

Kentucky

F A R M • B U R E A U • N E W S



The Kentucky State Fair: Tradition Triumphs

2020 KFB Scholarship Recipients
State and county totals pass
the half-million dollar mark

Agricultural Education:
There's Something for Everyone

SEPTEMBER 2020



Moving agriculture forward, no matter which way the wind blows.

From farm fields to the legislative chambers of the state and nation, it takes leadership at all levels to meet the challenges of Kentucky's agricultural communities. Kentucky Farm Bureau will continue to support that leadership — as an advocate, a service provider and an organization — by giving leaders the tools, encouragement and voice they need to succeed in an ever-changing world. Why Farm Bureau? Because effective leadership makes life better for all Kentuckians.



KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

EST. 1919



KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU NEWS
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Cover photo by Tim Thornberry
A scene from this year's Championship Drive.

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For rates and information call 1.800.798.2691

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



Unless you haven't been watching television or listening to the radio for the past several months, you have undoubtedly seen or heard the many political ads that are currently filling the airwaves, not to mention all the print ads in newspapers and magazines, and the many social media posts related to the upcoming election.

It's hard to escape them, and we're only going to be subjected to more of those in the coming weeks leading up to the general election on November 3.

Regardless of how you feel about these types of ads, or which candidates you support, the fact remains that this is a very important election, and having our voices heard is critical in our efforts to be efficient advocates — no matter the issues we choose to advocate for. I have said more than once, the right to vote is one of the most important freedoms we have in this country.

Having a say in who will be leading our local, state, and federal governments is far too important of a task to pass up. In keeping with Kentucky Farm Bureau's (KFB) long history of helping to inform our members on a number of policy issues, we often host Measure the Candidate (MTC) forums for all levels of government, throughout the state. Recently we hosted a MTC forum for the U.S. Senate race.

In being involved in this way, I think it's important to note that KFB does not endorse any candidate. That was not the purpose of this organization when it was founded more than 100 years ago, and it is not how we operate today. However, we do take great pride in working with elected officials on both sides of the aisle when it comes to supporting our priorities.

We make no apologies for that, and we will continue to work with our government leaders who support legislation that positively affects our rural communities and agriculture industry.

Participating in the procedure by which we elect our governmental leaders is something not all people in the world get to do, and it's hard for me to imagine living in a place where citizens do not have a voice in who heads up their governments.

It's so easy to take something like the right to vote for granted since it is something we have always enjoyed. It's also easy to think our one vote won't make a difference. That is simply not the case. Each vote is important to these candidates and the election process, and we should always remember that.

As we get closer to election day, take time to positively consider this privilege we have and make every effort to be included in this process.

Those political ads may seem repetitive after a while, and whether you view them as informative or not, they can at least remind us of how important the right to vote is to this system of government we call a democracy.

I hope you will take the time to support the candidate of your choice and then make the effort to vote for them.

Mark Haney, President

Kentucky Farm Bureau

2020 County Annual Meetings

All times are local. COVID-19 rules apply. Please follow CDC guidelines.

All times, locations and dates are subject to change. Please contact your local Farm Bureau for more information.

Adair County

September 15, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
Adair County Farm Bureau
North Agency
No meal served

Allen County

September 22, 2020, 6:00 p.m.
Allen County Farm Bureau office
Business meeting only

Bath County

September 21, 2020 6:30 p.m.
Bath County Farm Bureau office
Business meeting only
No meal or door prizes

Bell County

September 24, 6:00 p.m.
Bell County Farm Bureau office
Business meeting only
No meal or door prizes

Boone County

September 8, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
Boone County Farm Bureau office,
Burlington
Business meeting only
(regular members only)
No meal served
Members please RSVP

Bourbon County

September 10, 2020, 6:00 p.m.
Legion Park
Business meeting only

Boyd County

October 12, 2020, 6:30 p.m.
Boyd County Fair Building

Boyle County

September 29, 2020, 2:00 p.m.
The Showroom,
2405 Lebanon Road, Danville
Business meeting only
No meal or door prizes

Bracken County

September 15, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
Bracken County Farm Bureau office
Business meeting only
No meal served
CDC guidelines

Breckinridge County

September 10, 2020, 5:00 p.m.
Breckinridge County Extension office
Business meeting only

Carroll County

October 12, 2020, 6:30 p.m.
Carroll County Farm Bureau office
Business meeting only

Casey County

October 5, 2020, 6:30 p.m.
Casey County Farm Bureau office
Business meeting only
No meal or door prizes

Christian County

September 14, 2020, 8:00 p.m.
Christian County Farm Bureau office
South Location
Business meeting only
No meal or door prizes
Drive thru from 8:00 a.m. till 8:00 p.m.
to pick up ballot and vote for Board
of Directors, by-law changes, and
resolutions at 250 Burley Avenue

Fayette County

October 16, 2020, 6:30 p.m.
James Farm, 5450 James Lane
Meal provided
Must RSVP by Oct. 9 to attend
carrie.mcintosh@kyfb.com
859-253-0023

Franklin County

October 6, 2020, 7:30 p.m.
Franklin County Cooperative
Extension office
Business meeting only
No meal or door prizes

Gallatin County

October 5, 2020, noon
Gallatin County Farm Bureau office
Business meeting only

Grant County

September 11, 2020, 6:00 p.m.
Alpine Hills Dairy Farm
CDC guidelines to be followed

Hancock County

September 10, 2020, 6:00 p.m.
Hancock County Fairgrounds
Business meeting only
No meal or door prizes

Hardin County

September 25, 2020, 6:30 p.m.
via Zoom - please contact the county
office for more information

Harlan County

September 19, 2020, noon
Harlan County Farm Bureau office
Business meeting only

Harrison County

September 10, 2020, 8:00 p.m.
McCauley Building HC Fairgrounds
Business meeting only
No meal served

Hart County

September 10, 2020, 2:00 p.m.
Hart County Fair Grounds
Business meeting only
No meal or door prizes

Henry County

October 8, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
Henry County Farm Bureau office

Jessamine County

September 17, 2020, 5:30 p.m.
Jessamine County Farm Bureau office
parking lot
Brief business meeting only
No food or door prizes

Kenton County

September 15, 2020, 2:00 p.m.
Kenton County Farm Bureau office
Independence Agency
Business meeting only
No meal served
CDC guidelines will be followed

Knott County

September 15, 2020, 6:00 p.m.
Knott County Farm Bureau office

Knox County

September 10, 2020, 6:30 p.m.
Knox County Farm Bureau office
in Barbourville
Business meeting only
No food or door prizes

Jackson County

September 21, 6:00 p.m.
Jackson County Farm Bureau
office parking lot
Business meeting only
No food or door prizes

Laurel County

October 13, 2020, 5:45 p.m.
Laurel County Farm Bureau,
London Agency
No meal or door prizes

Lincoln County

September 29, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
Lincoln County Fairgrounds
Due to COVID-19 and the safety
of membership, this is a business
meeting only
No meal, entertainment or
door prizes

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Kentucky Farm Bureau is a grassroots organization dedicated to serving our membership family and their communities. As the Voice of Agriculture, we identify problems, develop solutions, promote economic success, and enhance the quality of life for all.

KFB OFFICERS

- Mark HaneyPresident
- Eddie Melton 1st Vice President
- Sharon Furches2nd Vice President
- Drew GrahamExecutive Vice President

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- Stewart HughesGeorgetown
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- David L. CampbellStanford
- Terry Lawson Mt. Vernon
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KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU NEWS

www.kyfb.com

www.kyfb.com/federation/member-benefits

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COMMENT COLUMN



I’m blessed to have grown up on our family farm in Clark County. It taught me the benefits of hard work as I learned through hands-on activities that

took place every day. I discovered how to grow crops, care for animals, and to be a good steward of the land. It was a classroom like no other and my parents set an example that I carry with me daily.

In learning those valuable lessons, I saw the value of a good education, whether it came from the farm or the classroom, and I knew it would be something I would have for my entire life.

My love of agriculture played such an important role through my school years, especially the agricultural education I received at the high school level. One agriculture teacher in particular, Jack Wise, was very instrumental in encouraging me to follow through on goals and objectives, especially in times of doubt.

