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Cover Photo:

Goddard Bridge in Fleming County with Goddard United Methodist Church in the background.

Photo by Bob Shrader

Kentucky Farm Bureau News is published ten times per year. Combined issues for December-January and June-July are sent to all members. The remaining eight issues go to regular members. Bulk postage rate paid at Lebanon Junction, Ky. Changes in address should be mailed to KFB Communications Division, PO Box 20700, Louisville, Ky. 40250.

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The robust aroma of tobacco hanging in the barn evokes memories of the time when Kentucky agriculture seemingly revolved around the crop. In my home of Pulaski County, tobacco was king in a big way, with around 4,000 quota holders.



I remember those good years when there was much excitement throughout the countryside about a quality crop fetching top dollar at the auction warehouses. The growers were satisfied and many businesses benefited from a good crop, including my orchard and farm market.

The days of billion-dollar tobacco crops are gone. But on a recent tour of West Kentucky farms that produce dark tobacco for U.S. Smokeless Tobacco Company and burley for Philip Morris, I was reminded of how the golden leaf continues to bolster our rural communities and how the industry still faces issues that demand our attention.

Standing outside a fire-curing barn, Todd County grower Jack Gant told our tour group that he has been raising tobacco for 36 years, has done well with both burley and dark-fired and is hoping for a long future in the business. But both he and Dale Seay, who's raising more than 60 acres of the two varieties in Christian County, said they are worried about how the forthcoming Food and Drug Administration regulations on tobacco products will impact their operations.

Bruce Cline, a Christian County farmer who's one of the state's largest growers, told us how important migrant workers were to his business. He already struggles to find sufficient help for his more than 300 acres of tobacco, so farm labor policies could make or break him.

The officials at U.S. Smokeless Tobacco Company told us about the widespread anxiety over the FDA situation. The company already has imposed significant changes in anticipation of heightened regulation. One key step has been to implement a trace-back system with their contract growers to identify the origin and production patterns for all the crops coming to their plant in Hopkinsville. The company also is preparing to conduct farm audits.

Plant Manager Danny Kingins, himself a grower, said FDA creates "a different world" for growers and manufacturers.

Most everyone we spoke with mentioned the uneasiness enveloping the tobacco industry these days.

Several weeks ago I had the opportunity to convey growers' concerns when I testified at an FDA hearing. I urged FDA to closely consider the ramifications of guidelines it might impose. I hope the agency proceeds with a sufficient understanding of what's involved in raising tobacco.

MARK HANEY

PRESIDENT

KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU



KFB Day at Fair is August 26

k

FB Day at the State Fair is Thursday, August 26 with a full schedule of activities for members.

The 47th Annual Kentucky Country Ham Breakfast and Auction, a perennial sellout, will be held in South Wing Conference Center, beginning at 7:30 a.m. The grand champion country ham will be auctioned and the proceeds donated to charity. Last year's champion ham from Scott Hams of Greenville fetched a record \$1.3 million from co-winning bidders Republic Bank and Proof on Main (a Louisville business).

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



Quartet Contest and will perform at KFB's annual meeting in December.

The popular Farm Bureau picnic begins at noon in the South Wing. To register,

contact Jennifer Aponte at 502-495-5000.

Meanwhile, KFB Insurance Company once again will sponsor the popular "Pride of the Counties" section of the South Wing, where local organizations promote their cities and counties with lively displays. A winning display is named each year during a ceremony at 11 a.m. on KFB Day. KFB Insurance also participates in the FFA/4-H Sale of Champions that afternoon in Newmarket Hall.

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

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SAFETY

The flight from Kentucky to Washington, DC, is less than two hours long. But the distance between the two places is vast. While Kentuckians are working harder than ever to provide for themselves and their families, the crowd in Washington is working to control even more of the big decisions in our lives.



The latest example is their push for a national energy tax. Liberal Democrats in Washington are using the Gulf oil spill crisis as an excuse to push through this job-killing idea. Most Americans know that a national energy tax – sometimes called “cap and trade” – will hit them every time they fill up their car or flip a switch to turn on a light bulb. And because a national energy tax will raise prices for Kentucky farmers, it will hurt our state more than most.

I’ve heard from farmers across the state who fear what a new national energy tax will do to their livelihoods. It will raise prices for fertilizer and fuel – essential tools farmers need.

To remain competitive in a global marketplace, most farmers are at the mercy of that market when it comes to selling their goods. So they won’t be able to raise prices to make up for a new tax. In this current recession, many farms that already have narrow profit margins will see that margin get narrower still or disappear all together. That won’t allow for job growth.

Kentuckians are getting tired of the “we know best” attitude in Washington. First it was health care, then the auto makers, then the banks, now the family farm. Government should focus on protecting our country’s resources by cleaning up the damage from the oil spill. As for a national energy tax – it was a bad idea before the spill, and it remains one today.

MITCH McCONNELL

U.S. SENATOR

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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“The Voice of Kentucky Agriculture”

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FCS stewardship program helps Fleming County FFA on the farm



Imagine this scenario. You're a high school vo-ag teacher and the local industrial park board has just leased to your FFA chapter at no cost a 50-acre farm — for use as a learning laboratory to teach young people all kinds of lessons about agriculture. Now the bad news: there's not so much as a fence post on the place. It's fallow ground that hasn't been farmed in years.

That's the situation Fleming County High School teacher Bobby Pease recently found himself in after the Fleming County Industrial Park board donated 50 acres from one of the county's industrial parks to his FFA chapter. However it turns out the "bad news" isn't all that bad

after all.

"I'd rather start from the ground up than have to renovate an old farm," said Pease. "And besides teaching vo-ag, I'm also a part-time farmer and Farm Credit Services customer. I knew that FCS helps FFA students with scholarships and supports other ag-related projects for young people through its corporate stewardship program. I thought I'd see if they could help get us started."

Pease found a willing ear from Mary Jane Pettit, a customer service representative with FCS's Mt. Sterling office, who is also a Fleming County FFA alum.

"When Bobby submitted his application with a very detailed budget, I knew that he

Displaying the \$12,000 check from Farm Credit Services were (from left) agriculture teachers Bobby Pease and Anne Clark, Melanie Mitchell, Jordan Colgan, Brad Burke, Fleming County High School Principal Jinny Hurdle, Danielle Glasscock, De-Keitha Wagoner, Mickey Station, Aaron Myers, Cameron Earlywine, Taylor Schwartz, Jacob Fryman and Allen Johnson. Burke, Staton, Myers and Johnson work for local FSA offices.

and others had put a lot of work and thought into it," said Pettit. "I then submitted it to our corporate office in Louisville, and in early March it was approved for \$10,000, and Farm Credit 's two regional offices donated another \$2,000."

These FCS donations in turn helped the Fleming FFA get a head start on qualifying for a match from the local school board. With these initial funds, Pease indicated that the first steps on the project would be to start with the basics, including an access road (the plot is on a remote, back portion of the industrial park), utilities, and fencing to contain the animals that will become future residents.

Ultimately plans call for the farm to have a barn/livestock facility, complete with work area, kitchen and classroom, and also a shed for the chapter's tractor and equipment. Those facilities will not only enable the Fleming FFA members to have some great hands-on learning experiences, but will also provide opportunities to host regional FFA judging competitions, along with other FFA sponsored events including demonstrations and clinics that will benefit not only the local FFA but 4-H, adult extension programs and Master Cattleman's association as well.

The FFA chapter plans to maintain a small beef cow-calf herd, which will provide excellent opportunities for learning various animal husbandry and management techniques. From that herd, the chapter will annually donate two fat steers to local food banks.

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Left: KFB President Mark Haney prepares to present policy booklets to Rand Paul (left) and Jack Conway. Below: A wave of press covered the Measure the Candidate meeting at KFB's State Office.



MEASURING UP

SENATE CANDIDATES PAUL, CONWAY MEET WITH KFB DIRECTORS

A “Measure the Candidate Meeting” involving U.S. Senate candidates Rand Paul and Jack Conway attracted a wave of news media to the KFB state office last month.

Nearly 40 media representatives – including national outlets like the New York Times, Bloomberg, C-SPAN, GQ Magazine and the Associated Press Washington bureau – were on hand as the candidates discussed agriculture issues with the KFB Board of Directors. Video had to be channeled into another conference room to accommodate the overflow audience.

