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Kentucky
FARM BUREAU NEWS

With the 2012 elections far back in the rear view mirror, it's time for some action from Congress. For starters, farm families would like to see a farm bill, immigration reform and something that seriously addresses the crushing federal debt. A balanced budget would be welcome news, as well.



Around 200 KFB members from throughout the state delivered that message to Washington during our annual "Congressional Tour" in late February. This trip is one of the best things we do because it gives farmers and family members an opportunity to talk face-to-face to their members of Congress, explaining the issues of importance to their lives. And the fact that these people travel to Washington to do this underscores our commitment to public policy that benefits agriculture and rural communities.

It's a great testament to Farm Bureau that all of our members of Congress continually participate in this event. In fact, our breakfast meeting is one of the few occasions that brings all eight members of Kentucky's delegation to a particular event. This year, we welcomed two newcomers; freshmen Representatives Andy Barr and Thomas Massie. In contrast, Hal Rogers was there for the 33rd time.

We attract the attention of lawmakers at all levels because they recognize that Farm Bureau is comprised of people from the grassroots with great experience, a strong work ethic, high integrity and a common sense approach to dealing with problems. They know that KFB leaders are committed to improving the quality of life for all. And they know we will shoot straight with them.

While we understand the wide philosophical differences that are causing the dysfunction in Washington, that doesn't mean we accept the situation. We and the rest of the Farm Bureau family nationally have been calling for a spirit of compromise, with both sides moving toward the middle of the spectrum. It's clear that the current political strategies will continue to lead to inaction. And yet we cannot allow the problems to mount while both parties refuse to budge.

This is not an election year and thus the door is wide open for compromise and action. I'm encouraged that a bipartisan group is working on immigration reform with a plan including significant changes to the cumbersome H-2A program for farm workers. That's a significant issue in Kentucky, where some farmers are forced to use undocumented migrants.

It's easy to be pessimistic about our federal government and the direction of the nation. But I'm optimistic because the real strength lies in people like Farm Bureau leaders who are willing to make the effort to effect positive changes. We need to stay the course and do what we do, which is to ensure that those who are producing our food are able to continue to do so.

MARK HANEY

PRESIDENT
KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

KFB BEEF EXPO SETS ANOTHER MARK



Consignors of breed champions posed for an awards photo with Agriculture Commissioner James Comer (center) and KFB Executive Committee members Fritz Giesecke (left of Comer) and (right of Comer) Mark Haney, Eddie Melton and David S. Beck.

The Kentucky Farm Bureau Beef Expo surpassed \$1 million in sales for the second consecutive year. Gross sales for the 27th annual event totaled \$1,083,150, up 2 percent from the 2012 Beef Expo. Average per head was \$2,360, an increase of 7.7 percent from last year's event. A total of 201 consignors from 19 states sold 459 animals.

Three lots — all from Kentucky consignors — attracted bids of more than \$10,000:

- *The grand champion Hereford bull, consigned by Matheny Herefords of Mays Lick, which was the sale topper at \$11,500;*

- *The grand champion Simmental female, consigned by Welsh Simmentals of Glasgow, which drew a bid of \$10,200; and*

- *An Angus cow and calf consigned by Sheldon Burks of Park City, which went to two Kentucky buyers for a total of \$10,100.*

Forty-five Angus lots averaged \$3,618 per head to lead all breeds. Simmentals averaged \$3,239 for 63 lots.

Agriculture Commissioner James Comer praised the show for boosting the reputation of the state's breeding industry.

"Most of the top-selling cattle were sold by Kentucky consignors. That says cattle buyers all over the country recognize the quality of Kentucky cattle," said Comer, a beef cattle producer from Monroe County. "Kentucky Farm Bureau and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture have worked hard to make the Beef Expo one of the leading sources of breeding stock in the United States, and our efforts are paying off."

Youth exhibitors showed 500 animals in the Junior Show, up from 477 in 2012. Kentucky cattle in the Junior Show totaled 169, 31 more than the previous year. Commissioner Comer attributed the increase in Kentucky cattle to the Kentucky Proud Livestock Tag Program, which makes exhibitors eligible for additional premiums for showing Kentucky livestock. For more information about the Kentucky Proud Livestock Tag Program, go to www.kyagr.com/marketing/ky-proud-tag.html.

Other highlights from Kentucky consignors were:

Caleb Sadler of Carlisle had the champion bull Angus while Caleb Stephenson of Carrollton had the champion female. The reserve champion female from Logan Boyd of May's Lick fetched the top Angus price of \$7,250.

The champion female Charolais was from Premier Cattle Company of Bardstown; Grand Ole Place Farms of Nicholasville had the champion Chianus bull; Madeline Ethington of Lancaster consigned the champion female Limousin; the Red Angus champion bull came from Blue Ridge Cattle of Carlisle; the Red Poll champion bull was from Matt Young of Simpsonville; the champion bull for Salers was from Diamond J. Salers of Eubank with Willis Farm of Frankfort having the champion female; the champion Shorthorn bull came from Amanda Conley of Georgetown.

comment

COLUMN



The young farmer program is among the many great things Farm Bureau does for farm families and our agriculture industry. I enjoy being involved with the program. It gives young farmers from throughout the state an opportunity to strengthen leadership skills to put them in a better position to be of benefit to Farm Bureau and agriculture as a whole, as well as their community. The experiences enable us to learn more about the industry and what's going on. The program also gives us an opportunity to "network" with our peers. Many good ideas have been passed on through this connection. And many great friendships have been forged.



A strong farm economy, emerging technologies and expanding market opportunities make this an exciting time for young farmers. I am among the many who have benefitted from what my father and his family established on the family farm. Now, as I look to move forward with my farming career, I share many of the concerns of my peers from all parts of this nation.

The biggest concerns of young farmers came to light with a survey taken during the recent AFBF Young Farmers and Ranchers Leadership Conference. The results told me that I'm pretty much in the mainstream of things because my biggest concerns matched those at the top of the list.

The availability of land no doubt is the biggest obstacle to young farmers today. In my area of the state (Carter County), there's simply very little farmland available. Much of the land has been with a family for generations and never becomes available. And oftentimes the good farmland is purchased by an older person with the necessary assets, who then leases to the young people who farm it.

Compounding the situation is skyrocketing farmland values. My peers from the Midwestern grain belt tell me of unbelievable prices for row crop land. Iowa, for example, had a \$12,000-per-acre average in some counties last year, with a statewide average of \$8,296. Around where I live, good row crop land is selling in the \$3,500-\$4,000 range.

