

Kentucky

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2019 SCHOLARSHIP ISSUE

KFB MEASURE-THE-CANDIDATE FORUM
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEES DISCUSS PRIORITY ISSUES



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KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU NEWS
Volume 18 | No. 6
August 2019

President's COLUMN



IT'S STATE FAIR TIME IN KENTUCKY

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By the time Kentucky Farm Bureau was founded as an organization in 1919, the Kentucky State Fair was already celebrating its 17th birthday, officially. But the fair has roots that date back to 1816, making it one of the oldest fair celebrations in the country.

Because of its rich heritage, our state fair is also one of the best of its kind, anywhere. But it's easy to take something like that for granted by living here and being a part of this great event year after year. We've grown accustomed to having such a wonderful state fair.

We have become used to the fact that each year, all things good about and from Kentucky, show up at our state fair to delight us, to educate us, to feed us, and to make us proud to be Kentuckians. We have come to expect that.

And each year, we are not disappointed. I really can't remember the very first state fair I went to as a child, but I can tell you that each year I get that child-like excitement inside when I come to the fairgrounds that first day and enjoy the opening Commodity Breakfast.

I wait in anticipation, as always, when those champion country hams are being judged. I marvel at the exhibits brought by the thousands of young people representing the many student organizations in the state.

I get goose bumps each and every year during the auction of the grand champion country ham during the KFB Country Ham Breakfast. I visit with old and new friends each year walking through the Pride of the Counties exhibits.

Last year was the first for the AgLand display and it was a huge hit. I can't wait to see it again. We also saw the traditional Sale of Champions become the Championship Drive showcasing dozens of youth showing their livestock.

I can't help but tap my foot to the numerous musical venues found around the fair, including KFB's Annual Gospel Music Showcase. And I love to see the beautiful show horses strut around Freedom Hall.

But of all the things to see and do around the fair each year, I love seeing Kentucky agriculture on display at every turn. And I take pride in our organization being such a big part of this event.

This fair, as is the case with many other state fairs, got its start as being a premiere event to show agriculture at its best, and that hasn't changed throughout its life. There may be different carnival rides and entertaining shows from year to year. But the foundation of this great event lies within the rural communities that are represented every August.

I hope you will take time to visit the Kentucky State Fair this year and enjoy all that is good in the Commonwealth. Oh, and don't forget to stop by and visit with Freddy Farm Bureau. He's looking forward to it, too.

Mark Haney
President
Kentucky Farm Bureau

Cover photo by Tim Thornberry
A view from Graves County, Kentucky

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Adair County

September 17, 2019, 7:00 p.m.
Lindsey Wilson College Dining Hall

Barren County

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

Bath County

September 17, 2019, 6:00 p.m.
Bath County Agriculture Center

Bell County

September 26, 2019, 6:00 p.m.
Bell County Farm Bureau Office

Boyle County

September 17, 2019, 7:00 p.m.
The Showroom, Danville

Breathitt County

September 27, 2019, 6:00 p.m.
Quicksand RCARS

Breckinridge County

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

Butler County

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

Bullitt County

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

Caldwell County

September 14, 2019, 6:00 p.m.
Caldwell County High School Cafeteria

Calloway County

September 3, 2019, 7:30 p.m.
Calloway County Farm Bureau

Campbell County

September 22, 2019, 2:30 p.m.
Neltner Farm, Cold Spring

Carter County

September 9, 2019 6:00 p.m.
Carter County Farm Bureau Office

Clark County

October 4, 2019, 6:00 p.m.
Clark County Farm Bureau Office

Clinton County

September 12, 2019, 6:00 p.m.
Fairgrounds

Crittenden County

September 10, 2019, 6: p.m.
Ed Tech Center

Cumberland County

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

Daviess County

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

Fayette County

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

Grant County

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

Grayson County

September 24th, 2019, 6:00pm
Centre on Main

Hancock County

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

Hardin County

September 20, 2019, 6:30pm
Hardin Extension Office

Harrison County

September 12, 2019, 6:00 p.m.
McCaughey Building
Harrison County Fairgrounds

Hopkins County

September 6, 2019, 6:00 p.m.
Ballard Convention Center

Jackson County

September 16, 2019, 6:00 p.m.
Jackson Energy Farm Hwy 290

Kenton County

September 7, 2019
Honey Locust Farm

Knox County

September 6, 2019, 6:00 p.m.
Extension Office Pavilion

Letcher County

September 16, 2019, 4:00 p.m.
Letcher County Farm Bureau Office

Lincoln County

September 12, 2019, 6:30 p.m.
Lincoln County Fairgrounds

Logan County

September 7, 2019, 6:00 p.m.
Logan County Extension Office

Lyon County

September 13, 2019, 6:00 p.m.
Lyon County Convention Center

Mason County

September 30, 2019, 7:00 p.m.
Extension Office, Maysville

Meade County

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

Mercer County

September 9, 2019, 6:00 p.m.
Mercer County Extension Office



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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.

A GEN Z MESSAGE TO THE NEXT CROP

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I was born in January 1997 and turned 22 this year. I will graduate from college just before I turn 23, entering into a moderately healthy job market. I was four years old when terrorists attacked our country on 9/11 and have almost no recollection of the immediate effects that event had on our country. But my entire childhood was spent living in a nation at war.

All of this information about my life can be summed up in one phrase: I am one of nearly 61 million members of Generation Z. I am part of the generation after Millennials and have a message for the next crop of agriculturalists, my fellow Gen Z'ers. So, if you were born after 1996, sit down, make sure your phone is charged, and let's have a chat.

Here's the thing: The Pew Research Center reports our generation is on track to be the most educated generation in history, yet only 13% of us were raised in a rural area. This means that agriculture needs us, because agriculture needs smart people who are interested in feeding, fueling and clothing the world.

But agriculture doesn't just need you to hang around the farm from the day you are born until the day you die, content with doing things the way your parents do, or your grandparents did.

Agriculture needs people who are college-educated, have off-the-farm experiences and see the world through a broader lens, because the challenges rural America will face in the coming decades require modern solutions. Leave the farm for a few years to get your degree or for a decade to work in an industry unrelated to agriculture. You will be better for your experiences outside of your own fencerows. Your farm will be better for those experiences, too.

I also want you to know that agriculture has a place for you, even if it is not directly working on the farm. I hope you can find a place on the farm, but agriculture, as we used to say in my high school FFA chapter, is "more than cows, sows and plows." Agriculture needs you in the board room, in the laboratory and in regional sales offices across the country. It needs you in the corner office of a local bank, in classrooms from Pomona, Kansas, to Pomona, California, and in the halls of Congress.

If there is only one thing you take away from this message, I hope it is that agriculture needs you to think outside of your farm, your hometown, your state. Agriculture needs you to dream bigger, even if it is only for a little while. It's no secret that agriculture is struggling today, but it is people like you and me who will drive the industry forward, as long as we embrace the challenges of belonging to the next crop.