The race to succeed the retiring Jim Bunning has become a national news story largely because of Paul’s ties with the “Tea Party” movement within the Republican Party. The political newcomer also has created a stir in agriculture circles by criticizing the farm subsidy program.

KFB Directors posed questions to the candidates relative to policy on the farm bill, international marketing, the environment, health care, energy and the federal budget. Paul and Conway also gave opening and closing statements.

The candidates did their homework on the organization’s policy and priority issues; both displayed good knowledge of both. For example, Paul was familiar with the controversy along the Chesapeake Bay in Virginia and Maryland over pro-

posed federal conservation guidelines which would hinder farming in that area. Conway, meanwhile, was well informed about the disputes surrounding regulation of Confined Animal Feeding Operations.

The two also pointed to many facts and figures to support their positions. And both pledged to work closely with KFB.

Among highlights of the two-hour program:

- Paul was quick to refute reports that he wants to abolish the U.S. Department of Agriculture and farm subsidies. “I must clarify perceptions of my position,” he explained. He did say on several occasions that he feels the farm subsidy program needs reforms to eliminate “wasteful spending.”

- Conway said that contrary to reports, he opposes the so-called “cap-and-trade” legislation. “Let’s settle that once and for all – on the record,” he said during his comments on energy policy. (Ironically, later that day Congressional Democratic leaders announced that the issue was dead for this year’s session due to lack of support)

- Paul repeatedly said addressing the federal debt would be his top priority. “The biggest issue facing our country is the debt,” he said. “I fear that if we don’t act it will destroy the country; and then farm programs won’t matter.”

- Conway said he’s motivated for the

campaign because “there’s as much anxiety and fear in Kentucky as I have seen in my lifetime.” He added: “I want to be a Senator who always puts Kentucky first.”

In tandem with KFB policy, the candidates told the KFB Directors that they support free trade, an economic safety net within the farm bill, private property rights, a balanced budget and immigration reform that begins with securing our borders.

Health care, meanwhile, is a big divide: Paul described the health care reform act as “a disaster” while Conway said he would have voted for the measure because it expands coverage to those in need.

Notable quotes:

Conway: “I’m seeking the seat of Henry Clay and Wendell Ford. That’s humbling.”

Paul: “I will fight to keep the government out of your hair.”

The U.S. Senate candidates’ statements on some key KFB policy issues will be featured in a special 2010 Election Guide contained in the October issue of KFB News.

“Leaf” spots.

Extension of the Food and Drug Administration’s regulation of tobacco products was the hot topic on a steamy July day in West Kentucky as some KFB leaders visited with growers on a tour organized by U.S. Smokeless Tobacco Company. KFB President Mark Haney, Second Vice President Eddie Melton, Executive Vice President David S. Beck and Directors David Chappell and Scott Travis learned how UST is preparing and working with its growers in hope of an orderly transition to whatever might lie ahead.

“Welcome to the world of regulations,” Danny Kingins, who manages the UST plant in Hopkinsville, quipped during a briefing session that preceded a tour of three area tobacco farms. “We’re living in a different world now. Farmers must accept the fact that we’re now in a regulated environment. We’ve got to get that message out there.”



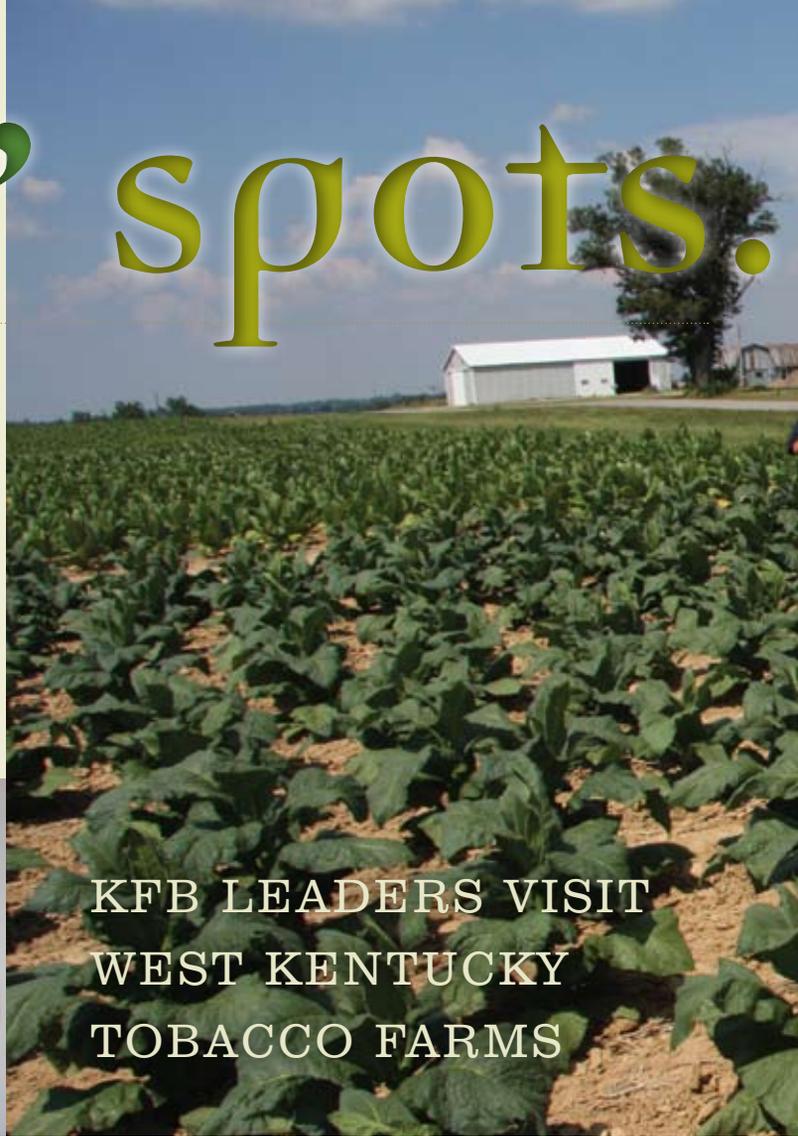
UST is the major purchaser of Kentucky’s dark tobacco crops, contracting with more than a thousand growers. It buys all of its leaf from farmers within 90 miles of the plant. It is a subsidiary of Altria (Philip Morris), the top user of Kentucky burley.

Travis, a large-scale burley grower in Spencer County and the chairman of KFB’s Tobacco Advisory Committee, told the UST officials that growers are concerned about how the FDA program might erode their incomes. FDA is in the process of developing guidelines for examining the ingredients in tobacco products; it’s possible that those standards could impact how growers produce the crop.

UST is preparing for heightened oversight. Most notably, it has developed a tracking system with its growers, utilizing global positioning satellite systems to identify curing barns plus requiring close monitoring and recordkeeping of crops. The goal is to establish baselines for future use, Kingins said.

The company also is preparing to assess production methods to clearly establish “good agricultural practices.”

The importance of the UST link with KFB was underscored by the presence of Craig Stariha, Altria’s Senior Director of Domestic Leaf Procurement. He came from his base in Richmond, Virginia to participate in the discus-



KFB LEADERS VISIT WEST KENTUCKY TOBACCO FARMS

Left: Bruce Cline spoke about the challenges of large-scale production.

Above: The group checks a tobacco field with grower Dale Seay. That’s dark-fired in the foreground with burley in the background.

sions.

“We have strong common interests,” Stariha said to the KFB leaders. “Farm Bureau has done a lot for our industry; we want to maintain a good relationship and continue to look at ways we can work together for our common interest.”

Stariha travels throughout the tobacco belt visiting with the company’s growers. He said growers are “very anxious” about the FDA situation.

“They’re concerned about communications,” he explained. “They just want to be informed about what’s going on and have the opportunity to properly prepare for any changes.”

Haney said he’s heard the same.

“There’s so much in flux right now,” he said. “There’s a wait-and-see attitude.”

First stop on the tour was the Todd County farm of Jack Gant, who has 80 acres of dark tobacco and 14 acres of burley. Noting that he has raised tobacco since he was 17, the 53-year-old Gant said “tobacco is my main source of



income; I love raising dark tobacco.”

A visit with Dale Seay in northern Christian County included a stop at a large field dotted with both dark-fired and burley. At his equipment shed Seay showed the group a unique strip-till machine for planting tobacco in rotation with grain.

