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KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU



KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU NEWS
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March 2018

Contents

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN	3
COMMENT COLUMN	5
2018 KFB CONGRESSIONAL TOUR	6
COLLEGIATE FARM BUREAU	8
THE ART OF CURING COUNTRY HAMS	10
2018 PRESIDENTS AND VICE PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE	12
KFB BEEF EXPO	14
DOWN THE BACKROADS	16
NATIONAL FARM MACHINERY SHOW	17
COUNTY CORNER	18
MARKETS	20
KFB CANDID CONVERSATION	22
NATIONAL FFA OFFICERS IN KENTUCKY	24

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I think it is human nature to wonder what the future holds for each of us, whether it is in the long-term, or if it is week-by-week or month-by-month. We all have that tendency to look down the road with hopefully, good expectations, and usually with a little worry, as well.

And in looking ahead to what the future holds, we know there are a lot of issues on our plates as farmers and residents of rural communities. Will we have a good crop year; will commodity prices get better; will it rain enough; will it rain too much; will the Farm Bill pass; can I connect to the Internet today; is there enough money to get my road repaired; will I have enough help to get a crop planted and harvested; and the list goes on and on.

These issues, big and small affect us every day in one way or another. Some of these things, we just can't do anything about. We have no control over them. That is the nature of being in the agriculture industry; we acknowledge that and accept it, for the most part.

But, as true advocates for our industry and the communities in which we live and work, there are some issues we can at least have a say in, and I'm reminded of that every February as our Farm Bureau members make their way to Washington, D.C. for the annual Congressional Tour.

Each winter we make this trip to visit with our elected leaders; to have face-to-face meetings with them, not only to give them our thoughts on the organization's priority issues, but to listen to what they have to say about current events affecting the country.

I can't begin to tell you how valuable this trip is, as we continue our efforts to let these Congressional leaders know of our concerns and our expectations, but also our successes. There are many pieces of legislation these lawmakers have brought to the table to benefit agriculture and rural America, and we thank them for that.

But there are still issues waiting for their attention, and we intend to be a part of those decisions; to be that voice of agriculture, for farm families and for rural communities here and across the country.

Collectively we can move the needle when it comes to having a strong presence in the legislative process. We need to stand up and speak out on these matters, where we stand, be it in our hometowns, our state capital or in Washington, D.C.

We may not be able to forecast the future but we have and can continue to play a part in shaping it as one of the largest Farm Bureaus in the country.

As members and leaders of our organization, it is critical to continue this work. It is vital that we know and communicate with our legislative leaders regularly. It is essential we encourage the next generation to become involved and send them to their courthouses, their state house and to the nation's capital to listen, learn and advocate.

Our grassroots advocacy efforts are without a doubt, the most important thing we can do for our communities, for our organization and for our future.

Mark Haney
President
Kentucky Farm Bureau

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Kentucky Farm Bureau is a voluntary organization of farm families and their allies dedicated to serving as the voice of agriculture by identifying problems, developing solutions and taking actions which will improve net farm income, achieve better economic opportunities and enhance the quality of life for all.

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COLUMN



Teamwork: The Secret to Advocacy Success

For nearly a century now, the American Farm Bureau Federation has been the national, unified Voice of Agriculture. Together, we've seen great achievements and growth for the industry—from strides in technology and innovation to increased trade and revenue to legislative reforms that help strengthen our rural economies. Our team works tirelessly on behalf of our farmer and rancher members, but we can't do it alone. The "secret sauce" to our success is the advocacy support we receive from our states and grassroots members.

The Farm Bureau name is well known around our nation's capital because we are out there pounding the pavement together, advocating on behalf of agriculture. We're confident each time we step foot in an office on Capitol Hill, that your lawmakers have heard from and met with you at least once, if not multiple times. Your visits, letters and calls matter because you can put names and faces to the issues we're all advocating for every day.

As state staff and grassroots members, you can tell your senators and representatives exactly how their votes affect their constituents. You can share with them the impact of overreaching regulations on farm and ranch businesses back home, and the crippling effects when those rules are not based on sound science and common sense. Lawmakers need to hear from you how legislation on everything from farm programs to immigration will help or hurt the work of agriculture. The stories you share matter because you can take national headlines and show the real-life consequences national policy has for farms and ranches of all sizes.

Time and again we have seen real change and shifts in the tides of policy when state staff and grassroots members show up on Capitol Hill. Members on both sides of the aisle have supported our efforts to ditch the flawed 2015 Waters of the U.S. rule. At the end of 2017, we saw the first comprehensive tax reform package passed in decades. Even now, we're seeing bipartisan support from the U.S. Senate to protect and advance the interests of agriculture in the North American Free Trade Agreement. That's just to name a few from recent months. These changes didn't happen overnight, however. These are shared successes as we have advocated side-by-side on the issues for months, sometimes years.

Of course, our work is not done yet. But I am confident that as we keep on advocating together on behalf of U.S. agriculture, we will continue to see the successes that make us all Farm Bureau proud.

Julie Anna Potts
AFBF Executive Vice President

4 - KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU NEWS

MARCH 2018

MARCH 2018

KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU NEWS - 5



CAPITAL ADVOCACY

THE 2018 KFB CONGRESSIONAL TOUR

More than 350 Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) members made their way to Washington, D.C. to continue a long-standing KFB tradition of advocacy at the federal level, as they participated in this year's Congressional Tour.

The annual event has become an essential part of the efforts made by members to keep Congressional leaders informed of the issues that affect their family farms.

Attendees got the chance to meet with each of their district Congressmen and participated in a question and answer session with U.S. Senators Mitch McConnell and Rand Paul. In addition, they heard from American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall and other AFBF personal about pending federal legislations.

Members also heard from James Hafemeister, the Trade Counsel to the USDA Secretary, and Cathy Gautreaux, Deputy Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration about issues related to trade and roadway regulations.

KFB President Mark Haney said this year's attendance was the largest in many years with nearly half making the trip for the first time.

"That indicates our members have a high interest in the current issues and it indicates we have folks at Farm Bureau who really want to participate in our advocacy efforts," he said. *"We want them to come here and really*

It's always a pleasure to have so many Kentuckians in our Nation's Capital to help me advance the interests of Kentucky's diverse farm economy and our nation's agricultural communities.

