



# THE Farmer's Pride

Chism Farms, Nina, Brian and Sara Chism, Brandenburg, Ky.

MARCH 6, 2014

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## \$10 ag tag donation helps FFA, 4-H, Ky. Proud

SCOTTSVILLE, Ky. – Farmers in Allen County overwhelmingly show their support for their local FFA and 4-H every March when they renew their farm license plates.

Last year, the Allen County-Scottsville High School FFA chapter received a check for \$3,325, their share of revenue generated from a program that benefits FFA, 4-H and Kentucky Proud.

The Ag Tag Voluntary Donation Program encourages farm vehicle owners to donate \$10 when they renew farm tags at the local county clerk's office.

Statewide last year, the FFA Foundation, Kentucky 4-H Foundation and Kentucky Proud each received \$160,895. FFA and 4-H then evenly split those funds with local FFA and 4-H organizations. County organizations receive their revenue based on the local donations.

In Allen-County Scottsville last year, farm vehicle owners purchased 2,576 farm tags and a whopping 77 percent of those individuals made the \$10 contribution.

"Our county clerk is very supportive," said Nikki Towe, an agriculture teacher at the Allen County-Scottsville High School. "She has children who came through our program. She supports FFA and 4-H and her office staff does an awesome job of informing farmers about the donation."

Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture James Comer led the charge to designate the funds to FFA, 4-H and

SEE **\$10 AG TAG**, PAGE 3



**Makayla Jeffries of Horse Cave shows BJB Chase 2137 in the Angus bull competition at the KFB Beef Expo Friday. Her bull went on to be selected as the Junior owned champion Angus bull and sold on Saturday for \$3,900 to Matt Bixler of Worthington, Ind. Jeffries was also named the 2014 Angus Princess.**

## Future of ag development funds await ruling

As the legislative session moves into its final half, a critical piece of budgetary information is still missing and its impact on agriculture is still unknown.

A decision last year by an arbitration panel declaring that Kentucky did not diligently enforce the Master Settlement Agreement could impact this year's budget as well as future budgets.

During a Kentucky Agriculture Council meeting in mid-February, Kentucky Farm Bureau lobbyist Jeff Harper said the governor's proposed

budget allocates \$18.3 million in fiscal year 2015 for Agricultural Development Funds, and only \$6.5 million in fiscal year 2016. Of that total, \$13.5 million in the first year and \$6 million in the second year are designated for county funds. The fiscal year 2016 allocation is a 50 percent reduction in county funds.

Joel Neaveill, chief of staff at the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy, said Gov. Steve Beshear is basing his budget on a revenue forecast that takes into consideration the loss of

MSA funds. The decision would not only impact future years but could impact this year as well, he said.

"Master settlement dollars come in April. Because of last year's decision by an arbitration panel that Kentucky did not diligently enforce the MSA, economists put together a pessimistic number for this year, which would result in the reduction of \$45 million to the state," Neaveill said.

The state was expecting \$90 million

SEE **FUTURE**, PAGE 12

Dairy industry gathers to share ideas at annual conference. **13.**

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# FARM SAFETY:

## Symposium focuses on sharing the road

FRANKFORT – Safety on the road is everyone's job, especially when one of the vehicles involved is a farm implement. That's the message of the 21st annual Farm Safety Symposium and Louis Crosier Lecture March 7 at the Elizabethtown Community and Technical College, 600 College St., Elizabethtown.

The event, themed "Share the Road: Saving Lives by Regarding Lights," is scheduled for 7 p.m. EST at the RPC Auditorium.

"It's important that farmers and motorists cooperate in order to keep our roads safe," Agriculture Commissioner James Comer said. "Drivers get impatient with large, slow-moving farm implements. Farmers get frustrated with drivers who don't understand that they have to move equipment on the roads from time to time in order to make a living. With a little patience and cooperation, we can all avoid accidents and save lives."

The Dixie Ag Safety Team, made up of area FFA members, Dixie Fire School staff, and Kentucky Department of Agriculture employees, will conduct the event. Dale Dobson, administrator of the KDA's Farm

and Home Safety Program, will serve as master of ceremonies. Speakers will include:

- Brian Alvey, director of local affairs and policy development, Kentucky Farm Bureau;
- Ronnie Day, executive director, Kentucky Fire Commission;
- Jared Newberry, public affairs officer, Kentucky State Police Commercial Vehicle Enforcement;
- Joe Nichols and Micheal Oliver, managing partners, Seven Springs Farm of Cadiz; and
- Michael Pointer, executive director, Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services.

An Ag Safety Awareness Challenge display contest will be open to FFA chapters. First prize will be worth \$200; second prize, \$150; and third prize, \$100. For more information, go to [www.facebook.com/AgSafetyAwarenessChallenge](http://www.facebook.com/AgSafetyAwarenessChallenge) or contact Jerrad Livers at [jerrad.livers@uky.edu](mailto:jerrad.livers@uky.edu).

The Farm Safety Symposium is part of the Dixie Fire School held annually at Elizabethtown Community and Technical College.

## White named a NCBA regional vice president

Tim White, a beef producer who raises cattle in Fayette and Jessamine counties, has been elected a regional vice president of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association Policy Division, representing the organization's Region 1. As a regional vice president, White will serve on NCBA's Executive Committee on behalf of beef producers in Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, the Virginias and the Northeast United States. There are seven regional divisions within NCBA.

White is owner/manager of TA White Farm, LLC, a farming operation that includes a 400 cow-calf opera-

tion consisting of purebred Angus, red Angus and a commercial herd. He also backgrounds 1,200 feeder cattle. In business for 22 years, White and his wife, Amy, have two children, Rod and Addie. He is a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University with a degree in beef cattle management.

White has been active in local, state and national cattle industry programs. He is a member of the Fayette and Kentucky Cattlemen's Associations, the Kentucky Farm Bureau, and the Kentucky and American Angus Associations.

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## Marlu-Rusken Holsteins

For convenience the Marlu-Rusken dairy herd will be dispersed at the Kidron Auction Facility at 4885 Kidron Rd. in Kidron, Ohio. (GPS) 4885 Kidron Rd., Apple Creek, Ohio.

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**BRED HEIFERS:** There are approximately ten bred heifers selling in the auction that are due from March thru July. The heifers are nicely grown, in good farm condition with a few that border on fancy.

**NOTE:** This is a good quality herd of cows. Mark the date and plan on attending the auction on March 18th in Kidron, OH. Catalogs are available on-line at [OhioHolstein.com](http://OhioHolstein.com) or by request. Russell and Marilyn will continue to farm and raise their young heifers.

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# USDA spending \$3M to feed honeybees in Midwest

MILWAUKEE (AP) – The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced recently it will spend millions of dollars to help farmers and ranchers improve pastures in five Midwestern states to provide food for the nation’s struggling honeybees.

Commercial honeybees pollinate an estimated \$15 billion worth of produce each year. Many beekeepers bring hives to the Upper Midwest in the summer for bees to gather nectar and pollen for food, then truck them in the spring to California and other states to pollinate everything from almonds to apples to avocados.

But agricultural production has been threatened by a more than decade-long decline in commercial honeybees and their wild cousins due to habitat loss and pesticide use. Colony collapse disorder, in which honeybees suddenly disappear or die, has made the problem worse, boosting losses over the winter to as much as 30 percent per year.

The USDA hopes to stem those losses by providing more areas for bees to build up food stores and strength for winter. The new program will be “a real shot in the arm” for improving bees’ habitat and food supply, said Jason Weller, chief of USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Dairy farmers and ranchers in Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin and the Dakotas can qualify for about \$3 million to reseed pastures with alfalfa, clover and other plants appealing to both bees and livestock. Farmers also can get help building fences, installing water tanks and making other changes that better enable them to move their animals from pasture to pasture so the vegetation doesn’t become worn down. The goal is to provide higher quality food for insects and animals.

“It’s a win for the livestock guys, and it’s a win for the managed honeybee population,” Weller said. “And it’s a win then for orchardists and other specialty crop producers across the nation because then you’re going to have a healthier, more robust bee population that then goes out and helps pollinate important crops.”

The USDA is focusing on those five states because 65 percent of the nation’s estimated 30,000 commercial beekeepers bring hives there for at least part of the year. With limited funds, Weller said, the goal is to get the biggest payoff for the investment.

Corn, soybean and other farmers can qualify for money to plant cover crops, which typically go in after the regular harvest and help improve soil health, or to grow bee-friendly forage in borders and on the edges of fields.

The program is just the latest in a series of USDA efforts to reduce honeybee deaths. The agency has partnered with universities to study bee diseases, nutrition and other factors threatening colonies. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack also recently created a working group on bees to coordinate efforts across the department.