Last stop was a visit with one of Kentucky’s largest growers, Bruce Cline. His operation near Crofton includes 320 acres of tobacco, with 100 acres of burley. On this particular day in early July Cline had most of his employees busy with irrigation and topping. He said he also has hundreds of acres of grain “so we can have a rotation for tobacco.”

Chappell, an Owen County burley producer who has long been part of Kentucky’s tobacco leadership, said it’s a critical time to keep the lines of communications flowing with tobacco companies like Altria.

“Growers need to know what the companies expect so they can plan ahead,” he said.



Above: Christian County grower Dale Seay explained the virtues of his strip till machine to a group that included KFB President Mark Haney and Mickey Overbey, the director of leaf purchasing for U.S. Smokeless Tobacco Company.

Top Right: Todd County grower Jack Gant spoke to the group about his crop, flanked by KFB Directors David Chappell and Eddie Melton.

Slabs of wood used for the firing process sat adjacent to one of Jack Gant’s fields of leaf.

Article and Photos by Walt Reichert

If you visit Siemer Milling Company in Hopkinsville don't expect to see workers covered in a fine powder totting bags of flour in a dark, noisy building covered with mill dust. What you'll find instead is a gleaming, steel and white facility run mostly by a bank of computers behind a glass wall that looks like part of the set of a Star Trek movie.

The computers run high tech equipment that turn 10-11 million bushels of mostly Kentucky-grown soft red winter wheat every year into 800 tons of fine, powdery flour that makes its way into cookies, crackers, pretzels and brownie and pancake mixes.

"The way wheat is changed into flour really hasn't changed all of that much over the last 150 years," said Rick Siemer, the fourth generation of his family to operate Siemer Milling Company. "But it uses more advance technology to operate the equipment and is more capital intensive than labor intensive. We literally run the new mill with the lights off."

The capital intensive, technology driven aspect of milling was put on display by Siemer Milling to employees, state officials, customers and building contractors who came for the company's grand opening of its new C mill. Vice President of Production Vernon Tegeler and other company officials led guests on a tour of the \$15 million facility that has the capacity to process 300,000 to 400,000 pounds of wheat in a single run. The wheat is cleaned, separated, sifted and blown into awaiting trucks and never touched by human hands. The ultra-clean facility looked more like a hospital than a factory. All of the flour dust is captured by scrubbers and cleaners.

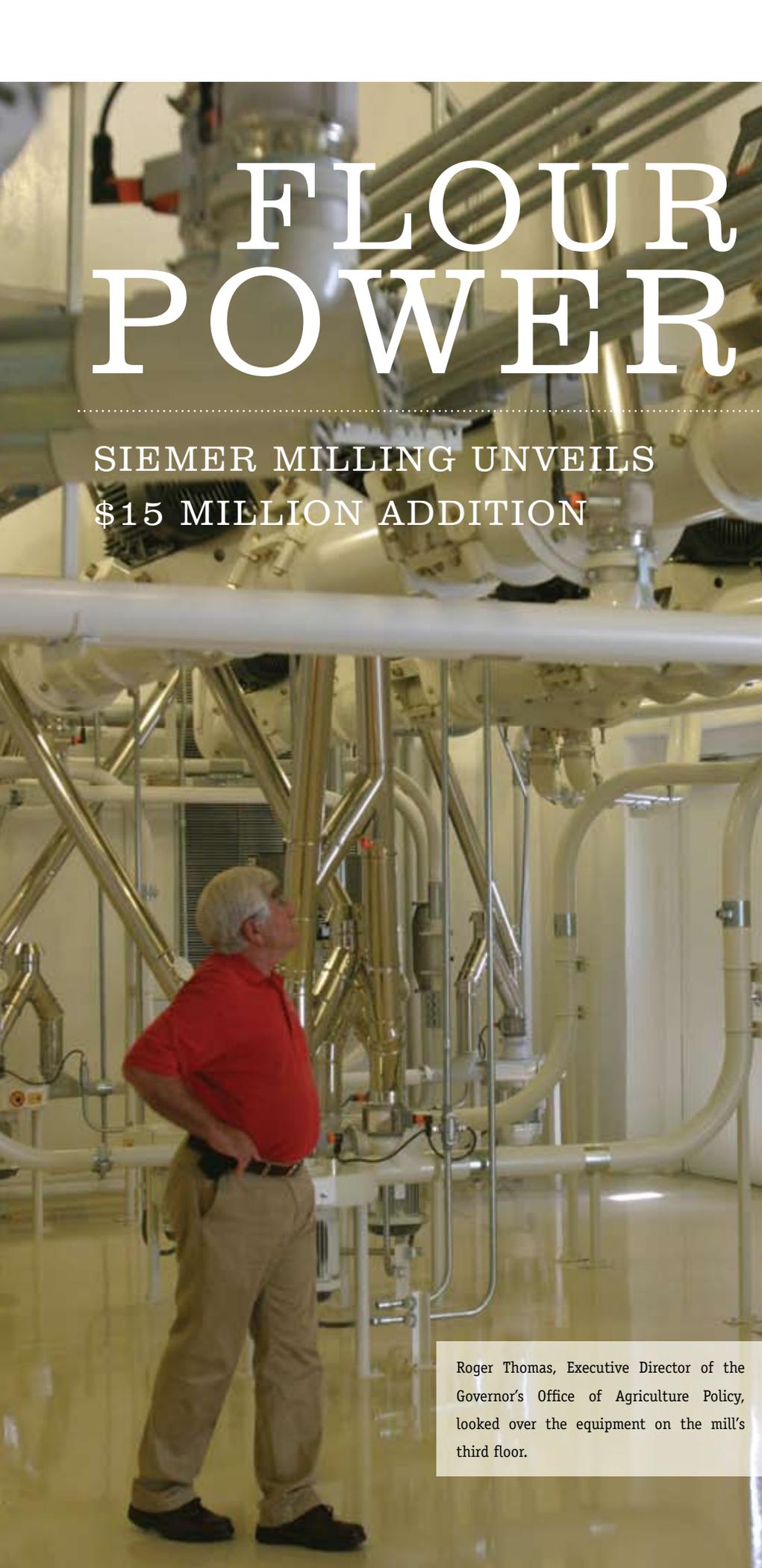
"We don't want flour dust blowing around," Tegeler said. "That's our product."

The opening of Siemer's new facility is a proud addition to a 125-year-old company, but it's also good news for the state's agricultural economy, especially to the wheat growers in western Kentucky. State and company officials said the expansion, boosted in part by a \$3 million, low-interest loan from the Kentucky Agriculture Finance Board, represents its commitment to doing business with western Kentucky farmers and food producers.

Siemer Milling Company was founded in Teutopolis, Illinois in 1882. That city is

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SIEMER MILLING UNVEILS
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Roger Thomas, Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Agriculture Policy, looked over the equipment on the mill's third floor.

Rick Siemer spoke to the crowd gathered to celebrate Siemer Milling Company's grand opening of its new C mill June 17. Siemer is the fourth generation of his family to operate the company.



still the company headquarters, and it has a plant there. Siemer opened an operation in Hopkinsville in 1995 to be close to one of its largest customers, Bremner Foods in Princeton. At that time, the company had about 25 employees. The addition of the new C mill represents Siemer Milling's second expansion of its Hopkinsville operation, which now employs about 40 workers. The company is family- and employee-owned.

A few years ago, Continental Foods, a maker of baked and processed food products, moved next door and gets its flour piped into their plant from Siemer Milling.

"One of our customers is literally at the other end of the pipe from us," Siemer said.

Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Agriculture Policy Roger Thomas said the Agriculture Development Board and its financial arm, the Kentucky Agriculture Finance Board, secured a seven-year, low-interest loan of \$3 million to help finance the expansion because of the plant's importance to western Kentucky agriculture and the local economy.

"When we heard they wanted to expand, we wanted to help make sure they did their expansion in Kentucky," Thomas said.

Siemer Milling also secured a loan from CoBank, based in St. Louis to help with expansion costs.

Siemer said the new C mill allows the company to produce a "more consistent product, more efficiently."

Not all of the wheat kernel becomes flour. The outer hull of the grain is turned into animal feed and other products, which make up about 25 percent of the production at the plant, Siemer said.

One of the advantages to western Kentucky farmers from Siemer Milling's new technology is that it can buy and process less-than-perfect wheat. Cameras can literally sift through the wheat grains and remove damaged and diseased kernels.

"It really helps our local farmers to have a market for distressed wheat," Thomas said.

