



# THE Farmer's Pride

Young Farms, Trimble County, 5th generation farmers Abigail and Christopher

JUNE 5, 2014

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Photo by Toni Humphress

Gary Hatcher's pack barn adds to his milk production and uses very little energy. The pack barn is one of several recent improvements on Hatcher's farm.

## Upgrades improve Hatcher's milking time and energy cost

COLUMBIA, Ky. - Gary Hatcher's first job was milking cows at the age of 13. Since then, dairying is the only job he has ever known.

"I have never worked a public job," Hatcher said. "My wife says that's probably a good thing."

Hatcher owns and runs a 300-acre farm in Adair County and milks 200 cows twice a day for 3.5 hours at a time.

"We milk every morning at 3:30 a.m. and every afternoon at 3:30 p.m.," Hatcher said.

Hatcher, employee Zack Northrup and on occasion Hatcher's two

daughters and wife are the ones who keep the farm running.

"The girls will feed the calves," Hatcher said. "My wife will pitch in when it is needed."

His wife Terri works as an aide at the local school. Their daughters Shelby, 15, and Rachel, 11, feed the calves and help take care of the other animals around the farm.

Two and a half years ago, Hatcher built a new state-of-the-art milking parlor with the help of Josh Kemp from Dairy Express Services in Columbia.

The vacuum-on-demand system

that speeds up the vacuum pump as needed and a double-10 swing-over gives Hatcher the ability to milk 10 cows at a time while having 20 in the parlor.

Hatcher says this not only sped up his milking time, it also allowed him to add approximately 100 cows to his milking herd.

Kemp says the fact that a single person is able to milk 200 cows in three and a half hours including wash time shows just how impressive Hatcher's new parlor is.

One of the variables that drastically

SEE **UPGRADES**, PAGE 3

## Hemp seed planted

### Follows legal battle

Hemp plants are germinating in Kentucky soil after a long battle that pitted Kentucky's agriculture community against the federal government.

Hemp seeds on their way to test plots in the commonwealth were held up for weeks by the federal government, but the seed finally made it to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture on May 23. Since then, planting has been underway to cover 13 acres of test plots in various universities.

U.S. Customs officials held up the seed in Louisville at the direction of the Drug Enforcement Administration. The seeds were sourced from Italy through Original Green Distribution, of Prescott, Wis., which specializes in green, bio-based building materials, including hemp. OGD has an interest in building the infrastructure for domestic industrial hemp production.

The agriculture department filed suit against the federal government on May 14, seeking the release of the 250-pound seed shipment. Defendants in the lawsuit included the Justice Department, DEA, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and Attorney General Eric Holder.

During negotiations, the state's ag department registered with DEA to import hemp seeds. Federal officials also inspected the department's facilities where the seeds would be stored for a short time before they were sent to fields. The seeds would be safeguarded behind multiple locked doors and in locked containers, KDA chief of staff Holly Harris VonLuehrte said.

One sticking point was a permit for state agriculture officials to distribute the seeds.

SEE **UK**, PAGE 12



**JUNE IS DAIRY MONTH:** We salute Kentucky's dairy producers.

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# Report highlights child labor on U.S. tobacco farms

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) – An international rights group is pushing the federal government and the tobacco industry to take limit how children can work on U.S. tobacco farms.

A report released by Human Rights Watch claims that children as young as 7 are sometimes working long hours in fields harvesting nicotine and pesticide-laced tobacco leaves under sometimes hazardous conditions. Most of what the group documented is legal, but it wants cigarette makers to push for safety on farms from which they buy tobacco.

Human Rights Watch details findings from interviews with more than 140 children working on farms in North Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia, where a majority of the country's tobacco is grown.

“The U.S. has failed America’s families by not meaningfully protecting child farmworkers from dangers to their health and safety, including on tobacco farms,” said Margaret Wurth, children’s rights researcher and co-author of the report.

Human Rights Watch met with many of the world’s biggest cigarette makers and tobacco suppliers to discuss its findings and push them to adopt or strengthen policies to prevent the practices in their supply chains.

The companies say they are con-

**‘This report uncovers serious child labor abuses that should not occur on any farm, anywhere.’**

Andre Calantzopoulos  
CEO of Philip Morris International Inc.

cerned about child labor in their supply chains and have developed standards, including requiring growers to provide a safe work environment and adhere to child labor laws, the group said.

“This report uncovers serious child labor abuses that should not occur on any farm, anywhere,” Andre Calantzopoulos, CEO of Philip Morris International Inc., the world’s second-biggest cigarette seller, said in a statement. “More work remains to be done to eliminate child and other labor abuses in tobacco growing.”

Altria Group Inc., owner of the nation’s biggest cigarette maker, Philip Morris USA, said it wants suppliers to follow the law. But Altria spokesman Jeff Caldwell also said that restricting tobacco work to people 18 and over “is really contrary to a lot of the current practices that are in place in the U.S. and is at odds in these

communities where family farming is really a way of life.”

About 736,500 children under 18 were reported to have worked on U.S. farms in 2012, but there are no figures for children working on tobacco farms, according to the federally funded National Children’s Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety.

Less than 1 percent of U.S. farmland grows tobacco, according to the 2012 Census of Agriculture.

According to the Human Rights Watch report, U.S. agriculture labor laws allow children to work longer hours at younger ages and in more hazardous conditions than children in any other industry. With their parent’s permission, children as young as 12 can be hired for unlimited hours outside of school hours on a farm of any size. And there’s no minimum age for children to work on small farms.

In 2011, the Labor Department proposed changes that would have prohibited children under 16 from working on tobacco farms, but they were withdrawn in 2012.

Nearly three-quarters of the children interviewed in 2012 and 2013 reported vomiting, nausea and headaches while working on tobacco farms. The symptoms they reported are consistent with nicotine poisoning often called Green

Tobacco Sickness, which occurs when workers absorb nicotine through their skin while handling tobacco plants.

Those interviewed, many of whom were children of Hispanic immigrants but were often U.S. citizens themselves, also reported working long hours, often in extreme heat, without overtime pay or sufficient breaks and wore no, or inadequate, protective gear.

“The conditions are inhumane andc. they should improve them,” said 17-year-old Erick Garcia, of Kinston, N.C. who has been working in tobacco fields since he was 11 to help his family earn more money.

Additionally, Garcia said kids should primarily focus on school and shouldn’t be in the fields.

“That’s not a place for children,” he said.

Republican Kentucky state Sen. Paul Hornback, who started working in tobacco fields when he was 10 and now farms about 100 acres of tobacco in Shelby County, said he adheres to federal regulations to keep his workers safe but doesn’t believe further restrictions are needed.

“People get pretty extreme about trying to protect everybody from everything,” Hornback said. “It’s hard manual labor, but there’s nothing wrong with hard manual labor.”

# Alltech plans distillery, brewery in Pikeville

Investment aims at tourism, economic growth for eastern Ky.

PIKEVILLE (AP) - Alltech, an internationally known natural animal nutrition and health products company, will begin operating a distillery and brewery in eastern Kentucky.

The Lexington Herald-Leader reports Alltech has agreed to purchase a former funeral home in downtown Pikeville that will serve as the location.

The company already operates a brewery and distillery in central Kentucky and a distillery in Ireland, where Alltech founder Pearse Lyons is from.

Some leaders in economically depressed eastern Kentucky are looking to tourism to help reinvigorate the region, and they are using the success of Gatlinburg, Tenn., as a model.

One major draw to that area is the Ole Smoky Moonshine Distillery.

Alltech has diverse interests, but recently has focused efforts in Ireland.

“When I think of eastern Kentucky and I think of Pikeville, I think of Ireland and its history,” Lyons said.

