

Kentucky

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table of CONTENTS

Executive Committee Tour 8

KFB sets priority issues 10

Top County Awards 12

Young Farmer Awards 14

Distinguished Service Awards 16

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One of Kentucky Farm Bureau's finest moments came in October, when membership surpassed the half-million mark. We are just the third Farm Bureau in the country to eclipse the 500,000-member level.



We are grateful to our member families for driving us to such unprecedented heights. Because of the trust they have placed in us, our organization has become not only the number one provider of property and casualty insurance in the state, but also widely recognized as "The Voice of Kentucky Agriculture."

Officially assembling as the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation in November 1919, the organization began its steady march to 500,000 with an initial membership of nearly 7,000. The membership foundation that was laid more than nine decades ago, combined with the creation of the Kentucky Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company in 1944, launched KFB into phenomenal growth. In addition to setting the new historical high for total member families, 2010 represents the 49th consecutive year that KFB has increased its membership totals.

Standing the test of time, and flourishing throughout it, the organization remains true to its core mission. KFB is a voluntary organization dedicated to serving farm families, the agriculture industry and rural communities. But we also work in the public policy arena to enhance the lives of all Kentuckians. We not only advocate agriculture policies, but we work for good schools and roads, economic development, efficient and effective government and much more. Plus we offer a variety of member services programs offering discounted products and services.

Thanks for your membership! We are proud to have the opportunity to serve you and your family.

MARK HANEY

PRESIDENT
KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

Down to bus

Job creation was a recurring subject when four prominent state legislators met with farm commodity organization and KFB officials last month. The annual event to discuss legislative issues also included a session on national policy with several aides to Kentucky members of Congress.

The 2011 session of the General Assembly begins January 4 with four days of organizational work, including the election of leaders. Then comes a recess until February 1, when legislative proposals will be considered.

Senate President David Williams and House Appropriations and Revenue Committee Chairman Rick Rand told the agriculture officials that they were gravely concerned about the state's high unemployment rate and lack of new jobs.

Williams, a Republican from Cumberland County and a candidate in next year's gubernatorial election, urged KFB to join with other business groups to push for business tax reforms "that will enable us to compete with other states."

"I'm here to tell you that we need to make some structural changes to become more competitive," said Williams. "We are not considered a business-friendly state."

Williams said he is advocating "a rural-urban partnership" to push for tax reform and other measures to improve the state's business climate.

Rand, a Democrat from Trimble County, said the state's budget and revenue situation was "on target" for this stage of the biennium. But he, too, expressed concern about jobs.

"Unfortunately, we still have high unemployment; that troubles me," he said. "We need to focus on how we can grow jobs. Agriculture can be part of that."

Williams and Rand were followed on the program by the respective chairmen of the Senate and House Agriculture Committees: Senator David Givens of Green County and Representative Tom McKee of Harrison County. They discussed various agriculture issues and offered perspective about the current status of Kentucky agriculture.

Legislators tell ag officials Kentucky needs to grow jobs



Senate President David Williams is urging rural and urban groups to unite in pursuing policies leading to business growth in the state.



House Agriculture Committee Chairman Tom McKee (right) enjoyed a light moment with KFB Public Affairs Director Jeff Harper.

Givens, a farmer and agribusiness operator, is completing his first year as a legislator. He said one of his key concerns is combating attacks on the industry from radical groups on issues such as animal welfare and food safety. Agriculture, he said, needs more voices to tell its story.

"Let's cultivate the best in the industry and challenge them to go to the next level and be an elected voice," Senator Givens said.

