

## VILSACK: Farm bill offers new opportunity

WASHINGTON – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack says the new farm bill will offer increased opportunity for producers.

A fact sheet outlining modifications to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency farm loan programs is available on page 3.

"Our nation's farmers and ranchers are the engine of the rural economy. These improvements to our farm loan programs will help a new generation begin farming and grow existing farm operations," said Secretary Vilsack. "Today's announcement represents just one part of a series of investments the new farm bill makes in the next generation of agriculture, which is critical to economic growth in communities across the country."

The farm bill expands lending opportunities for thousands of farmers and ranchers to begin and continue operations, including greater flexibility in determining eligibility, raising loan limits, and emphasizing beginning and socially disadvantaged producers.

Changes that will take effect immediately include:

- Elimination of loan term limits for guaranteed operating loans. Modification of the definition of beginning farmer, using the average farm size for the county as a qualifier instead of the median farm size.

- Modification of the Joint Financing Direct Farm Ownership Interest Rate to

SEE **INCREASED**, PAGE 3



Photo by Toni Humphress

Carrie Burton and Kami Bush speak with Gabe Esters with Esters Farm Baked Goods at the Community Farmers Market in Bowling Green. Esters Farm Baked Goods is located in Glasgow and participates in two producers only farmers markets in their area.

## Efforts to sell directly to consumers gain attention

Farmers' markets have grown up in Kentucky.

Once a mere struggling concept for some communities, farmers' markets now make farm fresh products easily accessible to local consumers throughout the commonwealth.

With large markets in metropolitan areas and numerous markets by local producers popping up all over, Ken-

tucky is the host of 147 farmers with more than 2,500 vendors.

More and more Kentuckians want to buy local food, want to know where their food comes from and want to know who is producing the food.

Producers are stepping up to meet consumer needs and markets are now reaching out to a diverse group of customers with programs such as the

Double Dollar Program, where for every dollar spent with SNAP money, the market matches one dollar toward that purchase.

Producers have found other ways to provide fresh products to consumers, too. Through Community Supported Agriculture, producers are forming a partnership with consumers.

SEE **EFFORTS**, PAGE 11



**SOYBEAN FARMERS TAKE TO FRANKFORT: PAGE 12.**

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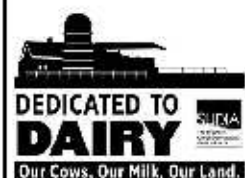
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# Efforts to sell directly to consumers gain attention

## FROM PAGE 1

Roadside markets are popular stops for consumers, and Kentucky Farm Bureau just announced that it's certified roadside market program has 104 members for 2014.

Growth in direct markets to consumers is happening across the nation, and legislators took notice when they finalized the farm bill.

The farm bill includes numerous provisions that should strengthen local food systems, both on the supply and demand side.

The 2007 Census of Agriculture states that two percent of total U.S. food sales were from local markets and only a quarter of that was direct to consumers through outlets such as farmers markets. That number is expected to increase with the May 2014 census because the number of farmers market have increased significantly since 2007.

While the farm bill doesn't establish new major programs in the local and re-

gional food market, several key programs received funding increases over what was allocated in the 2008 farm bill, as well as changes that make certain programs more accessible to local projects and efforts.

The farmers market and local food promotion program both received funding, which will provide grants to both non-profits and commercial enterprises that process, distribute, aggregate or store locally or regionally produced foods.

Farm bill now allows SNAP benefits to be used to buy shares in CSAs in an initiative to encourage households who receive benefits to eat more fruits and vegetables.

For more information on farmers markets in your area go to [www.kyagr.com/marketing/farmers-market.html](http://www.kyagr.com/marketing/farmers-market.html).

For more information on KFB Certified Roadside Market Program, visit [kyfb.com/roadside](http://kyfb.com/roadside).

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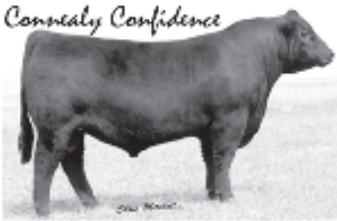
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# Soybean farmers take to Frankfort



Photo by Rae Wagoner

Rep. Kenny Imes, District 5 serving Calloway County and part of Trigg County, is pictured with constituents KSA board member Scott Bridges, left, of Cadiz and KSA vice president Mike Burchett of Calloway County.

While the 2014 Kentucky General Assembly session headed into its final weeks, farmers in the Kentucky Soybean Association took to the State Capitol on March 25 for lunch and legislative outreach. Farmers hosted a crowd of more than 250 legislators, staff and agriculture supporters at the Capitol Annex in Frankfort.

"We've been doing Frankfort visits for several years, but this was our first foray into an event for state lawmakers at the Capitol," said KSA Vice President Mike Burchett of Murray. "Any time we can go say 'thank you' to our legislators and visit them without a specific request or problem, it helps build the relationships we need for down the road when an issue emerges."

With 'crunch time' approaching to finalize a two-year budget deal, cameras and news reporters were on-hand

for budget deliberations in the Senate Appropriations and Revenue Committee that afternoon. Before the budget meeting began, Sen. Stan Humphries of Cadiz recognized KSA for a presentation to committee chairman Sen. Bob Leeper of Paducah.

In honor of 24 years of service to agriculture in the Kentucky General Assembly, KSA presented Leeper with the Friend of the Farmer award. Leeper, the Senate's only Independent, announced that he would not seek another term in the legislature.

"Whether it was out touring animal agriculture or row-crop operations in western Kentucky, or speaking up for the rights of farmers on the floor of the Senate, Bob Leeper has been a champion for agriculture and our rural economy," Burchett said. "We want to thank Sen. Leeper and know that we will miss his service."

KSA President Ryan Bivens of Hodgenville said a special thanks is due to the farmers and industry part-

ners who took time away from their businesses to participate.

"Getting off the farm this time of year is not easy to do, and we are fortunate to have volunteer leaders willing to represent our industry. This was an opportunity to show how much we value the job our state senators and representatives do, and remind them that farmers want to continue being an important partner in the legislative process."

New Haven farmer and 2014 DuPont Young Leader Quint Pottinger was among the farmers attending the KSA event.

"It is so important not just for us to know our legislators, but that they know our faces and what we do."

For more information on joining the Kentucky Soybean Association, visit [kysoy.org](http://kysoy.org) or call the Kentucky Soybean office at 270-365-7214.

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# New poultry litter application process is smell friendly

PRINCETON – Researchers with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service in collaboration with a researcher from the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment successfully tested a new application method for poultry litter in no-till corn on a western Kentucky farm.

Farmers often use poultry litter as an alternative to chemical fertilizer in pasture and row crop production, as it provides nutrients and organic matter for plants and soil.

“When used wisely, poultry litter is a valuable resource,” said Edwin Ritchey, UK extension soil scientist. “It provides nutrients to the soil, eases environmental concerns and, in many cases, is cost effective.”

Current surface broadcast application methods, however, leave an unpleasant smell and pose environmental concerns.

The new method injects dry litter directly into the soil by using a subsurface litter application implement developed by USDA-ARS researchers. Karamat Sistani, a soil scientist and research leader with the USDA-ARS in Bowling Green, has worked on developing this poultry litter subsurface application technology for the past 10 to 12 years with fellow USDA-ARS scientists.

“It is one new method of how to apply poultry litter that has environmental and agronomical benefits,” Sistani said. “Previous research projects have focused on using the technology in pasture and cotton. This is the first study on a large-scale plot of corn.”

A two-year study conducted by Sistani, Jason Simmons, USDA-ARS biological science technician; Dan Pote, USDA-ARS soil scientist in Booneville, Ark. and Ritchey found the subsurface application of poultry litter had a huge advantage over the traditional application methods in terms of improved air quality and runoff nutrient reduction.

