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OCTOBER 2018





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Cover photo by Tim Thornberry Fall colors in Kentucky.

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE: WE ALL HAVE SKIN IN THE GAME



s a child growing up on the family farm, I didn't think much about the world beyond the community of Nancy, Kentucky, Everything I needed was there in our little town or on the farm itself.

And while much can still be said about that rural way of life, the reality of the matter is, our world has become much smaller. And being able to reach out to that world, especially when it comes to agriculture, is significant for so many reasons.

For instance, in order to meet today's operational demands of the farm and the need for quality food, fuel and fiber across the globe, we have to have international trade. We must also understand its importance, not just for the sake of farm families but for everyone; we all have to eat.

The trade dollar is so critical in making sure our farms stay in business, which ultimately means we can continue to provide the safest, most abundant food supply on this planet.

We are fortunate to live in a state where we have so much agricultural production. We've got good soils; we've got good weather; we've got good farmers. But we've got to sell it. We can't eat it all. Quite simply, growing and maintaining international trade avenues is not a luxury, it's a necessity.

And while revenue from exports directly benefits farm families, it also effects our local economies. I recently had the honor of speaking before the Task Force on Tax Expenditures in Frankfort and noted to legislators the need to keep our current agricultural tax exemptions, not only for farming operations but for those rural, local farm businesses we depend on so much. Those businesses survive as our farm families survive, and a strong rural economy helps the overall economic picture of the state and the nation. Without the revenue generated from export markets, the effect will eventually be felt across the board from the farm gate to Main Street.

Even in the best of economic times, agriculture is trade dependent. But I don't have to tell you, our farm economy is weathering a slow period, making trade even more critical to the bottom line.

The latest USDA information related to net farm income notes a 13 percent drop from 2017 levels. I will say this; those numbers are better than initially forecast earlier this year, but still reflect where we are currently, from an ag economy standpoint. We simply have to seek new trade opportunities and foster the trade agreements we already have in order to stay in business. I have no doubt we can do this. We have faced tougher times and climbed taller mountains. But we must continually tell our local, state and national leaders to be mindful of how important agricultural trade is to every citizen in this country. We all have skin in this game.

Mark Haney

President Kentucky Farm Bureau

2018 COUNTY ANNUAL MEETINGS

ANDERSON COUNTY October 8, 2018 | 5:00 p.m. Eagle Lake Convention & Expo Center

BELL COUNTY September 27, 2018 | 6:00 p.m. Bell County Farm Bureau Office

BRACKEN COUNTY October 9, 2018 | 7:00 p.m. Bracken County Extension Office

BOURBON COUNTY October 4, 2018 | 6:30 p.m. Legion Park, Paris

BUTLER COUNTY September 11, 2018 | 6:30 p.m. Eva J. Hawes Building, Morgantown

CARROLL COUNTY October 8, 2018 7:00 p.m. Carroll County Farm Bureau Office

CASEY COUNTY October 4, 2018 | 6:00 p.m. Central Kentucky Ag/Expo Center

FAYETTE COUNTY October 18, 2018 | 6:30 p.m. Favette County Extension Office

FRANKLIN COUNTY October 9, 2018 | 6:30 p.m. Franklin County Cooperative Extension Office

GALLATIN COUNTY October 1, 2018 | 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Gallatin County Farm Bureau Office

GARRARD COUNTY September 27, 2018 | 6:30 p.m. Forks of Dix River Baptist Church Life Center

HENRY COUNTY October 11, 2018 | 7:00 p.m. Henry County Farm Bureau Office

IEFFERSON COUNTY November 15, 2018 | 7:30 p.m. Jefferson County Farm Bureau 4200 Gardiner View Avenue

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JOHNSON COUNTY October 30, 2018 | 6:00 p.m. Johnson County Farm Bureau Office

KENTON COUNTY September 24, 2018 | 7:00 p.m. Simon Kenton High School

KNOTT COUNTY September 26, 2018 | 6:00 p.m. Knott County Farm Bureau Office

LAWRENCE COUNTY October 16, 2018 | 6:00 p.m. Down Home Grill

LIVINGSTON COUNTY September 28, 2018 | 7:00 p.m. Livingston County Extension Office

McCRACKEN COUNTY October 2, 2018 | 6:00 p.m. St. John's Knights of Columbus Building

MARTIN COUNTY October 5, 2018 | 9:00 a.m. Martin County Farm Bureau Office

MORGAN COUNTY October 18, 2018 | 6:00 p.m. Martha Caudill Stacy Conference Center

OWEN COUNTY October 12, 2018 | 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Business meeting at 4:00 p.m. Owen County Farm Bureau Office

PENDLETON COUNTY September 27, 2018 | 6:30 p.m. Pendleton County Farm Bureau Office

POWELL COUNTY October 9, 2018 | 7:30 p.m. Powell County Farm Bureau Office

ROWAN COUNTY October. 2, 2018 | 6:30 p.m. Rowan County Farm Bureau Board Room

SHELBY COUNTY October 6, 2018 | 6:30 p.m. Shelby County Extension Office

SPENCER COUNTY September 24, 2018 | 7:00 p.m. Spencer County Extension Office

WOLFE COUNTY October 11, 2018 | 6:00 p.m. Wolfe County Extension Office

WOODFORD COUNTY October 2, 2018 7:00 p.m. Versailles Baptist Church



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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| Fritz Giesecke | 2nd Vice President |
| Drew Graham | Executive Vice President |
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their educations.

The relationships we have as an organization with other ag organizations and government agencies at all levels are vital to our existence and relevance as we move forward in all we do.

Thank you to KFB leadership for having faith in me; to the insurance company that is so important to the success of this great organization; to our members who are the heart and soul of the Farm Bureau family, and a special thanks to the KFB staff. You have made me feel so welcome and I have the utmost confidence in you and appreciate the respect you have shown me.

sharpens another."



s I begin my tenure as Kentucky Farm Bureau's Executive Vice President, it L is a great honor to be a part of such a wonderful organization. I have taken on several different roles in my professional life and through each, I saw a connection in one way or another to KFB and its agriculture advocacy efforts.

Having grown up on my family farm in Clark County, and being associated with my family's retail business, it was impressed upon me at an early age the importance of faith, family, and hard work.

My parents instilled in me the necessity of honesty, loyalty, promptness, courtesy to others, and the will to not leave a job undone. I feel Farm Bureau exemplifies those same principles.

My experiences in government range from serving as a County Magistrate, State Representative and County Judge Executive, to working in the Fletcher Administration's Executive Branch.