“The connections are phenomenal... From the bluegrass music that we call traditional music here to our history of whiskey, the connections run deep,” Lyons said. “Therefore, for me to get involved in Pikeville and eastern Kentucky, it is just natural. Our vision with this project is not only about job creation but making eastern Kentucky more of a destination and economic hub.”

The company said in a statement that more details would be forthcoming.

“This is the first aspect of a multipart investment Alltech plans to make in eastern Kentucky. We look forward to announcing additional details on our eastern Kentucky project next month,” the statement said.

Jared Arnett, president and CEO of the Southeast Kentucky Chamber of Commerce in Pikeville, said his group was “definitely excited about Alltech being involved.”

Arnett said he showed Alltech officials several sites that could be used for multiple purposes.

“They have a wide range of investments and opportunities they are looking at in eastern Kentucky. This is just one piece of the puzzle,” Arnett said.

“To have a company the size of Alltech looking at multiple things, from a distillery to agriculture, upwards of 10 projects, is great.”



# UK plants hemp seed test plot after legal battle ends

FROM PAGE 1

Federal drug officials initially wanted to know precisely how much seed would go to each project, VonLuehrte said.

Commissioner James Comer called the seed standoff an example of an overreaching federal government. He said the DEA permitting process would have imposed undue burdens on the pilot projects.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Ben Schecter said the DEA would expedite any review so a permit could be issued within days of the application. His comments came during a May 16 conference presided over by U.S. District Judge John G. Heyburn II.

"We're committed to being a partner, not an adversary," he said.

## NEGOTIATIONS AT FEDERAL LEVEL

While negotiations continued in Kentucky, U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said his agency was trying to resolve a conflict between what the farm bill permits and what federal drug laws prohibit. Growing hemp without a federal permit was banned in 1970 due to its classification as a controlled substance related to marijuana. This year's farm bill, however, legalized hemp production for research purposes in states where hemp production is legal under state law.

U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell met with DEA Administrator Michele Leonhart on May 21. McConnell, who requested the meeting, said in a statement after the meeting that DEA was using its "finite resources to stymie plainly lawful hemp pilot projects at the very time Kentucky is facing growing threats from heroin addiction and other drug abuse."

"I called on the DEA Administrator to release the industrial hemp seeds so that Kentucky can begin its pilot program. I also stressed that as the author of the industrial hemp provision, the intent of this provision

SEE HEMP, PAGE 14



Photo by Matt Barton, University of Kentucky College of Agriculture

Dr. Rich Mundell of the Kentucky Tobacco Research and Development Center loaded hemp seed into a grain drill last week at the University of Kentucky Spindletop Research Farm in Lexington.

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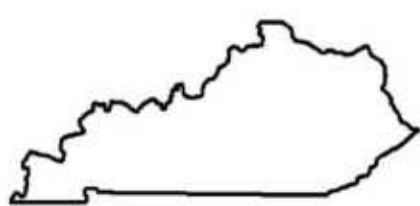
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# HEMP: Test plots now being planted



Photo by Matt Barton, University of Kentucky College of Agriculture

**Dr. David Williams of the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment held seed used in a hemp planting last week at the University of Kentucky Spindletop Research Farm in Lexington.**

## FROM PAGE 12

is to allow states departments of agriculture and universities to explore the commercial use of industrial hemp as a means for job creation and economic development. The language expressly exempts hemp from federal regulation for these defined purposes," McConnell said.

## SEED RELEASED

The following day, DEA announced it would release the seed and it was in the hands of KDA officials one day later.

"This is an historic day for Kentucky," Comer said. "I'm thrilled that this ordeal is over and now we can go forward with the pilot programs."

After a holiday weekend, the University of Kentucky began planting the seed at Spindletop Farm.

"The University of Kentucky's pilot program will help us recover much of the knowledge about industrial hemp production that has been lost since

hemp was last grown in Kentucky," Comer said. "I'm grateful to UK and the other institutions that are participating in the hemp pilot programs. With their help, we will bring industrial hemp back to Kentucky and with it new jobs and new farm income."

Scientists in UK's College of Agriculture, Food and Environment will conduct two trials for fiber production and one for seed production. They will seek to identify varieties best suited for Kentucky, measure yields of fiber and seeds, and study potential weed, disease, and insect problems.

"This day is the result of a year and a half of work by the Kentucky Industrial Hemp Commission, the General Assembly, and my staff at the Kentucky Department of Agriculture," Comer said. "It's also the result of many years of work by legislators, farmers, and many others who understood that industrial hemp has the potential to bring new farm income and jobs to Kentucky."

By Associated Press and Staff Reports

## Cattleman tells Congress EPA's land grab will kill conservation participation

WASHINGTON - The EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers' proposed definition of "waters of the U.S." has raised grave concern from cattle producers across the country. Jack Field, cattle rancher and Washington Cattlemen's Association executive vice president, testified before the House of Representatives Small Business Committee to discuss the over-regulation and impeding impacts of the rule for rural America.

"First and foremost, the cattle industry prides itself on being good stewards of our country's natural resources," said Field, who owns and operates a cattle operation in Washington.

"We maintain open spaces, healthy rangelands, preserve wildlife habitat, and provide the country with the juicy ribeyes we all love to throw on the grill. However, to provide all these important functions, cattlemen must be able to operate without excessive federal burdens."

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association believes the proposed definition of "waters of the United States" expands the federal jurisdiction to include essentially all waters across the country, subjecting landowners to increased regulation and

fines of up to \$37,500 per day.

The increase in liability will chill landowner participation in conservation activities by making the Natural Resources Conservation Service a regulatory compliance agency.

Field testified that the EPA and the Corps' interpretive rule would make NRCS standards mandatory for all conservation activities, despite whether they are voluntary or cost shared.

"This didn't have to be the result," said Field. "All the agencies had to do was engage stakeholders early on in the process, incorporate our suggestions and we would be much farther along in crafting a rule that actually clarifies the scope of Clean Water Act jurisdiction. There was zero outreach to the agriculture community before the rule was proposed and before the interpretive rule went into effect. We are now left with a proposal that doesn't work for small businesses, doesn't work for cattle ranchers, and doesn't work for the environment." NCBA strongly opposes EPA and the Corps' definition and encourages producers and small business owners to submit comments to the EPA. The comment deadline is July 21.



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Shelby County Fair,  
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Metcalf County Fair,  
Edmonton, **June 9-14**.

McLean County Fair,  
Calhoun, **June 10-14**.

Woodford County Fair,  
Versailles, **June 13-21**.

Clark County Fair,  
Winchester, **June 14-21**.

Gallatin County Fair,  
Warsaw, **June 14-21**.

Union County Fair,  
Sturgis, **June 16-21**.

Clinton County Fair,  
Albany, **June 16-21**.

Bullitt County Fair,  
Shepherdsville, **June 16-21**.

Green County Fair,  
Greensburg, **June 16-21**.

Lawrenceburg Fair,  
Lawrenceburg, **June 21-28**.

Allen County Fair,  
Scottsville, **June 22-June 28**.

LaRue County Fair,  
Hodgenville, **June 23**.

Bourbon County Fair,  
Paris, **June 23-28**.

Garrard County Fair,  
Lancaster, **June 23-28**.

McCracken County Fair,  
Paducah, **June 23-28**.

Scott County Fair,  
Georgetown, **June 24-28**.

Franklin-Simpson Fair,  
Franklin, **June 26-28**.

Western Kentucky State  
Fair, Hopkinsville, **June 27-July 5**.

Wayne County Fair,  
Monticello, **June 27-July 5**.