The 10-11 million bushels of wheat Siemer buys comes directly from western Kentucky farmers who often use wheat as a two-year crop rotation with double-crop soybeans. A few of those farmers actually have fields that butt up to the Siemer Milling operation.

"That's \$40 million to \$50 million to the local economy right there," Siemer noted. "And it turns over many times."

Siemer Milling gets about 40 percent of its wheat directly from local farmers, with whom the company has contracts. The

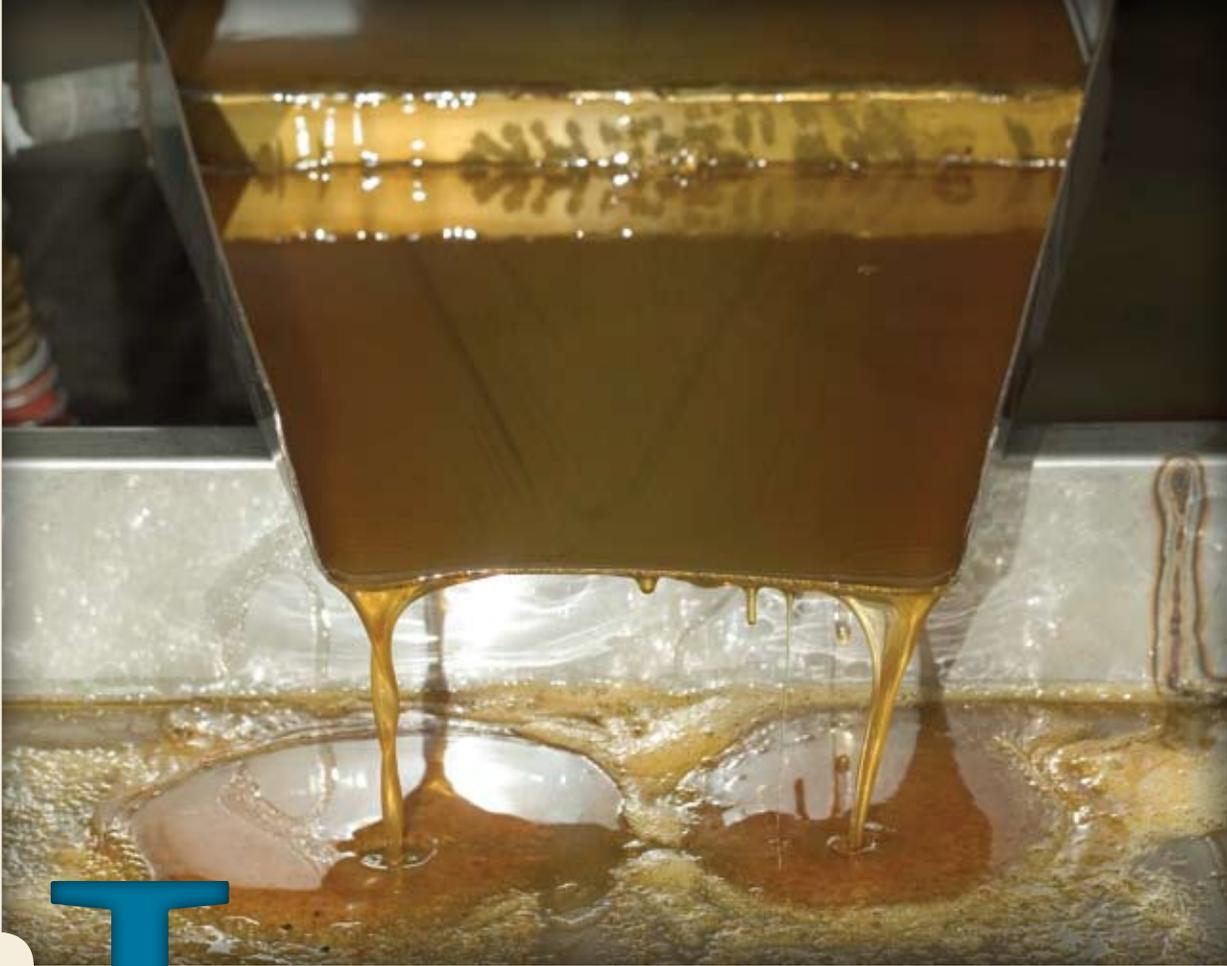
Vernon Tegeler, center, showed guests samples of wheat and flour as it goes through the cleaning and milling process.

rest comes from grain brokers. Siemer said the company does recommend varieties to farmers but otherwise is not involved in the growing of the grain.

Wheat farmer Philip Garnett, who attended Siemer Milling's open house, said he contracts directly with the company for a part of his crop and sells the rest on the open market.

"They're end producers and can sometimes bid a little higher for the grain," Garnett said. "It grows in the field over there and they make the flour right here. They're closer to the dinner table."

Wayne Hunt attended the grand opening of Siemer Milling Company's new mill in three capacities. He is a Christian County agribusiness dealer, a member of the board of the Governor's Office of Agriculture Policy as well as a representative of the Kentucky Agriculture Finance Board. Hunt said Siemer Milling Company, its ties to local farmers as well as its customer, Continental Foods, is a great example of connecting food processing companies directly to farmers.



I nternational flavor...

Kentucky Proud producers will showcase their products at World Equestrian Games

By Walt Reichert

Above: Townsend Sorghum Mill will showcase their award-winning product.

Marty Webb will be there with his snack sticks and beef jerky.

Danny and Judy Townsend will promote their sweet sorghum and sorghum-made apple butter.

Lori and Shawn Malloy will sell their yarns.

These three makers of Kentucky Proud products are among the 135 vendors who will market their goods on the world stage of the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games when the international competition comes to the Kentucky Horse Park September 25 to October 10. The games here mark the first time the competition has been held somewhere besides Europe; state officials are expecting as many as 300,000 guests to the equestrian championships. Over 900 competitors and 900 equine athletes will compete in the games, which are expected to pump \$150 million

into the state economy.

The games are literally a world of opportunity to market Kentucky foods and crafts. Angela Blank, agriculture liaison for the games and director of public affairs for the Governor's Office of Agriculture Policy (GOAP), said she was asked by First Lady Jane Beshear to help make sure the state's agriculture sector gets a good seat at the event.

Blank's office, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and the state Department of Tourism are collaborating to showcase Kentucky producers and Kentucky Proud products at the games in a massive pavilion called The Kentucky Experience. The Kentucky Experience pavilion will be divided into a section where non-perishable Kentucky Proud products will be sold. Another section of the pavilion will be for Kentucky-made crafts. Vendors will have a total of 25,000 square feet of

exhibit space. There will also be a demonstration stage where guests can see Kentucky Proud products used in cooking and a tasting area where guests can sample the foods. Kentucky wineries and ale and bourbon makers will also have a stage to showcase their products. The pavilion will also feature entertainment by Kentucky performers, tourism information and a display of the state's agricultural history.

Pick of the crop

Blank said her office worked with officials from the Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea to judge and select the Kentucky Proud products that will go on display at the Equestrian Games. Judging criteria required that products be grown, made and/or processed in the state. Judges selected another 35 vendors to add their products to the 100 vendors who already had products for sale at the Kentucky Artisan Center, Blank said. The Artisan Center will take care of displaying and stocking the Kentucky Proud products at the games, Blank said.

"They will have to be products that are shelf-stable, and the center will bring at least one product from each vendor to the games," she said.

Along with being featured in The Kentucky Experience pavilion, Kentucky Proud products will get considerable attention on Media Night, set for October 5. Blank said about 1,300 representatives of the media from around the world will descend upon The Kentucky Experience pavilion and have a chance to tell the home folks about Kentucky Proud products.

Another stage for Kentucky Proud products will be the James Beard dinners held every night during the games. Diners will pay \$300 per ticket to enjoy a culinary experience crafted by nationally and internationally recognized chefs who will pair off with chefs from Kentucky to create meals that celebrate local and regional heritage. Blank said the chefs have agreed to use as many fresh, locally produced products and Kentucky Proud products as they possibly can.

Blank also said GOAP and KDA are working with other vendors supplying food for the games, encouraging them to use as many locally-produced and Kentucky Proud products as possible.

Blank said the promoting of Kentucky Proud products won't end after the

games.

"Afterwards, all of the products that made it into the games will continue to be featured at the Artisan Center in Berea," she said.