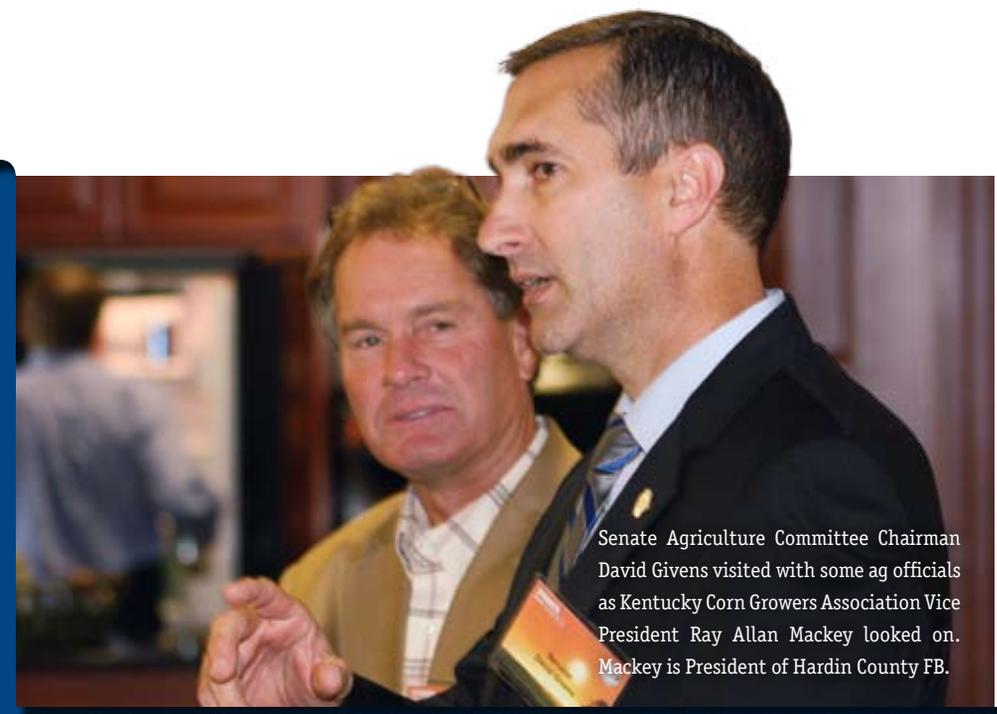
He also lamented the state's unemploy-

ment problem. "Growing our tax base is crucial," he said while advocating smaller government and entrepreneurship.

McKee, a longtime farmer and a former president of Harrison County FB, joined with Givens in guiding animal care legislation through the 2010 session. The development of the Livestock Care Standards Commission created by that law is a key issue for agriculture, he said, because it will set the stage for the future of animal agriculture in the state.

Business . . .

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.



Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman David Givens visited with some ag officials as Kentucky Corn Growers Association Vice President Ray Allan Mackey looked on. Mackey is President of Hardin County FB.



House A&R Committee Chairman Rick Rand (right) chatted with KFB Director Terry Rowlett prior to the meeting. Rowlett is from Henry County, which is part of Rand's district.

Givens said the new law has sent a signal around the nation that Kentucky is "a livestock-friendly state."

McKee also advised that lawmakers need to address the problem of dead animal removal. "We will be challenged to find some kind of service," he said.

The agriculture group included representatives from corn, soybean, small grains, beef cattle, dairy, poultry and swine organizations.

In welcoming the group, KFB President

Mark Haney described the meeting as "always a highlight" because it brings all parties together to share information, compare notes and voice objectives.

Referring to KFB, Haney said: "Any endeavor that we want to take on, it's always best to have a collaborative effort."

KFB Executive Vice President David S. Beck advised the group that "when we in agriculture can't get together and reach a consensus, we give our lawmakers an excuse to do nothing."

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J. Fritz Giesecke	2nd Vice President
David S. Beck	Executive Vice President

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KFB officials visit five county offices



KFB President Mark Haney spoke to a large gathering in Monroe County.

KFB's Executive Committee took its annual two-day tour of county offices and agriculture facilities across a swath of southern Kentucky stretching from Edmonson to Whitley Counties. Along the way KFB President Mark Haney delivered a message about the importance of maintaining a tradition of exemplary community service.

During stops at offices in five counties, the KFB President spoke of a critical connection between the organization and

rural communities. Farm Bureau traditionally has played an active role in community affairs, he noted, and must preserve that tradition in order to keep agriculture strong and generate economic opportunities in rural areas.

"If we are successful we will have communities where we are proud to raise our children and grandchildren," said the Pulaski County farmer.

Joining him in addressing local leaders and agency staff were First Vice President Eddie Melton, Executive Vice President David S. Beck and Brad Smith, CEO of KFB Insurance Company.

Smith repeated a message

about the importance of the grassroots.

"When you get out in the communities you are reminded of what Farm Bureau is all about," he said to the local leaders and agency staff.

The group visited offices in Edmonson, Simpson, Monroe, Wayne and Whitley counties. Sandwiched in between were tours of Mammoth Cave Transplants, a greenhouse and roadside market operation owned by Edmonson County FB President David Dennison and his wife, Janet; the Equity Group poultry processing plant in Clinton County and Wayne Lumber and Dry Kiln, a sawmill and kiln drying operation near Monticello.

Chaney's Dairy Barn in southern Warren County played host to a luncheon that included KFB leaders from both Warren and Allen counties. A dinner in Albany included leaders from six counties. At Monroe County, joining many of the board members were County Judge-Executive Tommy Willett and Tompkinsville Mayor Jeff Proffitt, both of whom were newly elected in November. State Representative James Comer Jr. also attended.