Additionally, my time spent at the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food, and Environment as the Senior Assistant Dean, Director of Government Relations and External Affairs has furthered my advocacy experiences, as well as allowed me to witness countless students continuing

Through the years, I have seen the respect KFB receives from all manner of leaders and officials at all levels. At the same time, I have witnessed that same kind of respect offered by Farm Bureau leaders and members in return. That relationship is like no other, and to be a part of it is one of the high points of my working career. Fostering existing relationships and building new ones, has always been important to me. That will never change.

Our commitment to communities, farm families, the entire membership and our agricultural way of life is indicative of KFB's grassroots way of doing things. The value we find in these relationships has helped make this organization strong for nearly 100 years and will continue to do so for the next 100.

As I begin this role, I can't thank my wife Lorra and our children enough for the support they have given me in all I have done.

Often, I am reminded of one of my favorite Bible verses, which comes from the Book of Proverbs 27:17. "As iron sharpens iron, so one person

We can all make each other better as long as we work together and work toward our common goal of being the "Voice of Kentucky Agriculture."

Drew Graham

KFB Executive Vice President

KFB LEADERSHIP MEETS WITH CANADIAN CONSUL GENERAL

entucky Farm Executive Committee and staff recently met with Canadian Consul General Douglas George to discuss trade between Kentucky and its largest agricultural trading partner. The meeting took place in Louisville at the the ag economy. KFB State Office.

economy and member of the North American Free Trade Agreement(NAFTA),

Bureau's is Kentucky's top agriculture and agrifood export market. In 2016, Kentucky's agriculture and related industries exported \$230 million to that country.

KFB President Mark Haney said trade with Canada is very important to

"We recognize the fact that Canada Canada, the world's 10th largest is an extremely important trading partner for us," he said. "We import a lot from there and we export a lot to them.

Sometimes, you take those trading partners for granted and we never want to do that with Canada."

Haney noted that international trade in general is a critical component to the agriculture picture here, in Kentucky, and across the country.

"There is so much agriculture production in Kentucky, especially with grain and livestock, and other areas, that it has to be exported; we can't utilize all that we are able to produce here," he said. "That makes international trade, alobal trade. extremely important."

Haney pointed out how valuable trade agreements like the NAFTA with Canada and Mexico have been to the agriculture industry.

If you don't know who you're trading with, and who you're dealing with, it's easier for things to not go as smoothly. In making that trip, and with this recent meeting here, we are building relationships that will help us now and in the future in getting our agricultural products to their country.

- Eddie Melton KFB First Vice President

"We at Farm Bureau, and most farmers are free trade people, and we believe in a free trade system. NAFTA is so important to us and our neighboring countries to the north and south, and we have seen that over a period of years, since that agreement was signed. But there's nothing wrong with modernizing it."

As trade discussions over NAFTA continue, Haney said he feels very

Continued on page 19



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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THE KENTUCKY DROUGHT EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

The next step in proactive water resource management

n keeping with the state's ongoing commitment of being proactive L in water resource management, agriculture leaders and government stakeholders from across the Commonwealth made their way to Frankfort recently for a kickoff meeting of the Kentucky Drought Early Warning System (DEWS).

The system is being developed in conjunction with the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) and will become a part of a network, "to optimize the expertise of a wide range of federal, tribal, state, local and

academic partners in order to make climate and drought science readily available, easily understandable and usable for decision makers." according to information from NIDIS.

Dr. Stuart Foster, Director of the Kentucky Climate Center (KCC) at Western Kentucky University and State Climatologist led the day-long meeting that featured quest speakers, panel discussions and group activities all to quide DEWS forward.

"This meeting was a critical event to not only help in creating the marching orders for developing this system, it



was also really important in helping to build relations, and a statewide network of people at the local and state levels who are committed to cooperating and communicating around the issue of drought," he said.

Foster also said that with the Kentucky Mesonet weather monitoring system, complemented by systems for monitoring groundwater, stream flows, and reservoir levels already present in the state, and a group of organizations and individuals presently working to improve water resource management, the opportunity exists to develop something critically needed in the state.

The Mesonet is a comprehensive weather data system comprised of a network of automated weather and climate monitoring stations located throughout Kentucky and will serve as somewhat of a foundation for a system like DEWS.

"The Mesonet is a statewide infrastructure for environmental monitoring with a local presence in counties across the state. We can build on and expand that infrastructure and we do that through local partnerships," said Foster. "We can also integrate it with other monitoring systems."

HUMAN NETWORKING

In addition to system networking, Foster also pointed out the opportunities that exist with human networking including utilizing the University of Kentucky College Of Agriculture, Food and Environment's ag weather program and the extension service, which has individuals in place across the state.

"One of the more exciting and energizing aspects of this meeting was the presence of a lot of people with expertise and years of experience eager to work together," he said. "Despite what we sometimes hear, people really are interested and looking for opportunities to come together and work together to solve problems for the benefit of

communities around this country, and we are doing just that here in Kentucky." Foster pointed out the benefits DEWS

will supply for the agricultural sector as well as all sectors and all citizens. "When we think of drought,

agriculture is right there at the front line and is the first part of our communities affected when it gets dry," he said. "But that is just the start. If we get into a prolonged or intense drought, then it starts to impact water supplies, which affects everyone across the state."

KFB AND WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Kentucky Farm Bureau's Water Management Working Group (WMWG) Chairman Steve Coleman attended this meeting and acknowledged how beneficial this system will be to the state, as a whole.

"I think DEWS is one of the evolutions that has come out of discussions in the Kentucky through the WMWG, trying to give us indicators of how we can plan for the future and anticipate drought circumstances and better plan about reacting to those circumstances before a drought event occurs," he said.

Coleman, a retired Director of the Kentucky Division of Conservation, has seen drought situations occur in the past. He said it's always better to look at such an event before it occurs to avoid pitting the agriculture sector, which often uses municipal water sources, against its urban neighbors over water usage.

"We don't need to be at odds in trying to determine what the priorities should be about water usage. We ought to be planning in advance to make sure we have alternate water supplies and there is a very significant role agriculture can play," he said. "Often, we utilize those domestic water sources for livestock or irrigation purposes so we need to be developing those alternate supplies."

Coleman added that he thinks many of the programs taking place now, related to water resource management. is due to the forward thinking by KFB leadership to develop the WMWG and to support related legislation and initiatives.

"Often times, in other places like California and some of the western states, you see reactions during a

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crisis, and it's very difficult to make good, realistic decisions during those crisis times." he said. "In our case. here in Kentucky, with abundant water supplies and good rainfall in the last several years, we can plan and prepare for those times, doing it with collective discussions without being in a crisis or the pressure of one."

While much has been done connected to water resources. Coleman said there is still work to be done.

