

Kentucky

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**Springtime
in Kentucky**

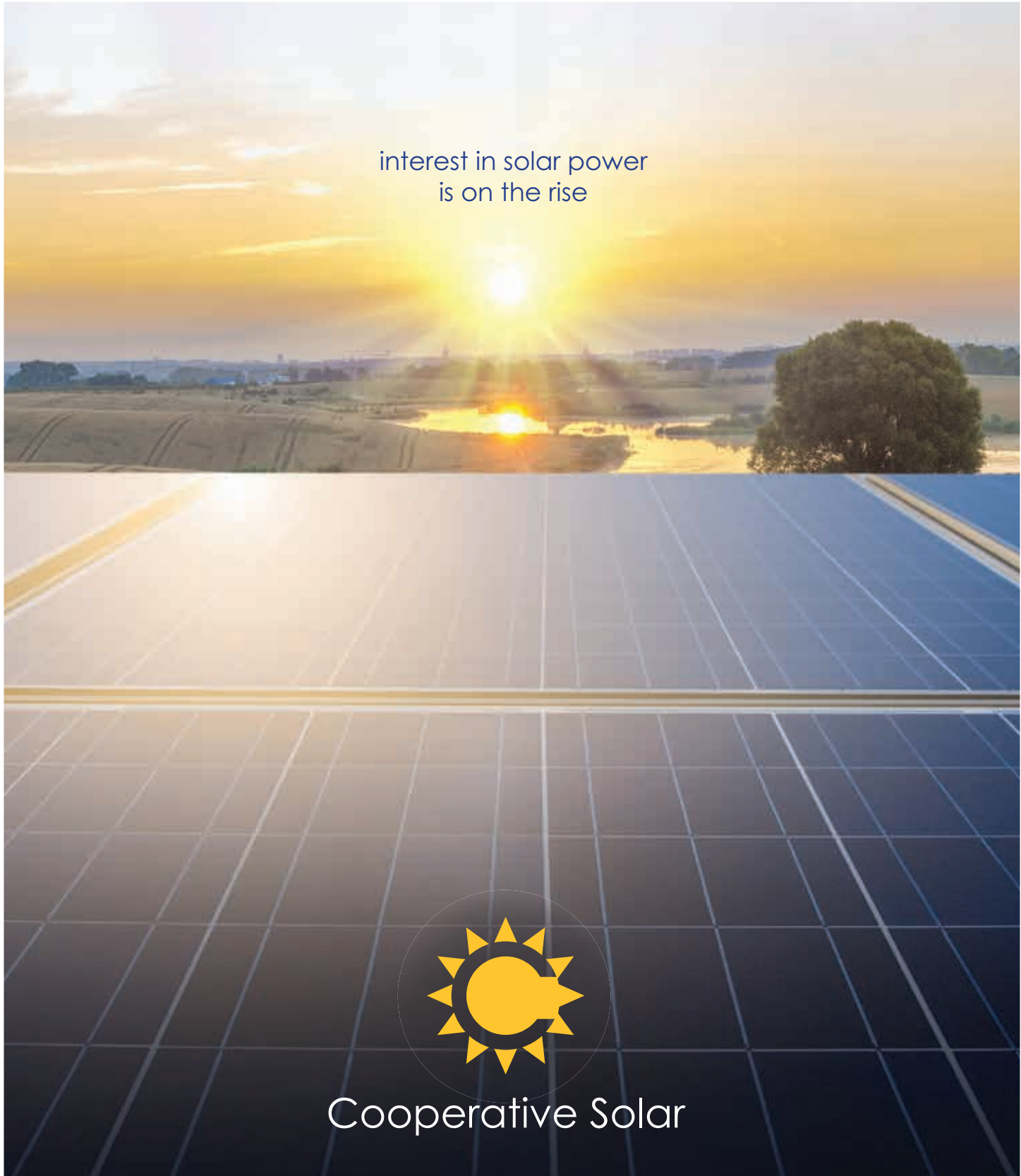
**USDA Planting
Intensions**

**2018 KFB
Women's Conference**

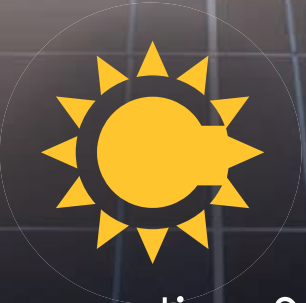
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KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU NEWS
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CONTENTS

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN	3
COMMENT COLUMN	5
UK GRAIN AND FORAGE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE	6
SPRINGTIME IN KENTUCKY	8
USDA INFORMATION	10
THE PERFECT ACCIDENT	12
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT	14
DOWN THE BACKROADS	16
2018 1ST QUARTER MARKETBASKET SURVEY	17
COUNTY CORNER	18
MARKETS	20
AG LITERACY	21
KFB CANDID CONVERSATION	22
KFB WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE	24
WATERWAYS CONGRESSIONAL PANEL	26
MEETING OF THE KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU FEDERATION VOTING DELEGATES	28

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Spring flowers in Franklin County.

Interior graphics by Melissa LaRoche

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President's
COLUMN



No one ever told me that farming would be easy. I did not hear that from my parents nor did they hear it from their parents. But they did tell me it would be rewarding and there was no better occupation than to grow the world's food supply.

I try to share that message everywhere I go. The fact of the matter is, farming is hard work and often it is thankless work. But for every living human being on this earth, it is the most important work we can do, whether we operate on 10 acres or 10,000 acres.

Unfortunately, there are many factors that sometime work against us. There are more and more people who don't understand us. There are market situations we have no control over and there is far too much information out there in this ever-growing digital world that is simply not true when it comes to agricultural practices.

As farmers, we often face an uphill battle in dealing with the day-to-day grind of being in the agriculture industry. With that said, we do have choices when analyzing all that we face and I have found that most farm families choose to remain on the farm.

In making that decision, they look for options, think creatively, network with others and utilize the resources that are available to them. When looking at challenges as opportunities we may find we have to make a few changes on the farm, but making those changes could prove to be beneficial in ways we have yet to see.

For many decades, Kentucky's agriculture economy was based upon tobacco. And many of us thought that would always be the case. But a world market and changing times saw more than 40,000 tobacco farms become 4,000 in a span of 20 years.

During that same time, we saw farm cash receipts reach record levels. Was it easy? No. Was it worth the hard work so many put in diversifying their operations? I would say yes, and I believe anyone who wants to preserve their traditional rural way of life would say the same.

There is no doubt we are currently in the middle of some difficult situations when it comes to our family farms. Net farm income is still far below what it was five years ago. Commodity prices are still teetering on that line of profitability and loss, and many of our dairy producers are faced with difficult decisions due to shifting market conditions.

Some of these issues simply do not have a solution at this time, and the situations that have created them are often out of anyone's control. But that doesn't mean we give up looking for alternatives.

There isn't a day that goes by those of us at Kentucky Farm Bureau don't discuss in one way or another these situations. While we may not always be able to offer a total solution, we can offer our total commitment to do all we can to help our member families remain on the farm. In many cases it won't be easy. But anything worth having and protecting is worth the work it takes to achieve those goals.

Mark Haney
President
Kentucky Farm Bureau

Comment
COLUMN



For as long as I can remember, the spring of the year was a time to get ready for a new growing season. Having been raised on a farm, I learned at an early age our crops were our livelihood, and if we were going to stay on that farm, those crops had to be the best they could be. We didn't have to have record production each year, but we did have to have a sellable crop to sustain our operation so we could do it all over again the next spring.

When you think about it, farm families take quite a leap of faith each year as they prepare for a new season. We are at the mercy of the weather; we are at the mercy of the market; and often, we are at the mercy of our customers in trying to continually educate them about what we do and why we do it.

As a young farmer, I feel a sense of duty and commitment to carry on a tradition that has been a part of our family for many generations. But more than that, I feel an obligation to continue to be a part of the industry that is in charge of feeding the world. I can't think of a more honorable profession.

Having been involved in the Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) Young Farmer Program, I have learned a lot about advocacy and leadership, and how essential strong leaders and strong advocates are to the wellbeing of agriculture. Being connected at all levels, locally, statewide and nationally is vital in making sure our community leaders and all lawmakers understand the importance of a solid farm economy.

As chair of the KFB Young Farmer Committee, I have seen and worked with so many great young farm families across the state who want nothing more than to succeed on their farms, whether they are continuing a family operation or are first generation farmers.

I have seen many successes and many challenges but one thing that helps our farm families in Kentucky is the availability of so many valuable resources to help guide the industry, and those organizations, such as KFB, willing to stand up for us on the issues we face every day.