The final stop was Whitley County's sparkling new office in Williamsburg.



Alan Richardson (middle of photo) of Wayne Lumber Company gave a tour of the lumber yard and kilns for the KFB contingent. At right is KFB Insurance Company CEO Brad Smith. In the background is KFB Executive Vice President David S. Beck. KFB is committed to the development of the state's wood industry to boost rural economies.

KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU
ANNUAL | MEETING

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2010 ANNUAL MEETING

NATIONAL ISSUES HEADLINE 2011 AGENDA

Federal legislative issues such as farm programs, environmental regulations, estate taxes and energy policy are prominent on the list of priority issues for KFB in 2011.

Kentucky's largest farm organization

continues to advocate health care reform that will stabilize the market, encourage competition and increase consumer choice. The organization supports policies that allow association health plans and contain costs through tort reform.

KFB also continues to place a high pri-

ority on reforming the H-2A program for migrant farm workers.

At the state level, the list of priorities includes maintaining the funding level for Kentucky's historic agricultural development initiative that utilizes tobacco settlement funds, permanent repeal of the estate tax and maintaining sales tax exemptions for production agriculture.

Other state legislative priorities include:

- Funding for Murray State University's Breathitt Veterinary Center.
- Continued funding of the Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost-Share Program.
- Ensure that steep increases in property taxes are subject to voter referendum.
- Protect the rights of landowners when dealing with regional planning issues, eminent domain laws or smart growth initiatives.

• Broadening the representation of production agriculture on the State Board of Agriculture. Under legislation enacted this year, the State Board is involved in the process of developing livestock care standards for Kentucky.

"As always, we have a full agenda," said KFB President Mark Haney, a Pulaski County farmer whom delegates elected to a third term in the leadership post. "Our broad range of policy positions are aimed at strengthening our farm economy and providing farm families with essential programs and services."

In regard to national farm policy, KFB advocates maintaining an effective economic safety net for farm families. It also opposes several regulatory proposals under the Clean Water and Clean Air Act on grounds that they are unnecessary and burdensome.

The farm organization is calling for the repeal of a provision in the health care reform law that would require farmers to submit IRS form 1099 for all purchases of services or goods. Under prior law a 1099 form was required only for purchases of services in excess of \$600. Farm interests nationwide are objecting to this burdensome and costly change in the tax law.

NOTICE ANNUAL POLICYHOLDERS' MEETING OF KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY

The annual meeting of the policyholders of Kentucky Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2011, 10:00 a.m. (Eastern), at the home office of the company, 9201 Bunsen Parkway, Louisville, Kentucky, for the purpose of (1) electing directors of the company, (2) to receive the annual report of its officers, and (3) to consider any other business that may come before said meeting.

 Secretary

NOTICE ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING OF THE FB INSURANCE COMPANY

The annual meeting of the stockholders of The FB Insurance Company will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2011, 2:00 p.m. (Eastern), at the home office of the company, 9201 Bunsen Parkway, Louisville, Kentucky, for the purpose of electing directors of the company and to consider any other business that may come before said meeting.

 Secretary

NOTICE ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING OF KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of Kentucky Farm Bureau Insurance Agency, Inc. will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2011, 3:00 p.m. (Eastern), at the home office of the company, 9201 Bunsen Parkway, Louisville, Kentucky, for the purpose of electing directors of the company and to consider any other business that may come before said meeting.

 Secretary

MARK HANEY IS RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT; FRITZ GIESECKE JOINS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Pulaski County farmer Mark Haney was re-elected president of KFB on the concluding day of the organization's 91st annual meeting. Webster County's Eddie Melton was elected to fill the vacant role of First Vice-President, and Hart County's J. Fritz Giesecke was elected as Second Vice-President. They comprise KFB's Executive Committee along with Executive Vice President David S. Beck.

Haney has served on the Executive Committee for 12 years and has been a state director since 1993. For years he chaired the State Resolutions Committee. He is a past president of the Kentucky Center for Cooperative Development and the Kentucky Horticultural Society. A former President of Pulaski County FB, Haney and his brother, Don, produce apples and peaches near Nancy, where they also raise beef cattle. They sell fresh produce from their orchards - as well as cider, jellies, baked goods and other products - at a KFB Certified Roadside Market located on the farm. He and his wife, Marlene, have two sons and a daughter.