The work is already paying off with changes to once-common beekeeping practices, such as supplementing bees’ diet with high-fructose corn syrup, said David

Epstein, a senior entomologist with the USDA. He noted that the quality of bees’ food is as important as the quantity.

“You can think of it in terms of yourself,” Epstein said. “If you are studying for exams in college, and you’re not eating properly and you’re existing on coffee, then you make yourself more susceptible to disease and you get sick.”

Tim Tucker, who has between 400 and 500 hives at sites in Kansas and Texas, said he may take some of his bees to South Dakota this year because the fields around his farm near Niotaze, Kansas no longer provide much food for them.

“There used to be a lot of small farms in our area that had clover and a variety of crops, whereas in the last 20 years it’s really been corn, soybean and cotton and a lit-

tle bit of canola,” Tucker said. “But those crops don’t provide a lot of good nectar and pollen for bees.”

Tucker, who is president of the American Beekeeping Federation, said the last “really good” year he had was 1999, when he got more than 100 pounds of honey per hive. Last year, he averaged about 42 pounds per hive.

He hopes dairy farmers, beef cattle ranchers and others will sign up for the new USDA program by the March 21 deadline.

It’s not a “cure all,” Tucker said, but “anything we do to help provide habitat for honeybees and for native bees and pollinators is a step.”

By M.L. JOHNSON  
Associated Press

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# EPA proposal criticized by farm groups, farmworker advocates

Two weeks ago the Environmental Protection Agency proposed new safety rules for people who work or live near farms who might be exposed to pesticides, including annual training, no-entry areas, signs, and a ban on pesticide handling by children under 16 (with a family exception).

Farmworker advocates say the minimum age requirement is too low, and the posting requirement is so loose it will make it more difficult for workers to get information.

Farm lobbies say the rules will lead to an increase in paperwork, and potentially increase liabilities, and argue EPA is basing its calculations on estimates, and not concrete facts.

Other concerns for farm lobbies are a proposed rule that requires “posting of signs in treated areas with restricted entry of over 48 hours; requirements that records of training be kept for two years; and mandatory training would be on an annual basis, instead of every five years, as is the current rule,” reports Agri-Pulse, a Washington newsletter. Paul Schlegel, director of environment and energy

## Future of ag development funds awaits ruling

FROM PAGE 1

and that would be reduced to half if the arbitration panel’s decision is upheld.

“So every program is going to be cut by half if the budget is approved based on the governor’s recommendation,” Neaveill said.

In doing the math, however, agriculture programs are at risk at getting completely defunded.

Agriculture’s portion, which is half of the MSA, is divided between a cost share program, county funds, state funds and debt service on items such as water lines.

“If you take the state’s anticipated revenue of \$45 million and agriculture gets half of that, you get \$22.5 million. The state’s obligations have to be met and one of those obligations is debt service. The debt service is \$28 million,” Neaveill said.

The agriculture community has complained over the years when the legislature used “agriculture’s half” of the MSA for debt service.

“We have been talking for years about the debt service issue,” Neaveill said. “Well, it’s come to roost.”

The state has filed an appeal to vacate the decision by the arbitration panel, but that decision may not come before the end of the legislative session.

The session ends April 15 and the budget is generally one of the last items approved.

By Sharon Burton  
snburton@duo-county.com


policy at the American Farm Bureau Federation, said "requiring increased recordkeeping could possibly open farmers up to increased liability." He told Agri-Pulse, “We don’t want (those regulations) to be put in place if they create legal exposure” for farmers. Another concern, he said, is the amount of work required to install new signs.

Reprinted from the Rural Blog. <http://irjci.blogspot.com/>



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Dairy producers Jesse Ramer, Todd County; David Hutchison, Adair County; and Eddie Klingenfus, Shelby County; share some successful methods used on their dairy farms with other producers during the Kentucky Dairy Partners Meeting.

# Dairy industry share ideas at annual gathering

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. – A total of 18 states along with Mexico and Canada were represented at the Kentucky Dairy Partners meeting last week, held in conjunction with Kentucky Dairy Development activities and a young dairy producer conference.

Warren Beeler, director of agriculture policy at the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, told farmers during a luncheon Wednesday that the future is bright.

“We are doing better than we ever have,” Beeler said. “I’m so excited to see the next 20 years.”

Beeler touched on the last year since the Livestock Care Standards Commission became law.

Beeler said animal rights groups wanted three things removed from the care of livestock: gestation stalls in swine, the docking of dairy cattle tails and veal calf crates.

“The one thing that the group gave up was the veal calf crates,” Beeler said, “mainly because we don’t have a lot of veal and two because the national veal had already given it up.”

According to Beeler, there is no science backing the docking of cattle tails, but dairy farmers “work from the back.”

“Anyone who was raised on a dairy farm like me and had it come through your mouth like I do, you know why it’s cut off,” Beeler said.

“Even though the HSUS wanted it, we didn’t give it up,” he said.

## FARMER PANEL SHARES PRACTICES

The last event of the conference was the “Raising Milk, Making Forages” farmer panel.

Participating in the panel were Eddie Klingenfus from Shelby County, David Hutchison from Adair County and Jesse Ramer from Todd County.

David Hutchison told farmers that he milks 130-135 Holsteins three times a day on his 300-acre farm with his nephew in Adair County. His Holsteins are housed in free stalls with waterbeds and he custom contracts all of the silages from planting through harvesting to allow more time with his cows.

In the last year, Hutchison has improved his RHA from 22,459 to 25,681 and it is still rising.

Eddie Klingenfus has been dairy farming in north-western Shelby County for 37 years. He and his wife and son own and operate a 485-acre, 100-cow dairy. The primary forages grown on the farm include corn silage, high moisture corn earlage, alfalfa hay, BMR

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# Cox says farm bill good for Kentucky dairy producers

BOWLING GREEN, KY. – The dairy portion of the farm bill was apparently one of the major hurdles that held up final passage of the federal legislation, but the final result turned out to be good news for Kentucky's dairy farmers.

"It's as good as we would want," said Maury Cox, executive director of the Kentucky Dairy Development Council.

The main issue that was holding up progress on the dairy side was a disagreement about supply management, Cox said. Instead of limiting milk production, the new law provides a safety net, providing dairy farmers with indemnity payments based on a margin that the producer chooses.

"It's a catastrophic margin insurance program," Cox said.

Cox said the way the farm bill is set up more Kentucky farmers would benefit from it because the first 4 million pounds of yearly production are discounted at no charge at a \$4 margin.

Producers that produce less than 4 million pounds can buy up at 50-cent increments to \$8 margins at a discounted rate compared to larger margins.

"If you're worth 4 million pounds, you're going to pay more," Cox said.

According to Cox, if a farmer signs up, he has to decide how many pounds, up to 90 percent of production, and at what margin, up to \$8, he wants covered.

"The margin is based on national milk price and all feed price, including corn, soybean meal and alfalfa

hay.

"This gives us catastrophic coverage to protect from a 2009 disaster," Cox said.

There is a \$100 administrative fee and coverage for the first year is limited to the highest level of milk production during the past three years. Future years will

be based on national percent increases in milk production.

Those who are interested in the program must sign up through their local FSA office by Sept. 1.

By Toni Humphress  
newsroom@thefarmerspride.com

## Dairy industry shares ideas at annual meeting

FROM PAGE 13

sorghum and soybeans. The Klingenfus' have led their area in milk production with 27,041 lbs.

Jesse Ramer and his wife Belinda milk 105 Dutch Belted and Jersey crosses in northern Todd County. They currently own 150 acres and rent another 95. Recently, their oldest son Daniel joined the farm operation.

The herd is primarily a grazing herd and has changed from a seasonal milking herd to year round milking.

His pastures include endophyte free fescue mixed with clover, perennial rye grass and chickery and Round-Up ready alfalfa.

In July and August, a grazing sorghum/sudan is used.

Due to the clay subsoil, growing alfalfa in northern Todd County can be difficult.

In December through February, the cows are housed in a back barn, with sorghum silage stored in bags and various types of balage used for forage.