But we should remember, as the next generation of agriculturalists we must be a part of this advocacy. We must take an active role in developing farm-related legislation. We must be willing to lead where we live and work to ensure our children will have the opportunity to carry on the farming tradition. We must be willing to take a stand for our industry.

Not every season will bring the crop we want or need. But it's very important to make sure we have done all we can to ensure our farm families remain successful. This has to be accomplished through our involvement, through our advocacy and through our leadership, as young farmers, to make sure there will be generations that come behind us to carry on this tradition of farming for all our sakes.

John Pedigo
Kentucky Farm Bureau
Young Farmer Chair



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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GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY *for UK'S* **GRAIN and FORAGE CENTER of EXCELLENCE** *brings Agriculture Leaders from Across the State to Princeton*

For the better part of a century, Princeton, Kentucky has been home to an agricultural research and educational facility that has helped farmers in their efforts to be more successful production-wise, as well as from a farm management perspective. Over the years the facility has grown and broadened those efforts and in doing so has benefitted the industry as a whole.

Agriculture is a fundamental component of the Kentucky economy.

— **Eli Capilouto**,
U.K. President

Now, with the addition of the University of Kentucky (UK) College of Agriculture, Food and Environment's Grain and Forage Center of Excellence, the facility will have even more capabilities to conduct some of the most comprehensive and advanced research of its kind, anywhere.

Leaders with UK, agricultural organizations and commodity groups from across the state recently gathered for an official groundbreaking to mark the start of construction on the new addition.

UK President Eli Capilouto was just one of a number of officials who addressed the capacity crowd. He said UK is inextricably linked to the well-being and the economic development of all 120 Kentucky counties.

"Agriculture is a fundamental component of the Kentucky economy, and the innovation underway at the UK's Research and Education Center in Princeton advances that work," said Capilouto. "This new center of excellence expands and enhances our capacity to serve as the University for Kentucky."

Dr. Chad Lee, UK grain crops specialist and center director said in expanding the current research facility, it will help to attract and retain "top-notch" people to conduct research on issues that affect the ag industry.

"We have hired some of, what I believe to be the best people in the country to come here to Kentucky to work on ag issues that are important to our farmers," he said. "That makes me extremely excited about where we're headed in the future because this center really started as a conversation from growers and some of our faculty here who were talking about long-term viability and how to remain relevant and how to address issues farmers have."

The center has received much support from stakeholders throughout Kentucky including a \$15 million grant from the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board in July of 2016.

It has also been a priority issue for Kentucky Farm Bureau. In continuing its long-standing support of the research facility, last year KFB announced a \$1 million donation that will go toward two specific projects at the center.

A total of \$500,000 will be provided over a five-year period for the naming rights of the main entrance once the new facility has been completed and an additional \$500,000, paid over a five-year period, will support a statewide water resources initiative targeted at enhancing water management as part of the ongoing research efforts at the center.

KFB President Mark Haney, who attended the event and participated in the groundbreaking ceremony, noted the long-term support the facility has received over the years.

"Since the Princeton research program was established in 1924, Kentucky Farm Bureau has been supportive of its efforts in research and development projects and programs. Those efforts have helped our agriculture industry in this state become the nearly \$6 billion business it is and a national leader in agricultural initiatives," he said. "While the center's name includes grains and forages, there is likely not a single agriculture sector in Kentucky that has not benefited from the work conducted there and the new facility will undoubtedly become a model in agricultural research."

Haney added that this new center will benefit all Kentuckians in many ways. *"This facility has helped us for many generations and will continue to positively affect agriculture in every community. We're excited to be a part of it."*

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KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU



The first day of spring 2018 seemed more like the middle of winter thanks to a late-season snowfall.

SPRINGTIME IN KENTUCKY

Dealing with Mother Nature’s calendar during planting season

Ask any farmer and they will likely say spring planting is one of their favorite times of the year. It is a chance to shake off the winter weather and look forward to the growing season ahead. It’s also what farm families live for and depend on; the hopes and expectations for a good crop year.

News released earlier this year from the USDA noted that 2017 crops were some of the best, adding to that continued hope. Soybean production was at an all-time high with an estimated 103 million bushels produced with a record yield of 53 bushels per acre.

Corn growers also saw a record yield with an estimated 178 bushels per acre. And while tobacco may not play the part in the overall farm economy it once did, the 2017 crop saw significant improvement over a disappointing 2016. Last year burley production rose by 21 percent over the previous year while the state’s dark fire-cured and dark air-cured tobacco production increased exponentially over 2016 levels with 73 and 111 percent increases respectively.

Chad Lee, Director of the University of Kentucky’s Grain and Forage Center of Excellence said there is always the hope to be in record territory when it comes to crop production.

“Obviously you do a lot of good management and you have to have some weather that cooperates with you in order to have a record-type year,” he said. “But you also have to work with the weather and each season as it comes. You have a calendar that tells you when you have to get certain things done and then you have Mother Nature who sometimes overrules that calendar.”

Lee pointed out that along with improved production methods, it really takes good timing weather-wise, as well, to make each crop year successful.

This year’s wheat crop is a perfect example of that. Lee noted that wheat producers have faced some early challenges including a wet February which left many fields too wet to work in right now.

However, some of this year’s wheat that was planted early has the potential

to be a good crop despite the wet late winter and early spring.

“We do have improved genetics, improved technology and improved management. All of those things help us out,” he said. “But we’ve also had five years of relatively good weather and what I mean by that is relatively good timing of rainfalls and decent temperatures during the summer. All of those things together is what gets us a good crop.”

So far, the weather word this year has been “wet” with multiple rain and snow events coming especially in February and March.

Stuart Foster, Director of Kentucky Climate Center and the Kentucky Mesonet said the long-range forecasts could include more wet conditions but the weather can change suddenly.

“We are coming out of a La Niña event that impacted our weather through the winter and we really kind of caught the classic La Niña signal herein the latter part of the winter with above average precipitation,” he said.



Farmland in Spencer County.

“Right now, we’re expecting an enhanced likelihood of above normal precipitation continuing for us as we look at the next month ahead and really the spring season.”

That forecast comes with the caveat that nothing is a guarantee when it comes to Mother Nature. In fact, this past February was one of the wettest on record, as evident of some of the flooding problems that occurred in different areas of the state.

The state precipitation average for February this year was almost nine inches which is nearly double for what some areas in Kentucky normally see during the same period. These conditions followed a below-normal precipitation average for the months of last November, December and January which had forecasters watching for the possibility of drought conditions moving in.

In looking deeper into the growing season, Foster said the moisture being received now will collect in the soil and make dryer months ahead more tolerable.

“It’s always good to start the growing season with plenty of soil moisture which can provide a buffer for when we do get into a period of dry weather,” he said. “All in all, it’s a good way to start the growing season.”

Growers here have an added advantage with the presence of the Kentucky Mesonet, a network of automated weather and climate monitoring stations situated across the state. This system not only provides data related to current conditions but allows the ability to track back during the year.

For those in agriculture, the Mesonet provides valuable information on a continual basis and Foster said better information helps those farmers make better decisions and ultimately helps them be more competitive in the marketplace.

“The Mesonet is a wonderful program in the sense that it impacts everyone across the state whether they know about it or not because our data goes to the national Weather Service to help with forecasts and warnings,” he said. “But we really try to target the development of services to those sectors of our economy that are most sensitive to weather conditions and agriculture would be right there at the top of the list.”



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USDA KENTUCKY PLANTING INTENSIONS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released the Prospective Plantings report today, showing lower corn and burley tobacco planting intentions, but higher soybean acres in 2018.

Burley tobacco growers in Kentucky intend to set 57,000 acres for harvest, down 6,000 acres from 2017. For the burley producing states, growers intend to set 72,900 acres, down 8,600 from last year.

"This will be the lowest burley tobacco acreage on record, just below the 58,000 harvested in 2015," said David Knopf, director of the NASS Eastern Mountain Regional Office in Kentucky. "Tobacco buyers are contracting fewer acres, and growing expenses have been increasing more than prices received for burley in recent years."

Farmers in Kentucky intend to plant 1.28 million acres of **corn**, 40,000 lower than 2017. U.S. corn growers intend to plant 88 million acres for all purposes in

2018, down two percent from last year and six percent from 2016.

Soybean acreage in Kentucky was expected to total two million acres, up 50,000 acres from the previous year. U.S. soybean planted area for 2018 is estimated at 89 million acres, down one percent from last year.

"Returns on soybeans continue to be the more attractive option for producers compared to corn," Knopf said. "Growers typically follow a cropping rotation between soybeans and corn, so planned changes in those acreages aren't drastically different from 2017. If planting intentions follow through, this would be another record high acreage exceeding last year's plantings."

Producers intend to set 12,000 acres of **dark-fired tobacco** in Kentucky, up 500 acres from the previous year. Acreage set to dark-air tobacco was estimated at 5,000 acres, down 1,000 acres from 2017.