Estill County Fair,  
Irvine, **June 28-July 5**.

Henry County Fair,  
New Castle, **June 30-July 5**.

Trimble County Fair,  
Bedford, **June 30-July 5**.

Hart County Fair,  
Munfordville, **June 30-July 5**.

Lincoln County Fair,  
Stanford, **June 30-July 5**.

Marion County Fair,  
Lebanon, **June 30-July 5**.

Trimble County Fair,  
Bedford, **June 30-July 5**.

Whitley County Fair,  
Williamsburg, **July 1**.

Madison County Fair,  
Richmond, **July 1**.

Harrison County Fair,  
Cynthiana, **July 3-12**.

Adair County Fair,  
Columbia, **July 7-12**.

Hardin County Fair,  
Glendale, **July 7-12**.

McCreary County Fair,  
Pine Knot, **July 7-12**.

Jessamine County Fair,  
Nicholasville, **July 7-12**.

Breckinridge County Fair,  
Hardinsburg, **July 7-12**.

Ballard County Fair,  
La Center, **July 7-18**.

Laurel County Fair,  
London, **July 8-12**.

Barren County Fair,  
Temple Hill, **July 10-19**.

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Fair, Lexington, **July 10-20**.

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# Discovery made in plant disease resistance

LEXINGTON – University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment scientists have identified more key components to activating disease resistance in plants.

“This work is important because it connects the different puzzle pieces of systemic immunity, so we can begin to see the connections between the pieces and the framework of an overall picture,” said Aardra Kachroo.

Aardra Kachroo and her husband Pradeep Kachroo are researchers in the UK Department of Plant Pathology and study plant responses to microbial pathogens. They study resistance path-

ways that when triggered can fend off oomycete, fungal, bacterial and viral pathogens. Some of these pathways exist in all organisms.

Researchers in their labs found that cell-signaling molecules nitric oxide and reactive oxygen species are required to start systemic acquired resistance. This form of resistance protects plants against secondary infections. When genetic mutations in plants prevent the production of either nitric oxide or reactive oxygen species, the plant cannot produce systemic acquired resistance.

“Nitric oxide and reactive oxygen species are already well known to be as-

sociated with many human disorders,” said Pradeep Kachroo. “Although they have long been identified as signaling molecules in plants as well, it is exciting to know they are also key regulators of systemic immunity. This is the closest system in plants to the human circulatory immune system.”

Medical researchers have linked an imbalance of nitric oxide and reactive oxygen species in the human body to incurable age-related, neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s, as well as many types of cancers.

“Some levels of ROS (reactive oxygen species) are actually needed for human well-being and are in fact beneficial,” said Pradeep Kachroo. “This is the same for plants. Too little or too much of ROS/nitric oxide can impair many processes including plant immunity.”

Researchers involved with the finding are Caixia Wang, Mohamed El-Shetehy, M.B. Shine, Keshun Yu, all current or former members of one of the Kachroo labs, and two collaborators, Duroy Navarre and David Wendehenne.

The Kachroos previously discovered the metabolite glycerol-3-phosphate as an inducer of systemic immunity in plants and demonstrated its relationship to another defense activator, azelaic acid.

Their most recent findings, published in Cell Reports, show a connection between nitric oxide and reactive oxygen species and those previously identified immune activators.

By Katie Pratt  
University of Kentucky

## Five charged in Ohio crop insurance fraud case

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) – A federal grand jury recently indicted five southeastern Ohio men on charges including theft of public money in an alleged scheme to defraud a federal crop assistance program.

All five of the men from Meigs County also were indicted in U.S. District Court last week on charges of conspiracy and conspiracy to commit money laundering.

Two of the men were indicted on money laundering counts, said Fred Alverson, a spokesman for the U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Ohio.

The indictment seeks forfeiture of more than \$1.5 million that authorities say represent proceeds traceable to the alleged crimes.

The men are accused of defrauding the federal Non-Insured Crop Assistance Program. The program provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevention of planting results from a natural disaster. Payments are limited to \$100,000 per crop year per application.

According to the indictment, one man recruited the others to apply for payments and turn them over to him after keeping part for themselves.

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June 14	Laurel Co. Dairy Day – Farmer’s Market, London
June 19	Prairie Farms Ice Cream Social – Ky RECC Bldg, Jamestown
June 21	Barren Co. Ag Day
June 24	Dairy Night at Bowling Green Hot Rods
June 27	Adair Co. Dairy Farmer Appreciation Dinner, Columbia
June 28	Adair Co. Dairy Day on the Square, Columbia
June 30-July 2	Farm Start Tour to Missouri

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# AUCTION/MARKET

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

**Blue Grass of Richmond**  
Richmond, KY  
May 23, 2014

**Feeder Steers:** Medium & Large 1-2  
96 hd. 551# 235.50 blk-charx  
60 hd. 834# 181.00 mixed  
59 hd. 844# 178.60 blk-charx  
57 hd. 884# 177.70 blk-charx  
**Feeder Heifers:** Medium & Large 1-2  
77 hd. 653# 194.50 mixed  
69 hd. 720# 188.00 blk

**Blue Grass Stockyard**  
Lexington, KY  
May 27, 2014

**Feeder Steers:** Medium & Large 1  
40 hd. 530# 220.00 bbwf  
58 hd. 843# 189.00 mixed  
59 hd. 864# 181.00 blk  
115hd. 878# 183.80 bbwf  
60 hd. 886# 171.50 mixed  
41 hd. 937# 172.00 blk-charx  
49 hd. 951# 169.50 blk-mixed  
**Holstein Steers:** Large 3  
99 hd. 487# 195.00  
89 hd. 557# 184.75  
88 hd. 586# 188.75  
80 hd. 627# 185.75

**Blue Grass South**  
Stanford, KY  
May 29, 2014

**Feeder Steers:** Medium & Large 1-2  
40 hd. 817# 189.50 blk  
62 hd. 895# 178.95 blk-charx  
60 hd. 944# 175.25 blk-charx  
58 hd. 970# 167.25 mixed  
**Feeder Heifers:** Medium & Large 1-2  
68 hd. 743# 180.00 blk-charx  
43 hd. 777# 171.25 blk-charx

**Russell County Stockyards**  
Russell Springs, KY  
May 28, 2014

**Feeder Steers:** Medium & Large 1-2  
61 hd. 850# 183.10 charx  
59 hd. 851# 185.90 blk

**Blue Grass of Campbellsville**  
Campbellsville, KY  
May 28, 2014

**Feeder Steers:** Medium & Large 1-2  
26 hd. 941# 166.00 mixed  
**Holstein Steers:** Large 3  
20 hd. 523# 180.25

**KY-TN Livestock Auction**  
Guthrie, KY  
May 29, 2014

**Feeder Steers:** Medium & Large 1-2  
29 hd. 464# 230.25 bbwf  
34 hd. 542# 218.25 bbwf  
**Feeder Heifers:** Medium & Large 1-2  
44 hd. 461# 223.25 bbwf  
41 hd. 544# 196.75 bbwf  
69 hd. 712# 181.50 mixed  
**Feeder Bulls:** Medium & Large 1-2  
23 hd. 464# 228.50 bbwf  
39 hd. 539# 210.75 bbwf  
24 hd. 631# 185.00 blk

**Blue Grass of Albany**  
Albany, KY  
May 28, 2014

**Video Receipts:**  
58 hd. 825# 185.00 blk steers  
68 hd. 750# 177.75 blk heifers

**Paris Stockyards**  
Paris, KY  
May 29, 2014

**Holstein Steers:** Large 3  
79 hd. 433# 192.25

**Blue Grass East**  
Mt. Sterling, KY  
May 28, 2014

**Feeder Steers:** Medium & Large 1  
55 hd. 836# 171.50 blk-mixed

**Mid-KY Livestock Market**  
Upton, KY  
May 27, 2014

**Feeder Heifers:** Medium & Large 2-3  
20 hd. 525# 209.50 blk

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# AUCTION/MARKET

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### 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.