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KFB President Mark Haney addressed Board members and guests during the Measure-the-Candidate Forum.

KFB HOSTS MEASURE-THE-CANDIDATE FORUM FEATURING KENTUCKY GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEES

Matt Bevin and Andy Beshear field KFB priority issues questions.

In keeping with a long-standing tradition, Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) hosted a Gubernatorial Measure-the-Candidate (MTC) forum on July 17 at their state office in Louisville. The forum consisted of a question and answer session regarding KFB's top priorities with Republican Nominee Matt Bevin and Democratic Nominee Andy Beshear.

KFB President Mark Haney said the forum created an opportunity for members to hear from both candidates on a variety of topics.

"It's a part of our history as an organization to hold these types of forums allowing members to hear from candidates on a number of issues in order to make a more informed choice on Election Day," he said.

“ We take pride in the fact that we do this in a very non-partisan way while encouraging our members and all registered voters to exercise their Constitutional right to vote.”

- Mark Haney

Bevin and Beshear fielded questions from KFB First Vice President Eddie Melton and Second Vice President Sharon Furches on topics that included the state budget, taxation, rural development and infrastructure.

Melton said the priorities discussed during the recent MTC forum are, in large part, based upon issues confronting KFB membership and the agriculture industry.

"These priorities are very important to our members, and the success of our advocacy efforts can often affect all of our citizens in very positive ways," he said. "No matter who the candidate is, it's important we reach out to them and let them know our stance, as an organization, on these issues as we strive to make life better for all Kentuckians."

Furches said the forums also help candidates to become more familiar with KFB priority issues.

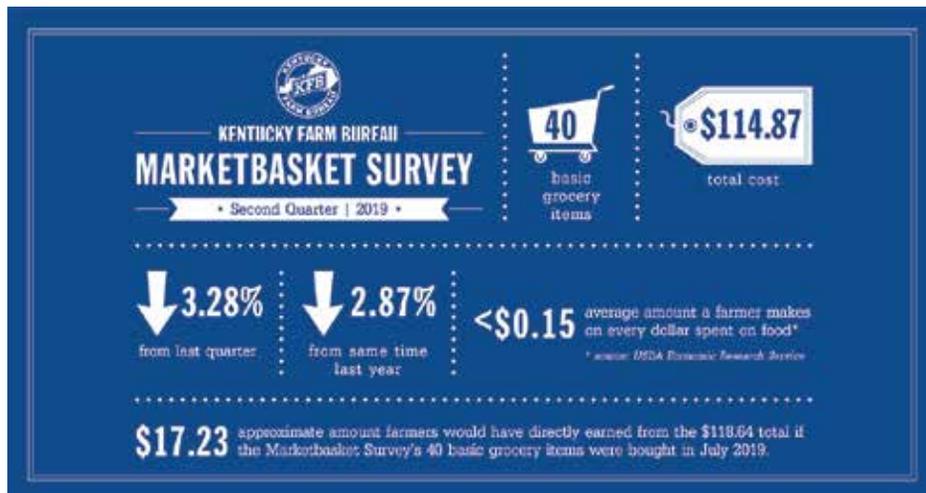
"Having been involved in Farm Bureau over the years, I have seen how beneficial these types of events can be to the participating candidates," she said. "It's critical they understand KFB's stance on these issues as we continue to advocate for our members, our agricultural industry and the state's rural communities."

During the forum, each candidate had the opportunity to make opening and closing statements in addition to answering questions from the KFB Executive Committee. They also held post-forum press conferences to address questions from the attending press.

The forum was streamed live by KFB Studios and is available, along with other Studio productions at Youtube.com/kentuckyfarmbureau.

The candidates were presented a questionnaire at the closing of the forum. Those answers will be published in the 2019 Election Guide of the Kentucky Farm Bureau News in October.

KFB MARKETBASKET SURVEY SHOWS A SLIGHT DECLINE IN FOOD PRICES FOR SECOND QUARTER



The most recent Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) Marketbasket Survey indicates a slight decline to the overall cost of food during the second quarter of 2019. The Marketbasket Survey is conducted at the end of each quarter and monitors overall and categorical trends in food prices across the Commonwealth. The survey gathers the prices of 40 basic food items throughout the state and then averages the numbers into six categories: beef, pork, poultry, dairy, fruits and vegetables, and grains.

The average cost of surveyed items in the second quarter was \$114.87, down 3.28 percent from the \$118.64 first-quarter mark. These findings are in line with the small declines experienced in the last two quarters of 2018.

Nationally, the Bureau of Labor Statistics' latest Consumer Price Index for food at home, "declined 0.2 percent after increasing 0.3 percent in May. Four of the six major grocery store food group indexes declined in June. The index for meats, poultry, fish, and eggs, which rose 0.8 percent in May, fell 0.7 percent in June as the index for beef fell 1.3 percent. The indexes for cereals and bakery products and for nonalcoholic beverages both fell 0.6 percent in June after rising in May. The index for fruits and vegetables fell 0.5 percent in June, its third consecutive decline."

Kentucky Marketbasket Survey specifics:

Second quarter average prices of specific items and commodities saw declines in each of the food categories with the largest drop occurring in pork items. Those prices dropped by 8.32

percent. The next largest decline was in grain products which experienced a decline of 7.74 percent. It should be noted that these two categories experienced the largest price increases in the first quarter. Surveyed beef prices continued their year long price decrease with a modest 0.57 percent drop this quarter, with a 2.01 percent decline in the first quarter.

Agricultural Economics in Food Prices:

Kentuckians and all Americans continue to enjoy some of the lowest food prices in the world. Shoppers in the U.S. spend only about seven percent of their disposable income on food each year. The average U.S. farmer produces enough food and fiber to provide for about 154 people – a number that has continuously grown since 1940 when the average was 19 people per farmer.

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Cody Burke

TOBACCO UPDATE: TRADITIONAL CROP STILL HANGING AROUND

But growers are facing another tough growing season

There are a lot of reasons raising a tobacco crop isn't easy. It is very labor intensive, it is facing continued declines in the marketplace, and the weather over the last two growing seasons has been anything but ideal for production purposes.

Last year, at this time, crop conditions stood at 19 percent fair and 64 percent good. This year, those conditions are being reported as 30 percent fair and 54 percent good.

Bob Pearce, University of Kentucky (UK) College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, Burley Tobacco Extension Specialist said it has been a mixed bag for the crop this year, condition-wise.

"Growers in some areas have received large amounts of rain through June resulting in drowning, skald, poor root growth, and stunted crops," he said. "Early blooming has been significant, as well. Since late June the weather has been hot and dry and black shank has really been showing in the last few weeks."

Pearce added that despite the weather challenges, there are still some crops out there doing well, which is some consolation for those producers sitting on top of a good crop. However, growing tobacco is just half the battle because the marketplace can be as daunting as Mother Nature.

Pearce said with a short 2018 crop it was disheartening to see some contracts cut this year, something that could indicate a decline in U.S. burley demand.