The producers

For Kentucky Proud producers the games offer a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to reach hundreds of thousands of upscale buyers in a short period of time. They say they will be ready to take advantage of that opportunity.

Shawn and Lori Mallory, who turn raw alpaca, sheep, rabbit and other wools into yarns and other products from their Flaggly Meadow Fiber Works operation in Springfield, said they hope their yarns on display at the games will drive customers to their website.

Shawn said he also hopes the games attract buyers interested in their upscale Surino line of woven products.

"What I really like to do is develop lines of products and sell those," Shawn said. "I'm hoping we can find some buyers at the games."

Marty Webb, owner of Marty's Butcher Block in Payneville, said the games are a chance to find buyers for his company that has spent 25 years making sausage, jerky, and snack sticks from beef, pork, deer, even buffalo. While he travels to festivals around the region promoting his products, he said the games offer a chance to reach an even wider audience and maybe land a few distributors and wholesale dealers for his products. Just in time for the games, Webb is introducing new packaging and a new logo for his meat products.

"It just makes us look more professional and promotes our website," Webb said.

In Jeffersonville, Danny and Judy Townsend, owners of Townsend Sorghum Mill, turn 50 acres of sorghum cane into half pints, pints and quarts of sweet sorghum and other sorghum products, including apple butter made with sorghum. Danny said he hopes the games offer his company a chance to showcase the health and nutritional benefits of sorghum as well as an opportunity to reach customers who may never have heard of sorghum. Like Webb, Townsend said he

also will have new labels ready for the games. He said he'll also be prepared to ship sorghum nationally and internationally to any customer who requests it.

"This is a good thing, a chance to get the word out about how nutritious and good for you sorghum is," Townsend said. "Ours is kind of a niche market but we hope this {the games} leads to something bigger."



Above: Marty's Butcher Block, a Meade County business, will display their meat products to an international audience.

Bottom: Flaggly Meadow Fiber Works will offer yarns for sale in the crafts section of The Kentucky Experience at the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games.



Y oung Farmer Summer

Above: Ken Imel spoke to a group about his business at Imel's Greenhouse near Greenup. Imel's is a participant in KFB's Certified Roadside Farm Markets program.

One of the most popular events on KFB's annual agenda is the summer outing for young farm families. Program Director Jay McCants moves the outing to different areas so the young farmers can experience all the state has to offer.

This year's site was Ashland, where 270 men, women and children enjoyed a weekend with a lot of fun and a little bit

of business. The Ohio River town bordering Ohio and West Virginia rolled out the red carpet for the KFB contingent, welcoming the group with a sign stretched across Winchester Avenue in the heart of downtown plus a four-color ad in the local newspaper.

The business end involved the first rounds of the discussion meet, announcing district winners and finalists in the Outstanding Young Farm Family and a policy development session. A series of fun-filled activities included tours of local farms and attractions, a concert, swimming at an Olympic-size pool and a cook-out at the Carter County farm of KFB Director David McGlone, featuring inflatables and snow cones for the kids.

KFB President Mark Haney addressed the group at the annual "Eggs and Issues" breakfast. KFB, he said, is enjoying significant membership growth this year and is pleased with the number of young

people joining the organization. He went on to urge the young farmers to share his concern about the long-term issue of food security for the nation.

"Are we going to grow our food and feed ourselves or become more and more dependent on imports?" Haney asked.



KFB Young Farmer Committee Chairman Chris Ragan (right) chatted with KFB Director David McGlone at the cookout on the McGlone Farm in Carter County.

“This is an issue that’s out there on the edge as we look at more regulations and hindrances to our industry. Meanwhile, nations like China are going into third world countries and buying farmland and putting in other resources to produce food. We can become vulnerable without realizing what’s going on.”

KFB Public Affairs specialist Bryan Alvey followed with a briefing on some of the key policy issues. The farmers then met by districts to consider policy recommendations.

Three rounds of the discussion meet reduced the number of competitors from 13 to the four finalists who will appear at KFB’s annual meeting in December. They are Cameron Edwards of Webster County, Chad Hall of Daviess County, Curt Divine of Union County and Jonathan Shell of Garrard County.

The OYFF finalists are Chris and Misty Thorn of Calloway County, Michael and Nora McCain of Washington County and Steven and Richelle Bach of Bath County. The remaining district winners are Joanna Hinton of LaRue County, Jonathan and Becky Brown of Logan County, Daniel Wright of Henry County, Brandon Davis of Madison County and Christopher Mitchell of Fleming County.



Outing

Top right: A group from Districts 1 and 2 (West Kentucky) studied an issues briefing report while considering policy recommendations.

Second from top: The tours included a stop at Home Place Farm, where owner Don Davis is raising seven acres of blueberries. Some of the young farmers checked out this patch adjacent to the farm house.

Third from top: Kids enjoyed the inflatables set up at the McGlone Farm.

Bottom: This sign stretching across Winchester Avenue in front of the Ashland Plaza Hotel welcomed the young farm families to town.



WORKSHOPS PROMOTE AGRICULTURAL LITERACY

Top left: In Louisville, the teachers toured the work stations included in the "Agriculture Adventures" exhibit. Here, they were grinding wheat. Top right: Ron Mayhew, the Education Director for the Owensboro Museum of Science and History, fitted preschool teacher Susan Rauh with a farmer's cap during his presentation on the "Agriculture Adventures" exhibit which is available to schools. This part of the presentation introduces students to props that illustrate the many roles farmers must play (mechanic, engineer, veterinarian, agronomist, etc.). This was part of the Louisville workshop.

Efforts to boost agricultural knowledge are reaching a growing number of people due to expanding interest in the food system. More and more teachers -- particularly in urban areas -- are utilizing opportunities to incorporate agriculture into their lesson plans. That bodes well for programs such as KFB's annual ag literacy workshops.

The seven regional workshops in June had 411 participants, bringing the two-year total to nearly 800. Teachers from Grades K-12 not only learned how to use agriculturally-themed educational materials to supplement their teaching of Mathematics, Social Studies, English and Science, but they also earned six hours of professional development credits.

The agenda introduced the teachers to the popular "Food, Land and People" lessons, as well as the "Agriculture in the Classroom" program handled by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture plus the "Agriculture Adventures" program administered by the Owensboro Museum of Science and History.

KFB Education Director Scott Christmas welcomed the teachers by explaining that "we want to give you a

toolbox . . . using real life applications of agriculture."

"We think agriculture lends itself well to education," he continued. "We want to encourage you to use the tool box we provide to sell your students on the value of education."

KFB is part of the national agricultural literacy movement because it realizes the importance of combating misperceptions about the industry that are routinely dispensed by special interest groups. The goal is to provide students with basic information by incorporating information about agriculture into the subjects they learn.

Kentucky's agricultural industry offers a variety of education materials relating to farming, allowing educators to integrate agricultural and environmental ideas while they teach core content to students. The workshops are designed so that teachers and pre-service teachers will be inspired, motivated and challenged by the keynote speakers and presentations.

Janet Gray, a fifth-grade teacher in Florida who has won a national award for agricultural education, was a presenter at five of the KFB workshops. She outlined the "Food, Land and People" curriculum but most importantly, enthusiastically

encouraged the Kentucky educators to climb on board.

"Many of these children truly believe their food is produced at the supermarket," she said. "That shouldn't be allowed. I believe children have to learn where their food comes from. That's not difficult to achieve. Plus it's fun for everyone."

Ms. Gray's students regularly cook and deliver what they cook to the needy. They grow plants, raise farm animals and have many lesson plans tied to agriculture."

The "Agriculture Adventure" program has students making a pizza from scratch in order to learn about the farm products (wheat, pork, tomatoes, cheese, etc.) involved. It also includes videos on cheese making and farm life.

A number of the teachers regularly attend the annual summer workshops in search of ideas, as well as the professional development credits.

"It's very interesting; and fun as well," said Susan Rauh, a pre-school teacher in Louisville. She volunteered to assist Ron Mayhew with part of the Ag Adventures presentation. Mayhew is the Education and Outreach Director for the Owensboro Museum of Science and History.



Award winner Joe Nichols, right, with business partner Michael Oliver, wife KaDonna and daughters Heather and Jillian Macy.

TRIGG COUNTY

F A R M E R

WINS AWARD

Joe Nichols, who operates a 19,242-acre farm in Trigg County, is the 2010 winner of the Kentucky Farmer of the Year contest. He will represent Kentucky in the Swisher Sweets/Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year contest, with the winner announced on October 18 as part of the annual farm expo in Moultrie, Georgia.