– Mitch McConnell,
U.S. Senator

learn about the process of making laws, especially our young people. Then, as they leave here we asked them to be engaged at the local level.

That's really what it is all about; having the knowledge of the issues and having the courage to stand up for what you believe. If we do that we will be a stronger Farm Bureau and we'll be a stronger Kentucky."

During each district session, Farm Bureau members had the opportunity to discuss issues that affect their family farms face-to-face with their elected officials as they did at the Q&A session with Senators McConnell and Paul.

"It's always a pleasure to have so many Kentuckians in our Nation's Capital to help me advance the interests of Kentucky's diverse farm economy and our nation's agricultural communities," said McConnell. *"I was pleased to be able to personally thank the Kentucky Farm Bureau once again for their support throughout the tax reform process. This historic tax law will make it easier for Kentucky's farmers to invest in new capital equipment and to recover business costs. In addition, it doubled the exemption from the death tax meaning that this burden will fall on fewer Kentucky farmers."*



Senator Mitch McConnell poses with 2017 Outstanding Farm Bureau Youth Braedon Price of Warren County.



KFB President Mark Haney and Executive Vice President David S. Beck spoke to attendees in the Russell Senate Office Building.



Senator Rand Paul



John Wills of Shelby County asked a question during the Senate Q&A session.

McConnell added that as the Senate Agriculture Committee continues work on the 2018 Farm Bill, he will continue advocating for programs and policies that support the Commonwealth's strong tradition in agriculture.

"I look forward to working with Chairman Roberts and my colleagues in the Senate, and all of you, on issues important to Kentucky farmers," he said.

Paul said Kentucky's agriculture industry is imperative to the Commonwealth's economy.

"I appreciate the Kentucky Farm Bureau's commitment to ensuring their top issues are heard by legislators at events like the Congressional Tour," he said. *"It was a pleasure to speak at their (the KFB) breakfast and question and answer session, and I look forward to continuing to work together to give Kentucky's hardworking farmers and their families a voice in Washington."*

COLLEGIATE FARM BUREAU:

BRINGING THE ORGANIZATION AND AGRICULTURAL LEADERSHIP TO COLLEGE CAMPUSES

In its ongoing efforts to help young people become involved in the agriculture industry as well as to share with them more about Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) as an organization, a program was created specifically for college students to assist in achieving these goals.

The Collegiate Farm Bureau (CFB) program provides college students with leadership development opportunities, preparing them for future roles in Farm Bureau, other agricultural organizations, their communities, and the state. The program also helps to expose

students to agricultural issues and Farm Bureau's structure, philosophy and public policy process.

Eastern Kentucky University and Murray State University currently have CFB programs in place on their campuses as this program continues to grow.

Four of EKU's members recently made the trip to the 2018 KFB Young Farmer Winter Conference thanks to the support of Madison County Farm Bureau. Those members included Kendal Bowman, EKU's chapter vice president; Kasi Schneid, chapter secretary, Bethany Cruse, a recent new chapter member,

and Grant Hagerman, the self-described laborer for the ECU chapter.

As an FFA chapter and regional officer, Schneid said she became aware of the Farm Bureau organization by way of the local Madison County office before coming to college.

"They were always there when we needed something like sponsoring us to go to the national convention. We have turned to Farm Bureau because we knew they were willing to help," she said. "So, when I heard about the college program after I began classes at ECU, I really wanted to get involved because I knew how much they had helped me in the past."

Cruse, a third generation farmer said she saw several posters around campus promoting CFB as well as hearing about it from some of her friends.

"Since I'm new to the program, the Young Farmers Conference was my first event to attend as a CFB member and I'd like to help with the campus Ag Awareness Day our chapter organizes," she said. "I think events such as that are important to have because so many people are far removed from the farm and it is important they understand how we care for our animals and where our food comes from."

Hagerman began his involvement in CFB last year helping with the Ag Awareness Day. He said being a part of the program makes him feel like somewhat of an agriculture advocate.

"I feel strongly about our CFB chapter in that it helps to reach students about the importance of leadership and how agriculture touches their lives every day," he said.

Bowman grew up in Farm Bureau with his family being members, and coming from an agriculture background, as well.

"I wanted to become more involved in our ag department at school and saw a poster announcing a CFB meeting one day and started from there," he said. "We have regular meetings on campus with Farm Bureaus leaders joining us to

guide us on how to be more involved and the opportunities that arise within the organization."

Bowman also said it's important to help teach other students about agriculture while continuing to build a relationship with Madison County Farm Bureau.

Richard Cobb, the county President said it's very important to expose young people to the opportunities available to them through agriculture and KFB.

"Collegiate Farm Bureau really opens up, to these students, some of the opportunities available to them through the organization," he said. "And we need to show them as wide array of agriculture programs, services and opportunities as possible to keep them interested in the

ag industry. We don't want this country to wake up one day and have a short

They were always there when we needed something like sponsoring us to go to the national convention. We have turned to Farm Bureau because we knew they were willing to help.

- Kasi Schneid, FFA chapter and regional officer

food supply so we need to keep these young people involved."

Cobb also said creating good relationships such as the one between Madison County Farm Bureau and EKU, develops numerous opportunities at the local level. But more than that,

he pointed out that not all students who become involved in Eastern's CFB are

from Kentucky and learning about the organization here could teach them of the benefits in their local Farm Bureaus.

Greg Harris, Madison County Vice President said there are several other state Farm Bureaus that are involved with CFB and he would like to see it expand in this state.

"It's very popular in other states and we are seeing that popularity get on track here in Kentucky," he said. "This program has a lot of potential for local Farm Bureaus and the campuses in their areas. We'd like to see it grow here."

Harris noted that with several colleges located from one end of the state to the other, the potential exists for most local Farm Bureaus to become involved in CFB.



Collegiate Farm Bureau members pictured from left include: Grant Hagerman, Bethany Cruse, Kasi Schneid, and Kendal Bowman.

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THE ART OF CURING COUNTRY HAM

ANDERSON COUNTY FARMER TEACHING OTHERS A FAMILY TRADITION

The practice of curing country hams dates back centuries, long before modern storage methods were available. In fact, one of the ways people kept their food from spoiling was to pack it in a mixture of salt and other spices, wrap it tightly and store it for an extended period of time until the flavor was just right.