Dark tobacco producers may have a slightly better market environment, but still with challenges. Andy Bailey, UK Dark Tobacco Extension Specialist said, in West Kentucky (where most of the dark tobacco crop is grown in this state) grower

numbers have declined and some contract volume decline for dark tobacco has been realized, but not as severe as what burley growers have seen.

"Our dark production is probably down 10 to 15 percent this year and I have serious concerns about the longevity of the burley industry in Kentucky, but I still think that burley will continue to be grown here for a long time, just at a reduced level," he said. "I expect to see continued consolidation of production in both burley and dark tobacco."

UK Agriculture Economist Will Snell sees a similar picture. He said there is future uncertainty when it comes to the crop, but that is no secret to growers. However, export markets could still be somewhat positive for producers in these uncertain times.

"An increasing percentage of our burley, and almost all of our dark tobacco has been used by domestic manufacturers. Some of this could be attributed to ample/less expensive burley in global markets, along with the increased regulations and the introduction of alternative tobacco products in foreign markets," he said. "But exports are still critical and will likely continue to account for over half of the crop demand for U.S. burley."

Challenges may be plentiful in the world of tobacco production, but many farmers still find it profitable, as it generates about \$250 to \$300 million annually for those remaining in the tobacco-growing business in Kentucky.

A Young Farmer Perspective

Cody Burke of Fleming County is one producer who is making a profit while defying the odds of growing the crop, from a number of perspectives.

First of all, he is a young farmer finishing up his senior year at the University of Kentucky. Secondly, he is raising a small crop of tobacco, unlike many other producers in the state who have expanded production. And he feels the small producer can still be of value, as long as tobacco is a production crop.

Burke said growing the crop is as much about tradition as anything, although it has been a money maker for him.

"My grandfather raised tobacco on the same farm where I now grow a crop, until the buyout, and like a lot of farmers, he got out after that. But while I was in high school, I saw raising a crop as a way to make money to pay for college," he said. "I didn't like the idea of going to work in a fast-food restaurant like everyone else my age and I really wanted to determine how much money I made based on how hard I wanted to work, not on getting paid by the hour."

That philosophy led to his first crop of an acre which has now turned into three-and-a-half acres for this, his fifth crop.

Burke's strategy for tobacco production is fairly simple; he doesn't raise more than he and a few family members or friends can handle, saving countless dollars on labor costs. And he has made it just a segment of the overall operation on the family farm, which has been home to purebred Gelbvieh for three generations.

Being a tobacco producer has given Burke a sense of pride in being a part of a tradition that dates back for generations in the Commonwealth. But he is also a realist, recognizing the challenges that producers are facing.

“It’s a lot of hard work but I really enjoy raising this crop, and I realize I don’t have to make a living from it. But tobacco paid for this farm and it is paying most of my college expenses, and as long as it’s grown in Kentucky, I want to be growing it.”

- Cody Burke

"There's no doubt that demand is down, but I think there will always be a market for American Burley," he said.

"I recognize the fact that many small growers have left the industry and the marketplace is more favorable for larger scale production. But I also think there is still a place for a small producer using the crop as part of a more diversified operation; not the sole money-maker but part of the overall production of the farm."

Burke, who serves as the Fleming County Farm Bureau Young Farmer Chair, said having tobacco as part of their entire farming operation just makes sense to him.

"This is a way to take a small farm and really help with cash flow, when I look at net dollars per acre," he said. "Labor costs, for the most part, are non-existent for me. The infrastructure I need was already here, so all I really had to do was invest in some equipment. Because of all those things coming together, this has been good for me. But at the end of the day, I just love raising tobacco on this farm."

Landowners: Key to Program's Success!

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Crop damage?



Photo by Stevecreek.com

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2019 KFB SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

KFB and county Farm Bureau organizations provided 360 college scholarship grants this year totaling \$462,300. The scholarships were awarded to recipients who displayed the greatest levels of academic excellence, involvement in extracurricular activities, leadership abilities and financial need. Scholarship sponsors and the recipients are:

Sam Moore Scholarship – \$4,000

Awarded to a student attending a Kentucky college/university and pursuing a four-year degree in animal health/veterinary technology or a related field.

Alex Burke, Breckinridge County

Leadership in Agriculture Scholarship – \$3,000 each

Awarded to students of farm families attending a Kentucky college or university.

Camryn McManis, Henry County; Anna Sweets, Warren County

KFB Young Farmer Scholarship – \$2,000

Awarded to a college upperclassman. Student must be attending a Kentucky college/university in agriculture or a related field.

Jacob Patterson, Pulaski County

KFB Young Farmer Scholarship – \$1,000

Awarded to a college upperclassman. Student must be attending a Kentucky college/university and majoring in agriculture or a related field.

Justin Arnett, Montgomery County

Beautification League of Louisville Scholarship – \$1,000

Awarded to a student attending a Kentucky college/university and pursuing a four-year degree in horticulture or landscape architecture.

Braedon Hooke, Christian County

KFB Employee Child Scholarship - \$2,000

Joseph Cain, Washington County

KFB Mutual Insurance Company Scholarship – \$2,000 each

Mollee Flannigan, Lewis County; Jasper Hampton, Pulaski County

KFB Insurance Agents Association Scholarship – \$1,000 each

Austin Brashear, Letcher County

Kentucky Farm Bureau Education Foundation Scholarship – \$1,000 each

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Adair County Farm Bureau JU Rogers Memorial Scholarship - \$1,000 each

Byron Chandler Corbin, Kendyl Macy Hardin

Allen County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$1,000

Jason Sikes

Allen County Farm Bureau Ralston Bewley Scholarship – \$500

Mason Towerly

Anderson County Farm Bureau George Cotton Memorial Scholarship – \$2,000 each

Eve Gettelfinger, Noah Medley, Adam Sanderson

Anderson County Farm Bureau George Cotton Memorial Scholarship – \$1,500

Austin Thornberry

Ballard County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$1,000 each

Chloe Irvin, Sydney Leigh, Matt Mallory

Barren County Farm Bureau College Student Scholarship – \$1,000 each

Braden Burks, Matteo Wyatt

Barren County Farm Bureau High School Senior Scholarship -- \$1,000 each

Zackary Owen, Mary E. Russell

Bath County Farm Bureau Scholarship - \$1,500 each

Talyn Alderman, Jacob Conyers, Landon Swartz

Bell County Farm Bureau Pat Biggerstaff Scholarship – \$1,000 each

James N. Adkins, Emily N. Napier

Bell County Farm Bureau Ray Reed Scholarship – \$1,000 each

Sarah Peyton Bingham, Kumari Bishakha, Ethan W. Brock, Christopher A. Callihan, Dennis L. Estes, Jeana L. Fultz, Mykel A. Griffin, Emma N. Helton, Dana Faith Howard, Bennett J. Lee, Emily N. Napier, Hagen Owens, Franki Pursifull, Michael Swedersky