“It reduces the amount of ammonia being released into the atmosphere by 90 to 95 percent, and nutrients stay in the soil where plants can get them and are not lost through surface runoff,” Sistani said.

Researchers tested the application against the traditional dry poultry litter broadcast application and an application of a commercial fertilizer.

Simmons found that the grain yields and biomass yields when the plants were at full maturity were similar in all three applications. When the corn reached the V5 growth stage, the subsurface application had a greater biomass yield and nutrient uptake than the traditional broadcast method.

“This technology could be used in sensitive areas such as land bordering residential developments or watersheds,” Simmons said. “It also provides a more uniform application of the litter and could result in

reduced rates of fertilizer.”

Researchers conducted the study in Daviess County, where poultry litter is readily found, which contributed to site selection.

Ritchey said the new application method “is really a win-win situation for all involved.”

**By Katie Pratt**  
**University of Kentucky**



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# Aquaculture/pond management workshops coming to central Ky.

PRINCETON – With more than 200,000 ponds in Kentucky, the state has many aquatic systems that need proper management. To help landowners do this, the Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service and Kentucky State University are hosting two aquaculture programs in central Kentucky.

An aquatic plant- and algae-control training program will take place from 10 a.m. EDT to 4 p.m. April 11 at the Franklin County office of the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service.

Forrest Wynne, William Wurts and Bob Durborow are presenters. All are KSU extension specialists for aquaculture. Discussion topics will include aquatic plant and algae identification, methods of control, and herbicide and algicide use with a special emphasis on proper chemical selection, application techniques, applicator safety and record keeping.

Continuing education units for pesticide applicators are available including three specific hours in category 5 and two general hours in categories 10 and 12.

Wurts, Wynne and Durborow will present a second workshop on pond management from 8:30 a.m. EDT until noon April 12 at the Franklin County Extension

Office.

"The workshop will provide a broad prospective about managing ponds for farm use and recreational fishing as well as small-scale and recreational aquaculture," Wurts said.

Both the workshop and training are free and open to the public. Preregistration is not required, but to en-

sure they receive workshop materials, potential attendees should contact either Wurts at 270-365-7541, ext. 200 or [wwurts@uky.edu](mailto:wwurts@uky.edu), Wynne at 270-247-2334 or [fwynne@email.uky.edu](mailto:fwynne@email.uky.edu) or Keenan Bishop at 502-695-9035 or [kbishop@uky.edu](mailto:kbishop@uky.edu).

By Katie Pratt  
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# USDA announces extension of the Milk Income Loss Contract Program

WASHINGTON – U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency Administrator Juan M. Garcia announced the extension of the Milk Income Loss Contract program.

The extended MILC protects dairy farmers enrolled in the program against income loss through Sept. 1 or until a new Margin Protection Program for dairy producers, established by the 2014 farm bill, is operational.

Contracts for eligible producers enrolled in MILC on or before Sept. 30, 2013, are automatically extended until the termination date of the MILC program. Dairy operations with approved MILC contracts will continue to receive monthly payments if a payment rate is in effect.

MILC compensates enrolled dairy producers when the Boston Class I milk price falls below \$16.94 per hundred-weight after adjustment for the cost of dairy feed rations. MILC payments are

calculated each month using the latest milk price and feed cost, just as in the 2008 farm bill. The payment rate for October 2013 through January 2014 marketings is zero. Payment rates during the months after January 2014 until the termination of the MILC program will be determined as the appropriate data becomes available.

Since MILC payments are limited to a maximum amount of milk production each fiscal year, dairy operations may select a production start month other than October 2013. Producers who want to select a different production start month must visit their local FSA office between April 14 and May 30.

FSA will provide producers with information on program requirements, updates and sign-ups as the information becomes available. For more information on MILC, contact a local FSA county office or visit the FSA website at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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# Dr. David Coffey, WKU professor, dies

Dr. David Coffey, a professor at Western Kentucky University who touched the lives of hundreds, if not thousands of agriculture students, died Monday, March 20.

"He grew up in rural Cumberland County attained two PhDs, trained more ag teachers than anyone in the history of Kentucky, taught thousands of students about rural sociology, took hundreds of students to countries all over the world (many of those students had never been 30 miles from home in their life) donated more money to countless charities than anyone will ever know, had more true friends than anyone, was a National FFA board of director, and was an all around good person who fought tirelessly for those less fortunate and those often discriminated against. He was indeed a great man," wrote Commissioner of Agriculture James Comer on his Facebook after learning about Coffey's death.

Excerpts from Dr. Coffey's obituary follow:

Dr. David McMillian Coffey, intrepid

traveler, explorer, and beloved professor, departed on the Great Adventure March 20, 2014, after a very brief illness. Born Feb. 17, 1950, to J.D. and Lois Coffey, he spent his formative years on a farm in Cumberland County, near Burkesville, Kentucky.

He was the first 4-H exchange student in Indonesia. He received his BS and MA from Western Kentucky University and his Ed.D in Vocational Technical Education from Virginia Tech in 1978.

His accomplishments were multiple and varied. His passion was using every moment to teach in and out of the classroom. His popular rural sociology classes were legendary, resulting in WKU Teacher of the Year awards. His curriculum for "Animal Rights/Animal Welfare" was used nationwide. "Ag in the Classroom" curriculum became a model for many states. David was the WKU faculty member in charge of the Institute for Future Agricultural Leaders for many years. Because of David's outstanding record in student advisement, he was the first director of the WKU Of-

fice of Undergraduate Advisement. He later served as director of WKU Educational Enhancement Programs, TriO, and Student Disability Services. He also served on the Kentucky FFA Foundation, was a member of the national FFA Board of Directors, and received the national FFA HO Sargent Award for Diversity.

Hundreds of students and faculty were transformed by visits with David to Costa Rica, Argentina, Australia, and, especially, Ecuador. David traversed Ecuador at least 27 times. An avid adventurer, David, along with a spirited en-

tourage, journeyed the globe, visiting most countries of the world.

David is survived by his mother, Lois Prewitt Coffey; close confidant Dr. Luis Samayoa; beloved daughters, Coco Coffey and Kristie Guffey; faithful son, Antonio Echeverria; brothers, Danny (Jane) and Daryl (Debra); sisters, Ann Coffey (Steve Dahmer) and Pam Coffey Wells (Tom); numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, family and friends.

A remembrance ceremony will be held at 2 p.m. on April 5 at the Burkesville United Methodist Church.

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Kevin Laurent, University of Kentucky (270) 365-7541 ext. 226

Mark Barnett, Ky-Tenn Livestock Market (270) 483-2504

Sponsored by the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, University of Tennessee Cooperative Extension Service and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

## Central Kentucky Angus Association

### 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Sale

14<sup>th</sup> Annual Premier Bull Division

Saturday, April 19, 2014 • 1 p.m. EDT

Central Kentucky Angus Sales Pavilion • Danville, Ky.  
4 miles NE of Danville, just off Hwy. 34 on Chenault Bridge Rd. and then Fork Church Rd.



100+ HEAD OF  
REGISTERED ANGUS CATTLE

#### 49 Premier Bulls:

Bulls must meet specified EPD weight and health requirements. All will sell with a current BSL. (20) 2013 yearlings and (28) 2012 yearlings. Majority will qualify for cost share funds in one or more categories, including many calving ease qualifiers.