Young farmers from around the nation also are concerned about how federal regulations and programs can affect their futures. The government simply keeps getting bigger and more intrusive in the business world. We don't know what to expect. As everyone knows, government guidelines have the potential to force changes in how you farm, as well as to impact your bottom line. It's hard to plan when you can't be sure of what the landscape will look like down the road.

The availability of credit and labor are other key concerns.

I guess the best way to sum this up is to say that although there are some good opportunities out there for young or beginning farmers, there's also some obstacles. Organizations like Farm Bureau are instrumental in helping to clear hurdles.

JASON MCGLONE
CHAIRMAN
KFB YOUNG FARMER COMMITTEE

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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KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU NEWS

Editor

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CONGRESSIONAL TOUR



More than 200 members participated in this year's Congressional Tour, which coincided with the late-February buzz over the federal budget sequestration (that went into effect later that week). Federal spending, deficits and debt were the primary topics in the remarks of Kentucky's Congressional delegation during the traditional breakfast. All eight of Kentucky's members were on hand, including first-timers Andy Barr (R-6th District) and Thomas Massie (R-4th District).

The agenda also included briefing sessions, tours to popular sites and visits to legislative offices on Capitol Hill. As is the tradition, the concluding event was a question-and-answer session with Senators Mitch McConnell and Rand Paul.

Addressing the budget deficit tops the list of KFB's National Priority Issues for

2013 along with passage of a farm bill that maintains an adequate safety net for producers. Thanks to the "fiscal cliff" compromise that Senator McConnell was instrumental in crafting, two issues already have been addressed to some degree: Making permanent a \$5 million estate tax threshold and lowering the top rate on capital gains taxes for those making under \$400,000 (\$450,000 per couple).

Reforming federal farm labor programs is another priority issue that several of the Kentucky lawmakers addressed. The general opinion expressed by the Kentuckians who spoke on the issue is that Congress will take some form of action this year.

Following are brief capsules from the Kentucky delegation, in the order in which they spoke to the group:

SENATOR RAND PAUL: He drew a round of applause when outlining his ideas

for making substantial budget cuts. His list included a 50 percent reduction in foreign aid to unfriendly nations, a 16 percent cut in federal salaries (which he said would bring the federal salary average down to the average in the private sector) and not replacing some 100,000 federal retirees each year. He cited billion-dollar figures of what such moves would save.

Senator Paul said "there is some momentum" on immigration reform. He spoke about a "trust and verify" amendment he had filed to a reform measure and added that "securing our borders" was the key to any progress in dealing with the issue.

While the first-term Senator is regarded as somewhat of a maverick, he voiced his appreciation for two of his veteran and very powerful Kentucky colleagues: Senate Minority Leader McConnell and House Appropriations Committee Chairman Hal Rogers. "We in Kentucky

are lucky to have them," Paul said.

SENATOR MITCH MCCONNELL:

After describing what led to the compromise that he and Vice President Joe Biden fashioned to avoid the "fiscal cliff," the Senator Minority Leader decried the national debt. "We now have a debt the size of our economy. When you have a debt the size of your economy, you look a lot like Greece," he remarked. In regard to the sequestration budget cuts, McConnell said the issue of an across-the-board 2.4 percent was being overplayed. "I bet you could cut 2.4 percent from your farm budget and not see an effect," he said to the KFB audience.

CONGRESSMAN HAL ROGERS:

The Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee noted that this was his 33rd breakfast. He humorously recalled the early days when, because of his status as a newcomer, he would be the last one to speak. "Everyone before would have covered what I wanted to address," he recalled with a smile. But one thing Rogers did to set himself apart was to personally give tours of the Capitol building. He continued that tradition later in the day.

While speaking on several issues, Rogers placed special emphasis on his position about entitlement program spending, which he says accounts for two-thirds of federal spending. "Entitlement spending is soaring; we have to address that," he said.

CONGRESSMAN ED WHITFIELD:

The First District Congressman blasted the Obama administration for positions detrimental to Kentucky's coal industry. He was especially critical of a ban on construction of coal-fired plants. "This administration is after fossil fuels," he said. Whitfield went on to criticize the economic stimulus package, calling it "a failure." He cited several failed projects supported by stimulus money, including a Michigan battery manufacturer that he said was found to have circulated batteries made in South Korea.

CONGRESSMAN JOHN YARMUTH:

The only Democrat in the Kentucky delegation opened on a light note by remarking: "It's a pleasure to be here on behalf of the entire Democratic delegation from Kentucky." His tone, however, changed quickly as he sharply criticized McConnell for the "Greece" analogy. "That's like saying a 78-year-old Social Security recipient with no income and around \$20,000 of debt is like Donald Trump having several billion dollars of debt on his property," Yarmuth said angrily. "It's like comparing the Greek military to the American military."

The Louisvillian lamented the continual gridlock in Congress, explaining that "we have irreconcilable differences between the House and Senate. The most liberal Republican is more conservative than the most conservative Democrat. On most issues there's no common ground."

Yarmuth described the across-the-board budget cuts as "horrible policy" and noted that he voted against it.

CONGRESSMAN BRETT GUTHRIE:

The Bowling Green Republican devoted most of his comments to fiscal matters. He conveyed a deep concern about how the current fiscal mess will impact future generations. "Our young people deserve a government that works," he said.

Fueling much of the deficit crisis, Guthrie said, is the federal government's failure to prepare for the fiscal needs of baby boomers by not assuring that programs like Social Security and Medicare remained on solid financial footing. "We've known since 1992 that these baby boomers would be retiring" and thus requiring enormous resources from the federal programs, Guthrie said. "In 30 years entitlement spending will be 100 percent of revenue. We need to wake up and start planning."

He went on to note that the federal government has to borrow money to pay for discretionary spending. The third-term representative voiced his frustration with Washington, saying: "I think we ought to solve problems."

CONGRESSMAN THOMAS MASSIE:

The freshman from Lewis County devoted much of his time to talking about life on the Lewis County farm where he resides with his wife and four children. He said there were three generations living on the farm, where his wife was raised. He expressed great interest in resolving the farm labor problem. "It is harder and harder on the farm to find labor," he said. "We definitely need to address that."

