

Kentucky

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MENTORING A NEW DAIRY GENERATION

STRESS ON THE FARM & IN RURAL AMERICA

ACKNOWLEDGING ITS EXISTENCE
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COMBATING THIS ISSUE

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KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU NEWS
Volume 18 | No. 5
June - July 2019

President's

COLUMN



CONTENTS

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN	3
COMMENT COLUMN	5
WILL YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE FLY?	8
2017 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE DATA HIGHLIGHTS	12
GREENUP COUNTY AG COLORING BOOK	16
KFB STUDIOS GET MULTIPLE EMMY NOMINATIONS	19
STRESS ON THE FARM AND IN RURAL AMERICA	20
MENTORING A NEW DAIRY GENERATION	24
CANDID CONVERSATION	26
COUNTY CORNER	28
DOWN THE BACKROADS	30

In many respects, the world was a much different place in the year 1919 than it is today. Dial telephones were first being introduced, the cost of a postage stamp rose to three cents, a pound of apples cost 11cents, and Babe Ruth was sent to the New York Yankees from the Boston Red Sox for \$125,000, the highest amount ever paid for a baseball player, at that time.

Here in Kentucky, it was the birth-year for Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB). The organization was created to serve as a voice for farm families across this Commonwealth. And while so much has changed since those days, this organization still stands for those farm families and the agriculture industry, just as it did 100 years ago.

Today, KFB is the largest agriculture advocacy organization in this state and the fourth largest Farm Bureau in the country. In addition, the KFB Insurance Company, our biggest and most familiar member benefit, has grown to be the largest writer of insurance in Kentucky.

We are proud of these accomplishments, and at the heart of what we do is serve our members to the best of our ability. But for many receiving this issue of the KFB News, you aren't familiar with the agriculture industry.

When this organization first started, farmers made up nearly 30 percent of the labor force. Today, that percentage had dropped to around two percent. So, it might be easy to think that our advocacy efforts don't really affect you.

However, we all have a vested interest in farming because we all have to eat. No matter your food choices, a farmer, somewhere, grew the food you are enjoying. In fact, one U.S. farm feeds 165 people annually in the U.S. and abroad.

And with the global population expected to increase to 9.7 billion by 2050, the world's farmers will have to grow about 70 percent more food than what is now produced.

By the way, we'll be doing this on much less acreage than we did in 1919. Advances in technology have helped farmers become more productive and more sustainable, using fewer natural resources than ever before.

But continual advocacy efforts at the local, state and national levels must be made to keep our agriculture industry vibrant and able to meet the demands of this ever-growing population. Since its start, KFB has supported many laws and regulations originally created to help farm families and rural communities, and along the way, many of these laws have proven to be beneficial to all Kentuckians.

From the preservation of farmland, to the support of rural road fund allocations, to legislation pertaining to limits on annual revenue from property taxes which benefits all property owners, rural and urban; KFB has led the way to make life better on the farm, ultimately paving the way for a better way of life throughout the state.

And these are just a few examples of the work our organization has done to help all Kentucky citizens. A day doesn't pass that we aren't looking for new and better ways to make this state we call home, a better place.

The last century has brought monumental changes in our society, on the farm and off, and KFB plans to be around for the next 100 years to continue its mission to benefit generations to come.

Mark Haney
President
Kentucky Farm Bureau

Cover photo by Tim Thornberry
In honor of the Fourth of July holiday, our American flag can be found throughout rural Kentucky in a variety of places.

Kentucky Farm Bureau News is published ten times per year. Combined issues for December-January and June-July are sent to all members. The remaining eight issues go to regular members. Bulk postage rate paid at Lebanon Junction, Ky. Changes in address should be mailed to KFB Communications Division, PO Box 20700, Louisville, Ky. 40250.

All advertising accepted subject to publisher's approval. Advertisers must assume liability of content of their advertising.
For rates and information call 1.800.798.2691

2019 COUNTY ANNUAL MEETINGS

All times are local

Anderson County

October 14, 2019, 5:30 p.m.
Eagle Lake Convention Center

Barren County

September 14, 2019, 6:00 p.m.
Cave City Convention Center

Boone County

October 8, 2019, 6:00 p.m.
Boone County Extension
Enrichment Center

Bourbon County

October 10, 2019, 6:30 p.m.
Legion Park

Bracken County

October 8, 2019, 6:30 p.m.
Extension Office Brooksville

Breckinridge County

September 3, 2019, 6:00 p.m.
Breckinridge County Extension Office

Bullitt County

September 21, 2019, 6:00 p.m.
Bullitt County Extension Office

Butler County

September 10, 2019, 6:30 p.m.
Eva J. Hawes Building, Morgantown

Campbell County

September 22, 2019, 4:00 p.m.
Neltner Farm, Cold Spring

Carlisle County

August 8, 2019 6:00 p.m.
Carlisle County U K Extension Office

Christian County

June 27, 2019
Youth Contest 5:00 p.m.
Business Meeting 6:00 p.m.
WKSF Convention Center

