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KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU NEWS  
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**N**ovember is one of my favorite months of the year mostly because it signals so many great events.

First and foremost it is a time we give thanks for our bountiful harvests and the many blessings we enjoy.

I hope that has been the case for you. From all indications, our harvest season has been a great one despite the tough growing conditions many of us faced in the spring and summer.

If USDA estimates hold true, we will have our largest soybean harvest ever with nearly 90 million bushels. In fact, this would mark the third year in a row that Kentucky soybean producers have set a record.

Our corn producers should also see a great year harvest-wise, as yields are topping the 175 bushels-per-acre average. This would also set a record for our state producers.

The efficiency of our farmers never ceases to amaze me. When asked to produce more, they always come through. That will be of the utmost importance as the world population grows and the task of feeding all those people will fall on the shoulders of those in the agriculture industry.

With that said, more and more of the products we grow and produce here will be making their way to other countries.

Through our policy development process, we have met many challenges including that of expanding our ever growing export markets. Our efforts to make sure international trade agreements include all Kentucky commodities are vital in keeping pace with an ever increasing world demand.

A recent agreement reached between the U.S. and the Republic of China (Taiwan), which will send millions of bushels of corn and soybeans to that country, is a good example of how we are meeting these exports demands.

That agreement will ultimately include more Kentucky grain and has the potential to put significant dollars in the pockets of our producers. That's important for those growers and the state's overall economy, as well.

As we continue to set policy for the future, I hope we all remember that what we do makes a difference from the boardroom to the farm field.



**Mark Haney**

President

Kentucky Farm Bureau

# Kentucky's peak season for deer collisions returns

The annual three-month increase in roadway encounters, and unfortunate collisions, with white-tailed deer is once again upon us. Deer are naturally migrating in the fall, and urban sprawl has introduced many new roads into the natural habitats of these animals. Kentucky's simultaneously exploding deer population only expands the opportunity for these accidents to occur.

According to Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) Insurance Company claims data,

drivers across the Commonwealth are anywhere from two to seven times as likely to collide with a deer on the road in November as they are during the first nine months of the year.

The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) further estimates that each year white-tailed deer across the nation cause car accidents responsible for tens of thousands of injuries and the deaths of approximately 200 Americans. Those collisions also carry the hefty price tag of \$4.6 billion in insurance claims annually.

Kentucky State Police (KSP) data reports that Kentuckians were in a total of 3,092 automobile collisions with deer in 2014 (128 more than in 2013). Those accidents resulted in 62 injuries (nine fewer injuries from the year prior) and three deaths (zero deaths reported in 2013). However, KFB Insurance claims data very much supports the trend of clearly defined seasonal peaks for these collisions. Approximately \$23.4 million in deer collision claims were filed with KFB in all of 2014, but nearly 43% of those claims resulted from accidents occurring during October, November and December.

Further analysis of KFB Insurance claims data shows automobiles collided with deer on Kentucky roadways at a clip of 28.17 deer per 1,000 drivers during the month of November last year, well outpacing the national average of 15.0. As a result of those collisions, KFB Insurance customers filed more than \$5 million in claims during that month alone. Overall, Kentucky is ranked as the fourth highest state in the country by IIHS for animal collision claims during this peak season.

Tips to help drivers avoid deer collisions:

- Watch for deer crossing signs. These signs are posted to alert drivers that certain stretches of the road are commonly populated with deer – do not ignore the warning.
- Be aware of the time. Deer are most commonly seen along roadways in the early morning and evening hours. Exercise additional caution if traveling during these times of day.
- When driving after dark, use high-beam headlights to increase the range of vision.
- If a deer is spotted on or near the road, slow down immediately.
- Don't swerve if a deer is in the road. Brake firmly but keep the vehicle headed in a straight line. A swerving vehicle can confuse the animal and prevent it from picking a direction to flee, or, worse yet, the driver could lose control and hit a tree or another car.
- Always wear a seat belt. The Kentucky State Police reports that most people injured or killed in automobile collisions with deer are not wearing seat belts.

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# comment

## C O L U M N

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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For many years I have looked forward to being part of the North American International Livestock Exposition as an exhibitor or by simply attending each year as a spectator. I am honored now, to get to serve as Executive Director of Expositions for the Kentucky State Fair Board, and see the show from a completely different perspective.



In a short amount time I've had a chance to witness the hard work and dedication from both staff as well as the countless number of volunteers it takes to make this show possible.

NAILE is the premier, biggest and best purebred livestock expo in the world. Anyone who has attended, and there have been millions, knows this show offers a look at the best livestock from the best producers anywhere. There is nothing else quite like it.

From a numbers standpoint, the show brings in around 30,000 entries each year, has an annual attendance of more than 200,000 visitors and exhibitors, and creates a local economic impact of over \$16 million.

But NAILE is about more than just numbers or dollar figures, it's about tradition. Many of the families that will come to this year's event are representing the second and third generations to make the trip.

Farming is a way of life for so many of those families and this event is very much a part of their lives. For those who are selling animals, this has become a pivotal location to bring buyers and sellers together from across the globe.

The Kentucky Expo Center, home to NAILE has truly become the crossroads of American agriculture.

The one thing that always excites me the most during the show is to see those coming for the first time. Whether they are a participant or a spectator, this event has such an impact on them.

This issue contains the story of a couple of young exhibitors who will be showing at the NAILE for the first time. I've had the opportunity to watch these young people grow up and see what it takes to get here. As good as the livestock industry is here and across the country, it will take this next generation to keep it growing and moving forward.

I hope to see you all at this year's NAILE and for many years to come.

**Steve Kelly,**

**Executive Director of Expositions for the Kentucky State Fair Board**

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## Annual Meeting Set for December 2-5

The 96th Annual Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation meeting will take place December 2-5 at the Galt House Hotels in Louisville.

Priorities include electing leaders, recognizing achievements, setting policy goals for the 2016 state legislative session, as well as establishing a wish list for Congressional action next year.

Events slated to take place during the meeting include the announcement of the state's Outstanding Young Farm Family, awards for county Farm Bureau achievements, top farm leaders distinguished service recognition, commodity and special interests conferences, women's leadership activities, KFB President Mark Haney's annual address, and the KFB Farmer of the Year Award, to name a few.

The final day will include KFB directors determining a priority list of issues to address in the coming year.