He noted that he, Yarmuth, Paul and McConnell have endorsed hemp production for Kentucky (KFB does not have policy on that issue) and that he was particularly enthusiastic about prospects for the crop. "If Kentucky just made its own baling twine (from hemp), it would be self-sufficient," Massie said. He also lamented the divisiveness in Washington. "We don't just need more cooperation between Democrats and Republicans, but we need more cooperation between the House and Senate," he said.

CONGRESSMAN ANDY BARR:

The freshman from the Sixth District echoed Guthrie in expressing a grave concern about the future. "This is the first time in American history that people do not feel the next generation will be better off," he stated. "We need to cultivate a future for our kids." Barr said "the American people are desperate for compromise" on the pressing federal issues. He added that "the temporary nature of the farm bill is a symbol of dysfunction in Washington."

Barr had plenty to say about the fiscal mess. He asserted that it only took Congress seven days to appropriate as much money (\$61 billion, he claimed) as the estimated tax increase revenues (\$62 billion, he said) put in place in the "fiscal cliff" legislation. "Tax increases don't bring deficit reduction," he said, "because Congress will spend the new revenue." Barr said he was proud to have learned that his Congressional district ranks 54th out of the 435 House districts in value of farm products sold.



LEFT: The LEAD class posed for a shot on a stairwell at AFBF headquarters, where they took a tour and attended workshops on setting goals and managing time. At right on the rail from the bottom are Brain Hacker of Knox County, Melissa Miller of Hardin County, Brandon Davis of Green County, Zack Ison of Mercer County, Scott Barnes of Garrard County and Ryan Chaplin of Campbell County. The middle row from the bottom has Sarah Jones of Allen County, Sheldon McKinney of Todd County, Jonathan Miller of McLean County and Garland Jones of Marion County. At left from the bottom are Amanda Gajdzik of Shelby County, Mary McCarty of Elliott County, Karen Roy of Pulaski County, Glen Kinder of Lyon County and Chris Fair of Casey County.



ABOVE: Flanked by KFB President Mark Haney and Executive Vice President David S. Beck, Congressman John Yarmuth addressed the breakfast crowd. He began by quipping: "On behalf of the entire Democratic delegation from Kentucky . . ."

TOP RIGHT: Second District Congressman Brett Guthrie received a "Friend of Farm Bureau" award from KFB Second Vice President Fritz Giesecke. To the right of Giesecke are KFB Directors Pat Henderson of Breckinridge County and Scott Travis of Spencer County.

BOTTOM RIGHT: KFB Director Mary Kate Kordes of Muhlenberg County presented a "Friend of Farm Bureau" plaque to First District Congressman Ed Whitfield.





Hal Rogers (silver hair, middle of photo) continued the tradition of leading a group on a tour of the capitol building.



ABOVE: At the afternoon session, Senator Rand Paul speaks, joined by Senator Mitch McConnell and KFB President Mark Haney.



TOP RIGHT: Sixth District Congressman Andy Barr (left) chats with Jimmy Richardson of Scott County.



BOTTOM RIGHT: Fourth District Congressman Thomas Massie said reforming farm labor programs was high on his list of agriculture issues.

The business of growing

COUNTY FARM BUREAUS IN THE MIX WITH AG DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

By Kristi McCabe

County Agricultural Development Councils have been on a hot seat ever since the state's historic agricultural development initiative got underway in 2001. The county councils, which include dozens of Farm Bureau leaders throughout the state, are charged with the responsibility of submitting project proposals to the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board (KADB). In effect, they determine who gets what.

While the implementation of county-specific projects has fallen under the oversight of these councils, several county Farm Bureaus have also played a vital role by agreeing to oversee the funding process. The Farm Bureau connection ranges from the Appalachian county of Lawrence on the West Virginia border to metropolitan Jefferson County and former tobacco production hotbeds like Owen and Mercer counties.

Along with the remainder of the state's farm community, those county Farm Bureaus have witnessed remarkable progress transforming the farm economy in the wake of burley tobacco's downturn.

Lawrence County is utilizing funds from the County Agricultural Investment Program to combine what were originally known as county model cost-share program. This is designed to provide farmers with incentives to improve and diversify their current operations.

Lawrence County Extension Agent Julia Rollins said she has thoroughly enjoyed working with Farm Bureau to improve agriculture there.

"Farm Bureau plays a vital role in the agricultural community here," said Rollins. "They have been administering tobacco settlement funds in cooperation with the County Agriculture Development Council for the past few years, and it is my understanding that

the local Farm Bureau board agreed to accept this responsibility because of the immense opportunity they recognized to improve the quality of agriculture."

Lawrence County Farm Bureau offers producers the opportunity to participate in CAIP, which allows them to benefit from cost-sharing.

"We have seen some real success stories in Lawrence County due to the cost-share program," noted Rollins. "Cattle genetics and handling facilities come to mind immediately. We have seen several improvements in the quality of our cattle as a result of this program. In order to secure cost-share funds farmers have to meet certain standards, so we have seen a lot of improvements in safety."

Lawrence County has enjoyed a substantial increase in agritourism. Several area farms have made good use of the cost-share program by partnering to develop a fall driving tour.

"The Heritage Harvest Tour has grown by leaps and bounds since it began three years ago," said Rollins. "It is a one-day tour held in the fall, and offers visitors a chance to visit local corn mazes, buy locally-made soaps and honeys, and enjoy hayrides. This past year we accounted for over \$20,000 being spent in our county on the day of the tour. We have seen a lot of positive growth here as a result of the funding we have received, and we hope that will continue."

Owen County can also boast of a revitalized agritourism sector. Since 2001, Gayla Lewis has served as administrator

for the CAIP program in Owen County. Working closely with Owen County FB and the Owen County Ag Development Board, Lewis enjoys seeing the impact funding has on local farmers.

"Last year, we applied for funds to build a permanent structure for the Owen County Farmer's Market," said Lewis. "They really needed a new location, since in the past it was held in the courthouse square and farmers had to display their products under tents. This exposed both the vendors and customers to inclement weather, and there was not a lot of parking space."

With the ag development funds received, a permanent structure was built behind the Farm Bureau office.

"We have seen a notable increase in sales as a result, and all vendors agreed that there were more customers," noted Lewis. "We also noticed that people tended to sit and socialize more, and our vendor who sells hot lunches reported a 3 to 5% increase in sales. This is a very positive development for our farmer's market."

In 2012, Owen County received \$20,000 for a cost-share program to assist youth participating in a 4-H livestock project, as well as funding for CAIP.