"It's not just farmers, it is every one of us who rely on that water resource day-in and day-out. So, we need to understand from each perspective how important water is and how best to manage those resources for multiple uses. We are good neighbors and we want to be that way all the time."

KENTUCKY'S COLLABORATIVE

"You can make better decisions and take more time to look at different angles and issues which leads to ENVIRONMENT better outcomes," he said. "In going Because of the systems in place back to the work of the WMWG, we and the efforts already being made in really see an atmosphere of being this state concerning water resources, proactive and trying to look forward, identifying opportunities and finding Foster said there exists a great collaborative environment here to help ways to stay ahead of the curve in solving problems." make this initiative a success.



KENTUCKY DEWS

"Here in Kentucky, while building the Mesonet system, we have cultivated relationships from the state level down to the local level to help build support for the network and enable it to grow," he said. "And that spirit of cooperation is critical to developing services, in this case drought early warning, that will be beneficial to people across the state. It's one thing to collect the data; it's another thing to take that data and turn it into useful information that impacts lives."

Foster made an important point in that being proactive about drought issues at a time when water is plentiful rather than being reactive during a dry period helps stakeholders spend time and energy to make decisions the right way.



2018 KENTUCKY SENATE DISTRICT RACES

2ND DISTRICT

Ballard, Marshall, McCracken, Carlisle

- Danny Carroll (R-Paducah)
- Julie Tennyson (D-Paducah)

4TH DISTRICT

Caldwell, Crittenden, Henderson, Livingston, Union, Webster

- Dorsey Ridley (D-Henderson)
- Robert Mills (R-Henderson)

6TH DISTRICT

Hopkins, Muhlenberg, Ohio, Butler

- C.B. Embry Jr. (R-Morgantown)
- Crystal Chappell (D-Drakesboro)

8TH DISTRICT

Daviess, McLean, Hancock

- Matt Castlen (R-Owensboro)
- Bob Glenn (D-Owensboro)

12TH DISTRICT

Fayette (part)

- Alice Forgy Kerr (R-Lexington)
- Paula Setser-Kissick (D-Lexington)

14TH DISTRICT

Casey, Jefferson (part), Marion, Nelson, Spencer

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- Jimmy Higdon (R-Lebanon)
- Stephanie Compton (D-Taylorsville)

18TH DISTRICT

- Carter, Greenup, BoydRobin Webb (D-Grayson)
- RODIT WEDD (D-Glaysol
- Scott Sharp (R-Ashland)

20TH DISTRICT

Shelby, Carroll, Henry, Jefferson (part), Trimble

• Paul Hornback (R-Shelbyville)

Dave Suetholz (D-Eminence)

22ND DISTRICT

Fayette (part), Garrard, Jessamine, Mercer, Washington

- Tom Buford (R-Nicholasville)
- Carolyn Dupont (D-Nicholasville)

24TH DISTRICT

Campbell, Pendleton, Bracken

- Wil Schroder (R-Wilder)
- Rachel Roberts (D-Newport)

26TH DISTRICT

- Jefferson (part), Oldham
- Ernie Harris (R-Crestwood)Karen Berg (D-Louisville)
- Jody Hurt (I-Louisville)

28TH DISTRICT

Clark, Montgomery, Fayette (part)

- Ralph Alvarado (R-Winchester)
- Denise Gray (D-Mount Sterling)

30TH DISTRICT

Bell, Leslie, Perry, Breathitt, Johnson, Magoffin

- Brandon Smith (R-Hazard)
- Paula Clemons-Combs (D-Jackson)

32ND DISTRICT

Warren

- Mike Wilson (R-Bowling Green)
- Jeanie Smith (D-Alvaton)

34TH DISTRICT

Madison, Rockcastle,

Fayette (part)

- Jared Carpenter (R-Berea)
- Susan Byrne Haddix (D-Berea)

36TH DISTRICT

Jefferson (part)

- Julie Raque Adams (R-Louisville)
- Sheri Donahue
- (D-Louisville)

38TH DISTRICT

OCTOBER 2018

- Jefferson (part), Bullitt
- Dan Seum (R-Faidale)
- Brenda Sue Board
 (I-Shepherdsville)

2018 KENTUCKY HOUSE DISTRICT RACES

1ST DISTRICT

Ballard, Carlisle, Fulton, Hickman, McCracken (part)

- Steven Rudy (R-Paducah)
- Desiree Owen (D-Barlow)

2ND DISTRICT

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- Richard Heath (R-Mayfield)
- Charlotte Goddard(D-Hickory)

3RD DISTRICT

- McCracken (part)
- Randy Bridges (R-Paducah)
- Martha Emmons (D-Paducah)

4TH DISTRICT

Caldwell, Christian (part), Crittenden, Livingston

- Lynn Bechler (R-Marion)
- Abigail Barnes (D-Salem)

5TH DISTRICT

- Calloway, Trigg (part)
- Larry Elkins (R-Murray)
- David Ramey (D-Murray)

6TH DISTRICT

Lyon, Marshall, McCracken (part)

- Linda Story Edwards (D-Benton)
- Chris Freeland (R-Benton)

Joy Gray (D-Owensboro)

Christian (part), Trigg (part)

7TH DISTRICT

8TH DISTRICT

• Walker Thomas (R-Hopkinsville)

9TH DISTRICT

• Jeffery Taylor (D-Hopkinsville)

Myron Dossett (R-Pembroke)

William Coleman (D-Hopkinsville)

10TH DISTRICT

• Dean Schamore (D-Hardinsburg)

Breckinridge, Hancock, Hardin (part)

Josh Calloway (R-Irvington)

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Christian (Part), Hopkins (Part)

Daviess (part), Henderson (part), UnionSuzanne Miles (R-Owensboro)

11TH DISTRICT

Daviess (part), Henderson (part)James Buckmaster (R-Henderson)Robert Wiederstein (D-Henderson)

12TH DISTRICT

McLean, Webster

Daviess (part)

Daviess (part), Hopkins (part),

Jim Gooch (R-Providence)Bruce Kunze (D-Utica)

13TH DISTRICT

D J Johnson (R-Owensboro)Jim Glenn (D-Owensboro)

14TH DISTRICT

Daviess (part), OhioElizabeth Belcher (D-Owensboro)Scott Lewis (R-Hartford)

15TH DISTRICT

Hopkins (part), MuhlenbergMelinda Prunty (R-Greenville)Brent Yonts (D-Greenville)

17TH DISTRICT

Butler, Warren (part)Malcolm Cherry (D-Bowling Green)Steve Sheldon (R-Bowling Green)

