



THE Farmer's Pride

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AUGUST 7, 2014

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Josh McGrath, Extension soils specialist, spoke with producers about water quality regulations at Chesapeake Bay during a field day in Princeton Thursday.

WATER REGS ARE COMING

Ag industry works toward data-driven models

PRINCETON, Ky.—When it comes to the nation's environmental policies, accurate data of farming's impact on waterways is imperative, producers heard last week during a field day.

Several speakers during the 2014 University of Kentucky corn, soybean and tobacco field day in Princeton shared their experiences dealing with the Environmental Protection Agency and efforts to identify and reduce runoff of nitrogen and phosphorus.

Josh McGrath became an extension soils specialist at the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment in July. Prior to that he spent eight years at the University of Maryland with a hands-on role during a six-state effort to reduce sediment, phosphorus

and nitrogen runoff into Chesapeake Bay.

McGrath warned producers to “own the data.”

“We do have nitrogen and phosphorus leaving our farms. Nitrogen and phosphorus have to leave your field in order for you to grow a crop, and their should be limits on that,” McGrath said. “We need to have reasonable limits that are science based, that allow for profitable production because we need agricultural production.”

Not all data is used properly when it comes to environmental regulations, however.

Producers in Maryland cannot apply nitrogen on wheat before March 1. They must

SEE **WATER**, PAGE 3

Comer announces bid for governor

FANCY FARM, Ky. (AP) – Agriculture Commissioner James Comer announced his candidacy for governor on Saturday, using the stage at Kentucky's premier political event to say he wants to uplift the state after leading the Agriculture Department “from worst to first” following his predecessor's scandal-plagued tenure.

Comer, a former state representative in his first term as agriculture commissioner, joins former Louisville councilman Hal Heiner as candidates in the GOP gubernatorial field that could grow in coming months. Next year's race to succeed Democratic Gov. Steve Beshear is wide open.

“I believe Kentucky can be better,” Comer told a boisterous crowd divided between Republicans and Democrats at the annual Fancy Farm picnic in western Kentucky. “We proved at the Department of Agriculture that you can go from worst to first in a short period of time.”

“We just need a governor who is humble enough to listen, tough enough to lead and strong enough to achieve.”

Comer plans a formal campaign kickoff Sept. 9 in his hometown

of Tompkinsville in southern Kentucky. He plans to introduce his running mate then.

Comer's announcement came right after Democratic gubernatorial candidate Jack Conway, the state's attorney general, spoke to the same crowd.

‘I believe Kentucky can be better.’

James Comer
Kentucky Commissioner of
Agriculture

Conway said he has fulfilled his promises to crack down on prescription drugs, protect children from Internet predators and go after those defrauding the state. Turning to the governor's race, Conway said he would make sure state government “does not do business the way they do in Washington.”

Comer, 41, reiterated his support for Kentucky's coal interests, advocated lower taxes and spoke out for local decision-making for public education.

Comer said in an interview that

SEE **COMER**, PAGE 14



FARMERS' MARKETS: National Farmers' Market week **11.**

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SOYBEAN CHECKOFF CONTINUES

Results show continued strong support from U.S. soybean farmers for their checkoff

'It's more important than ever that the volunteer farmer-leaders of USB continue to invest soy checkoff funds to maximize the profit potential for all U.S. soybean farmers.'

Jim Call
United Soybean Board Chairman

ST. LOUIS – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced the results of the request for referendum on the Soybean Research and Promotion Program (soy checkoff). USDA received 355 request-for-referendum forms, of which only 324 were valid, from Farm Service Agency offices. The 355 forms represent 0.06 percent of all eligible U.S. soybean farmers. That result falls short of the 10 percent needed to prompt a referendum.

"These results show that U.S. soybean farmers overwhelmingly see the value in our soy checkoff," says Jim Call, soybean farmer from Madison, Minnesota, and United Soybean Board (USB) chairman. "It's more important than ever that the volunteer farmer-leaders of USB continue to invest soy checkoff funds to maximize the profit potential for all U.S. soybean farmers."

If 10 percent of the 569,998 U.S. soybean farmers had requested a referen-

dum, with no more than one-fifth of the 10 percent coming from one state, USDA would have conducted the referendum on the soy checkoff within 12 months. USDA conducts the request-for-referendum vote every five years, as required by the Soybean Promotion, Research and Consumer Information Act. The most recent period took place from May 5 through May 30.