Melton is chairman of KFB's State Resolutions Committee and is a former President of Webster County FB. He also was chairman of KFB's Farm Bill Task Force, which conducted statewide forums and sought input from Kentucky farmers on provisions of the 2008 farm bill. Melton serves in leadership positions with the Corn Growers Promotion Board and is chairman of the board of the Southern States Cooperative. He and his wife, Regina, have a daughter.

Giesecke (pronounced "Geese-key") serves as the chair of the Beef Cattle Advisory Committee and vice chair of the Farm Labor Advisory Committee. He also represents KFB on the U.S. Meat Export Federation. Giesecke has been an active member of the Hart County FB for over 30 years where he has served in a variety of leadership positions, including county president. He also served 25 years as county supervi-

sor for the local soil conservation district. He farms 190 acres in Horse Cave. He and his wife, Lydia, have a daughter and a son.

Two new members were elected to fill expiring terms on the board. Stephen DeBord, of Pulaski County is the new chair of the Young Farmers Advisory Committee, and Phyllis Amyx of Wolfe County is the newly elected chair of the Women's Advisory Committee.

A complete list of the 2011 KFB Board of Directors is on page 5.

KFB's Executive Committee is comprised of (from left) Second VP Fritz Giesecke, 1st VP Eddie Melton, President Mark Haney and Executive VP David S. Beck.



HEAVY HITTER

Sixth District Congressman Ben Chandler was presented with a Louisville Slugger bat by KFB Public Affairs Director Jeff Harper in appreciation of delivering the keynote address at the Public Affairs breakfast. Chandler told the crowd that he is a moderate and is committed to working in a bipartisan fashion to address the many critical issues facing the nation.

MADISON COUNTY IS TOPS



The Madison County contingent poses with the Top County trophy. County President Kevin Fields is holding the trophy along with KFB Executive Vice President David S. Beck. Behind Fields is Brad Smith, CEO of KFB Insurance Company. Area Program Director Lynn Parsons is at left on the second row from the top.

Marion County couple win "Excellence" award

Daniel and Sarah Mattingly of Marion County won the Excellence in Agriculture award and will represent Kentucky in national competition at the AFBF annual meeting. The Mattinglys were presented with a John Deere Gator, courtesy of Farm Credit Services of Mid-America and \$500 from Dodge Truck Division of DaimlerChrysler Corp.

Daniel is a high school agriculture teacher and FFA advisor in Marion County, but also owns and operates a 50-acre cattle farm with his wife and is a partner with his father on another 100-acre cattle farm.

Second place went to Anthony and Jill Koch of Bourbon County. Linda McClanahan of Mercer County placed third.

Madison County FB was selected "top county" for 2010. The announcement headlined more than 100 membership program and insurance honors presented during an awards breakfast at the annual meeting.

Madison County FB, which has 6,552 members and a variety of successful service programs, was also honored as the Top County in the largest membership category (more than 4,200 members). Owen County received recognition among small counties (up to 2,600 members), and Marion County won top honors for counties with 2,601 to 4,200 members.

In other award presentations:

Outstanding County Farm Bureaus were designated in each of 11 districts. The recipients were McCracken, Christian, Hardin, Logan, Marion, Owen, Pulaski, Madison, Clark, Carter and Breathitt Counties.

Boone, Jessamine and Elliott Counties received Top Growth Awards for having the largest percentage of membership gain from 2009.

Pacesetter Awards were given to coun-

ties in the three membership size classifications that were the first to achieve a membership gain during the year. The large county award went to Boone County, followed in size by Montgomery and Lyon Counties.

Eleven counties won honors for having the highest member retention totals in their districts. Those winners were Hickman, Webster, Butler, Green, Washington, Henry, Russell, Jackson, Robertson, Elliott and Letcher Counties.

Allen and Taylor counties were honored for having 48 consecutive years of membership growth.

Rockcastle County was recognized as the Most Improved County Farm Bureau.

Three awards were given for most effective county Farm Bureau information programs. Mercer County won first place, Union County was second and Garrard County was third.

Five counties won awards for policy growth and profitability produced by their local Farm Bureau insurance agencies. These counties – Breckinridge, Clark, Fleming, Franklin and Muhlenberg – came closest to the growth goal set for that county.

WOMEN, YOUNG FARMERS SELECT LEADERS

Stephen DeBord of Pulaski County is the new chair of the Young Farmers Advisory Committee and Phyllis Amyx of Campton is the newly elected chair of the Women's Advisory Committee. The new vice chair of the Young Farmers Committee is Fred Sipes of Meade County.

The Women's Committee officers are (from left) Betty Farris, Phyllis Amyx and Michelle Armstrong.