Boone County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$1,000 each

Robert Baumgartner, Chloe Bernesser

Boyle County Farm Bureau David C. Sparrow Memorial Scholarship – \$1,000

Michaela Carpenter

Bracken County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$500 each

Nicole Arthur, Natalie Bell, Tad Fisher, Madison Goecke, Kelsey Hitch, Callie Jarrell, Collin Jefferson, Tyler Rice

Breathitt County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$4,000 each

Brittney Dennis, Megan Ernst, Jessilyn Neace

Breckinridge County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$1,000 each

Alex Burke, Lindsey Whitfill

Bullitt County Farm Bureau Board Scholarship – \$2,000 each

Alexis Bishop, Glen Butler, Destiney Crump, Hannah Pyles

Bullitt County Farm Bureau Young Farmer's Scholarship – \$1,000 each

Destiney Crump, Jacob Hall

Butler County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$1,000

Heath Cardwell

Butler County Farm Bureau Current College Student Scholarship – \$1,000

Gracie Deel

Caldwell County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$1,000

W. Ethan Cotton

Calloway County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$1,500 each

Alex Thomas Cooper, Logan Thomas Mattingly, Joseph Garrett Scott, Gracelyn Elizabeth Young

Campbell County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$1,000 each

Mirena Combs, Jacob Lippert, Ellinor Martin, Anna Rust, Jake Schneider, Rusty Wolf

Carroll County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$1,000 each

Sidni Davidson, Madeline Watts

Casey County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$500 each

Bailey Caudill, Riley Hoskins, Alexis Kane, Grace Passmore, Zachary Todd

Christian County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$2,000 each

Madelyn Bennett, Braedon Hooke, Victoria Sisk, Hudson Taylor

Clay County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$2,000 each

Bethany D. Buttery, Joshua Cornett, Marisa Reid, Samuel M. Woods

Clinton County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$500 each

Jon-Allen Cross, Jackson Harlan, Isabelle Moons, Keanna Thompson

Crittenden County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$1,000 each

John Duvall, Shelby Summers

Cumberland County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$1,000 each

Grace Alexander, Haley Wright

Daviess County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$2,000

Ivy Violet-Pearl Stites

Daviess County FB Insurance Agents Scholarship – \$2,000

Brittney Faith Booker

Daviess County Farm Bureau Tom Curtsinger Scholarship – \$2,000

Chandler Reisz Krampe

Daviess County Farm Bureau Daniel L. Turley Scholarship – \$2,000

Sarah Marie Englert

Daviess County Farm Bureau Young Farmer Scholarship – \$1,000

Elizabeth Ann Boarman

Fayette County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$20,000 each

Aubrey Dawson, Grant Walles

Fayette County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$10,000

Christina Mammen

Floyd County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$2,000 each

Lara Cali Campbell, Cole DeRossett, Madison Jervis, Nathaniel J. L. Mims, McKayla Slone

Fulton County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$250 each

Joshua Amberg Garrigan, Rachel Madison Kelly, Jake Edward Mayo, Noah Lattus Miller, Karlie Elise Williams

Garrard County Farm Bureau Henry West Agricultural Scholarship – \$2,000

Macie White

Grant County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$1,000 each

Corey Fryman, Ryan Mitts, Paige Simpson, Trent Smith, Chase Turner

Hancock County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$1,000 each

Bailee Boling, Dillon Sebastian

Hardin County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$1,000 each

William Abel, Carolee Grace Coleman, Malorie Cox, Katelyn Deneen, Elizabeth Mattingly, Whitney Nicole Peters, Kayla Slaubaugh, Destiny Tharpe

Hardin County Farm Bureau Geneva Shipp Memorial Scholarship – \$1,000 each

Katherine French, Janece Harrington

Hardin County Farm Bureau Ray Mackey Memorial Scholarship – \$1,000 each

Clarissa Mackey, Marie Noel

Hardin County Farm Bureau Robert E. “Bobby” Thomas Memorial Scholarship – \$1,000 each

Scott Nelson, Samuel Smith

Hardin County Farm Bureau Jesse Shipp Memorial Scholarship – \$1,000

Trenton Thomas

Harlan County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$1,500 each

Rhileigh Alred, Katelyn Hensley, Jordan Jackson, Elaina McKnight, Emersyn Noah

Harlan County Farm Bureau Agents Scholarship – \$500 each

Amanda Caudill, Kilian Ledford

Harrison County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$1,000 each

Hannah Perkins, Madeline Sparks

Hart County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$500 each

Jasmine Benningfield, Abigail Waddle

Henderson County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$500 each

Jacy M. Elliott, Marissa Renee Lynn

Henderson County Farm Bureau Academic Scholarship – \$500 each

Cassandra Marie Brown, Hannah M. Farley, Elizabeth

Frances Guier, Riley Katherine Lovell, Mary Kate McIndoo, Maggie Elizabeth Vincent, Gabrielle Starr Waggener

Henderson County Farm Bureau Hugh Johns Memorial Scholarship – \$1,000

Alyssa Morgan Vandiver

Hickman County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$500 each

Isabella Buckingham, Harlee Byassee, Ward Carter, Will Templeton

Hopkins County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$2,000 each

Micah Center, Olivia Latham, Mia Wright

Jackson County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$1,000

Tyrah Jones

Johnson County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$4,000 each

Allison Faith Forrest, Benjamin Bradley Plaxico

Kenton County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$2,000 each

Hannah Bishop, Emma Briney, Grace Holtkamp, Catherine Kremer

Knott County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$1,000

Lucas Hall

Knox County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$1,000 each

Dalton Cook, Kendall Gray

LaRue County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$1,000 each

Chase Baker, Kalli Flanders, Jacob Gentry, Parker Smith

Laurel County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$4,000 each

Kendall Bengel, Gunner Whitaker

Letcher County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$1,000

Lakota Lewis

Lewis County Farm Bureau Vo-Ag Scholarship – \$500 each

Gabriella Thayer, Emily Wills

Lewis County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$1,000 each

Damon Kennedy, Amy Smith, Breanna Walker

Livingston County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$1,000 each

Abigail Calender, Jack Howard, Josey Tolley

Lyon County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$500 each

Trinity Haines, Chase Young

**Madison County Farm Bureau
Scholarship – \$1,000 each**

Seth Anderson, Tanner Cruse, Bethany R. Groce,
Lauren Rowlette, Cheyenne Shearer, Lily Grace Wilson

Marion County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$500 each

Elise Carpenter, Lee Ann Childers, Alyssa Followay,
Chloe Mattingly, Abby Elizabeth Scott

Martin County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$1,000 each

Breanna Rice, Jaiden Robinson

Martin County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$500 each

Bethany Crum, Savannah Harmon, Breanna Rice,
Jaiden Robinson, Fallyne Wefenstette

Mason County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$1,000 each

Jared Collins, Sara Grayson, Beverly Hutchinson,
Madelyn McElfresh, Kaycee Moss, Victor Paco Franco
Reyes, Rachel Madison Rister