By Toni Humphress  
newsroom@thefarmerspride.com

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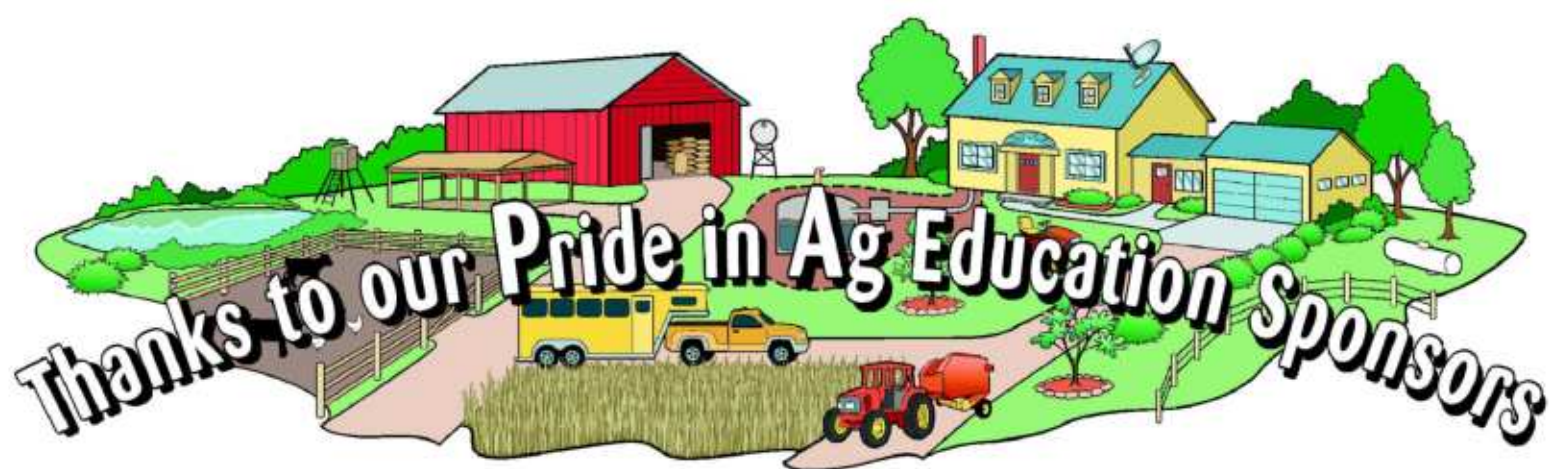
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See page 16 for Pride in Ag Questions.



# Pride in Ag Education



Blue Grass  
Marketing Group

1. Dairy farmers met last week to share ideas. A dairy producer panel took part in the meeting. Choose one producer from the panel and tell about their operation. What stands out to you about their success? What question would you like to ask that dairy producer?

2. How is the new farm bill good for Kentucky's dairy farmers? Will it treat dairy producers differently? Based on what?

3. Kentucky could lose its Agricultural Development Funds. Why?

4. How would the loss of Agricultural Development Funds hurt your community? How have those funds benefitted agriculture in your region? How have they benefitted Kentucky FFA?

5. What is the main topic of an upcoming farm safety event? Why is that topic important? How do you respond when you get behind slow-moving farm vehicles on the roadway?

6. Who is Steve Downs? What are some of the benefits to having a commodity group representing your interests?

7. What county received the most revenue from the Ag Tag Program last year? Name some other counties that were also successful and list their results.

8. How can the Ag Tag Program benefit you? What has your FFA done to encourage local farmers to make the \$10 donation? What have you done to work with your local county clerk and the clerk's staff?

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scenes  
from the

# KENTUCKY BEEF EXPO



Bud and Henry Bryan Smith from Smithland Angus prepare their calves for the Angus show.

Josh Nunn, right, gets help from his two-year-old son.



The Angus show was a large attraction at the Kentucky Beef Expo.



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## HUGE AUCTION

9 SELL OUTS (OTHERS PENDING)

Saturday, March 15, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.

Senatobia, Miss.

(35 mi. South of Memphis, Tenn. or 25 mi. East of Tunica, Miss.)

LOCATION: From I-55 at Senatobia Exit #265 onto Hwy. 4, go EAST 11 miles on Hwy. 4 to Thytira Gin.

### TRACTORS-LOADERS (very partial list)

JD 4050 C&A Q-Range 628 hrs.  
Kubota M135X 4x4 w/ Ldr. 1453 hrs.  
Case IH 1895 C&A 4x4 w/494 hrs.  
JD 6430 C&A MFD w/JD640 Ldr.  
24 speed 354 hrs.  
JD 6400 C&A JD 4450 C&A MFD  
JD 4500 C&A MFD dual 80% 537 hrs.  
(2) JD 4640 C&A duals Q-Range & Pshld  
(2) JD 4900 MFD (2) JD 4760  
JD 4760 MFD JD 4855 MFD  
JD 8430 MFD JD 8430 MFD  
JD 8400 MFD 18,4x46 duals 90%  
JD 8530, super nice  
(26) JD Tractors (3) 4240 C&A (3) 4230  
C&A (2) 4040 C&A (4) 4020  
(5) 4430 C&A & 4P (2) 3020, 5200 w/  
Ldr—A-MT & others  
(33) Other Tractors not listed.  
(12) LOADERS—JD 730—(2) JD 158—JD  
148—(2) Koyker 500  
(3) New Allco. Reubler 785 & 2596

### HAY AND FORAGE EQUIPMENT

Taylor 4445 Tub Grader Mixer w/loads  
used 6 mo. On IH 4900 Truck  
AM 8400 Stretch O Marie Bale tube  
wrapper Automatic new in 2013  
(73) HAYING EQUIP Rnd. & Sq. Balers,  
Rakes, Tedders, Disc Mowers, Disc  
Mower Conc., Kuhn 3.30 LTP Pull  
type Disc Mower bought new never  
used.  
LIVESTOCK EQUIPMENT  
Gooseneck brand Stock Trailer 24' new in  
Oct. 2012  
Silver Star POT Cattle Trailer 12' 1995  
Mack CH 612 Mani Crd w/new tires &  
brakes 233K mi., 1997 pulled Above  
Trailer  
IMPLEMENTS (very partial list)  
JD 1590 No Till Drill 15' small seed ag.  
15' Acros. 1500 total Ac  
JD 750 No Till Drill very low usage  
JD 1500 No Till Drill w/small seed ag.

(5) Hyc. Blades 8' & 10'  
(44) Other Implements not listed  
CONSTRUCTION (very partial list)  
Case 580C Backhoe JD 310C Backhoe  
JD 650H Dozer 6 way JD 450G Dozer  
Eversman 600 Dirt Pan 5 yd. w/Jelly  
(2) Faceconers Hitcher 120 & Kubota 121  
Other Dozers, Pans, Excavators  
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BRI Litter Spreader, 18' on IH 4300 truck,  
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(VERY PARTIAL LIST)

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# AUCTION/MARKET

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE FEDERAL AND STATE MARKET NEWS SERVICE - USDA AGRICULTURE MARKETING SERVICE - LOUISVILLE, KY.

## Blue Grass Stockyard

Lexington, KY

February 24 & 25, 2014

### Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1

29 hd. 592# 184.00 smokes  
31 hd. 759# 162.25 blk  
83 hd. 788# 165.50 blk-charx  
27 hd. 829# 162.00 blk  
60 hd. 838# 158.60 blk-mixed  
20 hd. 954# 158.00 blk-red  
56 hd. 910# 158.00 blk  
23 hd. 937# 148.25 smokes

### Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1

80 hd. 621# 168.00 blow

## Blue Grass of Richmond

Richmond, KY

February 21, 2014

### Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

55 hd. 922# 154.60 blk-charx

### Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

75 hd. 654# 169.95 blk-char-red

### Holstein Steers: Large 3

65 hd. 654# 145.25

## Blue Grass South

Stanford, KY

February 24 & 27, 2014

### Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

30 hd. 545# 194.00 blk-charx  
86 hd. 633# 188.75 blk-charx  
21 hd. 719# 161.00 blk  
70 hd. 720# 177.75 blk  
40 hd. 726# 165.00 blk-charx  
66 hd. 734# 157.00 mixed  
69 hd. 778# 165.20 blk-charx  
63 hd. 819# 159.90 blk-charx  
60 hd. 848# 162.00 mixed  
59 hd. 864# 158.90 blk-charx

### Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

58 hd. 451# 193.00 mixed  
22 hd. 499# 191.00 blk-charx  
43 hd. 583# 182.00 mixed  
53 hd. 598# 180.00 blk-charx  
70 hd. 599# 179.00 blk-charx  
63 hd. 740# 154.25 mixed  
68 hd. 758# 158.25 blk-charx

Producers Livestock Auction Co, San Angelo, Texas Feb. 25, 2014; Compared to last week slaughter lambs under 100 lbs steady; over 100 lbs 10.00-15.00 lower. Slaughter ewes 5.00-10.00 lower in light test. Feeder Lambs steady; Nannies steady; kids steady. Trading and demand moderate. All sheep and goats sold per hundred weight (CWT) unless otherwise specified.