#### 35 Registered Angus Females:

15 Open Heifers • 13 Bred Heifers  
3 Cows/2 Calves

225 Straws of Semen



#### SALE DAY PHONES

859-583-0364

859-238-3195

Auctioneer  
Eddie Burks



Sale Manager

Tim Dievert

478 Dry Fork Road

Danville, KY 40422

Office: 859/236-4591

Mobile: 859/238-3195

E-mail: [tdievert@dievertsales.com](mailto:tdievert@dievertsales.com)

Details & Online catalogs available at [www.dievertsales.com](http://www.dievertsales.com)



# TAS Auction

**200 REG. JERSEYS IN TN • 2 SALES IN 2 DAYS!**

[www.traditionauctions.com](http://www.traditionauctions.com)

**DISMUKES JERSEYS**

**COMPLETE DISPERSAL & EQUIPMENT SALE**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2014 • 10:00 AM**

**At The Farm In Murfreesboro, Tennessee**

*Directions: Exit 76 off I-24, Take Fortress Blvd. 3 Miles, Turn Right Onto Manson Pike, Go 2 Miles To 4 Way Stop, Turn Right Onto Blackman Road, Go 2 Miles, Farm Is On The Right.*

*Seasonal Operation - All Are Due Or Born Between September And December*

**SELLING: 50 COWS, 22 BRED HEIFERS, 23 CALVES**

*A Sample Of The Kind Selling*



Rolling Herd Average on 50.2 cows: 12.28M 5.2% 642F 3.9% 474P  
Average calving interval 14.3  
57 cows average 81.5% with 3 Excellent, 39 Very Good and 13 Desirable

**DISMUKES JERSEYS**

Jeffrey Dismukes  
4604 Blackman Road,  
Murfreesboro TN  
615-828-1346



Dismukes Maximus Bertha, E-90%  
8-11 305 21 060 5.5% 1:149 3.7% 771  
"Bertha" comes from a long line of the kind we like to breed. Watch for family members to sell.

Semen that sells - 20 units Impulse, 5 units Mera, 20 units Topoka, 10 units Zipper, 5 units Cleveland Axis, 1 Unit Zuma

2 16' 3 beater papec  
silage wagons new  
idea 60" silage  
blower 540 excellent  
shape

Misc items: dehorn-  
ers, buckets, blan-  
kets, tattoo kit, much,  
much more

## EQUIPMENT

Muller 800 gal milk tank O 15221  
Universal Vacuum Pump with oil recalimer new 5 HP motor  
DeLaval milk pump and receiving jar with automatic washer & wash vat  
3 DeLaval milk claw and Deltron pulsators  
Double 3 DeLaval stalls with stainless feeders  
Brock 10 ton feed bin with flex auger  
Semen tank - apollo sx-18  
Breeding kit and supplies  
51 Freestall Loops - Star lite  
6 10' fed troughs  
8' Ag bagger silage bagger  
IH 800 4 row corn planter no til w/seed monitor  
Blue mule cattle chute 3 pt hitch  
7 corral panels  
Speeco 3 pt post hole digger

Lynn Lee 615-390-6312 Bob Morton 931-842-1234

Visit [www.traditionauctions.com](http://www.traditionauctions.com) for details on the April 11th Jersey Sale scheduled in conjunction with this sale for buyers convenience.

AUCTIONEERS:  
Lynn Lee  
David Myrick

APPRENTICE:  
Bob Morton

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# TAS Auction

**200 REG. JERSEYS IN TN • 2 SALES IN 2 DAYS!**

[www.traditionauctions.com](http://www.traditionauctions.com)

**HERBERT & MARK NICHOLS & FAMILY  
JERSEYS COMPLETE DISPERSAL**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2014 • 12 NOON**

**At The Farm In Nolensville, TN**

**A GREAT UDDERED HERD!**

**SELLING: 60 COWS, 25 BRED HEIFERS  
10 OPEN YEARLINGS, 14 CALVES & 6 BABIES**

*A Sample Of The Kind Selling*



Pennsmith TJ Mindy, E-94%  
National Grand Champion, 1993  
Developed in the Nichols herd and  
33 family members will sell.



Rolling Herd Average on 67.1 cows: 18.953M 4.0% 883F 3.4% 571P  
Average calving interval 13.7 67,000 8000  
63 cows average 65.3% with 19 Excellent, 37 Very Good and 6 Desirable

DIRECTIONS: Exit 42 off of 840, North 41-31 8.3 miles. Kidd road  
turn right. Farm on right.

**NICHOLS JERSEYS**

Mark Nichols and Family

2040 Kidd Road, Nolensville TN 615-776-5299

Lynn Lee 615-390-6312 Bob Morton 931-842-1234

Visit [www.traditionauctions.com](http://www.traditionauctions.com) for details on the April 12th Jersey  
Sale scheduled in conjunction with this sale for buyers convenience.

AUCTIONEERS:  
Lynn Lee  
David Myrick

APPRENTICE:  
Bob Morton

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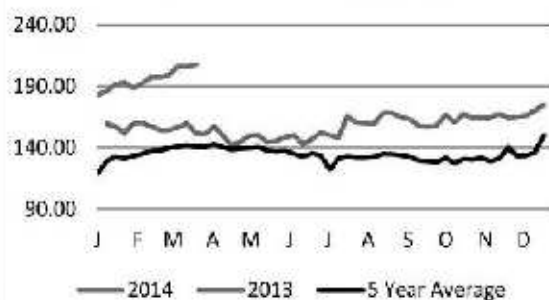
Telephone:  
615/869-0029

# AUCTION/MARKET

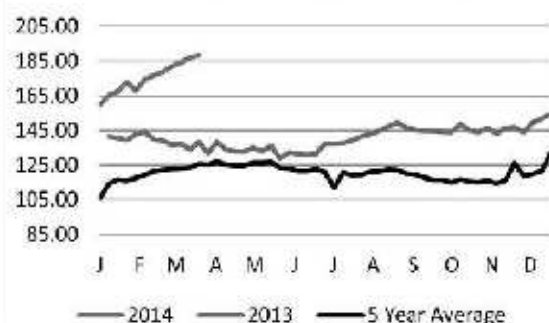
INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE FEDERAL AND STATE MARKET NEWS SERVICE - USDA AGRICULTURE MARKETING SERVICE - LOUISVILLE, KY.

**Producers Livestock Auction Co., San Angelo, Texas Mar. 25, 2014:** Compared to last week slaughter lambs 10.00 to 15.00 higher; Light slaughter lambs 10.00 to 20.00 lower. Slaughter ewes 3.00-5.00 lower. Feeder Lambs 5.00 to 10.00 lower. Nannies 10.00-15.00 lower; kids steady. Trading and demand moderate. All sheep and goats sold per hundred weight (CWT) unless otherwise specified.

WEEKLY 400-600 LB FEEDER STEER M&L 1-2  
WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE (\$/CWT)



WEEKLY 400-600 LB FEEDER HEIFER M&L 1-2  
WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE (\$/CWT)



WEEKLY KENTUCKY CATTLE AUCTION RECEIPTS



WEEKLY KENTUCKY CORN BID AVERAGE PRICE  
(\$/CWT)



## SPECIAL COW SALE

**SATURDAY**  
**APRIL 12, 2014 • 1:30 PM**  
**ALL FROM GM FARMS**



**40 COWS & CALVES**  
**110 BRED COWS**  
**3-8 MONTHS BRED**  
**COWS AGE 2-5 YEARS**



**110 WILL BE BLACK & BLACK WHITE FACE**  
**REST WILL BE CHAROLAIS CROSS & SOLID RED CROSS**  
**COWS WILL BE AGED & PREGNANT CHECKED**