Michelle Armstrong of Spencer County was elected first vice chair and Betty Farris of Butler County was elected second vice chair of the women's committee.

The 13-member Young Farmers Committee is comprised of both singles and married couples. Those members for 2011, including the officers, are: Scott Bridges, Cadiz; Shawn and Shannon Brumfield, Nebo; Fred Sipes, Ekron; Jonathan and Becky Brown, Olmstead; Brad and Elizabeth Mattingly, Lebanon; Chris and Kendra Ammerman, Dry Ridge; Stephen DeBord, Eubank; Josh and Miranda Brown, Stanford; Terry and Deborah Ishmael, Hillsboro; Jason and Hannah McGlone, Grayson; Brent and Rhonda Cornett, London; Chris and Heather Ragan, Bowling Green; Daniel and Allison Smith, Stamping Ground.

Members of the Women's Advisory Committee, in addition to the three officers are: Frieda Heath, Hickory; Bettie Wallace, Princeton; Vickie Bryant, Tompkinsville; Pam Chappell, Owenton; Carol Sullivan, Campbellsville; Mary Jayne Cannon, Flemingsburg; Margaret Hensley, Manchester; Cathy Pleasants, Stanford; and Terry Gilbert, Danville.

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OYFF AWARDS

BATH COUNTY COUPLE ARE 2010 WINNERS

Steven and Richelle Bach of Bath County are winners of this year's Outstanding Young Farm Family contest. They won a Case IH Scout courtesy of KFB Insurance and Case IH, \$1,000 cash from Premier Crop Insurance, a \$1,500 voucher from Pioneer Seed, a \$500 voucher from Southern States Cooperative, a \$600 voucher from Miles Seed, \$500 from Dodge and a handgun portable safe from Misty Morn Safe Company. They also received an expense-paid trip to compete in AFBF's national young farmer finals next month in Atlanta

Second place went to Chris and Misty Thorn of Calloway County. They received 250 hours free use of a Kubota tractor, \$750 cash from Premier Crop Insurance, a \$1,000 voucher from Pioneer Seed, a \$300 voucher from Southern States Cooperative and a \$400 voucher from Miles Seed. Third place winners were Michael and Nora McCain of Washington County. They won 100 hours free use of a New Holland tractor, \$500 from Premier Crop Insurance, a \$500 voucher from Pioneer Seed, a \$200 voucher from Southern States Cooperative and a \$200 voucher from Miles Seed.

Judging for the contest is based primarily on farm management skills, financial growth plus Farm Bureau and community involvement. Couples and single persons up to 35 years old are eligible.

Winners of the national contest will win a 2011 Dodge Ram Pickup, courtesy of Ram Trucks. Each of the four national runners up will receive a Case IH Farmall tractor from CASE IH.



B

BACH

Steven and Richelle Bach

The Bachs have a unique and highly diverse operation. They grow row crops and hay, have a cow-calf operation, an orchard with peaches and apples plus several supplementary businesses. This includes custom farm work, marketing, and a charter flying service with Steven as the pilot.

"We have a very creative enterprise," says Richelle. "We have merged our love of agriculture with our other passions into a strong, versatile enterprise."

Steven was raised on a Bath County farm. His father, Mike, is active with Farm Bureau and other agriculture groups and is well known in agricultural circles. Steven holds a degree in Animal Sciences from the University of Kentucky while Richelle graduated from Morehead State University with a degree in Psychology and Marketing. Her family owns and operates a funeral home.

"We have different backgrounds but yet are oddly similar," said Richelle. "Growing up with a funeral home and a farm are very similar in that both are around-the-clock jobs and require a strong sense of community."

They have operations on 3,100 acres and own 1,100 of that. This year they produced about 800 acres of corn, soybeans and wheat along with 70 acres of alfalfa and 300 acres of grass hay. They sell some hay to area farmers.

They also have a cow-calf operation with over 400 head, two acres of asparagus and a five-acre orchard with peaches and apples. They lease more than 2,000 acres of farmland in several counties.

"We have several related enterprises that offer importance to our organization," Steven said. "As cow calf producers, we put up as much hay as possible, but we also sell hay to our neighbors. Custom work is not a focus, but is important to for networking purposes. It's more about nurturing the relationships with our neighbors. We farm in a rural area and it's important to be there for each other – especially in our industry."

They handle most of the labor themselves and are very focused on marketing their business.

Richelle's professional background in marketing, advertising and public relations enables the farm to handle their own marketing. "We can tell our own farming

story to those who aren't familiar with our industry. Our farm is now in the social media world; we have a website and actively plan community agricultural events. Just like our cattle, we have been branded!" Richelle explained.