New Holland Sales Stables - New Holland, PA Feb. 24, 2014; Sheep and Lambs: Compared to last week, Slaughter lambs traded mostly 10.00-20.00 higher. Slaughter ewes traded mostly steady to 20.00 higher. Slaughter Goats: When compared to last week, slaughter kid goats sold mostly steady to 20.00 higher. Slaughter Nanny goats sold mostly 20.00-30.00 higher. Slaughter Billies sold mostly 30.00-40.00 higher. Demand was good in all classes. All Goats are sold by the head on estimated weights.

## FARM MACHINERY & CONSTRUCTION CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

**SATURDAY MAR. 15th @ 8:30 A.M.**

LOCATION: 31-E Auction Center~8380 New Glasgow Rd-Hwy 31-E~Scottsville Ky  
Directions: From Scottsville take Hwy 31-E North 6 mi. to Auction Site. From Glasgow take Hwy 31-E South 12 mi. from Cumberland Parkway to Auction Site. 50 Miles North of Nashville--25 Miles East of Bowling Green--12 Miles South of Glasgow

### TRACTORS-FARM MACHINERY-CONSTRUCTION TRUCKS-TRAILERS-MISC



For More Info Contact:  
Russell Mills (270) 237-7625  
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Larry Heath (270) 622-1354

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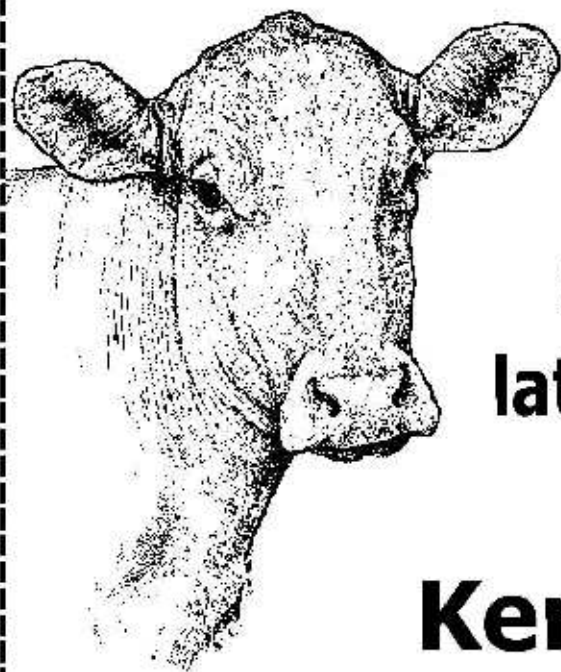
## Reality Farms LLC

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For more information, contact:

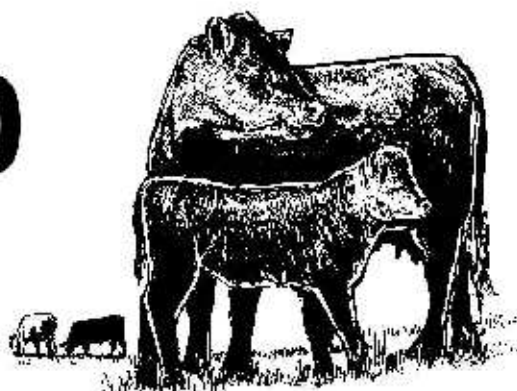
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# USDA announces lending rates for March

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation announced interest rates for March 2014.

The CCC borrowing rate-based charge for March is .125 percent, unchanged from .125 percent in February.

The interest rate for commodity and marketing assistance loans disbursed during March is 1.125 percent, unchanged from 1.125 percent in February.

Interest rates for farm storage facility loans approved for March are as follows,

2.125 percent with seven-year loan terms, down from 2.375 percent in February; 2.750 percent with 10-year loan terms, down from 3.000 percent in February and; 2.875 percent with 12-year loan terms, down from 3.125 percent in February. The interest rate for 15-year Sugar Storage Facility Loans for March is 3.125 percent, down from 3.375 percent in February.

Further program information is available from USDA Farm Service Agency's Financial Management Division at 202-772-6041.

**Call Diana Withers at 1-800-489-9454  
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### MARKET REPORT: WEEK OF FEB. 25, 2014 Mammoth Cave Dairy Auction, Inc.

Cattle: 1156 Springers Lb. Cows-Bulls

Open Heifers-Steers Fresh Milking Cows Baby Calves

**Springers:** (2-3 years old, 5-8 months bred) Supreme 1300-1600# 1600.00-2250.00, Approved 1200-1400# 1375.00-1525.00, Medium 950-1200# 1175.00-1360.00, Common 800-1100# 810.00-1150.00.

**Fresh Milking Cows:** (2-4 years old) Supreme 1300-1600# 1675.00-2250.00, Approved 1200-1400# 1425.00-1550.00, Medium 950-1200# 1275.00-1400.00, Common 800-1100# 1000.00-1235.00.

**Open Heifers:** 200-300# Supreme 280.00-400.00, Approved 260.00-270.00, Medium 230.00-250.00, Common 200.00, 300-400# Supreme 390.00-500.00, Approved 320.00-325.00, 400-500# Supreme 500.00-740.00, Approved 400.00-460.00, Medium 330.00-380.00, Common 290.00, 500-600# Supreme 625.00-760.00, Approved 540.00-570.00, Medium 480.00, 600-700# Supreme 780.00-890.00, Approved 630.00, 700-800# Supreme 790.00-940.00.

**Hol. Heifer Calves:** Small 75.00-105.00, Medium and Large 130.00-210.00 per head.

**Hol. Bull Calves:** Small 40.00-110.00, Medium and Large 130.00-230.00 per head.

**S.L. Cows:** Breaker 75-80 percent lean 1100-1800# 93.00-96.00, H.Dr. 97.00-99.00, L.Dr. 88.00-92.00, Boner 80-85 percent lean 1100-1400# 91.00-94.00, H.Dr. 95.00-97.00, L.Dr. 84.00-89.00, Lean 85-90 percent lean 1000-1300# 82.00-86.00, H.Dr. 87.00-90.00, L.Dr. 75.00-80.00, Lean 85-90 percent lean 1000-1300# 82.00-86.00, H.Dr. 87.00-90.00, L.Dr. 75.00-80.00, Lights 85-90 percent lean 750-1000# 63.00-65.00, H.Dr. 70.00-75.00, L.Dr. 54.00-60.00.

**S.L. Bulls:** Y.G. 1-2 1400-2300# 102.00-109.00, H.Dr. 110.00-118.00, L.Dr. 93.00-100.00.

For our latest market report, visit [www.kyagr.com/mcda.htm](http://www.kyagr.com/mcda.htm)

**NEXT SPECIAL OPEN & SHORTBRED HEIFER AUCTION:  
Saturday, April 5 @ Noon**



# AUCTION/MARKET

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE FEDERAL AND STATE MARKET NEWS SERVICE - USDA AGRICULTURE MARKETING SERVICE - LOUISVILLE, KY.

## KY-TN Livestock Auction

Guthrie, KY  
February 27, 2014  
**Feeder Steers:** Medium & Large 1-2  
25 hd. 543# 200.00 bbwf  
**Feeder Heifers:** Medium & Large 1-2  
49 hd. 443# 185.00 bbwf  
57 hd. 533# 180.00 bbwf  
**Feeder Bulls:** Medium & Large 1-2  
25 hd. 380# 218.00 blk  
42 hd. 441# 205.25 bbwf  
55 hd. 542# 187.25 bbwf

## Christian Co. Livestock Auction

Hopkinsville, KY  
February 26, 2014  
**Feeder Heifers:** Medium & Large 1-2  
80 hd. 601# 176.10 blk

## Kentuckiana Livestock Market

Owensboro, KY.  
February 24, 2014  
**Feeder Steers:** Medium & Large 1-2  
31 hd. 505# 195.00 blk  
**Feeder Bulls:** Medium & Large 1-2  
35 hd. 522# 185.00 blk  
**Feeder Heifers:** Medium & Large 1-2  
30 hd. 444# 182.00 blk  
40 hd. 507# 173.00 blk

## Russell County Stockyards

Russell Springs, KY  
February 26, 2014  
**Feeder Steers:** Medium & Large 1-2  
26 hd. 640# 182.75 blk  
**Feeder Heifers:** Medium & Large 1-2  
25 hd. 600# 177.75 blk

