

Kentucky

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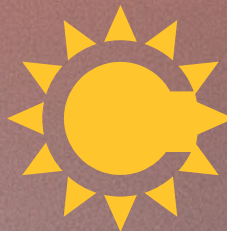

KENTUCKY DAIRIES: FINDING THE BULL IN A BEAR MARKET

THE 2018 KENTUCKY STATE FAIR
BRINGS THE FARM TO THE CITY

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KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU NEWS
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September 2018

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Cover photo by Tim Thornberry
Janna Cline, the new agriculture teacher at Madison Southern High School, prepares for the show at the Kentucky State Fair.

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President's COLUMN



IN THE BUSIEST OF TIMES, DON'T FORGET TO ADVOCATE

Without doubt, this is one of the busiest times of the year for our farm families, many of whom are in the middle of their harvest season.

But it is also a busy time in Washington as legislators have made their way back to the nation's capital after visiting their home states during the August recess. We certainly had opportunities during that recess period to hear from many of Kentucky's Congressional delegation.

Those visits are extremely important in our advocacy efforts to let lawmakers know where we stand on certain issues such as trade, immigration and the Farm Bill, and for them to inform us on the progress being made on these issues at the federal level.

In moving forward on these and other farm-related matters, the topic of the Farm Bill certainly has to be front and center. Committee conferees are busy, at this writing, trying to put together the House and Senate versions of the bills that have already been passed in their respective chambers.

As I have said before, the Farm Bill is the most critical piece of legislation we have connected to our agricultural industry and rural communities. Getting this bill passed on time is a priority, in my opinion.

I'm not sure a lot of people realize it but the Farm Bill, as we know it today, is merely an amended form of a permanent law that passed in 1949. Every five years Congress is supposed to update that piece of legislation. However, if a pending bill is not passed on time without an extension, ag policy would revert back to the regulations set forth by that original bill.

While we often see an extension of farm bills when a deadline is not met, even the remote possibility of having farm policy fall back to regulations adopted almost 70 years ago is frightening, and would be detrimental to our farm economy in the event this were to happen.

During this busy season, I would ask you to keep your advocacy efforts in mind as we work to get our crops harvested and to the marketplace.

We often see other organizations, especially those not friendly to farming, speak loudly to get their message across. In fact, often their messages are misleading when it comes to agriculture.

We never want to employ their tactics, but we do want to remain just as vocal in our efforts to get factual, science-based information out to the general public, including members of Congress. There is some merit to the squeaky-wheel technique of advocacy. If we don't speak up, it's for sure no one will hear us.

I truly hope our harvest this year and every year is bountiful and I pray the tough ag environment that inundates us today subsides soon. But we can help ourselves by remaining diligent in our efforts to advocate even in these busiest of times.

Mark Haney
President
Kentucky Farm Bureau

2018

COUNTY ANNUAL MEETINGS

All times are local

ADAIR COUNTY September 18, 2018 7:00 p.m. <i>Lindsey Wilson Cranmer Dining Hall</i>
ANDERSON COUNTY October 8, 2018 5:00 p.m. <i>Eagle Lake Convention & Expo Center</i>
BATH COUNTY September 18, 2018 6:00 p.m. <i>Bath County Agriculture Center</i>
BELL COUNTY September 27, 2018 6:00 p.m. <i>Bell County Farm Bureau Office</i>
BARREN COUNTY September 15, 2018 6:30 p.m. <i>Cave City Convention Center</i>
BRACKEN COUNTY October 9, 2018 7:00 p.m. <i>Bracken County Extension Office</i>
BOONE COUNTY September 10, 2018 7:00 p.m. <i>Boone County Extension Enrichment Center</i>
BOURBON COUNTY October 4, 2018 6:30 p.m. <i>Legion Park, Paris</i>
BUTLER COUNTY September 11, 2018 6:30 p.m. <i>Eva J. Hawes Building, Morgantown</i>
CALDWELL COUNTY September 15, 2018 6:30 p.m. <i>Caldwell County High Scholl cafeteria</i>
CALLOWAY COUNTY September 4, 2018 7:00 p.m. <i>Calloway County Farm Bureau Office</i>
CAMPBELL COUNTY September 16, 2018 4:00 p.m. <i>Neltner's Farm</i>
CARROLL COUNTY October 8, 2018 7:00 p.m. <i>Carroll County Farm Bureau Office</i>
CASEY COUNTY October 4, 2018 6:00 p.m. <i>Central Kentucky Ag/Expo Center</i>
CLINTON COUNTY September 13, 2018 6:00 p.m. <i>Clinton County Fairgrounds</i>
FAYETTE COUNTY October 18, 2018 6:30 p.m. <i>Fayette County Extension Office</i>
FRANKLIN COUNTY October 9, 2018 6:30 a.m. <i>Franklin County Cooperative Extension Office</i>
FULTON COUNTY TBA
GALLATIN COUNTY October 1, 2018 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. <i>Gallatin County Farm Bureau Office</i>

GARRARD COUNTY September 27, 2018 6:30 p.m. <i>Forks of Dix River Baptist Church Life Center</i>
GRANT COUNTY September 14, 2018 5:00 p.m. <i>Alpine Hills Dairy Farm</i>
HARLAN COUNTY September 15, 2018 noon <i>Harlan County Farm Bureau Office</i>
HARRISON COUNTY September 13, 2018 6:00 p.m. <i>McCauley Building, Harrison County Fairgrounds</i>
HENRY COUNTY October 11, 2018 7:00 p.m. <i>Henry County Farm Bureau Office</i>
JACKSON COUNTY September 17, 2018 6:00 p.m. <i>Jackson Energy Farm</i>
JOHNSON COUNTY October 30, 2018 6:00 p.m. <i>Johnson County Farm Bureau Office</i>
KENTON COUNTY September (Date TBA), 2018 7:00 p.m. <i>Simon Kenton High School</i>
KNOTT COUNTY September 26, 2018 6:00 p.m. <i>Knott County Farm Bureau Office</i>
LAWRENCE COUNTY October 16, 2018 6:00 p.m. <i>Down Home Grill</i>
LIVINGSTON COUNTY September 28, 2018 7:00 p.m. <i>Livingston County Extension Office</i>
LOGAN COUNTY September 8, 2018 6:00 p.m. <i>Logan County Extension Office</i>
LYON COUNTY September 14, 2018 6:00 p.m. <i>Lyon County Convention Center</i>
MAGOFFIN COUNTY September 10, 2018 6:00 p.m. <i>Magoffin County Extension Office</i>
MASON COUNTY September 24, 2018 7:00 p.m. <i>Mason County Extension Office</i>
MCCRACKEN COUNTY October 2, 2018 6:00 p.m. <i>St. John's Knights of Columbus Building</i>
MARSHALL COUNTY September 17, 2018 6:00 p.m. <i>Marshall County Farm Bureau Office</i>
MARTIN COUNTY October 5, 2018 9:00 a.m. <i>Martin County Farm Bureau Office</i>
MENIFEE COUNTY October 1, 2018 6:30 p.m. <i>Cattleman's in Mt. Sterling</i>