**McCracken County Farm Bureau
Scholarship – \$1,000 each**

Gabrielle Alexis Jo McLeod, Dorian Lee Record

**McLean County Farm Bureau Jack Taylor Memorial
Scholarship – \$1,000 each**

Margaret Ann Hayden, Mallory Renee Robertson

Meade County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$1,000 each

Elizabeth Embry, Emily Vaughn

**Mercer County Farm Bureau
Scholarship – \$1,000 each**

Cole Clark, Aubrey Jones

Metcalf County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$500

Leah Thompson

**Monroe County Farm Bureau
Scholarship – \$1,000 each**

Cameron Garmon, John Hagan

**Montgomery County Farm Bureau
Scholarship – \$2,000**

Kallee M. Bruce

**Montgomery County Farm Bureau Ag
Scholarship – \$2,000**

Zoe G. Cannon

**Morgan County Farm Bureau Memorial
Scholarship – \$2,000 each**

Kristen Dawn Collins, Payton Cole Hampton, Alley Faith
Kemplin

**Muhlenberg County Farm Bureau
Scholarship – \$1,000 each**

Jenna Michele Rice, Alleson Camrin Short

**Nelson County Farm Bureau
Scholarship – \$1,000 each**

Abby Kathryn Berry, Jordan Elizabeth Cross, Easton
Anthony Culver, Carly Brooke Douglas, Justin Bradley
Gagne, Garrett Matthew Hall, Michael Wayne Hamilton,
Savanna Alexis Hill, McKenna Rose Hinkebein,
Nathaniel Scott Jones, Madison Elizabeth Lindsey,
Jordan Kaylee Miles, Cassie Michaela Parrish, Madeline
Brooke Robbins, Lydia Rose Sandefur, Jillian Brooke
Simpson, David Martin Williams, Stanley Larkin Williams

**Nicholas County Farm Bureau
Scholarship – \$500 each**

Marcus Gardner, Shelby Tedder

**Oldham County Farm Bureau
Scholarship – \$2,000 each**

Adam Kempf, Mary Kate Nevins

**Oldham County Farm Bureau Current College Student
Scholarship – \$2,000**

Madelyn Burgess

Owen County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$750 each

Allison Burford, Hannah Johnson, Audrey Lewis, Kaitlyn
Parker

**Pendleton County Farm Bureau
Scholarship – \$500 each**

Emilee Ammerman, Brooklyn Browning

Pike County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$500 each

Emily Adkins, Caitlyn Coleman, Peyton Elswick, Joshua
Hall, Haley Johnson, Karosta May, Emily Morgan,
Connor Roberts, Kennedy Stallard, Olivia Whitfield

**Pulaski County Farm Bureau
Scholarship – \$1,200 each**

Wiley Cain, Sarah Davis, Jasper Hampton, Taylor Young

Robertson County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$500

Carley Turner

**Rockcastle County Farm Bureau
Scholarship – \$750 each**

Cole Ballinger, Cade Burdette, Zoe Carol Burdette,
Alexandria Hasty, Sydney Elizabeth Hines, Bailey
Johnson, Madison Pride

**Russell County Farm Bureau
Scholarship – \$2,000 each**

Colton Carnes, Brannon Lawson, Alexandra Wilson

Scott County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$750 each

Caitlin Dawson, Lillian Demus, Suellen Smith, Hannah
Tirlea, Drew Varney, Harley Wagoner

Shelby County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$1,000 each

Kaitlin Tucker, Mollie Wills

Shelby County Farm Bureau Roy V. Catlett Scholarship – \$1,000

Britney Cox

Shelby County Farm Bureau Current College Student Scholarship – \$1,000

Abby Wills

Simpson County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$1,000 each

Katelyn Marie Hollingsworth, Benjamin David James

Spencer County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$2,000 each

Kelsey Cotton, Noah Dunning

Spencer County Farm Bureau Current College Student Scholarship – \$2,000

Courtney Jeffers

Taylor County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$1,000 each

Alise Butler, Elizabeth Sullivan

Taylor County Farm Bureau FFA Scholarship – \$1,500

Kailey Thompson

Trigg County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$500 each

Logan Darnall, Nathan Gray, Ethan Nolcox, Haley Stewart

Trimble County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$500 each

Ashlynn Cissell, Brody Fugate

Trimble County Farm Bureau Jason Jenkins Memorial Scholarship – \$1,000

Brody Fugate

Warren County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$4,000

Madison Fera

Warren County Farm Bureau R.O. Buchanan Scholarship – \$4,000

Anna Sweets

Washington County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$500 each

Kaitlyn Hale, Elizabeth “Beth” Osbourne, Mary Elizabeth “Lizzie” Riley, Garrett Stevens

Wayne County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$2,000 each

Shawn Abbott, Elliott Cross, Bryce Gossage

Webster County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$1,000

Shelby Shadrick, Kayla Yates

Whitley County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$3,000

Abigail Schwarz

Wolfe County Farm Bureau Educational Scholarship – \$1,000 each

Riley Ann Brewer, Chayton Marshall

Wolfe County Phyllis Amyx Memorial Scholarship – \$2,000

Abby Cox

Woodford County Farm Bureau Scholarship – \$2,000 each

Jansen Blair, Anna Manges



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McCracken County

October 2, 2019, 6:00 p.m.
St. John's Knights of Columbus Bld.

McCreary County

September 19, 2019, 6:00 p.m.
South KY RECC

Monroe County

September 26, 2019, 6:00 p.m.
Monroe County Extension Office

Muhlenberg County

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

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

Pendleton County

September 26, 2019, 6:30 p.m.
Farm Bureau Office

Rockcastle County

September 20, 2019
Dinner: 6:00 p.m. Meeting: 7:00 p.m.
Roundstone Elementary School

Russell County

September 6, 2019, 6:00 p.m.
Fairgrounds

Scott County

September 17, 2019, 6:30 p.m.
Scott County Extension Office

Simpson County

September 5, 2019, 6:30 p.m.
Franklin Simpson Ag Building

Spencer County

September 30, 2019, 7:00 p.m.
Spencer County Extension Office

Taylor County

September 9, 2019, 7:00 p.m.
Taylor County Farm Bureau Office

Todd County

September 16, 2019, 6:00 p.m.
Petrie Memorial UMC

Trimble County

August 15, 2019, 6:00
Trimble County Extension Office

Warren County

September 21, 2019, 5:00 p.m.
South Warren High School

Wayne County

September 30, 2019, 6:00 p.m.
Aspire Center

Whitley County

September 10, 2019, 6:00 p.m.
Brashears Grocery

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Roadside Farm Market Tour attendees

SUMMERTIME LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Roadside Farm Market Tour, Beef Tour, Teacher Workshops, and IFAL

“It’s never too late to learn something new,” said Kentucky Farm Bureau President Mark Haney, as a new season of tours and workshops began, carrying on long-standing KFB traditions of supporting education at all levels.