Arnold O'Reilly of Breckinridge County and Billy Adams of Summer Shade of Metcalfe County were the other finalists for the state award.

Kentucky joined the program in 2006 as a way to recognize farmers for their commitment to excellence in agriculture and their efficiency in farming practices, sound financial management and leadership in civic organizations.

Nichols' farming operation, which has been featured in *Progressive Farming* and *Top Producer* magazines, had a modest start. When his parents sold the family farm and moved 350 miles away in 1983, Nichols, who had just graduated from high school, stayed behind and began working in the local John Deere dealership for a steady source of income while he started farming on his own. Through several years of hard work as a mechanic, owning his

own equipment repair business and eventually becoming general manager of the dealership, Nichols learned the hands-on management skills needed to own and operate a large-scale farming operation. By the year 2000, this high school-educated entrepreneur was already farming 2,000 acres of land, but just 10 years later he now works more than 19,000 acres.

"I built the operation from scratch to what I would hope and strive to be one of the best, well-managed operations in North America," said Nichols. "I started farming full-time in January of 2000 after a massive drought in 1999, but with no crop insurance. I figured if I could survive that, I could survive."

Major crops include 7,400 acres of soybeans, 3,950 acres of wheat, 3,950 acres of yellow corn, 3,100 acres of white corn, and 71 acres of dark fired tobacco. Nichols' operation, Seven Spring Farms, also has 1.9 million bushels of grain storage capacity and the functionality to dry up to 5,000 bushels of 25% moisture corn per hour – all of which equates to their ability to store 100% of their yield each year.

Nichols also does custom planting and harvesting for local farmers, operates a grain and rock hauling service, sells crop

insurance, and recently started a construction business focusing on land clearing and dirt removal. As a whole, his operations have 35 full-time employees, including an accountant who also acts as the office manager, an agronomist to focus on the land's crop production, and a computer manager to coordinate the technical efforts behind evenly planting and fertilizing the acreage via global positioning system (GPS).

Nichols attributes much of the recent growth and success of his business to Michael Oliver, his operational partner since 2008.

"Without his loyalty and help, my days would not be bearable," said Nichols.

Nichols is a five-time winner of the National Corn Grower's Association National Yield award, and was the 2008 first runner-up for the Top Producer of the Year. In an effort to give back to the community around him, Nichols has also engaged in civic involvement at a degree that rivals his business success. He is a member of the Cadiz/Trigg County Rotary Club, Trigg County Leadership Program, Farm Credit Services of Mid-America Advisory Council, Kentucky Soybean Association and sponsor of the Ducks Unlimited Banquet.

Nichols and wife KaDonna have two daughters, Heather, a sophomore at Western Kentucky University majoring in agricultural business, and Jillian Macy, who will soon be attending the University of Kentucky. In addition to attending college, his daughters are in the process of learning the family business and being brought into the daily operations.

The Southeastern Farmer of the Year program was started in 1990 by Swisher International and the Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition. Since the inception of this regional honor, nearly \$750,000 has been awarded to state and overall winners. Ten southeastern states – Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia – participate. KFB administers and promotes the program for Kentucky.

Previous state winners were Doug Langley of Shelby County, Loretta Baxter Lyons of Monroe County, Scott Travis of Spencer County and Sam Moore of Butler County.



FFA BUILDING PROJECT IS UNDERWAY

Breaking ground (actually, it was tossing a pile of corn), from left, were KFB Director and Kentucky Agricultural Development Board member Pat Henderson, State Representatives Jimmie Lee and Dwight Butler, State FFA President Logan Goggin, Governor Steve Beshear, GOAP Executive Director Roger Thomas, KFB Executive VP David S. Beck and Bruce Harper of KDA. At left is State FFA Foundation Director Billy Ray Smith

KFB Executive Vice President David S. Beck joined Governor Steve Beshear among the featured speakers at a groundbreaking ceremony for a multi-million-dollar renovation of the dining hall and kitchen at the State FFA Leadership Training Center in Hardinsburg.

Beck, a former state FFA officer out of the Lyon County chapter, spoke to a group of hundreds of FFA members attending summer camp at the facility. He was joined at the podium by Governor Beshear, Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy Executive Director Roger Thomas, State FFA President Logan Goggin and Bruce Harper, an executive assistant to Agriculture Commissioner Richie Farmer.

The audience included State Representatives Jimmie Lee and Dwight Butler, who drew praise along with their state legislative colleagues for approving funds for the much-needed project. KFB Director Pat Henderson of Breckinridge County was recognized for supporting the project as a member of Kentucky's Agricultural Development Board. Former Agriculture Commissioner Billy Ray Smith also was saluted for contributing to the lobbying effort as director of the State

FFA Foundation.

In his remarks Goggin noted that the dining hall is 60 years old and designed to accommodate about 125, whereas the weekly summer camps have around 300 participants. "This training center truly holds a special place in our hearts," Goggin said.

Governor Beshear told the young people "I am optimistic about the future of agriculture because of organizations like FFA."

He added: "FFA develops people who not only are skilled with their hands, but also with their minds."

Beck recalled his experience at the leadership center plus the important role FFA plays in developing future agricultural leaders. KFB lobbied hard for the project and will continue to push for improvements, he said.

"This leadership center is all about providing opportunities," Beck said. "It's your responsibility to take advantage of the opportunities."

Thomas, a former president of Warren County FB, informed the FFAers that he attended the summer camp 43 years ago and that the experience had a positive impact. "This is a sound investment for the future of Kentucky agriculture," he said.



KFB Executive VP President David S. Beck was among the speakers at the groundbreaking ceremony.

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



ADAIR COUNTY

Date: September 21, 7:00 p.m.
Place: Cranmer Dining Hall

ANDERSON COUNTY

Date: October 11, 5:30 p.m.
Place: Eagle Lake CC

BARREN COUNTY

Date: September 25, 7:00 p.m.
Place: Trojan Academy

BATH COUNTY

Date: September 25, 6:00 p.m.
Place: Ag Center

BOONE COUNTY

Date: September 21, 6:00 p.m.
Place: Extension Office

BOURBON COUNTY

Date: October 14, 6:30 p.m.
Place: Bourbon County Park

BOYD COUNTY

Date: October 15, 6:30 p.m.
Place: Extension Office

BOYLE COUNTY

Date: September 21, 7:00 p.m.
Place: Grow Hall, KSD

BRACKEN COUNTY

Date: October 24, 7:30 p.m.
Place: Watson Community Building

BULLITT COUNTY

Date: September 11, 6:00 p.m.
Place: Extension Office

CALLOWAY COUNTY

Date: September 7, 7:00 p.m.
Place: FB Office

CAMPBELL COUNTY

Date: September 11, 5:00 p.m.
Place: Alexandria Community Center

CARROLL COUNTY

Date: September 13, 7:00 p.m.
Place: FB Office

CLAY COUNTY

Date: October 14, 6:00 p.m.
Place: FB Office

CLINTON COUNTY

Date: September 9, 6:00 p.m.
Place: Fairgrounds Bldg.