Steven has his pilot's license and operates a charter service, serving area realtors needing aerial photos of properties, charter flights for travelers and for business purposes.

Although their business is large in scope, the Bachs welcome the small jobs, too.

"We still welcome sacking a bag of corn for a neighbor's chicken or walking through the orchard as we gather a bushel of peaches for a customer," said Steven.

Both are active with agriculture and community organizations. While a student Steven served in leadership positions for FFA, 4-H and Farmhouse Fraternity at UK. He has been on the Bath County Farm Bureau Board of Directors since 1999. The Bachs have served on KFB's State Young Farmers Advisory Committee and regularly participate in Farm Bureau functions such as state and national meetings and the annual Congressional Tour.

Steven also is active with the Soil Conservation District and a member of various commodity organizations.



THORN

Chris and Misty Thorn

The Thorns have a row crop operation in Calloway County consisting primarily of corn and soybeans. They also grow hay. Chris and his brother manage a small beef cattle herd owned by their mother plus Chris has a complete line of excavating equipment and a fully equipped machine shop. He has a passion for working on anything mechanical.

Chris was raised on the family farm and assumed the responsibility of running the day-to-day operations after the untimely death his father and grandfather. The Thorn's excavating business was started by Chris' grandfather. Misty works part-time as a registered dental assistant but also helps maintain the farm's record-keeping system.

"Our farming operation is basically traditional but unique in that we hire no outside labor and do all the work on our equipment," Chris said. "We feel this has helped our operation to become and stay profitable. We have very little debt for an operation our size."

Chris started farming full-time upon his high school graduation. He formed a partnership with his younger brother in 2000; the arrangement applied to renting land and buying equipment. They also utilize storage facilities and forward contracting to capture higher prices for their crops.

Chris and Misty have been active with Farm Bureau for several years. He is the immediate past president of Calloway County Farm Bureau and she serves as Calloway County Farm Bureau Women's Committee chair. They served together on the KFB State Young Farmer Advisory Committee from 2006-2008. Chris also is a supervisor with the County Conservation District, is Vice President of the Calloway County Cattlemen's Association and is on the county agricultural development council. The Thorns are also active with church and school functions.

The Thorns have two children, ages 5 and 2.

Michael and Nora McCain

The McCains are row-crop producers in Washington County, with more than 4,200 acres of corn and soybeans plus 16 acres of burley tobacco. They own 186 acres and rent the remaining land that they farm.

Michael was raised on a tobacco and cattle



McCAIN

farm and holds a degree from the University of Kentucky in Ag Economics. Nora's family operates a small grocery store in Meade County. She has a degree in marketing from Western Kentucky University and works part-time in the circuit clerk's office.

"We have had to build this business from the ground up," said Michael. "Our farming operation has been established by building an acreage base through rental arrangements. We started by renting the small tracts of land that were either difficult to access with large equipment, too small for established operations or had fertility issues. In other words, we tried to get our feet in the door by farming land that nobody else wanted."

"We have worked to increase production on these farms and have gradually been able to lease larger and better tracts of land. We are still in an expansion mode."

Michael raises the crops while Nora handles finances, recordkeeping and public relations.

Michael is a director for Washington County Farm Bureau and is chairman of the young farmer committee. Nora serves on the county women's committee. Michael also serves on the county's ag development council and is a member of several commodity organizations.

The McCains have two children, ages 2 and 10 months. They hope to eventually pass the farm on to them.

RON SHEETS RECEIVES SERVICE TO AG AWARD



Ron Sheets thanked the KFB members for the prestigious award.

Ron Sheets, former President of the Kentucky Association of Electric Cooperatives Inc. (KAEC), was named winner of Kentucky Farm Bureau's award for distinguished service to agriculture.

Sheets, 67, was raised on a Franklin County farm. He earned a degree in Business Administration from Campbellsville College and a master's degree in business administration from the University of Kentucky and then returned to farming before becoming Vice President of the Kentucky Retail Federation in 1969. He joined KAEC in 1978 as Vice President and was elected president in 1981. He retired at the begin-

ning of 2010 after 29 years of service to the state's electric cooperatives.

He also served a two-year term on the board of directors of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

As head of the electric co-ops trade association, Sheets led their statewide communications and legislative efforts. During his tenure "Kentucky Living" Magazine grew to be the most widely circulated publication in the state with average circulation of more than 500,000. On the legislative front he led numerous political efforts to keep rural electricity affordable and available for Kentucky farms, homes and businesses.