## Candidates for KFB Director

The following are seeking election to the KFB Board of Directors from their respective districts. The list includes only the candidates who have asked to be listed in this publication.

### District 2

#### Mary Kate Kordes

111 Clifton Lane, Central City

#### Eddie Melton

1220 Watkins-Sebree Road, Sebree

### District 4

#### Terry Bryant

1899 Gamaliel Road, Tompkinsville

#### Jay Coleman

7218 Old Munfordville Road, Cave City

### District 5

#### Scott Travis

1420 Max Rouse Road, Cox's Creek

### District 10

#### David McGlone

1101 North Hwy. 7, Grayson

# Next Generation Heading to NAILE



Above: Jenna Harrod has been a long time exhibitor at the Kentucky State Fair. Below left: Jenna works with one of the family farm's Charolais. Right: Jacob Harrod helps with the feeding chores.

The North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) is arguably the biggest and most prestigious livestock show in the country having hosted millions of visitors and exhibitors to Louisville since it began in 1974.

While many of those exhibitors have made it a yearly experience, Jenna Harrod and her younger brother Jacob, will be making their first trip to the NAILE, at least in the exhibitors' show ring. The Harrod family owns a cattle operation in Franklin County.

Jenna is a senior student at Western Hills High School, president of her FFA chapter and FFA region. She has been showing cattle since middle school. Over the last two years she has made her presence known at the Kentucky State Fair winning various classes with her Charolais, Commercial and Hereford show cows.

"We've done pretty well at the state

fair, but it has nothing to do with me, it's all about the cattle," she said. "We work with them every day and during the summer we give them a bath every day and work with their hair. We just make them shine."

Jacob said some of his friends wonder why he puts so much effort into showing the cows but he tells them it's fun.

"It may seem like a lot of work but we enjoy it," he said. "It's something we've always done in our family and I can't imagine not doing it."

All that work has paid off as Jenna and Jacob came away with several champion and reserve champion honors at the 2015 Kentucky State Fair including Champion Charolais Heifer, Champion Hereford Bull and Reserve Kentucky Proud Commercial Heifer, to name a few. Jenna also showed at this year's Kentucky Farm Bureau Beef Expo.

While their success at the county and state levels has been exciting, the two

feel as though making it to the NAILE is the pinnacle of their show careers.

"Being at the NAILE is an opportunity for agriculturalists, farmers and breeders of different

animals to be able to show others all the hard work that goes into this," she said. "It's fun for all of us that show and demonstrates, on a national level, how proud we are to have livestock to show at such an event."

For the Harrods, another important aspect of this year's expo is the fact that the National

Charolais Show will be held during the NAILE. The family has a history of showing the breed. Jenna's father Jeff showed this breed while in high school.

Steve Kelly, Executive Director of Expositions for the Kentucky State Fair Board said it is exciting to see a new generation of exhibitors coming to the expo each year.

"While we are excited to see all of all exhibitors coming to the NAILE year after year, it is the young people like Jenna and Jacob that help to keep this expo and our industry, as a whole, strong and growing," he said.

Jenna said it has been her experience that there is a growing number of young people getting involved in the cattle industry, as indicative of the number of youth she has seen throughout her time in the show ring.

"This new generation is full of ideas with technology and innovation that provides so much knowledge," she said. "Being the future of agriculture, it's our job as young people to show that we as individuals are capable of doing things in ways that perhaps an older generation never thought was possible."

Jenna added that shows like the NAILE really need this next generation because they have a different way of thinking and a new outlook in changing many of the stereotypes that have been placed on agriculture.

"People from all over the country come to Louisville to exhibit their cattle and, as young people, we have to keep it alive," she said. "After having this opportunity to go the first time, I know I'll want to continue to go each year for the rest of my life."

# Advisory Committee Meetings

**KFB** policy emerges from several sources. While most recommendations come from county Farm Bureau annual meetings, another source is through KFB's Advisory Committees, which hold meetings between August and November to assess the condition of their respective area of interest and consider suggestions for potential changes to KFB's state and national policies.

These committees deal with topics ranging from all the farm commodities common in Kentucky to issues of importance to rural areas (education, transportation, etc.) KFB's leadership selects the committee members based on their knowledge of the topic. If possible, the committees have members from all areas of the state.

The advisory committee meetings also involve officials representing the particular areas of concern, most commonly from commodity groups, universities, business and government.

Following are summaries from recent meetings:

## EDUCATION

Chair and KFB Director Shane Wiseman of Clark County met with committee members at George Rogers Clark (GRC) High School in Winchester. On the agenda were educational leaders from the county speaking on a variety of educational topics. Speakers included Paul Christy, Superintendent of Clark County Schools. He discussed yearly rankings along with attendance and performance. GRC Principal David Bolen discussed what a critical year it will be for secondary education because the state will be moving away from ACT and Compass testing and Jimmie Powell, head of the GRC Agriculture Education Department discussed the importance of student community involvement.

Jordan Spalding with Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA) reported to the committee on the activities of the organization, the addition of a third Mobile Science Activity Trailer and thanked Kentucky Farm Bureau for assisting.

The committee considered KFB policy and AFBF policy and made several recommendations.

## ENERGY AND TRANSPORTATION

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KTC) in Frankfort served as the location for the committee meeting. Chaired by KFB Director David Campbell of Stanford, the committee welcomed guests including Juva Barber, Executive Director, Kentuckians for Better Transportation (KBT) and Mike Hancock, KTC Secretary.

Barber thanked KFB for being part of the coalition which was successful in pushing for passage of legislation that helped shore up the gas tax in the 2015 Session of the Kentucky General Assembly. She stated that the committee, which recommended policy to support a gas tax fix, was instrumental for the legislation to come to fruition.

Hancock said for every penny assessed for the gas tax it brings in \$30 million. He also spoke about the Federal Highway Fund and of bridge repairs needed across the state. Hancock urged KFB to stay vigilant in helping in the fight to maintain and improve Kentucky's roads.

Recommendations for additions to state policy were made for both KFB and AFBF policy.

## FARM LABOR

Chaired by KFB Director David Chappell of Owen County, the committee met at the KFB state office where members were briefed on current farm labor issues, including immigration and the H-2A program.

Kristi Boswell, Director, Congressional Relations American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) discussed farm labor and immigration issues in the 114th Congress. She noted that an improved economy in Mexico could result in H-2A no longer being a reliable and dependable workforce in the future and there may be a need for a totally different type of guest worker program.