Haney along with the rest of the Executive Committee members, and dozens of KFB members from across the state participated in this year’s Roadside Farm Market Tour to West Virginia and Virginia, and the annual John C. Hendricks Beef Tour that included stops in Missouri and Iowa.

“The purpose of these tours is to give our members a fresh perspective on the industry by seeing other farming operations and agribusinesses,” added Haney. “We can learn so much from each other and I think these types of tours help to make our state’s agricultural industry better, as we bring back new ideas and a different perspective of traditional practices.”

KFB First Vice President Eddie Melton participated in this year’s Beef Tour. He said as Kentucky’s beef cattle industry has grown to be one of the biggest and best in the country, learning from other operations in other places helps to fortify the sustainable efforts being made to keep the state in the top tier of cattle production.

“We have seen such a growth in our beef cattle industry

over the past several years. We have improved genetics, better infrastructure and more recognition than ever before,” he said. “By visiting these other related venues in different areas of the country, we can learn more as we strive to build an even better cattle industry, as well as recognizing how well we are holding our own when it comes to our production methods.”

KFB Second Vice President Sharon Furches took part in the Roadside Farm Market trip and noticed how willing the market owners in other states were to share their knowledge with Kentucky tour attendees.

“It just goes to show that the people involved in agriculture truly count themselves as one big family, no matter where they live or the kind of farm they own.”

- Sharon Furches

“In being a part of that family, we know and understand the issues each of us face, and we share our ideas and opportunities that can be positive for all of us,” she said.

KFB Teacher Workshops Helping a Second Generation of Teachers

For the past two decades, KFB has offered countless teachers the opportunity to attend numerous workshops as a way to bring ag literacy into their classrooms while earning valuable professional development.

Scott Christmas, Director of Agricultural Education and the Women's Program said the workshops are just one of the many ways KFB supports education be it for teachers or students.

"As an organization, KFB wants to do all it can to support our teachers throughout the state while giving them tools, by way of our ag literacy lessons, to take back to the classroom," he said.

"Our Teacher Workshops are an integral part of our commitment to education and have proven to be so valuable in getting correct ag-related information to students throughout the Commonwealth."

Each workshop includes numerous hands-on activities, a field trip to a local farm or ag-related business, and plenty of learning materials to share with fellow teachers and students.

This year, workshops were held in various locations across the state including Owensboro, Carter Caves, Barren River, Lake Barkley, Pikeville, Lexington and Louisville, giving teachers from all sections of Kentucky the opportunity to participate.

Institute for Future Agricultural Leaders (IFAL)

For more than 30 years, KFB has been bringing high school juniors together for a unique summertime leadership program that allows them to explore different fields of study for careers in agriculture, experience leadership training, and learn more about Farm Bureau. For many of these students, IFAL has been a springboard to promising futures in the agriculture industry.

Jackson Tolle, KFB Director of Young Farmer Programs oversees IFAL, which is held at Murray State University and the University of Kentucky. He said the experience has proven to be something the students always remember.

"I have talked to several IFAL alumni who tell me they stay in contact with fellow participants for years to come just because of the bonds they formed during their five-day leadership event," he said. "I think this speaks well to the kinds of students coming to IFAL and the great experiences they have while attending."

As important as all the components of IFAL are, perhaps the most rewarding is the student participation in a Discussion Meet panel allowing them to debate agricultural issues in a format created by Farm Bureau. Many of these young people will eventually come to participate at the state and national levels in the Discussion Meet competition held during state and national annual meetings.



Top Left: UK IFAL
Top Right: Murray State IFAL
Bottom: John C Hendricks Beef Tour attendees

COUNTY CORNER

Snapshots of County Farm Bureau activities



Union County

Mary Nelle White was recently honored for her years of service by Union County Farm Bureau. She has served the county Farm Bureau in many different roles including President and Vice President, over the years, helping develop several outstanding programs.



Pendleton County

Photo at Left: Pendleton County Farm Bureau members and float riders pose with their first-place float. Photo at Right: The Pendleton Co Women's Committee participated in the Feed the Kids program which bags lunches for underprivileged children. Pictured from Left: Jean Rapp, Linda Daughtery, Esther McClanahan, Bonnie Logan



Grant County

Photo at Left: During the June meeting of the Grant County Farm Bureau five \$1,000 scholarships were given to five high school seniors from Williamstown & Grant County High Schools. Also, two monetary awards were presented to the Grant County Soil Conservation winners in the essay and poster contests. Pictured from left: Travis Rhoton, President Grant County Farm Bureau, Zoey Chaney-Soil Conservation Poster winner, Chase Turner & Corey Fryman-Williamstown High School Scholarship winners. Trent Smith, Ryan Mitts & Paige Simpson- Grant County High School scholarship winners. Mark Kinsey, State Director 6. Not pictured was Elijah Walters, Essay winner Soil Conservation. Photo at Right: Austyn Magee is Grant County's IFAL representative. She is president of the Grant County High School FFA Chapter where she will be a senior this fall.



Oldham County

Agents Steve and Steven Jones with county board president Sam Finney and Dwight Greenwell exhibiting the KFB model T at Oldham County days.



Franklin County

Pictured from left: Agency Managers J.O Osborne and Ed McClure cooking at the Franklin County picnic.



Knox County

Knox County Farm Bureau gave \$1,000 Senior Scholarships for 2019 to Kendall Jay Gray of Knox Central High School, left and Dalton Michael Cook of Lynn Camp High School. The award was presented at Honors Day. Pictured left is Mr. Clovce Hinkle, Knox County President, Kendall Gray and Mr. Scott Payne, Knox County Farm Bureau Insurance Agency Manager. At right is Mr. Hinkle, Dalton Cook, Mrs. Judith Hinkle, Knox County Board Member.





Campbell County

Campbell County Farm Bureau Scholarship Winners. In order from left: Jacob Lippert, Rusty Wolf, Jake Schneider, Mirena Combs, Ellinor Martin, and Anna Rust



Bourbon County

Pictured from left are: Ben Robin, 2nd Vice President, Micah Campbell Agency Manager, Savannah Robin, County President



Wayne County

Wayne County Customer Appreciation Day



Whitley County

President of the Whitley County Farm Bureau, Garrett Croley, spoke to the local Cattleman's Association about the benefits of being a Farm Bureau member and what the local Farm Bureau does in the community.

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U.S. HAY ACREAGE LOWEST SINCE 1908

USDA projects U.S. hay harvested acreage at 52.8 million acres in 2019. This is down only slightly from the 2018 harvested acreage but is the lowest harvested acreage since 1908. Prices for hay continue to rise on limited supply combined with strong domestic and export demand. The most recent NASS price data for May reported \$152 per ton for hay excluding alfalfa, and \$204 per ton for alfalfa. These are the highest monthly prices since 2014 for both types. Record-low hay production is expected in California, Illinois, Maine, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Washington, and West Virginia. Unfavorable weather has impacted hay as well as other feed crops. To assist livestock producers, USDA's Risk Management Agency has changed its haying and grazing rules for cover crops on 2019 prevented planted acres. U.S. exports of both alfalfa and other hay continued to rise in May, indicating continued strong export demand for high quality animal fodder. Total exports of alfalfa and other hay totaled 3.9 million MT in 2018, down 7.2 percent from 2017. Exports accounted for less than 3.5 percent of total all hay production.