*For More Information Contact:*

**David Gregory - (615) 418-6480 • Barn - (615) 735-2780**

**Tommy Gregory - (615) 714-1738 • Steven Kemp - (615) 489-6277**

***You can drive the wheels off your vehicle before  
you can find this many young cows for sale!***

## Smith County Commission

**510 Carmack Avenue • Carthage, Tennessee**



# AUCTION/MARKET

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

## Mid-KY Livestock Market

Upton, KY

March 25, 2014

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

29 hd. 455# 188.50 blk

28 hd. 514# 186.00 blk

## Blue Grass of Richmond

Richmond, KY

March 21, 2014

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

40 hd. 483# 228.00 blk-charx

52 hd. 684# 183.10 mixed

24 hd. 738# 177.75 mixed

23 hd. 749# 161.50 mixed

58 hd. 896# 159.60 blk-charx

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

40 hd. 429# 208.00 blk-charx

## Blue Grass Stockyard

Lexington, KY

March 24 & 25, 2014

**Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1**

33 hd. 645# 197.00 bbwf

32 hd. 783# 172.00 blk

61 hd. 789# 167.75 blk

27 hd. 797# 167.50 blk-charx

20 hd. 827# 167.50 blk-charx

63 hd. 836# 167.00 bbwf

23 hd. 845# 167.50 blk

59 hd. 854# 163.50 blk

58 hd. 815# 168.00 blk

**Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1**

21 hd. 607# 179.50 blk-charx

24 hd. 729# 163.00 blk-smokes

20 hd. 755# 161.00 mixed

## Washington Co. Livestock

Springfield, KY

March 24, 2014

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

24 hd. 651# 179.50

21 hd. 660# 174.25

25 hd. 672# 180.00

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

51 hd. 785# 150.75

## Lake Cumberland Livestock

Somerset, KY

March 22, 2014

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

64 hd. 690# 183.80 blk-charx

72 hd. 718# 180.00 blk

## Blue Grass East

Mt. Sterling, KY

March 26, 2014

**Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1**

74 hd. 741# 177.25 blk

63 hd. 789# 173.00 mixed

58 hd. 877# 162.85 mixed

57 hd. 946# 158.00 blk-mixed

**Holstein Steers: Large 3**

21 hd. 537# 158.00

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

# Auction

## Plainview Dairy Trucking

1231 McCarter Rd, Lawrenceburg TN 38464

**DIRECTIONS:** Off hwy 43 turn on Mattoxtown Rd. 1.6 Miles turn Right on Community Road. .6 miles at the stop sign turn left on Mars Hill Rd. Drive .4 miles turn Right on M. Carter Road. Drive 1.3 miles sale will be on the right.

## Thursday April 17, 2014 10:00 CST



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1999 Stoughton Van Trailer  
1999 Great Dane Van Trailer  
1998 Transcraft Flatbed Trailer

1998 Trailmobile Van Trailer  
1998 Ramirez Van Trailer  
1997 Wabash Van Trailer  
1993 Stoughton Van Trailer  
2011 Great Dane Van Trailer  
2011 Great Dane Van Trailer  
2002 Reinke Aluminum Flatbed Trailer  
2000 Fontaine Steel Drop Deck Trailer  
2000 Fontaine Drop Deck Trailer  
1999 Wabash Van Trailer

*View website for more details on each item!*

Plainview 931-762-3217 Bob Morton 931-842-1234 Lynn Lee 615-390-6312

## WWW.TRADITIONAUCTIONS.COM

### AUCTIONEERS

Lynn Lee  
David Myrick  
Charlie Bowman  
Joe McKee

APPRENTICE  
Bob Morton

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# USDA encourages early registration for FSA programs

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency Administrator Juan M. Garcia recommended that farmers and ranchers who plan to participate in FSA programs register in advance.

Producers are encouraged to report farm records and business structure changes to a local FSA Service Center before April 15.

Enrollment for the disaster programs authorized by the 2014 farm bill, including the Livestock Indemnity Program

and the Livestock Forage Disaster Program will begin by April 15.

"We expect significant interest in these programs," said Garcia. "Early registration should help improve the sign-up process and allow us to expedite implementation of the programs. I strongly encourage producers to complete their paperwork ahead of time."

Examples of updates or changes to report include:

- New producers or producers who

have not reported farm records to FSA.

- Producers who have recently bought, sold or rented land. Those producers need to ensure that changes have been reported and properly recorded by local FSA county office personnel. Reports of purchased or sold property should include a copy of the land deed, and if land has been leased, then documentation should be provided that indicates the producer had/has control of the acreage.

- Producers that have changed business structures (e.g. formed a partnership or LLC) need to ensure that these relationships and shares are properly recorded with FSA. Even family farms that have records on file may want to ensure that this is recorded accurately as it may impact payment limits.

Farm records can be updated during business hours at FSA Service Centers that administer the county where the farm or ranch is located. Producers can contact their local FSA Service Center in advance to find out what paperwork

**Contact your local  
FSA service center  
for more information.**

they may need. In addition, bank account information should be supplied or updated if necessary to ensure that producers receive payments as quickly as possible through direct deposit.

While any producer may report farm records and business structure changes, it is especially important for producers who suffered livestock, livestock grazing, honeybee, farm-raised fish, or tree/vine losses for 2011, 2012, 2013 or 2014, and may be eligible for assistance through one of the four disaster programs.

For more information, contact your local FSA office.

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**I-65 & U.S. 68 Exit • Smiths Grove, Ky.**  
**Dairy Sale Every Tuesday at Noon**

**Mike Hatcher**

**800-563-2131 • 270-384-6376 • 270-378-0512**

**MARKET REPORT: WEEK OF MARCH 25, 2014**  
**Mammoth Cave Dairy Auction, Inc.**

**Cattle: 763 Springers Lb. Cows-Bulls**

**Open Heifers-Steers Fresh Milking Cows Baby Calves**

**Springers:** (2-3 years old, 5-8 months bred) Supreme 1300-1600# 1550.00-2050.00, Approved 1200-1400# 1425.00-1525.00, Medium 590-1200# 1175.00-1400.00, Common 800-1100# 800.00-1150.00.

**Fresh Milking Cows:** (2-4 years old) Approved 1200-1400# 1500.00, Medium 950-1200# 1245.00, Common 800-1100# 1025.00-1150.00.

**Short Bred:** (2-3 years old, 1-4 months bred) Supreme 1300-1600# 1300.00-1400.00, Approved 1200-1400# 1275.00, Medium 950-1200# 1100.00, Common 800-1100# 810.00.

**Open Heifers:** 200-300# Supreme 375.00-425.00, 300-400# Supreme 410.00-500.00, 400-500# Supreme 535.00-685.00, Approved 375.00-425.00, 500-600# Supreme 685.00-785.00, Approved 585.00-600.00, 600-700# Supreme 725.00-810.00.

**Hol. Heifer Calves:** Small 80.00-115.00 Medium and Large 140.00-195.00 per head.

**Hol. Bull Calves:** Small 45.00-110.00, Medium and Large 145.00-195.00 per head.

**S.L. Cows:** Breaker 75-80 percent lean 1100-1800# 100.00-106.00, H.Dr. 107.00-109.00, L.Dr. 91.00-895.00, Boner 80-85 percent lean 1100-1400# 94.00-99.00, H.Dr. 101.00-106.00, L.Dr. 86.00-92.00, Lean 85-90 percent lean 1000-1300# 85.00-89.00, H.Dr. 90.00-94.00, L.Dr. 76.00-83.00, 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# 110.00-118.00, H.Dr. 120.00-129.00, L.Dr. 105.00-109.00.