"Owen County was one of the top three counties in terms of the dollar amounts distributed at one point," said Lewis. "We have received a lot of ag development money over the years, and every penny has gone to our farmers. You can drive through the county and see the far-reaching impact those funds have had on Owen County, from new hay sheds and new fences to new cattle-handling facilities.

It is very obvious that the money has helped our farmers, and has provided them with the funds needed to diversify their operations."

Larger counties in the state have fared just as well as the smaller ones. Jefferson County FB has played a unique role in



Lawrence County has used funds for a fall festival promoting its agriculture businesses.

the distribution of ag development funds, insuring that the very valuable CAIP continues to impact local farmers. In 2012, three CAIPs were approved for \$380,000 in Breckinridge, Bullitt, and Jefferson counties.

"Jefferson County Farm Bureau assumed responsibility for handling funds to help keep the program going," stated Matt Michaud, Executive Director. "I serve as an authorized representative to work with extension agents and the local ag development council. We all see the tremendous potential these funds have to impact agriculture in Jefferson County, and we are dedicated to making sure that happens."

Michaud said some of the money received was used to fund an up-and-coming vineyard in Jefferson County. Two other projects that have enjoyed success are a cattle-handling facility owned by local farmer Kevin Underwood and a roadside market owned by Jefferson County FB President Tommee Clark.

"The great thing about these funds is that they allow farmers to improve their operations and help their neighbors at the same time," Michaud remarked. "They sell their own products in their stores, and also other Kentucky Proud products. Kevin's operation allows local farmers to sell their beef at a premium price, and it helps his business at the same time; it's a win-win situation."

Kevin Underwood's new facility has given him the capability to handle more cattle and to give a fair price to local farmers.

"Before we had this facility, we had to ship some of our cattle out of state during drought times," said Underwood. "This money gave us the opportunity to build a new holding facility, put up new fencing, add automatic water systems, and the ability to ship cattle. Now we can help our neighbors during tough times by giving them a fair price. Someone may have just five or six calves, and it is not economical to haul them long distances. We group them together and find a buyer, and then we get market price. It's good for everybody."

Tommee Clark has also boosted her business with help from ag development funding. She runs a roadside market where she sells beef, pork, and eggs produced on her farm, as well as products from other area farmers.

Clark said the funding she received during her first year in business helped

her construct a new building; additional funding was used to purchase a new freezer to display products and a prep table for demonstrations.

"We are now working toward a certified kitchen, but we have not been able to do that yet," Clark commented. "This funding has really helped get our new venture off the ground and is offering a nice agri-tourism venue for our community."

Mercer County is yet another example of the positive impact ag development funding has made on the community. Doris Hamilton, Mercer County FB Federation Program Administrator, has administered ag development funds for nine years and is thrilled with the results she has seen.

"We have funded 45 to 50 producers per year," said Hamilton. "And each one has their own unique story. CAIP began as seven or eight different segmented programs being administered by different agencies. I administered these programs out of my home for years; at that time, the responsibilities were split among different entities. When CAIP was formed, it became a job one person could do."

Mercer County farmers Myron Ellis

and Danny Brock have enjoyed new levels of success in their operations, due to funding received.

"I was able to buy a hay accumulator system and start a hay business," said Ellis. "I was also able to build a storage barn under the same program. We were a cattle operation before, and dependent on tobacco like everyone else in this area. This new hay business has allowed us to get completely out of tobacco and we are able to pay our bills."

Danny Brock used funding he received to make a transition from dairy farming to raising beef cattle. When making this transition, Brock had no handling facility.

"The cattle would get here at different times and I could work them myself when I had to, but it was a challenge," said Brock. "It wasn't very safe. Now with this new facility the whole process is safer, and it puts a lot less stress on the cattle."

More than \$400 million of the tobacco settlement money has been distributed for more than 4,500 projects. Add in matching grant and other local contributions and the initiative amounts to well over a half-billion dollars.

KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU'S *Bluegrass & Backroads*

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WELL “EQUIPPED”

FARMERS ARE SOLD ON FAYETTE COUNTY FB AUCTION



The 1,669 items filled a space about 400 yards long in a field at the Kentucky Horse Park.



The auction attracted thousands from throughout the region, plus a good number from Ohio and Indiana.



Thirty years ago, a small group of Fayette County FB leaders with connections to tobacco auction sales got an idea for raising a little money for the organization while providing a nice service to members. They decided to hold an auction for old and unwanted equipment and other farm items, with the Farm Bureau earning a small commission to use for its programs. The logical venue for the sale would be a tobacco warehouse.

To say this turned out to be a good idea is a bit of an understatement. Farmers enthusiastically seized the opportunity to dispose of stuff lying around the farm. There was an ample number of prospective buyers, curious to see what's available

and at what price. The “market” was there; the challenge for the Farm Bureau was to spread the word about the auction.

That's been done, and done well through many people. Roll the calendar far forward and what began in 1983 as a modest sale at a Lexington tobacco warehouse is now a huge event encompassing dozens of acres at the Kentucky Horse Park. This year's auction, held on a balmy Saturday in March, sported 1,669 items for sale in four rows stretching the length of four football fields. More than 50 volunteer workers were required to administer the activities. Perhaps as many as 4,000 attended, creating quite a traffic backup on Iron Works Pike near the 1-75 interchange. In fact, traffic was still backed up by nearly a mile

an hour after the auction began.

"It's amazing," remarked KFB Director Randy Chrisman of Anderson County as he surveyed the long line of traffic crawling through the main road into the Horse Park. He was among dozens of county FB leaders throughout the Bluegrass Region attending the event. Organizers said consignors came from six states. There were plenty of Ohio and Indiana license plates amid the sea of trucks filling the Horse Park's main parking lot. Some parked in the fields across Iron Works Pike.

"Did you know we had this many farmers?" quipped Fayette County farmer John Fritz Jr. as he surveyed the mass of people walking through the aisles.

Three years after the auction's beginning the Fayette County board decided to dedicate the revenues to a college scholarship program. It established a foundation for that purpose.

Since 1996, 28 scholarships have been granted, utilizing \$587,000. This year's record-setting auction resulted in \$1.5 million in sales, generating a gross commission of \$119,000 from the 7.5 percent commission.

"It's definitely a record for everything," said Carrie Johnson, Executive Director for Fayette County FB.

For years this was held in various tobacco warehouses. But it eventually outgrew those structures. The Kentucky Horse Park has proved to be a perfect locale (although state budget cuts has forced it to charge a parking fee, thereby creating the traffic jam).