"Rural Kentucky owes a debt of gratitude to Ron Sheets," said Eston Glover, KAEC's chairman and president of Hopkinsville-based Pennyrile Electric Cooperative. "Ron led the fight, often alongside Kentucky Farm Bureau leaders, to keep Kentucky's electric rates among the lowest in the nation."

In 2004 NRECA presented Sheets with the William F. Matson Award for Political Action in recognition of his substantial po-

litical efforts on behalf of electric co-ops.

KFB Executive Vice President David S. Beck said Sheets was committed to maintaining a strong tie between the co-ops and rural communities.

"Ron has a true appreciation of agriculture and its importance to rural Kentucky," Beck said. "KAEC and its member electric co-ops have been good corporate citizens throughout the state, and especially to rural Kentucky. KAEC and its members also have made significant contributions to 4-H and FFA."

Sheets served two terms as president of Kentucky Friends of 4-H (now the Kentucky 4-H Foundation) and has received service awards and other distinctions from Kentucky 4-H. He led a planning fundraising campaign for building the Lake Cumberland 4-H Educational Center in Jabez. A room there is named in his honor.

He strongly supported KAEC's college scholarship program awarded through its 26 local co-ops. The fund has reached more than \$150,000.

Dr. C. Oran Little, former Dean of the UK College of Agriculture, describes Sheets as "that person behind the scenes who could get things done; a tremendous force for rural Kentucky and rural education."

Under Sheets' leadership, KAEC exercised considerable political influence and was a strong advocate on rural issues, Dr. Little added.

"The emphasis in speaking about Ron is leadership," said Dr. Little. "He worked diligently to protect the interest of the small electric user in rural areas. He was a motivating force in putting rural Kentucky at the forefront. Quietly, he brought about many positive changes."

SAM MOORE HONORED FOR SERVICE TO KFB

Former KFB President Sam Moore received the annual award for Distinguished Service to Farm Bureau. A row crop and cattle producer in Butler County, Moore served on the KFB Board of Directors for 33 years, culminating in 2009. While serving as president from 1998-2005, he played a key role with two of the most significant public policy developments in the history of Kentucky's agriculture industry: Enactment of state legislation targeting tobacco settlement funds for the development of the state's agriculture industry; and the National Tobacco Quota Buyout Program.

Since its inception in 2001, Moore has served on the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board that oversees the historic ag development initiative. More than \$300 million in tobacco settlement funds have been invested in some 3,600 projects involving close to 78,000 farmers, according to the Governor's Office for Agricultural Policy.

Moore devoted much of his time as KFB President in pursuit of a quota buyout program for Kentucky burley growers. After four years of intense negotiations, federal legislation was passed in 2004 to terminate the quota and price-support program with buyouts totaling some \$9.6 billion for burley and flue-cured producers throughout the tobacco belt. Nearly \$2.5 billion was earmarked for Kentucky farmers.

U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell worked closely with Moore and others to develop the tobacco buyout legislation and then move it through Congress. "I worked side-by-side with Mr. Moore in that effort and can attest that his dedication and hard work was critical to our success," McConnell wrote in an endorsement letter for the service award. McConnell also noted that Moore "was a driving force behind legislation in the Kentucky General Assembly to allocate half of Kentucky's proceeds from the Master Settlement Agreement into a new state fund that would dedicate the money to projects that would develop Kentucky agriculture."

Also offering a nomination was Roger Thomas, the Executive Director of the

Governor's Office for Agricultural Policy who, while serving in the General Assembly, was the primary sponsor of the bill that created the ag development program. In his letter of recommendation Thomas cited Moore for "his team approach to problem-solving." He added: "His outstanding leadership has helped provide a brighter future for our industry."

"Sam's service to agriculture has been exceptional not only because it has been tireless, but because it has effectively guided us through great change," said Scott Smith, Dean of the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture.

Moore served on the American Farm Bureau Federation Board of Directors from 1999-2005 and currently serves on the State Fair Board. In 2006 he was selected as the Kentucky Farmer of the Year

Moore became involved with Butler County Farm Bureau shortly after purchasing his own farm in the early 1960s, at the age of 19. In a statewide program, he won the organization's outstanding young farmer award in 1974. He served as president of Butler County Farm Bureau prior to his election to the state board.

Moore, 66, continues to operate a large-scale grain farm, raises purebred Angus cattle and owns Green River Feed Mill in Morgantown. He also is involved with the development of the Kentucky Agricultural Heritage Center, a proposed museum in Mercer County to celebrate the history and accomplishments of Kentucky agriculture.