Cumberland County

September 27, 2019, 6:00 p.m.
Veterans Memorial Building, Burkesville

Daviess County

August 13, 2019 5:00 p.m.
Reid's Orchard

Fayette County

October 15, 2019, 6:30 p.m.
Fayette County Cooperative Extension office

Fleming County

August 7, 2019, 1:00 p.m.
RECC Building, Flemingsburg

Grant County

September 13, 2019, 6:00 p.m.
Alpine Dairy Farm, Dry Ridge

Hancock County

September 5, 2019, 6:00 p.m.
Hancock County Fairgrounds

Henderson County

July 27, 2019, 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Archery Center

Continued on pg. 14

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Comment

COLUMN



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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Hello Kentucky Farm Bureau Members! I am Gloria Bolin the Kentucky State 4-H President. As a lifelong 4-H member, I am excited to share with you about the 4-H program itself, opportunities for youth development, and the diversity of the 4-H program.

In 1914, Congress formed the Cooperative Extension Service and 4-H clubs were part of this program. The first 4-H clubs in Kentucky consisted of agriculture programs to teach rural youth new agriculture and health techniques. 4-H has always worked to educate and develop local young people into leaders. As the 4-H program continued to develop, the clubs shifted to focus on the personal growth of the members. 4-H uses hands-on experiences to teach new skills. A few of the program methods used are community clubs, school enrichment, camping, and special groups. This organization impacts communities across the state by developing youth into confident leaders.

Through the 4-H program, members are provided with endless opportunities to learn and grow in their professional and life skills. Programs such as the speech, demonstration, and interview contests help to cultivate their public speaking skills. In the clubs, members are able to hold officer positions which teach them leadership and delegation skills. Being involved in specific 4-H programs, youth also become confident and knowledgeable on subjects such as livestock, civics, and textiles. As 4-Hers continue in these programs, they begin mentoring new members which allows them to teach and encourage youth in the programs. Assisting these youth in developing these important life skills not only benefits them, but it also benefits communities and the state by developing our future leaders.

As times have changed, so has 4-H in an effort to keep youth interested and to assist them with their changing needs and interests. By continuing to grow, Kentucky 4-H has created diverse programs, which can be of interest to anyone. 4-H has many programs that fall into core content areas. These areas are Agriculture, Health, Communications, Natural Resources, Leadership, Family and Consumer Sciences, and Science Engineering and Technology.

Maintaining livestock and crop programs, 4-H created initiatives such as National Youth Science Day, Issues Conference, and the International Exchange Program. All of these and others allow Kentucky students to explore unique interests and learn about new topics. Through 4-H, members explore new programs and learn new skills with an open mind, which allows them to learn confidently. Youth are not the only ones who benefit from these opportunities. Parents, adults, and volunteers are able to mentor these young people in their communities and become positive role models for youth to look up to.

Today 4-H is the largest out-of-school program in the U.S., both in rural and urban areas throughout the nation. The Kentucky 4-H program continues to impact and develop youth into strong and confident leaders. I look forward to seeing the positive impact this organization will continue to have on young people across the U.S. I hope you will encourage the youth you know to explore the programs in 4-H!

Gloria Bolin
President
Kentucky State 4-H



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Kentucky's new Voluntary Travel ID launches this summer

In 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."

Travelers looking to board U.S. domestic flights and access restricted federal facilities – like a Kentucky military base or the White House– will no longer be able to use their current driver's license once REAL ID enforcement starts October 1, 2020. If you don't want to use a federally-issued document, such as a passport, for air travel and federal access benefits, you'll want Kentucky's new Voluntary Travel ID that doubles as a driver's license and REAL ID compliant card. The new card version is coming to Circuit Court Clerk offices in counties across Kentucky this summer.

But before you head to your local Circuit Court Clerk's office to get a new ID, there are a few things to know. First, check with your local office to make sure they are issuing these ID's before you make the trip, as dates get finalized for when each county will begin offering the cards.

Next, there are a few things you will need to present to get a new Voluntary Travel ID, including one proof of identity such as a birth certificate, passport, or a permanent resident card, etc. You will also need two proofs of residency, such as a utility bill or salary statement less than 61 days old. In addition to these, you will need one proof of social security, such as a non-laminated social security card or your most recent W-2 displaying your full, printed social security number.

“ Gathering, replacing and updating required documents can spare applicants from repeat trips to Circuit Court Clerk offices.”

**-Kentucky Association of Circuit Court Clerks
President Greg Helton**

“Now is the time to collect documents like a certified birth certificate or request a social security card that reflects your current legal name.”

Department of Vehicle Regulation Commissioner Matt Henderson said current Kentucky licenses, permits and IDs will remain valid until their expiration date, so cardholders may wait to request one of the new card versions until they are within their renewal period.

“Those seeking a Voluntary Travel ID but whose six-month renewal window doesn't allow them to renew before the October 2020 deadline can visit their local Circuit Court Clerk office and pay \$15 to upgrade their current credential to a Voluntary Travel ID that maintains their current card's expiration date,” he added.

Another major change applicants can expect once the new card version is available in the county is they will no longer walk away from clerk offices with the new license. Cards will be mailed to applicants five to ten business days later and clerks will issue a 30-day temporary document that serves as a driving credential and receipt. A four-year Voluntary Travel ID is \$24 and an eight-year Voluntary Travel ID is \$48.