While modern technology allows for other ways of preserving food, the way country hams are cured now is very much the same as it was long, long ago. David Dennis, Farm Bureau member and farm owner in Anderson County, has shared the practice of ham curing with friends and neighbors for more than 15 years as a way of teaching them more about agriculture and to share a practice that has been handed down in his family for generations.

"I used to help with the ham curing when I was a kid on the farm and my wife and I decided we wanted to cure a couple of hams one year in much the same way," he said. "We told some people that I knew about it who, in turn wanted to participate and one thing led to another until it became an annual event."

Dennis now has close to 30 in attendance each January who show up ready to prepare their hams for curing with the anticipation of having country

ham in the fall of the year when the curing is complete.

"Every year, more and more people find out about it and they want to be a part of it," he said. "I teach them the first time how to apply the seasoning and after that, they do it on their own."

Dennis uses the same seasoning recipe his father used to cure hams and explains to each new person joining the "ham club" how to make sure the ham is prepared correctly so it will be just right in November.

Many of those participants have been coming for several years but Dennis still gets newcomers wanting to learn this art of ham curing.

"We pick up new ones each year from all walks of life. We have doctors and lawyers, pharmacists and office workers," he said. "Some people come alone while others bring their children and grandchildren."

Dennis said that those coming each year understand they could go to their local grocery store and buy country ham all ready to go but by preparing the hams themselves they get a certain satisfaction out of it while also learning something about agriculture.

"There are a lot of people that didn't grow up on a farm or know anything about farming and they want to learn about it," he said. "They also want their

children to learn where their food comes from and this is a perfect project to help teach those things."

Dennis also thinks that many of the ham curers can recall family members of the past who were connected to the farm and this is a way to remember them and something about their family's past.

This year 27 hams were prepared to cure. All will go in a special building to hang throughout the season with inspections taking place regularly throughout this period. Each ham will have a name written on the packaging and be ready to pick up in time for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

Reid and Mary Ann Hacker, from Frankfort, have been participating for the last 10 years and had somewhat of a family background in ham curing to stir their interest. Reid used to help his grandmother cure hams as a child while Mary Ann had family members involved although she had never helped in the process.

"I work with David (Dennis also works for state government) and he invited us to participate one year," she said. "I thought it would be a neat thing to do to better understand what my uncles and grandparents prepared with the hams they cured."

Reid said in participating, the event reminds him of his childhood.

"It definitely reminds me of my grandmother who was always in charge of curing and cooking the hams," he said. "We plan to come back every year. This has become a tradition for us."

Mary Ann said their family members look forward to hams for their holiday meals.

"We travel to see our families during the holidays and they expect us to bring the country ham, now that we have been doing this for so long," she said.

COUNTRY HAM; A KENTUCKY TRADITION

The Commonwealth has long been recognized as one of the premiere country ham producing states in the country. In fact, Kentucky, along with North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia, are considered to be in the "Ham Belt."

Kentucky Farm Bureau has recognized this tradition, as well and has celebrated it every year for more than half a century during the annual Country Ham Breakfast and Charity Auction held at the State Fair.

While the grand champion ham is the only one that makes it to the auction, there are hundreds of other hams that also enjoy some of the fanfare with competitions in several ham categories. Dennis has helped to contribute to this State Fair tradition with at least one of his "students" having brought home blue ribbons thanks to participating in this ham curing class.

Charles Douglass, a phycologist from Lexington has been attending the ham class for at least 10 years.

"I had always had an interest in it but couldn't find anyone who did it until David," he said. "Since then, I have found the whole process is easier than what I first imagined. And it is fun to do; it brings a lot of people together to have fun and visit."

Douglass has researched the seasoning-side of ham curing and has come up with his own mixture he thinks may have helped him win those two state fair blue ribbons.

Dennis said he doesn't know how long this event will go on but he enjoys it and thinks all those who participate enjoy it, as well.

"When they get together, it's good to see them talking and laughing and just having a good time," he said. "That's really what it's all about."



Charles Douglass has his own spice recipe for the hams he prepares.



Taylor Cammack, left, gets a lesson in ham preparation from David Dennis.



An old family recipe is used to cure most of the hams.

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KFB President Mark Haney addresses the conference attendees.

2018 PRESIDENTS AND VICE PRESIDENT CONFERENCE

LEARNING FROM OTHERS HELP “LEAD WHERE YOU STAND”

Each year, hundreds of county Farm Bureau leaders make their way to Louisville for the annual Presidents and Vice Presidents Conference to hear from Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) leadership on a number of issues that affect these local organizations every day.

Whether it is state or national legislative matters, business-related information or membership benefit updates, these county leaders gain the opportunity to learn more and make their Farm Bureaus even better.

One portion of the conference brings several local leaders to the stage to discuss happenings in their respective counties as a way to network and share with others. This networking

process has proven, over the years, to be beneficial in gaining new insight or ideas for projects or events to countless local FB organizations.

This year’s panel discussion brought leaders from Pike, Larue, Bourbon and Ballard Counties to discuss their events and community involvement all relating to the “Lead Where You Stand” theme being embraced by KFB across the state.

Savannah Robin, Bourbon County Farm Bureau President, said having these types of panel discussions are valuable in helping a county understand issues and events that are taking place in other areas of the Commonwealth.

“A lot of the things we are doing (in Bourbon County) have come from discussions with other leaders and

members. There is so much power when we connect with one another to showcase those things and how to implement them locally,” she said. “I learn so much from other counties; something I think is really important because we are able to see what is successful in those areas and try to do the same at home.”

Robin also said that as community leaders it’s important to give back and find ways to truly be supportive in their hometowns, and be the voice for agriculture while educating consumers.

“We all have the same passion and the same purpose; to promote agriculture and point people to where agriculture is,” she said. “And we truly all work together enabling us to grow that passion and purpose.”



KFB Executive Vice President David S. Beck moderates a panel discussion.

Justin Puckett, the Farm Bureau Agency Manager in Ballard County, said he gets as many ideas from sitting on a panel such as the one at this conference, as he would from being a part of the audience.

“In sitting in our board meetings at home planning our year and brainstorming, I can take back ideas from this conference on what other counties

are doing giving us a starting point,” he said. “Together we can do a lot more than we can standing alone,” he said. “Coming together and learning what others are doing with their talents and abilities, and being able to bring those back home, is critical.”