Karen Garnett, US Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division, updated the committee on enforcement actions that have taken place in Kentucky this year. She stated that there has been a

problem with some of the housing pre-inspections which they are currently looking into.

Rick Alexander with the Agriculture Workforce Management Association (AWMA) told committee members fewer problems occurred this year dealing with the DOL than in the last eight years. But he indicated there were more problems with Homeland Security than they have had in the past. The biggest issue is not being able to contact or talk to anyone in the department. He also gave an update on the H-2A Program in Kentucky.

The committee considered KFB policy and AFBF policy relating to Farm Labor and had no recommendations.

## FEED GRAINS, WHEAT, & SOYBEAN

This joint committee meeting was held at the KFB State Office. The Natural Resources Advisory Committee, the Tobacco Advisory Committee and the Dark Tobacco Advisory Committee were included in the morning session. Following lunch, Soybean Advisory Committee Chair and KFB Director Kim McCoy of Burkesville called the joint meeting together.

Committee members discussed various issues related to crop insurance including the lack of insurance (besides NAP) for canola, grain rye and barley in Kentucky. Members indicated these crops should see increased production as new demand develops in this region. It was noted that this year's corn and soybean planting delays have caused problems with meeting USDA reporting deadlines. Also discussed was the chal-

lence of educating the public about agriculture and combating misinformation in media.

The committee considered KFB policy with several proposals offered. There were no recommendations for national policy.

## **POLITICAL EDUCATION**

Committee Chair and KFB Director Marshall Coyle of Owingsville oversaw the meeting which was held in the Frankfort KFB office. KFB First Vice President Eddie Melton welcomed members and several guests.

State Rep. Jonathan Shell spoke about the importance of political involvement in Kentucky and credited Garrard County Farm Bureau for recruiting him to join their local board and for encouraging him to become involved.

Ronnie Ellis, political writer, for CNHI, provided the committee with an overview of the Kentucky Governor's and Agriculture Commissioner's race. Matthew Selph, Assistant Executive Director, State Board of Elections also spoke about the election.

Drew Graham, UK College of Agriculture, Food and the Environment mentioned the Grain Center of Excellence and how this is truly a Kentucky agriculture project and not just a project of the University.

KDA's Fred Nesler provided an update of the department's activities and stated that Commissioner Comer has done a great job in leading the KDA.

KFB's Jeff Harper advised the committee of the Campaign Management Seminar to be conducted on February 2-3, 2016.

The committee reviewed and made recommendations to state policy. There were no additions to AFBF policy.

## **TAX**

Chaired by KFB Director Pat Henderson of Breckinridge County, the meeting was held at the KFB State Office. Mark Haney, Fritz Giesecke and David S. Beck were also in attendance and thanked the committee for their attendance.

The committee heard from Pat Wolff, Senior Director, Congressional Relations, AFBF who gave an update, via conference call, on expiring tax provisions. Wolff said Congress currently is consid-

ering a number of expired tax provisions that impact agriculture and the House has already passed legislation that would restore Section 179 levels.

In July, the Senate Finance Committee reported legislation to extend Section 179 for two years and also extended 50 percent bonus depreciation for two years (2015-2016).

The committee also discussed in detail the legislation that was filed during the 2015 session of the Kentucky General Assembly pertaining to sales tax exemptions for equine and for veterinary medicines.

The committee reviewed state and national policy and made several recommendations.

## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

The committee met at the KFB State Office in a joint morning session with the Feed Grains and Wheat Advisory Committee, the Soybean Advisory Committee, the Tobacco Advisory Committee and the Dark Tobacco Advisory Committee.

Speakers included KFB Director Kim McCoy of Burkesville, who chairs the Soybean Advisory Committee, Randy Smallwood, State Agronomist for Ky. NRCS, Debbie Beehn, Ky. FSA, Roddric Bell, Jackson Region RMA, Rick Alexander, AWMA and KFB's Joe Cain. Topics of discussion included crop insurance issues, a review of the H2A program and immigration reform.

The Natural Resources Advisory Committee, chaired by KFB Director Larry Thomas of Hardin County, also heard from UK's Steve Higgins who reported about his recent presentation at the KFB Water Management Working Group.

Greg Johnson, Commissioner, Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Resources, shared with the committee about a mountain lion case in Bourbon County and other agency efforts.

In its reviewed of state and national policy, the committee had several proposals.

## **TOBACCO AND DARK TOBACCO**

The committees met at the KFB State Office in a joint morning session with the Natural Resources Advisory Committee, the Feed Grains and Wheat

Advisory Committee and the Soybean Advisory Committee.

Following lunch, Chair and KFB Director Scott Travis of Cox's Creek, called the Tobacco Advisory Committee and Dark Tobacco Advisory Committee meeting together.

Reports from committee members indicated Kentucky's tobacco crop experienced 10-30 percent loss due to recent weather conditions.

Pat Raines and Steve Pratt, of the Burley Tobacco Growers Cooperative, reported on quota cuts and noted challenges U.S. leaf will face because demand continues to decrease and foreign produced leaf can be acquired by manufacturers at lower costs. However, they noted U.S. leaf continues to be higher than imported leaf.

Steve Kelly, KDA, reaffirmed many of the same concerns. The Council for Burley Tobacco reported check-off dollars are down, but that dollars will continue to be available for research grants. They noted last year youth labor was a focus and that for the coming year the focus will be on crop insurance issues.

Al Pedigo provided an update on GAP Board activities. He noted there were two main problems with GAP; audits and companies not limiting purchases to GAP certified leaf.

Rod Bell, Risk Management Agency, discussed a number of crop insurance proposals being considered for tobacco for the 2016 crop year and beyond.

In consideration of state and national policy, several recommendations were made.

## **SAFETY AND RURAL HEALTH**

Chair and KFB Director Randy Chrisman of Anderson County led the meeting held at the KFB State Office. Members discussed several events and programs related to safety taking place across the state. Chrisman along with KFB Public Relations Director Dan Smalldone discussed the issue of immigration and migrant workers and shared their experience touring the US/Mexico border during the 2015 AFBF Safety Conference in Arizona.

Steve Bing, Executive Director, Kentucky Health Departments Association/Kentucky Public Health Association presented an overview of

his organizations and detailed initiatives and priority issues as they relate to safety and health for all Kentuckians.