**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**





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Charolais Consignment Auction!**

**140+ Live Lots**

39 consignors from 12 states

**35 Bulls**

**60 Bred Cow/Pairs**

**25 Bred Heifers**

**20 Open Heifers**

**Semen & Embryos**

including the  
**Coleman Charolais Reduction Sale**

# Central Kentucky 9th Annual Charolais Classic

**Saturday, April 19 • 1 p.m.  
Producers Livestock  
Bowling Green, Kentucky**

**Catalog available April 1 at**

**[www.kentuckycharolais.com](http://www.kentuckycharolais.com)**

**Sale will be streamed live on the internet—  
[www.bob-morton.com](http://www.bob-morton.com)**

## Consignors —

**Kentucky:** Allison Charolais, SEANA Charolais, Coleman Charolais, S&K Charolais, McKeehan Charolais, Hamilton Charolais, Friendship Farms, M&J Charolais, Rolling Hills Charolais, Adkins Charolais, Woble Charolais, Learning Pine Farms, David Gregory, Hayden Farms

**Tennessee:** Circle M, Lindsey Hughes, James Carlton, Randy Gitchell, Mike Foster, Turner Charolais

**Mississippi:** Rocky Hughes

**Missouri:** Snowy River, Hale Charolais

**Alabama:** Keahy Charolais, Bill B

**Indiana:** Dal-Dav Charolais, Doub Charolais, Hess Charolais

**Ohio:** J&P Charolais, David White, Vollborn Cattle Company

**Georgia:** Gibson Charolais, Joe Garcia, Edward Salter

**Oklahoma:** Nipp Charolais

**North Carolina:** Mark Byrd

**Illinois:** Dave McClure, Leffler Farms

**Minnesota:** Polzin Cattle



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3/6

**WANTED:** Wanting to buy Holstein heifers or Jersey heifers, bred or open; also dairy herds. Call Danny Layton at 270-991-3727. Cave City, Ky.

TFN

**FOR SALE:** Holstein baby calves; also bulls, heifers and beef cross. Call 270-991-3727. Cave City, Ky.

TFN

## Beef

**FOR SALE:** Angus bulls, registered or pure bred. Call JM Shelley at 270-378-0318. Columbia, Ky.

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**FOR SALE:** Registered polled Hereford bulls and Gelbvieh bulls. Call Clifford Farms at 859-234-6956.

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**FOR SALE:** 25 black bred heifers. Will calve in March and April, \$2100 a head, \$2250 if you pick. Call 502-680-1425. Salvisa, Ky.

**FOR SALE:** Registered Charolais bulls, cows, bred heifers and open heifers. Great pedigrees, A.I. offsprings. Call 270-566-0827. Russell Springs, Ky.

**FOR SALE:** Registered Angus bulls, EPD's available. Call 270-465-8724 or 270-849-7948. Campbellsville, Ky.

**FOR SALE:** 12 black heifers, will calve in Sept. and Oct., weigh approx. 900 lbs. Call Ernest Price at 270-299-6638. Greensburg, Ky.

4/17

4/17

## Farm Equipment

**FOR SALE:** 140 IH tractor w/ cultivators; IH tractor canopy for 66 Series; Brillion Ripper, 5 shank, guage wheels. Call Mike Mason Equipment (on the Ky.-Tn. state line). Call 615-384-5023 or 615-347-5023.

**FOR SALE:** M8950 Kubota, \$7,500; 3020 JD gas, dual wheels, \$4,500; 3010 JD diesel, needs PTO fixed, \$3,500; Satoh Beaver 4-WD, 2 cyl. diesel w/finish mower, tiller and grader blade, \$3,500; two bass boats. Call 270-566-1272. Russell Springs, Ky.

**FOR SALE:** GR corn planter, great condition w/all the extras, Keeton row cleaners, seed firmers, Precision corn meters, spike closing wheels, drag chains, markers, insect boxes, soybean cups, shed kept and field ready. Call 859-583-9900. Perryville, Ky.

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**FOR SALE:** JD 7000, 6 narrow row planter, \$2,750; Holland 4-row tobacco setter, excellent condition, \$7,000. Call 270-646-7174. Scottsville, Ky.

**FOR SALE:** Vandale 30 ft. pack dry silo and loader, good shape, \$3,500. Call John Kuegal at 270-926-1858. Owensboro, Ky.

5/15

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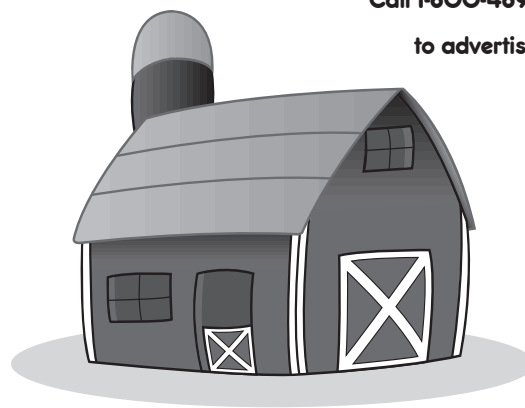
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# Nutrient Management Plans protect state's water resources

The Agriculture Water Quality Act states that landowners with 10 or more acres in agricultural production must develop and implement an ag water quality plan. Ag water quality plans document practices used on the farm to protect water quality from excess nutrients, sediment, and pathogens.

Nutrients naturally cycle through the environment, including farming operations. Sources of nutrients on the farm include manure, commercial fertilizers, feed, and compost. Nutrient management allows farmers to use nutrients (specifically nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium) wisely for optimum economic benefit with minimal impact to the environment.

Nutrient Management Plans account for the amount of nutrients produced or brought onto the farm, the existing soil fertility, and the nutrient needs of crops grown. These nutrients must balance out without overloading soils with excess nutrients. Excess nutrients can run off and cause water quality problems in streams and rivers.

Nutrient Management Plans are part of an Ag Water Quality Plan and are required if your operation produces manure or applies nutrients. Farmers utilizing manure or fertilizer nutrients on their farm must have a nutrient management plan to comply with the Kentucky Ag Water Quality Act. The type and complexity of the nutrient management plan is dependent on a number of factors. These factors include, but are not limited to, requirements of state or federal operating permits, NRCS requirements regarding technical or financial assistance for a manure handling operation, whether or not manures are produced on the farm, and requirements of FSA loan applications.

Livestock best management practice #11 Nutrient Management, from the Kentucky Ag Water Quality Act, describes the minimum requirements of a nutrient management plan. Farmers have two options for developing nutrient management plans: 1) use the Kentucky Nutrient Management Planning Guidelines (KyNMP; described in UK Extension publication ID-211) to develop their own plan; or 2) use a certified nutrient management planner to develop a plan based on the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Practice Code 590 (version 2013). The basic steps for developing a nutrient management plan include:

– Determine the total volume and amount of nutrients generated on the farm.

– Determine soil fertility with annual soil tests.

– Determine nutrient application rates based on existing soil fertility, crop nutrient requirements, nutrient application timing and method, and fertilizer type.

– Create a cropping plan for utilizing generated manure on a field-by-field basis for five years.

– Implement the plan and keep

records.

By implementing an Agriculture Water Quality Plan and a Nutrient Management Plan, farmers can efficiently utilize nutrient sources on the farm while protecting water resources. Keeping the water resources of the commonwealth clean protects human and animal health, reduces the cost of treating drinking water, and protects water quality for our downstream neighbors.

For more information about developing an Ag Water Quality Plan or nutrient management plan, visit [www.ca.uky.edu/awqa](http://www.ca.uky.edu/awqa) or visit your local Conservation District or Cooperative Extension Service office.

*Special to The Farmer's Pride.*

**By Amanda Gumbert,  
University of Kentucky**

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# New farm bill modifications to farm loan programs

The following will be implemented immediately due to the 2014 Farm Bill.

- The percent of guarantee offered on all Conservation Loans (CL) will increase from 75 percent to 80 percent. The percent of guarantee will increase to 90 percent for CLs made to socially disadvantaged (SDA) and beginning farmers.

## Increased opportunity available for producers

FROM PAGE 1

tional loans from the federal government.

– Increase of the guarantee amount on Conservation Loans from 75 to 80 percent and 90 percent for socially disadvantaged borrowers and beginning farmers. Microloans will not count toward loan term limits for veterans and beginning farmers.

Additional modifications must be implemented through the rulemaking processes. Visit the FSA Farm Bill website for detailed information and updates to farm loan programs.

2 percent less than regular Direct Farm Ownership rate, with a floor of 2.5 percent. Previously, the rate was established at 5 percent.

– Increase of the maximum loan amount for Direct Farm Ownership down payments from \$225,000 to \$300,000.

– Elimination of rural residency requirement for youth loans, allowing urban youth to benefit.

