during a program that was part of the annual meeting of The Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy (GOAP). The event brought agricultural leaders and others together to exchange ideas and learn about opportunities created by the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund and the Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation loan programs.

Commissioner of Agriculture Richie Farmer and GOAP Executive Director Roger Thomas presented awards to leaders in the agriculture community for their service to Kentucky's agricultural diversification effort. Among those named as district county council members-of-the-year were KFB Director Russell Poore of Logan County, KFB Women's Committee Second Vice President Phyllis Amyx of Wolfe County and county directors Larry Ayres of Owen County and Joe Dan Taylor of Calloway County.

The meeting also featured a keynote address from Chris Chinn, a Missouri swine producer who is past chair of AFBF's Young Farmer and Rancher Committee. Other event high-

lights included a tradeshow, Kentucky Proud food samples plus policy and program updates (see article on page 10).

The awards were as follows:

- * Innovations in Agriculture (individual) — J.D. Country Milk
- * Innovations in Agriculture (group) — Kentucky Agriculture Leadership Program
- * KAFC Lender of the Year — Harry Young
- * KAFC Agriculture Entrepreneur of the Year — Jeremy and Randi Jury
- * Extension Agent of the Year — Gary Carter, Harrison County
- * Administrator of the Year — Sharon Corbin, Pendleton County
- * County Council Member of the Year:
 - * District 1 — Gayle Arnold, Montgomery County
 - * District 2 — Phyllis Amyx, Wolfe County
 - * District 3 — Larry Ayres, Owen County
 - * District 4 — Keith Smith, Harrison County
 - * District 5 — Tim Tarter, Pulaski County
 - * District 6 — Russell Poore, Logan County
 - * District 7 — Joe Dan Taylor, Calloway County

Award for an ally



KFB PRESIDENT MARK HANEY (RIGHT) PRESENTED FIFTH DISTRICT CONGRESSMAN HAROLD "HAL" ROGERS WITH THE PRESTIGIOUS "FRIEND OF FARM BUREAU" AWARD DURING A CEREMONY IN SOMERSET. THE AWARD IS GIVEN AT THE END OF EACH CONGRESSIONAL SESSION TO MEMBERS WHO HAVE A GOOD VOTING RECORD ON AGRICULTURAL ISSUES. SAID ROGERS: "I PLEDGE TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU'S LONGSTANDING EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE AGRICULTURE ECONOMY OF KENTUCKY."

DISTRICT MEETINGS

The schedule (all times are local):

District 1	March 16	7:00 p.m.	Sedalia Restaurant
District 2	March 2	6:30 p.m.	County Cupboard, Madisonville
District 3	March 26	6:30 p.m.	Rough River State Park Lodge
District 4	March 23	6:30 p.m.	Barren River State Park Lodge
District 5	March 19	7:00 p.m.	Knights of Columbus, Bardstown
District 6	March 17	7:00 p.m.	Scott County Extension Office
District 7	March 5	7:00 p.m.	Pulaski County Public Library
District 8	March 2	7:00 p.m.	Madison County Fairgrounds
District 9	March 11	6:30 p.m.	Blue Lick State Park Lodge
District 10	March 16	6:30 p.m.	Grayson Conference Center
District 11	March 24	6:00 p.m.	Shiloh Roadhouse, London

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DEMAND FOR LAMB DROPS

Fourth-quarter 2008 commercial production of lamb and mutton is forecast at 42 million pounds, about 13 percent below the fourth quarter of 2007. Fourth-quarter 2008 lamb and mutton imports are forecast at 44 million pounds, down about 25 percent from a year ago. Slow U.S. economic conditions are expected to limit lamb import prospects, even though a recently strengthening U.S. currency relative to Australia and New Zealand, the major U.S. lamb and mutton trading partners, favors import growth. Fourth-quarter 2008 lamb and mutton exports are forecast at three million pounds, up about 50 percent from the same period last year.