18TH DISTRICT

Grayson, Hardin (Part)Tim Moore (R-Elizabethtown)Donielle Lovell (D-Elizabethtown)

19TH DISTRICT

Edmonson, Warren (part)

Michael Meredith (R-Oakland)
William Fishback(D-Bowling Green)

20TH DISTRICT

Warren (part)

Benjamin Lawson (R-Bowling Green)Patti Minter (D-Bowling Green)

21ST DISTRICT

Hardin (Part), Hart, Metcalfe, MonroeBart Rowland (R-Tompkinsville)Jarrett Cox (D-Cub Run)

22ND DISTRICT

Allen, Simpson, Warren (Part)

- Wilson Stone (D-Scottsville)
- Brian Gann (R-Franklin)

23RD DISTRICT

Barren, Warren (part)

- Steve Riley (R-Glasgow)
- LaToya Drake (D-Glasgow)

24TH DISTRICT

Green, Larue, Marion

- Brandon Reed (R-Hodgenville)
- Terry Mills (D-Lebanon)

25TH DISTRICT

Hardin (part)

- Jim DuPlessis
- (R-Elizabethtown)
- Tom Williamson (D-Elizabethtown)

27TH DISTRICT

Hardin (part), Meade

- Jeff Greer (D-Brandenburg)
- Nancy Tate (R-Brandenburg)

29TH DISTRICT

Jefferson (part)

- Kevin Bratcher (R-Louisville)
- Ronel Brown (D-Louisville)

30TH DISTRICT

Jefferson (part)

- Tom Burch (D-Louisville)
- Christina O'Connor (R-Louisville)

31ST DISTRICT

Jefferson (part)

- Leigh Boland Jones (R-Louisville)
- Josie Raymond (D-Louisville)

32ND DISTRICT

Jefferson (part)

- Phil Moffett (R-Louisville)
- Tina Bojanowski (D-Louisville)

33RD DISTRICT

Jefferson (part), Oldham (part)

- Jason Nemes (R-Louisville)
- Rob Walker (D-Louisville)

34TH DISTRICT

Jefferson (part)

(R-Louisville)

- Mary Lou Marzian (D-Louisville)
- Robert James Douglas

35TH DISTRICT

Jefferson (part)

- Donna Lawlor (R-Louisville)
- Lisa Willner (D-Louisville)

36TH DISTRICT

Jefferson (part)

- Jerry Miller (R-Eastwood)
- Maurice Sweeney (D-Eastwood)

37TH DISTRICT

Jefferson (part)

- Jeffery Donohue (D-Fairdale) Katharine Sweeton-Windsor
- (R-Louisville)

38TH DISTRICT

Jefferson (part)

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Jefferson (part)

- Nima Kulkarni (D-Louisville)
- Joshua Neubert (R-Louisville)

42ND DISTRICT

Jefferson (part)

- Reginald Meeks (D-Louisville)
- Judy Martin Stallard (R-Louisville)

43RD DISTRICT

Jefferson (part)

Charles Booker (D-Louisville)

• Everett Corley (R-Louisville)

John Hicks (L-Louisville)

44TH DISTRICT

Jefferson (part)

- Joni Jenkins (D-Shively)
- Margaret Adkins (R-Louisville)

45TH DISTRICT

Fayette (part)

- Stan Lee (R-Lexington)
- Josh Hicks (D-Lexington)

46TH DISTRICT

Jefferson (part)

• Alan Gentry (D-Louisville)

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• James Stansbury (R-Louisville)

47THDISTRICT

- Carroll, Gallatin, Henry, Trimble
- Rick Rand (D-Bedford)
- Mark Gilkison (R-Bedford)

48TH DISTRICT

Jefferson (part), Oldham (part)

- Ken Fleming (R-Louisville)
- Maria Sorolis (D-Louisville)

- Bullitt (part)
- Linda Belcher (D-Shepherdsville) Thomas Huff (R-Shepherdsville)

49TH DISTRICT

50TH DISTRICT Nelson

- Chad McCoy (R-Bardstown)
- James DeWeese (D-Bardstown)

52ND DISTRICT

- Ken Upchurch (R-Monticello)
- Dean Sumpter (D-Monticello)

53RD DISTRICT

- Anderson, Bullitt (part), Spencer
- James Tipton (R-Taylorsville)
- Dustin Burley (D-Lawrenceburg)

55TH DISTRICT

Jessamine (part) Mercer, Washington

- Kim King (R-Harrodsburg)
- Cathy Carter (D-Harrodsburg)

56TH DISTRICT

- Fayette (part), Franklin (part), Woodford
- Daniel Fister (R-Versailles)
- Joe Graviss (D-Versailles)

57TH DISTRICT

Franklin (Part)

- Derrick Graham (D-Frankfort)
- Calen Studler (R-Frankfort)

58TH DISTRICT

Shelby

- Rob Rothenburger (R-Shelbyville)
- Bobby Lacer(D-Shelbyville)

59TH DISTRICT

- Oldham (part)
- David Osborne (R-Prospect)
- Samantha Nicole Gerges
- (I-Crestwood)
- Diane Seaman (D-Pendleton)

60TH DISTRICT

- Boone (part)
- Sal Santoro (R-Union)
- Jesse Parks (D-Walton)

61ST DISTRICT

- Boone (part), Grant, Kenton (part), Scott (part)
- Darrell Link (D-Williamstown)
- Savannah Maddox (R-Dry Ridge)

62ND DISTRICT

63RD DISTRICT

64TH DISTRICT

Kimberly Moser (R-Taylor Mill)

• Larry Varney (D-Cold Spring)

65TH DISTRICT

• Jordan Huizenga (R-Covington)

Charles Wheatley (D-Covington)

66TH DISTRICT

• Stacie Earl (I-Florence)

Ed Massey (R-Hebron)

Dennis Keene (D-Wilder)

Bob Schrage (R-Dayton)

• Lex Hannan (L-Burlington)

Roberto Henriquez (D-Union)

67TH DISTRICT

68TH DISTRICT

• Joseph Fischer (R-Fort Thomas)

69TH DISTRICT

71ST DISTRICT

OCTOBER 2018

Garrard, Madison (part), Rockcastle

• Travis Brenda (R-Berea)

• Mary Renfro (D-Berea)

• Jason Kilmer (D-Fort Thomas)

Boone (part), Kenton (part)

Adam Koenig (R-Erlanger)

• Col Owens (D-Ft. Mitchell)

Alyssa Dara McDowell (I-Covington)

Fayette (part), Owen, Scott (part)

Phillip Pratt (R-Georgetown)

• Jennifer Urie (D-New Liberty)

Diane St. Onge (R-Ft. Wright)