MORGAN COUNTY October 18, 2018 6:00 p.m. <i>Martha Caudill Stacy Conference Center</i>
OWEN COUNTY October 12, 2018 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Business meeting at 4:00 p.m. <i>Owen County Farm Bureau Office</i>
PENDLETON COUNTY September 27, 2018 6:30 p.m. <i>Pendleton County Farm Bureau Office</i>
PERRY COUNTY September 11, 2018 6:30 p.m. <i>Perry County Farm Bureau Office, Village Lane</i>
PIKE COUNTY September 20, 2018 6:00 p.m. <i>Hilton Garden Inn, Pikeville</i>
POWELL COUNTY October 9, 2018 7:30 p.m. <i>Powell County Farm Bureau Office</i>
ROWAN COUNTY October, 2, 2018 6:30 p.m. <i>Rowan County Farm Bureau Board Room</i>
RUSSELL COUNTY September 7, 2018 6:00 p.m. <i>Fairgrounds</i>
SCOTT COUNTY September 18, 2018 6:30 p.m. <i>Scott County Extension Office, south room</i>
SHELBY COUNTY October 6, 2018 6:30 p.m. <i>Shelby County Extension Office</i>
SPENCER COUNTY September 24, 2018 7:00 p.m. <i>Spencer County Extension Office</i>
TAYLOR COUNTY September 10, 2018 7:30 p.m. <i>Taylor County Farm Bureau Office</i>
TRIMBLE COUNTY August 16, 2018 6:00 p.m. <i>Extension Office in Bedford</i>
WARREN COUNTY September 22, 2018 5:30 p.m. <i>South Warren High School</i>
WAYNE COUNTY September 24, 2018 6:00 p.m. <i>Aspire Center in Monticello</i>
WHITLEY COUNTY September 11, 2018 6:00 p.m. <i>Brashears Grocery</i>
WOLFE COUNTY October 11, 2018 6:00 p.m. <i>Wolfe County Extension Office</i>
WOODFORD COUNTY October 2, 2018 7:00 p.m. <i>Versailles Baptist Church</i>



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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Comment

COLUMN



The Latest USDA Kentucky Crop Report

Corn planting and development started slowly in 2018, but the crop is maturing near normal. Harvest will be well underway as you are reading this column. Excess moisture and cooler than normal temperatures in April held back planting, but warmer and drier conditions in May put the crop on a normal development path. Silking began in mid-June and finished by the end of the July generally running a few days

earlier than the five-year average. Corn condition was 85 percent good to excellent until mid-July when soil moisture became shorter. The first USDA yield forecast pegged the statewide average at 173 bushels per acre, well above the 30-year trend line.

Soybeans have fared very well in the Commonwealth this year. Condition ratings were well above recent years, as high as 86 percent good to excellent in late June,until the first part of August. High temperatures and lack of moisture were taking a toll on the crop during the first two weeks of August.

August 12, good to excellent ratings had dipped to 70 percent. Rainfall did arrive in time to benefit the crop, but it's too early to know if any yield potential was lost. Development has been running a few days ahead of normal, which means harvest should also begin slightly ahead of normal in September. August 1, growers expected soybeans to average 53 bushels per acre across the state, the same as last year.

Tobacco ratings have remained above normal all season, but yield expectations have been variable. Setting of the seedlings and crop development was very consistent with the last five years. Insect and disease pressure have been lighter than in recent years making this crop slightly easier to manage for growers. Overall, August USDA forecasts are for fewer pounds of tobacco in 2018. Burley tobacco yields were estimated at 1,900 pounds per acre, dark fire-cured 3,200 pounds per and dark air-cured 2,700 pounds per acre.

Forage crops and pasture conditions have been up and down during the growing season. Cool spring temperatures meant that grass growth started slowly, but accelerated with warmer temperatures and adequate moisture. By early August, the lack of moisture and warm temperatures had growth slowing once again.

Forage quantity has been adequate for hay and grazing, but hay quality has been mixed. Frequent rain events, especially across the Bluegrass region, often delayed producers from harvesting hay on time. Sixty-four percent of the harvested hay from the first cutting was rated good to excellent, down from 71 last year. Alfalfa hay yields are expected to be more than 2017, while other hay is expected to yield less. The statewide average yield for alfalfa hay is estimated at 3.7 tons per acres and other hay is forecast to yield 2.2 tons per acre.

Data for this report comes from two sources. Crop progress and condition information is reported by the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service while yield forecasts are based on a survey of producers.

David Knopf

Director, Eastern Mountain Regional Field Office
Nional Agricultural Statistics Service



Miss Kentucky, Katie Bouchard, exhibited the Grand Champion ham in front of a sellout crowd and perspective bidders.

2018 KENTUCKY STATE FAIR BRINGS THE FARM TO THE CITY

The 114th edition featured a \$2.8 million country ham charity auction and plenty of new fair additions

There are many things that are long-time traditions of the Kentucky State Fair (KSF) including Freddy Farm Bureau, the annual Commodity Breakfast, lots of good local foods, numerous livestock shows, The World Championship Horse Show, and the Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) Country Ham Breakfast and Charity Auction, to name a few.

But this year there were new additions to the fair including the gigantic AgLand display, which consisted of more than an acre of agriculture exhibits in the South Wing highlighting Kentucky's farm and field heritage, including the future of farming and agribusiness through 4-H and FFA exhibits.

There was a new location, the South Wing, for a long-time fair tradition, Cloverville, which is a showcase of 4-H exhibits and talents presented by members from across the state. The Championship Drive represented an upgrade to the Sale of Champions and recognized more than 70 4-H and FFA competitors and animals; and a new Fair Board CEO, KFB's former executive vice president David. S. Beck, made his KSF debut in that position.

But even with all the newness, the idea of bringing the farm to the city hasn't changed in the 114 years of existence for the fair.