Winter wheat seeded by Kentucky farmers in the fall of 2017 totaled

440,000 acres, down 40,000 acres from previous year. Seeded acreage for the nation was 32.7 million acres, up slightly from 2016.

Farmers in the state intend to harvest 2.1 million acres of **all hay**, down 80,000 acres from 2017. U.S. farmers intend on harvesting 53.7 million acres of hay in 2018, down slightly from last year. The acreage of all hay harvested during a summer depends to a great measure on the moisture received during the growing season and temperatures experienced. With a drier summer farmers will cut more hay to feed their cattle.

"We appreciate farmers who participated in the March Agricultural Survey," Knopf said. "The next acreage report will be released June 29."

To view the complete report, visit: www.release.nass.usda.gov/reports/pspl0318.pdf. For more information, call the **NASS Kentucky Field Office** at (800) 928-5277.

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10 - KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU NEWS

APRIL 2018

APRIL 2018

KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU NEWS - 11



Have you ever watched a stoplight change from red to green, only to have the blissfully unaware driver in front of you remain idle? Have you ever seen a driver drifting across highway lanes before suddenly jerking his or her car back into place? Have you ever realized that the driver behind you is looking at everything but the road? Have you ever been that driver?

Unfortunately, these examples of distracted driving have become all too common on Kentucky roadways. Twenty years ago, drunk driving was the main social ill you had to watch for on the road.

Today, it's the ever-increasing population of unalert drivers, impaired by a menagerie of attention-stealing tasks and technologies.

We've all witnessed distracted driving, and, if we're being honest with ourselves, we've probably all been distracted drivers at some point or another. While most of us have gotten away with these moments of inattention, the scary reality is that one second can mean the difference between an insignificant distraction and a life-altering disaster.

TAREENA'S STORY

On a chilly Valentine's Day morning in 2009, Breckinridge County resident

Tareena Horton learned exactly what a difference a second can make.

After a hectic morning of getting her family fed and dressed, Horton loaded daughters, Sydne and Lily — who were then nine years old and five months, respectively — into the family's Chevy Blazer for what was meant to be an hour and a half trip.

With Sydne in the front seat and Lily in the back, Horton set out on the road, failing to buckle up in her haste. The family's anticipated cross-county journey would last less than five minutes.

"I wasn't sure where I was going, and I was trying to get my husband to explain to me my directions," Horton said. "I took my phone and I said goodbye, and I threw it, but it went under the seat. And when it went under the seat, just for a second I looked down, and when I did, I left the road."

Horton attempted to regain control of her vehicle, but she ended up over-correcting.

"I had one hand on the wheel and the other hand against Sydne, and she was screaming," Horton explained. "And I said, 'It's okay, we're okay.' All of the sudden, the vehicle just barrel-rolled."

The police report would later indicate that Horton's vehicle "went into a skid and overturned at least two times before coming to rest on the opposite

side of the roadway partially in a grass field." Describing the entire accident in just five brief sentences, the report ended with "the driver of unit #1 was ejected from the vehicle."

For Horton, however, the experience was much more vivid.

"I know that it probably happened in two or three seconds," Horton said, "but it felt like a lifetime because so many thoughts went through my head. I remember telling Sydne it was going to be okay. I remember seeing my hands leave the wheel of the car and feeling my body start going through the air. I remember seeing earth and sky as I was tumbling — the light and the dark and the sound of the crunching metal. And I remember, as soon as I realized what was going on, I just started praying. And I prayed to God not to take me, over and over, because there was no one here to take care of my babies."

To this day, Horton still has no idea exactly how she came out of the vehicle. The destructive impact of the accident busted out the front driver and passenger-side windows, and a small hole was punched through the windshield. Somehow, through all this wreckage, Horton was cleanly ejected from the vehicle, landing in an upright seated position, propped against the back tire of the car.

Incredibly, Horton was able to get up and check on her girls — both completely unharmed — before the pain made it impossible for her to stay standing. This pain, Horton would later learn, came from the five fractures in her pelvis — an agonizing but completely fixable injury with no long-term effects.

Horton may never know precisely how the ejection transpired, but she does believe she knows how she survived.

"When I was praying," Horton explained, "do you know how a cat holds a kitten by the nape of the neck? I felt that. I felt somebody or something — and I do believe it was God — hold me up and put me down so that I could stay here and be with my family."

Horton believes this divine intervention allowed her and her daughters to walk away from the accident with no lasting impacts.

"I had no doubt in my mind that as soon as I started praying, God heard me," Horton said. "And he made it so that I didn't land under the car. I didn't land in a position where I broke my neck. He let me live, and he let me continue with my standard of living that I already had, but he gave me an understanding that everything you have can be taken away from you in a second."

THE DEVASTATING TOLL OF DISTRACTED DRIVING

This lesson is one that far too many Kentuckians have had to learn the hard way. Distracted driving was noted as a factor in 59,400 collisions on Kentucky's roadways in 2016. That same year, driver distraction contributed to 192 fatalities across the Bluegrass State.

Kentucky State Police Trooper Robert Purdy is all too familiar with the devastating impact of distracted driving. To Trooper Purdy, Horton's story is nothing short of miraculous.

"Over the past twelve years as a Kentucky State Trooper, I have responded to multiple collisions involving an occupant that was ejected," Trooper Purdy said. "It has been my experience that an ejected occupant rarely survives a collision. When I typically hear that there has been a collision with an ejection, I

anticipate working a fatal collision with the coroner at the scene."

Horton knows the statistics, and she knows just how lucky she is to be here today with her family.

"I think that my experience with the car wreck has given me the insight of how quickly something can happen and your whole life can get turned upside down," Horton said. "It may have been one inch, one second, and I wouldn't have been with my family. People don't see their own mortality, but with the accident, I saw mine."



Tareena Horton, Breckinridge County Farm Bureau

The accident flipped Horton's world upside down, and she cites the recovery process as being one of the lowest points of her life. Still, Horton believes she had to go through this experience to fully grasp the value of all the blessings she had been given in life. Today, she uses her story to help educate others about the dangers of distracted driving.

CHANGING FOR THE BETTER

"The collision could have been entirely avoided had the driver been solely focused on the act of driving," Trooper Purdy explained. "Distractions are not going away, and with the age of users becoming younger and younger, we will have to find better ways of instilling

responsible usage of technology, especially while driving. Most drivers agree that distracted driving is extremely dangerous, however, far too many still allow themselves to become distracted while behind the wheel."

Distracted driving has become the new drunk driving that plagued America decades ago, and the only way that we can eliminate this danger is to respond just as we did to drunk driving.

We need to create a society that does not accept distractedness behind the wheel. Regardless of who you are,

speak up if the person behind the wheel is distracted. If you're the one driving, hold yourself to the same standard. We live in a fast-paced, hyperconnected society, and with every ding, whistle, chime, or vibration, we're almost physically programmed to respond. While it's hard to resist this urge, we must change our programming and remind ourselves that it can always wait. After all, not everyone is so lucky to have the perfect accident like Horton.

"I get wrapped up, just like everyone else, but then I stop myself and become present again," Horton said. "I'm very thankful for what I have, knowing how close I came to everything being completely different."

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR KENTUCKY AGRICULTURAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

From the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

The Kentucky Agricultural Leadership Program (KALP) is accepting nominations for Class XII. KALP, housed in the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, is an intensive two-year program designed for young agricultural producers and agribusiness individuals from Kentucky and Tennessee.

"Anyone who wants to be on the cutting edge of decisions that affect agriculture, rural communities and society in the 21st century will benefit greatly from going through this program," said Will Snell, KALP co-director. *"Graduates of the program have gone on to become active leaders in legislative bodies, farm and commodity organizations, agribusinesses and their local communities, which is vital for the future of agriculture in today's challenging marketplace and policy arena."*

Applicants must be residents of Kentucky or Tennessee, be involved in some phase of agriculture, and be willing and able to commit around 50 days over the two-year period to participate in this premier leadership program. The program dates back to the mid-1980s and was originally called the Philip Morris Agricultural Leadership Program.

This program is about more than farming.

– Steve Isaacs,
KALP co-director

Philip Morris fully funded the first seven classes. Now, nearly 200 financial supporters provide funding, including the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board, Kentucky agribusinesses, farm organizations, program alumni and

participant fees. Participants will be responsible for tuition of \$2,500 payable in two installments to help offset the \$15,000 individual program costs.

The program consists of 10 domestic seminars devoted to important agricultural issues. Sessions also focus on improving participants' communication, leadership and management skills. Class members will visit a variety of Kentucky agribusinesses, Frankfort and Washington, D.C., and will travel to other states and nations to explore agriculture in different settings. The previous 11 classes have yielded 291 graduates, many who subsequently have taken on leadership positions in agriculture.