Kenton (part), Boone (part)

• Josh Blair (D-Erlanger)

Campbell (part), Kenton (part)

Kenton (part)

Boone (part)

Campbell (part)

Campbell (part)

81ST DISTRICT

Madison (part)

Knox, Laurel (part)

Bell, Harlan (part)

Fayette (part)

Madison (part)

John A. Yarmuth

DISTRICT 4

Mike Moffett

-Independent

Thomas Massie

-Republican,

-Democrat,

(D-Lexington)

72ND DISTRICT

73RD DISTRICT

74TH DISTRICT

76TH DISTRICT

77TH DISTRICT

Marianne Weiss (R-Lexington)

Harrison, Pendleton, Scott (part)

• Mark Hart (R-Falmouth)

78TH DISTRICT

Gregory Coulson (D-Cynthiana)

79TH DISTRICT

Susan Westrom (D-Lexington)

DISTRICT 1

DISTRICT 2

Thomas A. Loecken

-Independent

Brett Guthrie Hank Linderman

-Democrat

Paul Walker

-Democrat

• Joshua Irvin (R-Lexington)

Bath, Bourbon, Fayette (part),

Ann Cormican (L-Paris)

Emily Ferguson (D-Paris)

Matthew Koch (R-Paris)

Pat Banks (D-Richmond)

• Les Yates (R-Winchester)

Menifee, Montgomery, Powell

Ruth Ann Palumbo

(D-Lexington)

(R-Lexington)

George Brown Jr.

(D-Lexington)

Richard Marrs

David Hale (R-Wellington)

James Davis (D-Mt. Sterling)

Clark, Madison (part)

Fayette (part)

Fayette (part)

Fayette (part)

James R. Comer

-Republican,

-Republican,

OCTOBER 2018

Nicholas

 Morgan Eaves (D-Richmond) • Deanna Frazier (R-Richmond)

82ND DISTRICT

Laurel (part), Whitley Regina Bunch (R-Williamsburg) Stefanie Kingsley (D-Corbin)

84TH DISTRICT

Harlan (part), Perry Chris Fugate (R-Chavies) • Tom Pope (D-Harlan)

86TH DISTRICT

• Jim Stewart (R-Flat Lick) • Debra Ferguson Payne (D-Barbourville)

87TH DISTRICT

• Dustin Allen (D-Pineville) Adam Bowling (R-Middlesboro)

88TH DISTRICT

• Bill Farmer Jr. (R-Lexington) Cherlynn Stevenson

89TH DISTRICT

Jackson, Laurel (part).

 Robert Goforth (R-East Bernstadt) • Kelly Smith (D-Berea)

91ST DISTRICT

Breathitt, Estill, Lee, Madison (part), Owsley

- Toby Herald (R-Beattyville)
- Cluster Howard (D-Jackson)

92ND DISTRICT

Knott, Magoffin, Pike (part)

- John Blanton (R-Saylersville)
- Ryan Mosley (D-Emmalena)

93RD DISTRICT

Martin . Pike (part)

- Chris Harris (D-Forest Hills)
- Norma Kirk-McCormick (R-Inez)

95TH DISTRICT

Floyd, Pike (part)

- Larry Brown (R-Prestonsburg)
- Ashley Tackett Laferty (D-Martin)

96TH DISTRICT

Carter, Lawrence

- Jill York (R-Grayson)
- Kathy Hinkle (D-Louisa)

97TH DISTRICT

Johnson, Morgan, Wolfe

- Craig Lindon (D-Campton)
- Bobby McCool (R-Van Lear)

98TH DISTRICT

Boyd (part), Greenup

- Danny Bentley (R-Russell)
- R. B. McKenzie (D-Ashland)

100TH DISTRICT

Boyd (part)

- Terri Branham Clark (D-Cattlesburg)
- Brian Clark (R-Ashland)

U.S. CONGRESSIONAL RACES

DISTRICT 3

Vickie Yates B. Glisson -Republican **Gregory Boles** -Libertarian

DISTRICT 5

Harold "Hal" Rogers Kenneth S. Stepp -Republican,

-Democrat

Seth Hall -Democrat **DISTRICT 6** Amy McGrath

-Republican, James Germalic -Independent

Andy Barr

-Democrat

Frank Harris -Libertarian Rikka L. Wallin -Independent

TROPICAL SYSTEMS CAUSING ISSUES ON KENTUCKY FARMS

hile it's not all that unusual for tropical weather systems to find their way to Kentucky from the Atlantic or Gulf areas, getting two in one week is rather rare and for some farm regions in the state, the timing wasn't the greatest by any means.

The Commonwealth has experienced somewhat of a wet year, according to Matt Dixon with the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment's Agriculture Weather Center.

"We've gotten a significant amount of rainfall this year, along with being hot and humid," he said. "And it's not very often you get a very wet pattern like we've had, along with a very warm and humid pattern."

Dixon said that normally when it is as hot and humid as it has been this summer, the state would be looking at



some level of drought, but that has not been the case in 2018, although some portions of far West Kentucky have seen a bit of abnormally dry periods.

The same cannot be said for much of the Bluegrass Region and Northeastern Kentucky. Dixon said that area is well above normal in the amount of rain that has fallen.

"Some areas are over 20 inches above normal," he said. "Of course, that number lowers when you get into Western, South Central, and South Eastern Kentucky but even those regions are four to six inches above normal."

Often when these tropical waves come through, they come at a time when moisture is needed. Dixon pointed out the example of 2012, when Kentucky was in the midst of a severe drought.

"Hurricane Isaac hit Louisiana and pushed forward to this area at a time when we experiencing an extreme and exceptional drought in Western Kentucky," he said. "That slow, soaking rainfall really helped us out then."

But it is a different story this year. The most recent tropical rains came with a one-two punch, first from Tropical Storm Gordon that made its way to the state

I know the prediction is that the Ohio River will get above flood stage in parts of Western Kentucky," he said. "Any time you have corn sitting in water. that's typically not a good thing."

Lee said there were places in Eastern Kentucky where flood waters were above the ears of corn which will most likely cause some damage to those plants unless they were already at the black layer stage.

"Additionally, some folks who have corn out this late for silage, where it was flooded and got a lot of mud on the corn plants; if they try to ensile it, that mud can be contaminated and actually throw off fermentation and result in some botulism," he said. "It's not a lot around the state, but where it is, it's a big deal for those farmers because they were counting on that corn as a source of feed for their livestock and now they are going to have to readjust their plans."

One bullet that may have been dodged was the expectation of high winds associated with the Florence weather system. According to information from the Kentucky Mesonet, average wind speeds across the state were minimal, for most areas, during

We've gotten a significant amount of rainfall this year, along with being hot and humid.