– Debt forgiveness on Youth Loans, which will not prevent borrowers from obtaining addi-

- The interest rate charged on Direct Farm Ownership loans that are made in conjunction with other lenders is set at 2 percent below the regular Direct Farm Ownership rate, with a floor of 2.5 percent.
- The requirement for FSA to appraise the value of oil, gas, or other minerals to be used as collateral for Farm Ownership loans has been removed.
- The maximum loan amount for down payment Farm Ownership loans increased to \$300,000 from \$225,000, consistent with all other Direct Farm Ownership loans.
- The rural residency requirement for Youth Loans (YL) is removed. Previously, to qualify for a YL an applicant had to live in a rural area.
- Microloans made to beginning and veteran farmers or ranchers are exempt from direct term limits. Term limits still apply for non-microloan direct loans (regular operating loans and Farm Ownership loans).
- A limited resource rate is available to beginning and veteran farmers who receive a Microloan. Borrowers will be given a choice to accept the limited resource rate or regular operating loan rate.

- The restriction that an applicant could receive a Guarantee Operating Loan (OL) for no more than 15 years has been eliminated.
- The definition of a qualified beginning farmer or rancher is modified to set the average size of farmland owned at no greater than 30 percent of the average size farm. Previously, this definition used the median farm size which eliminated many otherwise qualified applicants.
- Debt forgiveness will no longer preclude a former Youth Loan (YL) borrower from obtaining additional loans from any U.S. government agency. Additionally, borrowers with YL debt forgiveness or who are delinquent on YL debt can receive student loans. The servicing and collection of YLs is not affected by the statute and will continue under the present regulation. FSA is revising the definition of debt forgiveness to comply with this statute.

Additional information regarding FSA Farm Loans or other FSA programs can be found by visiting a nearby FSA Service Center or online at [fsa.usda.gov](http://fsa.usda.gov).

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# Surviving poor



ONE  
VOICE

Sharon  
Burton

I saw a nation that is spending billions of dollars on poor people, and I'm not sure we have accomplished anything except to create more poor people.

When I was a kid I knew plenty of people who were poor. I don't think I knew a lot of people who were wealthy, but I did know people who would have been considered financially stable.

My family owned a farm and operated a country store, so I guess we were part of the financially stable group. In reality, my parents pinched their pennies to build a solid financial foundation so they could provide for their family and their futures.

The poor people I knew managed to survive. They managed to get odd jobs and grow their own food and their neighbors probably helped them out, but I don't remember anyone really drawing attention to their good deeds. I do remember my parents running tabs for people at the country store, and people would pay their bill when the tobacco crop was sold or when they were paid for some other business venture.

My young memories may be distorted but the best I can recall is that people who were poor were able to keep a roof over their heads and some pinto beans on the stove.

Today, being poor has a whole different look. I just talked with a couple today who hit a difficult spot in the road and their electricity was turned off. They have both worked in the past; he wore out his back and she lost her job. They are not the drug induced, hands-out crowd we working folks like to bash. They are us after bad things happen.

Maybe that's why I was so sad and even frightened by what I saw today. I saw a nation that is spending billions of dollars on poor people, and I'm not sure we have accomplished anything except to create more poor people.

Poor people are living on overpriced rental property with no hopes of ever owning a piece of land where they can grow their own food. Maybe they will get a job, but most likely it will be a part-time, low-wage job they will probably lose the first time their 10-year-old car quits and they can't get to work.

SEE **SURVIVING**, PAGE 9

# Revenue insurance

The need to make an election between Price Loss Coverage (PLC) and Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) has the effect of forcing farmers to begin to think what crop prices could look like in the next five years. The next five years is the period during which farmers will be locked into either PLC or ARC by the one-time election they will have to make this fall.

If one believes the USDA 10-year baseline numbers, the price of corn for the next five years will be: 2013 crop year - \$4.50/bushel, 2014 crop year - \$3.65/bushel, 2015 crop year - \$3.30/bushel, 2016 crop year - \$3.35/bushel, and 2017 crop year - \$3.45/bushel. We have heard considerable discussion suggesting that many think the figures are too low and for the sake of corn and other crop farmers, we hope they are correct.

But if the USDA is correct, or even close—setting aside consideration of PLC, ARC, and the new Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO)—how will revenue insurance perform under those conditions? With the 2014 price coming in at \$3.65 and if the farmer buys revenue insurance, it will provide a portion of that depending upon the coverage options selected, well below the Olympic average—with the years included in the calculation determined by yield—cost of production of \$3.80 for the 2008-2012 crop years.

But suppose the recent drop in crop prices is the beginning of a multi-year trend. It will be impossible for revenue insurance to provide farmers with crop/revenue protection as time moves along.

Revenue insurance is an “upside down safety net.” When prices are very high, that is well above total production costs, revenue insurance can guarantee farmers “pure profits.” Under those conditions, taxpayers subsidize insurance that often guarantees farmers revenue that is above all production costs—leading to charges that farm programs support wealthy farmers.

This is nearly unprecedented as an agricultural policy and yet this characteristic is being overlooked by those who normally are the most critical of government sanctioned arrangements that have the effect of supporting farmers' incomes, even at levels that only cover a fraction of total production costs.

On the other hand, when prices are below production costs – whether measured as total, out-of-pocket, or variable – revenue insurance only protects a percentage of a low price that is already below the measure of production costs. Relying on revenue insurance, as the primary safety net for agriculture, works when a safety net is not needed, but fails miserably when it is.

SEE **REVENUE**, PAGE 6



DARYLL E.  
RAY

University of  
Tennessee  
Ag Policy

Revenue insurance is an “upside down safety net. When prices are very high, that is well above total production costs, revenue insurance can guarantee farmers “pure profits.”

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## Planting seeds for the future



**KENTUCKY  
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**Ryan  
Bivens**

Companies that have undertaken the task of keeping farming a viable enterprise have been made into monsters... and what are we farmers doing about it?

Spring is (finally) in the air, and all of the farmers I know are itching to get into the fields. Planting season is always a time of hope and renewal for everyone, and that's especially true for farmers.

There's a quote that comes to my mind this time of year: "He who plants a seed beneath the sod and waits to see a plant, believes in God." I think that's true, but I also believe it takes more than faith alone to be a successful farmer. We have to be smart enough to embrace technology while using good old-fashioned common sense, and sometimes that's a hard balance to strike.

With soybean prices predicted to drop after record-setting years, we have to think things through even more strategically than usual, planning our growing season with as much precision as we can muster. Things that have worked in the past may not work in the future, and an open mind coupled with intense research may be the farmer's best friend.

A big decision we have all made by now is selecting seed varieties. The technology in breeding soybeans has evolved at lightning speed. Past generations embraced the new options they had in seed emergence/germination times and days to harvest, but farmers now are inundated (and sometimes overwhelmed) with the seemingly never-ending choices of seed varieties with factors such as yield, plant vigor, field tolerance, and resistance to weeds, pests and disease figuring into the decision-making process.

While these choices are a huge advantage to the farmers who feed, fuel and clothe the ever-increasing world population, they have come under fire from a number of sources ranging from mass media to foreign import policymakers to soccer moms on Facebook. The term GMO has been vilified. Companies that have undertaken the task of keeping farming a viable enterprise have been made into monsters... and what are we farmers doing about it?

Sadly, the answer is "not enough." The anti-GMO forces may be a minority, but they are a highly vocal minority. Social media is an increasingly valuable tool for spreading a message, and unfortunately the messages don't have to be fair or accurate for well-intentioned people to click the "share" button.

It is amazing (and a little scary) to me that so many people don't know where their food comes from. I was reading an article from the *New York Times* just the other day, and it reminded me that no matter where we are, there's likely an opportunity to educate someone. This particular article was written by a lady who travels on business and happened to strike up a conversation with a gentleman in the next seat. He was in his 70s, and was a farmer who at one time had 5,000 acres that he farmed with his brothers. Now, he farms with his son — mostly corn, soybeans and grain. He said he loves seeing things grow, and he loves his job feeding people.