"This program is about more than farming," KALP co-director Steve Isaacs said. *"Participants will polish essential leadership skills, identify common rural and urban concerns, understand current public policy issues and establish a basis for lifelong learning and development."*

Interest is expected to run high for the 22 seats available in Class XII. Snell and Isaacs, both from the UK Department of Agricultural Economics, said they generally receive around 100 nominations for each class. Candidates may self-nominate or be nominated by county extension agents, farm organizations, trade associations, alumni of previous leadership programs or other interested individuals. The nomination form link and additional details can be found at the Kentucky Agricultural Leadership Program website, www.uky.edu/Ag/KALP. Nominations are due May 31. All nominees will receive information about the program and procedures for submitting the required application, which will be due July 15. Interviews to select class members will be in mid-August, with the first seminar scheduled for Oct. 29-31.

Contact:
Will Snell, 859-257-7288;
Steve Isaacs, 859-257-7255



Planning today to meet Kentucky's future water needs.

Kentucky Farm Bureau took the proactive step to ensure Kentucky citizens and farmers have a secure supply of fresh water for the future by creating the 20 member Water Management Working Group. Adequate water resources are critical to agricultural production and Kentucky's overall economy. Planning and developing plentiful water resources now will prevent one segment of the economy being pitted against the other during times of extreme drought. Learn more about Kentucky Farm Bureau and how we support the Kentucky Water Resource Board at kyfb.com/federation/water.



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Down the Backroads

By Tim Thornberry

It never ceases to amaze me the things we become emotionally attached to throughout our lives, and the reasons we develop those attachments. I must confess, I still have my first teddy bear. My mother actually saved it for me.

I was too young to really remember it as a child but my mom saw some value in it and thought I should have it as I grew older. I had torn one of its eyes out, bit off a piece of its nose and drew on its belly with an ink pen so I did not see a reason to keep it except for the fact that, my mother did.

I also kept a photograph my father took and framed many years ago. It is a black and white photo he had taken in the woods, somewhere. To be honest, I never really saw aesthetically, what he did in this picture. He loved it, though while for me, it was just a scene with a few trees.

Perhaps it was a special place or a special time of year for him, or maybe it was the composition that made it so endearing to him. But regardless of my perception of it, he loved it, and so I began to, as well. It still hangs in my house.

Some things I am reluctant to get rid of simply because they were always present in the home I grew up in. There is the cracked vase that sat in our kitchen where, for decades my mom would put loose change in; or the reproduction Blue Boy painting which hung in my parents' living room that now hangs on a closet door in my house. My brother and sister insisted I be the one to take it home and keep it. And there are the ceramic owls my dad gave my mom one Christmas. She never had the heart to tell him she really didn't like that gift. Our family has made a tradition out of passing it around to the most recent one to get married. One of my nieces is currently the caretaker and unless someone breaks the chain, a family member will always have those owls.

While these things may sound somewhat trivial in nature, there are other keepsakes that have a deeper meaning. I have the only known photo of my great-grandparents on my mother's side. It was placed in an oval frame that must be as old as the photo itself. It really is my only connection to them and I treasure it even though I never knew them.

I have a letter my mother wrote to my dad when he was stationed in Korea. In reading her words, you could sense the pain she felt having him so far away. I could never get rid of that. One of my dearest possessions is my father's Bible. I remember, as a child, him reading from it to our family. It was from that book I first heard the Christmas

story. It sits on a dresser beside the last bed he slept in.

I suppose all the things we accumulate over the years, and hang on to, serve a purpose. For me, these items I have kept are connections to the past. By having these mementoes, I feel I can carry on the tradition of one day passing them on to my children and keeping that connection intact.

I think it is important to stay linked to your past; learn from it; cherish it and be reminded of it even as we walk into the future. For me, it has provided an easier path in my walk forward. Knowing where I came from and embracing that heritage helps me face the future and all it brings, as we move down the backroads.



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FIRST MARKETBASKET SURVEY OF 2018 SHOWS SLIGHT INCREASE IN FOOD PRICES

For the first time in nearly two years, Kentucky Farm Bureau's (KFB) Marketbasket Survey indicated food prices increased slightly during the first quarter of 2018.

Each quarter, 40 basic food items are price-checked throughout the state in an effort to gauge current food-price trends. Since the end of 2016, surveyed food items had dropped by a total of \$3.79 or just over three percent.

This upward movement in food prices amounts to 1.35 percent or \$1.56 more than the price of the same items surveyed during the last quarter of 2017. The total price for all 40 items came to \$115.67. While this current survey indicates a rise in prices, as compared to a year ago at the same time, this increase amounts to less than a quarter of a percent.

This increase is somewhat in contrast to what is being experienced on a national level. The latest Consumer Price Index report noted slight declines in most food categories.

Specifically, the CPI indicated, "All six major grocery store food group indexes declined in February. The index for fruits and vegetables declined 0.5 percent after rising 0.5 percent in January. The index

for dairy and related products declined 0.3 percent in February after being unchanged in January. The index for meats, poultry, fish, and eggs fell 0.2 percent in February. The indexes for cereals and bakery products, nonalcoholic beverages, and other food at home all declined 0.1 percent in February."

This slight CPI decrease comes on the heels of an increase of 1.6 for the food index in 2017.

MARKETBASKET SURVEY SPECIFICS:

The first quarter increases in Kentucky were led by the beef, pork, and fruits and vegetable categories with rises of 3.19 percent, 2.51 percent and 6.19 percent respectively. The fruit and vegetable increase comes after two consecutive quarterly drops amounting to more than seven percent. Dairy however, saw a 5.8 percent decrease in prices, a trend that goes back to the third quarter of 2016.

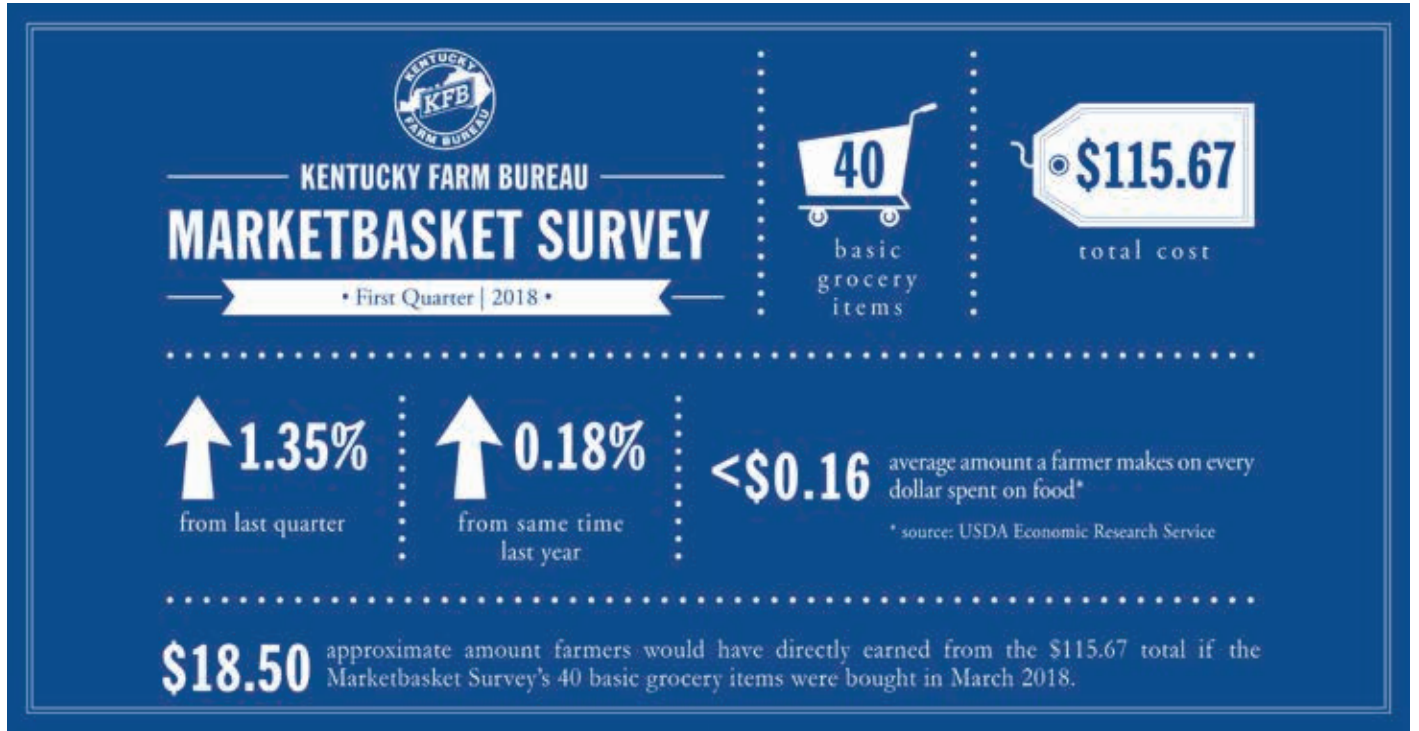
While consumers have noticed, and taken advantage of the lower dairy prices that have existed over the last six quarters, many dairy farmers are feeling the pinch on their farms due to low milk prices and changing market conditions.