- Matt Dixon

during the second week of September, only to be followed by the remnants of Hurricane Florence arriving one week later.

Dixon said Gordon dumped between four to six inches of rain across the Bluegrass Region and remnants of Florence had delivered close to an inch in some areas.

Dr. Chad Lee, UK grain crops specialist and director of the UK Grain and Forage Center of Excellence said the rains have slowed some harvest efforts across the state.

"We did have portions of Kentucky where some corn was flooded, primarily in the eastern part of the state and

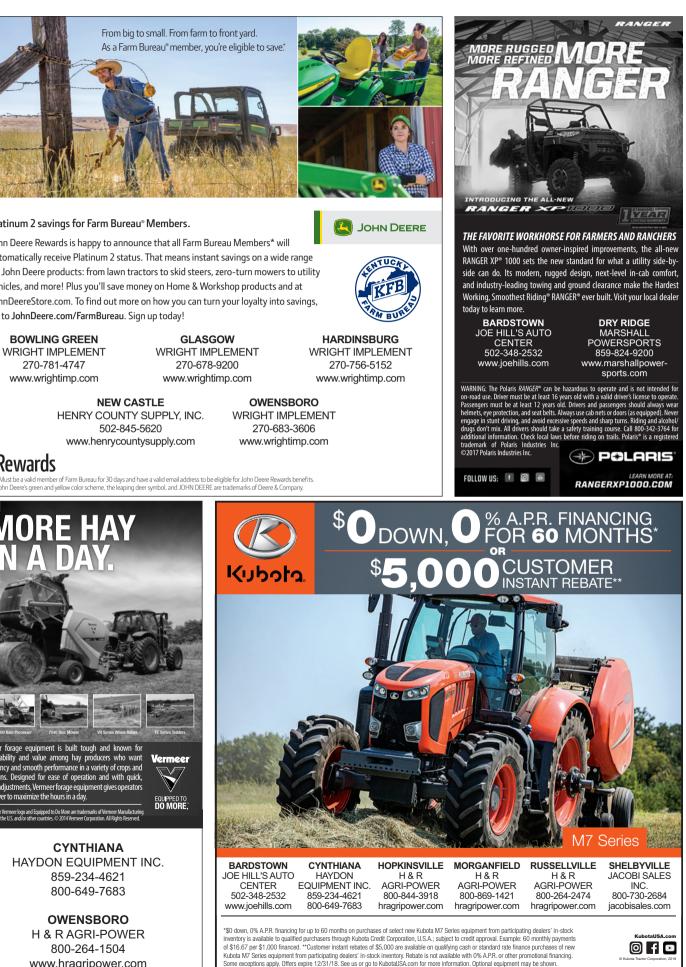
the time period when the remnants of Florence passed through the state.

There was also some flooding of soybeans during these tropical events. Lee said most of the fields that were flooded will result in some losses.

"Our beans were still filling the seed and still relatively green and if there is water sitting on those fields, it will just rot down those beans and you won't be able to harvest them," he said. "It's not massively wide spread areas, but again, it's a big deal for farmers who are impacted by it."

Incidentally, the Hurricane season doesn't officially end until November 30.







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NEW VOLUNTARY TRAVEL ID COMING IN 2019

n May of 2005, Congress passed the REAL ID Act enacting the 9/11 Commission's recommendation that "the Federal Government set standards for the issuance of sources of identification, such as driver's licenses."

With this comes the need for new ID's in order to board U.S. domestic flights and access restricted federal facilities. A Voluntary Travel ID versions have all person will need the proper identification the benefits of a standard credential credential to do so. Kentucky's current driver's licenses will no longer be accepted beginning October 1, 2020.

But starting in 2019 a new Voluntary Travel ID will be made available that will meet federal requirements set forth by the Act. According to information not want a Voluntary Travel ID do not posted by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's "Confident Kentucky" website, in 2019, all Kentucky credentials (driver's licenses, permits and personal IDs) will have new security features and will arrive in the mail 5-10 business days after residents apply at their local Circuit Court

Clerk's office. Kentucky's new credentials will become available starting in January 2019 at select Circuit Court Clerk offices and extend to all 120 counties by spring 2019.

"All credentials will be available in one of two versions: a new standard credential or a new Voluntary Travel ID credential. plus they are federally accepted to board U.S. domestic flights and access restricted federal facilities once REAL ID enforcement begins nationwide on October 1, 2020," noted the posting.

Current credential holders who do need to renew their credential until they are within six months of the card's expiration date.

According to information from the Department of Homeland Security website, REAL ID does not apply to the following:

- Entering Federal facilities that do not require a person to present identification
- Voting or registering to vote
- Applying for or receiving Federal benefits
- Being licensed by a state to drive
- Accessing Health or life preserving services (including hospitals and health clinics), law enforcement, or constitutionally protected activities (including a defendant's access to court proceedings)
- Participating in law enforcement proceedings or investigations

There are many resources available to learn more about REAL ID and what is required from the public. For more information, go to:

- https://drive.ky.gov/confidentKY/ Pages/default.aspx.
- https://www.dhs.gov/real-id
- https://www.dhs.gov/real-id-public-fags

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COUNTY CORNER

Snapshots of County Farm Bureau activities





ROURBON COUNTY

The Bourbon County Farm Bureau Measure the Candidate forum was held September 6.







DAVIESS COUNTY

Daviess County Farm Bureau and Independence Bank sponsored the OWB Tractorcade in which approximately 50 tractors drove 22 miles in East Daviess County. All proceeds from the event were donated to local Daviess County FFA Chapters. Kentucky Farm Bureau Agent Alex Bryant (Daviess Central Office) and Wayne Mattingly, Agricultural Lender with Independence Bank (Parrish Ave. Branch) made check presentations of \$300 each to Daviess County High School, Apollo High School and Owensboro Catholic High School.



RISTIAN COUNTY

Christian County Farm Bureau's new South Office recently celebrated with an open house with a member appreciation day and a ribbon cutting.



Raymond Curry was awarded the Outstanding Young Farmer award at the McLean County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting.



The Woodford County Farm Bureau Member Appreciation cookout was help September 8.

Continued from page 6

positive about it. The trade situation with China, however is a bit more complicated.

"That's going to be more of a longterm approach. To me, if there is anything positive related to this controversy about trading with the Chinese right now, we certainly don't want to put too many eggs in one basket," he said. "We want to be able to push out and develop new markets. And when that happens, it's good for us and good for Canada and Mexico. This whole North American continent will do better when we are able to trade in a more global society."