5/29/14 Bids for next day Cash Bids Corn #2 Yellow Corn #2 White Soybeans #1 Y Wheat #2 SRW Barley	4:00 pm est	Louisville	Pennyrile	Purchase	Bluegrass	Green River	Northern KY
New Crop Delivery Contract		4.81-4.86	4.62-4.80 NA	4.75	4.46-4.65	4.85-5.10	4.88-4.94
		14.74-15.22 5.59-6.24	14.93-15.04 5.99-6.22	15.09-15.13 NA	14.70-15.29 NA	15.14 NA	15.33-15.40 6.12-6.18
Corn #2 Yellow Corn #2 White Soybeans #1 Y Wheat #2 SRW Barley		4.30-4.47	4.38-4.45 4.87	4.48	4.33	4.55	4.40-4.41
		11.85-12.22 5.70-6.24	12.19-12.24 5.97-6.17 3.10	12.44-12.49 6.17-6.20	12.14 NA	12.39 6.12	12.33-12.34 6.18-6.22

Eastern Cornbelt Ethanol Plant Report 5/30/2014	
Yellow Corn Spot Bid	4.30-5.05
Dried Distillers Grain (\$/ton) 10% moisture	200.00-210.00
Modified Wet Distillers (\$/ton) 50-55% moisture	88.00-102.00
Kentucky Weekly Cattle Receipts:	
05/15/14	18,549
05/22/14	17,777
05/30/14	9,079

Weekly Feed Ingredient Price Wholesale prices, \$ per ton Rail or Truck FOB Location	Owensboro Grain 5/30/2014	Common- wealth Agri-Energy Hopkinsville 5/30/2014	USDA ESTIMATED DAILY LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER				Eastern Corn- belt Hog Prices 5/30/2014
				CATTLE	CALVES	HOGS	
Soybean Meal 48% Sol	545.00	—	Thurs. 5/29/2014 (est)	120,000	2,000	418,000	9,000
Soybean Hulls	210.00	—	Week Ago (est)	117,000	2,000	375,000	8,000
Corn Distillers Grain Dried	—	225.00	Year Ago (act)	127,000	2,000	425,000	8,000
Distillers Grain Modified	—	130.00	Week to Date (est)	362,000	8,000	1,259,000	27,000
Distillers Grain Wet	—	81.00	Same Pd Lt Week (est)	470,000	9,000	1,578,000	33,000
Corn Condensed Solubles	—	108.00	Same Pd Lt Yr (act)	383,000	9,000	1,278,000	27,000
Corn Gluten Feed 20-21 pct	—	—					
Corn Gluten Meal 60 pct	—	—					
Cottonseed Meal 41 pct	—	—					
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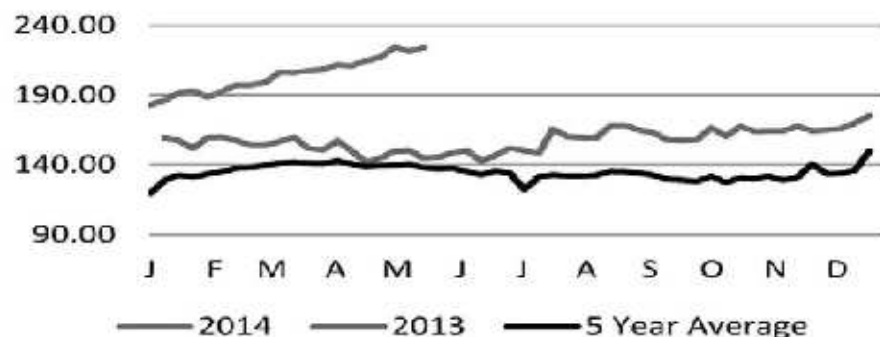
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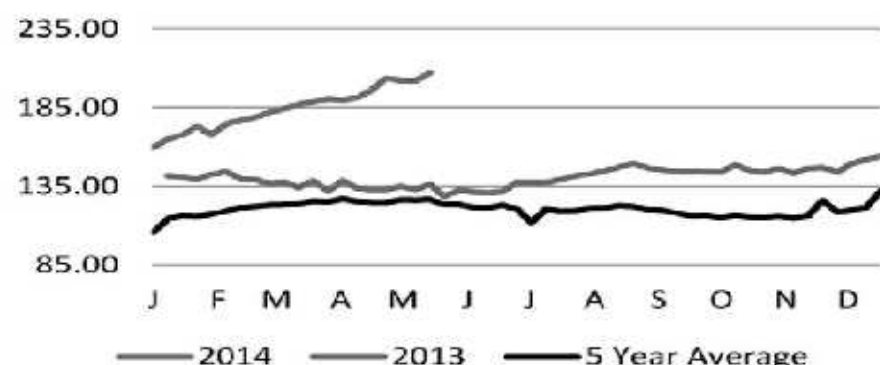
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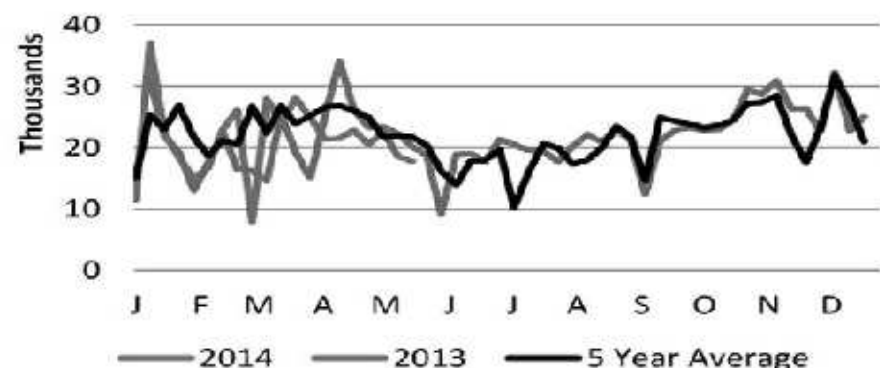
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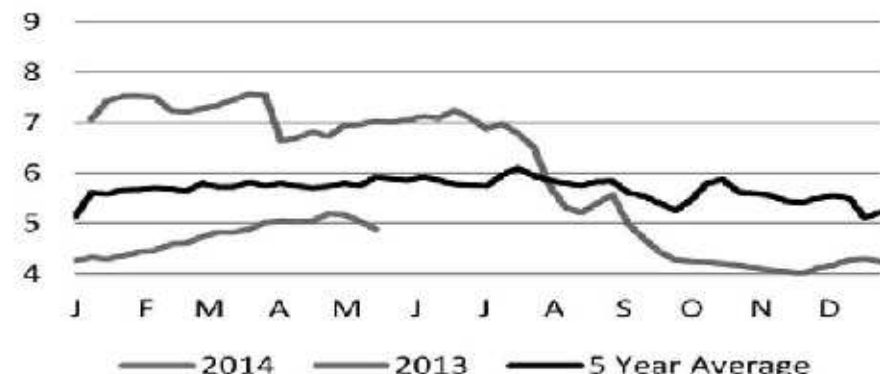
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# Upgrades improve Hatcher's milking time and energy cost



Photo by Toni Humphress

Hatcher's milk parlor with a double-10 swing over makes one person milking faster and more efficient.