"The state fair is such a wonderful display of all the things that are great about Kentucky," said KFB President Mark Haney. "From the displays at the Pride of the Counties section, to the new AgLand area that really brings the farm to all visitors, and the many livestock shows which give fair goers a closeup look at the hard work and care devoted toward each animal; the farm really does come to town during these 11 exciting days each year."

A RECORD COUNTRY HAM AUCTION

As has been the case for the last 55 years, one of the biggest and most

anticipated fair events is the KFB Country Ham Breakfast and Charity Auction which kicks off Kentucky Farm Bureau Day. This year's attendance was another sellout as more than 1,500 attendees came to the Kentucky Expo Center's South Wing to hear from local, state and national leaders, to enjoy a Kentucky produced breakfast, and to see the KSF Grand Champion ham auctioned in true Ham Breakfast fashion.

This year, the sellout crowd was treated to one of the most exciting breakfast events in recent memory, culminating with a record charity auction. The KSF Grand Champion country ham was auctioned for a record price of \$2.8 million with Central Bank, and Dr. Mark and Cindy Lynn combining their bids of \$1.4 million each to reach this new record.

Since it began in 1964, the annual auction has raised more than \$13 million for a variety of local charities and nonprofit organizations.

"We came into this auction hoping we could make a difference in the community. We have been blessed and feel fortunate to be able to give back," said Lynn. "The agriculture community is a cornerstone of Kentucky, and the 4-H and FFA play a vital role in creating the future leaders for agriculture and this state. We know the funds from today's auction will benefit those organizations, and we encourage any future donors to contribute to the great work they do."

Luther Deaton, Jr., Chairman, President and CEO of Central Bank, performed the bidding honors for that organization which will send those contributions to the University of Kentucky, the Gatton College of Business, and Keeneland.

"We look forward to the ham breakfast every year because it brings so many well-respected Kentuckians together for a great cause," he said. "Kentucky Farm Bureau always hosts a great event that highlights all that is good about our state."

The 18.77lb ham was produced by Broadbent B & B Foods of Kuttawa, Kentucky, and was auctioned by Kentucky Champion Auctioneer Leon Shirk. This was the 18th time a ham produced by Broadbent has been judged to be the best at the state fair, a record in itself.

In addition to the great food, fellowship and the most amazing charity auction in the country, the Ham Breakfast provides a gathering of KFB members, legislators and ag organization leaders together to hear from state and federal leaders including Kentucky Governor Matt Bevin, Commissioner of Agriculture Ryan Quarles, Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer and a taped message from Senator Mitch McConnell.

"KFB is always grateful to our elected officials who come to this event every year. Our members appreciate the opportunity to hear first-hand from our leaders about public affairs and legislation in Washington and Frankfort that impact them at home. It is a unique opportunity for them to show their support for agriculture in our state," said Haney, who led with remarks to the crowd.

He first thanked everyone for their attendance and support of the event and spoke about KFB's service to the state.

"Service is a word that defines everything we do at Farm Bureau, both in the Federation and the Insurance Company," he said. "We serve our members and our members serve their local communities. It's that culture of service to one another that forms the backbone of Kentucky's economy."

Rounding out Kentucky Farm Bureau Day was the annual Gospel Music Showcase which brought gospel music groups and performers from around the state to compete for the top honors in the contest. This year's winner was Waylon Bayes, representing Johnson County. In addition to performing on stage during the event, he sang at the KFB Picnic which wrapped up KFB Day at this year's Kentucky State Fair.

THE STATE FAIR THROUGH THE EYES OF THE CAMERA

The following photos represent a variety of events held at this year’s Kentucky State Fair



KENTUCKY HAM EXHIBITORS

Broadbent B&B Foods 257 Mary Blue Road Kuttawa, KY 42055	Fathers Country Hams P.O. Box 30 Bremen, KY 42325
Clifty Farm Country Meats 487 Maysville Road Scottsville, KY 42164	Finchville Farms Country Ham P.O. Box 56 Finchville, KY 40022



COMMERCIAL COUNTRY HAM CLASS WINNERS

GRAND CHAMPION
From Class II - Broadbent B & B Foods

CLASS I	Broadbent B & B Foods – Kuttawa, KY
CLASS II	Broadbent B & B Foods – Kuttawa, KY
CLASS III	Finchville Farms – Finchville, KY
CLASS IV	Broadbent B & B Foods – Kuttawa, KY
CLASS V	Broadbent B & B Foods – Kuttawa, KY
CLASS VI	Broadbent B & B Foods – Kuttawa, KY



NON-COMMERCIAL COUNTRY HAM CLASS WINNERS

GRAND CHAMPION
From Class II - Bryan Frogue

CLASS I	Will Reid Gatton – Bremen, KY
CLASS II	Bryan Frogue – Elkton, KY
CLASS III	Bryan Frogue – Elkton, KY
CLASS IV	Will Reid Gatton – Bremen, KY
CLASS V	Will Reid Gatton – Bremen, KY
CLASS VI	Bryan Frogue – Elkton, KY



Winning country ham producers posed with Miss Kentucky, Katie Bouchard, Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles and Kentucky State Fair Board Member David Wallace after judging was completed. Top photo: Ronny Drennan, takes the Grand Champion Commercial Country Ham award. Middle photo: Bryan Frogue is presented the award for the non-commercial Grand Champion ham. Bottom photo: Charlie Gatton accepts the award for Class I non-commercial ham winner for his grandson Will Reid Gatton.



Pictured from left: Lee Pennington, Danny Mabry, Raven Ford, Dylan Bentley and Shawn Bentley.

ROWAN COUNTY 4-H STUDENTS HAMMING IT UP

Country ham project teaches more than just curing

MOREHEAD- Country hams and the Kentucky State Fair just seem to go together. Each year, ham producers from across the state, including many 4-H members, bring their best to the fair looking to be become grand champions.

Rowan County 4-H'ers are among the many ham hopefuls and have participated in a ham curing project for several years. But up until this year have had to share a curing structure with Morgan County students.

With the support of the Rowan County Farm Bureau, those local participating students now have a "ham home" of their own, something that is making participation much easier.

The project, as a whole, teaches students the art of ham curing, but there is so much more to this project, according to Raven Ford, the county 4-H Youth Development Extension Agent.

"The students who take part in this project learn how to cure the ham and they also have to present a speech on different topics, depending on the age group, that is related to the experience," she said. "And thanks to the donation made by the Rowan County Farm Bureau board, a ham house was purchased for the sole purpose of providing a place to cure these hams locally."

The new ham house is located at Morehead State University's Derrickson

Agricultural Complex, also known as the University Farm.

Two hams were purchased by each student last January when they started the curing process with the idea of bringing one ham to the state fair, where they also made their speeches.