Earlier this year, KFB First Vice President Eddie Melton participated in a trade mission to Canada. That Kentucky delegation was comprised of several state ag officials including Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles.

Melton said meetings like the one with Consul General George and that earlier trade mission are very helpful as efforts continue to renew tried-and-true existing trade agreements such as NAFTA.

"This was the first ever agriculture trade mission to Canada held earlier this summer and it gave us a chance to build relationships with our Canadian friends so that we could get to know them better and be better trading partners as we move forward in trade negotiations," he said. "If you don't know who you're trading with, and who you're dealing with, it's easier for things to not go as smoothly. In making that trip, and with this recent meeting here, we are building relationships that will help us now and in the future in getting our agricultural products to their country."

Melton also pointed out the necessity for international trade to the family farm from an economic perspective.

"We can grow more in Kentucky and in the United States than we can consume, so we have to have those trading partners around the world that we can get our products to, and we can get a return on our farms to help make our net farm income increase," he said. "The farm economy is currently seeing a downturn in net farm income and hopefully we can get these negotiations going, get these trade deals finalized and we can get back to trading with our partners, worldwide."

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Kentucky Dairy

MARKETS **M**

HIGHER PORK PRODUCTION TO BRING LOWER PRICES

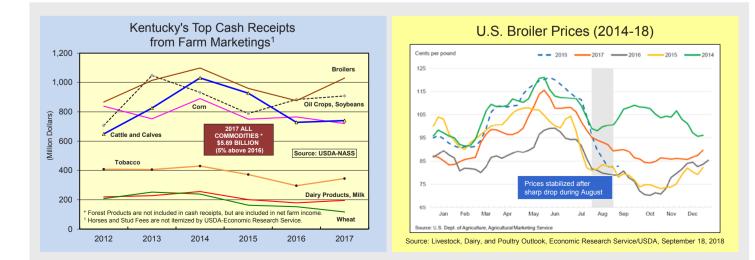
For the January-July 2018 period, U.S. pork production was 3.8 percent greater than for the same period a year earlier. The increased pork supply has been largely consumed, leaving cold storage pork stocks below average July levels. Domestic per capita disappearance increased one pound to 36.9 pounds. Pork exports were up 6.5 percent through July. Exports continue to exceed year-ago levels despite Chinese and Mexican import tariffs. The larger pork supply has driven prices lower; the wholesale pork carcass cutout average \$75.66 per cwt for January-July 2018, down more than 12 percent from the same period a year ago. USDA expects larger hog receipts to weigh on hog prices from now through the first half of 2019. Third-quarter prices of live equivalent 51-52 percent lean hogs will likely average \$42-\$43 per cwt,while fourth-quarter average prices are expected to decline to \$31-\$33 per cwt. First-quarter hog prices are forecast to average \$36-\$38 per cwt, almost 25 percent lower than a year earlier. Second guarter prices are expected to average \$41-\$45 per cwt, about ten percent below a year earlier.

SOYBEANS: RECORD YIELD AND 2018/19 ENDING STOCKS

USDA's latest crop report forecasts an average U.S. soybean yield of 52.8 bushels per acre. If realized,the new forecast yield would top a 2-year-old record of 52 bushels per acre. This would result in a crop of 4.69 billion bushels, up 300 million from the 2017 crop. The 2018/19 demand outlook for soybeans at 4.27 billion bushels is down 52 million from 2017/18. Thus, production gains would swell USDA's forecast of 2018/19 ending stocks to an all-time high of 845 million bushels, up 450 million bushels from this year's beginning stocks level. The outlook for a growing surplus of soybeans led USDA to lower its 2018/19 forecast range for the U.S. season-average farm price by 30 cents to \$7.35-\$9.85 per bushel. USDA published details of its Market Facilitation Program (MFP), which will compensate commodity producers adversely affected by retaliatory tariffs imposed by foreign countries. Eligible soybean producers can apply for a \$1.65 per bushel cash payment on half of their 2018/19 certified production. Based on USDA's current production estimate, the initial soybean payments could total at least \$3.6 billion.

U.S. AG EXPORTS TO RISE DESPITE CHINESE TABIEES

The latest guarterly USDA Outlook for Agricultural Trade provided its first agricultural export forecasts for fiscal 2019 (Oct. 2018 - Sep. 2019). Globally, U.S. agricultural exports are forecast to total \$144.5 billion, a \$500 million increase over the fiscal 2018 forecast. At the regional level, however, exports to Asian countries are forecast to decline by \$3.2 billion - the result of an expected decrease of \$7 billion in agricultural exports to China from the 2018 forecast of \$19 billion. Chinese demand for U.S. soybeans is expected to be sharply lower because of China's retaliatory tariffs, which also curb demand for other products, including sorghum, pork and products, and dairy products. The remaining Asian countries are all expected to increase their imports from the United States in fiscal 2019 by a collective total of \$3.8 billion. Canada is expected to be the largest U.S. market, while China drops to fifth place behind Mexico, the EU, and Japan. China was the third largest market in fiscal 2018 and number one in fiscal 2017. U.S. agricultural imports in fiscal 2019 are forecast at \$126.5 billion, \$2.0 billion higher than fiscal 2018 due to increases in horticultural and sugar and tropical products. The U.S. agricultural trade surplus is expected to decline by \$1.5 billion in fiscal 2019 to \$18.0 billion





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CANDID CONVERSATION

Conversation Candid presents a discussion about topical facing the issues the agricultural industry and rural communities in a question and answer format. In this column, Joy Pidgorodetska, the 2018-2019 Kentucky FFA State President, discusses her experience in that organization.

How did you become involved in FFA?

My freshman year of high school I was placed in an introduction to agriculture class although I did not even sign up for the class. Because none of my older siblings had been apart of FFA and I was not raised on a farm, the idea of agriculture and FFA were all very foreign to me. After being in the class a couple days I felt very out of my comfort zone and even went to the counselor's office to try to drop the class. However, the administration wouldn't let me drop so I talked with my parents I decided to stay in the class. It took me a couple months to warm up to the idea of FFA. A couple of my friends were apart of the Junior Parliamentary Procedure team and they needed more people so I decided to come out to one of the practices and fell in love with the competition. My team and I ended up making it to the state level and won third place at State Convention. I then went on to go to FFA camp and fell in love with agriculture, the people, and FFA. It is crazy to look back on something that seemed to be just a silly coincidence and see how it has served as a transformative event and has radically changed my life forever.

Describe some of the experiences vou have had since joining the organization?