He pulled out his iPad and showed her his crops, his rescue dogs and his cars. She was astounded at how farming has changed. Some of her observations included, "he uses a GPS unit to help plant rows of crops. Apparently, when he puts down lines of fertilizer, all the data is stored on a jump drive, and then, when he goes to plant seeds, he simply pulls the data and gets very specific calculations and directions for his seeds. He likened it to Google Maps.

SEE **PLANTING**, PAGE 6

## The chase

Three weeks ago a fluffed-up robin, chin tucked deeply into its rust-colored chest, clung tightly to a low, bare branch of a crab apple tree near my office door. An icy wind ruffled the feathers on its back while the bird, eyes closed, stood stiff as frozen dumpling on the slowly heaving branch.

And it stood and it stood. Ten minutes. Fifteen minutes. Thirty minutes.

Sleet began to fall. Awakened, the robin took a heavy-lidded look skyward. A second later it turned its head sideways and (I'm not makin' this up) shot a quick glance of utter disgust my way. It then leaped off the branch and headed south.

Winter, however, stayed and most days thereafter brought more clear, cold evidence that the lion that came in with March planned to stay the entire month.

Not so in this untamed office. Spring cleaning arrived just after the sleepy robin left. First to go were four, longer-than-your-arm file drawers full of newspaper clippings, old speeches and interview notes in a file cabinet made sometime in the 1950s. While I had looked into the cabinet occasionally—usually by accident—the office manager ordered it to get gone and gone it got.

With it went about 30 pounds of 30-year-old background material on what was to be the definitive book on the early 1980s crack-up of ag banking. Generations of yet unborn of ag econ students will thank the lovely Catherine for sending that dull textbook to the recycler before it was even a dull manuscript. Good riddance.

Also to go were two banker boxes stuffed with the riff and raff of solo journalism: power cords and keyboards embossed with names like Compaq and Gateway; box after box of new—no kidding—typewriter ribbons; dozens of bootleg cassette tapes (so long Henry Gross, good-bye King Crimson) and, literally, a rat's nest of old computer mice, miniature speakers and extension cords.

Who were the goofy people who moved this old junk to our new home nine years ago and then stored like the hidden treasure it surely wasn't?

Lucky our children didn't find it. Both already think they see signs of their parents' coming nuttiness and dozens of stored, pristine typewriter ribbons easily could have become the proof they say they are not looking for.

Tackled next was a tall stack of printouts and magazines that had somehow become one of the few things to survive the Clinton Administration untouched. Turning it over and starting at the bottom (clever, eh?) I find a *New Yorker* magazine from 1987 that I had saved for... well, I don't remember why I save it. Adios.

Next came a speech file for a talk I gave to a county pork producer group in 1995. I remember the speech well because it went so badly. I know this because an audience member approached me afterwards and asked who had invited me and why. He then suggested I leave. Bye.

The sweaty memory breaks the cleaning fever and the move to remove paper stops. Days pass. More snow falls.



**FOOD &  
FARM  
FILE**

**Alan  
Guebert**

I remember the speech well because it went so badly. I know this because an audience member approached me afterwards and asked who had invited me and why. He then suggested I leave.

SEE **THE CHASE**, PAGE 6



# March cold weather slows fieldwork



## MARKET WATCH

Dewey Strickler

Rumors are circulating that as many as 10 cargoes of soybeans have been diverted from Brazil to the U.S. East Coast.

**B**elow normal temperatures in the Midwest during March, along with an increase in exports, has underpinned corn. While this has created an environment for late planting in areas of the Corn Belt, it is too early to get alarmed as a warming trend is forecast. Export inspections simmered last week and were a marketing year high at 44.9 million bushels.

While sales have shown a dramatic improvement, shipments are running 100 million bushels below USDA's projection of 1.625 billion bushels. Next week, the eagerly awaited Grain Stocks and Planting Intentions Report will be released and will likely cause some fireworks. Guesstimates are for 90.5-94 million acres of corn to be planted compared to 95.4 million a year ago. If realized, and with a normal yield, ending stocks could reach 2 billion bushels. The trend following funds have turned more bullish as they have increased their long position to 755 million bushels, the largest since December 2012.

Soybeans have recovered from last week's sell-off, but have not reached the levels of a couple of weeks ago. Rumors are circulating that as many as 10 cargoes of soybeans have been diverted from Brazil to the U.S. East Coast. Meanwhile, traders continue to wait for the other shoe to drop, expecting China to cancel previous sales. So far, no major cancellations have occurred. Inspections last week were the

**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).

smallest since September at 26.9 million bushels. China took 14 million bushels, or 52 percent of shipments. Shipments taken by them have slowed dramatically the past seven weeks. On March 31 all eyes will be on planting intentions with trade guesstimates running at 78.5-83.6 million acres compared to 76.5 million a year ago. If realized, and with an average yield, ending stocks could be as low as 200 million bushels, or possibly top 400 million bushels. In other developments, the long position of the trend following funds has fallen the past three weeks and fell 25 million bushels last week to 760 million bushels.

Wheat continues to be the star performer in the grains as it has risen 30 percent since late January. Tensions between Russia and the Ukraine, in addition to continued dryness in the southern Plains, are the supporting factors. Some areas in western Oklahoma and Texas have received little or no moisture for nearly two months. Export inspections last week were 19.2 million bushels and are on track to reach USDA's projection of 1.175 billion bushels. Trade guesses for all wheat acres in the Planting Intentions Report are 54.8- 57.7 million. The trend following funds continue to abandon their short position as the shed 40 million bushels last week reducing their shorts to 85 million bushels. This is down from the record of 520 million bushels late last year.

## Revenue Insurance

FROM PAGE 4

There may be a reason why those who are championing revenue insurance, and especially those who have made a living directly or indirectly from developing and/or promoting insurance products, are downplaying the very real threat of substantially lower crop prices in the years ahead. Sure, events may prevent prices from dropping further, but history would suggest that they can drop and stay at low levels for years at a time.

Revenue insurance could be on a path similar to the one that eventually beset direct payments, but occurring because the farm price/revenue circumstances are the reverse.

When prices are well above the cost of production, subsidized revenue insurance will increasingly come into disfavor from taxpayers, and when prices are well below the cost of production, farmers will find that revenue insurance does not provide much of a safety net.

That brings us to a suggestion for revenue insurance that would avoid raising the ire of both farmers

and consumers alike. Allow the price to be the function of the cost of production rather than the futures market. We know that the oft-cited advantage of revenue insurance is that it follows the market. But if it followed the market perfectly, it would be of no help at all as we can see from the USDA baseline projections.

What if we set the price guarantee at what the 5 year Olympic average—with the years determined by yield—of what the USDA calls operating costs plus some percent of the allocated overhead for 100 percent of planted acres (excluding silage)? If 90 percent of allocated overhead were used, it would provide farmers with a \$3.63 price guarantee in 2013, which is above the prices the USDA projects for 2015-2017.

Such a program would provide farmers with a safety net, when they need it most, while protecting taxpayers when prices are well above the cost of production.

While this plan does not directly take excess production off the market during long periods of low prices, it provides farmers time to adjust to market conditions.

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

# Planting seeds

FROM PAGE 5

"This was one of the best business flights I've ever taken. I learned so much from him, and to be honest, I've never looked at a loaf of bread the same way again. I know the work that goes into it. Some people might get excited about sitting next to a celebrity. As far as I'm concerned, this gentleman was a celebrity. The kind that really matters."

What an impact the conversation had on this lady! She is an author and business consultant who is likely to spend much of her time educating others, but this one guy – this one farmer – opened her eyes to our world.