He not only taught me how to think through a problem and to apply the knowledge I gained from my books, but I learned leadership skills that would serve me in the real world. I learned to show others respect and, by doing so, found I gained the same in return.

We have, in this state, some of the most devoted ag-ed teachers you will find anywhere teaching these lessons. Because of their dedication, another generation is receiving the quality education they will depend on throughout the rest of their lives.

No matter where my career has taken me, from the farm gate, to the legislature, to the boardroom, and all places in between, I have used the educational tools I received as an ag education student on a daily basis.

We must also pay tribute to our institutions of higher learning, positioned in all regions of Kentucky, which provide the agriculture research and instruction needed for us to prosper in our agricultural endeavors. The University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Extension Service is a most valuable resource for all farmers and agriculturists, as well all of our citizens.

Something that has always impressed me when it comes to agricultural education are the partnerships that have been created at various levels in communities and statewide. Be it collaboration between teachers, involvement by local businesses or the support that comes from organizations like Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB), the effort that is made for the betterment of these students is like no other.

One of the things I’m most proud of is the KFB scholarship program that awards hundreds of thousands of dollars annually to Kentucky high school and college students. This year, a total of 443 state and county scholarships, worth more than \$533,300, were awarded. County Farm Bureaus take such pride in awarding these scholarships which have helped pave the way, educationally, for countless students over the years.

In my time spent teaching at UK, I encountered numerous students who had benefited from these scholarships as they moved forward to receive their degrees.

Thanks to all of our teachers for their efforts in teaching our young people, and a special thanks to the many agricultural educators who continue to change lives and strengthen the very industry that sustains us all. They are God’s blessing to all of us.

Drew Graham, Executive Vice President
Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation

2020 County Annual Meetings

All times are local. COVID-19 rules apply. Please follow CDC guidelines.

All times, locations and dates are subject to change. Please contact your local Farm Bureau for more information.

Logan County

September 14, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
Logan County Extension
office/outdoor pavilion
Business meeting only
No meal or door prizes
No outstanding youth or
variety show
CDC guidelines to be followed
Bring your own chair

Martin County

September 11, 2020, 9:00 a.m.
Martin County Extension Office
Business meeting only

Mason County

September 28, 2020, 6:00 p.m.
Mason County Farm Bureau office
Business meeting only
No meal served
CDC guidelines will be observed

McCreary County

September 10, 2020, 6:00 p.m.
Sandhill 4-H Camp
Business meeting only

Mercer County

September 14, 2020, 4:30 p.m.
Mercer County Farm Bureau Office
Short business meeting
No meal or door prizes

Metcalfe County

September 17, 2020, 6:00 p.m.
Edmonton City Park
- Large Pavilion
Business meeting only
No meal or door prizes

Montgomery County

October 1, 2020, 6:30 p.m.
Montgomery County Farm
Bureau office
Business meeting only
No food or door prizes

Morgan County

September 17, 2020, 6:30 p.m.
Morgan County Farm Bureau office
Business meeting only
No food or door prizes

Oldham County

September 10, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
Zoom business meeting only

Owen County

October 12, 2020, 6:30 p.m.
Owen County Farm Bureau office
Business meeting only

Owsley County

September 22, 2020, 6:00 p.m.
Owsley County Farm Bureau office
Brief business meeting only
No food or door prizes

Pendleton County

October 5, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
Pendleton County Farm Bureau office
Business meeting only
No meal served
CDC guidelines will be followed

Pulaski County

October 8, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
Pulaski County Farm Bureau office
Business meeting only
No meal or door prizes

Robertson County

September 24, 2020, 6:30 p.m.
Robertson County Farm
Bureau office

Rowan County

October 6, 2020, 6:30 p.m.
Rowan County Farm Bureau Federation
Board Room
Election of Officers and Directors
No meal or door prizes

Russell County

September 10, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
Russell County Farm Bureau office
Business meeting only
No meal or door prizes

Shelby County

October 5, 2020, 10:00 a.m.
Shelby County Farm Bureau office,
Shelbyville
Business meeting only

Spencer County

September 28, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
Spencer County Farm
Bureau office
Business meeting only

Todd County

September 21, 2020, 6:30 p.m.
Todd County Farm Bureau office
Business meeting only
No food or giveaways

Washington County

October 5, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
Washington County Farm
Bureau office
Business meeting only

Wayne County

September 14, 2020, 6:00 p.m.
Wayne County Farm Bureau office
Business meeting only
No food or door prizes

Woodford County

September 15, 2020, 6:30 pm
Life Adventure Center
Business meeting only
No meal or door prizes

KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU PROVIDING NEARLY 200 FREE WI-FI INTERNET HOTSPOTS STATEWIDE



In an effort to help Kentuckians struggling to stay connected in an internet-driven world, Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) recently activated a free, public Wi-Fi internet signal from all 197 of its locations statewide. The Wi-Fi network – with its easily identifiable name, KFBFreeWiFi – is accessible from the parking areas around KFB’s buildings 7am-10pm daily and free to anyone who would like to use it.

“Reliable broadband internet service, especially in the rural parts of our state, is something that far too many Kentuckians still don’t have access to in their homes,” said Mark Haney, President of KFB. “In a world that now demands video meetings, virtual events and continual email communications – not to mention the tens of thousands of students who are about to start their new school year from home – internet connectivity is a must. We want to help ease that burden for some of our fellow Kentuckians through this initiative.”

With at least one office located in each of Kentucky’s 120 counties, KFB is well-suited to provide free Wi-Fi access to communities across the Commonwealth. Signs identifying parking spots where the Wi-Fi signals are strongest will be placed at KFB’s offices, and no online registration or even KFB membership is required to use this service. Kentuckians can also maintain proper social distancing practices while accessing the internet through this free Wi-Fi signal from the convenience of their own vehicle.

By providing this free service, KFB is focused on helping Kentuckians remain connected where the broadband availability is weak or nonexistent, especially with the added pressures of remote work and online learning resulting from the coronavirus pandemic.

KFB’s efforts are also part of a nationwide effort called the “American Connection Project” led by Land O’ Lakes. Constructed to bring attention to the lack of rural broadband availability across

the country, Land O’ Lakes sought partners who were deeply rooted in rural communities to assist with their goals. Prior to KFB’s launch, the American Connection Project had assembled a network of more than 90 businesses, trade associations and academic institutions in 19 states offering up more than 150 of their locations as free Wi-Fi hotspots. KFB more than doubled that number with its go-live today while adding Kentucky to the list of participating states.

“This initiative may seem like a drop in the pond as it relates to solving the overall issue, but if we can help one student finish a school project, or one small business owner complete a payroll schedule, or one grandparent video conference with a grandchild they haven’t seen in months, then this entire effort will be worth it,” concluded Haney.

To find a Kentucky Farm Bureau office and free Wi-Fi signal near you, visit kyfb.com/find/.

“ In a world that now demands video meetings, virtual events and continual email communications - not to mention the tens of thousands of students who are about to start their new school year from home – internet connectivity is a must.”

- Mark Haney



KFB SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS SURPASS HALF-MILLION DOLLAR MARK FOR 2020

A message from Kentucky Farm Bureau President Mark Haney

Each year we have the honor of awarding scholarships to young people across this state as part of Kentucky Farm Bureau's commitment to education. Scholarships are awarded at both the state and county level, and this is one of the most important things we do as an organization.

Our young people represent the future of the Commonwealth and we couldn't be prouder of their efforts especially, in this time when so much has changed. This year, despite all the challenges present by the COVID-19 pandemic, a total of 443 scholarships worth more than \$533,300 were given to students throughout the state.

This is a remarkable milestone in the support of educational efforts made by KFB. I want to personally congratulate each student and I wish them all the best as they continue their educational endeavors. And I'd like to thank our county Farm Bureaus and the volunteer members who work so hard all year long to make these scholarship awards possible.

Kentucky Farm Bureau State Scholarship Recipients

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.

Kelli Hendricks, Robertson County

Leadership in Agriculture Scholarship - \$3,000 each

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

Gracie Johnson, Casey County
William Shepherd, Hardin County

KFB Young Farmer Scholarship - \$2,000

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

Alex Burke, Breckinridge 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.