"The students were judged on the quality of their ham along with their speech presentation," said Ford. "This year we had 10 students involved which is the most since we began this project."

Of those students, Ford said only one or two came from a farming background. She noted how projects such as this one help students not familiar with agriculture learn more about where their food comes from.

"A lot of times, when you think of 4-H, you think of just that farming student, but we have so many different projects which we offer that reach out to a variety of young people and not just those who have an agriculture background," she said.

In addition to taking a ham to the state fair, later in the year these students will also have an opportunity to participate in a ham auction as a way to teach entrepreneurship.

These students and our young people are our future and we have to teach them. In 100 years, no one will know what we have done here, but if there's something we can do now that will help, it might mean a whole lot to someone today.

– Danny Mabry

"The auction is our goal and in participating in this project, they are working on their communication skills, record keeping, and other life skills they need today," said Ford.

LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS

Ford emphasized the importance of local partnerships when it comes to projects like this one and complemented Rowan County Farm Bureau for helping out in a number of ways to benefit the students there. Danny Mabry, the county Farm Bureau president said upon hearing about this project, he liked the sound of it and wanted to help in any way he and the board could.

"During a budget meeting we decided to purchase the ham house; it was a no-brainer and knew it would help the students while teaching them about agriculture," he said. "I have been vice-chairman of the school board here for 16 years and I love to help out our students."

Mabry said in addition to giving students something positive they can do, learning more about where their food comes from is important for this next generation.

"We've all got to eat and it's important we show these young people how to produce that food. This project is one way to do just that," he said. "These students and our young people are our future and we have to teach them. In 100 years, no one will know what we have

done here, but if there's something we can do now that will help, it might mean a whole lot to someone today."

Lee Pennington, vice president of Rowan County Farm Bureau echoed those sentiments saying it's important to teach this generation about their food sources.

"I think they really need to understand what it takes to actually get that food to the table," he said. "We are Farm Bureau and we try to reach out

to as many people in the county as we can, in different ways and this project is one of those ways. It's what makes our organization unique."

Joe Fraley, the manager at the University Farm said MSU is such a part of the community, it was a natural fit to have the ham house placed at the facility.

"We have a lot of events here at the farm for the youth and even for adults and our ties to the community are critical for us," he said. "We want the people that live here to know that we are trying to do the very best job we can to help them prosper, give them the best education we can, and to put our best foot forward for agriculture in this area."

Fraley, who is also a Rowan County Farm Bureau board member, added that from a community service standpoint, it's a bonus for the school to have these young people on the farm and be involved in the project with 4-H.

THE STUDENT/PARENT PERSPECTIVE

Dylan Bentley is one of the 4-H students taking part in this year's ham curing project, marking his third year of involvement. He first became interested after hearing Ford discuss it on one of her many trips to his school.

"The first year I tried this, I really didn't know what I was doing but I eventually figured it out," he said. "Now I know about applying the seasoning and

spices to the ham in the right way, and really the whole process which is what our speeches are about. I think after doing this I am a better speaker and I certainly know more about curing hams."

Dylan's father, Shawn Bentley is a long-time 4-H volunteer and coordinator of the 4-H outreach program in Rowan County. He said in addition to learning about the hams, the experience of being involved in the organization is extremely important.

"All my children have been involved in 4-H, as I have been nearly all my life, and we have such fond memories of all the activities," he said. "I have often seen family members come when we have volunteer training classes, making it more of a family outing."

Bentley added that it's a good feeling to give back to the community and to see these students and families pass it on.

More than 700 4-H country hams were taken to this year's State Fair demonstrating the popularity of this type of a program not only in Rowan County but through the entire state.

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KFB MEMBERS USE CONGRESSIONAL AUGUST RECESS TO ADVOCATE FOR AGRICULTURE

Traditionally, the month of August has been a time when Congressional members from across the country head home from Washington to visit with their constituency; updating them on matters taking place in the capital, while hearing from those in their states and districts about issues affecting them and their communities.

That was the case for some of Kentucky's delegation, as well. One such meeting took place on the farm of Kentucky Farm Bureau's (KFB) First Vice President Eddie Melton, where members and state ag leaders gathered to hear from Congressman James Comer (KY-01).

"We were excited to have the Congressman on our farm to speak about issues that are vital to agriculture and all of Farm Bureau," said Melton. "It's important to hear about those issues at the federal level from our

lawmakers as well as to keep them informed of our concerns on the farm and in our rural communities. These types of meetings do just that."

Comer spoke on a number of subjects including the Farm Bill. He is

to ensure we have a strong safety net for our farm families," he said. "We also need to give assurances to our ag lenders that federal crop insurance is going to be there, and we need to continue to protect our environment

It's imperative we keep the strong export markets we have and continue to identify new markets.

– Congressman James Comer

currently serving on the conference committee charged with bringing House and Senate versions of the bills that have already been passed.

"If you look at the farm economy today verses five years ago, when the last Farm Bill was written, commodity prices are at historic lows, so we need

with the conservation programs. I think this Farm Bill does that and has a lot to offer agriculture and rural America."

In talking about trade, Comer said all the growth the ag industry has seen over the last decade has been export driven.

"Countries like China, Canada and Mexico continue to increase their populations and their dependence on American agricultural goods, so it's imperative we keep the strong export markets we have and continue to identify new markets," he said. "I believe there are a lot of opportunities in African and Asian countries and I believe we need to capitalize on those markets before our competitors do."

KFB President Mark Haney said one of the most important things the organization can do for its members is to be an advocate for them at all levels of government.

"The only way you can effectively do that is to build relationships and we've always had a wonderful relationship with Congressman Comer from the time he began serving in the state legislature to agriculture commissioner, and it continues today as he represents us in Washington," he said.

Haney added that during this time when the Farm Bill has made it to the conference committee stage, it is important to continue the dialogue with Congressional leaders like Comer to express concerns and to hear what they have to say. Meetings like the one held on the Melton farm, he added, help provide those opportunities.



EPA Acting Administrator talked about issues during a roundtable discussion with Kentucky agricultural leaders.

EPA ACTING ADMINISTRATOR WHEELER VISITS KENTUCKY AND THE STATE FAIR

Kentucky ag leaders discuss issues during roundtable meeting

Among the many visitors who made their way to this year's Kentucky State Fair was U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler, who met with a host of state agricultural leaders to discuss issues related to farm families across the state.

During a roundtable discussion, Wheeler talked about an array of matters connected to his agency and answered many questions from those attending, including Kentucky Farm Bureau leadership and Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles.