The committee reviewed state and national policy and made several recommendations.

## **DAIRY**

The committee, chaired by KFB Director Terry Rowlett from Henry County, met at the KFB State Office and welcomed several guest speakers. Dr. Kenny Burdine, from UK, provided an overview of the current dairy market and factors impacting the market.

Javier Garza, KY FSA, noted the MPP signup period was extended until November 20th. Joe Cain, KFB, provided an overview of the Water Management Working Group activities since it was established. He also reviewed the Livestock Protection Sub Permit program KFB is coordinating on black vulture depredation and provided the committee with an update on the Waters of the US (WOTUS) rule.

Harold Friedly, USDA Dairy Program, announced the blend price forecast and noted there is a hearing concerning a proposal to establish a federal order in California. Maury Cox, KDDC, noted establishment of a California federal order would have a negative impact on producers in Kentucky and this region. Eunice Schlappi, KDA, noted Kentucky currently has 22 organic dairy farms with another 40 in transition.

State Veterinarian Dr. Robert Stout reported on activities related to the Veterinary Feed Directive concerning antibiotics in feed.

The committee reviewed both state and national policy with recommendations for both.

## **FORESTRY**

The committee, chaired by KFB Director Bige Hensley of Manchester, met at Somerset Wood Products for a tour of the manufacturing facilities before moving the meeting to the Pulaski County Farm Bureau office.

Members heard from Leah MacSwords, Director, Kentucky Division of Forestry (KDF), who reminded members that tree seedlings can be ordered from KDF's two nurseries with delivery in early 2016. She also reviewed Senate Bill 92 passed dur-

ing the 2015 General Assembly which updated KRS statutes dealing with the logging industry's bad actors.

Bill Lorenz, Deputy Forest Supervisor, U.S. Forest Service, said they are working to rebuild their timber harvesting program. He described the benefits which will arise from a new staff position funded jointly by the U.S. Forest Service and USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service. Billy Thomas, UK Extension Forester, discussed bat health research, logging best management practices, tree harvest restrictions on woodland owners because of the Northern Long-eared Bat being designated "threatened", and a new Master Woodlands Stewards Program.

Frank Hicks, President, Kentucky Woodland Owners Association, gave a brief overview of the organization's mission and the activities they support such as the Woodland Owner Short Courses and the Kentucky Wood Expo.

Aaron Lowe, Agricultural Program Specialist, USDA Farm Service Agency, discussed the Emergency Forest Restoration Program while Jonathan Van Balen, KDA International Marketing Specialist noted that forest products are still in the top ten of agricultural exports for the second year in a row.

The committee made recommendations to state policy but had no proposed changes or additions to national policy.

## **ECONOMIC AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT**

Chaired by KFB Director Mary Kate Kordes from Muhlenberg County, the committee met at the KFB State Office and heard from several speakers including Aleta Botts, Kentucky Center for Ag & Rural Development, who provided an update on KCARD's successes and noted an increase in demand for their services.

Clark Sturgeon, Farm Loan Officer, USDA Farm Service Agency, discussed microloans which are direct operating loans designed to meet the needs of beginning, small, non-traditional, and niche-type farm operations.

KDA's Ben Shaffar told members that Kentucky is in the top ten nationally for agriculture marketing. He also noted that Kentucky Proud brand awareness

is growing and people now associate Kentucky Proud with family farms and fresh produce.

Rip Rippetoe, President and CEO, Kentucky State Fair Board, thanked KFB for helping make the 2015 Kentucky State Fair a success noting that attendance was up over 2014 and the horse show was bigger this year.

The committee made several recommendations regarding state policy but no recommendations were made toward national policy.

## **SHEEP AND GOAT**

The committee, chaired by KFB Director Carroll Amyx of Wolfe County met at the Fayette County Extension Office. Several speakers addressed the committee including Tess Caudill, with KDA's Office of Ag Marketing. She updated the committee on markets, stating prices for sheep and goats have been very strong again this year, especially for the ethnic markets.

Kelley Yates, Executive Director, Kentucky Sheep & Goat Development Office reported on the activities of the office, stating they are preparing for their second round of Small Ruminant Profit Days, with 43 already registered.

UK's Dr. Richard Coffey reviewed student enrollment numbers and the many construction projects that are underway at the university. He stated that his department is in need of additional class room space.

Kentucky State University's Dr. Kenneth Andries reported the school has approximately 70 students in their agriculture degree program, and are adding a four-year Veterinary Technology Degree.

Dr. Michelle Arnold, from the UK Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, discussed the new veterinary feed directive, which makes it illegal to obtain antibiotic feed additives without a prescription from a veterinarian.

Dr. Louis Pittman, Breathitt Veterinary Center, updated the committee on the construction progress for their new facility.

## **FORAGE**

The committee met at Eden Shale Farm and Elk Creek Vineyards in Owen County with committee chair and KFB Director David McGlone of Grayson,

presiding. The meeting began with a tour of a part of Eden Shale Farm with a focus on forages. Dan Miller with Kentucky Beef Network discussed the history of the farm including how, in 2013, it moved from UK control to being managed by the Kentucky Beef Network.

From there the group moved to Elk Creek Vineyards for the business meeting.

Dr. Glen Aiken, Research Animal Scientist, USDA-ARS, provided an overview of the research being conducted at the ARS Forage-Animal Production Research Unit in Lexington. UK's Dr. Ben Goff presented the results of forage research being conducted in the UK Plant and Soil Sciences Department.

Dr. Ray Smith reviewed activities of UK Forage Extension and the Kentucky Forage and Grasslands Council. Kimberly Field, KDA Forage Testing Program provided a brief overview of the KDA hay testing program and reported increased interest in testing haylage.

Marcinda Kester and Gidget Cropper, USDA Farm Service Agency, provided updates on a variety of FSA programs from which Kentucky producers may benefit.

The committee made recommendations to state policy but none to AFBF policy.

## HORTICULTURE

The committee, chaired by KFB Director Russell Poore of Russellville, met at Poore's Nursery and Farm in Russellville.

KFB's Fran McCall provided a summary of the 2015 Certified Roadside Farm Market Program, noting 14 of the 101 members were new.

Josh Landau, with KDA reported over 500 farms are participating in the GAP Certification program, and he has processed over 150 organic certification applications.