Megan Johnston, Boyle County

KFB Employee Child Scholarship - \$2,000

Ella Aponte, Trimble County

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

Noah Watson, Livingston County
Chelsie Mason, Hopkins County

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

Emma Rose Vincent, Edmonson County
Kaylee Vitato, Daviess County

Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation Career and Technical Education Scholarship - \$1,000 each

Dakota Cooper and Andrew Hagman, Hancock County
Trenton Brown, Breckinridge County
Clayton Story, Graves County

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

Carlie Cryer, Campbell County; Ellie McGowan, Crittenden County; Jakob Furnish, Harrison County; Brysen Honeycutt, Knott County; Chase Eastham, Pulaski County; Braedon Price, Warren County; Robert Ehr, Anderson County; Ashley Gropitch, Fayette County; Benjamin Slack, Simpson County; Matthew Smith, Trigg County; Dylan Driskell, Garrard County; Madison Fackler, Bullitt County; Chase Frisby, Boyle County; Madeline Jordon, Garrard County; Katelyn Miller, Taylor County; Sydney Pepper, Larue County; Madison Roberts, Ohio County; Matthew Thomas, Jackson County; Andrew Unthanks, Robertson; Robert Walden, Laurel County; Emily Welch, Fayette County

Kentucky Farm Bureau County Scholarship Recipients

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

Walter Baker, Elizabeth Stamper

Allen County Farm Bureau Scholarship - \$1,000

Ella Burch

Allen County Farm Bureau Ralston Bewley Scholarship - \$500

Robin Gagen

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

Sofia Luna, Morgan Powell,
Austin Thornberry

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

Gabriel Gettelfinger

Ballard County Farm Bureau \$100 gift to all graduating seniors at Ballard Memorial High School

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

Bethany Schalk, Juliana Bastien

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

Victoria Otis, Riley Warner,
Carlea Hutchison

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

Hannah Robbins, Reece Foley,
Courtney Bryant, Peyton Keyes,
Isaac Saylor, Olivia Lynch, Nicholas Wilson, Jimmy Montgomery, Kayla James, Maradith Moore, Preston Akers, Matthew Frost, Robert Kelley, John Brock III, Madison Greene, Braden Mills, Savannah Swedersky

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

Heather White, Julia Rice

Bourbon County Farm Bureau**Scholarship - \$1,000 each**

Alina Knore, Jared Sandefur, Jenny Crump, Nelson Paul, Samantha Rogers

Bourbon County Farm Bureau four-year Scholarship - \$4,000

Ana Feedback

Boyd County Farm Bureau Scholarship - \$1,500

Erin Borders

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

Landry Woodrum

Bracken County Farm Bureau Scholarship - \$500 each

Samuel Appleman, Hannah Arthur, Haylee Burton, Isabella Hardy, Elena Insko, Austin Mains, Savannah Moran, Michaela Remley, Delaney Reynolds, McKaylee Sebastian, McKenzie Sebastian

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

Wesley Little, Bayleigh Miller

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

Ashley Hinton, Breanna Whitworth

Breckinridge County Farm Bureau Scholarship - \$250 each

Trenton Brown, Jennay Leslie, Abigail Morton, Natalee Tabor, Hunter Dockery, John Roland Smith, John Thornhill

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

Mackenna Ellis, Isabella Cape, Cade Miller, Lilly Mooney

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

Mackenna Ellis, Isabella Cape

Butler County Farm Bureau Scholarship - \$1,000

Mattie Wells

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

Gracie Deel

Caldwell County Farm Bureau Scholarship - \$1,000

Jude East

Calloway County Farm Bureau**Scholarship - \$1,500 each**

EmmaLee Roach, Jaelyn Phillips, Hannah Todd, Logan Dick

Calloway County Farm Bureau Scholarship - \$1,000 each

Briley Scott, Anna Wilkins

Calloway County Farm Bureau Scholarship - \$500 each

Alaina Davis, Mallory Moore, Hannah Moore, Kaliya Morris

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

Charlie Cryer, Chloe Drake, Alyssa Harney, Grace Kramer, Jordon Tucker

Carroll County Farm Bureau Scholarship - \$750 each

Clara Tuttle

Casey County Farm Bureau Scholarship - \$500 each

Kamrynn Davis, Gracie Johnson, Alyssa Sharp

Christian County Farm Bureau Scholarship - \$1,000 each

Mary Campbell, Katherine Carroll, Meredith Crunk, Landon Haile, Isabel Keys, Sofia Sargeant, Chase Shannon, Lindsay Stokes

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

Lydia Woods, Emma Rader, Kaylee Mathis, Isabella Sester, Ashton Jarvis

Clinton County Farm Bureau Scholarship - \$500 each

Parker Tallent, Bobbie Ann Key, Tristan Moons, In addition, each graduating senior received \$100

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

Cortne Curnel, Lauren Gilchrist, Ellie McGowan, Kyron Hicks

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

Gabrielle Thrasher, Cassidy Phelps

Daviess County Farm Bureau Scholarship - \$2,000

Madison Baker

Daviess County Farm Bureau Insurance Agents Scholarship - \$2,000

Lilly Quinn

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

Holly Payne

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

Avery Barnett

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

Jay Powers

Fayette County Farm Bureau/John C. Darsie Memorial Scholarship - \$20,000

Catherine Wharton

Fayette County Farm Bureau Education Foundation Scholarship - \$10,000 each

Annika Weaver, Reka Gal, Brendley Nathaniel

Fleming County Farm Bureau Scholarship - \$1,000 each

Bradley Applegate, Tanner Faris, Jordon Stephens, Kasey Johnson, Cheyanne Buckley

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

Amber Stumbo, Elizabeth Burchett, Mason Compton, Adam Grant

Fulton County Farm Bureau Scholarship - \$250 each

Ke Andre Fio Shaun Patton, Armani Joron Yandal, Jerome Lamont Warren, Anthony Kyle Bridges, Grace Elizabeth Elder

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

Dylan Driskell

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

Cody Brumley, Mandy Cloe, Patrick Day, Jack Epperson, Benjamin Kinsey, Nash Smith

Grayson County Farm Bureau Scholarship - \$500 each

Payton Abney, Erin Ashley, Haleigh Brooks, Natalie Conder, Madison Dudgeon, Madison Harrison, Ethan Hatfield, Channa Lay, Mallory O'Neal, Paul Pendergest, James Pierce,

George Priddy, Cooper Terry, Morgan Whittington

Green County Farm Bureau Scholarship - \$500

Dylan Walker

**Green County Farm Bureau Federation
Scholarship - \$500**

Nate Houk

**Hancock County Farm Bureau
Scholarship - \$1,000 each**

Dakota Cooper, Andrew Hagman,
Landon Muse

**Hardin County Farm Bureau Scholarship
- \$1,000 each**

Allison Brown, Victoria Clan, Sarah
Craig, Mitchell Kirkpatrick, Bradley
Lackey, Graysen Lowery, Bailey
Thomas, Claire Thomas

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

Kaitlyn Pike, Bailey M. Thomas

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

Mattie Mink, Katherine French

**Hardin County Farm Bureau Robert E.
"Bobby" Thomas Memorial Scholarship -
\$1,000 each**

Hayden Fentress, Scott Nelson

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

Clarissa Mackey, Janece Harrington

**Harlan County Farm Bureau Scholarship
- \$1,500 each**

Emily Smith, James Creech, Jacob
Howard, Caleb Ashley, Bridgett Craig

**Harlan County Farm Bureau Agents
Scholarship - \$500 each**

Madelyn Haynes, Taylor Spurlock

**Harrison County Farm Bureau
Scholarship - \$1,000 each**

Jakob Furnish, Madeline Sparks

**Hart County Farm Bureau Scholarship -
\$500 each**

Savanna Nunn, Skyler Culver,
Kennedy Davis

**Henderson County Farm Bureau
Academic Scholarship -
\$500 each**

Sydney Book, Sam Elliott, Emma Eyre,
Sarah Jenkins, Sophia Margelot, Mary
Kate Miller, Macey Overfield,
Hannah Robards, Sidney Simpson,
Whitnie West

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

Sophia Krampe

**Hickman County Farm Bureau
Scholarship - \$500 each**

Anna Cole, Andreus Hunter, Jady
Williams, Krista James

**Hopkins County Farm Bureau
Scholarship - \$2,000 each**

Chelsea Mason, Ella Farmer,
Landon Harris

**Jefferson County Farm Bureau
Scholarship - \$16,000**

Isabel Wolf

**Jefferson County Farm Bureau/Andrew
Wayne Butler Memorial Agricultural
Scholarship - \$16,000**

Madison Harrison

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Alyssa Followay

**Marion County Farm Bureau Scholarship
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Dame

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As another school year starts, teachers, administrators, counselors, and district and state educational personnel are finding new ways to reach students either virtually or in person as COVID-19 restrictions linger.