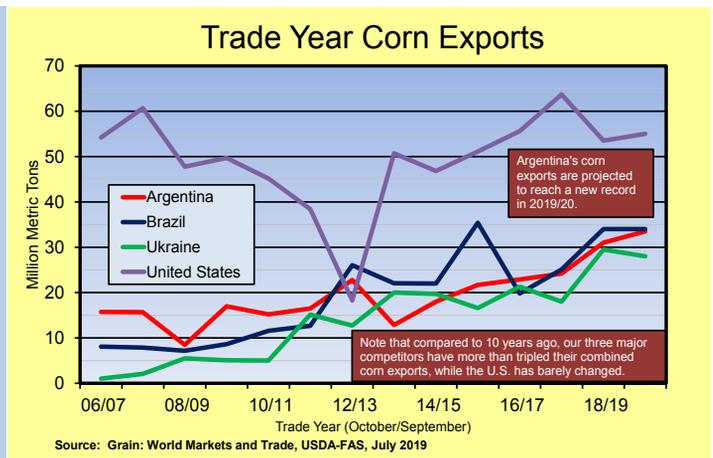
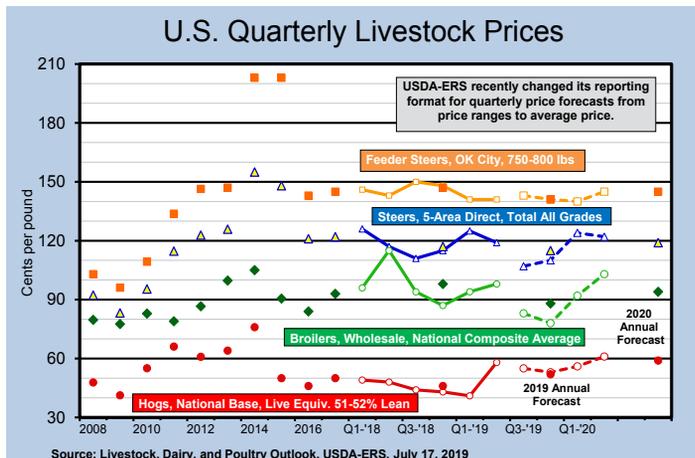
CATTLE HERD EXPANSION LIKELY ENDED

The USDA estimated all cattle and calves in the United States on July 1, 2019 totaled 103 million head, unchanged from July 1, 2018. Before that, 2008 was the last year with at least this many cattle and calves. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 41.7 million head, were slightly below the 41.8 million head from a year earlier. Compared to last July 1, beef cows, at 32.4 million head, were unchanged and milk cows, at 9.3 million head, were down one percent. Beef replacement heifers, at 4.4 million head, were down 4.3 percent from a year ago. Milk replacement heifers, at 4.1 million head, were down 2.4 percent. The combined total of calves under 500 pounds and other heifers and steers over 500 pounds (outside of feedlots) is 37.1 million

head. This is slightly above the 37.0 million head on July 1, 2018. The 2019 calf crop in the U.S. is expected to be 36.3 million head, down slightly from last year's 36.4 million head. Calves born during the first half of 2019 are estimated at 26.5 million head. An additional 9.8 million calves are expected to be born during the second half of 2019.

POULTRY INDUSTRY FACES ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

U.S. broiler and table egg producers are facing economic challenges from rising production and weaker prices. June broiler production totaled 3.51 billion pounds, a 0.6 percent increase year over year. This resulted from 1.0 percent fewer birds harvested and a 1.6 percent increase in the average live weight. Although producers are cutting back on broiler-type egg sets, rising weights should keep broiler production above year-ago levels for the rest of 2019. Based on continued weak domestic demand, USDA forecasts the whole bird price at 83 cents for the third quarter and 78 cents for the fourth quarter. The average price forecast for 2019 is 88 cents per pound, down from 97.8 cents for 2018; USDA expects 2020 to average 94 cents. Table egg producers are also experiencing weak prices due to excess egg supplies. USDA data show table egg production was up 3.6 percent in May and 2.4 percent in June, compared to a year earlier. While the layer flock expansion may slow, an increasing lay rate (eggs per layer) increases production. In May, the lay rate reached an all-time high of 80.52 eggs per 100 layers per day. With supplies outpacing demand, egg prices are under pressure. USDA forecasts the average egg price at 75 cents in the third quarter and 90 cents in the fourth quarter. The 2019 annual average price of 85.5 cents is over 52 cents below the 2018 annual average. USDA forecasts the 2020 annual average price at \$1.00 per dozen.



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Just some food for thought!”

Hilda Legg,

State Director of USDA Rural Development - Kentucky

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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, Davie Stephens, a soybean, corn and poultry producer from Clinton, Kentucky discusses issues related to the soybean industry and his role as President of the American Soybean Association (ASA).

Tell our readers about the ASA and what this organization does.

Basically, we advocate for farmers through policy work within the states. We'll be 100 years old in 2020, this being our 99th year. That being said, we have 26 state affiliates that make up the American Soybean Association. Those state organizations, like the Kentucky Soybean Association, do policy work in Frankfort. The ASA has 54 directors that represent those 26 states as we advocate for policy in Washington, D.C. We have meetings there twice a year and visit our legislators and various agency administrators. But we also have, what we refer to as advocacy teams, so if there is a more immediate need, members of those advocacy teams will fly in and meet with people on the Hill. We also work closely with the United Soybean Board which is the promotional board that handles the check-off program. It is chaired this year by another Kentucky farmer, Keith Tapp, who does a great job and we work very closely with that group.

What are some of the biggest challenges that you see soybean producers facing at this point in time?

Really, when you look at the current situation, as of today, the first and foremost challenge is China and all the issues surrounding that situation. The U.S. exports 60 percent of our soybeans and about half of that goes directly to China. As you think about that, it is a huge market that we do not want to



Davie Stephens

lose, and at this point, can't afford to lose. With the huge amount that we produce every year, our soybeans need a home. So that is one thing we need to be cognizant of. Keith Tapp and I actually went to China the first of April, along with the United States Soybean Export Council CEO, and met with different key individuals. We have got to make sure that we get past these tariff issues, so we can get back to trading on open free markets.

Often with these challenges we see some opportunities. What are some of the things that you see as an opportunity right now?

ASA and United States Soybean Export Council have been working in other countries to make sure that we get into new emerging markets such as Africa, Asia and Latin America, for instance. We are also working to get into the Philippines and Indonesia. We are trying to make sure that we show the great use of U.S. Soy in the big picture, and we're really putting an emphasis on that, more than ever right now. But progress is being made and we see how important it is not to put all of our eggs in one basket.