More information can be found at drive.ky.gov/confidentky.

Kentucky VOLUNTARY TRAVEL ID		Kentucky STANDARD CREDENTIAL
✓	 Driving (licenses, permits)	✓
✓	 Voting	✓
✓	 Age-restricted purchases	✓
✓	 Accessing federal and social benefits (Social Security offices, VA hospitals, etc.)	✓
✓	 U.S. air travel (Beginning Oct. 1, 2020)	✗
✓	 Visiting military bases and restricted federal facilities (Beginning Oct. 1, 2020)	✗

One (1) proof of identity



Original/certified birth certificate, passport, permanent resident card, etc. (Applicants under 18 must provide a birth certificate.)

Two (2)* proofs of residency



Utility bill, salary statement, etc. Must be less than 61 days old. (*One proof needed for new standard.)

One (1) proof of Social Security



Non-laminated Social Security card. (Current tax year W-2 with non-handwritten Social Security number also acceptable.)



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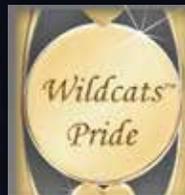
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In Kentucky, being grassroots is fertile ground for success.

With more than 70,000 family farms in Kentucky, agriculture is a vital part of the Commonwealth's culture, values and economy. Every year, farm families work together at the grassroots level to identify shared challenges and achieve common goals. Kentucky Farm Bureau reflects these challenges and goals in our policies, and we're proud to advocate for farmers across the state in everything we do. Why Farm Bureau? Because Kentucky's success depends on improved farm income, better economic opportunities, and enhanced quality of life for all.



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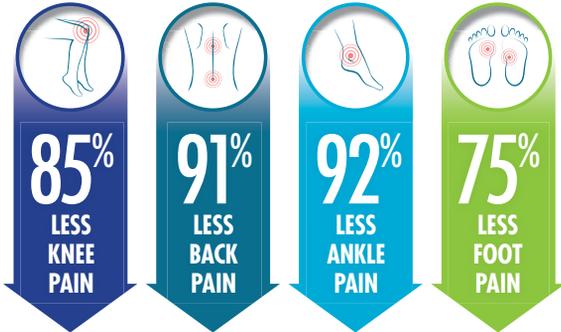
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2017 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE DATA HIGHLIGHTS

Nationally:

- There are 2.04 million farms and ranches (down 3.2 percent from 2012) with an average size of 441 acres (up 1.6 percent) on 900 million acres (down 1.6 percent).
- Farm expenses are \$326 billion with feed, livestock purchased, hired labor, fertilizer and cash rents topping the list of farm expenses in 2017.
- Average farm income is \$43,053. A total of 43.6 percent of farms had positive net cash farm income in 2017.
- Ninety-six percent of farms and ranches are family owned.
- In 2017, 130,056 farms sold directly to consumers, with sales of \$2.8 billion.
- Sales to retail outlets, institutions and food hubs by 28,958 operations are valued at \$9 billion.

- There are 321,261 young producers age 35 or less on 240,141 farms. Farms with young producers making decisions tend to be larger than average in both acres and sales.

Kentucky Data:

- In 2017, the number of farms in Kentucky totaled 75,966, down 1.4 percent from 77,064 farms in 2012.
- Market value of agriculture products sold was \$5.74 billion, up 13 percent from \$5.07 billion in 2012.
- The average value of agriculture products sold per farm was \$75,533 compared to \$65,755 in 2012.
- Ninety-seven percent of farms are family farms.

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2019 COUNTY ANNUAL MEETINGS

Continued

Lewis County

August 4, 2019, 12:30 p.m.
Ruggles Camp, Tollsboro

Madison County

July 8, 2019,
6:30 p.m. meal
7:30 p.m. meeting
Madison County Fairgrounds

McLean County

August 3, 2019, 5:00 p.m.
McLean County High School
Those interested in attending
Outstanding Youth and Talents contests
arrive at 3:30 to observe.

Meade County

August 19, 2019, 6:00 p.m.
Meade County Farm
Bureau Building

Muhlenberg County

August 12, 2019, 6:30 p.m.
MCHS East Campus

Nicholas County

July 25, 2019, 6:30 p.m.
Vice Center, Moorefield

Oldham County

August 13, 2019, 7:00 p.m.
KFB LaGrange Office

Ohio County

August 20, 2019, 6:30 p.m.
Ohio County Extension Office

Trigg County

August 9, 2019, 6:00 p.m.
Trigg County Recreation Complex

Union County

June 22, 2019, 3:00 P.M.
Union County Fairgrounds

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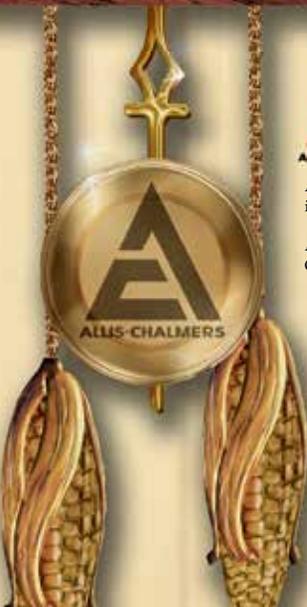
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TEACHING THE NEXT GENERATION ABOUT AGRICULTURE, WITH COLORING BOOKS