## Farmers Livestock

Glasgow, KY  
February 24, 2014  
**Feeder Steers:** Medium & Large 1-2  
20 hd. 444# 205.00 blk  
25 hd. 480# 206.25 mixed  
38 hd. 521# 196.50 blk  
49 hd. 577# 187.00 mixed  
25 hd. 593# 180.50 blk  
31 hd. 703# 164.75 mixed  
57 hd. 860# 154.50 mixed  
21 hd. 866# 150.75 blk  
**Feeder Heifers:** Medium & Large 1-2  
38 hd. 362# 200.00 mixed  
42 hd. 370# 199.25 blk  
29 hd. 443# 180.00 mixed  
81 hd. 442# 185.50 blk  
43 hd. 449# 174.00 mixed  
27 hd. 479# 186.00 mixed  
21 hd. 515# 170.00 mixed  
75 hd. 524# 177.00 blk  
32 hd. 546# 174.00 mixed  
29 hd. 550# 167.50 mixed  
38 hd. 588# 166.75 blk  
28 hd. 628# 162.75 blk  
**Feeder Bulls:** Medium & Large 1-2  
37 hd. 359# 197.50 mixed  
47 hd. 370# 217.00 blk  
67 hd. 446# 207.25 blk  
26 hd. 447# 194.00 mixed  
52 hd. 520# 184.50 blk  
23 hd. 542# 171.50 mixed  
41 hd. 585# 174.00 blk

## Blue Grass East

Mt. Sterling, KY  
February 26, 2014  
**Feeder Steers:** Medium & Large 1  
27 hd. 764# 168.00 blk  
**Feeder Heifers:** Medium & Large 1  
23 hd. 544# 169.75 mixed

## Blue Grass of Albany

Albany, KY  
February 26, 2014  
**Feeder Steers:** Medium & Large 1-2  
22 hd. 731# 159.00 blk  
40 hd. 732# 164.50 blk  
**Feeder Heifers:** Medium & Large 1-2  
51 hd. 505# 185.00 mixed  
42 hd. 595# 175.75 mixed  
24 hd. 695# 153.50 blk

## Lake Cumberland Livestock

Somerset, KY  
February 22, 2014  
**Feeder Steers:** Medium & Large 1-2  
25 hd. 695# 166.50 mixed  
24 hd. 815# 158.10 blk-charx  
59 hd. 839# 156.60 blk-charx  
**Feeder Heifers:** Medium & Large 1-2  
21 hd. 710# 156.00 blk-charx

## Washington Co. Livestock

Springfield, KY  
February 24, 2014  
**Feeder Steers:** Medium & Large 1-2  
37 hd. 771# 158.00

## ABSOLUTE AUCTION

Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup> @ 10 a.m.

Selling for Mr. and Mrs. Larry Hagan  
**FARM EQUIPMENT • PERSONAL PROPERTY**

**LOCATION:** 1525 Taylorsville Rd. • Bloomfield, Ky.

From Bloomfield, take Taylorsville Road (Hwy. 55) North about 1-1/2 miles to the farm. Auction signs posted.

**Reason For Sale:** Due to the loss of a farm lease and health reasons, Larry and Brenda have decided to reduce their farming operation and have commissioned Bishop Realty & Auction, LLC to sell at **ABSOLUTE AUCTION** the following list of items under the terms and conditions as stated.

N.H. 892 silage chopper, #824 N.R. corn head, (2) N.H. #6 silage wagons (single axle), (1) Badger #BN950 silage wagon, single axle, N.H. #27 silage blower, N.H. #311 square baler with hitch & chute, (2) 16 ft. flat bed wagons, (1) 20 ft. flat bed wagon, N.H. #258 hay rake with dolly wheels and rubber teeth, G.T. #310 (2) basket hay tedder, 10 bale hay grapple, 24 ft. hay elevator, Hutchinson 8x48 grain auger, bottom drive, like new, Kewanee 500, 40 ft. grain & hay elevator, Woods HD 15 ft. #1800 barwing mower just 3 years old, International #470 18 ft. disc harrow, 18 ft. harrow, J.D. #145 4-16" semi mounted plows, Ford 2 bottom plow, (2) corn gravity wagons, J.D. 10 ft. fertilize spreader, J.D. #8100 8 ft. grain drill, 8 ft. cultipacker, Gorman-Rupp 4x3 irrigation pump, 1500 ft. Wade Rain 3 inch pipe, 1 gun /12 sprinkler heads, 3 point hitch subsoiler, 200 gallon poly tank, 150 gallon metal water tank, (4) metal feed troughs, 3 point hitch for 140 or Super A tractor, automatic head catcher, 10 pieces of 8 ft. barn door track, 3 pt. hitch seed sower, electric motors, electric fence, box of bolts, hinges, chains, drills, cylinders, top links, hand tools, Craftsman band saw, 300 gallon sled fuel tank, boom pole, diamond plate tool box and more.

**AUCTIONEERS NOTE:** This equipment has all been well cared for and barn kept. You can rest assured that it will be in good working condition and field ready. Bring your trailer and come prepared to BUY. There will be tractors available for loading out after the sale.

**TERMS:** Cash or good check day of sale. 10% buyers premium added to everything sold.

For more information, contact Chris Bishop at 502-249-0333

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# AUCTION/MARKET

## KENTUCKY GRAIN PRICES

LOUISVILLE AREA: Louisville & Bagdad; PENNYRILE AREA: Allensville, Auburn, Franklin, Hopkinsville & Pembroke; BLUEGRASS AREA: Bardstown, Lexington & Winchester; GREEN RIVER: Caneyville & Livermore; NORTHERN KENTUCKY AREA: Silver Grove at Cincinnati; PURCHASE AREA: Clinton & Mayfield.  
Opening bids at elevators and processing plants.

2/27/14 4:00 pm est	Louisville	Pennyrile	Purchase	Bluegrass	Green River	Northern KY
<b>Bids for next day</b>						
<b>Cash Bids</b>						
Corn #2 Yellow	4.43-4.52	4.48-4.58	4.48-4.53	3.97-4.28	4.58	4.47
Corn #2 White		4.78				
Soybeans #1 Y	13.51-13.91	13.81-13.94	13.99-14.09	13.40-13.84	14.04	14.05
Wheat #2 SRW	5.17-5.67	5.52-5.82	5.97	NA	NA	5.77
Barley						
<b>New Crop Delivery Contract</b>						
Corn #2 Yellow	4.43	4.51-4.59	4.48	4.33	4.58	4.47
Corn #2 White		NA				
Soybeans #1 Y	13.76	13.78-13.94	13.99	13.84	13.99	13.90
Wheat #2 SRW	5.29-5.76	5.56-5.81	5.76-5.95	NA	5.76	5.76
Barley		2.90				

## Eastern Cornbelt Ethanol Plant Report 2/27/2014

Yellow Corn Spot Bid 4.31-4.81

Dried Distillers Grain (\$/ton)  
10% moisture 220.00-245.00

Modified Wet Distillers (\$/ton)  
50-55% moisture 85.00-95.00

## Kentucky Weekly Cattle Receipts

02/14/14	16,780
02/21/14	22,982
02/28/14	26,141

## Paris Stockyards

Paris, KY

February 27, 2014

**Feeder Steers:** Medium & Large 1-2

27 hd. 516# 200.00 mixed

23 hd. 635# 172.25 mixed

35 hd. 753# 167.50 blk

68 hd. 660# 171.25 mixed

**Feeder Heifers:** Medium & Large 1-2

89 hd. 559# 183.75 blk

21 hd. 636# 174.50 charx

## United Producers Owenton

Owenton, KY

February 26, 2014

**Feeder Heifers:** Medium & Large 1-2

26 hd. 687# 157.00 mixed

## Mid-KY Livestock Market

Upton, KY

February 25, 2014

**Feeder Steers:** Medium & Large 1-2

23 hd. 571# 183.95 mixed

20 hd. 617# 170.00 mixed

27 hd. 620# 154.25 blk

**Feeder Bulls:** Medium & Large 1-2

23 hd. 350# 207.25 blk

32 hd. 418# 200.75 blk

20 hd. 623# 161.00 blk

**Feeder Heifers:** Medium & Large 1-2

25 hd. 355# 197.00 blk

25 hd. 414# 196.50 blk

23 hd. 468# 185.75 blk

27 hd. 551# 179.00 blk

20 hd. 604# 182.50 mixed

28 hd. 607# 182.75 blk

20 hd. 752# 151.50 blk

## GRAINS

	This Week	Prior Week	Last Year
Corn	3.97-4.86	3.96-4.96	6.95-7.54
Soybeans	13.30-14.45	13.00-14.16	14.22-15.06
Red Winter Wheat	5.17-6.64	5.49-6.70	6.70-7.43

## United Producers Irvington

Irvington, KY

February 24, 2014

**Feeder Steers:** Medium & Large 1-2

20 hd. 537# 198.75 blk

39 hd. 737# 164.50 blk

**Feeder Heifers:** Medium & Large 1-2

58 hd. 613# 163.25 blk

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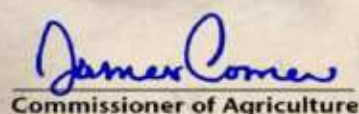
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# \$10 ag tag donation helps FFA, 4-H, Ky. Proud

FROM PAGE 1

Kentucky Proud several years ago.