KFB President Mark Haney emphasized to attendees the importance of the theme, “Lead Where

You Stand” and said that theme can encompass many things whether its related to leading, listening or teaching. But he encouraged local Farm Bureau leaders to get others in their counties involved.

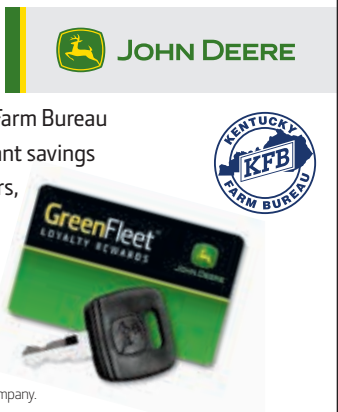
“There is nothing more important than getting people in your area involved in Farm Bureau activities. It is such a positive thing,” said Haney.



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Reba Prather participates in one of the show events.

2018 KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU BEEF EXPO

A CONTINUING TRADITION

For more than three decades the Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) Beef Expo has brought together producers from across the region to buy, show and sell some of the best cattle anywhere.

The Expo features 11 different breeds including Angus, Beefalo, Charolais, Gelbvieh, Hereford, Limousin, Pen Heifer, Red Angus, Red Poll, Shorthorn and Simmental, making this event one of the most comprehensive and unique shows of its kind in this region of the country.

Sale totals generally run well in excess of the \$1 million mark and the multiple show events include Junior Heifer and Steer Shows. This year's top gross sales number was \$1,061,125 with an average price for all breeds of \$2,373. There was a total of 447.25 lots and 207 consignors, with consignments from 13 states represented.

KFB Second Vice President Fritz Giesecke said the Expo showcases the kind of quality cattle produced in this state.

"Kentucky has really become one of the top states in the country in beef cattle production. We rank eighth overall and we are first east of the Mississippi," he said. "So much of that is due to the investments made by the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board and the hard work put in by our state producers."

Giesecke added that the KFB Beef Expo is a premiere venue for quality animals coming in from all over the region and allows producers the chance to improve the genetics of their herds thanks to the quality of the cattle being sold and displayed at this event.

In addition to the show and sales, the Expo is a constant center of many different activities once it begins and one walk through the KEC's West Wing will also demonstrate how family oriented it is. The venue is filled with young people of all ages learning to carry on a tradition started, for many, generations ago.

Reba Prather, a junior at Southwestern High School in Pulaski County has been coming to the Expo

with her family as long as she can remember.

"I started showing when I was three years old and I sort of got hooked and I've never stopped," she said.

In addition to her love for showing and the farm, Prather said she is also very active in 4-H and basketball which takes up a lot of time. But most of her free moments are spent working with her cattle.

Prather is indicative of other students across the state who have a strong interest in agriculture, and even though her show schedule has caused her to be away from the classroom on many occasions, she said her teachers and administrators are very supportive of her activities.

"My principal actually came to the state fair to watch me show, along with my basketball coach," she said.

Prather is a little modest when it comes to talking about her success in the show ring. She gives the credit to her animals.

"For me, it matters how well I show but it matters more about the cattle



KFB leaders and KDA officials were on hand to present awards to Kentucky's breed association representatives during the 2018 KFB Beef Expo.

and how they are. I have been pretty successful in my life with showing and last year I was really blessed with a really good Red Angus heifer and she won at the Kentucky State Fair," she said.

While Prather is young in age, she is wise in her vision of the importance of being involved in the agriculture industry.

"It's important for young people to get involved not only in showing cattle but agriculture, as well, because the youth are the future and without them, the industry would die," she said. "The young people who are involved in showing are like a family and we all talk to each other and help each other out as much as we can."

In being involved, Prather serves as an example and role model for other young people and has become quite the advocate for agriculture in general.

"I love telling people about what I do. I love being referred to as the girl who shows cows," she said. "The Beef Expo is one of my favorite shows and I plan to keep coming back because you get to be with your friends and family, have fun and you get to make some money which is always good."

SOMETHING NEW

In addition to the many shows and sales held each year at the Expo, this year featured something new; workshops to help producers learn more about the industry.

John Chism, President of the Kentucky Beef Expo Board and Livestock Marketing Director for the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, in conjunction with KFB, led the workshops saying the sessions were designed to bring some type

of educational setting to the people attending the event.

"It's to give pertinent information, be it about nutrition, marketing, or other topics, to the producers who are here whether they are selling cattle, buying cattle or just spectating," he said. "We wanted to give them something timely and informative that helps them in their operations back at home."

Chism said that informational sessions such as the ones presented at this year's Expo, are always helpful

to producers no matter how long they have been in the business.

"What seems to be common operating procedure to one person may be totally new for another, so there are always opportunities to learn," he said. "The world we're in grows at leaps and bounds such as in technology and nutrition, for instance. Everything changes as we go along and this is an opportunity to pick up information that could be very helpful to their bottom lines, as producers."

Chism added that, in being a big proponent of supporting and promoting the many youth programs available throughout the state, it's vital to get the next generation involved and helping them to learn, more about the industry.

"We've got to ensure our future by getting the youth involved as quickly as possible and on the ground floor like we do here at the Beef Expo," he said.

The Expo is sponsored by Kentucky Farm Bureau, Farm Credit, and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Ryan Quarles, Commissioner. For more information, go to:

<http://kybeefexpo.com/index.htm>.

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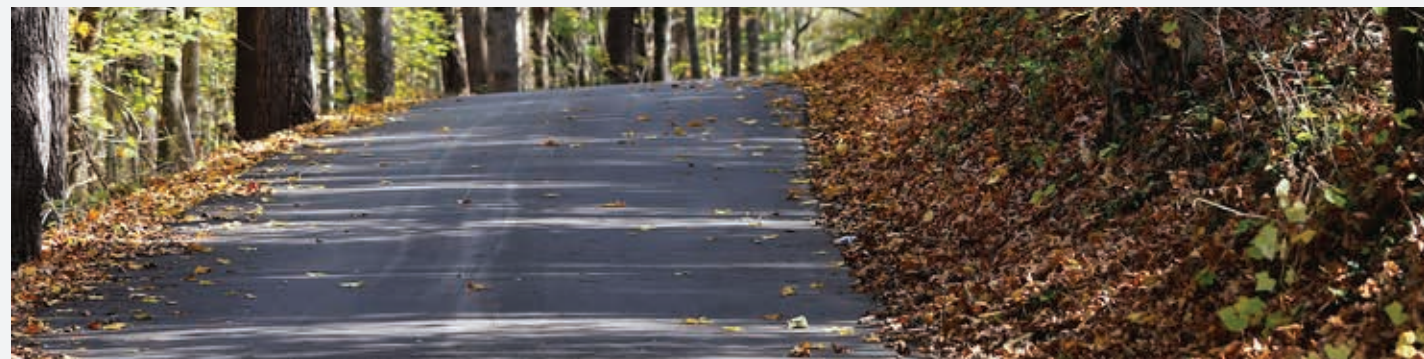
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Down the Backroads

By Tim Thornberry

I recently had the opportunity to attend a charitable event in which the proceeds were donated to help combat hunger in Kentucky. It was great to see so many people there who had an interest in trying to alleviate this terrible problem.