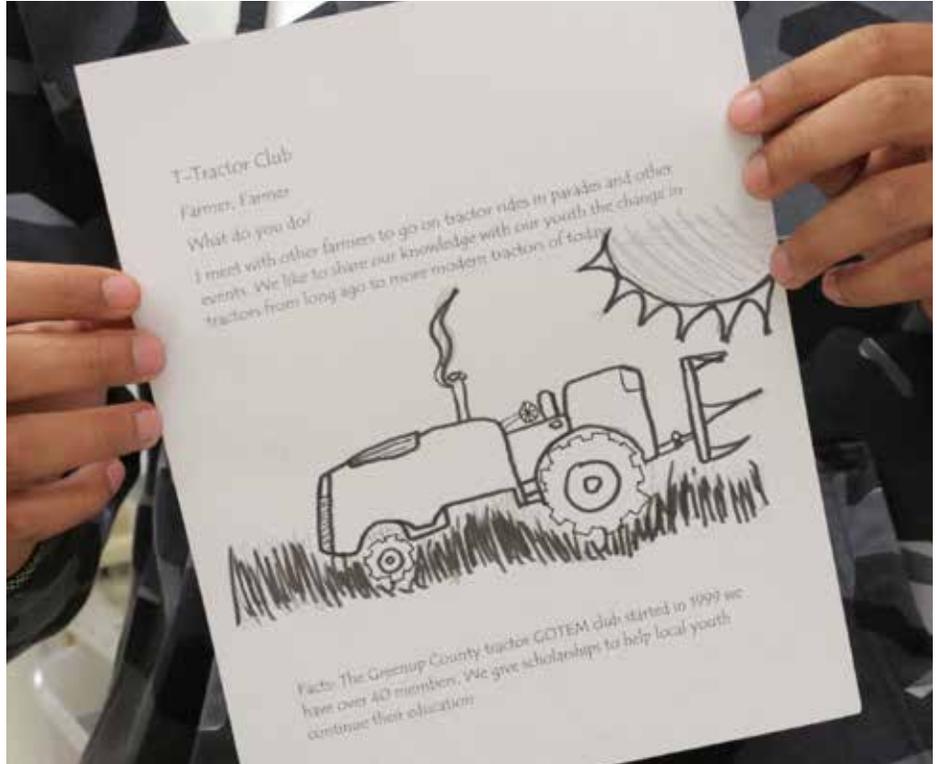
Through the involvement of local partners, Greenup County Farm Bureau is creating an ag-accurate coloring book

Enjoying a favorite coloring book seemed to be a rite of passage for most people when they were youngsters. In fact, many adults still find the practice of coloring to be somewhat of a stress release.

But Greenup County Farm Bureau (GCFB) is utilizing this age-old practice to teach a younger generation about agriculture.

Lisa Osborne, the GCFB Federation Secretary and District 10 Women's Chair said the idea came from seeing incorrect information in other coloring books.

"Every year our organization, along with the local cooperative extension office, puts together a Great Ag Adventure Day to help teach all of the fourth-graders in the county something about agriculture. As part of the event, we give each student a gift bag that has usually included a coloring book. But, over the last couple of years, we found that the coloring books we were using weren't very accurate, from an agriculture standpoint," she said. "So, some of our women's committee members had the idea of creating our own agriculturally accurate coloring book."



This is an example of some of the artwork that will go into the coloring book.

Partnering with Cooperative Extension and local agent Linda Hieneman, along with the local school system, Osborne said the idea began to take shape.

"We asked the high school art instructor, Bryan Mosier, if he could enlist the help of his art students to come up with the page designs, and Sharri Robinson, the counselor at Wurtland Elementary, to help in coordinating the project," she said. "This is something Sharri has wanted to do for a long time, we just helped provide the boost."

Robinson said she wanted to write a book about agriculture in Kentucky upon retirement. But, the coloring book idea would help that idea become a reality sooner, rather than later.

"I wanted to write such a book because I am worried that younger generations won't know where their food is coming from, with so many not growing up on the farm," she said. "So, when Lisa came to me with this idea, I

thought, okay, we can do this now."

Mosier said this kind of project is a good exercise for high school art students.

"It allows them to develop their artistic skills and creativity but requires them to meet specific requirements, much like they would encounter in a real-world experience as a professional artist," he said. "Also, being able to communicate an idea visually, in a way that is clear to a younger audience, forces the art students to really think about what details are important and which ones may be too complicated to understand."

And so, with the art work created, and the ag information coming from Osborne, Robinson and Hieneman, the ABC's of Agriculture is now in the process of becoming a reality.

Hieneman said each year in planning for the Great Ag Adventure Day, organizers tried to add a new layer of activities.



Pictured from left: Lisa Osborne, Sharri Robinson, and Linda Hieneman



Students from Bryan Mosier's art class provided the artwork for the coloring book.