KFB President Mark Haney explained to Wheeler how unique Kentucky agriculture is, and the unification that exist here between ag organizations.

"We are a unified, collective agriculture community and we have a great working relationship with our regulatory agencies," he said. "We find it refreshing when we can sit down to in Washington, particularly the agency you now oversee. We sometimes have issues, but we feel confident that you and those you work with will give an open door to us to talk about those issues."

Farmers are great stewards of the land and are not trying to hurt the land. They just want certainty from the federal government.

– Andrew Wheeler
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator.

discuss issues with a regulatory person here in Kentucky who is willing to help us in every way they can. And we feel the same way about the administration

Wheeler said, in traveling around the country, it's important for him to hear about the things that are affecting farm and rural communities.

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Eastern Kentucky University's Meadowbrook Farm.

KENTUCKY DAIRIES: FINDING A BULL IN A BEAR MARKET

Being in the agriculture industry can be likened to participating in the stock market; there are highs and lows that have to be endured at any given time. Weathering the storms and relishing the bull markets, when they occur, are certainly part of being a farmer.

In the not so distant past, corn prices reached record highs of over \$8.00 a bushel, while cattle and milk prices soared to their own respective record levels in 2014. For those producers who have ridden the ag-market roller coaster for an extended period of time, they likely knew those high prices would experience a market correction.

However, the bearish price environment most farm families are living through now has lasted too long and some producers are having to make hard decisions about their operations as a slow ag economy continues to hang on.

Hit particularly hard are some dairy producers, especially smaller operations in the southeast. With the announcement from Dean Foods earlier this year that it was pulling the plug on some of its producers in the Louisville region, many of the affected dairies were left scrambling for answers as renewed attention has been focused on the industry as a whole.

Dr. John Newton, the chief economist with the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF), said much of what is happening now is market driven.

"Since 2014, when we had record high milk prices across the country, exports and consumption have slowed while milk production in the U.S. continues to set new records. As a result, we've seen milk prices come down quite a bit, by about 50 percent," he said. "Around the globe, there is just much more milk and milk solids, a situation that has created a really depressing milk-price environment relative to what we saw in 2014," he said.

Newton pointed out, domestically there is a decline in fluid milk consumption which is causing some milk plants to close and in the south, adding to the challenges of dairies due to these closings.

"There have been a lot of dairy farmers really hurt by the closing of some of the Dean plants in the Southeast and those closings are a reality of the dairy industry today," he said.

In facing that reality while the industry is experiencing this bear market, there are some glimmers of hope. Dairy producers are more efficient than ever before thanks in part to enhance practices and modern technological advances including the use of robotics for milking. Another area that provides opportunity for dairy producers is that of diversity.

BEING PROACTIVE

Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) and AFBF have also been involved in

discussions and program implementation that will help dairy farmers here and across the country.

AFBF recently announced a program known as Dairy Revenue Protection (Dairy RP), which is an area-based revenue product designed to insure against unexpected declines in the quarterly revenue from milk sales relative to a guaranteed coverage level.

The program would protect dairy farmers against quarterly revenue losses caused by declines in the value of milk or milk components, or unexpected declines in milk production, according to information from AFBF.

"We recognized that there are dairy farms of all sizes," said Newton. "We wanted to make a program that would work for small, medium and large dairies. So there absolutely is no cap on how much milk you can insure under the Dairy Revenue Protection Program."

Newton added that policies will be available in October.

KFB President Mark Haney said this new program from AFBF is one more tool in the safety net tool box for farmers.

"We know how important it is to have adequate insurance on our crops, and dairy is no different," he said. "This new risk management program is designed to work much like other existing programs to give dairy producers some stability while we navigate through this current market environment."

INVESTING IN OPPORTUNITIES

Kentucky has been a leader in on-farm diversity thanks in large part to the contributions made by the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund. Warren Beeler, executive director of the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy (GOAP), the agency that oversees the fund, said the investment of Master Settlement dollars in the state's ag sector, including the dairy industry, has been a game changer for many farmers, even in the midst of a slow ag economy.

"There's no doubt about it, our dairy farm families are having a tough time but we have made great strides in this state to make sure, to the best of our ability, that our dairy industry remains sustainable," he said. "A key contributor to that is the Kentucky Dairy Development Council (KDDC), which has made a difference during trying times for Kentucky's dairy industry."

Beeler added that the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund (KADF) is proud to support the efforts of KDDC and noted the improvements seen over the last several years in the industry.

"Investments in the MILK (Market Incentive Leadership of Kentucky) Program resulted in production levels increasing from 13,000 to 18,000 pounds per cow per year," he said. "Today, that program focuses on incentivizing milk quality while partnering with processors."

In addition, the KDDC has established educational programs that promote conservation to help farmers produce at the highest level while being great stewards of the land, water and caretakers of the cows.

In recognizing the diversity piece of the dairy puzzle, Beeler pointed out the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board (KADB) has funded value-added projects that sell such products as cheese and privately bottled milk.

Diversity including value added products can help but creating a premium product is high on the list of KDDC Executive Director Maury Cox. He acknowledges that there is much to do to make the dairy industry in Kentucky better and more sustainable.

"The market can be a cruel thing and I wish there were some clear cut answers to some of the tough issues our dairy producers are facing right now," he said. "But our farmers will have

to continue to produce the best quality milk they can to get any particular premiums that are available."

Cox emphasized that the KDDC is working with dairy producers to help in their efforts to get the best premium product they can and pointed out that they are doing more with less than they've ever done before.

Cox also said that while it is true the consumption of fluid milk has declined, the actual overall consumption of dairy products is up and that decline in dairy exports was not evident in the first half of this year.

"In the first six months of 2018, we had the highest exports of dairy products ever," he said. "Sometimes we don't hear some of the other positive things that are going on."

Cox added that there are issues that need to be addressed within the dairy industry that can help small producers. But when producers work together, and with help from organizations such as the KDDC, the Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development (KCARD) to assist with business plans, and state universities, there are programs and possibilities available to dairy producers.

"A lot of people have said that dairy is dead in Kentucky. But I simply do not buy in to that philosophy," he said.

THE LEARNING COMPONENT

As is the case in most farming endeavors, education plays a major role in helping those in the industry and those looking to get in. Eastern Kentucky University's (EKU) Meadowbrook Farm has long been a part of that educational piece of the puzzle, especially when it comes to dairy.

Andrea Sexten, an EKU associate professor in agriculture, specializing in animal science, said the farm provides a hands-on experience for their students, something that is important especially for those who are not coming into the program with a farming background.