**FROM PAGE 1**

decreased Hatcher's milking time and also greatly improved his energy costs is the auto milker take-offs, according to Kemp.

"You are saving time and energy by not having to take off the milkers manually," Kemp said. "For one person to milk in the time Gary does is very impressive."

As for electric bills, Hatcher said electric gets more expensive every year, but he is paying around the same as he was three years ago in his old barn so he is confident that the energy and cost efficient upgrades are paying off.

"I used to just milk 100 cows and it took the same amount of time as it does

now with 200," he said. "I get better milk production in the same amount of time."

Last year, Hatcher built a pack barn that holds 200 cows.

The barn has sawdust floors, large fans and plenty of room for cows to roam.

Hatcher said the pack barn helps increase his milk production because the cows are happy.

"If the cows are comfortable they are going to make more milk," Hatcher said. "If your cow is out in the pasture on a hot day in a mud puddle they aren't comfortable so their milk suffers."

The fans help keep the cows cool in the shade of the barn.

"I was told that the three fans wouldn't pull more electric than a hot water

heater," Hatcher said.

Kemp said the fans, purchases from a company in Lexington, have high volume with low speed that pulls very little energy; they actually use their large size, not speed to circulate air throughout the space.

"Gary's pack barn is a big improvement," Kemp said. "Before his cows were just out in the pasture and that isn't a controlled environment. With the pack barn the cows are comfortable."

And according to Kemp, comfort is one of the most important aspects.

"When cows are comfortable they are going to eat, drink and lay around. They are happy and when they are happy they

produce milk."

Hatcher's herd receives a TMR regimen and now has zero pasture time.

He recently upgraded from a 1600-gallon milk tank to a 2700-gallon milk tank due to having more milk production.

Everything on Hatcher's farm is as energy efficient as possible and Hatcher says he believes the cost is worth it in the end.

"I've spent quite a bit of money, but then again it's made me money and it's still making me money," Hatcher said.

**By Toni Humphress**  
**toni@thefarmerspride.com**

# PEMBROKE

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# The law enforcement view



ONE  
VOICE

Sharon  
Burton

My guess is our readers are more interested in a different side of the equation. They are more likely to ask, "What is the profit potential?"

A friend and I were talking politics and he surprised me with the comment, "I'm not a big fan of Jamie Comer."

"What?" I asked, mystified by his remark. "I thought everybody loved Jamie Comer."

He then went on to explain his position. He is concerned about hemp production leading to medicinal marijuana, leading to Kentucky acting like Colorado, where recreational marijuana is now legal.

"Oh yea," I said, "I forgot, you are in law enforcement."

My police officer friend was taking the police officer view of the whole hemp battle.

I respect his opinion, even his turning his anti-marijuana pose into opposing Agriculture Commissioner James Comer. Comer, after all, has become the poster child for legalizing hemp.

It's ironic, really, to think that a successful elected official who leads in the polls for a gubernatorial race he hasn't even committed to has built his popularity partly on an effort to legalize hemp.

It's ironic because there was another gubernatorial hopeful who promoted legalizing hemp that people in the agriculture industry distanced themselves from, the late Gatewood Galbraith. Galbraith once set up a booth at an agriculture function to promote one of his five races for governor and wore a hemp suit to the event.

Galbraith was for more than hemp, however. He indeed wanted Kentucky to follow in the footsteps of Colorado. Actually, he wanted Kentucky to lead the charge for the legalization of marijuana.

Just because Galbraith linked the two, however, does not mean they are linked. Being a supporter of hemp production does not mean you want to pass around a doobie to celebrate the recent success of getting hemp seeds into Kentucky (yes I had to look up the word doobie).

My law enforcement friend also thinks it would be more difficult to enforce the law if hemp plants cover Kentucky's hillsides. I'm not sure I buy it, but again I understand he is taking the law enforcement side in the debate.

My guess is our readers are more interested in a different side of the equation. They are more likely to ask, "What is the profit potential?"

SEE THE LAW, PAGE 6

# Kentucky's hardwood can grow energy jobs



Cheryl  
Avioli

Woody biomass energy is energy derived from sawmill residuals and wood that would otherwise go to waste or decompose in the forest.

Kentucky's hardwood industry has a significant role in many of our state's signature industries. Kentucky's forests are harvested to craft the world's finest bourbon barrels, to fence the world's fastest horses and to build the courts for the country's best basketball teams.

Currently, the hardwood industry employs over 56,000 workers and contributes \$12.7 billion to the economy every year. As we look to the future, our forest residuals can create an equally important role in creating a new sustainable energy industry – biomass power.

While Kentucky has long enjoyed a ready supply of energy with abundant coal reserves, new federal regulations are driving up the cost and decreasing demand for coal-generated electricity. This translates into fewer jobs and economic distress for the hard-working families who have mined coal for decades. Certainly, the folks in Perry County – who have lost 21 percent of their coal mining employment in the last year – would prefer to have these regulations disappear so that they can get back to work. Unfortunately, these regulations don't appear to be going away any time soon, if ever.

So what do we do to restore Kentucky's previous place among the leading energy states and get people back to work? Given Kentucky's abundance of forested land (12.4 million acres) and a well-established forestry industry, sustainable woody biomass is a key part of the answer. Woody biomass energy is energy derived from sawmill residuals and wood that would otherwise go to waste or decompose in the forest. Biomass accounts for more renewable power in the U.S. than wind and solar combined. Unlike wind and solar, which fluctuate with atmospheric conditions, biomass is a consistent source of renewable energy available around the clock and a critical asset in our national drive toward energy independence.

To obtain best pricing and comply with government regulations, utilities will increasingly look to secure contracts with multiple energy providers that include a mix of non-renewable fuels (natural gas, oil, coal) and renewable energy, such as biomass, wind and solar. Because Kentucky is already among the leading coal states in America, it is well positioned to capitalize on this changing demand for scalable, diversified energy resources.

SEE KENTUCKY'S, PAGE 6

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**PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID** at Columbia, Ky. 42728 with additional entries. [ISSN 1056-7666] The Farmer's Pride is published every first and third Thursday of each month with an additional publication in February by Farmland Publications, Inc.

**STREET LOCATION:** 316 Public Square, Columbia, Ky. Mailing address: P.O. Box 159, Columbia, KY 42728.

**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATE:** \$19.50. Send check or money order to Circulation Manager, The Farmer's Pride, P.O. Box 159, Columbia, KY 42728.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to The Farmer's Pride, P.O. Box 159, Columbia, KY 42728.

**DEADLINES:** Advertising and news deadlines are 4 p.m. Thursday prior to Thursday publication.

**ADVERTISING POLICY:** Farmland Publications is not responsible for more than one incorrect insertion of an advertisement. Publisher can assume no liability for typographical error except to re-run or cancel charges on the incorrect portion of the ad. All advertising is run subject to publisher's approval. The Farmer's Pride does not knowingly accept fraudulent or objectionable advertising. Readers are asked to report any misrepresentation by any advertisers.



# Uncharted waters



**GOVERNOR'S  
OFFICE OF AG  
POLICY  
DIRECTOR**

**Roger  
Thomas**

We need to  
share our  
success  
stories at  
every  
opportunity.

It is hard to believe that it is almost mid-2014. While time does seem to be flying by, according to the calendar, many of our program administrators, council volunteers, farmers and others may feel as if time is standing still while we wait on a resolution to the 2014 MSA payment and the 2003 arbitration award.

As I have said many times over the last several months, we are in uncharted waters with the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund and Kentucky's tobacco Master Settlement Agreement funds. With the arbitration panel's ruling in September 2013, there are many uncertainties of how the fund could look going forward.