"One year we started giving teachers lesson plans prior to coming to the event, and that was helpful. Then we decided to add a poster and essay contest," she said. "Then, Lisa and Sharri contacted me this year and said why don't we have a coloring book."

And while these fourth-graders may be having fun coloring the pictures in the book, once it is published, they will also be learning something about agriculture, as well.

"I think it is always important to educate students about this industry

because it is a story that is not often told," said Hieneman.

As is the case with most community-type projects, local partnerships are important in helping events like Great Ag Adventure Day succeed.

“As more and more generations don't grow up on farms, we tend to know less and less about farming.”
- Linda Hieneman

"When you have great partners, you tend to have successful programs," said Hieneman. "And that is one thing, at the University level, we are always encouraged to do; partner with our local Farm Bureau boards and get involved."

In putting together the information to accompany the pictures, Osborne said the ag facts included are not just something connected to the local agricultural industry.

"Our hope is to reach out to all of the county fourth-graders with the information in this book which will have the actual ag facts of Greenup County plus the ag facts of the state, so other counties could use it if they wanted," she said.

Osborne said the finishing touches are currently being made for the book, then it's on to be printed as to be available for the next Great Ag Adventure Day.

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"We are extremely proud of the work KFB Studios has done to promote our organization, rural Kentucky and the state's agriculture industry," said KFB President Mark Haney.

Two of the more notable segments nominated this year included, "The Perfect Accident," an insurance related story about distracted driving, and "The Outstanding Young Farm Family" which showcased three of the state's top young farm families.

The Awards Program will be held in Louisville this year on August 10.



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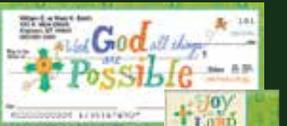
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STRESS ON THE FARM & IN RURAL AMERICA

Acknowledging its existence can be a good first step in combating this issue

As much as farm families love what they do, there is a tremendous amount of stress that can come along with any farming operation, big or small; in good economic times or financial downturns.

Luckily, the inherent love of tending their land and livestock usually takes precedence over the normal worries of the everyday business of farming for most farmers.

With that said, for several years, the farm economy has been slow at best, and farmers are feeling the pressures of this economic environment to the point that stress on the farm and in rural communities has become more widespread, perhaps of epidemic proportion.

Dr. Deborah Reed understands this more than most. This professor in the College of Nursing at the University of Kentucky and the state's Agriculture Nurse through the UK College of Agriculture, Food, and Environment, has spent much of her career working on health issues specific to rural areas, and farmers in particular.

She is one of only a handful of healthcare professionals in the country who specialize in agricultural health and safety research. Reed said that often farmers pay more attention to their animals and their overall operations than themselves.

"Unfortunately, farm families don't really pay attention to their own health that much, compared to the way they take care of their animals for instance. They want their animals calm and content. But right now, these farmers are not content, and they are not calm for a myriad of reasons," she said. "We have had a lot of natural disasters in many parts of the country. In Kentucky, we had too much rain early this spring and when you depend on one or two paychecks a year, stress can mount if you are constantly battling the elements."

But weather woes can be just the tip of the iceberg. Reed also noted the troubles that have been seen in the dairy industry, lower livestock prices, and the worries associated with national farm policy such as tariffs, immigration, and government regulations.

And when you consider all these factors coupled with a growing amount of misinformation related to farming, it isn't surprising that stress levels and suicide rates are up on the farm.

"The one thing that I do hear over and over, that I didn't hear in the past is, 'everybody is against us.' Farmers now feel that the public, instead of supporting them, is going after them and they are facing the issue of feeling pushed against by society, often depicted in national social media as not taking care of their animals, or they are environmentally raping the land. But we know that is so far from the truth," she said

Reed said, in addition to the physical strains of farming, these problems of stress and mental health issues are severe and something that needs to be addressed on a regular basis, no matter the source.

“**Farmers always want to take care of their crops, their land, and their animals. It is their livelihood. Farm families feel such attachment to their land that they will sacrifice almost anything to keep it. Unfortunately, they sacrifice their health and sometimes their lives.**”

- Dr. Deborah Reed

"As a nurse I look at these issues and think 'we need to triage this.' Every time I see a member of a farm family, I need to assess their mental health," she said. "It needs to be at the forefront of what I do as a nurse, because farmers are very stoic; they don't like to talk about their feelings and issues about mental health, even among their own family members."

Taking note of a possible problem is a good step in the right direction in identifying those in need of some type of mental health assistance.

The American Farm Bureau Federation commissioned a nationwide poll to learn more about the state of mental health and wellness in rural America. Some of the takeaways from that survey included the fact that four in five farmers and farm workers said financial issues, fear of losing the farm, and farm or business problems impact the mental health of farmers. But, an overwhelming percentage of rural adults, 91 percent, in fact, said mental health is important to them and/or their family.

Kentucky Farm Bureau President Mark Haney said while life on the farm is subject to a certain level of stress, even in the best of times, now is an especially tough time.

"There are many issues the agriculture industry is facing that can make even the most experienced farm families feel very stressed. But, we are fortunate to live in a state where ag organizations across the board are supportive of the industry and this rural way of life, so much so, we will do all we can to help get through this tougher than normal time."