Frank Penn, a longtime Fayette County FB leader and a stalwart within the Bluegrass Region's thoroughbred and tobacco industries, has been there throughout the auction's history.

"A few of us in the (tobacco) warehouse business started this mainly as a service," Penn said, "but then it became a good source of revenue for our scholarship program." Among those involved with initiating the auction, only Penn, Jimmy Barton, Bobby James and Hugh J. Turner are still active with it. One of the founders and continual supporters was lost when long-time Fayette County farm leader Harold Prather passed away on February 22.

Penn, a past president and longtime board member, said that one of the keys to the event's success is an ample supply of workers fueled by the organization's policy of rotating board members and restricting the president's term to one year.

"We've run a lot of people through our board, which gives us a strong base," he explained. "When you put together something like this, it really means a lot. This brings everyone together. That does a lot for Farm Bureau here."

One example of the auction's evolution could be found in what Penn was doing – driving the truck slowly pulling one of the auctioneer platforms from lot to lot.

"I remember when we did this with a tow motor and a pallet," he recalled.

The variety of items for sale was astounding. The list included a church bus, many

mowers, haying equipment and trailers, manure spreaders, cattle feeders, tractors and even a couple of fishing boats. Three auctions were held simultaneously all day, with one focusing on small items such as generators, leaf blowers, mowers, tools, etc. Most of the auctioneers were from the equine industry.

Setup begins on the previous Wednesday and the site isn't cleared until midday on the following Monday. Just a few weeks later, Fayette County FB has a meeting to go over how things went and to begin planning for the next year.

The big winner is the scholarship recipient who will get \$5,000 annually for up to four years. There is no requirement as to the college or subject major.

Penn noted that Fayette County FB also is proud of the event's reputation.

"This auction has a reputation as a straight-up auction. We treat people right. There's no buying premiums. And these auctioneers are real pros -- they know what they're doing."

The clientele has been good as well, Penn added, stating: "You could count on one hand the number of bad checks we have gotten."

Penn, Fritz and other "veteran" farmers also were pleased with the turnout of young farmers.

"If you think agriculture is fading, look around at all these young people," Penn remarked.



An auctioneer takes a bid at the sale of "small" items. Three auctions were held simultaneously all day.



Women's LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Like any effective motivational speaker should do, Dave Stone did his homework before addressing nearly 200 KFB women at their annual leadership conference last month. The senior pastor of Louisville's Southeast Christian Church obviously was knowledgeable about the role women play both on their farms and within KFB.

In a well-received message titled "Where Would The World Be Without You?" Stone saluted farm women for their many roles and contributions before discussing "five things I appreciate about you."

Stone, who heads one of Kentucky's largest congregations at the sprawling church not far from KFB's state office in eastern Jefferson County, has addressed KFB groups on several occasions, including to its staff at a retreat. He began his remarks to the women by referencing his experience with the organization.

"I love Kentucky Farm Bureau . . . you have high-caliber people. I like to describe you as the salt of the earth," he said. "And I love farming. My grandfather was a farmer; I cherished my time at his farm."

Stone said he recognized that those in the audience wear different hats as farm wives, farmers themselves, county Farm Bureau leaders, community and school activists and/or providers of off-farm income and health insurance coverage. He praised them for "being the backbone" of the family farm.

Following are what Stone cited as five primary reasons to appreciate the KFB women:

ABOVE: As always, the silent auction attracted a crowd to check out what's available.

- **"YOU GIVE DIRECTION.** People look to you as a leader. You are in the habit of giving direction and if I can be brutally honest, we live in a world that needs direction."

- **"YOU VALUE TEAMWORK.** You are able to make the work get done more efficiently. You do what needs to be done."

- **"YOU SHARE ENCOURAGEMENT.** It takes a lot more work to be in the construction business than the destruction business."

- **"YOU INFLUENCE DECISIONS.** It's amazing the things you can get us guys to do."

- **"YOU SHOW UNCONDITIONAL LOVE.** Your nurturing spirit makes a difference."

Stone concluded the opening luncheon address by quoting a biblical passage about farm women, with a description stating "she is cloaked with strength and dignity."

"So thanks for what you do and for who you are," Stone said.



The conference featured a broad agenda to assist the women leaders in their roles at the county level. Workshops focused on strengthening county women's programs, social media, rural development programs and community development opportunities. And there were briefings on member services, legislative affairs and the national women's program.

In his workshop, KFB Women's Program Director Scott Christmas encouraged the county leaders to seek more volunteers and additional opportunities to make a difference. "We want to thrive; not just survive," he said of the women's program. "This is about the best being better."

As always, a large silent auction was conducted to benefit the women's scholarship program. Dozens of items were on display in the foyer outside the conference room.

WOMEN'S PROGRAM PRIORITIES

- Increase communication regarding agricultural issues with lawmakers and regulatory officials at the state and national levels.
- Actively promote regional teacher ag literacy workshops and agricultural literacy programs.
- Improve communications skills in order to more effectively tell the agricultural story.
- Actively recruit more women and youth to participate in Farm Bureau programs.

LEFT: KFB Women's Program Director Scott Christmas held a workshop to discuss ways to strengthen the county programs.

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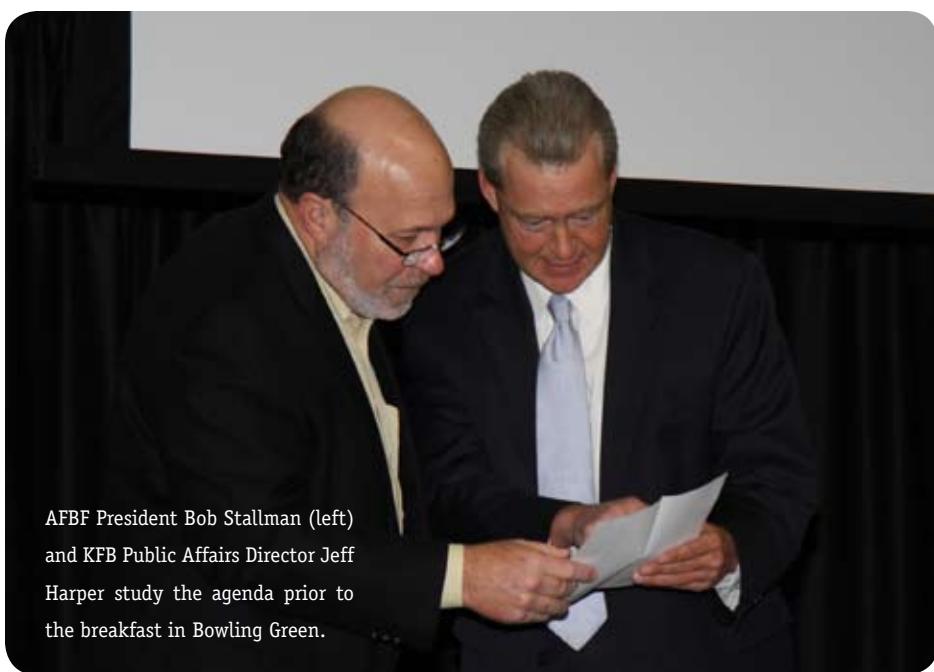
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EVENTS HIGHLIGHT