Typically, lamb prices show seasonal increases during the fourth quarter.

Despite tight supplies, prices were unable to break out of the price range that held for most of 2008 due to the softer-than-expected demand in the fourth quarter. Choice slaughter lamb prices at San Angelo ranged from \$79-\$87 per cwt during the first six months of 2008 and averaged \$88.83 in the third quarter. However, the fourth-quarter 2008 choice slaughter lamb price at San Angelo averaged only \$88.95 per cwt. According to USDA economists, lower-than-expected fourth-quarter lamb prices may be partially due to the substitution of higher end, more expensive red meats by cheaper substitutes as the economy slowed.

In 2007, Kentucky producers received \$2.7 million for sheep and lambs. With 1,400 farms with sheep and lambs, Kentucky ranked 23rd in the nation.

BEEF IS BOUNTIFUL

USDA expects that total U.S. commercial cow slaughter for 2008 was six percent above 2007, after adjusting for Canadian cow imports. Dry conditions in parts of the United States, high feed costs and cow prices for most of 2008, plus declining feeder cattle prices, played roles in increasing cow slaughter. Besides boosting total 2008 beef production, these slaughter levels led to a reduced January 1, 2009 U.S. cow inventory and will lower production through 2010-11.

In recent weeks, beef cow slaughter has dropped 10-15 percent below year-earlier levels.

SILAGE PRODUCTION UP

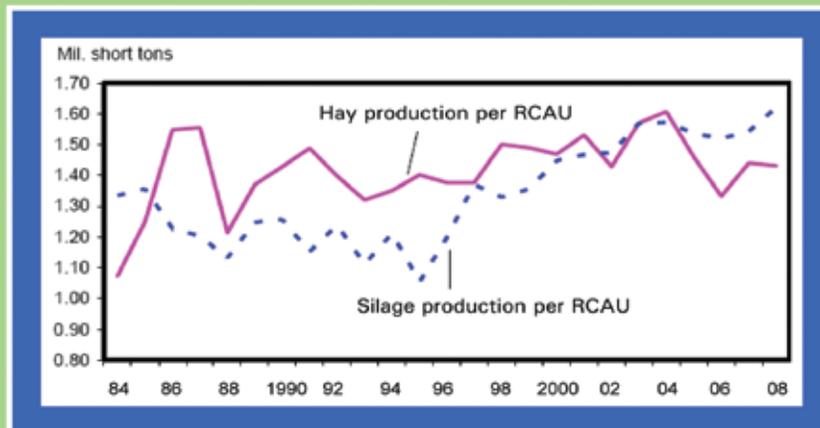
Corn silage production is estimated at 112 million tons in 2008, up five percent from 2007, as reported in the latest issue of USDA's Feed Outlook. The corn silage yield is estimated at 18.7 tons per acre, up 1.2 tons from last year while area harvested for silage, at 5.97 million acres, is down two percent from a year ago.

Sorghum silage production in 2008 totaled 5.65 million tons, up eight percent from 2007. Area harvested is up four

percent from 2007 to 408,000 acres. Sorghum silage yields averaged 13.8 tons per acre, up 0.4 tons per acre from 2007. Total silage per roughage consuming animal unit (RCAU) in 2008/09 was 1.62 tons, up from 1.54 tons in 2007/08.