“FFA and 4-H do an outstanding job of preparing the next generation of farmers, citizens, entrepreneurs, and leaders,” said Comer, a former state president of Kentucky FFA. “Kentucky Proud helps Kentucky farmers and food producers sell their products while helping consumers find the local foods they want. Your voluntary \$10 donations will help keep these worthwhile programs going.”

There are around 170,000 farm plates in Kentucky, so if every motorist made the voluntary donation, it would generate \$1.7 million to be split between Kentucky Proud, FFA and 4-H.

Kentucky FFA Foundation funds go to an array of programs that provide the widest impact to all students, said Sheldon McKinney, FFA Foundation executive director.

One of those programs is Ag Achievement Grants, which helps various chapters on projects such as greenhouse equipment or new technology. Last year, \$20,000 of Ag Tag Program funds went to the grant program.

2013 TOP EARNINGS

	Total Donated	% Donated
ALLEN	19,950.00	77.45%
HARDIN	19,320.00	61.26%
WARREN	15,580.00	37.06%
LOGAN	15,470.00	52.98%
FAYETTE	14,720.00	74.72%

Top Earning Counties by Percentage

	Total Donated	% Donated
MARTIN	700	89.74%
BELL	1,290.00	88.97
BREATHITT	2,660.00	88.08
BALLARD	5,510.00	85.56
KENTON	6,220.00	84.74

Top Counties by Increase

	Total Donated	% Increase
BALLARD	5,510.00	63.27
EDMONSON	10,910.00	51.36
LEE	2,380.00	48.61
LESLIE	630	36.86
BOYLE	10,110.00	31.04



FFA, 4-H and the county clerk in Allen County teamed up to successfully promote the Ag Tag Program last year. Shown from last year are (seated, from left) Allen County 4-H President Ann Barton, members Jake Stovall, Shelby Pearson, J.T. Pearson, County Clerk Beverly Calvert, with Ellie Pearson and Coe Campbell. (Standing from left) FFA Advisor Brandon Weaver and AC-S FFA Chaplain Timothy Bell, Sentinel B. J. Towe, Reporter Danielle Caldwell, Treasurer Jordan Bridgeman, Secretary Taylor Madison, Vice President Logan Chandler, President Kathrine Dittmore and FFA Advisor Nikki Towe.

Funds also provided state officer training and covered traveling expenses for students.

Keith Rogers, executive director to the Kentucky 4-H Foundation, said the use of state funds is based on the needs of specific programs at the time. In the past two years, state funds supported the 4-H horse program and state show, state fair activities, livestock projects, and numerous other worthy programs.

Local 4-H programs use funds for activities that teach children and teens about leadership, citizenship, science and technology, he added.

In Allen County, ag tag funds make up the majority of the FFA chapter’s budget. Students who attend state or national conventions or any field trip only pay a portion of the costs, thanks to ag tag funds, Towe said. The funds also help sponsor an annual banquet, she added.

The only other funds raised by the Allen County stu-

dents come from building projects in the shop, selling greenhouse items and selling beef jerky.


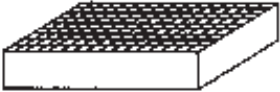
“I think they only do that (sell beef jerky) because they want to eat it,” Towe said, laughing.

State FFA and 4-H organizations encourage local chapters to meet with county clerk’s to help them understand the importance of the \$10 donation. They have also provided them with promotional material they can share with local media.

McKinney and Rogers both said getting the word out to farmers about how the funds are used is important to the program’s success.

“The agricultural community can be instrumental in helping to develop tomorrow’s leaders by making the voluntary donation this March,” Rogers said.

By Sharon Burton  
snburton@duo-county.com



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# Our friend Jack



ONE  
VOICE

Sharon  
Burton

For me, he always said I was with “The Kentucky Pride,” not The Farmer’s Pride. I quit correcting him years ago because he actually came up with the better name.

Jack Crowner provided daily agriculture news on WAVE stations in Louisville when I met him more than two decades ago.

Jack died last week at the age of 81. He will long be remembered in the agriculture community.

His distinctive voice brought daily market reports and general agricultural news to farmers for more than 60 years.

Jack’s recent career entailed owning and operating the Farm Service Radio Network, which served radio stations in Kentucky, Indiana and other nearby states.

Jack was a friend to all of agriculture. He loved his work and he loved the farm community. He traveled abroad numerous times to experience agriculture overseas and shared his stories with local farmers.

Jack was known as a great emcee and auctioneer, and hosted many important agriculture functions, included a long stint as the auctioneer at Kentucky Farm Bureau annual ham breakfast.

Jacks served as the emcee of the sponsors dinner during the annual Kentucky FFA convention. He had a unique way of introducing people. For me, He always said I was with “The Kentucky Pride,” not The Farmer’s Pride. I quit correcting him years ago because he actually came up with the better name.

Jack earned the Kentucky Farm Bureau Communication Award four times and was inducted into the Journalism Hall of Fame. He served as president of the National Association of Farm Broadcasters and was selected the National Farm Broadcaster of the year in 1990.

He grew up on a farm and served in the U.S. Air Force.

His love and passion for agriculture was obvious.

He will be greatly missed.



SHARON BURTON is the Editor of *The Farmer's Pride*.

# Price and the value of ag exports

Exports are a big deal for agriculture, always have been and always will be. Of course, the mix of agricultural exports has changed over time. Tobacco exports back to the mother country have been replaced with worldwide exports of grains, oilseeds, livestock products, and a host of other foods, some sent raw or in bulk, others highly processed.

Recent years have been particularly good for agricultural exports. Agricultural exports set a new record of \$140.9 billion in fiscal year 2013. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack commented, “The period 2009-2013 stands as the strongest five-year period for agricultural exports in our nation’s history.”

Last fall he encouraged Congress to pass a farm bill, partly as a means to keep up the “incredible momentum” of agriculture exports by continuing to fund trade promotions programs. The Agriculture Act of 2014 came through with funding for the Market Access Program. The 2014 farm bill also creates an undersecretary of agriculture for trade and foreign agriculture. Clearly, Congress and the Obama administration are fans of agricultural exports and are planning for continued growth in the value of agricultural exports .

The question is: Will the value of agricultural exports during the time of the 2014 farm bill experience the remarkable growth that was chalked up during the tenure of the 2008 farm bill?

Let’s begin by asking a different question: besides the ethanol phenomenon, what is the most striking thing that happened to crop agriculture in previous five years? Yep, crop prices rose to levels that few thought were even remotely possible.

Next question: Were those mammoth crop price increases largely responsible for growth in the value of agricultural exports? In the case of grains (primarily corn and wheat) and soybeans, the answer is definitely yes.

Figure 1 (on page 7) shows the volume of corn, soybeans, and wheat exports to be somewhat variable but relatively flat (line with long and short dashes). On the other hand, the value of exports (solid line) has exploded since the mid-2000s as has the price per metric ton (dotted line). The price and value of exports move together with few exceptions.

Corn and soybeans are the top two contributors to the total value of agricultural exports. Clearly, their export values in the years ahead will be highly influenced by their prices.

As column readers are aware, history tells us that multi-year pe-



DARYLL E.  
RAY

University of  
Tennessee  
Ag Policy

The question is: Will the value of agricultural exports during the time of the 2014 farm bill experience the remarkable growth that was chalked up during the tenure of the 2008 farm bill?

SEE PRICE, PAGE 7

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# A great time to be a cattleman



**KENTUCKY  
CATTLEMEN'S  
ASSOCIATION**  
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**Steve  
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When a bill comes up in Frankfort that may affect our Kentucky cattlemen, our legislators know they can talk to KCA Executive Dave Maples to get the real story on how it will affect us down on the farm.

Well, it looks like it has finally happened. After years and years of forecasters predicting that the decreasing cattle herd numbers would lead to record high cattle prices, their predictions have finally come to be reality. What a fine time to be a Kentucky cattleman!

Last year's plentiful rains have benefitted our cattlemen in several ways. First, rain makes grass, leading to a bountiful pasture season, and also led to a lot of good quality hay being stored up for the winter season. Unlike some of the previous years when we seemed to have long hot, dry spells that led to pasture running out early, this past season was blessed with good late pastures that gave our hay piles relief up into early winter. Rain makes grain, is a familiar adage on the farm, and this held true this past season as well. Record corn yields have led to lower feed prices for our cattlemen this winter as well.