We also have to do our part to educate our neighbors. You'd think that folks who live in a rural setting would know about farming, but that's not necessarily the case. Research and common sense agree – folks are not going to believe that their buddy down the road, the guy who volunteers with 4-H and the FFA, the guy who brings his tractor to the church hayride and makes endless laps pulling a wagon, is doing anything bad or wrong without asking him about his farming practices. So when asked, do you know what to say?

It's hard not to be defensive. This is how we make our living. This is the future we are creating for our children, should they choose a career in agriculture. This is the food we feed our families. How dare someone imply that we'd do anything that would cause harm to our children, much less the rest of the world?

My advice is this: be ready to answer those questions. Be transparent, and be honest. It will take a little time to go speak at the Rotary breakfast about your family farm. It might be inconvenient to invite a third-grade class out to the farm for field day. But the pay-off is this: when the naysayers start up the propaganda machine, the people YOU have taken the time to educate won't believe a word of it.

**RYAN BIVENS** is the president of Kentucky Soybean Association.

## The chase

FROM PAGE 5

A few more robins appear; most busily scratch leaf-littered flowerbeds in search of food and spring. They find neither.

A day later a cold front brings warm blue skies and an ice-edged wind. Somehow, enough heat from somewhere rises to carry a circling red-tailed hawk high over the nearby lake where thick ice continues to live in the shadows of the surrounding hills. Everywhere else on the lake, however, I see open water, the first in more than three months.

The glistening water inspires. I grab the huge pile of paper that still needs to be sorted and, with neither ceremony nor hesitation, dump it all in the recycling box. Why had I not thought of that in, say, 2004?

Now I'm ready for spring. I look out the office door. A robin lands in the nearby crab apple tree.

**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).

# WHEAT: January nitrogen applications may be lost

PRINCETON – Based on a study conducted at the University of Kentucky Research and Education Center in Princeton, nitrogen losses are possible in wheat fields where the operators applied nitrogen to frozen ground in January and February.

“Though the soil was frozen enough to support sprayers, significant precipitation fell after the application was made. The nitrogen likely was not able to penetrate the soil and could have been lost to surface runoff,” said Edwin Ritchey, extension soil specialist with the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment.

Ritchey, Carrie Knott, UK grain crops specialist and Lloyd Murdock, UK extension soil specialist, conducted a study on potential nitrogen loss when applied

to frozen ground. They applied sodium nitrate to frozen wheat fields with Crider and Zanesville soil types on Jan. 31 at the UKREC. After the nitrogen was applied, several rain and snow events occurred, resulting in more than 4.5 inches of total precipitation. Specialists made sodium nitrate applications to adjacent thawed fields Feb. 24 for a comparison.

They collected soil samples from each field March 11. Nitrate losses were between 49 and 64 percent in soils that were frozen when the nitrogen application was made.

“Based on this limited data, it appears that a substantial amount of nitrogen was lost from the soil and was not utilized by the plants,” Ritchey said. “The use of sodium nitrate represents the

maximum potential nitrogen loss. Other nitrogen forms could lose less”.

Common nitrogen sources used in wheat production are solid urea or a solution of urea and ammonium nitrate.

“Ammonium forms of nitrogen could potentially be retained in the soil to a greater extent than the nitrate form, even with limited infiltration,” Ritchey said. “It is not known if or to what extent this occurred.”

UK specialists recommend producers making split applications put nitrogen on fields when the wheat reaches the growth stage between Feekes 2 and 3 and again when the plants reach between Feekes 5 and 6. Normally, the application time for both has already passed, but this year, the crop is behind.

“As of March 20, much of the state’s

wheat crop has only reached Feekes 2 or 3,” Knott said. “Compared to most years, this represents about a two to three week delay in growth.”

Specialists recommend growers who made their first application during January or February adjust their second application rates to compensate for the lost nitrogen.

“Although a substantial amount of the first nitrogen application might have been lost if applied to frozen ground, the yield potential has not been compromised,” Knott said. “There is still time to adjust nitrogen rates with the second application so that wheat yields are not limited.”

By Katie Pratt  
University of Kentucky

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## Is God ever absent from our lives?

“I do not know why God ever made me,” he cried in deep despair. “God has not made you yet,” said his friend. “He is making you and you do not like what is going on.” That story neatly summarizes the tenth Psalm.

Whoever wrote this Psalm was asking the same question. “O Lord, why do you stand so far away? Why do you hide from me when I need you the most?” But is this a question or an accusation? If God is distant or hiding, could there be a reason? What is going on here? Is it God’s doing or the Psalmist’s? Who is responsible for the feelings of isolation or separation? Is it doubt or is it distrust? Or is it neither?

This Psalm does not end where it begins. It concludes with a bold proclamation, “The Lord is King forever and ever!” And a short time later we read, “Lord You know the hopes of the helpless. Surely You will hear their cries and help them.”

Is God ever absent from the lives of those who look to Him for salvation? It surely seems so. When the ones who claim they do not need God seem to prosper and we who worship Him are forced to go without, where is He?

The author does not speculate about what God is doing nor why He does not respond to our cries immediately. He simply reminds us of the grace of God and that in His time and in His way He will hear us and comfort us. Our faith only grows through adversity.

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## Ancho chile rubbed grilled t-bones

**Entree:**  
**4 T-bone steaks**  
**2 tablespoons olive oil**  
**4 tablespoons Ancho Chile Rub**  
**12 grilled tri-color sweet baby peppers**

Preheat grill to medium. Thaw and blot dry steaks. Brush steaks with olive oil.

Generously cover both sides of steaks with Ancho Chile Rub by dipping them in rub. Continue until steaks are completely covered. Place steaks on heated grill and grill

**Ancho Chile Rub:**  
**1 tablespoon smoked paprika**  
**2 teaspoons sea salt**  
**2 tablespoons ancho chile powder**  
**1 teaspoon brown sugar**  
**Combine all ingredients and mix well.**

to desired doneness.

(For a medium-rare steak, grill approximately 8 minutes on first side and 6 to 7 minutes on second side.)

Remove steaks from grill and garnish with grilled tri-colored sweet baby peppers.

## Turkey and brie grilled cheese

**4 slices bread**  
**Nonstick cooking spray**  
**2 ounces Brie cheese, thinly sliced**  
**1 small green pear, cored, halved and thinly sliced**  
**4 ounces roasted turkey breast, thinly sliced**

Spray medium pan with nonstick spray. Preheat over medium heat. Layer cheese, pear and turkey between slices of bread, creating 2 sandwiches.

Cook sandwiches 3-4 minutes, or until bottom slices of bread are golden brown. Flip sandwiches over and cook an additional 2-3 minutes until golden brown and cheese is melted.



Recipes courtesy of

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# Pride in Ag Education



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1. What are the benefits of a new type of poultry litter application process?
2. When does a farmer have to develop a Nutrient Management Plan?
3. Write about some changes that are part of the new farm bill.
4. What changes have been made to the USDA Youth Loan program as part of the new farm bill?

5. What are University of Kentucky researchers saying about nitrogen applications to wheat fields in January and February? Explain the problem.
6. Members of the Kentucky Soybean Association recently visited Frankfort for a legislative outreach event. Why are events like this important for the agriculture community?

## Surviving poor

FROM PAGE 5

When I was young, I always believed the world provided opportunity, or at least America did. I believed that hard work brought success and financial stability. I still believe that, but I also believe there is less room for error on the road to success. My husband and I have made some wrong decisions along the way but we have always worked hard and we have two business enterprises to show for it. In today's environment, I'm not sure our story could be repeated. This nation still depends on the entrepreneurial

spirit to build our economic base, but hard work and loyalty seem to be underrated. The American Dream always meant that people could achieve if they believed and worked hard, but it also meant there was something ahead to set your sights on when going through the hard times. That's the America I believed in as a child. That's the America I want for my children and grandchildren. And that's the America the couple I talked with today deserve.

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

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