Farmers certifying that they or the entity they represent paid into the checkoff at any time between Jan. 1, 2012, and Dec. 31, 2013, were eligible to participate in the petition for referendum. Eligible farmers who did not want a referendum did not need to take any action.

USDA requested and approved a notification by USB to inform U.S. soybean farmers about the request-for-referendum period. USB placed paid notifications on the request for referendum in national, regional and state agricultural

publications and also distributed the notification to all Qualified State Soybean Boards and the news media. In addition, USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service and Farm Service Agency distributed the information about the request-for-referendum period.

"As industry leaders, USB will keep moving U.S. soybeans forward to be the top global oilseed," adds Call. "It's a great vote of confidence knowing U.S. soybean farmers support this work as

well." The 70 farmer-directors of USB oversee the investments of the soy checkoff to maximize profit opportunities for all U.S. soybean farmers.

These volunteers invest and leverage checkoff funds to increase the value of U.S. soy meal and oil, to ensure U.S. soybean farmers and their customers have the freedom and infrastructure to operate, and to meet the needs of U.S. soy's customers.

UK plans eastern Ky. grazing day

LEXINGTON – Due to the overwhelming success of a spring grazing program, the University of Kentucky Master Grazer Program is hosting a one-day grazing school in Morgan County.

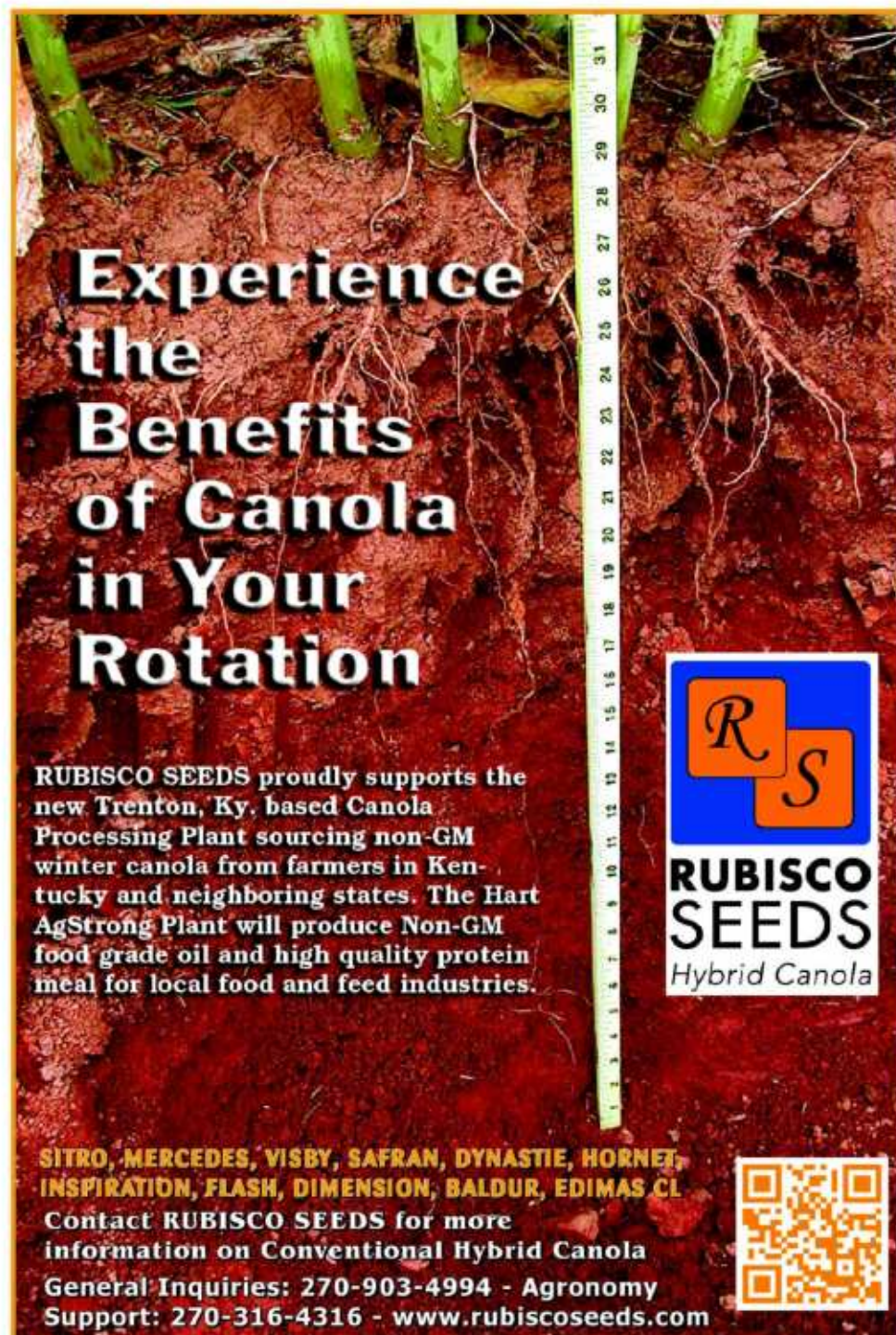
The event will be from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 23 at the Morgan County extension research farm in West Liberty. Specialists with the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment will cover topics related to fall pasture management.