In listening to an array of speakers telling their personal accounts of how they became more aware of hunger issues, I was reminded of a story my mother told me years ago about her own experiences with being hungry as a child.

My mom grew up during the Great Depression in an area of Kentucky harder hit than most, if indeed there were some places suffering more than others in the mid-1930s. My mom and her sister lived, for a time, with her grandparents; a kind, saintly lady and a man once known as the meanest man in his county.

Momma said she never knew him to be mean, he just looked a little scary. Nevertheless, other folks in that small town most likely felt as those my great-great grandfather was not a nice person. That was the reputation he had, which was probably a reason he couldn't find what work there was in this small town.

In those days, jobs were hard to come by, as was a bounty of food unless one had the means to grow it, hunt it or buy it. My great grandparents, for many reasons, possessed little of those three abilities.

Often my mother and her younger sister were sent to school hungry and the free school lunch program was more than a decade away from being created.

The story she relayed to me, and one I will never forget, took place on a cool, damp morning in the fall of the year. She and my aunt made their way to school with empty stomachs, as they had done so many times before.

She knew there were other children in the school house who were suffering from the same lack of food, although it was rarely mentioned. Many people in those days, in that place, suffered from food insecurities.

About mid-way through the morning activities, a knock came at the school house door.

Much to the surprise of the teacher, there stood in the doorway an old, lanky man with a long, scraggly white beard and haunting eyes, appearing more desperate than mean. In his hands he held an apple pie; a whole apple pie. The smell of the pastry captivated all those inside the room.

In listening to this story, it was apparent to me that my great-grandfather was concerned enough to do something; anything to feed those girls, at least on that particular day. My mom would learn later that he found an odd job, after she had left for school, cutting a load of wood for a neighbor that morning. Many folks in those days worked on the barter system and food was often the wages; and his wage for the wood cutting was an apple pie.

The teacher called for my mom, knowing immediately who this defeated man was the moment she opened the door. Momma was horrified, she recalled; embarrassed at an age when the meaning of the word should not be known or felt.

She said it was the longest walk she had ever known. All eyes in the school room were on her as she made her way to the door. She could barely look him in the eyes but when she did, she saw the hurt and embarrassment he felt, too. He slowly handed her the pie and told her, in that rough voice of his, to share with her sister.

As he walked away, my mother returned to her seat feeling many emotions, all far stronger than the hunger in her stomach. The teacher, sensing the tension in the room, told the students to take a short recess.

After the room had emptied, my mother, in all her youth, in all her embarrassment, in all her hunger, walked to the trash can and threw away that apple pie that she, her sister and most of the classroom so badly wanted to devour.

I realize now, in recalling my mother's words, that for many people facing the same lack-of-food issues, they still have a sense of dignity that is often greater than the hunger itself and, as my mother did that morning long ago, refuse a meal in order to keep their pride.

I would never know the many feelings that come with being hungry. As a child, we always had stocked pantries of food we had bought, raised or hunted. It was an obsession almost by my parents to make sure we were always properly fed.

In knowing the great efforts being made today in this state to combat hunger issues, I hope as individuals we always provide for those who need food and that one day it will no longer be a problem here or anywhere; as we travel down the backroads.

THE NATIONAL FARM MACHINERY SHOW PLAYS HOST TO IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL MEETINGS

Each year the National Farm Machinery Show demonstrates it is the nation's largest indoor farm show; and each year the NFMS brings with it a huge local economic impact to the tune of \$17 million in 2018; and each year the Championship Tractor Pull draws large numbers of fans (this year set a record) to see the biggest and baddest tractors in the world.

But while attendees are enjoying the sights and sounds of the NFMS, there are also a multitude of significant agriculture-related meetings that take place during the show. Most of these meetings have become regular staples of this winter farm event adding to the overall importance of it, as it relates to the agriculture industry.

Some of those meetings included a gather of the Kentucky Farm Bureau Water Management Working Group, the Kentucky Agricultural Council, and the Kentucky-Tennessee Beginning Farmer Summit being held for a second year at the NFMS venue.

Something new this year was a meeting of farmers, agriculture officials and government leaders to discuss the pending Farm Bill. The Louisville Agri-Business Network hosted the event which featured a call-in with Kentucky's First District Congressman James Comer.

The first term Congressman is a farmer from Monroe County, former state representative and former Agriculture Commissioner. He told the group a few other pending pieces of legislation will likely be acted upon first, but action on the Farm Bill should begin in early spring.

"Now, we are kind of looking at April to pass the Farm Bill out of the House Agriculture Committee. After that there will be a few of us, including myself, who will be trying get the vote on the floor," he said.

As far as the contents of this next farm legislation goes, Comer said the last bill has served as the framework with some changes.

"The bulk of the language of this Farm Bill will look very similar to the

one passed the last time," he said. "We all have parts of it that we are partial to but the one that is most important to every farmer, ag lender and ag business person in Kentucky and in America is federal crop insurance and that is going to remain much the same."

With that said, Comer added that there exists a different type of farm economy now and having the crop insurance program is important to have as a safety net because of a drop in net farm income of close to 50 percent since the last Farm Bill.

"We're aware of that and doing everything we can to work and try to make sure we still have a good, solid federal crop insurance program," he said.

Comer noted that the part of the next Farm Bill which will endure some changes deals with the food assistance side of the legislation. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) program consumes the largest portion of funding related to the bill and Comer said a lot of discussions will take place on the proposed changes.