My Dad and I were putting mineral out to our cow herds recently, and we were both pleasantly surprised as to how well the herd has maintained their condition this winter. And what a winter it has been in Kentucky! Seems that every week has brought more cold rains, snow, sleet, ice and those ominous "polar vortexes." Here it is the beginning of March and we are still looking at temps in the teens and listening to the radio for school closings. Come on spring, the cattle and the cattlemen are ready for you to show up.

The foundation of your Kentucky Cattlemen's Association is in your local county cattlemen's organizations. We are truly a "grass-roots" membership driven association. Delegates from each county come together in their regional meetings at our annual KCA convention to elect directors and officers to our state board, as well as bring up resolutions and concerns from the county level. The executive board meets monthly while the large "full board" meets quarterly. Lots of issues concerning our cattlemen are discussed and dealt with throughout the year.

Your Kentucky Cattlemen's Association finished up last year with nearly 9300 members, and we are already past the 8,000 mark for the 2014 year. While the Kentucky Cattlemen's Association is honored to serve its members, in reality, it is representing all 38,000 Kentucky cattle producers. KCA works closely with the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, university ag programs and extension service, marketing organizations, Kentucky Farm Bureau, other commodity groups as well as our Kentucky legislature for the benefit of our Kentucky cattlemen. When a bill comes up in Frankfort that may affect our Kentucky cattlemen, our legislators know they can talk to KCA Executive Dave Maples to get the real story on how it will affect us down on the farm. When we need to have an issue heard in Frankfort, KCA has the respect of our legislators and they give us careful consideration. We may not always get what we want, but rest assured, our Kentucky Cattlemen's Association leadership is out there, working for you! If you are a Kentucky cattleman, we need you on our team helping us to help you to maintain your livelihood and potential for prosperity.

As always, leaving you with best wishes for an early spring, good grass and high cattle prices. In closing, remember life is good today.

**STEVE DOWNS** is the president of the Kentucky Cattlemen's Association.

# Renewable energy

The tall, mostly dead red oak on the eastern edge of the farmette still stands this late, long winter, saved mostly by this late, long winter.

The majestic, strong-armed tree, my age or a little more, had a date with the saw and maul as soon as the weather turned cold. Deep snow and face-cracking cold, however, kept the aging sawyer closer to the wood stove where that oak would, sooner or later, meet its ashy end than to the tree itself.

It's not the only dead tree to survive the winter. Most years the wood I saw and split comes from a dozen or so dead trees in a rolling, beautiful hardwood forest owned by a generous farming neighbor. He likes his woods clean; I like his wood. It's the basis for a years-long deal that keeps him cool and me hot.

This year, however, I've cut nary of cord, jag or wheelbarrow of anything because while I love to saw, split, carry and stack wood in the winter cold, I hate doing any of those warm jobs in snow. I like my woodcutting weather like my friend says he enjoys his martinis: ice cold and very dry.

And neither of us, it seems, likes to get wet anymore.

It was the same on the big, southern Illinois dairy farm of my youth where a round, tall Warm Morning woodstove glowed hot throughout the winter months in our farmhouse kitchen. Wood for it came from the storm-wracked trees cut, split and stacked long before any snow fell.

That wood, mostly iron hard pecan, burned hot as coal. If pecan wasn't handy, sulfur-packed southern Illinois coal was added to the stove to boost its BTUs. I can still smell that coal and still see it aglow in the bottom of that Warm Morning.

Our farm's hired hand bachelor brothers burned wood and coal every day of every winter throughout their decades-long employment. While we often shared the wood from any downed tree with them, they burned far more coal in their two-story, uninsulated tenant house than we.

I recall one evening milking session with Howard, our dairy's herdsman, as he complained loud, long and uncharacteristically that the price of coal, at about \$8 a ton, was "gettin' him hot enough not to need none."

When he cooled off the following week, a big, black pile of eons-old carbon bloomed next to a bare hollyhock near his kitchen door.

Sometime in the early 1960s, central heating was installed in both our home and the milking parlor. I'm not sure how the cows came to be on par with us when it came to indoor heat but I'm pretty sure the furnace in the dairy barn was bigger, ran better and supplied more heat than the furnace in our house.

(After that upgrade—from a tiny propane heater at one end of the long milking parlor and another, even smaller heater in the bulk tank room—it was easy to find any



**FOOD &  
FARM  
FILE**

**Alan  
Guebert**

It was the same on the big, southern Illinois dairy farm of my youth where a round, tall Warm Morning woodstove glowed hot throughout the winter months in our farmhouse kitchen.



# Your license plate can help agriculture education



KENTUCKY  
DEPARTMENT  
OF  
AGRICULTURE  
COMMISSIONER

James  
Comer

Like me, many of you were members at one time, and you may be volunteering for one or both organizations now.

If you have a farm license plate on your vehicle, you can help advance agricultural education in Kentucky and promote Kentucky farm products.

All you have to do is give a voluntary \$10 donation when you buy or renew your farm plates. Your donations are divided equally among Kentucky 4-H, Kentucky FFA and Kentucky Proud.

I shouldn't have to sell most of you on the benefits of FFA and 4-H. Like me, many of you were members at one time, and you may be volunteering for one or both organizations now. You may have children or grandchildren who are involved. You know that 4-H and FFA offer constructive and positive activities that give members hands-on experience in agriculture and many other disciplines. You also know that these fine youth organizations help build responsible, hard-working citizens who one day will be Kentucky's leaders, employers, workers and taxpayers. The shares of the voluntary donations that go to Kentucky FFA and Kentucky 4-H help them reach more Kentucky youths and serve them better.

Kentucky Proud helps Kentucky farmers and food producers find new markets for their products. Our marketing specialists at the Kentucky Department of Agriculture connect producers with retailers and help schools and universities find local foods that they can serve to their students. Homegrown by Heroes enables consumers to identify farm products produced by Kentucky military veterans. Udderly Kentucky identifies milk produced by 105 Kentucky farm families and processed by Prairie Farms Dairy of Somerset. And just recently, we launched Appalachia Proud, a branding initiative designed to spur economic activity and educational achievement in eastern Kentucky. Your donations will enable Kentucky Proud to help more Kentucky farmers and businesses.

For the third year in a row, I am visiting courthouses and schools throughout the state to encourage people to make the donation. I am always encouraged by the warm welcome I receive at every visit, especially from the young people who stop by to let me know how much 4-H and FFA mean to them.

Kentucky motorists gave \$482,658.18 in 2013, a 32 percent increase over 2012. But there is plenty of room for this fund to grow. If you feel that FFA, 4-H, and Kentucky Proud are important to your family and your community, please make the \$10 donation when you buy or renew your farm plates. It's a small price to pay for a better future for our children and our commonwealth.

**JAMES COMER** is Kentucky's Commissioner of Agriculture.

## Soybeans are on steroids



MARKET  
WATCH

Dewey  
Strickler

Corn futures have been trending upward even though stocks are ample. The factor underpinning prices the past few weeks is liquidation of short positions by the trend following funds.

Last week, they bought 80 million bushels reducing their position to 105 million bushels. This is a reduction of 765 million bushels from the peak of 870 million bushels in early January. Export inspections last week were below the previous week at 31.1 million bushels.

While the bulls are quick to point out the increase in sales compared to a year ago, shipments lag the level needed to reach USDA's projection of 1.6 million bushels. Meanwhile, traders are now turning their focus to prospective plantings for 2014. Recently, the USDA, in the Ag Outlook Conference, projected plantings this spring to fall 3.4 million acres to 92 million. Keep in mind that this is a preliminary estimate based upon statistical models, not a producer survey.

Soybean futures are on steroids and have risen to their highest level in more than five months on expectations that Brazil's production will fall short of USDA's current estimate of 90 million tons. This stems from dry weather occurring earlier this month, and wet conditions recently slowing harvest.

Last week, AgRural, a reporting agency in South America, lowered their crop estimate 1.8 million tons to 87 million. However, even with a reduction, production will be at a surplus level.

The factor driving futures higher is the trend following funds building a long position that has reached 840 million bushels, the largest since September 2012. After this period, prices tumbled 25 percent over the next seven months.

Export inspections were below last week at 46.7 million bushels with China taking 25.1 million bushels or 53 percent of shipments. The current pace of shipments indicates that the USDA could raise their estimate 30-40 million bushels from the current level of 1.510 billion bushels.

Looking at plantings this spring, the Ag Outlook Conference puts preliminary plantings at 79.5 million acres, up 3 from last year.