During the first quarter of this year, all but one item in that category saw a decrease in price. The exception was a one-pound package of cheddar cheese which remained unchanged from the last survey.

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS IN FOOD PRICES:

Whether or not U.S. grocery prices fluctuate from one quarterly survey to the next, Kentuckians and all Americans continue to enjoy some of the lowest food prices in the world. Shoppers in the U.S. spend only about seven percent of their disposable income on food each year. Those costs remain far lower than any other country in the world thanks to many of the agricultural efficiencies utilized in America. Today the average U.S. farmer produces enough food and fiber to provide for about 154 people – a significant jump from an average of 19 people per farmer back in 1940.

Yet while more food is now being produced on less land, the farmer's share of the retail food dollar in America is down. According to the USDA's Food Dollar Series, a farmer earns less than 17 cents per dollar spent on food, down significantly from the 31 cents earned in 1980.



COUNTY CORNER

Snapshots of County Farm Bureau activities



BARREN COUNTY

Barren County Farm Bureau held their Legislative Appreciation Dinner on February 24. Pictured from left to right are State Representative Steve Riley, Congressman Brett Guthrie, State Senator David Givens and Barren County President and State Director Jay Coleman.



BOYLE COUNTY

Members of Boyle County Farm Bureau Women's Committee handed out reusable grocery bags at Kroger for Food Check Out Week. The bags had Food Check Out information, membership brochures and Farm Facts booklets inside.



BRACKEN COUNTY

Bracken County Farm Bureau awarded checks to the local 4-H and FFA organizations to support their programs. From left are: Ben Bush with 4-H; Gus Weymeijer with FFA; Mollie Roberts the 4-H advisor; Les Newman County FB president; and Sara Rice FFA advisor..



CLARK COUNTY

Clark County Farm Bureau delivered donuts to local businesses to show appreciation for their support in local agriculture and helping the agriculture community. Pictured from left to right are: Clark County FB Agency Manager Rick Mink, President Thadd Taylor, Clark Co Sheriff Berl Perdue, and KFB State Director Shane Wiseman.



CRITTENDEN COUNTY

The Crittenden County Farm Bureau Women's Committee donated three "The Most Wonderful Dream" books and two educator guides to teachers at the Crittenden County Middle School. The book was commissioned by Kentucky Farm Bureau to promote agriculture literacy in Kentucky. Those present are, left to right: Crystal Wesmoland, Farm Bureau Women's Committee co-chair; teachers, Ryan Cowsert, Kenley McNamara, and Ben Thompson; and Farm Bureau Women's Committee co-chair Marty Hill.



FLOYD COUNTY

Floyd County Farm Bureau Women's Committee promoted Food Check Out Week at Food City in Prestonsburg.



KNOX COUNTY

Knox County Farm Bureau Federation Board began Food Check-Out Week with their annual Proclamation signing. The week's events included purchasing food for Knox County Schools Backpack Program and to work with Knox Central and Lynn Camp High Schools FFA students at our local groceries to distribute and explain information about the economics of our food from the farm to the table.



MASON COUNTY

Mitchell Tolle came to the Mason County Intermediate School to speak on National Ag Week. Courtesy of Mason Co Farm Bureau.



OHIO COUNTY

In honor of America's food supply being the most affordable as well as the safest in the world, the Ohio County Farm Bureau celebrated Food Check-Out Week in February with a food basket giveaway at the local Hometown IGA. The \$100 food basket was won by William Spencer.



PULASKI COUNTY

The Pulaski County District Spelling Bee, sponsored by Pulaski County Farm Bureau, was held February 14th at Pulaski County High School. Fifteen students participated from local schools. The winner will go on to represent Pulaski County in the Kentucky Derby Festival Spelling Bee in Louisville. The winner of this year's District Spelling Bee was Aiden Corder, a seventh grader from Meece Middle School. Runner up was seventh grade student Jaxson Ray, representing Home School, and third place, representing Pulaski Elementary was fifth grade student, Kennedy White. Mr. Bill White, Educational Chairperson for Pulaski County Farm Bureau, made the trophy presentations to the winners.

MARKETS

KENTUCKY'S 2017 TOTAL CROP VALUE RISES

The five principal crops produced in Kentucky had an estimated value of \$2.88 billion for 2017, up \$75 million, or 2.7 percent, from the previous year, according to USDA-NASS's Kentucky Field Office. The soybean crop had the greatest increase in value – going from \$878.4 million in 2016 to \$992.2 million for the 2017 crop. The 13 percent gain in value was primarily due to record high yields and production; total production of 102.8 million bushels is 16 percent larger than the 2016 crop. USDA estimates farmers will average \$9.65 per bushel for 2017 production, down 2.2 percent from 2016. For 2017, soybeans remained the “highest valued crop”, ahead of corn (for grain) which is valued at \$770.9 million, down seven percent from 2016. Corn's decline in value was primarily due to price – falling 5.0 percent from \$3.74 in 2016 to \$3.55 in 2017. Corn production was down two percent for 2017. The third most valuable crop in Kentucky was All Hay (baled) at \$615.3 million, down eight percent from 2016. This resulted from a combined 2.3 percent drop in the average price (\$130 per ton) and a five percent drop in production. In fourth place was All Tobacco at

\$391.7 million which is more than 39 percent greater than the value of the 2016 crop. This \$111 million increase in tobacco's value ranks right behind soybean's \$114 million year/year increase. While the average tobacco price rose nearly four percent to \$2.137 per pound, production soared by 35 percent to 183.3 million pounds. Wheat remained in fifth place at \$109.8 million. As it did in 2016, wheat ranked first in having the largest percentage drop in value for 2017 at 24 percent. Production fell 24 percent, while price rose nearly two percent to \$4.60 per bushel.

HONEY PRODUCTION STEADY IN KENTUCKY

Kentucky honey production in 2017 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 190,000 pounds, down 40,000 pounds, or 17 percent, from 2016. There were 5000 colonies, unchanged from 2016. Honey harvested per colony averaged 38.0 pounds, down eight pounds, or 17 percent, from 2016's yield. Producer honey stocks on December 15, 2017, were 42,000 pounds, down 6,000 pounds from a year earlier. Average honey price in Kentucky rose just six cents per pound to \$4.08. This resulted in a 16 percent drop in the value of honey production to \$775,000 for 2017.

U.S. honey production in 2017 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 147.6 million pounds, down nine percent from 2015. There were 2.67 million colonies from which honey was harvested in 2017, down four percent from 2016. Yield of honey harvested per colony averaged 55.3 pounds, down three pounds from 2016. U.S. honey prices in 2017 averaged \$2.156 per pound, up 3.7 cents from 2016. Prices vary widely depending on the honey's color class. Honey price set a record high in 2014 of 217.3 cents per pound.

U.S. CORN EXPORT PROSPECTS UP SHARPLY

USDA raised its forecast for 2017/18 trade year (September-August) corn exports for the U.S. by 175 million bushels to 2.225 billion. The increase of almost nine percent is supported by reduced foreign corn exporter supplies (Argentina), a lull in competitors' shipments, and strong recent U.S. sales. The pace of U.S. corn shipments during the first months of 2017/18 has been robust, but still 20 percent lower than a year ago. However, as of March 1, 2018, outstanding U.S. corn export sales reached a record-high in recent decades of 877 million bushels, 25 percent above that of last year.

AG DAY IS EVERY DAY

Ag Day is truly every day for all who call our green planet home. Our very existence depends on our ability to feed, clothe, and utilize agricultural practices to meet the most basic needs of life. Agriculture, the production of plants and/or animals for food, fiber and fuel, is truly at the core of our very existence and the magnitude of this industry in our state is significant.

The total economic impact of Kentucky agriculture production, inputs, processing and manufacturing is approximately \$46.3 billion and represents over 263,000 jobs in the Commonwealth.

Kentucky farmers market a wide variety of products from more than 76,000 farms, covering 51 percent of the state's total land mass, at local markets, grocery stores, and other retail and wholesale venues.

On average, a Kentucky farmer feeds his or her own family, plus an additional 155 people here or around the globe. Additionally, Kentucky's forestry industry adds tremendous value strengthening our environmental footprint and offers unique habitats for our state's abundant wildlife.