KDA's Sharon Spencer told the group there are currently 160 farmers' markets in 107 Kentucky Counties.

Marcinda Kester and Ms. Gidget Cropper attended the meeting representing FSA. They summarized some changes in NAP (the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program), and highlighted the fact that the insurance offered is much improved.

Jeremy Hinton, past president of the

Kentucky State Horticultural Society, reported that the new president Dana Reed was elected in January. He also stated the annual Fruit and Vegetable Conference will take place on January 4 – 5, 2016.

Mac Stone, Kentucky Horticulture Council, said his organization is focused on working on food safety resources for growers, and helping producers complete third party audits.

Dr. Krista Jacobsen, representing Dr. Robert Houtz, UK Department of Horticulture, reported about a new undergraduate certification in distillation, wine and brewing studies.

Recommendations were made to state policy but none to national policy.

## POULTRY

The committee met at the Western Kentucky University Agriculture Exposition Center. KFB Director and committee Chair Jay Coleman of Cave City, welcomed several speakers including State Veterinarian Dr. Robert Stout who said avian influenza (AI) is a major concern, especially during migration periods and poultry companies in Kentucky are preparing to deal with an outbreak if it occurs.

Sue Blair, representing Commissioner James Comer, discussed efforts to manage AI in backyard flocks, including canceling swap meets and sales, and preventing contact with commercial flocks. UK's Dr. Tony Pescatore noted that Kentucky is one of only eight states with two labs certified to test for AI.

Gidget Cropper, representing FSA, stated the Livestock Indemnity Program is a permanent program and anyone suffering a loss should report it to their local FSA office within 30 days of the loss.

Jamie Guffey with the Kentucky Poultry Federation stated the most notable trend for poultry in Kentucky is growth. He also discussed an education meeting (that took place in September) would help in developing plans for an AI outbreak response involving local, state, and federal resources, along with those of the poultry companies in Kentucky.

Mark Ashby, with Cal-Maine Foods and president of the Kentucky Poultry Federation, discussed efforts the industry is making to step up biosecurity.

Dr. Debbie Reed, Director, Breathitt Veterinary Center, said their new facility is mostly under roof and should be completed by July or August, 2016. She stated the facility will respond with same day results if AI is suspected.

In considering both state and national policy, the committee made several recommendations.

## BEEF CATTLE

KFB Second Vice-President Fritz Giesecke chaired the meeting which was held at the Fayette County Extension Office. Several speakers addressed the committee including KDA's Tim Dietrich who reported that their replacement heifer and CPH sales are ongoing and doing very well.

State Veterinarian Robert Stout stated there are two issues which could require policy recommendations from the committee, the first being BVD-PI, which may soon be subject to either regulation or statute, and the Veterinary Feed Directive.

Dr. Beth Johnson summarized the requirements and possible effects of the directive on producers and veterinarians. Identification of PI-positive animals and vaccination programs were also discussed.

Gidget Cropper, State FSA, reviewed several of their programs, including the Livestock Indemnity Program, the Non-Insured Assistance Program, Emergency Livestock Assistance Program, and the Grassland Conservation Reserve Program.

Dave Maples reported for the Kentucky Cattlemen's Association, stating membership has reached 10,000 members. He reviewed activities at the Eden Shale Farm, and outlined how the increased beef check-off funds will be administered and used.

Chairman Giesecke reported on the U.S. Meat Export Federation, stating \$3.6 billion in value was earned from January to June. He reviewed trade numbers for Japan, Mexico, Canada, South Korea, and Hong Kong.

Dr. Richard Coffey, University of Kentucky, summarized current events at the University, including their beef research program, their new feed mill, rapidly growing student numbers, construction projects, dining issues, and their current need for additional class-

rooms.

Dr. Michelle Arnold, UK Veterinary Diagnostic Lab, stated they conduct continuing education sessions for food animal vets, which are also available at the Breathitt Veterinary Center.

KFB's Joe Cain reviewed recent events concerning Black Vulture Depredation permits, and WOTUS (Waters of the United States). He stated water quality is a new big issue for livestock producers.

The committee reviewed state and national policy and made four policy recommendations to the state Resolutions Committee.

## SWINE

KFB Director Danny Wilkinson of Columbia chaired the meeting held at the Kentucky Pork Producers Office in Elizabethtown. Warren Beeler, KDA, said because of the current lack of producers, processors are turning to the Amish and other smaller producers for product.

State Veterinarian Robert Stout noted that there have been no new cases of PEVD reported since December 2014.

Dr. Dennis Liptrap, President of the Kentucky Pork Producers, discussed the Seneca Valley Virus, which does not kill pigs and is not very contagious, but mimics the symptoms of Foot/Mouth

disease.

Bonnie Jolly, KPPA Executive Director, discussed Congressman Massie's introduction of legislation about growers processing animals themselves for sale, and possible implications if the legislation is enacted. Mandatory price reporting, Country of Origin Labeling, a repeal of WOTUS, and trade issues were also discussed.

UK's Dr. Richard Coffey discussed staffing in swine research and swine extension programs, and reported their new feed mill is now open.

Dr. Debbie Reed, Director at the Breathitt Veterinary Center, reported on the progress being made at their new facility. She stated they are certified and prepared to test for Foot/Mouth disease, Seneca Valley Virus, and Avian Influenza.

The committee reviewed state and national policy and submitted two state policy recommendations, with no recommendations for national policy.

## ROADSIDE FARM MARKET

The committee, chaired by KFB Director Russell Poore of Russellville, met at Poore's Nursery and Farm in Russellville. Sharon Spencer, KDA, reported there are 160 farmers markets in 107 counties. She noted there is still funding available for the SNAP program equipment, and that USDA is actively inspecting farmers markets to make sure all procedures are being followed.

Ms. Aleta Botts, KCARD, reported that they are working with a lot of Roadside Farm Market members on business planning, with many of them looking to expand their markets.

KFB's Fran McCall presented a report about membership in 2015. This is the 20th anniversary of the Program and there are 101 markets participating this year, 14 being new.

KFB President Mark Haney brought up the issue of credit card transaction processing fees, and the committee discussed possible topics for the 2016 Educational Meeting, including labor and recording keeping, OSHA, regulatory issues and un-employment insurance.