Why is this important? Although many think that the MSA is a finite agreement ending 25 years from when it was signed, in actuality, payments continue on in perpetuity as long as there are cigarettes being manufactured and sold in the U.S. Therefore, decisions made in the appeal of this ruling, along with any future rulings or related legal settlements, will have long-term effects on the programs that receive financial support from Kentucky's MSA payments, including early childhood development, cancer research, environmental cost-share and the KADF.

In late April, I held an online town hall meeting, of sorts, with Kentucky Cooperative Extension to provide an update on where Kentucky stands with the MSA arbitration and the state budget, as it relates to the KADF. A video of this discussion is available on-line for your viewing at <http://bit.ly/1tDDo7j> ("Overview of 2015-2016 Executive Branch Budget.."). Most of the information provided is still the latest available. While an exact date for final receipt and disbursement of 2014 MSA funds is not currently known, we do anticipate this occurring within the next few weeks.

With all of these delays and uncertainties for 2014 funding, it is even more important that we not take this fund – that has done so much for Kentucky agriculture – for granted. We need to share our success stories at every opportunity.

We want to see and read your success stories on how your operation has benefited from the incentives provided by the KADF – both from county level programs, as well as statewide education and marketing initiatives. We want to hear about the decreased energy costs of your upgraded grain drier; the new markets open to you through improved cattle genetics; the on-farm value-added products you've created; anything that you've done that has been supported in part by the KADF to increase net farm income and improve your farm operation in some way.

Visit "Sign Up or Share with Us" on our website [agpolicy.ky.gov](http://agpolicy.ky.gov) or email [sandra.gardner@ky.gov](mailto:sandra.gardner@ky.gov) throughout the year to submit your short story and/or picture of your investment that you are proud to say was supported in part by the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund.

**ROGER THOMAS** is the executive director of the Governor's Office of Agriculture Policy.

## 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.

# The death of Mr. Clayton

History doesn't note the first instance of price fixing or monopoly but it's a safe bet all were around long before Moses and the "Thou shall not steal" commandment.

History does record when the U.S. Congress acted to prohibit monopoly and antitrust in business; first, in 1890, with the passage of the Sherman Antitrust Act and, second, in 1914, with the adoption of the Clayton Antitrust Act.

Both encompass a simple idea: an open, competitive marketplace is a fair marketplace. In a 1993 Sherman Act case before it, the U.S. Supreme Court explained it this way: "The purpose of the Act is not to protect businesses from the workings of the market; it is to protect the public from the failure of the market."

That underpinning theology, however, has changed over time. Company mergers and corporate joint ventures that just 20 years ago were either unthinkable or considered illegal or both are now almost routine.

For example, on May 20 the U.S. Department of Justice blessed a flour milling joint venture between branches of three former competitors, ConAgra, Cargill and CHS. (See <http://farmandfoodfile.com/in-the-news/> for source material.)

The deal, which joins two of the top three flour millers in the nation, marries ConAgra Mill's 21 mills with the 20 operated by Horizon Milling, an existing joint venture between Cargill and CHS.

The dowry for this three-cornered marriage was dirt cheap: Justice required the proposed new entity to sell mills in Los Angeles; Oakland; New Prague, Minn.; and Saginaw, Texas, to "ensure that competition for hard and soft wheat flour sales is preserved in regions surrounding" LA, Dallas, the Twin Cities and "the Bay Area."

The ConAgra/Cargill/CHS deal is the second flour deal milled by Justice this spring. The first, which closed May 8, brought together Milner Milling and Cereal Food Processors. Combined, that new firm will mill an estimated 164,000 cwt. (hundredweight, the standard unit of measure in milling) per day.

That may sound big—it is, after all, the third largest daily milling capacity in the U.S.—but it's puny compared to the capacity of the two bigger boys leading the pack. Number two ADM Flour Milling delivers an estimated 281,000 cwt. per day and the ConAgra/Cargill/CHS firm, called Ardent, will mill a whopping 500,000 cwt. or so.

With that much capacity, it's estimated that Ardent will control at least 34 percent of the nation's wheat milling. Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper, who put together an incentive deal that enticed Ardent to locate its headquarters in his state, called that number "hardly a monopoly."

Monopoly? No. Huge? Yes.

And there's more.

The four flour mills Justice required Ardent to divest in order to be born all went to Miller Milling which, via government edict, grew its daily capacity from about 12,000



**FOOD &  
FARM  
FILE**

**Alan  
Guebert**

Company  
mergers and  
corporate joint  
ventures that  
just 20 years  
ago were  
either  
unthinkable or  
considered  
illegal or both  
are now almost  
routine.

# Will you be wheat's friend?



## MARKET WATCH

Dewey Strickler

Wheat futures have sunk over 14 percent since early May even though crop conditions are deteriorating.

Given a window of perfect weather before Memorial Day, corn planting ran at full throttle and is 88 percent done, which is par for the average. The upper Midwest has dodged raindrops most of the spring, but made good progress last week. However, they are still behind their average and facing their preventative planting date for crop insurance.

There are currently 2.5 million acres that remain unplanted that could be switched to soybeans or another crop.

During the next several weeks, the focus will be on weather. For now, we are seeing greenhouse conditions, but that could change. Exports continue to be a bright spot with inspections last week at 45.6 million bushels. For the past few weeks, the market has been declining as the trend following funds are unwinding their long futures position that currently stands at 730 million bushels.

Soybean futures have had a good run since January, but cracks are showing in their armor as the market has run out of fresh news to attract new bulls. Exports peaked in January and have been in a steady decline since. Inspections last week were only 3.2 million bushels with China being a no show for the third consecutive week. While some traders are enthusiastic that they will focus on new crop sales, it must be remembered that China's economy has been in contraction for five months. In addition, as of last week, there were 2.5 mil-

lion acres of corn and 1.1 million acres of spring wheat that could be switched to soybeans or another crop. Meanwhile, soybean planting is sailing along and 59 percent complete compared to the average of 56 percent. The upper Midwest is lagging their average but that is not considered a problem. Currently, the trend following funds are long 495 million bushels, which seems heavy considering the fundamentals.

If Fred Rogers of the children's TV program, Mister Roger's Neighborhood, were living today he would ask, "Will you be wheat's friend?" Wheat futures have sunk over 14 percent since early May even though crop conditions are deteriorating. It has become old news and is overshadowed by larger global stocks. The crop ratings rose one point last week to 30 percent in good to excellent condition. However, with 70 percent of the crop heading, harvest is only a few weeks off and will offer resistance. Meanwhile, spring wheat planting is 74 percent done compared to 82 percent for the average. Export inspections last week were 18.6 million bushels, and it will be a photo finish as to whether USDA's projection of 1.185 billion bushels will be reached. In light of the poor conditions in the southern plains, the short position of the trend following funds has risen to 70 million 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).

## Kentucky's hardwood can grow energy jobs

FROM PAGE 4

In the 2014 farm bill, the federal government has earmarked \$25 million annually to position biomass for growth in disadvantaged regions of the country. Just recently the federal government confirmed its support for biomass energy with the following statement from the U.S. Department of Agriculture: "The potential to achieve transformational progress on biomass energy in rural America and generate tremendous economic opportunities is very promising. Investing in agricultural and forestry producers who cultivate energy biomass and supporting next-generation biofuels facilities make America more energy independent, help combat climate change and create jobs in rural America."

By creating a market and producing the energy here and now, Kentuckians will be able to avoid having to buy energy from other states. New federally imposed rules will likely force Kentucky businesses and ratepayers to buy clean energy from other states if we cannot produce any here in the commonwealth. Renewable standards or goals are now in place in more than 40 U.S. states and territories. Over the long term, the

price of biomass power is much more certain and less risky compared to other sources of electricity and will be cheaper than other base load alternatives.