Reed said there are things to look for and do if someone feels a farm family member or neighbor is showing signs of being overly stressed.

"The first thing is to be observant and notice if you see something different in a farmer that you know. If they just feel down, or they throw out some of those comments about 'I don't know how much longer I can hold on.' Listen and encourage them to talk," she said. "They are trying to get permission to talk about these sensitive topics to someone. You just might be that person who can lend an ear for a while."

Reed said showing support to these farmers is also a way to show they are valued and that there are those who care about them.

"Anything that shows public support for your farm community and farm families is a good thing. And it means so much to them," she said. "I think, on a local level, it has to start by acknowledging the wonderful contribution that our farmers make to the local community. Go to your local farmers' markets and support those growing your food. Go to your county fairs and visit the farm exhibits as a way

to show your support."

Reed said in acknowledging the amount of stress farmers are feeling these days, and the increase in farmer suicide rates, there are many things one can immediately do to bring down a stress level.

"Because stress creates chemical reactions in our bodies, we really have the power to learn things about this to some level and one of the first things you can do is just breathe. If you take five slow, deep breaths in and out you can actually change the chemical components in your body," she said. "Another thing is to make sure you get adequate rest, even taking 15-minute naps in the afternoon can actually

increase productivity and energy levels and you are less likely to have an injury."

Reed pointed out other things that help the body relieve itself of stress including eating right, exercising your body, and exercising your faith.

"Some people call it mindfulness, some call it spirituality. For most farmers, they find that in God. Just carry on that talk through your faith and try to take a positive attitude," she said. "Find that one thing to feel positive about at the end of the day."



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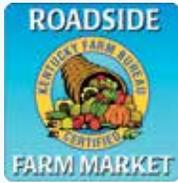
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LEADING YOUNG ICE CREAM ENTREPRENEURS INTO THE VALUE-ADDED DAIRY INDUSTRY

A new generation is getting a helping hand from a veteran dairyman

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines the word “entrepreneur” as being, “one who organizes, manages, and assumes the risks of a business or enterprise.”

With that said, the likely image of an entrepreneur is not necessarily that of a teenager. However, Ben Williams and Taylor Cook did not get that memo. In fact, these two teens have been thinking about running a business of their own for quite some time.

Ironically, they were thinking of the same type of venture and turned to same person, Carl Chaney of Chaney’s Dairy Barn, to serve as a mentor, of sorts, to help get them started in their respective ice cream businesses.

“I started when I was in FFA in high school,” said Cook. The idea became my SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience) but it was my dream to do this since I was a little girl, and I love ice cream.”

Williams said much the same, having long wanted to do something along the ice cream line as well as getting a start through FFA.

“I wanted to do something kind of different for my SAE as well as to help the dairy industry and the Kentucky Proud program,” said Williams. “I thought this would be a way to incorporate both of those.”

Chaney said both of these young people have a great drive and entrepreneurial spirit in working hard to be successful.

“When our family started the ice cream business, we had so many people who were willing to help us,” he said. “I think we always felt like if we ever got to that point, we would try to do the exact same thing, and when you get two people like Ben and Taylor who are interested, it gives you a good feeling.”

Both Cook and Williams began their operations using ice cream from Chaney’s. In fact, Williams still does. But Cook now has her own “manufacturing” facility, making her own “Taylor Belle’s” ice cream.

“I am very grateful for the Chaney’s,” said Cook. “When I met them at State Fair for the first time, I told them about my idea of wanting to do ice cream and they told me they would show me everything I would need to know.”



Ben Williams stands inside his ice cream truck waiting for customers.

Cook also said once she was ready to make her own ice cream, Chaney, again, offered his knowledge to help her with that stage of the business.

Williams learned of Chaney’s Dairy Barn while visiting with his family, remembering what he learned about their dairy and their delicious ice cream.

“When I realized I wanted to do an ice cream truck, I was thinking which ice cream I could get, and I remembered Chaney’s Dairy Barn,” he said. I thought that would be something really special to use their ice cream for my business. So, I met with Mr. Chaney, talked to him about it and he thought it was a great idea.”

While these young business owners are providing a yummy treat for their customers, both also recognize they are now a part of the state’s dairy industry, something Chaney thinks is good for the future of the industry.

“ I like being part of the dairy industry and it makes me think of all the hard work and dedication that goes into it. It should not be something that we take for granted.”

-Taylor Cook

“The fact that these two young people chose the dairy industry as what they wanted to support, to me that is just fantastic,” he said.

Cook gets many of her ingredients and much of her milk from state sources and realizes the work that goes into being in the dairy business.



Taylor Cook, CEO of Taylor Belle's Farm Fresh Hand Dipped Ice Cream

Williams said he has learned a great deal about the dairy industry since beginning his business venture.

"I think it is something special that Mr. Chaney is passing his knowledge down to me and making me more aware of the dairy industry," he said. "It's important, especially for young people because we are the future of agriculture."

Chaney said it's imperative to get young people involved in an industry that is experiencing many challenges.