It should be clear to all citizens that their well-being depends on Kentucky agriculture and that this industry is truly the lifeblood of our state. However, most individuals are now at least three generations removed from the farm, which highlights the fact that agricultural literacy is more crucial than ever.

Adults and school children alike need to understand how food gets from the farm gate to the plate. In order to address this need, Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) makes it an ongoing priority to develop education and ag literacy programs, and activities which enable students to better understand and appreciate the agricultural industry as it impacts their personal well-being economically, environmentally and socially.

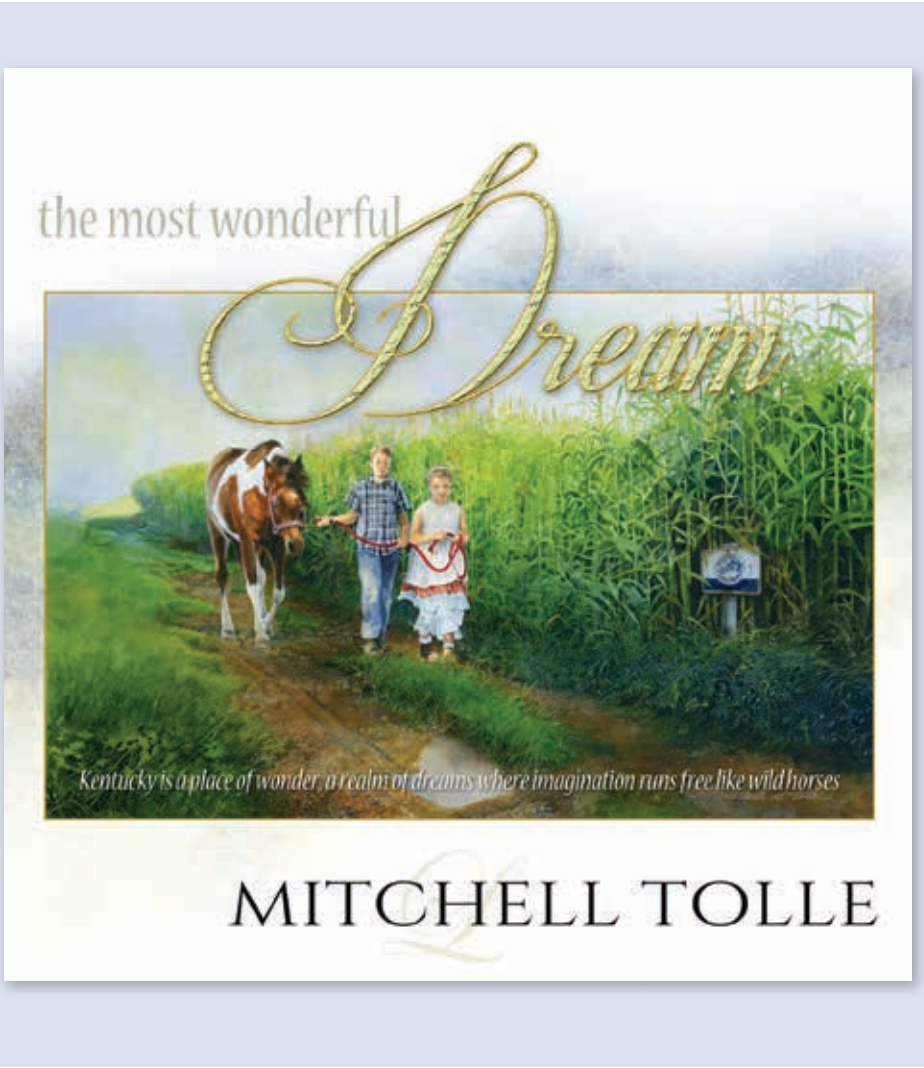
National Ag Day and Kentucky Ag Literacy week, which occurred March 20 and March 18-24 respectively, were commemorated by Governor, Matt Bevin, in the form of a proclamation.

In addition, volunteers from throughout the state celebrated by reading KFB's first children's book, “The Most Wonderful Dream,” in local elementary school classrooms.

The book, written and illustrated by Mitchell Tolle, a nationally acclaimed

individuals should be aware of where their food comes from and how farmers meet their most basic needs in life.

Due to KFB volunteer engagement in these and other Ag Literacy efforts, Kentucky's school children and citizens are gaining a greater appreciation



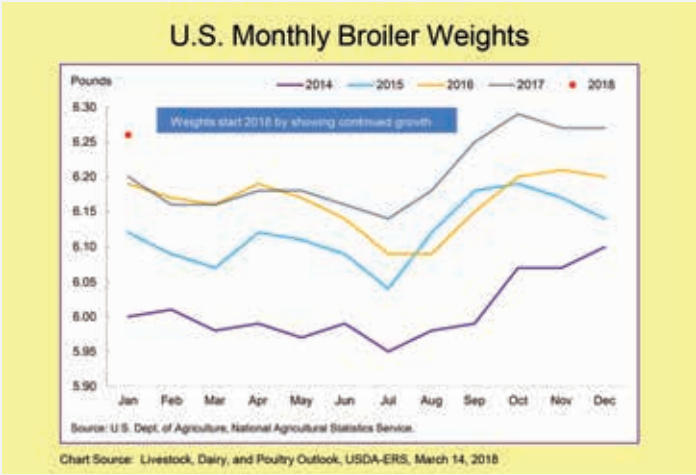
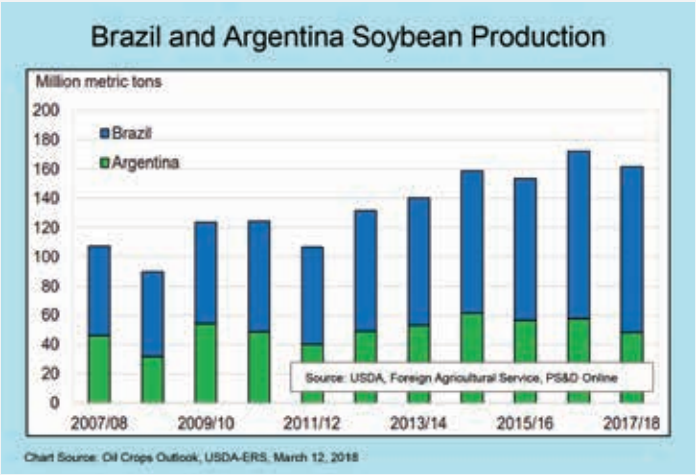
Kentucky artist, highlights the value of the American farmer's ability to efficiently produce the most affordable and highest quality food in the world.

Vickie Bryant, KFB State Women's Advisory Committee Chair, says “With each page the author has included so many facts about Kentucky agriculture, while at the same time telling a beautiful story of Billy Alexander and his friend Addison Stone, two youngsters who have a dream to become farmers.”

It's understood that not everyone can be farmers, but at the minimum,

and knowledge of agriculture and the farmers who provide the essentials of life.

As we enjoy the food we eat, the cloths on our back, and the shelter over our head, we can celebrate Ag Day every day! To learn more about Kentucky's ongoing Ag Literacy efforts, you may contact [Scott Christmas](mailto:Scott.Christmas@kyfb.com) at (502) 495-5000, extension 7221 or by email at Scott.Christmas@kyfb.com. To find ordering information for “The Most Wonderful Dream,” go to: kyfb.com/dream.



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CANDID CONVERSATION

KFB Candid Conversation presents a discussion about the topical issues facing the agricultural industry in a question and answer format with a member, or members of the agricultural community. In this column, the new Kentucky Young Farmer Association President Caleb Thomas, a Farm Loan Officer at Farm Service Agency and President-Elect Danielle Milbern, an ag-business major at Eastern Kentucky University, discuss their organization and the benefits it brings to young farmers.

Tell our readers something about the Kentucky Young Farmers Association.
CALEB THOMAS: In a lot of professions (realtors, doctors, accountants, etc.) continuing education is a requirement

to keep their various licenses and certifications. In farming, there's no such requirement and there's no license to farm, but it is necessary in this day and age to adapt to the changing economy and technology in order for farmers to grow and maintain a successful operation. Young Farmers provides an avenue to provide those individuals involved in agriculture with opportunities to share ideas, engage with industry professionals, learn about different issues facing the industry, and discover up and coming technologies that could benefit their operations. YFA does this at the local and state levels through the use of our adult ag instructors who provide hands on instruction to our members and through our local and state meetings where members get together and exchange ideas about what is working with their operations and what is not.