I have had some really great experiences along my journey since joining FFA. Some of my favorites have been getting to go to FFA camp



every summer. Camp is often referred to as the happiest place on earth and it truly is. From the pink lemonade to the new friendships made from all across the state of Kentucky, I have made so many life long memories

at camp. Another one of my favorite experiences is competing in the local, regional, and state competitions. I have had the privilege to be in just about every competition within the FFA and while I may not have been

"successful" in every one of them. I have thoroughly enjoyed and learned so much from every encounter. One of my favorite competitions was the impromptu speaking competition. I participated in this competition every year at all of the levels, but it wasn't until my junior year of high school that I won first place in the Floral Impromptu Speaking competition. Getting to hear my name called in Rupp Arena and walk across stage to receive my trophy was a memorable moment for me.

Do you get a lot of questions about FFA from friends or family who may not be familiar with the organization?

Yes. I get asked at least once a day what FFA is and while it is sometimes frustrating, it is such a constant reminded for me of what this organization truly is. Both of my parents were born in Ukraine and immigrated to the United States in their early adult lives. Therefore, my family knew nothing about FFA. Because of that every trip, competition, and conference is a learning experience for not only me but my entire family. In addition to my family. I am the first state officer to ever attend Asbury University. a private Christian liberal arts college. Every time I talk about FFA no one knows what the organization and I am amazed because it plays such a vital role in my life. Rather than getting frustrated at this fact. I choose to be grateful for the opportunity to practice agriculture advocacy every single day in every area of my life.

Talk about your experience as an officer and how that led to being named state president.

Just like my background, my FFA story has very unique and nontraditional components. I served as Reporter at the Montgomery County FFA Chapter my senior year and I did not go on to serve as a regional officer. This is unlike most state officers. Because of this unique component. I wasn't as well known within the FFA community and therefore not many people were rooting for me. However, I didn't let

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this stop me. I worked hard from the time I decided I wanted to become a state officer until the day I was elected. Interview after interview. I stayed true to myself and who God created me to be. It is with 100 percent honesty that I say it is a miracle that I was elected as a state officer and an even bigger miracle as I was chosen to be the state president. On the last session of FFA story in a different light. state convention as they were calling up each state officer, I couldn't help but feel a combination of anxious but such peace. I was confident that no matter what the results were, that God had great things in store for me. And then they announced me name... and I froze. Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would become the State FFA President. Even now, three months later, this realization hits me and I am filled with immense amounts of joy, just as I did the moment my name was called. Being announced state president was not only an achievement for me personally, but an achievement for my entire family and Ukrainian heritage.

What do you see as the most valuable component of FFA?

The most valuable component of FFA is the diversity within this organization. I have had the opportunity to experience this diversity in great lengths in multiple circumstances. The FFA is an organization that will accept you regardless of your ethnicity, socio economic background, farming experience, or skin color; there is a place for you within the FFA. Even as a state officer. I have defeated almost every stereotype that people hold about FFA: I am a woman, non-traditional ag student, I have immigrant parents, I am not majoring in agriculture... and the list goes on and on. I am a living example of the diversity that exists within the FFA and I am proud to represent the thousands of other diverse students within this organization.

agriculture advocate?

There are many ways in which serving as the state president and being a part of FFA have helped prepare me for my future. I have grown tremendously in my speaking abilities. become more confident in sharing my stories and personal experiences. developed useful conversational skills, learned the importance and effectiveness of networking and making connections. The preparation that I have experienced both internally and externally are endless and it is Do you see yourself as an because of my participation in this great organization that I am confident Yes, I do. Because of my nonand look towards the future with agriculture background. I had a excitement as I am prepared for firsthand choice and decision to make anything life throws my way.

"

as I learned more about agriculture. I had the choice to become an advocate for agriculture because it was something I was passionate about rather than it being something I was familiar with or raised around. In my agriculture advocacy journey, I have the opportunity to offer a different perspective and to tell the

As the national convention approaches, would vou explain what you and other students will experience there?

The National Convention is one of the largest youth conventions in the world, as over 65,000 FFA members travel to one location each October to participate and discuss their passions for agriculture. Beyond competition in national competitions. members attend sessions put on by the National Officers, they attend the exhibit booths in the exhibit hall. and get to meet and mingle with members from all across the nation. As a state officer, I get to serve one of five different committees that take problems within the FFA and discover solutions to help revolutionize and progress this organization. While this week is very busy, it is one spent with some of the greatest, most passionate people in the world.

How does this experience in FFA and as state president prepare you for the future?



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Nancy

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Down the Backroads By Tim Thornberry

uring a recent visit to West Kentucky, I decided to make the return trip an adventure and stay off the Interstate/Parkway for as long as possible. Nothing wrong with our wonderful Interstate system, but I do enjoy the scenery that can only be found by lush green trees all waiting for fall to on the less beaten paths.

In studying my trusty road atlas, and yes, I still use an atlas, I discovered I could take the "two-lane" almost all the way back home in Central Kentucky from Paducah. Along the way I revisited places I had been to at one time as a names such as Pleasant Valley Road much younger person, and discovered other areas I had never seen before.

There were, of course, the beautiful lakes that, in spots, appeared to stretch out to the horizon, and the acres and with crops almost ready for harvest.

There were miles of highway bordered overtake the warm summer breezes and change colors. I saw countless fence rows that seemed to never end, livestock grazing without a care in the world, and the occasional wild turkey.

I saw road signs with interesting and Hidden Hill Lane. I crossed Elm Lick Creek and Caney Creek. I stopped at the

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FARM

Horse Branch General Store just to say I had been there.

I couldn't help but notice how all acres of farmland, bursting at the seams those small towns I travelled through seem to have everything you could need; all the necessary staples of life could be found in those small local stores; places where you can get gas for your car, plumbing supplies for the house and a bologna sandwich, all in one stop.

> I also noticed many of these special places were gathering spots for the locals; a place to greet friends, talk business, or brag about the big game last weekend. These venues serve as a sort of real-life social media platform; not one you look at on your phone but one you experience in "real-time" complete with the sights, sounds and smells of the local heritage.

As I continued my journey, I found myself behind a farm tractor a time or two, which meant I could slow down and really enjoy the scenery. Patiently sharing the road is the least we can do for those growing our food.

Eventually I would find a safe spot to pass, throwing my hand up and thanking those farmers for the escort through their part of the world.

My trip home would end all too soon and I couldn't help but remember similar travels with my parents, as a child, to Eastern Kentucky, where my mother's family lived. There too are many rural roads that lead you through some of the most beautiful scenery anywhere.

I came to a conclusion that I really already knew; these treasures can be found all across the state and I am so fortunate to live in a place that holds so much rural beauty. And it's always a good thing to get off the main highway and discover or rediscover these places every now and then, as we move down the backroads.



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