"There hasn't been a whole lot of good news for the dairy industry in the last few years, but when two people like Ben and Taylor, who are interested, it gives you a good feeling. We are blessed to have them supporting us because every little bit helps. All the milk that can go into ice cream or cheese or fluid milk, it is all going to help."

The two entrepreneurs have a long list of customers and several events coming up to sell their ice cream treats. Cook uses a custom trailer to dish out her ice cream at these various events around the state while Williams has invested in an ice cream truck to travel to his customers, even though he has to get a parent to do the driving. He has another year to wait until he can drive on his own!



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CANDID CONVERSATION

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, the new Kentucky Dairy Development Council Executive Director, H.H. Barlow, discusses the state's dairy industry and his thoughts on moving the industry forward.

For those readers who may not know you or your agricultural background, tell us about H. Barlow.

I've been a dairyman my entire life and was born and raised on the farm (in Barren County) that my ancestors settled back in the early 1800s. I have always been very thankful and blessed to live in such a beautiful place, and I've been here since birth, except for the four years I attended the University of Kentucky where I graduated in 1972 with an Animal Science degree, and a specialty in Dairy Science. I came home to the family farm and farmed with my dad for 11 years but ran into some tough financial times in the early 80s, so much so, that in the fall of 1983, I sold my cows. But I kept my heifers hoping to come back later. At that time my wife and I had four children and I had to have an income, so I got started in the feed business working as a feed sales agent. I thought I would do it a couple years but found out that I liked it and it was beneficial to us. I did that for 34 years. I learned so much being in the feed business because I worked with other dairymen. I give God the glory, he blessed me in that line of work. I met some wonderful people. It gave me an opportunity to come back to the dairy business and today, we have 250 dairy cows and heifers on the farm.

How did you and become involved with the KDDC?

I was fortunate enough to be involved very significantly in the formation of the organization in



H.H. Barlow, Executive Director of the Kentucky Dairy Development Council

2005, but we did a lot of leg work for a year and a half before we actually got it founded. Governor Fletcher appointed me to the Ag Development Board and that was the group that we presented our ideas to and they gave us the opportunity to get it off the ground. We are very proud of this organization and we have had some really good people working in it. I am following Maury Cox, who I consider a very close friend. He was the Executive Director for the past 12 years and did an outstanding job, in my opinion, representing dairy in Kentucky.

Talk about the KDDC as it relates to the state's dairy industry.

The KDDC represents approximately 500 dairy farmers in the state, plus the allied industry in Kentucky such as the feed, artificial insemination, and dairy supply industries, as well as large animal vets, milk haulers, farm implement dealers, etc. We touch a lot of lives and we have a tremendous amount of impact in the local community. When you take into consideration that the average dairy cow, today, produces \$4,000 in milk sales per year, multiplying that times whatever size herd you've got, it is a significant financial impact to any community and it's an honor for me to represent all of these people. My desire is to improve the lives of our dairy farmers with programs that we institute and try to work on certain issues such as doing a better job of getting to a sustainable and complete market.

What are some of your goals as you take this position?

The way I see it, we had a tough issue in 2018 with 19 dairy farmers not having a place to sell their milk. I have been dairy farming my entire life and I never thought I would face a time when I didn't have a place to sell my milk. But that

happened a year ago for these 19 farm families and my main goal is to do whatever we can do to make sure that never happens again. But how do you accomplish that? Number one, we work closely with our processing industry to find out what they need and try to tailor our operations to better fit those needs. Can we work to find places to have more uses of our farm milk? I think we need to stress putting more value on Kentucky milk. If we have milk produced in this state, hopefully we can put it into our native state processors. This is something that I feel strongly about, but how we go about getting that accomplished is still to be found and we will work on that, trying to make that marketplace more sustainable. Secondly, we as dairy farmers operate under a program called the Federal Order Market System. That means the U.S. is divided into different segments and we actually live under those rules. It is part of the USDA and some of those rules are not friendly for dairy farmers. One of my goals is to work with, and hopefully get together with other dairy organizations and to try and get some of those federal orders reformed.

How do you view the condition of the dairy industry, at this point in time?

I hope people will find me to be an extremely positive person, but we cannot ignore what has happened in the last 4 years, which have been the toughest from a pay price position, doing real harm to our farmers. We've seen a tremendous amount of equity eroded and the value of cows dropped dramatically putting dairy producers in a tough position. But we are entering a new phase. We are beginning to see production decline instead of growth. That is the first time that has happened since 2010. So, I think nationally, even globally, production has peaked and is going to stabilize, and I think we are headed for a better season of pay prices for the dairy industry. Along with that, a new program has come out of the 2018 Farm Bill called Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC.) It is an insurance program and FSA will open signup for DMC on June 17, providing coverage retroactive to January 1,

2019. I would strongly encourage every dairy farmer in the state to participate in this program. From a dairy quality perspective, we have addressed several issues by implementing many programs over the past 14 years. Because of that, we have seen far superior somatic cell counts, improved record keeping, and improved production. In fact, we have several herds with over 30,000 pounds of production in the state, today. And that rivals any herd anywhere in the country. We don't take a backseat to any state now, in the quality of our dairy farmers. We just have to remember that anytime we have problems and serious challenges, opportunities can come from those challenges and we have to look for opportunities to do a better job to stabilize our industry.