DANIELLE MILBERN: Kentucky Young Farmers Association was developed in 1958 to provide adult agriculture classes as an opportunity for participants to be involved in an organization that promotes agriculture, personal and career leadership, and skill development. Members have the opportunity to participate in local activities as well as a state convention in March and a summer tour that highlights Kentucky agriculture. There are also production contests, written exams, leadership awards, and public speaking contests in which members can compete. The Kentucky YFA is a product of this adult agriculture education program and while it is different from Kentucky Farm Bureau's Young Farmer Program, together, both help to ensure that the next generation of agriculturalists are well educated, diversified, and ready to lead when given the opportunity.

How did you become involved in the organization?
CT: When I was in FFA in high school, in order to help me prepare for various speaking competitions, my advisor

suggested I come out to a YFA meeting and to practice my speech in front of the group. The members were able to provide feedback on how I could improve my presentation and asked tough questions that allowed me to think about my speaking topic in a different way. Remembering my experience from high school, I joined YFA in college to stay connected to my local ag community while I was away at school. My involvement increased substantially after college both on a local and state level and eventually I was elected to the state board where I am serving currently as the state YFA president.

DM: After I graduated high school, it was suggested that I look into Kentucky YFA. A family member had been involved with the organization for several years and spoke highly of it. After doing some research, I found a chapter in Jessamine County and started attending meetings regularly in 2014. Not long after, I competed in several different contests and ran for a state office.

What is your background in agriculture?
CT: Farming was something my father had been involved in his whole life and it was something he wanted to pass onto me and my brothers and sister. In high school my dad and I bought six beef cows for my FFA SAE project with money I had made off helping in tobacco. We started our own beef cattle herd that we still have together today. After I graduated from high school I attended Western Kentucky University and obtained a degree in Agriculture with a concentration in Agribusiness and a minor in finance. I currently work as a Farm Loan Officer at Farm Service Agency in Hardinsburg and I work quite a bit helping new and beginning farmers get their starts either through the use of our beginning farmer farm ownership program or through the use of our various other loan programs.

DM: Ever since I can remember, I've always been around agriculture. It's always been something that's been near and dear to my heart. Most of my family farms for a living. I couldn't imagine growing up without agriculture. I grew up on my family farm in Jessamine and Garrard County, Kentucky. Part of my earliest memories where helping to set tobacco, working cattle, and raising the family garden. Currently, my family and I run a cow-calf operation and hay production.

What are some of the things KY YFA members participate in?
CT: In Hardin County we hold weekly meetings between the end of harvest every year to right before planting season. We generally have a speaker either from a company or from a government agency come to the meetings to discuss new issues and various products that could help improve our operations. Our meetings also allow us to exchange different ideas about our own individual operations and keep up to date on what's going on in our own community. On a state level our two big events include our state convention and our summer tours. Those tours are hosted each year by a different chapter across the state allowing our membership from different areas of the state to experience different operations; to get outside the bubble of their homes and communities to see what is going on in agriculture across the state. State convention allows us an opportunity to recognize all the accomplishments of YFA members across the state through production contests, speaking contests, and written contests. We also recognize our state Young Farmer of the Year which is one of the highest honors for a YFA member.

DM: Our State Convention is also held at various locations across the state allowing different areas of the state the opportunity to show case their agriculture industries. In addition to awards and recognitions, members also have the opportunity to tour agriculture around the convention location. We also have a delegate meeting to discuss new business and elect new officers. Regarding our summer event, it is meant to focus on

the diverse agriculture that Kentucky has to offer and is heavy on industry tours. Participants will tour farms, agribusinesses, processing facilities, and even historical sites.

Why is it important to keep young people involve in the agriculture industry?
CT: Young people are the ones who will have to take over the reins on all of these operations across the state. It's important that the next generations all have a good foundation of both knowledge and experience to understand how to conduct their operations going forward and how to deal with the changing economic and political climates that come with agriculture in this day and age. Without the involvement of the younger generations there wouldn't be any progression in our industry and there wouldn't be any new ideas to help us move the industry forward.

DM: Unfortunately, the average age of farmers continues to increase while the overall number of farmers are decreasing. We have a population that is increasing at a rate that the world has never seen before. We desperately need to get the next generation of farmers involved in not only new production practices and educational opportunities, but to also learn about how to be an advocate for the industry. The adult agriculture education program and the Kentucky YFA offers new farmers educational classes after high school, while also allowing current farmers to expand upon their knowledge of farming. The classes also provide farmers the opportunity to refine their technical skills in areas like welding and electricity. The more the farmers are educated, the better they will be at their craft which will benefit society as a whole.

Why is it important to be advocates for agriculture?
CT: It's important that the public gets the full picture of what is actually going on at your farm or in your industry. People need to understand that farmers are stewards to the land and treat their animals humanely. The best person to communicate that is the farmer himself or herself. For those of us involved in

the industry, it's important to not let anyone else talk for us and paint us to be something that we're not, as we've seen many groups from outside the ag industry try to do many times over.

DM: Unfortunately, people in our society today do not always realize just how valuable the farmer is to them. Our society takes it for granted that they can go to the store and get their groceries. They do not think about how their food actually arrives to the store. It doesn't help that the majority of our consumers are at least four generations removed from the farm. If we do not start educating consumers and answer their other organizations not so friendly to agriculture may spread false or inaccurate information to the consumers, resulting in making the gap between producers and consumers grow even bigger. Farmers do a great job of producing safe food for and we need to share our stories and educate the consumers about what we do, how we operate on a daily basis, how we are good stewards of our resources, and our passion for farming.

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22 - KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU NEWS

APRIL 2018

APRIL 2018

KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU NEWS - 23



KFB Executive Vice President David S. Beck spoke to attendees during one of the general sessions.

2018 KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU *Women's Leadership Conference*

Each year hundreds of attendees make their way to the annual Kentucky Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Conference, which has become a tradition all its own. This annual gathering, which has been in existence for decades, has been, and continues to be a place to learn, listen and collaborate.

"It's an important part of our grass roots advocacy efforts at KFB," said Executive Vice President David S. Beck of the work accomplished by all the Women's Committees throughout the state.

Beck is but one of all the KFB Executive Committee members who come to the conference to address those attending, meet with them, and show support for their efforts this year and every year.

Scott Christmas, Director of Women's and Agricultural Education Programs at KFB said the conference is

so valuable because it gives members a chance to not only learn from presenters, but from each other.

"The networking value of this conference cannot be understated as those attending get a chance to interact with each other and take back program ideas to their respective counties," he said. *"This one aspect of the conference alone is well worth the trip for them. It's a way to take successes from one county to another which serves to make our organization, as a whole, stronger for future generations."*

Heather Graham fits into that "future generation" category. As a KFB member from Wolfe County, as well as the University of Kentucky County Ag Agent there, she is very familiar with KFB at the local level, but this year marked her first in attending the Leadership Conference. She said the conference had so much to offer including, for the first time this year, a

Communication's Boot Camp which allowed a select group to gain more knowledge of how to better advocate for the ag industry.

"It was an opportunity to learn better how to communicate our story of agriculture to our communities," she said. *"It was also a great way to meet new people in our efforts to be 'ag-vocates' for agriculture. If we don't tell our story, someone else will and they may not tell it the way it needs to be told. We need people to understand what we are doing on our farms and how we are providing food for this country and our world."*

In addition to KFB leadership, state Women's Committee Chair Vickie Bryant addressed the conference as did Miss Kentucky, Molly Matney, keynote speakers Dale Smith Thomas and Tim Farmer, and Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles who noted the important role women play in



KFB members from across the state heard from such presenters as Miss Kentucky Molly Matney, right and Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles, below.



This one aspect of the conference alone is well worth the trip for them. It's a way to take successes from one county to another which serves to make our organization, as a whole, stronger for future generations.

– **Scott Christmas,**
Director of Women's and Agricultural Education Programs at KFB

the agriculture industry and what that means to the economy.

"There are 31,419 female farmers in our state who account for a \$227 million economic impact," he said. *"The presence of women in agriculture continues to grow and that is something I want to celebrate every single day."*

In addition to the speakers and the Communications Boot Camp, other workshops pertaining to a variety of subjects including leadership, social media and ag-literacy sessions, were held on day-two of the conference along with a legislative update.



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Many of Kentucky's agricultural products are moved via the state's waterways system

CONGRESSIONAL MEMBERS HOST RIVER INDUSTRY INFRASTRUCTURE DISCUSSION

Three members of Congress including Kentucky's James Comer, Missouri's Jason Smith and Tennessee's David Kustoff recently held a river industry infrastructure discussion in Paducah. Local and regional stakeholders, including those from the agriculture sector attended and talked about the importance of river transportation in an area heavily dependent on it.

Comer, represents the state's 1st District in West Kentucky, while Smith hails from Southeast Missouri's 8th District, and Kustoff, represents western Tennessee's 8th District. The three spoke of moves at the federal level to shore up river infrastructure needs while attendees spoke to the issues they see on a daily basis, when it comes to river transportation.