"As is the case across the country, we have more and more students who have fewer ties to agriculture so we use this farm to apply what we learn in the classroom, and for us that is essential to the learning process," she said.

In furthering that learning process, Sexten said it's important to help students

understand their food sources and the nutritional value of their food not only for their benefit but for their advocacy effects in helping others to learn the same.

"One of the things we do here at the dairy is, we have a fall dairy show, not only for our ag students but students across campus," she said. "They get to come to the farm and take care of a dairy calf for a month in preparation for the show and some of these students have never touch a livestock animal before."

In doing so, Sexten said many of these students realize they can indeed take care of the animals and it begins an interest, that for many may not have otherwise discovered this experience.

But there is more to a farm than just caring for the animals. Sexten pointed out that Meadowbrook is a working farm with a budget to meet.

"We don't teach anything that is not economically efficient and our goal is to teach and show students different ways of doing things related to that, as well as being up to date with industry standards," she said.

One of those up to date standards includes a robotic milker that not only makes the dairy more efficient, but collects invaluable data on each cow giving the students/farmers information that would not have been available to them just a few years ago.

"The use of technology in agriculture is increasing drastically and with the addition of the robot we are doing much more data analysis," said Sexten. "We now have lots of information and we are looking at how we make that usable for our producers."

As part of their hands-on experience, EKU students are doing just that; looking for ways to take this information and turn it into tools to use on the farm, and to get that information out to the community.

Dairy farming is hard and demanding work but Sexten said she still sees students wanting to go into the business in one form or another, either by continuing a family tradition or by finding their passion by coming into the EKU program.

"The idea and joy of caring for another living thing and producing something that will help feed the population has a real appeal to it, and we are finding students that still want to do this," she said.

COUNTY CORNER

Snapshots of County Farm Bureau activities



HARRISON COUNTY

Dustin and Jama Rose pose with this hood which came off of a '57 Chevy pickup truck. It was displayed at the Harrison County Fair to bring attention to the dangers of texting while driving. Dustin is the Harrison County agency manager. Also at the fair was Lana Bruce from Air Evac, helping to promote member services.



BOURBON COUNTY

Bourbon County Farm Bureau's Young Farmer event at Shawhan Place Farm in Paris, Ky.



CAMPBELL COUNTY

The Campbell County Farm Bureau Board heard from Congressman Massie during an August recess meeting held August 8 at Neltner's Farm.



KNOX COUNTY

Around 1500 people enjoyed the Knox County 2018 Ag Day held at the new Knox County Extension Pavilion earlier this year..



OHIO COUNTY

The Ohio County Farm Bureau annual meeting included many state and local leaders including the Kentucky Farm Bureau Executive Committee.



HANCOCK COUNTY

Hancock County Farm Bureau hosted a "Meet the Candidate" event at the Hancock County Fair.



WOLFE COUNTY

Wolfe County Farm Bureau participated with Warren Beeler for the ceremonial ribbon cutting to open the Wolfe County Showcase Pavilion.



MARTIN COUNTY

Pictured are members of Martin County Farm Bureau making a donation to the local fire department.

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MARKETS

CHINA SOYBEAN IMPORTS TO DROP FIRST TIME IN 15 YEARS

While China's 2017/18 soybean imports are still forecast to be the highest on record at 96.0 million (metric) tons, USDA, according to their August "Oil Crops Outlook", forecast China's imports will fall to 95.0 million tons in 2018/19 -- the first annual drop since 2003/04. By early July, the cost of soybean imports in China spiked after its government raised import tariffs on U.S. soybeans by 25 percentage points. Also, import costs have risen since April from a 10-percent decline in the value of China's currency (the renminbi) versus the U.S. dollar. Consequently, soybean crush margins in China have narrowed. The recent declines in Chinese soybean use led USDA to trim its 2017/18 crush forecast by one million tons to 91 million. Cumulative imports for October 2017-July 2018 were virtually even with the year-earlier level at 77 million tons. USDA's 2017/18 forecast of the country's soybean imports is 96 million, versus 93.5 million for 2016/17. Similar market conditions could persist into 2018/19. Thus, the expectation of next season's soybean crush is also scaled back to 95 million tons due to slightly lower projected growth in soybean meal consumption. However, total domestic soybean use in China is expected to increase by five percent to

112.1 million tons. Half of this increase will be achieved by using carryover stocks; 2018/19 season-ending stocks are forecast at 20.8 million tons, down from 23.5 million in 2017/18, but nearly equal to 20.4 million in 2016/17. By comparison, the U.S. 2018/19 ending soybean stocks are forecast to soar to a record-large 21.35 million tons (785 million bushels) from 11.69 million this year.

TOBACCO PRODUCTION CUT BY LOWER ACRES AND YIELDS

USDA reported that Kentucky **burley tobacco** production is forecast at 105 million pounds, down 19 percent from 2017. Yield is projected at 1,900 pounds per acre, down 150 pounds from the 2017 crop. Harvested acreage is estimated at 55,000 acres, down 8,000 acres from last year's crop. For U.S. burley producing states, production is forecast at 133 million pounds, down 17 percent from last year. Yields are expected to average 1,905 pounds per acre, down 72 pounds from last year. Production of Kentucky **dark fire-cured tobacco** is forecast at 35.2 million pounds, down seven percent from 2017. Kentucky's average 2018 yield is forecast at 3,200 pounds per acre, compared to 3,300 pounds in Kentucky last season and 3,029 pounds for the U.S. this year. The

U.S. production forecast for dark fire-cured tobacco is 54.8 million pounds, or eight percent less than last year. **Dark air-cured tobacco** production in the state is forecast at 16.2 million pounds, unchanged from last year -- both yield and harvested acreage are identical to 2017's. U.S. estimated production, at 19.65 million pounds, is 0.55 million pounds below last year.

CATTLE ON FEED: RECORD HIGH NUMBER FOR AUGUST

USDA's recent Cattle on Feed report stated that the number of cattle and calves on feed for the beef market, in U.S. feedlots with a capacity of 1,000 or more head, totaled 11.1 million head on August 1, 2018. The inventory was five percent above August 1, 2017. This is the highest August 1 inventory since the series began in 1996. The July 1 inventory was also the largest for the month of July. Placements in feedlots during July totaled 1.74 million head, eight percent above 2017 and the most placed in July since 2012. Marketings of fed cattle during July totaled 1.87 million head, five percent above 2017. The big jump in fed cattle marketings pushed frozen beef inventories (attributed to boneless beef) to 485 million pounds, a new record high for July, according to the USDA Cold Storage report.