AFBF President Bob Stallman (left) and KFB Public Affairs Director Jeff Harper study the agenda prior to the breakfast in Bowling Green.



The combination grand opening/National Ag Week event in Grayson attracted a crowd sizeable enough to fill the parking lot at the farm supply store.



Greenup County FB sent "Greenup Gertie," their fiberglass cow that is fully milkable, to the event in neighboring Carter County. Kids flocked to Gertie.

Local functions, public displays and a variety of other promotional activities were held throughout the state to recognize National Agriculture Week, which was March 17-23. The annual designation is aimed at enhancing the public's understanding and appreciation of our agriculture industry.

One of the more high-profile events was in Bowling Green, where AFBF President Bob Stallman was the featured speaker at a Farm Week kickoff breakfast at the National Corvette Museum. Warren County FB was among a large group of sponsors for the breakfast, which attracted more than 200 area business people, including around 60 farmers. The second annual event was arranged through the Warren County Agriculture Foundation.

Stallman opened his address with statistics underscoring agriculture's importance to the U.S. economy. Around 22 million people work in some facet of the food chain, which represents seven percent of the U.S. workforce. In Kentucky, about 30 percent of the economy is linked to agriculture, Stallman said.

He addressed "opportunities and challenges," directing much of his remarks to the need to connect with consumers.

"More people are interested in their food than ever before," said the Texas rice and cattle farmer. "Today, opinions are easy to get out. There are a lot of opinions about our food; some of them misinformed, in my opinion. Agriculture has to maintain trust in how we grow food. How do you communicate with a society that is far removed from agriculture?"

Stallman pointed to the work of the U.S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance, an organization formed by more than 60 farm and food groups to establish an ongoing dialogue with consumers through various platforms. (KFB is a member of the organization)

In closing, Stallman urged the farmers to "be willing to step up and make a connection to consumers." He urged the others to "reach out to a farmer; don't believe everything you read or hear, particularly on the internet."

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE WEEK

The list of speakers also included former Agriculture Commissioner Billy Ray Smith, who's from Warren County.

Across the state in Grayson, Carter County FB celebrated by coupling National Ag Week with a grand opening of a farm supply store owned by Hannah McGlone, the wife of KFB Young Farmer Committee Chairman Jason McGlone. His father,

now located on KY Highways 1-7 just north of the I-64 interchange. The McGlone farm is just a stone's throw away.

The day-long festivities on a balmy Saturday featured something for everyone. Kids could milk "Greenup Gertie," the fiber-glass cow from Greenup County FB, or pet rabbits and baby ducks. Others could tour the store and facilities. Judy McGlone

at East Carter and West Carter High Schools were on hand to spread the word about agriculture and FFA. Radio station 100.9 FM did a broadcast from the store and the weekly newspaper was there to get a photo of the ribbon cutting ceremony involving Hannah, Jason, their two daughters, store manager Ralph Felty and founder Pete Kee.

By lunchtime a steady stream of pickup trucks had filled the parking area. Lunch was followed by some live music.

The event was promoted on local radio, with fliers distributed in town plus a notice in the newspaper.

Jason McGlone represents his family's fifth generation of farmers. Hannah, who had a farm background in her native Ohio, gave up a career as a nurse to operate the farm service business, which is affiliated with Southern States.

KFB Second Vice President Fritz Giesecke was among the guests.

"MORE PEOPLE ARE INTERESTED IN THEIR FOOD THAN EVER BEFORE,"

— BOB STALLMAN

David McGlone, is president of Greenup County FB and a KFB Director, as well.

Hannah purchased the Kees Farm Service and Supply business that goes back to 1995, when Pete Kees opened a store across from the Farm Bureau office. It's

(David's wife) handed out Farm Bureau merchandize and signed up visitors for a drawing for a couple of coolers. The Old Time Machinery & Antique Association raffled a 1953 Jubilee Ford tractor.

Representatives from the FFA chapters



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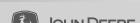


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C O U N T Y A N N U A L M E E T I N G S

BARREN COUNTY

Date: September 21, 6:30 p.m.
Place: Trojan Academy

CAMPBELL COUNTY

Date: September 15, 4 p.m.
Place: St. Peter & Paul Social Center

CLAY COUNTY

Date: October 10, 6 p.m.
Place: Farm Bureau Bldg.

GREENUP COUNTY

Date: November 4, 6 p.m.
Place: Farm Bureau Meeting Hall

MADISON COUNTY

Date: July 22, 6:30 p.m.
Place: Fairgrounds

LEWIS COUNTY

Date: August 4, 12:30 p.m.
Place: Ruggles Campground



LOGAN COUNTY

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

OHIO COUNTY

Date: August 1, 6:30 p.m.
Place: Extension Office

OWEN COUNTY

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

UNION COUNTY

Date: June 2, 3 p.m.
Place: John Arnold Park

CAREER CAPPER



KFB Second Vice President Fritz Giesecke presented a service award to Christine Lobb, who has retired after 55 years with Hart County FB. Christine began work at the office in Munfordville on April 1, 1957, after County President Hubert Shelton came to her home and asked her to take the job. She retired from the insurance agency in 2005 but continued serving as secretary/treasurer until this year. Over the years she saw Hart County's membership grow from just a few hundred to nearly 3,700. Giesecke, who raises cattle in Hart County, presented her with the plaque at a monthly county board meeting.