Does the diversity of this crop play well with looking for new markets?

One thing that has worked in soybean producers favor, certainly is the fact that the crop is so diverse. There are so many things that it can be used for and that has to play on the positive side for those producers knowing they are raising such a diverse crop; a crop that is used in so many ways and is so needed around the world. The uses of soy are unbelievable. Whether it is going into lotions or seats for Ford Motor Company, it is truly a quality product. It is amazing what that little seed can produce.

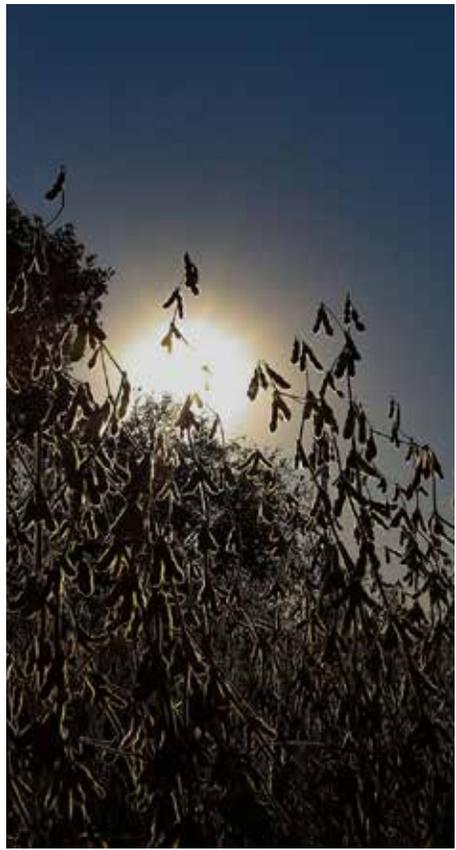
As our farming population gets a little older each year, we are really looking toward a younger generation to take over. What do you tell them today?

What you tell them is, everything runs in cycles and I can truly attest to that because I started in a down cycle that was just like this one. But I stayed the course and I just continued to give what it took because I had a passion for farming. And while it did take a lot of extra effort and work, we saw that cycle

evolve over the 90s and into the early 2000s, and it just flourished. They have to understand, you are in it for the long game, not the short game. I want them to keep their head up and their chin up. Another thing for the young people to understand is, there is so much going on in agriculture, not just as a farmer, but in the tech world; whether it is related to bio-tech, that keeps the crops safe, or it's in the technology world. Now computers run the whole machine, and this younger generation has grown up with some of this newer technology.

Are you still excited about the industry even though we are in a tough ag economy?

Yes, I am, and I still see lots of opportunities. It is so nice to see how ag has changed in my lifetime. That lets me connect with ones like my father who showed how ag changed in his time or my grandfather and how it changed in his time. It is just so neat to hear those stories they told and the ones I am now telling. I have served my time on the board and I have enjoyed it. But it is time for the next generation to come on. They are eager. I want to make sure I do all that I can do to pass the torch.



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DR. JAMES W. MIDDLETON RECEIVES KENTUCKY LEOPOLD CONSERVATION AWARD

Dr. James W. Middleton of Munfordville is the recipient of the 2019 Kentucky Leopold Conservation Award®.

The prestigious award, given in honor of renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold, recognizes extraordinary achievement in voluntary conservation and management of natural resources by American farmers, ranchers and foresters in 20 states.

In Kentucky, the \$10,000 award is presented annually by Sand County Foundation, the Kentucky Agricultural Council, and the Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts.

Dr. Middleton was presented with the \$10,000 award at the Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts Convention on July 9.

"My whole life is centered around my love affair with Hart County. I have spent my life taking care of the people (as a country doctor) and the land (as a farmer)," says Dr. James W. Middleton.

Among the many outstanding Kentucky landowners nominated for the award were finalists: JRS Angus Farm of Lawrenceburg in Anderson County, and F.L. Sipes Farm of Ekron in Meade County.

The Kentucky Leopold Conservation Award is made possible thanks to the generous support and partnership of Kentucky Agricultural Council, Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts, Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation, Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Kentucky Corn Growers Association, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, Kentucky Woodland Owner's Association, Kentucky Tree Farm Committee, Kentucky Cattlemen's Association, AgriBusiness Association of Kentucky, Kentucky Pork Producers, The Nature Conservancy in Kentucky, and the U.S Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service.

For more information on the award, visit www.leopoldconservationaward.org

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DOWN THE BACKROADS

By Tim Thornberry

“The pen is mightier than the sword.” I’m sure you have heard this famous saying before. It was written by Edward Bulwer-Lytton in 1839 and is a line from a play. My interpretation is pretty simple; words can often be more powerful than weapons or brute strength.

With that said, my dad wasn’t all that familiar with Edward Bulwer-Lytton when he bought boxing gloves for me and my brother in 1967. I believe his motive was to teach us to defend ourselves should the need ever arise.

Learning to box was fun, at first. It was more like a game to us until the first bloody nose came along. Unfortunately, it was mine.

I discovered quickly that hand-to-hand combat was not my forte, to the chagrin of my father. He came from the old school where strength was power. I decided early on that the old school method was just not for me.

I was more from the “Let’s talk this thing out,” school; more of a negotiator than a combatant; more into sitting down and discussing the issues as opposed to striking first and asking questions later.

My first attempt at being a supreme moderator came during a youth softball game while playing first base. We had a fantastic pitcher during that particular game and most of the opposing-team hits were grounders coming right back to him. All he had to do was make a nice easy throw to me to get the out.

Unfortunately, he was better at getting the ball across the plate than getting the throw to first base. After three misses, he began to get mad at me as opposed to recognizing his own weakness.

A time-out soon came to try and remedy the issue. As we huddled on the mound, our pitcher immediately blamed me for not catching the ball. I replied by reminding him I wasn’t 10 feet tall.

As tempers heated up, my first

thought was how embarrassing it would be if our disagreement came to fisticuffs. After all, we were on the same team. In recognizing that his misthrows were all going over my head, I recommended that he take more time the next time he had to make a throw to first; to just relax and not rush the throw.

We returned to the game, my suggestion worked, and we walked away with a victory. My pitcher and I would remain good friends after that, and we never had another meeting at the mound.

I discovered two things that day. First, talking it out is easier than wrestling in the dirt. But more importantly, I would discover that if we take the time to discuss an issue, even if we are disagreeing, generally a solution could be found or at least an understanding.

I often think about that time in my life and think about what my dad would have done on the mound that day. Likely a butt-whooping would have ensued. However, the power of words can so often tame a situation and prove to be much more effective than a physical confrontation which only causes ill-feelings that often last a lifetime.

Since that day, I have often used words in a positive way to make a point, solve a problem, keeping the boxing gloves tucked away, as I travel down the backroads.

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