But despite the pandemic, the learning process continues thanks to advanced technology and the dedication educators have for their students.

Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) has a long history of supporting education at all levels in this state and the people who drive the educational engine, said KFB President Mark Haney.



"The largest section of our organization's policy book is dedicated to education, and we know how important it is to support all those who have dedicated their lives to teaching our young people," he said. "We are especially proud of our agricultural education teachers and leaders who work tirelessly to prepare the next generation for leadership roles in our ag industry, and the communities in which they live."

“ We are especially proud of our agricultural education teachers and leaders who work tirelessly to prepare the next generation for leadership roles in our ag industry, and the communities in which they live.”

- Mark Haney



And it is so often evident in ag education classes that students are developing their leadership skills along with gaining subject knowledge.

Brandon Davis, Kentucky FFA State Advisor and an agricultural education consultant with the Kentucky Department of Education's Office of Career and Technical Education, said the leadership aspect built into ag education classes and FFA is something that will benefit

students no matter what employment sector they enter.

"Regardless of whether or not a student chooses a career in agriculture, we're going to help them be successful because those skills of leadership are in high demand," Davis said. "We feel like we're definitely equipping all students to be successful in whichever road they take after they leave the high school programs and move forward."

Davis, who also sits on the KFB State Board, added that more and more he is seeing ag education begin at the middle school level, something that is giving students a head start in career readiness choices.

"The interest in expanding middle school programs has really come from an intentional focus on making sure that students are thinking about careers and career options earlier, when they are in sixth, seventh, and eighth grade, and not feeling like it's something that should strictly be limited to high school students," he said.

Davis emphasized that middle school programs are helping to educate students about agriculture and about career pathways.

"From there, we are seeing these students, once in high school, enrolling in courses in agriculture, so the middle school programs are somewhat serving as a recruiting tool for the high school programs," he said.

One of the many benefits of agricultural education is the inclusion of FFA and the various competitive events that help enhance student leadership skills while adding to their knowledge about the industry, regardless of their connection to the farm.

Misty Bivens, an ag education teacher at LaRue County High School, sees that on a daily basis.

"I grew up on a beef cattle and tobacco farm, and I was an agriculture student in high school, served as a State FFA officer and went to the University of Kentucky and got my degree in teaching," she said. "So, I came to this job having that ag background. I think now, more than ever, I get fewer and fewer students who have a similar farming



background. But the thing they get from ag education, that they may not always get in other classes, is a chance to show off a different set of skills in the different contests and award areas offered through FFA. They really get to put into practice what they learn in the ag classroom."

Bivens was recently named the 2020 Kentucky Agriculture Teacher of the Year during a special recognition ceremony at this year's virtual Kentucky FFA Convention.

"I was extremely excited when I found out and, in fact, when I got the initial email telling me I'd won, I teared up a little," she said. "It's an award given out by the Ag Teachers Association, so you're really getting picked by your peers."

Bivens' passion for her job and her students is evident when talking to her, as is the case with so many agriculture teachers — whether they have 20 years of service, as does Bivens, or if their careers are just getting started.

James Kash is beginning his third year as Menifee County High School's agricultural education teacher. He said there are many student advantages to being involved in today's ag classroom.

"Some of the best things about agricultural education is that when students come into our classrooms, most of them are here because they want to be," he said. "And the second thing is, we try to teach our students in an interactive, inquiry-based, hands-on way, teaching them skills and characteristics that will carry them through their adult life."

Kash is also a product of ag education and, like Bivens, was a State FFA officer before becoming a teacher. He feels that hands-on method of teaching is beneficial to students whether he's teaching about welding or leadership.

"We don't just talk about the method or theory behind a topic; we actually put it into practice," he said. "If I'm going to teach welding to my students, for instance, I'm going to teach them about the proper techniques, proper positioning, the types of metal, and the method of welding they might use. And then we're going to go to the shop and apply those skills, hone in on that craft, and work to be proficient at it. The same is true when we are learning leadership skills. Our involvement in FFA allows us to learn about those skills and apply them through competitive events."

Kash also noted other subject areas that are naturally taught as part of ag curricula including science, math, and biology, for example.

"We'll also discuss the history of agriculture, chemistry, and English as we go through the school year," he said. "As ag education teachers, we are really giving students a well-rounded education,

in my opinion."

If there is a common denominator among ag teachers and within agricultural education in general, it is quite possibly the opportunities that can be realized by being involved in these programs.

"I think there are just so many opportunities for students through ag education that they just don't always have in other places," Bivens said. "If you're a great speaker, we have opportunities for you. If you are a super hard-working student, we've got proficiency opportunities for you. If you love to do community service, or you want to travel and see different things, we have opportunities to do that, as well. And I think that's what is so unique about agricultural education."

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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, “Mr. Agriculture” Warren Beeler, outgoing executive director at the Governor’s Office of Agricultural Policy (GOAP), talks about his time working with the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board and what ag development funds have meant to the states agriculture industry.

Congratulations on your retirement! Would you give our readers a little history of the many roles you have been involved with in public service to the agriculture industry?

Well, I’m an old hog farmer from Caneyville. And back in December of '98, the hog business got so bad my wife said, “You’ve got to get a real job.” So, I started in state government on June 1, 1999 with Commissioner Billy Ray Smith at the Department of Agriculture. I was a beef marketing specialist before Commissioner Smith promoted me to be over shows and fairs. Under Commissioner Richie Farmer, I moved over to animal marketing, and then under Commissioner Comer, he moved me to Director of Agriculture Policy while still being over the animal marketing division. Governor Bevin came in and gave me the opportunity to go to the Governor’s Office of Ag Policy (GOAP) to deal with tobacco settlement money. And I’ve done that now for four years and nine months. I really feel blessed, and I’ve had a really nice career there. I’ve never had as much fun and learned so much as I have working for the Department of Ag and now with GOAP. There have been lots of twists and turns, but a wonderful career.

Upon news that you were leaving GOAP, you mentioned in a social media post that the Governor’s Office wanted to move in a different direction. Would you care to elaborate on what that might mean?

I don’t know which direction they’re going in. I just hope it’s good for agriculture. But I feel very comfortable about it because everything we do has to go through the Ag Development Board or the Ag Finance Board, and those people are so selfless and so driven to do what’s right with this money. It’s going to be good. You know, there are no Democrats and Republicans in agriculture, they’re just ag people. And a good idea, it’s still a good idea. My position at GOAP is decided by the governor, and I’m the first one that’s ever made it past the first week or two in a new administration. So, I’m very thankful to Governor Bevin for giving me the chance and Governor Beshear for giving me an opportunity to hang on this eight or nine months, but he needs his own person and I think that’s what it comes down to, and that’s just the way it is. For me, it has been all about agriculture; how we can grow the industry, how we can help farm families, and how we can we help agribusiness in rural communities.



You often discuss how beneficial the ag development dollars have been to the industry, as well as local economies. In your estimate, how valuable has that revenue been to the state of Kentucky, and has it been a game-changer for our ag industry?

When the tobacco settlement money came in, there were 46 states that took advantage of it. I think Kentucky is the only state that took the money and invested – half of it in healthcare and half of it [in] agriculture – and has kept it there. Now we’ve invested on the ag side \$636 million over that 18 years. And then at the farm gate with a market that’s terrible, we’ve increased by \$2 billion, from \$3.7 billion to \$5.7 billion. I mean, it’s been amazing what this money has done. It’s helped farmers, helped their sales with the county money, at the local level. So, it’s seed money for investment, and it has just made all the difference in the world. We’re not only seeing agriculture with \$2 billion more cash receipts at the farm gate, but we’re doing it better. We are better conservationists, better with geneticists, our management’s better, and we are better in all aspects of agriculture. We’re doing it better than we’ve ever done it, and I think it’s because this tobacco settlement money has been there to help us incentivize improvement. This money has basically helped tobacco farmers diversify away from tobacco, but we’ve gone way beyond that into the value-added products. But I think one of the greatest things is the educational component. We’ve got great specialists here in Kentucky that we learn from, but

we also learn from each other. And so, as a result, we're doing agriculture better we've ever done it in history. Now, we've got an appetite to make improvements, and continue improvement.