After a question and answer period between Comer and meeting attendees, other speakers addressed the group about an array of topics related to the bill including Joe Cain, Commodity Division Director at Kentucky Farm Bureau and Sam Willett,

Senior Director of Public Policy for the National Corn Growers Association.

A record breaking event

This was a year of records for the NFMS. According to information from Kentucky Venues, the 2018 edition of the show closed with an increase in attendance and ticket sales, and a record number of new exhibitors and exhibit sales. Over 314,000 attendees made their way to the Kentucky Exposition Center for the four-day event. The Championship Tractor Pull attendance was the largest number in recent history with over 67,000 tickets sold for the five performances in Freedom Hall.

Don Parkinson, interim CEO of the Kentucky State Fair Board and Secretary of the Tourism, Arts & Heritage Cabinet said, for over half a century, the NFMS has delivered on its purpose to provide solid information and cutting edge technology to the farming community.

"The largest indoor farm show along with the longest running championship tractor pull in one venue is unique to Kentucky and we look forward to another 50 years of championing agribusiness here in the Commonwealth," he said.

NFMS is owned and produced by the Kentucky State Fair Board and next year's show will take place February 13-16. For more information, visit www.farmmachineryshow.org.



Pictured left: NFMS Farm Bill meeting. Pictured above: Three-year-old Peyton Peterson and his father Cody look over one of the new tractors on display.

COUNTY CORNER

Snapshots of County Farm Bureau activities



BOYD COUNTY

On February 20, the Board of Directors of Boyd County Farm Bureau Federation donated \$500.00 to River Cities Harvest in observance of our Food Check-Out Week. The check was presented to Brittany Hoback, Director of River Cities Harvest by Ray Sammons, President of Boyd county Farm Bureau and Phyllis Sammons Co Chairman of the Women's Committee.



CALLOWAY COUNTY

Calloway County Women's Committee Chair Rebecca Geurin (far right) and her spouse Calloway County Director Robert Geurin (far left) presented representatives from the Murray City Fire Department, Murray City Police Department, Calloway County Sheriff's Office, Calloway County Fire & Rescue Squad and Calloway County Road Department with baskets of Kentucky grown food products accompanied with information about Kentucky Farm Bureau's Food Check Out Week.



CASEY COUNTY

Casey County Farm Bureau held a meeting with Senator Jimmy Higdon and Representative Daniel Elliott. There were more than 30 in attendance with discussion related to pension and road funds.



KNOX COUNTY

Courtney Miller-Brindle, Knox County Young Farmer Chairman, took several Knox County youth to Lincoln Memorial University in Harrigate, TN to the Cumberland Gap Cattle Conference. This educational, informational, and hands-on conference was about health, genetics, selection, and economics of beef cattle.

FLOYD COUNTY

Floyd County Farm Bureau partners with Friends of Jenny Wiley to help with county cleanup and Kids Day at the Park.



HENRY COUNTY

Henry County Farm Bureau sponsors the annual county spelling bee. Pictured are participants and county FB members.



PULASKI COUNTY

In recognition of Food Check-Out Week, February 18-24, 2018, Pulaski County Farm Bureau conducted a food drive and donated the collected items to God's Food Pantry. Directors and Women's Committee members, Ray and Cynthia Garner, Bill and Judy White, and, Betty and David Waddle, are pictured making the donation.



UNION COUNTY

Union County Farm Bureau stocked the pantry for Food Checkout week. Ava Arnett and Ella Arnett stocked shelves at the local food pantry.



RUSSELL COUNTY

After 20 years of dedicated service, Delores Rogers has elected to retire from Kentucky Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company. Pictured with her are Neal Dalton, Raymond Thompson, Victor Rexroat, and Philip Walker.



SHELBY COUNTY

The Shelby County Farm Bureau Board donated over \$800 for more than 2600 servings of food which was delivered to Awake Ministries Backpack Project. The donation coincided with Food Checkout Week.



WASHINGTON COUNTY

Last October the Washington County Farm Bureau Board of Directors and the Washington County Soil Conservation District Board sponsored a grain bin rescue training. Dale Dobson with KDA conducted the training that included members of all three county fire departments, Washington County Rescue Squad and EMS. A meal was provided along with both boards donating a Turtle Tube rescue device, three safety harnesses, a 24-volt drill and a hand-held grain auger. The items will be kept on the rescue squad truck in the event a grain bin rescue is needed in the county.

Markets

GROWING NUMBER OF CATTLE IN FEEDLOT

The February Cattle on Feed report estimated the February 1st on-feed inventory in feedlots with capacity of 1,000 head or more at 11.63 million head. This is up one percent from January 1, 2018, and up eight percent from February 1, 2017. This is the largest February 1st inventory since 2012. The inventory grew from higher-than-expected placements in January. Some of the increase is related to dry conditions in the southern Plains. Prior to the COF report, USDA had already forecasted year/year beef production to increase 4.3 percent in the first quarter and 12.0 percent in the second quarter. USDA's price forecast for 5-area Choice Steers is \$122-126/cwt and \$117-125/cwt for the first two quarters of 2018.

KENTUCKY'S SHEEP AND GOAT NUMBERS RISE

The total number of sheep in Kentucky on January 1, 2018, was estimated at 50,000 head, an increase of 2,000 from a year earlier. All breeding stock was estimated at 39,000 head and all market sheep and lambs were estimated at 11,000 head. Breeding ewes were increased to 31,000, but breeding rams remained constant at 2,000 head. Replacement lambs numbered 6,000, unchanged from 2017. The 35,000-

head lamb crop for 2017 was down by 3,000 head. The U.S. sheep and lamb inventory totaled 5.23 million head, slightly below a year ago. All meat and other goats in Kentucky were estimated at 57,000 head, up 1,000 head from January 2017. Milk goats at 6,000 head, were up 500 head from the previous year's estimate. The U.S. goat and kid inventory totaled 2.62 million head, down one percent from a year ago.