DAVISS COUNTY

Date: August 7, 4:00 p.m.
Place: Panther Creek Park

ELLIOTT COUNTY

Date: September 21, 6:30 p.m.
Place: High School Cafeteria

FLEMING COUNTY

Date: August 13, 6:00 p.m.
Place: Industrial Park

GRANT COUNTY

Date: September 18, 7:00 p.m.
Place: FB Office

HARRISON COUNTY

Date: September 23, 6:00 p.m.
Place: Extension Office

HENRY COUNTY

Date: September 9, 7:30 p.m.
Place: FB Office

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Date: November 9, 7:30 p.m.
Place: FB Federation Office

LAWRENCE COUNTY

Date: October 19, 6:00 p.m.
Place: Front Porch Restaurant

LOGAN COUNTY

Date: September 11, 6:00 p.m.
Place: Extension Office

MAGOFFIN COUNTY

Date: September 14, 6:00
Place: Extension Office

MARION COUNTY

Date: October 11, 7:00 p.m.
Place: Masonic Temple

MASON COUNTY

Date: October 11, 7:00 p.m.
Place: Extension Office

McCRACKEN COUNTY

Date: September 18, 6:00 p.m.
Place: St' John's KofC Hall

McCREARY COUNTY

Date: September 23, 6:00 p.m.
Place: Ole Country Café

McLEAN COUNTY

Date: August 14, 5:00p.m.
Place: High School

MENIFEE COUNTY

Date: September 15, 6:00 p.m.
Place: FB Office

MERCER COUNTY

Date: September 13, 6:00 p.m.
Place: Extension Office

NELSON COUNTY

Date: October 12, 7:00 p.m.
Place: Civic Center

OHIO COUNTY

Date: August 12, 6:30 p.m.
Place: Extension Building, Hartford

OLDHAM COUNTY

Date: August 12, 7:00 p.m.
Place: LaGrange Office

OWEN COUNTY

Date: October 4, 6:00 p.m.
Place: Extension Office

PENDLETON COUNTY

Date: September 25, 6:00 p.m.
Place: FB Building

PERRY COUNTY

Date: September 7, 6:00 p.m.
Place: Janet Smith Agency

PIKE COUNTY

Date: September 16, 6:00 p.m.
Place: Landmark Motel Restaurant

ROBERTSON COUNTY

Date: September 18, 6:00 p.m.
Place: Deming High School

ROCKCASTLE COUNTY

Date: September 17, 6:00 p.m.
Place: Roundstone Elem. School

ROWAN COUNTY

Date: October 5, 6:30 p.m.
Place: FB Office

RUSSELL COUNTY

Date: September 10, 6:00 p.m.
Place: Veterans Fairgrounds

SCOTT COUNTY

Date: September 14, 6:30 p.m.
Place: Extension Office

SIMPSON COUNTY

Date: August 17, 6:30 p.m.
Place: Community Park Ag Bldg.

TRIMBLE COUNTY

Date: August 19, 7:00 p.m.
Place: Extension Office

WARREN COUNTY

Date: August 28, 5:00 p.m.
Place: Warren Central HS

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Date: October 7, 6:30 p.m.
Place: Extension Office

WOODFORD COUNTY

Date: October 2, 6:30 p.m.
Place: 1st Christian Church



Livestock numbers down

USDA reported that the U.S. had fewer livestock on July 1 compared to a year earlier.

All cattle and calves totaled 100.8 million head, 1.2 percent below the 102.0 million from a year ago. It is the smallest number of cattle on record for July 1. The cattle herd reduction has continued since the last cycle high of 113 million head in 1995. Beef cows, estimated at 31.7 million, were down 1.6 percent and also the smallest July 1 inventory on record. Producers held 4.4 million beef replacement heifers, or 2.2 percent less than a year ago. The number of milk cows dropped 1.1 percent to 9.1 million head. The 2010 calf crop may total 35.4 million, down 1.2 percent from 2009 and the smallest calf crop since 1950. About 73 percent of calves are born in the first half of the year.

The U.S. sheep and lamb inventory on July 1 totaled 6.90 million head, down 2.1 percent from a year earlier. Breeding stock, including replacement lambs, numbered 4.16 million head, or 2.8 percent below July 1, 2009. There were 2.74 million market sheep and lambs, a drop of 1.1 percent from 2009.

The goat inventory totaled 3.655 million head, down 2.2 percent from July 1, 2009.

On June 1, the U.S. had 64.4 million head of hogs and pigs, down 3.6 percent from a year earlier. Breeding inventory dropped 3.0 percent while market hog numbers fell 3.7 percent.

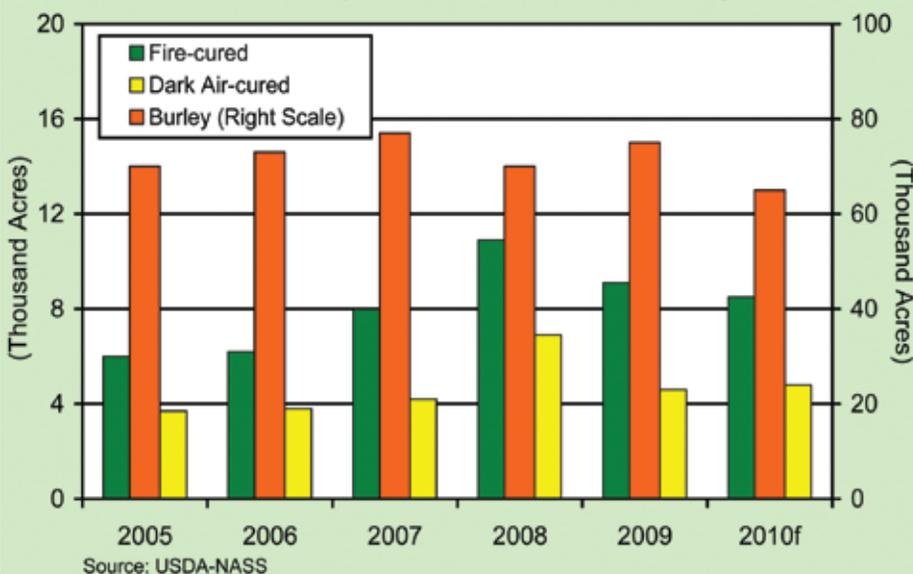
Soybean exports to China are up

China's appetite for soybeans continues to grow. USDA estimates China will import 48.0 million metric tons (mmt) in 2009/10, up nearly 17 percent from 2008/09. Imports in 2010/11 could climb to 50.0 mmt, as China's soybean use climbs 11 percent to 64.2 mmt. The U.S. will lose export business in 2010/11 as Argentina's soybean exports recover. Depending on production, our 2010/11 ending stocks could double.

Hay acres fall in Kentucky

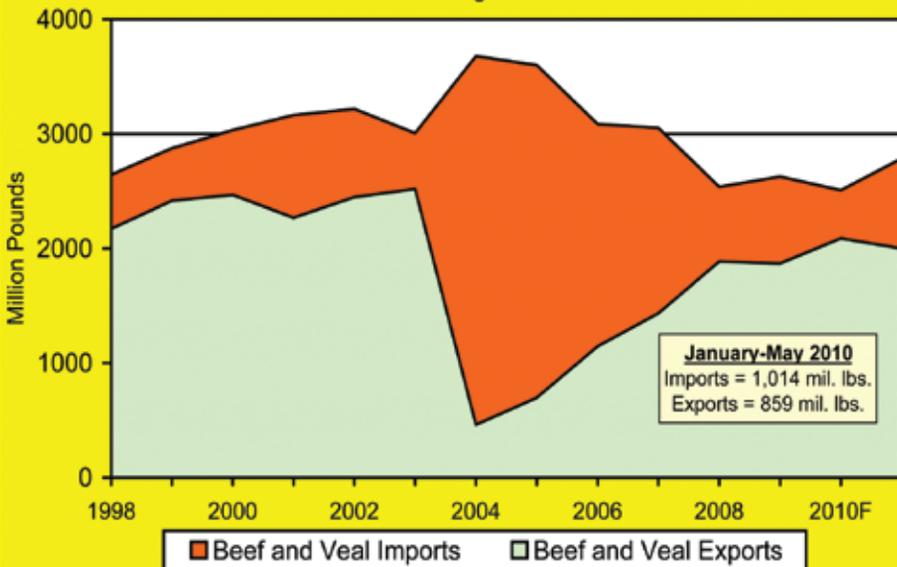
USDA has forecast a five percent drop in Kentucky's 2010 hay acres to 2.40 million. This loss includes a 100,000 acre drop in the "all other" hay category to 2.20 million acres. Only two states, New York and Oklahoma, had larger reductions. Alfalfa acres in Kentucky are estimated at 200,000 acres, down nine percent from 2009. U.S. alfalfa acreage is down 2.3 percent in 2010 to 20.73 million, while "all other" hay acreage is up 1.0 percent to 38.92 million.