What is your perspective of the future for the dairy industry in this state?

Obviously, we want to work with the Kentucky Ag Development Board and the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy to create any kind of program that we can to improve our dairy operations. That could be through infrastructure, marketing or a number of different avenues. Helping the young farmer is also essential, and we are going to implement a new program in KDDC to try to get some young farmer peer groups together. That is one of our initiatives we want to get together very soon. Through KDDC, we do have a Young Dairyman Program, which we will continue with hopes to enhance it. Kentucky is a good place for the dairy industry. We have the perfect forage capacity in this state, and great temperatures and climate conditions for milk production. We really think there is an opportunity for growth as we move toward the future.

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COUNTY CORNER

Snapshots of County Farm Bureau activities



Shelby County

Shelby County Beef Day Event
Pictured from left: Ferenc Vegh, Matthew Page, and Pat Hargadon.



Ohio County

KFB displayed their 1919 Model T Runabout at the annual Beaver Dam Strawberry Festival.
Pictured from left: T.C. Sanderfur-Agency Manager/Agent OCFB, Jerry Black- President OCFB, Tyson Sanderfur, Agent KYFB, and Dwight Greenwell.



Scott County

Members of Scott County Farm Bureau participated in Scott County Ag day at Bluegrass Stockyards.



Daviess County

Pictured are students from two classes at West Louisville Elementary School showing their Soybean Germination Necklaces which were purchased with a portion of a \$500 Women's Mini Grant.



Hardin County

Hardin County Farm Bureau President, Larry Jagers II and Young Farmer Committee Chair, Mark Thomas presented Sue Langley, Library Media Specialist for Creekside Elementary School with a book barn and agriculture books.



Carroll County

Pictured are district winners of the 2018 county conservation district arts and writing contest. From left are: Jim Smith, Carroll County President, Karah Southworth, Hannah Weedman and Regie Zapp, County Vice President.



Pendleton County

The Pendleton County Schools had a Ag Safety Day.
Picture is Pendleton County women's chairman Jean Rapp and Ester McClanahan with students.



Pendleton County

Pendleton County Farm Bureau participated in the county's Senior Bash.
Pictured from right: Steve Ammerman agency manager and Rob McClanahan President.



Gallatin County

Picture from left: April Wainscott CSR, Dan Peterson Agency Manager, Taylor Jones County President, and Shelly Moore CSR during the Gallatin County Peony Festival

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DOWN THE BACKROADS

By Tim Thornberry

Teachers make such a difference in our lives

I'm not sure if this is an age thing or not, but it seems to me that the older I get the more I reflect on the past, taking in all the moments and memories that have guided me to where I am today as a person, a husband, a father, a soon-to-be grandfather, and a communicator.

In doing so, I often think of those who taught me along the way; my parents, bosses, friends, and other family members. For all these folks, I am eternally grateful.

And as much as I learned from those people, my school teachers were the ones, for the most part, who taught me the skills I use each and every day, at work, at home and in life; teachers like Mrs. Shouse, who taught me to read, and Mrs. Jenkins who taught me the love of reading. Mr. McRay taught me how cool science is, and Mrs. Perkins, taught me how important it is to know Kentucky's history.

Mr. Shyrock taught me how to make a blueprint, without the use of a computer. Just so you know, laptops had not been invented at that time. Mrs. Perry taught me to type 40 words a minute. Unfortunately, that skill has left me. Sorry about that Mrs. P.

Coach Barriger taught me the proper use of forearms on the line of scrimmage. He also taught me that everyone...everyone, has great value. Mrs. Ross gave me the freedom to express myself with the written word. Professor Hill gave me the courage to use those words in the most effective way.

Mr. Bryant taught me that the History of the U.S. up to 1864 really was an exciting subject. He told stories with such compassion, I often had to hide my tears in his class.

Coach Reed taught me how to drive safely in Driver's Ed class, and his wife taught me how to make hollandaise sauce in a class known, at the time, as "Bachelor Living." What I really learned from Mrs. Reed was to read the instructions, follow the directions and marvel at my ability to create something I didn't think I could.

Mr. Wash taught me the metric system and Mrs. Hughes, my yearbook sponsor, taught me the art of building a book from scratch. She also tried to teach me Algebra II. My apologies to you Mrs. H, as well.

It's not so much that Mr. Guffy taught me the properties of logarithms; it's that he taught me to problem-solve, and to be patient, and not to be afraid to

ask a question when I didn't understand something.

I am lucky in the sense that I had, collectively, the greatest teachers of all time, at least in my opinion. I'm not sure they ever realized the impact they had on me, and I'm certain I did not express to them, at the time, how great they all were.

I think a certain amount of time has to pass before we can truly appreciate those people who made a difference in our lives; led us in the right direction and taught us lessons that would benefit us as long as we live.

There are many more of my former teachers, both from school-life and real-life who taught me valuable lessons. And whether they know it or not, I will cherish them always, as I travel down the backroads.

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