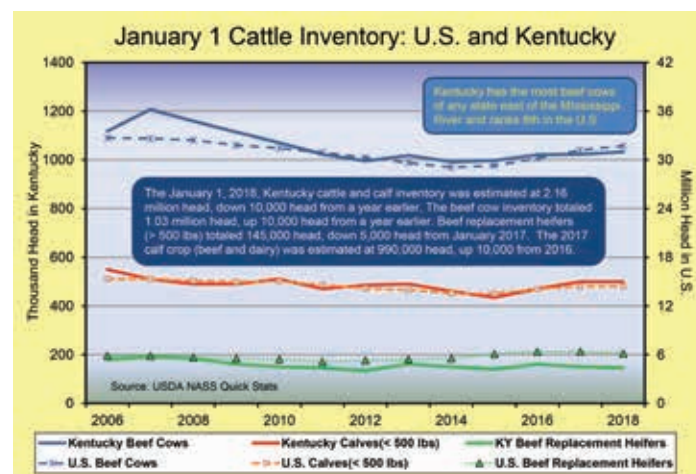
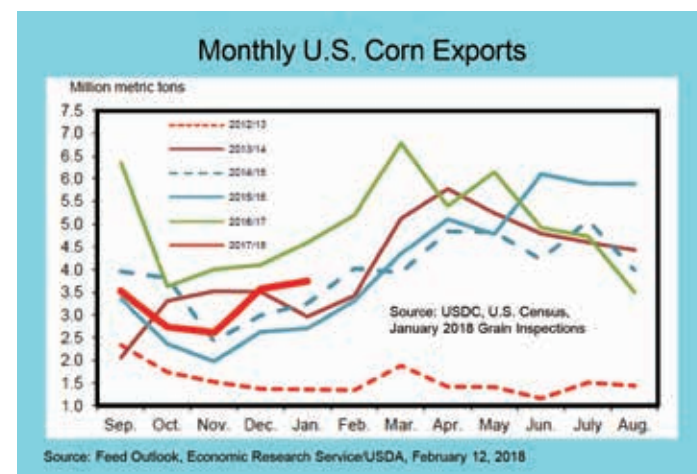
COUNTY YIELDS RELEASED FOR KENTUCKY

According to USDA NASS, Kentucky's average corn and soybean yields in 2017 were record highs, and the state's soybean production was record large for the fifth year in a row. USDA recently published its county yield estimates. These county-level estimates are used by other USDA agencies to conduct crop insurance and risk protection programs many farmers rely on to protect their operations. USDA NASS relies on producers responding to periodic production surveys with accurate and timely data. This report shows that, unfortunately, not enough producers participated in some counties with sizable production. For 2017, the top five counties – Christian, Henderson, Union, Graves and Daviess – accounted for 29 percent of Kentucky's corn production. Wayne County took the top

corn yield spot in 2017, producing 205 bushels per acre (bu/ac); this is the first time a county average corn yield has exceeded 200 bushels. The previous record of 199.1 bu/ac was set by Ohio County in 2014. After Wayne County, the top counties for yield include Ohio County – 199.3 bu/ac; Hancock County – 198.6 bu/ac; Daviess County – 197.8 bu/ac; and McLean County – 191.6 bu/ac. For soybean production, the top five counties – Henderson, Daviess, Graves, Christian and Union – accounted for 24 percent of the total. Pendleton County had the highest soybean yield at 60.9 bushels per acre, followed closely by Wayne County, Union County, Daviess County and Boone County, all of which yielded 60.3 bushels per acre or more.

U.S. AG TRADE SURPLUS SHRINKING

Fiscal year 2018 agricultural exports are projected by USDA at \$139.5 billion, down \$500 million from the November forecast, due to a six percent decline in oilseed and product exports that is only partially offset by increases in livestock, cotton, and grain exports. U.S. agricultural imports FY 2018 are forecast at \$118.5 billion, up \$1.5 billion from the November forecast. The U.S. agricultural trade surplus forecast is \$21.0 billion, down \$300 million from FY 2017.



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CANDID CONVERSATION

CHARLES G. SNAVELY

Secretary of the Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

KFB Candid Conversation presents a discussion about the topical issues facing the agricultural industry in a question and answer format with a member of the agricultural community. In this column, Secretary Charles G. Snavely discusses the work of the Kentucky Water Resources Board and water resource management efforts in the state.

What is the primary goal of the Kentucky Water Resources Board as it relates to agricultural water supplies?

The Water Resources board was created to provide a statutory framework to expand upon the valuable work of the Water Management Working Group of KFB and of the Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Authority. The focus of the Water Resources Board is ensuring an adequate quantity of water for agriculture in the future. It will promote water efficiency and conservation, identify resource deficiencies and develop potential new and reliable water resources, while encouraging practices that promote agriculture and rural water resilience.

In your opinion, how important is it to ensure a resilient water supply for agricultural use?

As agricultural operations increasingly use irrigation, and as agriculture continues to grow, particularly into new areas such as eastern and southeastern Kentucky, the availability of water for day-to-day operations and during drought conditions will become more critical. Improving on-farm water efficiency and resiliency brings producers greater control over their water needs, reduces costs and limits external variables that get in the way of production.



Charles G. Snavely

In making sure the agriculture industry’s needs are met when it comes to water resources management how does that affect the non-farming population?

Over several decades, farmers have become increasingly dependent upon public water for its reliability and quality. Many rural water systems have limited capacity, which results in competing demands for water during dry periods. The fact is, that the needs of people will always take precedence over agriculture when there is competition for scarce resources, as in times of severe drought. That is why it is important to know how to use irrigation water most efficiently and whether there are additional water

resources that can be accessed for agriculture. As farmers become more water independent, that frees up a public water system’s capacity to service other critical demands.

In many other states, we see problems arise between urban and rural communities over water use in times of need such as droughts. Do you think Kentucky is in a position to avoid those types of issues because of the work being conducted as it relates to water resources management?

The Cabinet believes that if, in partnership with agriculture, we are successful in improving on-farm water

resiliency and in developing new and reliable water resources, both agriculture and rural communities will benefit. Kentucky has a couple of big advantages over other states. It is a water-rich state, receiving normally about 45-50 inches of rain per year. Even during drought years, Kentucky normally has significant precipitation, but also, some significant water resources projects (e.g. large reservoirs) that sustain large areas during droughts. Further, Kentucky’s public water systems serves more than 95 percent of the population via extensive and well-interconnected water systems. Those factors help to offset Kentucky’s drought vulnerability and provide for added resilience.

How important are the relationships between different organizations and government entities when it comes to combatting issues such as water management in a proactive way?