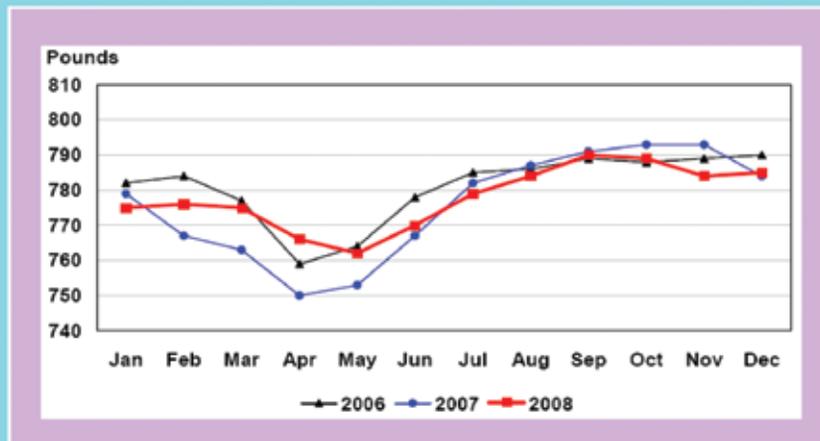
In the first eight months of the hay marketing year (May-April), hay prices have averaged 24 percent higher in 2008 than in 2007. Alfalfa hay prices averaged \$35.38 per ton above prices a year earlier during May through December. Other hay prices averaged \$14.63 per ton above prices a year earlier.

December 1 Hay Stocks and Silage Production (Per Roughage Consuming Animal Unit)



Source: Feed Outlook, USDA-ERS, January 14, 2009

U.S. Monthly Federally Inspected Average Dressed Weight Cattle



Source: Livestock Slaughter, USDA-NASS, January 23, 2009



LEAD class begins work

The 2009-10 class for the Leadership Enhancement for Agricultural Development (LEAD) program assembled for its initial meeting last month in Lexington, with an orientation to the work and role of KFB headlining an agenda that also featured much discussion about leadership traits and styles.

The two-year program for young farmers and agricultural officials is designed to develop leadership skills and provide learning opportunities in the public policy arena, as well as within the agriculture industry. The curriculum will include exposure to the state and federal legislative processes, meetings with high-ranking political and agricultural leaders plus visits to farms and agribusinesses.

During welcoming remarks to the group of 13 men and two women, KFB Executive Vice President David S. Beck stressed the potential impact of the program by noting that more than 100 alumni of the 10-year-old LEAD pro-

gram currently have leadership roles within KFB or another farm group; or work for a civic group or government agency. The list of LEAD alums includes five members of KFB's Board of Directors.

Beck urged the group to take full advantage of the experience. "You have a real opportunity to be an ambassador for agriculture," he said.

He went on to discuss his personal philosophy about leadership, saying he believed effective leaders should be sincere, a visionary, courageous, morally strong and passionate about what they do.

Jay McCants, Director of KFB's Young Farmer Program, gave an overview of the organization's state and national priority issues. That was followed by a discussion on leadership styles and a workshop on personality traits and team building. AFBF staff members Margee Wolff and Matt Scramlin conducted the workshop.

Next up for the LEAD group is KFB's Congressional Tour. KFB's Susie Tanner is director of the LEAD program.

THE 2009-10 LEAD CLASS IS COMPRISED OF (FRONT ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT) CHRIS AMMERMAN OF GRANT COUNTY, DAVID FOURQUREAN OF TRIGG COUNTY, DENISE JONES OF MARION COUNTY, CHRISTINA THOMAS OF FRANKLIN COUNTY, JAY MCCOY OF HART COUNTY, CHARLIE EDGINGTON OF FAYETTE COUNTY, MICHAEL MCCAIN OF WASHINGTON COUNTY PLUS (BACK ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT) DARREN RICE OF BUTLER COUNTY, MATT GAJZDIK OF SHELBY COUNTY, COREY PAYNE OF CRITTENDEN COUNTY, CHAD HALL OF LOGAN COUNTY, DONEVON STORM OF LAUREL COUNTY, BYRON AMBURGEY OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, TERRY ISHMAEL OF FLEMING COUNTY AND JONATHAN GOSSER OF RUSSELL COUNTY.