Have these investments in the state's agriculture industry made Kentucky a national model when it comes to use of Master Settlement Funds?

Years ago, all the Southeast legislators were here for a meeting and Roger Thomas, who was in charge of GOAP before I came here and really one of the people who was responsible for us having this ag development money, and I had to make a presentation about what we had done up to that point, and what we were doing with the tobacco settlement money. Those people were so envious of what we had done. We're so fortunate that we had the right legislators at the time, who fought to get 50 percent of this money into agriculture. And we've been so fortunate that we've had agricultural leaders within the legislature and others and governors that basically have seen the value of it. We're the envy of all the states. I mean, when the tobacco settlement money came in, there were 46 states that took advantage of it. I think Kentucky is the only state that took half of that money for healthcare and half of it for agriculture and has kept it there. Now, we've invested, on the ag side, \$636 million over those 18 years.

What does the future hold for Kentucky's ag development fund?

One of the legacies of the Ag Development Fund is the Ag Finance Corporation. We took some of the state money, put it into a loan program called Ag Finance and now have over 700 loans. We now have \$94 million in there. And we've helped people buy chicken barns and farms and helped them to build buildings that help agribusiness. The way it works is, we don't deal with the farmer, we deal with his primary lender. It is 2.75 percent money, of which .75 percent goes to the lender to service the loan, and two percent and the principal comes back to us. The farmer pays that primary lender and they pay us. We're getting back off of our two percent and principal between \$800,000 and \$1 million a month. We have money in Frankfort, tobacco settlement money, helping farmers and making money. Who would have ever dreamed there was such a thing? I don't think we can get any more bang for our buck than what we've gotten in agriculture from these Master Settlement Funds and I hope, down the road, that we can figure out even better and different ways to invest these dollars.

You often speak to young people encouraging them to think about their future in the ag industry. How important do you think it is to get this new generation involved?

The most important thing coming off the farm are its people. One to two percent of the population farms, but 17 percent of the population works in agriculture. And we will need a new generation to take these jobs. We need geneticists and scientists and engineers to utilize new technology that basically will help us produce more with less. So, there's nothing more important than our young people, and I have such passion about that. I don't fish. I don't golf. I don't hunt. But I have judged junior livestock shows for 43 years in 43 states. I do it because I just see it making good teachers, providing such wonderful life lessons in how to win, how to lose, how to learn from losing, how to

be respectful, and how to work hard. All those things are so terribly important for these young people. But there not enough of them going into agriculture to do what we've got to do. We have to figure out how to change the perception of agriculture to make it attractive to them, and I think we have to do a better job of telling our story. I go into a classroom say, "Anybody interested in robotics?" and all their hands go up. That's cutting-edge. Farming's wonderful, but it's the technology and the most intriguing thing about agriculture is all the things we don't know yet. You've got to tell these young people that agriculture is the most exciting, most fun, most cutting edge and the only essential industry in the world. We've got to paint the picture so they understand how exciting, how wonderful it is.

“ I’m not ready to quit. I want to help agriculture. I want to inspire young people about agriculture. I want to see agriculture just get better and better.”

- Warren Beeler

What is next for Warren Beeler? You are known all over the country as the premiere livestock show judge. Are there a lot more shows that are going to pop up on your calendar now?

Well, I'm not sure to be honest with you. I'm going to take a little break. I know my wife is going to be really, really thrilled, not to have to turn that alarm clock off at four in the morning; something that she has for the last 20 some-odd years. But I'm one of those guys, I like to be busy. I'm not ready to quit. I want to help agriculture. I want to inspire young people about agriculture. I want to see agriculture just get better and better. This job with the GOAP has been the most fun that I've ever had. I had never learned so much about our industry and at the same time, meeting such wonderful people. I've learned one thing, it's not about the project, it's always about the people. The most satisfying thing about this job at GOAP is to see people succeed, and see that they are proud of what they've done.





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Vehicles lined up early for the dairy giveaway recently held in Stanford. Similar events took place in various locations around the state.

NEIGHBOR HELPING NEIGHBOR: A STORY OF GOODWILL DURING TOUGH TIMES

Dairy giveaway made possible through CFAP and community volunteers

Last May, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced details of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP), which provided up to \$16 billion in direct payments to farmers affected by market instability as a result of the pandemic.

"These payments will help keep farmers afloat while market demand returns as our nation reopens and recovers," he said. "America's farmers are resilient and will get through this challenge just like they always do with faith, hard work, and determination."

As part of the CFAP funding, \$3 billion was allocated for the USDA's Farmers to Families Food Box program to purchase fresh produce, dairy, and meat and to deliver boxes to Americans in need.

The Kentucky Dairy Development Council (KDDC) applied for funding to do just that. Through their efforts, they secured processing thanks to Prairie Farms and Borden, transportation thanks to Mike Owens Trucking Company, countless community volunteers, and of course, the milk provided by many Kentucky dairy farm families. This series of dairy product giveaways took place in various locations across the state.

One such stop came on a recent hot July morning in Stanford. A line of vehicles began to fill the gravel road that winds through the Lincoln County Fairgrounds early that morning, long before the announced start time of the event.

This site that would normally be hosting a county fair this time of year, found itself being a place of hope and comfort for those affected financially by COVID-19.

The Stanford stop was just one of about 15 different distribution

efforts. And the story from each stop was similar, said KDDC Executive Director H.H. Barlow.

"We had long lines everywhere we've been, but everyone has been patient and very appreciative of what we're doing," he said. "At every stop we've made, we've given away a tractor trailer load of dairy products, and we have heard the same thing: people tell us how badly they needed this food."

KDDC headed up the distribution of the dairy products because of a stipulation set forth under the regulations of CFAP that non-profit organizations had to be the entities to distribute the food.

But Barlow said it has definitely been a team effort by a lot of dedicated people, businesses, and organizations that have gladly participated.

Meredith Scales, a KDDC Dairy Consultant, has been one of the main organizers of these various dairy giveaways and has attended each of the events.

"It is such a good feeling to know that you're helping people, because everyone, no matter what, has been affected by this virus," he said. "The thing that has probably surprised me the most is the kind of volunteer participation we are seeing at each stop. The first trailer load I thought would take 10 hours to unload, but we moved 1,200 boxes in three hours and 20 minutes. It's probably the greatest humanitarian effort I've ever been involved in."

Scales added that because of the CFAP funding, much needed revenue is going to help farmers during this time of uncertainty while also helping those in need. It is a win-win situation, he said.

Barlow said many stories had been shared at each stop,

including a visit he recalled in Casey County with a long-time county Farm Bureau director and retired dentist who, at 89 and a half, was helping move boxes of milk from the trailer to the vehicles.

"I couldn't help but notice him and how hard he was working," Barlow said. "His name was Dr. Brown, and he said he just loved to help when he could, and we have had volunteers like him everywhere we have gone."

Harvey Franklin, the agriculture teacher and FFA advisor at Lincoln County High School (LCHS), accompanied many of his students to the Stanford event to help unload and load food boxes.

"We sent out a message on our group chat and got 26 students here to participate," he said. "In addition to helping their neighbors by being here, I think these students are learning the value of the three components of our FFA program of activities: developing leadership skills, they are supporting and strengthening agriculture through this project, and by participating in community service, they are helping to build communities."

Aaron Cook, a senior at LCHS, was one of the FFA members who participated. He said he had never been involved in such a project like this one.

"I think the main thing I will take away from being involved is how important it is to help in times of need, especially at times like this, when everybody's going to need some kind of assistance," he said. "And it's events like this that helps people get through and we hope to do more. This is really something special."

Jason Baker, a branch manager with Prairie Farms, helped with traffic control and had volunteered at many of the giveaway sites.

"I personally have participated in several of these events and with each and every one, it feels more gratifying to be a part of this whole process," he said. "Prairie Farms has long been a good partner with Kentucky dairies and the federal funding that made this possible really helps on all sides. From the producer, to those working in the plant, and the consumer. It helps everybody involved and it's been a blessing."