I believe that the Ag Water Quality Authority and the Water Management Working Group are proof that, in Kentucky, the relationships between government, the universities, the Kentucky Farm Bureau and other agriculture and conservation organizations is a great way to make progress. In my time at the Cabinet, I have been so impressed with the way that all the groups support each other to improve both agriculture operations and the environment. That same spirit of cooperation will help us improve water availability for agriculture.

Because of the work of Kentucky Farm Bureau’s Water Management Working Group and the Kentucky Water Resources Board, do you see the Commonwealth serving as an example of what other states could do when it comes to managing water resources?

If the Commonwealth’s work in water resource management is seen an example to other states, that would be welcome because it would mean that we are on the right track. However, we hope not only to provide an example, but also to work with other states to learn from their experiences.



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The National FFA Officers (left to right) Piper Merritt (Central Region Vice President), Gracie Furnish (Eastern Region Vice President), Breanna Holbert (President), Erica Baier (Secretary), Bryce Cluff (Western Region Vice President), and Ian Bennett (Southern Region Vice President).

NATIONAL FFA OFFICER TEAM TOURS KENTUCKY

To say the National FFA Officer Team stays busy is a gross understatement as these individuals comb the country attending state meetings, leadership events, and school chapter gatherings, not to mention their international travel and trips to our nation’s capital. Having any one of these officers visit a local school or FFA chapter would be rated as one of the greatest honors that chapter could ask for. Having the entire officer team visit would be a very rare opportunity. But that is just what happened for several local chapters and schools around Kentucky as this year’s National Officer Team toured the state recently, meeting countless members and leading numerous workshops. These six officers include: Breanna Holbert, President from California; Erica Baier, Secretary from Iowa; Piper Merritt, Central Region Vice President

from Oklahoma; Ian Bennett, Southern Region Vice President from Georgia; Bryce Cluff, Western Region Vice President from Arizona; and Gracie Furnish, Eastern Region Vice President from Kentucky. During their tour, the team visited students in Jefferson, Carroll, Jessamine, Boyle, Taylor, Larue, and Warren Counties, as well as Locust Trace Agri-Science Center in Fayette County. Kentucky FFA State Advisor Brandon Davis said having this whole team in the state at one time is something that doesn’t happen often, anywhere. “To be able to have all six of these leaders, who are from all across the country, with our members and ag-ed students sharing their experiences, through workshops and keynote addresses is a huge opportunity,” he said. “It allows the students who get to meet these national officers to see the possibilities there are within

agricultural education and FFA. It is just wonderful to have this high quality leadership visiting some of our schools in Kentucky.” Davis added that with having a former state FFA officer on the national team gives students here a sense of inspiration to set high goals and expectations for themselves. He also pointed out that because of the diversity of schools, students and chapters the National Officer Team saw while in Kentucky, it gave them an opportunity to hone their skills in preparation of meeting with other members across the country throughout the year. “When these national officers get to interact with members, it’s a shot in the arm for them. They get re-energized about what their job is to represent these hundreds of thousands of members and provide that guidance, support and motivation for whatever

the future holds for those members and themselves,” he said. Gracie Furnish, of Harrison County saw many familiar faces during the tour having served as a Kentucky state officer last year. She said it especially exciting to be at a school like Locust Trace with such a diverse group of students.

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– Brandon Davis, Kentucky FFA State Advisor

“It was so good to see this place where so many students can come together to learn about agriculture and to grow as people and to grow as leaders. Being an agriculture education major, it has been super cool for me because I love getting to see the classrooms and see how different programs work. It has been an amazing opportunity,” she said. “In changing what some students think ag education and FFA is all about, it starts with us to tell the story of what we do and why we do it, and to show them there is a place for everyone in FFA.”

Whitney Evans, a sophomore student and Locust Trace FFA officer was excited to meet the national officers saying it was an honor to have them in her school.

“Since I became involved in FFA, I found it was like a home; a second family and the National Officer Team members are people I look up to in the sense of leadership,” she said. “I love how they are so diverse coming from all over the United States and for them to be at our school is such a big, big honor.”

Daniel Bustle, an agriculture teacher at Locust Trace echoed those



Bryce Chuff addresses students at Locust Trace Agri-Science Center in Fayette County.



Gracie Furnish leads a workshop with students at Locust Trace Agri-Science Center.

sentiments. He said having all of the officer team visit the school at one time is a once in a lifetime experience. “This was a really unique opportunity not only for our students but also for me as an ag teacher,” he said. “We have a unique school and it speaks well to get

all the officers here to highlight what we are doing here in Fayette County.” He added that by having the officer team at Locust Trace, he hopes the students there get a better idea of the reach FFA has throughout the entire country.

QUOTES FROM THE NATIONAL FFA OFFICERS

One of the best things about visiting multiple schools throughout this year is seeing that every single one of us has something really unique to offer. In my workshops, we talk about the strengths we have to offer and seeing the gifts these students have come to life has been a learning experience for me in how to use my own strengths even more.

– Erica Baier

The more we are out on the road visiting the students, it’s more of a reality to us that people are much more willing to share personal stories with us because we put a lot of effort into a welcoming and friendly environment. But at the same time, as a national officer, when coming to these schools, we see that students are excited to be a part of this organization. We get to meet these students on a local level, and be with them where they are. That gives us a great opportunity just to really understand them a little better.

– Ian Bennett

Being in Kentucky we saw so much diversity as far as the state goes and with agriculture and how beautiful it is. After a trip to Washington, D.C. we all split up and go our own way to different regions of the country. I know we are all very excited to meet FFA members where they live and see the diversity within our organization.

– Bryce Cluff

It is such a different journey being a national officer and a beautiful opportunity to see agriculture education and agriculture in general in such different and unique aspects. It’s an opportunity for us to be the eyes for thousands, upon thousands of members; to see these different versions of agriculture education. We get to see different schools like the ones in Kentucky where students learn more about agriculture while other there are other schools in other states that are more suburban and focus on other things. It’s cool that only the six of us see that, but also that it’s our responsibility to share that story.

– Breanna Holbert

What I would take from my experience as a national officer is the renewed hope in agriculture in the United States because the students who we are spending time with and the students we get to invest in, truly are the future leaders. But they are already leaders of today in so many ways. This year we have the opportunity to invest in them and help grow alongside them. To see that from our perspective, and seeing what seeds we’ve planted once this year is over, I think that is something we, as officers are all looking forward to.

– Piper Merritt



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