FARM FILE



KFB OFFERS "SPECIAL" SCHOLARSHIPS

Applications are now being accepted for three unique scholarship opportunities offered through the KFB Education Foundation:

The Paul D. Everman Fund for Lifetime Learning Scholarship is for a non-traditional student (who is at least 23 years old) who plans to continue undergraduate studies at an accredited Kentucky college or university. Scholarship monies can be applied to tuition only. Payments of \$250 per semester will be sent directly to the college of choice for up to twelve semesters (not to exceed three per year) or until the student receives a bachelor's degree (whichever occurs first). The maximum amount that can be awarded to any one student is \$3,000.

The Louis F. Ison scholarship is for a full-time graduate student pursuing a degree in the UK College of Agriculture. Applicants for this scholarship must hold a baccalaureate degree from any recognized four-year college in the state of Kentucky; be enrolled or accepted for admission as a full-time graduate student and be pursuing a graduate degree in the UK College of Agriculture; and, be the child of a member family. If married, the applicant must have their own membership before applying. The recipient will receive a scholarship of \$1,000 to be awarded in three separate payments.

The Young Farmer scholarship, worth \$1,000, will be awarded to a current college or vocational/technical school student. Applicants must be a member, be between the ages of 18-35 years old and major in agriculture or a related field at a Kentucky college or university.

Applications must be postmarked no later than May 1. Scholarship recipients will be notified by May 15th.

AG HERITAGE CENTER SEEKS ITEMS

The Kentucky Agriculture Heritage Center (KAHC) has launched a campaign to acquire items reflecting the state's rural heritage. The Harvesting Kentucky's Agriculture Heritage campaign was created to reach out to the farm families of Kentucky to help locate and eventually fill the Center with artifacts, photographs and stories about Kentucky agriculture.

If you have an item that you believe would be of interest, the KAHC Board asks you to submit a short story and a photograph, telling when the item was

used on the farm or in the home and experiences that were associated with its use.

At this time the KAHC Board does not want to take possession of those items that are donated or made available for loan but would like to begin compiling a record of what donations will be available when the Center is projected to be complete. To submit your story and item photo, please contact the KAHC office for a form. E-mail vflanagan@kyagheritage.org or call (859) 733-0701.

AGRITOURISM CONFERENCE SET FOR FEBRUARY 15-17

Experts on farm tourism will advise Kentucky agritourism operators on how to market their farms in a conference February 15-17 at the University Plaza Hotel and Conference Center in Bowling Green.

The second annual "Kentucky Farms are Fun" Conference will bring together

business operators, industry leaders, policy makers, suppliers and academics to share information and exchange ideas. Conference topics will include marketing, business development and personnel management.

For more information go to www.kentuckyfarmsarefun.com.

CALLOWAY COUNTY FB LEADER NAMED TOP MURRAY AG ALUMUS

The Murray State University Agriculture Alumni Association named Calloway County FB director Johnnie Stockdale as the Outstanding Agriculture Alumnus for 2008. Recognized as one of the most successful adult teachers of agriculture in the state, Stockdale is the 27th recipient of the association's highest honor.

A graduate of Murray State University, Stockdale received his Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture in 1976, followed by his Master of Science in 1981 and Master's plus 30 hours in 1988. While completing his first degree he worked on the farm as well as at a local farm center to finance his educa-

tion. Following graduation he worked for one year as an adult agriculture teacher in Christian County before transferring to Calloway County where he has taught for 31 years. During his tenure he has taught over 40 adult classes per year and assisted area farmers and agribusinesses with agronomic, management and marketing information on a regular basis.

He has served on the Calloway County FB Board of Directors for over 20 years, was a director of the Western Dark Fired Tobacco Growers Association for over 25 years and a member of the Kentucky Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association for 32 years.

FSA ENROLLING DCP PARTICIPANTS

Enrollment for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP) for farms with base acres continues up until June 1 and can be handled either on-line or at Farm Service Agency offices. Eligible producers may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices.

Those eligible for the DCP program also are eligible for the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program. The enrollment period for ACRE begins in the spring. Producers may first enroll in DCP, elect to receive advance direct payments and then later modify their enrollment to include the ACRE program. The owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll in ACRE.

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