Joyce Baker, from nearby Waynesburg, was picking up food for her adult children who couldn't be at the Stanford event. She said people are despondent and heartbroken over this virus and their hard times, but she knows that rural communities stick together in good times and bad.

"I just appreciate so much people coming together, being there for each other. That's what God wants us to do," Baker said.

Barlow emphasized he is hoping more funding becomes available to continue these types of events because the need is so great.

"The stories people are telling will just break your heart," he said. "In one location, an elderly couple pulled up to the loading area, and I ask how many boxes they needed. The lady looked away and held up one finger. I asked her if she was sure that's all she needed, and then she turned to me and said they were starving. We immediately filled up that car. That's what it's all about; helping our neighbors through this and right now, we are all neighbors."



A variety of dairy products were included in the food giveaway boxes.



Volunteers lined up waiting to load boxes of dairy products into waiting vehicles.



Jason Baker, with Prairie Farms, helped direct traffic at the Stanford event.

COUNTY CORNER

Snapshots of County Farm Bureau activities



Clark County

Clark County Farm Bureau Women's Committee recently donated \$1,000 to READIFEST, which helps provide Clark County students with school supplies.



Lewis County

The Lewis County Farm Bureau funded, in part, playgrounds in Tollesboro and Garrison and have signage up at both locations. The Tollesboro location picture has Lewis County Farm Bureau President Jim Meadows and his wife Jennifer who serves as the county's Women's Committee chair.



Kenton County

Kenton County Farm Bureau, Independence, closed on the purchase of a new insurance office August 21. Seated is President Rick Messingschlager. Standing left to right: Clyde Cunningham, agency manager; Rick Vaske, treasurer; and Rick Williams, secretary.



Clark County

Clark County Farm Bureau won the 2019 Business of the Year Award from Winchester-Clark County Chamber of Commerce at the recent Virtual Awards Ceremony in August. Pictured left to right: Thadd Taylor (CCFB President), Lauren Frazer (CCFB Agent), Rick Mink (CCFB Agency Manager), David Wills (CCFB Board of Directors), & Cindy Banks, (Chamber Director).



Clark County

Clark County Farm Bureau President, Thadd Taylor, and Agency Manager, Rick Mink delivered lunch to Clark County Fire Department to show appreciation for the dedication to our community during this pandemic.



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MARKETS



FLOUR MILLING AFFECTED BY COVID-19

The usual pattern of wheat milling was disrupted in the second quarter by the effects of COVID-19 on consumer behavior. USDA's latest Wheat Outlook reports that after an initial spike in wheat food use in March, flour milling declined precipitously and largely corresponded with greatly reduced spending on food eaten away from home. USDA expects spending on food service will remain below pre-COVID-19 levels through at least December. All wheat ground for flour during the second quarter 2020 was 219 million bushels, down six percent from the first quarter 2020 grind of 233 million bushels and down three percent from the second quarter 2019 grind of 225 million bushels. Second quarter 2020 total flour production was 102 million hundredweight, down five percent from the first quarter 2020 and down two percent from the second quarter 2019. It's interesting that only four percent of flour production is whole wheat flour. While the amount of all wheat ground for flour declined, the impact differed by the type of wheat. Durum food use, unlike the all-wheat food use figure, has remained far above the normal pace. Durum wheat ground for flour and semolina production (used for pasta) during the second quarter of 2020 totaled 19.4 million bushels, up 12 percent from the first quarter 2020 and up 21 percent from the second quarter 2019. At 85.6 million bushels, durum wheat for food use was record-high for the 2019/20 marketing year. The shift in flour production was evident in the state totals. Southeastern U.S. states showed reduced production for April-June 2020 compared to a year earlier. Kentucky and Tennessee combined saw a 15.5 percent reduction year/year. Florida, Georgia and South Carolina experienced an 18 percent decline.

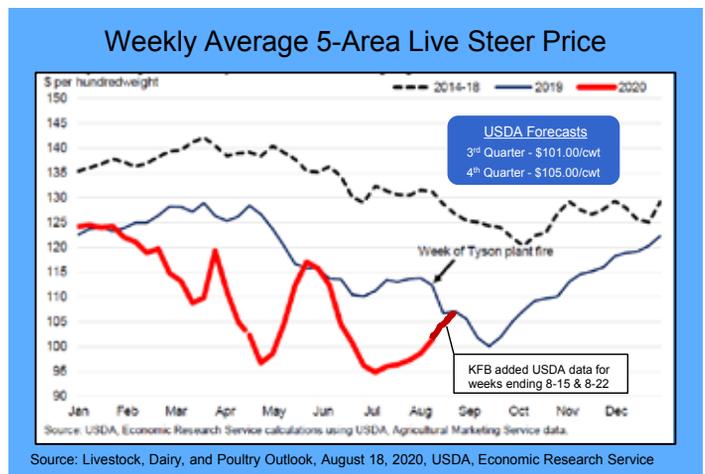
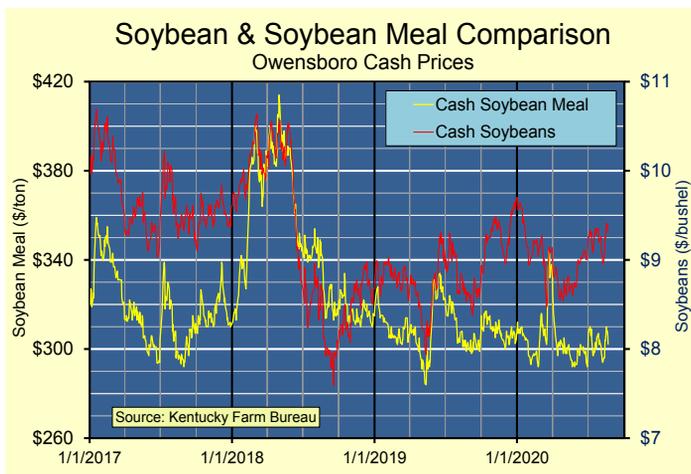
KENTUCKY AND U.S. CROPLAND RENTS DECLINE

According to USDA, cash rent for Kentucky non-irrigated agricultural cropland for 2020 averaged \$145 per acre, down \$5.00 from 2019. The bordering states of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio,

Missouri, and Tennessee had average non-irrigated cropland rents of \$221, \$192, \$156, \$124 and \$97 per acre respectively. The national non-irrigated cropland average was \$126 per acre, down \$1.00 from 2019. Iowa and Hawaii had the highest non-irrigated rent at \$230 per acre. Pasture cash rent for Kentucky was \$28, up \$1.00 from 2019. Pasture cash rent in Illinois was \$42 per acre, Missouri was \$34 per acre and Tennessee was \$22 per acre. The national pasture rent was \$13 per acre, same as in 2019. Rent on irrigated cropland ranged from \$80 per acre in Oklahoma to \$497 in California; the U.S. averaged \$216 per acre, down \$4 from 2019. Producers in Kentucky paid an average of \$200 per acre for irrigated cropland, down \$20 from last year.

EXPANDED GLOBAL CORN TRADE BENEFITS THE U.S.

Global corn trade for the October-September international trade year 2020/21 is forecast at 184.7 million metric tons, up 3.6 million from 2019/20. Global corn trade prospects are boosted by higher European Union (EU) imports, up 2.0 million tons this month to a close-to-record 25.0 million. With low supplies of domestically available feed wheat and barley, the demand for imported corn in the EU is projected to grow by more than 20 percent above last year's level. EU imports started to rise around 15 years ago, from several million tons, to more than 20 million in the last three years, which has made the EU the largest corn import market in the world. At the start of the 2000s, European corn imports came mostly from South America. However, after 2010, Ukraine has supplied more than half of European imports, ranging between 60 and 70 percent since 2012. While the U.S. exports very little, if any, corn to the EU, its growing demand reduces Ukraine's surplus that would compete with the U.S. in the global export market. The U.S. remains the world's largest corn exporter, far ahead of Brazil, Argentina and the Ukraine. USDA raised the U.S. corn export forecast to 56.5 million metric tons for 2020/21; the 2019/20 export estimate is 45.6 million.