Diversifying Kentucky's energy sources to include a vibrant biomass industry can have immediate impact. We have a chance to move forward now with a biomass power plant sited for Hazard, where unemployment sits at a painful 12.9 percent. Opponents of the plant and activists from out-of-state are behind an effort to stymie this project in court even though it has already been approved by the Kentucky Public Service Commission.

To learn more about biomass energy, visit <http://energy.ky.gov>. It is time to get Kentuckians back to work with steady jobs that meet the new demands of a growing, nationally-diversified energy market. In doing so, we can stimulate a sluggish economy with one of Kentucky's leading natural resources – our forests.

**Cheryl Avio** is a former member of the New York State Public Service Commission and is in favor of leveraging Kentucky's energy resources to optimize its role in America's plan for energy diversification. She resides in Kentucky with her husband and their five children.

# The death of Mr. Clayton

FROM PAGE 5

cwt. to nearly 100,000 cwt. That explosive growth took Miller from a tiny player in U.S. flour to the fourth largest overnight.

It also means that in the last month the Justice Department and Ardent have virtually remade the entire American flour milling sector. Together the two have anointed a new number one player, Ardent; a new number three, Milner; and a new number four, Miller.

Even more remarkable, perhaps, is that this wholesale change occurred without one public hearing in Congress, the courts or the press.

This near-total lack of public involvement suggests that more food mergers, makeovers and consolidations will be forthcoming because these government-blessed deals are about market power on both sides of the business coin—paying farmers less for the wheat to make the flour, then charging consumers more for it.

It's an old story first told in the Good Book, then in the U.S. Congress.

That last one isn't so old. The U.S. House passed the Clayton Antitrust Act exactly 100 years ago this week, June 5, 1914. This June 5, however, all but marks its passing.

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

## The law enforcement view

FROM PAGE 4

There are other questions, of course, and hopefully test plots at our universities will help answer some of those questions.

One question that will be answered is how the crop will grow during a late planting season. The seed finally arrived in Frankfort on May 23 after being held up for weeks by the federal government. Obviously federal officials don't understand production windows...or maybe they do.

As for my law enforcement friend, I don't think he has to worry about industrial hemp proponents circling their wagons to support legalizing marijuana. Most farmers I know have enough trouble as it is finding good help. They don't want any potheads in the fields or in the milk barns lowering production levels.

Besides, legalizing marijuana would bring the profit margin down, or at least that is what I'm telling my cop buddy, just so I can get him riled up one more time.

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



# Five years in, fight continues against emerald ash borer

LEXINGTON – The fight continues, but the invader has the upper hand. Kentucky’s ash trees, important as timber producers and landscape trees, have faced the onslaught of the emerald ash borer, an invasive insect pest from Asia, since 2009.

Since then, a county-level quarantine has been in effect to slow the borer’s spread through human activity. The original quarantine included 20 counties, all within the Lexington-Louisville-Cincinnati triangle. Based on new detections of the insects on survey traps, at least one new county was added to the quarantine each year, including some in eastern Kentucky. The quarantine issued by the Kentucky Office of the State Entomologist in conjunction with the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and the University of Kentucky Department of Entomology forbade the transportation of all hardwood species of firewood, ash trees, lumber, nursery stock or other material from the quarantined counties without a certificate or limited permit.

Unfortunately, the emerald ash borer spreads naturally by flying. Despite local quarantines, expansion of its range continues. In response, the entire state was placed under quarantine in April. The decision is designed to regulate the interstate movement of ash nursery stock, green lumber, waste, compost, chips and firewood and effectively lifts the county quarantines.

“While it is quite likely that the insect is present outside the original quarantined counties, our entire state is not infested at this time. At this point, emerald ash borer activity is still very localized in some areas,” said Lee Townsend, extension entomology professor in the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment.

At present 21 states and two Canadian provinces—Quebec and Ontario—have known emerald ash borer infestations.

The quarantine of the entire state means that ash materials may move from Kentucky to surrounding states that are also wholly quarantined for the emerald ash borer, including Missouri, Ohio, Virginia and West Virginia. Special permits are required to move articles into Illinois and Indiana, however.

Though the movement is no longer forbidden within Kentucky’s borders, the state entomologist’s office and the Kentucky Division of Forestry strongly urge Kentuckians not to transport firewood outside of the local area. Transporting firewood has been proven to spread invasive insects.

“With the new emerald ash borer quarantine rules, firewood can be moved from one place to another within Kentucky,” said Larry Lowe of the Kentucky Division of Forestry. “However, it is important to realize that there are other pests that can also be moved in firewood, and the use of local firewood can help reduce risk of infestation of insects other than the emerald ash borer.”

Ash trees, with their light but exceptionally strong wood, are an important component of Kentucky’s forest industries. Ash occurs throughout the state, repre-

senting approximately 7 percent of the total timber volume. However, certain regions of the state, such as northern Kentucky and south central Kentucky, have significant amounts of ash.

“The loss of the trees is affecting Kentucky’s woodlands, our forest industry and homeowners and cities that have widely planted ash,” said Jeff Stringer, UK extension professor of silviculture.

Until this year, the Kentucky Office of the State Entomologist hung purple traps to monitor the spread of the small, dark-green metallic beetle that feeds on all ash tree species. Though the traps have been one of the best tools for monitoring the spread of the insect, they have only been marginally effective, said Joe Collins, UK senior nursery inspector.

“We will continue to partner with the USDA to release biological control wasps in Kentucky,” Collins said.

To date, three species of stingless wasps have been released at 12 sites in the state. Extremely small, the wasps are not capable of stinging humans, but are very good at tracking down emerald ash borer larvae under tree bark. Homing in on the vibrations the larvae make when chewing, the wasps can insert their stingers through the bark and, depending on the wasp species, lay an egg either on or inside the larvae. When the eggs hatch, the wasp larvae consume the ash borer larvae.

Homeowners and woodland owners living in or within 15 miles of the 31 formerly quarantined counties who wish to protect their ash trees should start or continue to apply protective treatments.

‘With the new emerald ash borer quarantine rules, firewood can be moved from one place to another within Kentucky,’

Larry Lowe  
Kentucky Division of Forestry

“At this point, it is not clear how long landscape ash trees must be protected as the wave of EAB infestation passes through, but seven to 10 years is a reasonable estimate,” Townsend said.

He does advise homeowners, however, to save their money and not begin preventive treatments until an active infestation is found nearby. The state urges anyone who suspects an infestation—the EAB leaves D-shaped exit holes in the bark—to contact the Office of the State Entomologist, 859-257-5838, or their local Cooperative Extension office for confirmation.

More information about the emerald ash borer in Kentucky and a list of affected counties, are available at <http://pest.ca.uky.edu/EXT/EAB/welcomeeab.html>.

Visit the USDA hungry pests website, <http://www.hungrypests.com/the-spread/> to find out more about invasive pests.

By Carol Lea Spence  
University of Kentucky

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## We are to obey and do God's Word

No matter how many years I went to school or how many tests I took, nothing was more disappointing or discouraging than to be reminded that my answers did not agree with the teacher's questions. Whenever there was a disagreement, I had to defer to the teacher's wisdom, knowledge and learning.

And when David asked God for the answer to "Life's Ultimate Question" God responded by giving him a simple, straightforward, easy-to-understand answer: "The one whose walk is blameless, who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from their heart." God's words to David address our walk, our work and our talk – which covers every aspect of our lives.