Kentucky Tobacco Acreage



U.S. Beef and Veal Trade

Source: USDA - World Agricultural Outlook Board



charts

KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

2010 CERTIFIED ROADSIDE FARM MARKETS

MARKET HOURS ARE SEASONAL

West

- Broadbent B & B Foods**
Kuttawa · (800) 841-2202
- Brumfield Farm Market**
Madisonville · (270) 821-2721
- Cates Farm**
Henderson · (270) 823-6150
- D & M Produce**
Ledbetter · (270) 898-6312
- Dogwood Valley Trading Post**
Clay · (270) 664-9892
- Healing Harvests**
Paducah · (270) 534-4977
- J Potts Nursery & Greenhouse**
Kirksey · (270) 489-2756
- Lovell's Orchard & Farm Market**
Hopkinsville · (270) 269-2242
- Metcalfe Landscaping**
Madisonville · (270) 821-0350
- Poore's Nursery & Farm**
Russellville · (270) 542-4828
- Scott Hams**
Greenville · (800) 318-1353
- Stone Hill Honey Country Store**
Spottsville · (270) 826-2767
- The Country Barn**
Elkton · (270) 885-4843
- Trunnell's Farm Market**
Utica · (270) 733-2222
- Zook's Produce**
Herndon

South Central

- 1851 Historic Maple Hill Manor**
Springfield · (859) 336-3075
- Acres of Land Winery**
Richmond · (859) 328-3000
- Back Home Farm**
Greensburg · (270) 932-7156
- Baldwin Farms**
Richmond · (859) 582-5785
- Bishop Jersey Farm Market**
Greensburg · (270) 932-4908
- Burton's Nursery & Garden Center**
Campbellsville · (270) 789-1239
- Chaney's Dairy Barn**
Bowling Green · (270) 843-5567
- Chateau du Vieux Corbeau Winery**
Danville · (859) 236-1775
- Country Corner Greenhouse**
Shepherdsville · (502) 955-8635
- Cravens Greenhouse**
Albany · (606) 387-8583
- D&F Farms**
Somerset · (606) 382-5214
- Dennison's Roadside Market**
Horse Cave · (270) 786-1663
- Devine's Farm & Corn Maze**
Harrodsburg · (859) 613-3489
- Double Hart Farm**
Corbin · (606) 523-0465
- Fairview Farm**
Harrodsburg · (859) 734-2701
- Flaggy Meadow Fiber Works**
Springfield · (859) 336-7272
- Habegger's Amish Market**
Scottsville · (270) 618-5676
- Haney's Appledale Farm**
Nancy · (606) 636-6148
- Heavenly Haven Farm**
Columbia · (270) 465-9597
- Hettmansperger's Greenhouse**
Science Hill · (606) 423-4668
- Hidden Meadows Ranch**
Liberty · (606) 787-4235
- Hinton's Orchard & Farm Market**
Hodgenville · (270) 325-3854
- Horseshoe Bend Vineyards**
Willisburg · (859) 375-0296
- Jackson's Orchard & Nursery**
Bowling Green · (270) 781-5303
- Kenny's Farmhouse Cheese**
Austin · (270) 434-4124
- Lee's Garden Center**
Hodgenville · (270) 358-9897
- Loid Farms**
Bowling Green · (270) 782-2694
- Mammoth Cave Transplants**
Brownsville · (270) 597-2533
- McQuerry's Herbs-N-Heirlooms**
Paint Lick · (859) 792-8268
- Pelly Farm Fresh Market**
Smiths Grove · (270) 563-3276
- Roberts Family Farm**
Guston · (270) 422-2361
- Serenity Farm Alpacas**
Raywick · (270) 692-8743
- Serenity Hill Fiber**
Nicholasville · (859) 913-1615
- Sinking Valley Vineyard & Winery**
Somerset · (606) 274-0223
- St. Catharine Farm**
Springfield · (859) 336-0444
- Stonemeadow Farm Fresh**
Danville · (859) 239-8664
- Three Springs Farm**
Elizabethtown · (270) 360-0644
Leitchfield · (270) 360-0644
- Warren Farm Greenhouse**
Richmond · (859) 328-7005

Wonder of Life Farm
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Ayres Family Orchard
Owenton · (502) 484-5236

Beech Springs Farm Market
Winchester · (859) 744-2868

Benton Farms
Walton · (859) 485-7000

Bi-Water Farm & Greenhouse
Georgetown · (502) 863-3676

Blue Ribbon Market
Union · (859) 393-4357

Boyd Orchards
Versailles · (859) 873-3097

Bray Fruit
Bedford · (502) 255-7296

Bray Orchard & Roadside Market
Bedford · (502) 255-3607

Callis Orchard
Bedford · (502) 255-3316

Caswell Farms
Carlisle · (859) 749-0385

Cheek's Produce
Taylorsville · (502) 477-1277

Croppers Greenhouse & Nursery
May's Lick · (606) 763-6589

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Foxhollow Farm Store
Crestwood · (502) 243-4323

Gallrein Farms
Shelbyville · (502) 633-4849

George Gagel Truck Farm
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Gregory Farms
Turners Station · (502) 947-5469

Hillside Orchard & Country Store
Foster · (606) 747-5635

Horn Family Farm & Greenhouse
Salvisa · (859) 325-0785

Julie's Pumpkins
Paris · (859) 987-4498

Kinman Farms
Burlington · (859) 689-2682

LanMark Farm
Sharpsburg · (859) 383-4454

Michels Family Farm
Sparta · (859) 643-2511

Morrison's Greenhouses
Louisville · (502) 969-0675

Polk House Plants & Produce
Taylorsville · (502) 773-5586

Redman's Farm
Morning View · (859) 356-2873

Reed Valley Orchard
Paris · (859) 987-6480

Ridgeview Greenhouse & Nursery
Shepherdsville · (502) 955-5939

Sherwood Acres Beef
LaGrange · (502) 222-4326

Sunny Acres Farm
Jeffersontown · (502) 643-6584

Sweet Home Spun
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Shelbyville · (859) 971-9797

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Georgetown · (502) 316-4474

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Black Barn Produce, LLC
River · (606) 297-2600

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Imel's Greenhouse
Greenup · (606) 473-1708

McLean's Aerofresh Fruit
Ewing · (606) 782-1112

Townsend's Sorghum Mill
Jeffersonville · (859) 498-4142



Idea Exchange and County Activities awards

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 on December 2 during its annual meeting. These ideas and programs will compete nationally for the opportunity to be presented in January at the AFBF annual meeting in Atlanta.

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 poster display.

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 8-10 in Atlanta. 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.

All entries must be submitted by September 3. For more information, call Ed McQueen, Director of Market Information, at 502/495-5000, extension 7243. Contest rules and entry forms are available at your county Farm Bureau office or online at www.fb.org/programs.

Veterinary loan program underway

KFB's Education Foundation is offering financial assistance to qualified veterinary graduates who have school loans to be repaid. The Kentucky Large/Food Animal Veterinary Incentive Program is now soliciting applications from eligible veterinarians, vet technicians and technologists.

The second-year program encourages veterinary school graduates to pursue a career with large/food animals. Several areas of Kentucky do not have a local veterinarian to attend to cattle, horses or other farm animals, making this incentive program vitally important to the ongoing health of Kentucky's livestock population.

Selected incentive program recipients will be announced in January of 2011 and may receive up to \$18,000 over three years for payment toward outstanding school loans.

To qualify for the program, applicants must have either a degree in veterinary medicine from an accredited college or university, or have completed an accredited two-year veterinary technician or four-year technologist program. Veterinarian applicants must also be accredited by the USDA-APHIS to perform veterinary medical tasks in Kentucky.

Applications can be downloaded from kyfb.com at any time, but must be postmarked for submission by December 1 to: Scholarship Coordinator, KFB Education Foundation, P.O. Box 20700, Louisville, KY 40250-0700.

Grants available for dead animal disposal

The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board and the Kentucky Division of Conservation (KDOC) announced assistance to help counties with dead farm animal disposal.

The Deceased Farm Animal Disposal Assistance Program (DAP) provides an opportunity for the use of County Agricultural Development Funds. The program is a short-term measure to facilitate the coordination of environmentally sound and cost-effective disposal of deceased livestock for Kentucky's producers. The program will cover expenditures incurred between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011 related to an acceptable disposal program, up to \$7,500.

KDOC is also offering a cost-share program to assist counties with related expenditures by utilizing a portion of their Environmental Stewardship Fund, which receives an annual appropriation from the Agricultural Development Fund and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

Applications are currently being taken for both programs. Applications for DAP are due to GOAP by the last Friday of each month for consideration in the following month. Applications for DEG are due to the state conservation office by August 30.

Guidelines for the Deceased Farm Animal Disposal Assistance Removal program are available at agpolicy.ky.gov or by calling (502) 564-4627.

Guidelines for the Deceased Farm Animal Disposal Environmental Grants are available at conservation.ky.gov, by calling the Division of Conservation at (502) 573-3080 or by contacting the local conservation district office.

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