Youth livestock shows, along with the World Championship Horse Show, were held at this year's Kentucky State Fair.

SCALED-DOWN KENTUCKY STATE FAIR STILL PROVED RELEVANT TO HUNDREDS OF LIVESTOCK EXHIBITORS

Championship Drive and World Champion Horse Show kept the tradition alive

Normally, the month of August would be the time of year when hundreds of thousands of people would make their way to the Kentucky Exposition Center to experience the sights, sounds, and tastes of the Kentucky State Fair.

But 2020 has been anything but normal due to regulations put in place because of COVID-19. But tradition triumphed and a state fair did occur although it had a very different look to it.

Restrictions kept the general public away along with vendors, rides and many of the displays that are synonymous with one of the oldest state fairs in the country.

But the youth livestock shows, along with the World Championship Horse Show prevailed allowing competitors to complete their long year of preparation for the top shows in their respective classes.

Kentucky Farm Bureau's participation was also scaled down, but the organization still showed support for the many livestock exhibitors who vied for a coveted spot in the Championship Drive.

"Each year, young people from across the state work so hard to prepare for the chance to show their animals at the state fair," said KFB President Mark Haney. "While we understand the restrictions that had to be put in place for this year's event, we are certainly glad these exhibitors still had the chance to participate in this long-standing tradition at the state fair."

Haney added that it's never too soon to think about next year.

"If the current coronavirus situation has taught was anything,

we have learned to look and plan for the future," he said. "We know these restrictions will not be with us forever and we're already looking forward to the 2021 Kentucky State Fair."

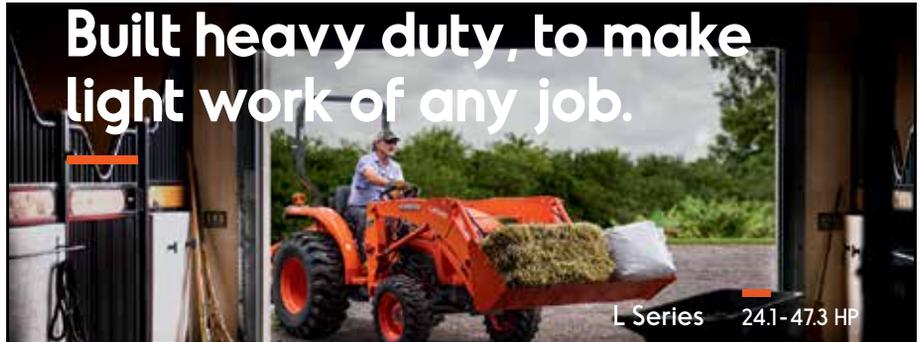
Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles while the Kentucky State Fair looked much different this year, many families and children were "just plain grateful" to have an opportunity to participate in youth livestock shows.

"Every day, multiple times a day, children of all ages and their parents would come up to me to express their appreciation and gratitude for the opportunity to show livestock," he said. "Many of them said they didn't think they would have the opportunity to participate in this great agricultural tradition that teaches discipline, patience, and the proper way to take care of animals. For my part, I would like to thank the parents and kids who followed the public health guidelines we put in place. This pandemic has caused so much turmoil in our lives and I continue to pray for an end to it so that we can have a normal fair in 2021."

In addition to the livestock shows, Saddlebred exhibitors also had the chance to participate in the World Championship Horse Show bringing in the best of the breed from all across the country. Stakes night even featured the Oak Ridge Boys singing the National Anthem, which enabled the group to continue their consecutive string of years appearing at the Kentucky State Fair to 45, a record unmatched by any other touring group.

SCENES FROM THE 2020 KENTUCKY STATE FAIR





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FEEDING KENTUCKY SOURCES 28,000 LBS OF GROUND BEEF FOR FOOD BANK

Purchase funded by KDA's Hunger Initiative and made possible by historic \$500,000 donation from Kentucky Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company

Agriculture Commissioner Dr. Ryan Quarles has announced Feeding Kentucky has acquired 28,000 pounds of Kentucky Proud ground beef from Marksby Farms for distribution among Kentucky's food bank network. The purchase is funded by a historic donation Kentucky Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company made to Feeding Kentucky in April of this year as part of the Kentucky Hunger Initiative started by Commissioner Quarles in 2016.

"When we started the Kentucky Hunger Initiative years ago, the goal was to build a network to connect farmers and agribusinesses to Kentucky's food bank system," Commissioner Quarles said. "This donation, bolstered by Kentucky Farm Bureau's amazing donation as part of the Hunger Initiative, is the perfect culmination of this work. Kentucky's workers and families are still struggling to recover from the government-mandated shutdown of our economy during COVID-19. Vulnerable Kentuckians affected by this global pandemic will now have more access to food for their families."

The purchase is possible due to a historic \$500,000 donation from Kentucky Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company to hunger-relief charities as a part of Commissioner Quarles' Kentucky Hunger Initiative —an effort to bring together farmers, charitable organizations, faith groups, community leaders, and government entities to reduce hunger in Kentucky.

The donation, which was a response to rising food insecurity during the COVID-19 pandemic, is the largest single private donation made as part of the Kentucky Hunter Initiative since it launched in 2016. The funds were divided into sizable donations to three local non-profit organizations – Feeding Kentucky, Glean Kentucky and Kentucky Hunters for the Hungry – as part of the Kentucky Hunger Initiative.

"The Kentucky Hunger Initiative continues to provide much needed food for Kentucky's hungry," Tamara Sandberg of Feeding Kentucky said. "We are incredibly proud to continue working with Commissioner Quarles, KDA staff, and Kentucky Farm Bureau to support our farmers and our struggling neighbors during this challenging time."

"Food insecurity is a battle facing many of our fellow Kentuckians, especially during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. That said, it is both important and rewarding to see



our donation to the Kentucky Hunger Initiative used in ways that help families put Kentucky-raised, protein-rich food on the table," said John Sparrow, Executive Vice President and CEO of Kentucky Farm Bureau Insurance. "We continue to be very proud of our partnership with Feeding Kentucky through this program and, with today's beef purchase as a prime example, can easily see the tremendous assistance it provides to families in need across the Commonwealth."

“ It is both important and rewarding to see our donation to the Kentucky Hunger Initiative used in ways that help families put Kentucky-raised, protein-rich food on the table.”

- John Sparrow

The beef product was picked up by in Mount Vernon on Friday, Aug. 21, by "Service First," a company out of Elizabethtown. The product will be distributed to hungry Kentuckians by way of Dare to Care in Louisville; Feeding America Kentucky's Heartland in Elizabethtown; Purchase Area Development District out of Mayfield and Tri-State Foodbank in Evansville, which serves Owensboro. The three other regional food banks serving Kentucky received Kentucky-raised ground beef from Beef Solutions thanks to a Hunger Initiative event for Beef Month in May 2020.

This was not the first purchase of food with the historic donation. More than 10,000 pounds of pork sausage, 750 pounds of eggs, more than 4,000 pounds of cheese, and 1,028 boxes of mixed fresh produce were sourced from Kentucky producers and distributed by food banks across the Commonwealth since April 2020.



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DEVASTATING DERECHO: IOWA FARM COUNTRY HIT HARD BY MASSIVE STORM SYSTEM

KFB Insurance lends a helping hand to Iowa Farm Bureau in the aftermath

By Kelsey Thomas and Tim Thornberry

On August 10, a powerful and widespread group of storms—known as a derecho—ripped through Iowa leaving severe damage in its wake. Agriculturally speaking, this could be a devastating blow to farmers there.

Iowa is the top corn producing state in the country and according to information from the USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA), “57 counties in Iowa were in the path of the storm. Within those 57 counties, there are approximately 14 million acres of insured crops. This includes 8.2 million acres of corn and 5.6 million acres of soybeans that may have been impacted by the storm.”

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship believes 36 counties in that state were hardest hit by the derecho, and within those 36 counties, the storm likely had the greatest impact on 3.57 million acres of corn and 2.5 million acres of soybeans.

“I’ve been touring some of the hardest-hit parts of the state this week to speak with farmers and agribusinesses that were impacted by the derecho,” said Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig. “These farmers put significant resources into this crop and were planning for strong yields. Now their crops have been damaged — some destroyed — and the state has lost tens of millions of bushels of grain storage just a few weeks before harvest begins. This is a devastating blow to the agricultural community that is still recovering from the pandemic.”