To walk blamelessly requires us to live and walk in God's path by being obedient to God's rules and regulations. His Word is not open to our interpretation nor do we have the right to pick and choose what we will or will not do. If He said it, we are to obey it and do it!

To do what is righteous requires that we are to behave – to live our lives – in ways that are consistent with the character of God. Our God is a loving God, a holy God and a saving and serving God. Righteousness goes far beyond piety because one can be pious and not do God's work in His world.

To speak the truth from our hearts means that our walk and our talk are consistent and conform to God's Word and come from the very center of our being.

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## Chicken Tacos with Peach Salsa

### Salsa:

1 (15.25-ounce) can sliced peaches, drained and chopped  
1 (4.25-ounce) can green chilies chopped, drained  
1/4 cup finely chopped red onion  
1 tablespoon fresh chopped parsley  
1 tablespoon fresh-squeezed lime juice  
1/4 teaspoon Tabasco pepper sauce

To prepare salsa, in medium bowl combine chopped peaches, green chilies, red onion, parsley, lime juice and Tabasco sauce. Cover and refrigerate until ready to serve.

### Tacos:

8 corn, flour or whole wheat tortillas, slightly warmed  
1 (5-ounce) can Hormel Premium chicken breast, drained and flaked  
Finely shredded green cabbage, optional  
Shredded low-fat Monterey Jack cheese, optional  
Lime wedges, optional

To prepare tacos, fill tortillas with flaked chicken; top with peach salsa. Serve with shredded cabbage and cheese if desired. Garnish with lime wedges if desired.

## Mexican Fiesta Dip

2 can black beans, drained and rinsed  
1 can diced tomatoes no salt added  
2 cans sweet whole kernel corn no salt added, drained  
1 can green chilies chopped, drained  
1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil  
1/4 cup red wine vinegar

In large bowl combine black beans, diced tomatoes with liquid, corn, green chilies, olive oil, vinegar, salt and Tabasco. Cover and refrigerate 3-4 hours, stirring occasionally.

To serve, stir in avocado and cilantro to mix well. Serve with tortilla chips.

1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/4 teaspoon pepper sauce  
1 large ripe avocado, peeled, pitted and diced  
2 tablespoons fresh chopped cilantro  
Baked tortilla chips

Recipes courtesy of

familyfeatures

Reach. Engage.



# Lessons learned from a winter of discontent

PRINCETON, Ky. – Kentucky cattle producers are finally getting some relief from the especially long, cold and wet winter.

“Shakespeare must have been thinking about caring for beef cattle this past winter when he coined those words about a ‘winter of discontent,’” said Roy Burris, University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment beef specialist. “When spring arrived, we couldn’t help but feel some relief just to get past the tough winter weather. Spring calving cows and their newborn calves especially felt the wrath of ice storms, snow, cold and mud.”

But does the arrival of spring really put producers “over the hump?” Burris said, perhaps, but producers do have some pressing concerns.

Most cows need to improve body condition, so they will be able to sustain a pregnancy, and producers want to get cows bred in the next few weeks. Since feed was in short supply, most producers likely turned their herds out to grass as soon as it appeared, but lush, watery grass will not sustain milk production and weight gain.

“Producers need to continue to provide energy supplementation a little longer,” Burris said. “The goal is to have cows at a condition score of near 5 (ribs covered) at the start of the breeding season. If cows are not pregnant before extreme heat sets in (late June or early July), pregnancy rates will likely be very low.”

Burris recommended that producers continue to feed a high magnesium supplement until the soil temperature warms up.

“Don’t skip magnesium supplementation – regardless of what you read,” he warned. “Research conducted at the UK Research and Education Center in Princeton showed that 1.5 ounces of magnesium (22 grams) would prevent grass tetany in high risk situations. When it was left out of the mineral mix, grass tetany would appear as predicted. A mineral supplement with about 14 percent magnesium should be adequate with normal consump-

tion.”

Producers should look at reseeding pasture areas that were trampled to the point of killing the grass. Weeds like pigweed (spiny amaranth) will encroach on high traffic areas.

Burris said the short term is not the only thing to consider.

“There are some long-term considerations, too,” he said. “Was this last winter an aberration, or a harbinger of things to come? Since cows and calves represent a substantial financial outlay and for humane reasons, we need to re-evaluate some of our practices and consider some changes.”

Producers could shift their calving season to the fall, when weather isn’t a problem to calf survival. Pregnancy rates and calf survival are generally higher in fall than in the spring. Even though feed costs are traditionally higher in the fall, it’s still a viable option.

Producers who decide to stick with spring calving should make every effort to be successful, and that could mean it may be time to consider more shelter or protection for cows and calves.

Windbreaks, natural or man-made, can be important since wind chill increases the energy requirement of cattle. Cattle depend upon their hair coats to keep heat in and cold out. When hair gets wet and flattens, it lets moisture get close to the skin. If cattle are wet, or the wind blows enough to separate the hair, they are more susceptible to cold. Thin, hungry cattle are even more vulnerable.

“We must, at the very least, increase feed, especially energy supplementation, during periods of severely cold weather,” Burris said. “Winter cattle care is probably the last thing many producers want to focus on right now, but we’ll be right back in that season before you know it, and this is a good time to get ready.”

Barns and feeding areas that protect cattle from severe weather and mud can be beneficial and environmentally

‘Since cows and calves represent a substantial financial outlay and for humane reasons, we need to re-evaluate some of our practices and consider some changes.’

Roy Burris  
Food and Environment Beef Specialist  
University of Kentucky College of Agriculture

desirable by managing manure and runoff. They keep cattle dry during wet, cold weather. Since newborn calves are the most vulnerable to cold weather, calving barns that have facilities and equipment for “pulling” calves and are cleanly bedded may also be helpful for spring calving herds.

“We don’t normally need a lot of housing for beef cattle, but things haven’t been normal lately,” Burris said. “This past winter tested our resolve, but it may have also pointed out some of the weaknesses in our programs. We want to keep cattle comfortable and healthy anyway, but increased cattle value gives us even more incentive to do just that. We can learn from the past, as we enjoy new grass and sunshine.”

By Aimee Nielson  
University of Kentucky

## Excellence in Ag Literacy Award nominations sought

LOUISVILLE – Kentucky Farm Bureau is searching across the state for 2014 Excellence in Ag Literacy Award nominees. The award, presented annually by KFB during its annual meeting, was established to recognize and reward teachers who excel in their efforts to incorporate agricultural concepts throughout their core academic studies.

“The real-life application of agriculture in the classroom can significantly aid teachers as they seek ways to engage and maintain student interest in core subject matter,” said Scott Christmas, KFB’s director of women and agricultural education. “We want to honor teachers who do this well and do this often.”

All certified pre-kindergarten through 12th-grade teachers who are engaged in integrating agricultural concepts into non-agricultural curriculum are eligible. Self-nominations, as well as nominations from school faculty, community leaders or parents, are encouraged.

Nomination forms with guidelines and evaluation cri-

teria for the Excellence in Ag Literacy Award can be downloaded at [kyfb.com/federation](http://kyfb.com/federation). All applications must be received at the KFB state office by Friday, Oct. 24.

The winner of the award will be announced on Friday, Dec. 5, during the KFB annual meeting at the Galt House in Louisville. In addition to statewide recognition, the winning teacher will also receive \$500 and an all-expense-paid trip to the National Ag in the Classroom Conference in Louisville, June 16-20, 2015, where he or she will represent Kentucky in the national competition.

“It is a priority at Kentucky Farm Bureau to honor teachers who take student learning to higher levels through the use of ag in the classroom,” concluded Christmas. “We know those experiences will help build a society which understands, values and supports the country’s agricultural industry and its efforts to feed the world.”

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