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# Kentucky 4-H

## A Unique Organization Providing Kentucky Students Unique Opportunities



4-H students from Caldwell County work on a project as part of the Science and Technology Day held at Cloverville during the recent Kentucky State Fair.

Below: Cloverville has been a part of the Kentucky State Fair for nearly two generations and showcases a multitude of projects completed by state 4-H members.

With more than a quarter of a million members, there is a one-in-three chance any given Kentucky K-12 student is involved in 4-H through a variety of venues including local clubs, special interest activities, camps or school enrichment programs.

The organization has been helping build leaders and providing marketable skills to its members for well over a century, and, like its FFA cousin, has become a valuable extension to the classroom for students in both urban areas as well as those living in rural communities.

Keith Rogers, who serves as the executive director of the Kentucky 4-H Foundation said the basic premise of the organization is to teach students through mentorship, although the subject matters have increased in numbers through the years.

“Science, engineering and technology have been growing over the last few years, so we keep looking at what sub-

jects we can use. We keep moving as the students of today move,” he said. “That’s what’s unique about 4-H, we’re teaching the same basics we’re just using different projects and different opportunities to do that.”



Rogers pointed out, as an example, the performing arts troupe in which students can now participate. He said participants are learning about the industry and what it takes to become involved much the same way other traditional 4-H activities have been taught.

Rogers also noted he learned how to “do life” through his own experiences with 4-H –including developing leadership skills he might not have otherwise

learned had he not been involved in the organization.

Current State 4-H Vice President MacKenzie Jones said she feels the same way when it comes to developing as a leader.

“Growing up in Kentucky 4-H gave me the opportunity to learn not only life skills, but leadership skills that otherwise I wouldn’t have,” she said. “It’s given me the confidence to speak in front of any group of people, large or small. Not many people realize how much 4-H can do for you and I wish that more people would take advantage of this opportunity!”

For the more than 600,000 visitors that made their way to this year’s Kentucky State Fair, they got that chance by getting a glimpse of just what 4-H is all about by way of visiting 4-H’s Cloverville.

This literal town-square exhibit space is devoted to the many talents and activities in which state 4-H’ers are involved.

For nearly two generations Cloverville has been a part of the fair and Rogers said there’s nothing else like it anywhere.

“No other state fair has anything like it or rivals this,” he said. “My colleagues in other states are really impressed in what we have here in Kentucky at the fair. We have a tremendous 4-H organization in this state.”

Rogers added that Cloverville has always been somewhat of the finale of the year and is referred to as a grand tradition by 4-H veterans.

He also pointed out the importance of sponsorships which help make activities like Cloverville possible. Those sponsors include Kentucky Farm Bureau, Kentucky’s Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, Limestone Farm Lawn Worksite, Kentucky 4-H Program, the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund and Jerry D. Westerfield, M.D. - State 4-H President 1960-61.

The 4-H Foundation is a partner of the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, and the Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, 4-H Youth Development.

For more information about Kentucky 4-H, visit its website at <http://kentucky-4hfoundation.org> or contact your contact your county or local Extension Service.

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# 2015 KFB Golf Classic Marks 20 Years of Raising Scholarships Funds



This year's KFB Golf Classic featured 264 participants and raised nearly \$33,000 for scholarships.

This year marked the 20th anniversary of the Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) Golf Classic, an event that has raised more than \$528,000 and awarded 482 scholarships since its inception. The event serves both state and county Farm Bureau scholarships programs.

The 2015 Classic raised nearly \$33,000 which will benefit approximately 27 high school seniors who will be awarded college scholarships ranging from \$1,000-\$3,000 in the spring of 2016.

A total of 64 teams (254 golfers) participated in this year's event. In addition to the sponsorships from Enterprise Rent-A-Car, idExperts, red7e, and Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company, there were 46 hole-sponsors.

"Our thanks go to the many sponsors and participants that made this year's Golf Classic a success," said KFB Federation Executive Vice-President David Beck. "Since so much of our policy at Kentucky Farm Bureau is related to education, this event is one of the single most important things we do. Helping to make higher education a reality for our young people is a very worthwhile investment that will provide future benefits not only for those students but for our state and country, as well."

## KFB Efforts Expand Black Buzzard Permit Program

Last year Kentucky livestock producers lost nearly 200 calves and cows to black vulture attacks--almost triple the number from 2013. Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation (KFBF) applied for and received, a state-wide depredation permit allowing farmers to "take" black vultures that were attacking on-farm livestock.

The program is administered by KFBF which, to date, is the only non-government entity that has been approved by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services (USFWS) for a statewide black vulture depredation permit.

Since black and turkey vultures are protected under the Migratory Bird Act

and the Migratory Bird Treaty, historically the only legal options producers had available to protect their livestock from these attacks was to request assistance from the USDA APHIS Wildlife Services (WS) or apply to USFWS for an individual black vulture depredation permit, with a duration of one year and at the cost of \$100.

KFB has been successful in its efforts to getting USFWS to grant KFBF a state-wide black vulture depredation permit originally allowing for 350 "takes" and affording producers experiencing depredation the opportunity to apply for a Livestock Protection Depredation Sub-Permit at no cost.

Recently, an amended permit was issued allowing an additional 350 takes for a total of 700. Currently the first 350 "takes" have been issued with additional sub-permits issued for 50 more takes.

There are also 25 applications pending approval at this writing with additional requests coming weekly.

"This represents an important step in protecting Kentucky's livestock population," said David Beck, KFB executive director. "The economic impact of this program is huge for farmers and KFB will work closely with federal agencies to make sure this program continues for the foreseeable future."

# County Corner

## Snapshots of County Farm Bureau activities

### LESLIE COUNTY

Leslie Co Member Appreciation Day



### BREATHITT COUNTY

Breathitt County women's chair visiting pre-school class with baby chicks.



### POWELL COUNTY

Powell County Agent Anna Kate Tipton handing out information about Farm Bureau member benefits at their annual fish fry.



### MONTGOMERY COUNTY

State Senator from the 28th district Ralph Alvarado addressed the members of Montgomery County at their annual meeting.



### SHELBY COUNTY

Area students participated in a Kentucky Agriculture & Environment in the Classroom event held at Gallrein Farms.



### LINCOLN COUNTY

Houstonville Elementary students participated in the mobile program Agriculture Adventures sponsored by the Lincoln County Farm Bureau Women's Committee.