Agriculturally speaking, the region represented at the meeting depends heavily on the rivers to move their products out to domestic and foreign markets, as well as to access necessary inputs for their operations.

Comer said the importance of a viable waterway system is substantial. "We had an instance when one of the locks went down and, it affected the price of grain up the river. That broken lock situation had a detrimental effect for the three-week period it was out of operation," he said. "We need to have

a viable waterway system. The inland waterways are a significant part of infrastructure in America."

Comer added that the current system is in need of repair and one of the goals of convening this panel was to listen to stakeholders in how to move forward to try and ensure a viable system that helps to get products to waiting ports.

Smith said it is estimated that over 550 million tons of products will be moved through the inland waterway system.

"When you look at the area I represent, all of our grains are transported to the multiple ports along the Mississippi," he said. "From an economic perspective, in getting our grains where they need to go, the inland waterways are so important."



Congressmen James Comer, Jason Smith and David Kustoff listened to stakeholders during a meeting to discuss the regions waterways infrastructure.

Having the proper infrastructure is also crucial to help with flooding issues, something many people in his district are always watching, added Smith.

There has been much discussion at the federal level to address the issues facing all transportations modes. But Kustoff said the longer expenditures on infrastructure needs are delayed, the more expensive it will become in the future. "It's important to get these infrastructure bills done, hopefully this year," he said.

Kustoff added that he thinks it will be a series of legislation to combat the issue as opposed to one large bill.

Kentucky Farm Bureau State Directors Sharon Furches and Glenn Howell attended the meeting.



They both agree that every farmer in America benefits from a sound transportation infrastructure.

"We utilize our roads, rail and waterways to ship commodities to markets and to bring in needed fuel, fertilizer, seed and crop inputs to our farms," said Furches. "We have to make sure our waterways, roadways and rail are properly maintained to allow us to efficiently deliver goods to markets and be competitive around the world."

Howell said a solid infrastructure is not only essential to local communities, it provides the critical link to global markets farmers need.

"We depend on highways, railways and waterways to ship food, fuel and fiber not only within the United States, but worldwide," he said. "To remain



The Congressional members took questions from the press after the meeting.

competitive internationally, we must take care of our transportation infrastructure."

KFB is a member of the Kentucky Infrastructure Coalition, which is made up of a diverse group of leaders and

organizations working together to support efforts to keep the state's infrastructure viable and sustainable.

For more information, go to: www.kickstartky.com.

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KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

To: County Farm Bureau Presidents

A called meeting of the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation voting delegates will be held at the Kentucky Exposition Center, South Wing C, 2nd Floor, Rooms 201-205, Louisville Kentucky, at 2:30 p.m. ET, July 17, 2018. The meeting will be held for one purpose only, and that is to consider an amendment to the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation bylaws which is enclosed. You are urged to have a full set of voting delegates in attendance. Following the business session, a meal will be served at 4:00 p.m. ET.

As is the case for many of our events, we are offering online registration for the called meeting. Beginning at 8 a.m., ET, on Monday, April 2, you and anyone attending the meeting may pre-register using the online registration site, kyfb.com/KFBCM18. Registration will close at 12:00 noon, ET on July 10.

On April 23, this office will advise you of the number of voting delegates your county will be entitled to send to the meeting. The necessary information regarding voting delegates will be sent to your office secretary at that time, along with proxy forms. Voting delegate rules and instructions for use of proxies will be included in the April 23 mailing.

We look forward to seeing you at the called meeting of the voting delegates of the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation, along with a large delegation from your county Farm Bureau. Please contact this office if you have questions or need assistance.

Sincerely,

David S. Beck
Executive Vice President

DSB:rt
Enclosure

cc: County Vice Presidents, State Board of Directors, Agency Managers,
Agency Support and Marketing Managers, Area Program Directors,
County Office Secretaries

AMENDMENT

Submitted by Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation Board of Directors
Article IV, Sections 1, 2 and 3, now read:

ARTICLE IV FINANCES

SECTION 1. For the membership year 2004 and subsequent years, the minimum annual membership dues for a regular member, an associate member or a farm business member shall be Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) which shall be divided as follows:

Ten Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$10.50) to the county Farm Bureau, Fifty Cents (\$.50) of which shall be for one year's premium for the accidental death and dismemberment insurance policy, excluding farm business members; Ten Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$10.50) to the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation, Twenty-five Cents (\$.25) of which shall be for a year's subscription to Kentucky Farm Bureau's membership publications; Four Dollars (\$4.00) to the American Farm Bureau Federation and any additional dues assessed by the American Farm Bureau Federation shall be divided equally between the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation and the county Farm Bureaus.

SECTION 2. For the membership year 2004 and subsequent years, any new member joining Farm Bureau after July 1 shall be charged a minimum membership dues of Eighteen Dollars and Seventy-five Cents (\$18.75) for the remainder of said year which shall be divided as follows:

Seven Dollars and Thirty-eight Cents (\$7.38) to the county Farm Bureau, Fifty Cents (\$.50) of which shall be for the remainder of the year's premium for the accidental death and dismemberment insurance policy; Seven Dollars and Thirty-seven Cents (\$7.37) to the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation, Twenty-five Cents (\$.25) of which shall be subscription to Kentucky Farm Bureau's membership publications for the remainder of the year; Four Dollars (\$4.00) to the American Farm Bureau Federation and any additional dues assessed by the American Farm Bureau Federation shall be divided equally between the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation and the county Farm Bureaus.

SECTION 3. For the membership year 2004 and subsequent years, the minimum annual membership dues for a non-farm business member shall be Fifty Dollars (\$50.00), which shall be divided as follows:

Twenty-three dollars (\$23.00) to the county Farm Bureaus, Twenty-three dollars (\$23.00) to the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation, Twenty-five Cents (\$.25) of which shall be for a year's subscription to Kentucky Farm Bureau's membership publications; Four Dollars (\$4.00) to the American Farm Bureau Federation and any additional dues assessed by the American Farm Bureau Federation shall be divided equally between the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation and the county Farm Bureaus.

A new member shall be interpreted as a person who has not paid Farm Bureau dues for the past two years, or has not participated in any service-to-member programs of Farm Bureau during this two-year period.

Article IV, Sections 1, 2 and 3, would be amended to read:

SECTION 1. For the membership year 2019 and subsequent years, the minimum annual membership dues for a regular member, an associate member or a farm business member shall be Twenty-six Dollars (\$26.00) which shall be divided as follows:

Ten Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$10.50) to the county Farm Bureau, Fifty Cents (\$.50) of which shall be for one year's premium for the accidental death and dismemberment insurance policy, excluding farm business members; Ten Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$10.50) to the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation, Twenty-five Cents (\$.25) of which shall be for a year's subscription to Kentucky Farm Bureau's membership publications; Five Dollars (\$5.00) to the American Farm Bureau Federation and any additional dues assessed by the American Farm Bureau Federation shall be divided equally between the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation and the county Farm Bureaus.

SECTION 2. For the membership year 2019 and subsequent years, any new member joining Farm Bureau after July 1 shall be charged a minimum membership dues of Nineteen Dollars and Seventy-five Cents (\$19.75) for the remainder of said year which shall be divided as follows:

Seven Dollars and Thirty-eight Cents (\$7.38) to the county Farm Bureau, Fifty Cents (\$.50) of which shall be for the remainder of the year's premium for the accidental death and dismemberment insurance policy; Seven Dollars and Thirty-seven Cents (\$7.37) to the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation, Twenty-five Cents (\$.25) of which shall be subscription to Kentucky Farm Bureau's membership publications for the remainder of the year; Five Dollars (\$5.00) to the American Farm Bureau Federation and any additional dues assessed by the American Farm Bureau Federation shall be divided equally between the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation and the county Farm Bureaus.

SECTION 3. For the membership year 2019 and subsequent years, the minimum annual membership dues for a non-farm business member shall be Fifty-one Dollars (\$51.00), which shall be divided as follows:

Twenty-three dollars (\$23.00) to the county Farm Bureaus, Twenty-three dollars (\$23.00) to the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation, Twenty-five Cents (\$.25) of which shall be for a year's subscription to Kentucky Farm Bureau's membership publications; Five Dollars (\$5.00) to the American Farm Bureau Federation and any additional dues assessed by the American Farm Bureau Federation shall be divided equally between the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation and the county Farm Bureaus.

A new member shall be interpreted as a person who has not paid Farm Bureau dues for the past two years, or has not participated in any service-to-member programs of Farm Bureau during this two-year period.

(The KFBF Board of Directors recommends passage of this amendment.)



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KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU NEWS - 31

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