Moore has been nominated for AFBF's Distinguished Service Award which will be announced at next month's annual meeting in Atlanta.



in the prestigious Southeastern Farmer of the Year program. In 2003 "Progressive Farmer" magazine selected Moore for its prestigious "Man of the Year" award for service to Kentucky agriculture.

Another career highlight came in the 1980s, when Moore was instrumental in the establishment of Kentucky's grain insurance program which protects producers from elevator or dealer financial failures.

Sam and Helen Moore accepted the award from KFB President Mark Haney and Executive Vice President David S. Beck

OUTSTANDING YOUTH ARE SELECTED

Joenelle Futrell of Daviess County and Corbin Wilson of McLean County were awarded top honors in the 2010 Outstanding Farm Bureau Youth contest. They were selected from 22 district finalists out of approximately 175 young people who competed in county and district contests over the past several months. Judges met with finalists for personal interviews during the annual meeting, awarding points for the contestants' leadership record, conversational ability and scholastic achievement.

KFB gave both Futrell and Corbin a \$2,000 college scholarship, an expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., on the KFB Congressional Tour in February 2011, a luggage set and watch for winning the contest.

Runners-up in the contest were Caroline Snell of Bourbon County and Matthew Bailey of Breckinridge County. They each received a \$200 cash award and digital camera from KFB. Congeniality awards, which were voted on by their fellow contestants, were won by Kellie Owen, of LaRue County and Dakota Lester of Pike County. KFB awarded both of them with \$100 cash prizes for the honor.

Other contestants among the finalists were: Emily Scott of Lyon County, Jay Middleton of Ballard County, Brittany Bennett of Barren County, Samuel Janes of Green County, April Ballard of Nelson County, Joshua Mabrey of Nelson County, Fawn McLean of Franklin County, Kyle Kelly of Owen County, Sarai Wethington of Casey County, Alex Popplewell of Russell County, Korey Coleman of Boyle County, David McGuffey of Lincoln County, Stefan Fink of Clark County, Katie Coldiron of Greenup County, Hannah Lee Stewart of Breathitt County and Jacob Garrison of Clay County.

All 22 contestants received luggage pieces and \$100 for winning district competitions.

Chad Hall received the award from First Vice President Eddie Melton and Executive Vice President David S. Beck.



Joenelle Futrell and Corbin Wilson.

CHAD HALL WINS DISCUSSION MEET

Chad Hall of Daviess County won first place in the final round of the Discussion Meet, a debate-styled competition for young farmers that relies on an individual's skill in reasoning and logical discussion of issues.

Hall, a farmer and business service officer for BB&T in Owensboro, bested 13 other entrants in the event, winning the choice of a Kawasaki 4x4 ATV or a Kawasaki Mule donated by Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company. He also won a trip to the national finals next month, as well as \$500 from Dodge Division of DaimlerChrysler. In addition, Jacobi Sales, Inc. awarded him a voucher for Kawasaki

accessories.

Runner-up in the meet was Curt Divine of Union County, who received \$1,000 cash from KFB. The two other finalists in the state-level contest were Jonathan Shell of Garrard County and Cameron Edwards of Webster County. They each received \$200 cash awards from KFB.

The Discussion Meet tests entrants on their basic knowledge of critical farm issues and their ability to respond in a panel setting to differing points of view. The topic debated by the four finalists asked, "Government has always been involved in agriculture. Is the current level of government involvement a new hindrance or a net benefit to agriculture?"



Jackson County woman wins educational grant

Rhonda England of Jackson County, an instructional assistant for teaching special needs elementary school students, is the recipient of KFB's Women's Educational Grant. The \$1,500 prize is awarded annually to a female non-traditional student who is interested in resuming her education after leaving school to fulfill either family or work-related responsibilities.

England began working as an instructional assistant at Sand Gap Elementary in 2008, working with children with ADHD and those who struggle with reading and math skills. Encouraged by her husband and daughter to pursue her dream of attaining a college degree, England enrolled and is now a freshman at Midway College. The Jackson County High School graduate is majoring in elementary education.

Since her daughter's school-aged years,

England has been actively involved in several civic organizations on a volunteer basis, especially those connected to education. Starting out as president of her daughter's preschool Parent-Teacher Organization, she progressed into a regular volunteer at Sand Gap Elementary, was an active Girl Scout leader, key member of the local American Cancer Society Relay for Life and rounded out her spare time as a volunteer and advisory council member of the Sand Gap Family Resource/Child Development Center.

In her grant application, England stated that, "by continuing my education, I am showing others that college is never out of one's reach. My goal is to become a teacher and to encourage my students to never give up, to work hard and to believe in themselves."

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