### GALLATIN COUNTY

Pictured from left: Shelly Moore, April Wainscott, and Agency Manager Bobby Smith at the Gallatin County Annual meeting.



### GREEN COUNTY

Green County Farm Bureau's Member Appreciation Day held at the Green County Farm Bureau office in Greensburg.



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## Feedlot placements and marketings record low

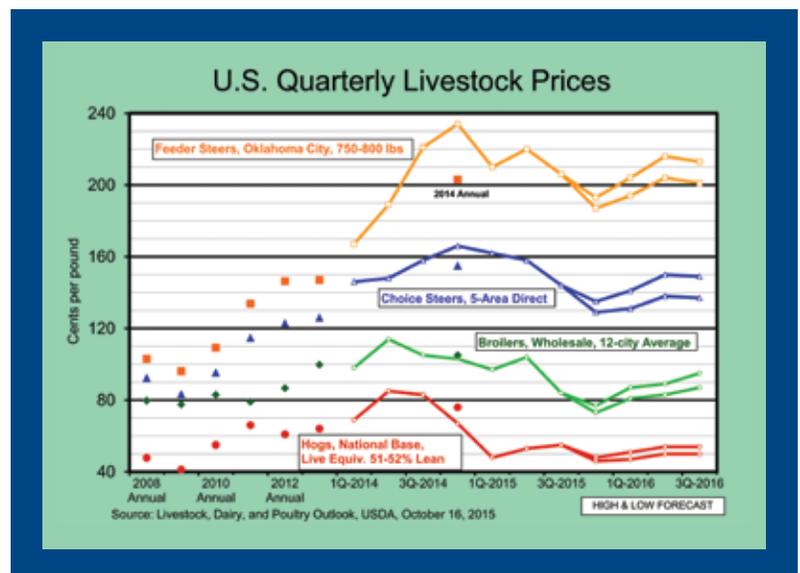
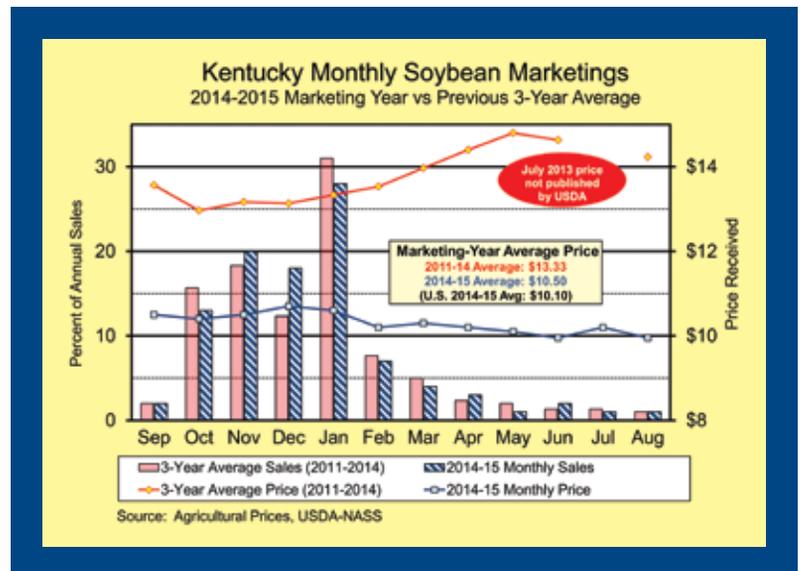
Recent placements of feeder cattle in feedlots with 1,000 or more head capacity in 2015 have been record low for the data series started in 1996. August 2015 placements were 1.63 million head, five percent fewer than August 2014 and the lowest August estimate since 1996. According to USDA, placements were low because producers kept cattle on pasture longer and feedlot operators were resistant to paying high prices for cattle given their recent losses. Marketings of fed cattle during August totaled 1.59 million head, or six percent below August 2014 and the lowest since 1996 for this month. Because of lower corn prices, cattle feeders have kept cattle on feed longer, which resulted in larger on-feed inventories and larger beef production. Because of negative margins, cattle feeders resisted selling as prices trended lower. Fed cattle prices dropped sharply in early October, but then rebounded mid-month. USDA responded to the October price weakness by sharply lowering its cattle price forecasts for the fourth quarter of 2015. Choice-grade steers are expected to average \$129-135 per cwt, down from a third-quarter average of \$144; feeder cattle price forecasts were also lowered sharply from the September report.

## U.S. soybean export share to drop

USDA is forecasting a drop in the United States' share of world soybean exports due to rising global soybean supplies in Brazil and the competitive edge Brazil has from its currency depreciation. Since October 2014, the value of Brazil's real has declined 37 percent relative to the U.S. dollar. This means Brazilian producers have a different set of price signals than U.S. farmers – they have near-record soybean prices (input costs are relatively higher also). Therefore, Brazilian soybean acreage and production are climbing. USDA just raised its 2016 Brazilian production forecast by 3.0 mmt to a record-high 100.0 mmt, a 3.8 mmt increase over 2015. Brazil's soybean exports are expected to grow faster than its production; the 2015/16 export forecast is 56.45 mmt, up 5.3 mmt from the previous year's record-high total. With limited import growth expected for China, these sales would occur at the expense of U.S. exporters. USDA forecasts total 2015/16 world soybean exports at 126.48 million metric tons (mmt), up slightly from 126.05 mmt in 2014/15. The U.S. is expected to export 45.59 mmt (1.675 billion bushels) in 2015/16, down from 50.17 mmt (1.843 billion bushels) in 2014/15. The U.S. share of world exports drops from 39.8 percent last year to 36.0 percent in 2015/16. In contrast, Brazil's market share rises from 40.5 percent last year to 44.5 percent in 2015/16.

## Hay production and yields increased

Average yields and total production for both alfalfa and other hay increased this year and some states set new records. Production of alfalfa and alfalfa mixture dry hay for 2015 is forecast at 63.2 million tons, up three percent from 2014. Based on October 1 conditions, yield is expected to average 3.45 tons per acre, up 0.12 ton from last year. Harvested area is forecast at 18.3 million acres, down less than one percent from 2014. Idaho, Nebraska, and Texas are expecting record high yields. Production of other hay is forecast at 79.2 million tons, up one percent from 2014. Yields are expected to average 2.07 tons per acre, up 0.04 ton from last year. If realized, yield would be a record high for the United States. Harvested area is forecast at 38.2 million acres, down one percent from 2014. Producers in Georgia, Idaho, Missouri, and North Dakota are expecting record high yields in 2015. Kentucky alfalfa hay production is forecast at 613,000 tons, up nine percent from last year, and other hay production of 5.04 million tons is 20 percent above 2014.