KFB STUDIOS WINS THREE EMMY® AWARDS

Kentucky Farm Bureau Studios earned three Emmy® Awards during the 54th Annual Ohio Valley Regional Emmy Awards. KFB Studios produces Bluegrass & Backroads, a show which highlights the culture and charm of Kentucky on RFD-TV and Kentucky Educational Television weekly. The studio also produces videos for KFB as well.

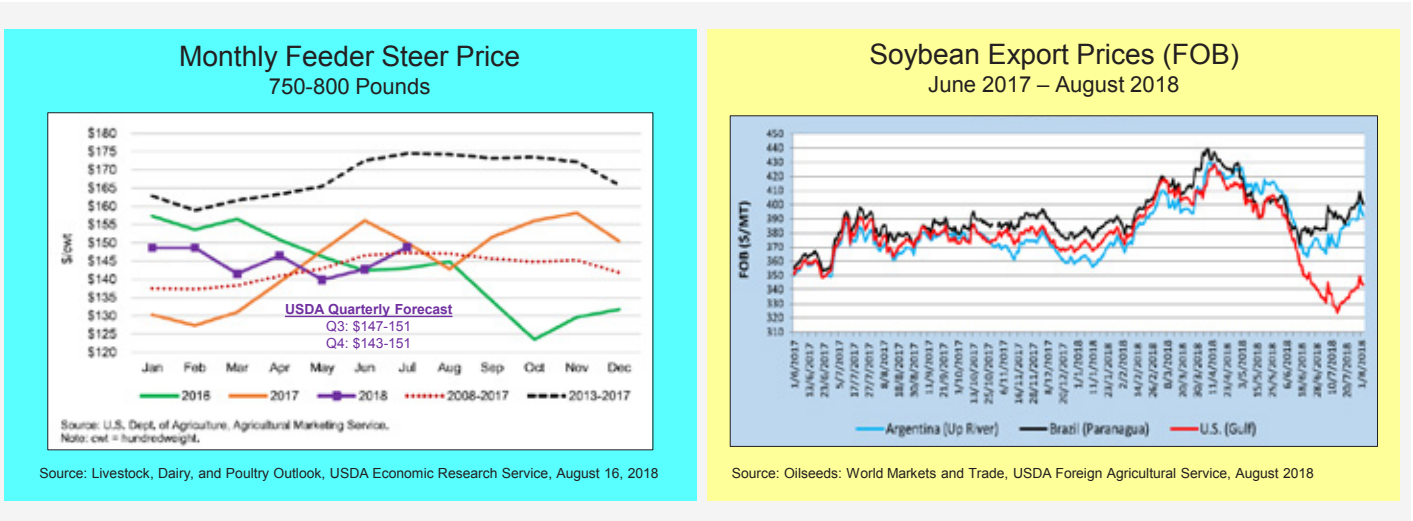
The winning entries are as follows:

- Photographer - Short Form Kentucky Farm Bureau Lead Where You Stand, Kentucky Farm Bureau Studios - Matt Hilton, Austin Anderson
- Military - Program Bluegrass & Backroads - Bluegrass Honor Flight, Kentucky Farm Bureau Studios - Matt Hilton, Austin Anderson

- Magazine Feature/Segment Bluegrass & Backroads - Hope Scarves, Kentucky Farm Bureau Studios - Matt Hilton

Matt Hilton has been nominated for 25 Emmy® Awards and has now

won six. Austin Anderson has been nominated for eight and has won two. You can see more work by KFB Studios on Kentucky Farm Bureau's YouTube page at kyfb.com/youtube.



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CANDID CONVERSATION



Tommy Yankey, left, discusses an issue with Anderson County farmer Buddy Smith.

KFB Candid Conversation presents a discussion about the topical issues facing the agricultural industry and rural communities in a question and answer format. In this column, Anderson County's University of Kentucky (UK) College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources

Tommy Yankey talks about his long career and the many good things that come from the extension program.

Would you share with our readers a little history about yourself and how you began your career in extension?

I grew up in the little Washington County community of Mackville on a

small dairy and tobacco farm. I love agriculture with a passion so when I graduated from UK, I knew what I wanted to do and went to work for extension right out of college. I am currently working on my 38th year and have spent those years in four different counties; Martin, for more than three years; Carter for four and a half years; Casey where I stayed for

13 years; and Anderson, where I have been for 17 years. I just retired the last day of July but I'm working now on a year-by-year contract in post-retirement because I love what I do. I love helping people and I think it is what the Lord called me to do.

What are some of the highlights over your 38-year career in agriculture and extension?

I've seen a lot of things change in my time here but I guess the highlight of my career came with Dr. Gary Palmer. We did all of the early work on developing the float system for tobacco transplants. We had more bells and whistle and gauges and monitors set up to record things like temperatures and humidity, trying to learn all we could. I was the first county agent in the state to directly seed to an outside float bed without the use of a greenhouse. Tobacco was still king then and the idea really exploded back then. We totally transformed the tobacco industry at that time. But times have changed. One thing that helps with those changes is I do many on farm demonstrations. I think they are a most effective teaching tool. Probably my most proud accomplishment now, is with Dr. Les Anderson and the Beef IRM Program.

Is it surprising to you in any way that Kentucky has become such a leader in beef cattle production?

Through programs supported by the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy, we've really changed the reputation of Kentucky cattle, and I guess, in a way that is somewhat surprising. But we have really made rapid change in the beef industry over the last 15 to 18 years, since those GOAP programs have been in existence. And we have an outstanding animal science department at UK and our extension specialists are second to none, in my opinion. We have approached the cattle business in a holistic way having a nutritionist, a vaccine protocol, a genetic specialist and a reproductive specialist. We all sit down and look what is being done on an individual's farm and discuss what changes need

to be made first to get that producer to the next level.

Getting to that next level is really important for producers especially young farmers. What are your thoughts about that?

I tell people we are changing lives, one farm family at a time. That's how we make the changes and that's where your support is at. I still tell young agents their support is out on the farm. Those farmers want to know, when I visit them, if I know what black shank looks like on tobacco and if there is a control. They want to know if they have alternaria in their tomatoes and how they combat it. Some things you can just better diagnose in person because different people will call something by different names even though it is the same. So, you have to get out there with them in order to help make them better.

Do you have a certain philosophy about what you do and how you work with so many different situations on the farm?