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by ED MCQUEEN



U.S. corn imports record large

Due to the short corn crop in the United States and the location of large poultry and hog operations along the East Coast, shipments from Brazil surged beginning in November 2012. These feeders normally source corn supplies out of the eastern Corn Belt, but supplies from this region are sharply reduced. High freight costs for moving grain from the western Corn Belt make Brazilian corn attractive. The pace of over 15 million bushels per month is historically high and supports a record corn import forecast of 125 million bushels for the 2012-13 marketing year according to USDA. Import volume from Mexico also increased this year. September 2012-January 2013 import volume was 65 million bushels, up from 7 million during the same period a year earlier.

The short corn crop has also resulted in U.S. corn exports plunging to 825 million bushels, the lowest level in more than 40 years. In 1971/72, exports totaled only 782 million bushels. The extremely slow pace of U.S. corn shipments should continue until harvest due to high prices, strong competition from South American corn, and competitively priced feed-quality wheat.

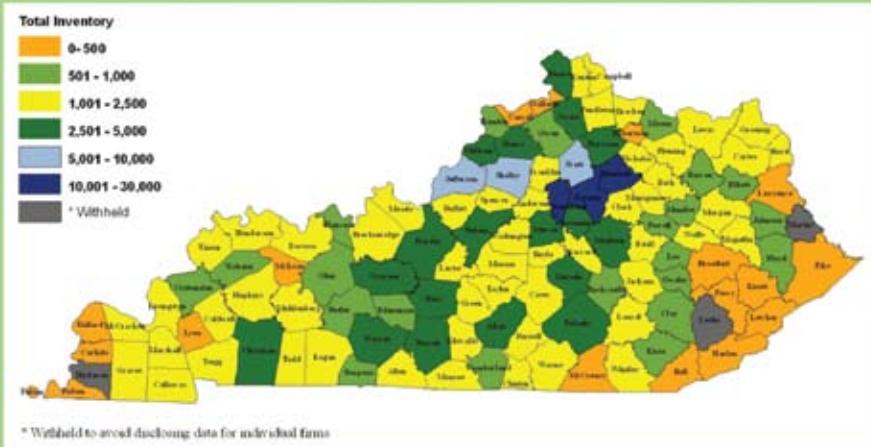
Top corn counties are surprising

The extreme heat last summer decimated the Kentucky corn crop. The extent of the damage is evident in county production data released by USDA-NASS. Kentucky's average corn yield was 68.0 bushels, down 71 bushels from 2011. The top-yielding counties were atypical - Powell, Pendleton and Campbell counties had 114.2, 113.2 and 111.6 bushels/acre, respectively. Only ten counties had yields over 100 bushels/acre. Due to large harvested areas, western Kentucky counties ranked highest in total production. The top county was Union, producing 7.05 million bushels of corn with a yield of 75.6 bushels/acre. Daviess and Henderson counties followed with 6.60 million and 6.12 million bushels.

Broiler production moving to larger bird

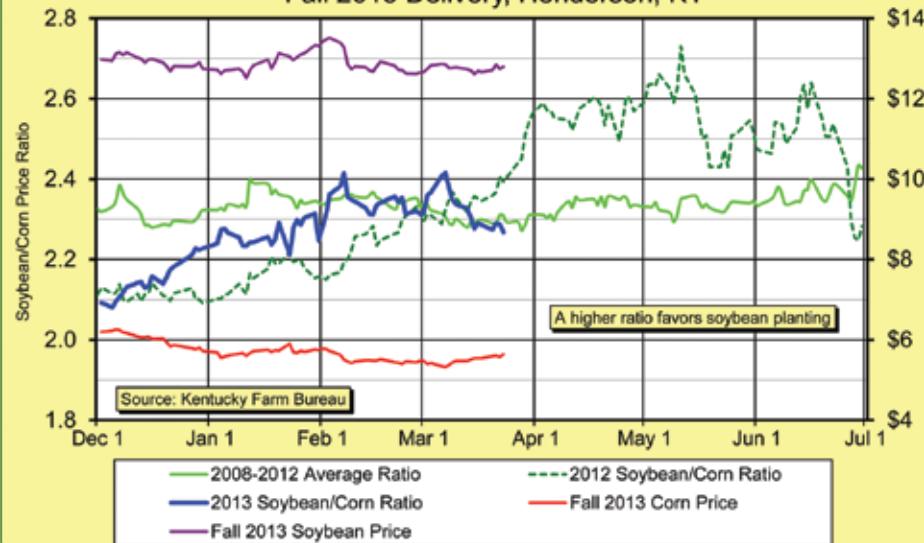
According to a recent USDA report, U.S. broiler production is shifting toward larger birds. Forty-two percent of birds produced in 2011 weighed more than 6.25 pounds, compared with 26 percent in 2006. The size shift reflects continuing changes in markets for broilers (toward more processed products and increased exports of poultry and poultry products). Producers tend to market birds in the smallest class (4.25 pounds or less) to fast food and food service sectors, while birds in the 4.26-6.25 pound class go to retail groceries in tray packs or bagged form. Birds in the two largest classes (6.26 pounds or more) may be marketed to retail groceries, but also are deboned and further processed into poultry products for several different sectors. This data was collected in USDA's 2012 Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS) of the U.S. broiler industry.

Kentucky Equine Inventory July 1, 2012



Source: Kentucky Equine Report, USDA-NASS, Kentucky Field Office, March 5, 2013

Soybean/Corn Price Relationship Fall 2013 Delivery, Henderson, KY



STAINLESS STEEL Outside Woodburning Heater

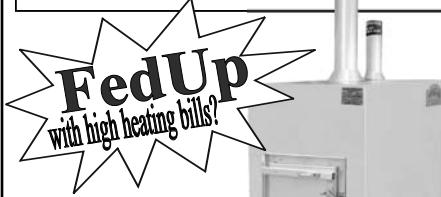
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Film will spotlight young farmers

Oscar-winning and two-time Emmy-winning filmmaker James Moll announced the production of a feature-length documentary about the next generation of American farmers and ranchers. The yet-to-be-titled documentary will profile farmers and ranchers in their 20s, all of whom have assumed the generational responsibility of running the family business.

Made in cooperation with the U.S. Farmers & Ranchers Alliance, the film will give us an up close and personal look at some of the young farmers and ranchers who grow and raise the food we consume daily, and into the latest farming practices and technologies that are changing and improving the landscape of modern agriculture.