# David Beck Awarded VIP Citation by National FFA Organization

**D**avid Beck, executive vice president of the Kentucky Farm Bureau, has been awarded the VIP Citation by the National FFA Organization, recognizing his significant contributions and dedication to FFA and agricultural education.



David Beck

Beck has been instrumental in having the city of Louisville host the National FFA Convention & Expo, both during the city's first stint as host from 1995 to 2005 and its current three-year tenure. The Louisville resident served on the local host committee, providing guidance for the technical volunteer needs as well as assisting with securing operational funds for the convention and expo. When the convention and expo returned to Louisville in 2013, Beck served as chairman of the committee in addition to many other roles. Beck's passion and desire to ensure that FFA members had a first-class experience while attending the convention and expo are unmatched.

"The VIP Citation recognizes the dedicated individuals who contribute to the FFA mission of student success through their hard work and cooperation," the organization's CEO Dwight Armstrong said. "Without such strong and outstanding commitment, FFA would not be able to help build strong character in its members, who in turn build strong families, communities and industries."

The National FFA Organization provides leadership, personal growth and career success training through agricultural education to 610,240 student members who belong to one of 7,665 local FFA chapters throughout the U.S., Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

National FFA Organization

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# Agriculture commissioner's “Measure the Candidates” forum focuses on state and national issues



Ryan Quarles (right center) and Jean-Marie Lawson Spann (left) shook hands before David S. Beck, Executive Vice President for KFB Federation (right), and Mark Haney, KFB President (left center), conducted the coin toss to determine who spoke first at the “Measure the Candidates” forum for Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner.

**K**entucky Farm Bureau’s (KFB) Board of Directors met today with agriculture commissioner candidates Ryan Quarles and Jean-Marie Lawson Spann to discuss their positions on issues affecting the state’s agriculture industry.

In sharing their vision for the future of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA) and how they will operate from that office if elected, Quarles (R) and Lawson Spann (D) fielded questions from the KFB leaders and explained their positions during the two-hour meeting at the farm organization’s state office.

KFB President Mark Haney served as moderator during the forum-type discussion. He said the meeting continued a strong KFB tradition that began in the 1940’s.

“It’s a very effective forum we started and have used for candidates at all levels,” he said. “Agriculture remains one of the largest economic contributors in Kentucky and therefore we feel it should be important to candidates running for local, state and national offices to be involved.”

Under the forum’s guidelines the candidates gave opening and closing statements and first fielded questions on topics that included the budget, animal disease control, grain inspection and

grain insurance fund, Kentucky Proud, rural and market development, ag education and the Kentucky Agriculture Development Board/Kentucky Agriculture Finance Board.

At the end of the forum, board members were invited to ask questions of each candidate and a press conference was held immediately following the event.

In their opening remarks each candidate gave a brief summary of what they intend to do as head of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture if elected.

Quarles began the forum by telling directors that he would like continue the success of the Kentucky Proud program as well as the continued expansion of agriculture education by supporting programs like 4-H and FFA.

“It’s important that we get into the classroom at a young age so we can clear up the misconceptions that our industry continues to suffer from,” he said.

Quarles added that he thinks there is great potential in promoting Kentucky agricultural products in international markets. He also said that when federal regulations threaten family farms, “we need to push back against that.”

Lawson Span told directors she thinks there should be two labels on Kentucky grown food; a Kentucky Proud label and a label letting consumers know if the product has been genetically modi-

fied. “Consumers desire to know which foods have been genetically modified. As commissioner of agriculture, I will work to make sure that we label these foods as such,” she said.

Lawson Spann also said she wants Kentucky to develop an entire industry around industrial hemp and that she supports the legalization of medical marijuana in patients whom doctors have deemed ill enough to benefit from its use.

Both candidates spoke throughout the forum of the bi-partisan support they have received during their campaigns.

During closing remarks Lawson Spann said she would like to set up regional offices in Western and Eastern Kentucky under current budget levels to “bring Frankfort to the people.” She also said she would like to concentrate on growing farming operations and that Kentucky agriculture could be the answer in improving the state’s economy.

Quarles concluded by saying that water access and water quality would continue to be the dominant issue in the next decade not only for state agriculture but for the nation and that a continued relationship with Kentucky’s federal delegation is important in finding common ground and common sense solutions when it comes to dealing with the federal regulations.

# 2016 Certified Roadside Farm Market enrollment period open

**E**nrollment for the 2016 Certified Roadside Farm Market program is now open.

Established in July 1996, the KFB Certified Roadside Farm Market program began as an initiative to help farmers market their fruits and vegetables directly from roadside markets to consumers across the Commonwealth. Since then, the membership has expanded to include farm enterprises like greenhouses, landscape nurseries, Christmas tree farms, vineyards/wineries and meat/cheese farm markets. The KFB Roadside Farm Market program celebrated its twentieth year in 2015.

Markets certified through this program are identified by a sign with the cornucopia logo and listed in the KFB Certified Roadside Farm Market Directory. The program also provides collective advertising, promotional items, education tour opportunities, and other marketing benefits with the intent to increase the net farm income of member markets.

Early enrollment discounts are available for the 2016 KFB Certified Roadside Market program. Returning markets that renew

their membership by November 15 receive the discounted rate of \$275. Renewal rates increase to \$350 for markets that wait to enroll November 16 through December 31.

Roadside markets that are first- and second-year members to KFB's Certified Roadside Market program can join for just \$250 during the early enrollment session, which ends November 15. First- and second-year market members who enroll November 16 through December 31 can

join for \$325.

To apply for membership, visit [kyfb.com/rfmenrollment](http://www.kyfb.com/rfmenrollment) <<http://www.kyfb.com/rfmenrollment>>. For questions about enrollment and the benefits of participating in the KFB Certified Roadside Farm Market program, please contact Fran McCall, Commodity Specialist and Roadside Farm Market Coordinator, at (502) 495-5000, extension 7238, or by e-mail at [Fran.McCall@kyfb.com](mailto:Fran.McCall@kyfb.com).

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