In keeping with Kentucky Farm Bureau’s (KFB) long-standing tradition of helping others during situations like this, five KFB Insurance adjusters have gone to the Hawkeye State to help assess the storm damage.

KFB President Mark Haney said it should come as no surprise that the organization has people who are always will to step up to help others in times of need.

“One of the things I’m most proud of as a member of the Farm Bureau family is knowing how dedicated our staff and members

are in reaching out to others in need,” he said. “Iowa may be almost 700 miles away, but we still count them as our neighbors, and we will do all we can to assist them in times like this. When the call comes in for help, KFB is always ready and willing to step up.”

Rob Payne, Vice President of KFB’s Claims Department, was in contact with Iowa Farm Bureau folks shortly after the storm.

As of August 19, five KFB adjusters were on the ground in Iowa and slated to be there for at least two weeks. Those adjusters are Wiley Hendricks, Caleb Kirby, Wesley Sizemore, Phil Thompson, and Skip Weaver.

Phil Thompson, a Property Damage Manager out of the Lexington-Hamburg Regional Office, said “it looks a little like a war zone here.”

“The people are great here—unbelievable attitudes and perspective on the damage,” Thompson said. “Midwest folks are hard to rattle I guess.”

He added, “I’ve never seen this type of damage from straight line winds. The tree damage is similar to what we saw after Hurricane Michael a couple years ago, and Hurricane Hugo many years ago. Tree loss is sad and something people are struggling with because they have lost a ton of large mature trees. Homes can be repaired, but they are truly grieving the loss of trees that will take years to replace.”

George Bates, a KFB Claims Director, said he is impressed—but not surprised—by the adjusters’ dedication.

“We appreciate each of them, as well as their coworkers that are taking care of any work they left behind here in Kentucky,” Bates said. “This all came together pretty quickly after Rob [Payne] received the request for assistance. Our group was notified late last week and were all in Iowa by Sunday [Aug. 16].”

KFB’s claims team, alongside Iowa Farm Bureau adjusters, will be focusing on the hardest hit area first.

Property damage is widespread, and Iowa Farm Bureau has been absolutely inundated with claims. Immediately after the storm, they had had 4,500 losses reported, with at least 400 of those involving total losses, which means the property will never be lived in again.

“One agent in Cedar Rapids requested a claim be set up on all of his property policies,” Thompson said. “Pretty crazy to think that almost every single policyholder in Louisville or Lexington would potentially file a claim if we were we to have an event of this magnitude and scope.”

According to Iowa’s governor Kim Reynolds, this unusual system of storms left the state with nearly \$4 billion in damages and destroyed or extensively damaged 8,200 homes and 13 million acres of corn, about a third of the state’s crop land.

“Iowa may be almost 700 miles away, but we still count them as our neighbors, and we will do all we can to assist them in times like this. When the call comes in for help, KFB is always ready and willing to step up.”

- Mark Haney

NEWS FROM USDA NASS: LATEST CROP REPORT

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released its crop production report today from the August Agricultural Yield Survey conducted at the beginning of the month. The report showed corn yields are expected to be up seven percent from last year, soybeans 17 percent higher and burley tobacco yields down 5 percent.

"Crops are moving toward harvest in very good shape", said David Knopf, director of the NASS Eastern Mountain Regional Office in Kentucky. "Condition ratings have been running above average for much of the growing season. On August 1, corn and soybean conditions were five to 10 points above the 5-year average."

Corn production in Kentucky is forecast at 259 million bushels, up six percent from the previous crop. Yield is estimated at 181 bushels per acre, up 12 bushels from the 2019 level. Acres for harvest as grain were estimated at 1.43 million acres, down 20,000 acres from 2019. The U.S. corn production is forecast at 15.3 billion bushels, up 12 percent from 2019. Based on conditions as of August 1, yields are expected to average 181.8 bushels per acre, up 14.4 bushels from 2019. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 84.0 million acres, unchanged from the June forecast but up three percent from 2019.

Soybean production for Kentucky is forecast at 99.4 million bushels, an increase of 28 percent from 2019. Yield is estimated at 54.0 bushels per acre, up 8.0 bushels from a year ago. Acreage for harvest as beans was estimated at 1.84 million acres, up 150,000 acres from the previous year. U.S. soybean production is forecast at 4.42 billion bushels, up 25 percent from last year. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 53.3 bushels per acre, up 5.9 bushels from last year. Area for harvest is forecast at 83.0 million acres, unchanged from June but up 11 percent from 2019.

Kentucky farmers expect to harvest 24.0 million bushels of winter wheat during 2020. The expected crop for 2020 would be down four percent from the previous year. Growers expect a yield of 64.0 bushels per acre, down 12.0 bushel from 2019 and up 1.0 bushels from July. Farmers expect to harvest 375,000 acres for grain. Winter wheat production for the Nation was forecast at 1.20 billion bushels, down eight percent from 2019. The United States yield is forecast at 51.1 bushels per acre, down 0.9 bushels from last month and down 2.5 bushels from last year. The expected area to be harvested for grain or seed totals 23.4 million acres, down four percent from last year.

Kentucky burley tobacco production is

forecast at 64.8 million pounds, down 17 percent from 2019. Yield is projected at 1,800 pounds per acre, down 100 pounds from the 2019 crop. Harvested acreage was estimated at 36,000 acres, down 5,000 acres from last year's crop. For the burley producing states production is forecast at 77.4 million pounds, down 17 percent from last year. Burley growers plan to harvest 43,500 acres, down 10 percent from 2019. Yields were expected to average 1,779 pounds per acre, down 131 pounds from last year.

Production of Kentucky dark fire-cured tobacco is forecast at 23.7 million pounds, down 14 percent from the previous year. Dark air-cured tobacco production is forecast at 15.7 million pounds, down 13 percent from last year.

Production of hay by Kentucky farmers is forecast to be up from last year due to higher yields. Alfalfa hay production is forecast at 462,000 tons, slightly below the 2019 level. Other hay production is estimated at 4.50 million tons, up 14 percent from last year.

The next Crop Production report will be released September 11. All reports are available on the NASS website: www.nass.usda.gov. For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Kentucky Field Office at (800) 928-5277.

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DOWN THE BACKROADS

By Tim Thornberry

THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

I remember well my very first day of school in 1966. I was terrified. There is no other way to describe it except to say it was sheer terror. In those days, at least where I lived, preschool and kindergarten were not an option, or at least not something included in my little country school.

So, the first grade was my introduction to public education. I remember having visited the school to meet my teacher the previous spring – as most new students did – which sort of gave me an idea of what was to come. My teacher was so nice and calming, and, as I scared as I was, I knew she would be helpful in getting me over the case of nerves I knew I would have that first day.

That all changed when I entered the classroom the following fall and found another teacher there in her place. Seems that the regular first grade teacher I had met earlier was on maternity leave. At the time, I did not know what that meant but my hope was she got over it soon as to return to my classroom.

This substitute looked more like my grandmother and while she was very nice, this was not who I expected. Again, I was terrified.

My mother had made the trip with me the first morning and knew I was in panic mode. I was painfully shy as a youngster and this situation was not helping that personality trait at all.

As my mother pulled my hands from around her waist to leave, I found it hard to hold back any tears, or loud screams.

But I made my way to my assigned desk and did my best to hide my fear. As the morning went on it only got worse. Recess came and I refused to go. I had found a little safety where I was sitting, and I didn't want to rock the boat.

I did the same at lunch. I refused to go. Being hungry was much easier to deal with than being ...more terrified!

Having finally made it through the first day, I was adamant that I did not want to participate in a second day of school.

It would take several weeks to overcome enough of my fear to make my way to the playground and to the lunchroom. But it

eventually happened and, now, some of my fondest memories are of that old school and the time I spent there as a student.

The lessons I learned then are still with me today, and the dedication shown by my teachers left me with a great respect for all educators who have devoted their lives to making the lives of their students much less terrifying.

The first day of school this year looked very different than in 1966. But I suspect there were still those a bit fearful of how it was all going to go, maybe more so for the parents and teachers than the students.

But my hope is that one day those first graders of 2020 will have fond memories of their first day as they travel down the backroads.

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