For more information about the film, visit www.AllentownProductions.com

Some ag stats reports will be halted for now

The Agriculture Department's National Agricultural Statistics Service will suspend a number of statistical surveys and reports for the remainder of the fiscal year due to reduced funding caused by sequestration. Before deciding upon the program suspensions, NASS reviewed its survey programs against mission- and user-based criteria, as well as the amount of time remaining in the fiscal year to conduct the surveys, with the goal of finding available cost savings and maintaining the strongest data in service to agriculture. Among the reports to be suspended are the July cattle report plus milk production reports, including production, disposition and income.

Land availability top concern of young farmers and ranchers

Securing adequate land to grow crops and raise livestock was the top challenge identified in the latest survey of participants in the AFBF Young Farmers & Ranchers program. That challenge was identified by 20 percent of respondents, followed by burdensome government regulations and "red tape," which was identified by 15 percent of those responding.

Other issues ranked as top concerns included economic challenges, particularly profitability, 12 percent; water availability, 10 percent; taxes, nine percent; health care availability and cost, nine percent; availability of farm labor and related regulations, eight percent; and willingness of parents to turn over the reins of the farm or ranch, seven percent.

When asked to name the top three steps the federal government should take to help young farmers and ranchers, cutting government spending was the top response, with 24 percent listing this as most important. Twelve percent of those surveyed said maintaining the farm safety net was most important, while financial assistance for beginning farmers and tax reform were each cited by 11 percent as the priority that should be first on the list.

The 21st annual YF&R survey revealed that 90 percent of those surveyed are more optimistic about farming and ranching than they were five years ago. Last year, 94 percent of those surveyed said they were more optimistic about farming than they were five years ago.

More than 94 percent considered themselves lifetime farmers, while 90 percent would like to see their children follow in their footsteps. The informal survey reveals that 84 percent believe their children will be able to follow in their footsteps.

Tests show pesticide residues are not a problem

Pesticide residues detected on a variety of food products are below the tolerances established by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and "do not pose a safety concern," according to data released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS). The 2011 Pesticide Data Program (PDP) Annual Summary analyzes pesticide residue levels on a number of products, including fresh and processed fruits and vegetables, milk, eggs, soybeans and water. The summary serves as an essential resource for federal agencies, especially the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), USDA and EPA. Most importantly, the report reminds consumers of the safety of the American food system and the overarching government regulations assuring the safe use of crop protection products.

Of the 11,894 samples analyzed, PDP found residues exceeding EPA tolerance levels in only 0.27 percent. Pesticide residue tolerances, or limits, are set at levels 100 to 1,000 times lower than what is considered potentially dangerous for human health. PDP relies on advanced laboratory methods to detect pesticide residue levels far below the accepted tolerance established by EPA.



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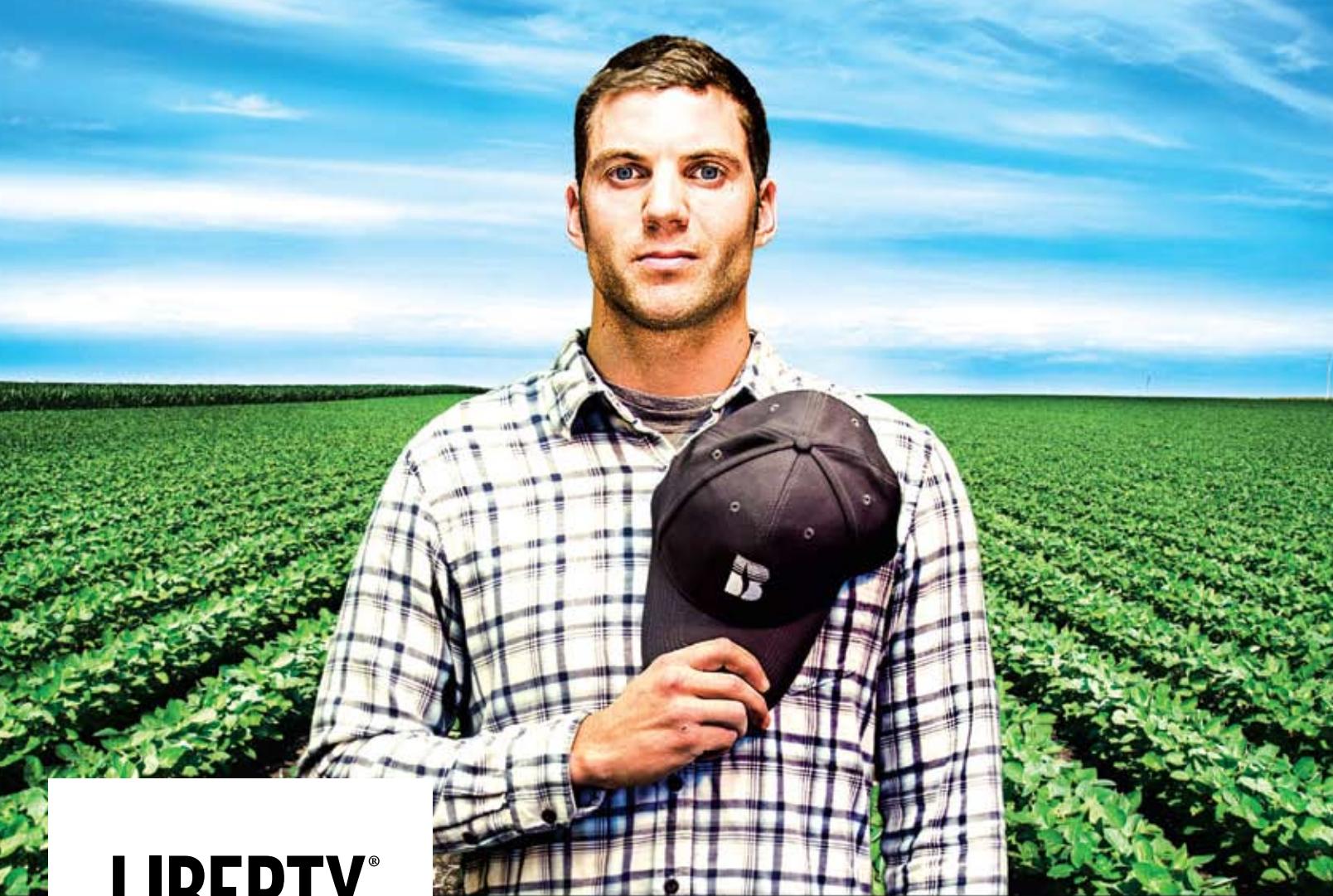


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