I have a couple of philosophies. First, I truly believe that when clientele come in the door, they can tell within the first minute whether I sincerely want to help them or whether I can't get them back out the door quick enough. I think they can see your sincerity. Secondly, and I got this out of a Readers Digest and adopted it as my life's motto as a very young agent; people want to know how much you care before they care how much you know. Farmers know I don't have all the answers. They hope I have a lot but I can't be a specialist in

every area. But I know the people to go to, to get the answers. Compassion and concern will take you a long way with people.

UK has quite a comprehensive extension program that is there to help farm families as well as those not on the farm. Your comments?

As extension agents, we get to wear many hats and extension has something for everyone. Having offices in all of our counties makes us very exceptional, especially as we have seen budget cuts in a number of states in the last 10 years. Many of those states have practically decimated their extension service. So what Dean Cox has been able to preserve here is truly unique and we have a lot to offer to everyone.

Do you still learn new things after all these years?

In many cases, I learn more from the farmers than they learn from me so I am able to pass that along to other people. Farmers are really smart people. They're deep thinkers and very innovative, and I pick up lots of ideas from them. And I have found that no matter where you farm, producers have a lot of similarities. I am proud to say that our local Cattlemen's Association has visited all 50 states during the annual trips we take. In doing so, we have seen all types of farms and learned things we could bring back to our own operations. In this state we see our commodity groups, our ag organizations and our universities all work together well which makes agriculture stronger. We learn more and accomplish more when we are all on the same page.

2018 ANDERSON COUNTY FARM BUREAU SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

- Adam Sanderson, Austin Thornberry, and Ben Tinsley – **\$2,000 each**
- Timothy Rogers – **\$1,500**

AMERICAN FARM BUREAU: TRADE PROGRESS WITH MEXICO IS A GOOD START

The following statement regarding the announcement of trade progress with Mexico can be attributed to American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall:

“Farmers and ranchers are ready to move forward on trade with our nearest neighbors. Farm Bureau is excited

about this announcement and will review the details of the Mexican trade deal as they become available.”

“Based on the gains both sides have seen with NAFTA, we expect this new ‘U.S.-Mexico Preliminary Agreement in Principle’ to build on that success for our farmers and ranchers. No trade

deal is perfect, however. There is room for improvement, especially in provisions that affect U.S. fruit and vegetable growers, and we will continue to call for a resolution to those issues and a final deal that works for all of agriculture.”

“This is the kind of trade news we have been waiting for. In a time when the U.S. economy is booming our farmers have been left behind. Open markets and good trade agreements will give American agriculture the opportunity to be a part of this booming economy. So we encourage the Administration to keep moving forward with Canada to address their anticompetitive milk pricing provisions. We need negotiators to convince Canadian officials that they, too, will benefit from a revised treaty. We are hopeful that the value of a continued and improved NAFTA for all will bring everyone back to the negotiating table.

“We are grateful for progress with Mexico, but there is still a lot of work to do outside of North America and we can’t stop here. We also need to resolve our trade issues with China to create better opportunities for American farmers and ranchers there. We look forward to working with the Administration to strengthen agricultural exports in new and existing markets around the world.”

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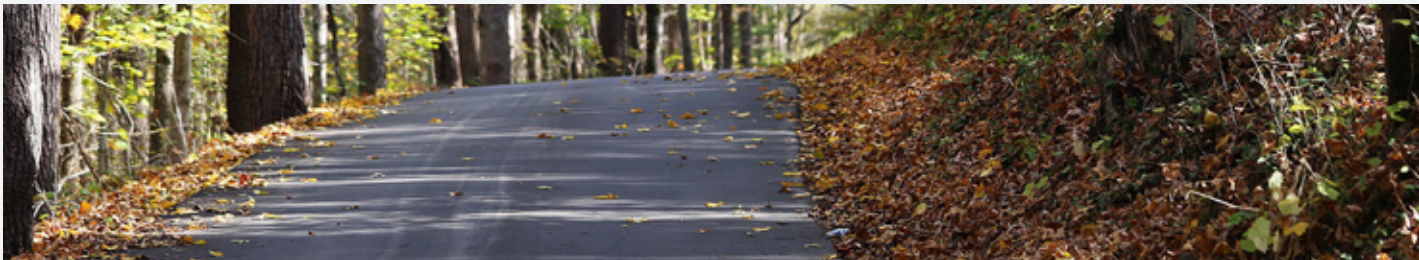
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BROWN'S FARM FRESH PRODUCE				Hodgenville	hintonsorchard.com	270-325-3854	Burlington	KINMAN FARMS					
BRUMFIELD FARM MARKET				Elizabethtown	hintonsorchard.com	270-360-0644	Hebron	MCGLOSSON FARMS					
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Down the Backroads

By Tim Thornberry

Throughout my life I have been blessed to have many great teachers; not only those found in schools and universities but those who have been a part of my life in other ways for one reason or another. And I must admit, I learned just as much from the “school of life” instructors as I did from the wonderful, traditional classroom teachers I had.

My parents were my first educators, as is the case for most people. Their lessons of what is right and what is wrong remain invaluable to me today. They taught me to be a decent human

being, and I try to fulfill that mission... most days.

Then there was my first newspaper editor who gave me the chance to be a sports writer. I loved that job for a lot of reasons, but mostly because I learned about firm deadlines and how to multi-task. Not only did I do the write-ups but I took the photos, as well. And in those days of film and a journalist notepad instead of digital recorders, there was a lot going on, from my perspective, during each sporting event I covered.

Another example of a great life teacher for me was a former

communications director I worked with during my tenure in public education. He taught me several things about the art of communicating for a large state government agency but most of all, he allowed me to learn. What I mean by that is, he encouraged me to bring forth my own ideas and then he would coach me on how to make those ideas a reality.

Some of my fondest memories however, are that of a former neighbor. She was a 90-year-old lady named Mrs. Geiger. She sat on her front porch most days, weather permitting, and always invited me over for a chat if she saw me out.

During our many talks, she told me of a time-gone-by in our little town; what it was like when horse-drawn carriages and the railroad were the main forms of transportation. She told me much about some of the people who lived along main street during those days and the kinds of businesses located there. She remembered her parents well and spoke fondly of them, especially her father who was a local school teacher.

I could see her re-living each moment she recalled during our discussions and I could tell how happy those memories made her. I not only learned some forgotten history about our hometown, but I learned how important it is to cherish those memories. More than anything else though, she taught me to listen, not because I had to but because I wanted to.

I still find myself surrounded by wonderful teachers, whether they realize it or not, and I can honestly say there are few days I don't learn something new. I'm thankful for all the teachers I have had, and those yet to come, as I travel down the backroads.



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