Wheat futures have been underpinned from freezing conditions during January and February in the Midwest and Plains with more in the forecast. Exports from the U.S. are holding their own with inspections last week at 15.6 million bushels. Shipments are currently on track to reach USDA's target of 1.175 billion bushels.

**DEWEY STRICKLER** is president of Ag Watch Market Advisors, LLC. Email Strickler at [agwatchdls@comcast.net](mailto:agwatchdls@comcast.net) or go online at [www.agwatch.biz](http://www.agwatch.biz).

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# Price and the value of agricultural exports

FROM PAGE 4

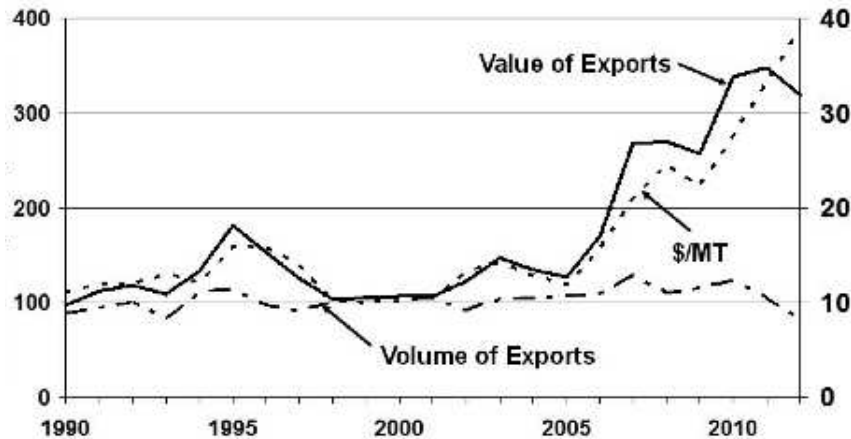
riods of exceptionally high crop prices are usually followed by much longer periods of exceptionally low crop prices. If that is the case, Secretaries of Agriculture in future years may be explaining dramatic drops in the value of agricultural exports.

Of course, the similarity of trends in export values and prices for other categories of agricultural exports—espe-

cially the growing volume of highly processed exports—are not universally as strong as the trends in crop export value and crop price.

Still, it seems most likely that over the period of the next farm bill, the overall trend in the value of agricultural exports will point in the same direction as the overall trend in crop prices.

**DARYLL E. RAY** is the director of UT's Agricultural Policy Analysis Center.



Corn, soybeans, and wheat - Volume of exports in million metric tons, value of exports in billion dollars, and price per metric ton in dollars.

# Renewable energy

FROM PAGE 5

hired man at any time during any winter day. The cows had their loafing shed; so did the loafers who looked after 'em.)

For decades thereafter I cut no wood because the houses the lovely Catherine and, later, Paul, Gracie and I lived in had no stoves. Then, with Paul and Grace fledged and flown, we empty-nesters moved to a smaller nest with

two woodstoves.

Bone-deep, almost-free wood heat soon followed.

This past fall, after nearly 20 years of red-hot service, both stoves were replaced with smaller, more efficient units. Neither gets fat on the well-seasoned wild cherry, red oak, black walnut and elm fed it and each pours forth warmth and delight no matter its diet.

I'd tell you more but I got a red oak to take down and split. Well, sometime.

**ALAN GUEBERT** publishes a weekly column Farm and Food File in more than 70 newspapers. Contact Alan Guebert by email at [agcomm@farmandfoodfile.com](mailto:agcomm@farmandfoodfile.com).

## Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor are welcomed. Letters must include the author's name, address and phone number for verification purposes.

Letters should be no longer than 500 words and will be edited for clarity.

Send letters to Editor, The Farmer's Pride, P. O. Box 159, Columbia, Ky. 42728.

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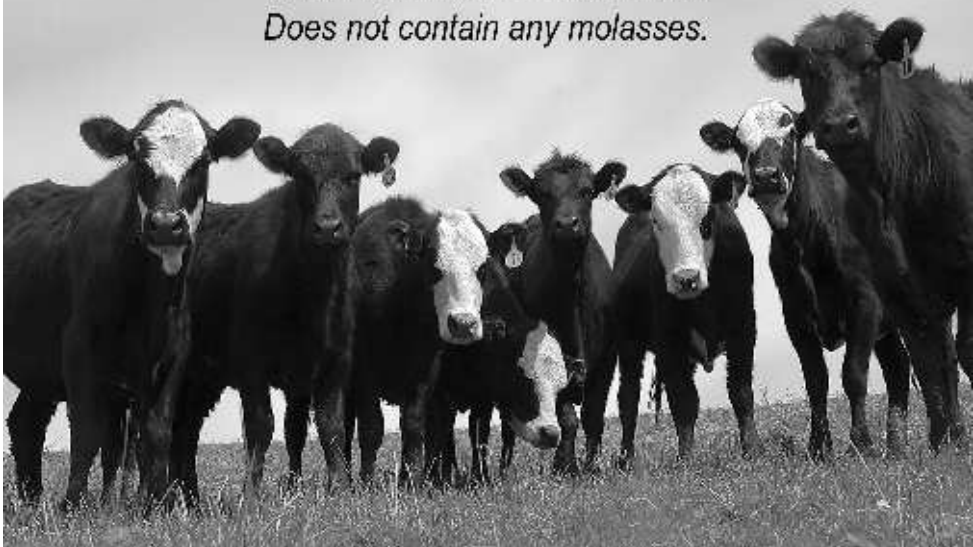
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It was no different with David. In Psalm 6 it begins with a statement that suggests that he is trying to deflect God's wrath. "Oh Lord," he cries, "do not rebuke me in your anger!" Does this suggest that he is afraid of being punished for some sin he has committed? Or might he fear God's judgment for something he did in the past while he was still a sinner? Could it be that he is afraid to ask for healing as he was going through a time of sickness?

He admits to "being weak," his "bones being troubled" and his soul being "greatly troubled." He really needed help as all of us do from time to time. But notice what he did: he did not focus on his pain and problems, he focused on the mercy of God! "Have mercy on me!" he cried. He needed God's help! And in the midst of his fear – whether it was his sickness or some sin from the past that haunted him – he had full confidence in God's mercy and believed that He would hear him and heal him.

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## Slow-Cooker Root Beer Ribs

**1/4 cup dark brown sugar, packed**  
**2 tablespoons chili powder**  
**1 tablespoon salt**  
**2 teaspoons onion powder**  
**1 teaspoon allspice**

Combine sugar, chili powder, salt, onion powder and allspice in medium bowl. Set aside half spice mixture (about 1/3 cup); sprinkle rest over both sides of ribs. Pour 1/2 cup root beer into slow cooker and add ribs. Cover and cook on low 5-6 hours or on high for 3 1/2-4 hours, until ribs are very tender.

With 10 minutes left on ribs, combine remaining root beer and reserved spice mixture in medium saucepan

**2 racks St. Louis-style pork spare ribs, (2 1/3 to 3 pounds each), cut into 3- or 4-rib sections**  
**1 1/2 cups (12 ounce can) root beer, (not diet), divided**  
**2 tablespoons cornstarch, dissolved in 2 tablespoons cold water**

over medium-high heat. Bring to boil, stirring to dissolve sugar. Add cornstarch mixture and stir until sauce thickens, just a few seconds. Remove from heat; set aside.

Remove ribs to platter and cover. Strain cooking liquid and pour off fat. Add 1/3 cup remaining liquid to sauce; stir until smooth.

Brush ribs with sauce, serve with remaining sauce on side.

## Salted Caramel Cinnamon Cupcakes

**1 package of yellow cake mix**  
**Eggs, vegetable oil and water, per mix instructions**  
**2 teaspoons ground cinnamon**  
**1 can prepared cream cheese frosting (whipped frosting not**

**recommended)**  
**2 teaspoons caramel topping, plus additional for garnish**  
**12 pieces individually wrapped caramels**  
**Morton® Coarse Sea Salt**

Heat oven and prepare cake mix as instructed on the box, adding cinnamon with other ingredients. Divide prepared batter evenly among 24 paper-lined muffin cups, filling each cup 2/3's full. Bake cupcakes as instructed on the box. Remove cupcakes from pans and cool completely.

Cut each unwrapped caramel in half lengthwise. Gently press a small amount of Morton® Coarse Sea Salt onto one side of one of the larger surfaces. Set aside.

Combine frosting and caramel topping in a bowl, and pipe frosting onto each cupcake. Drizzle additional caramel topping on top of each frosted cupcake and sprinkle lightly with sea salt. Top each cupcake with one piece of salted caramel, salted side facing outward. Serve immediately. Refrigerate any leftover cupcakes.



**Salted Caramel Cinnamon Cupcakes**

Recipes courtesy of

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