"The participants will learn about issues producers' face during the fall," said Cody Smith, coordinator for the UK Master Grazer Program. "This includes topics like stockpiling fescue, selecting

winter annuals for grazing, summer annuals' performance, and calibrating a no-till drill and an herbicide sprayer."

Anyone is welcome to attend, regardless of whether they participated in the spring grazing school. Refreshments will be provided. Contact Smith at 859-257-7512, Sarah Fannin at 606-743-3292 or Daniel Wilson at 606-668-3712 for more information or to register. Fannin and Wilson are agriculture and natural resources agents with the UK Cooperative Extension Service in Morgan and Wolfe counties, respectively.

The research farm is located on state Route 172, just past the intersection of U.S. Route 460 in West Liberty.



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National Farmers' Market week



Pat Rucker, Oaklawn, buys produce from Jim Howard, Nancy, at the roadside market in Somerset.

Aug. 3-9 is National Farmers' Market week.
To find the market nearest to you go to
www.kyagr.com.



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The Lord is there through tragedy

Imagine, if you can, leaving your loved ones behind as you depart for a war zone. Think, if it is possible, how you would feel if you were told you had stage-four cancer and there was no treatment to help prolong your life. Consider, if you will, what you would do if you discovered that your loved one had abandoned you.

While we hear of these tragedies impacting on others, few of us would welcome or want them to invade our lives or the lives of our loved ones. But what happens if they do? The Psalmist gives us comfort if or when we must embrace the unwelcome tragedies of life.

"In times of trouble may the Lord answer your cry," he writes. Not hear your cry, nor think about your cry nor put your cry on His waiting list. But may He answer your cry.

Life is filled with unexpected tragedies. One moment everything is the way we had planned it to be and the next moment things are upside down. Often we are faced with unforeseen temptations that present choices we never thought we would have to face. But we do not face life alone. We have the protection of God, the power of the risen Christ and the presence of the Holy Spirit to rescue us from defeat.

We cannot avoid the trials or tragedies of life. Nor do we need to face them alone. God is there to protect and defend us. Victory is ours when our lives are in God's hands.

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BLT Pizza

1 tablespoon prepared mayonnaise
1/2 teaspoon sherry vinegar
1/4 teaspoon maple syrup
1 (10-ounce) ball of dough
2 ounces cheddar cheese, cut into small rectangles

4 slices bacon, cooked to about 75 percent doneness and cut up
1 small head romaine lettuce, chilled and sliced crosswise
8 heirloom cherry tomatoes, quartered lengthwise

Whisk together mayonnaise, vinegar and maple syrup to create dressing. Set aside.

Working on lightly-floured surface, form dough into 10-inch pizza. Distribute cheese and bacon on dough.

Transfer pizza to pizza peel and transfer to pizza oven or grill. Cook until cheese is melted and crust is browned.

Cooking in hot pizza oven takes less than 3 minutes. Cooking on grill at 500°F requires about 10 minutes.

Remove pizza; let cool for several minutes.

Slice into quarters; top with romaine lettuce and tomatoes.

Drizzle on dressing.

A snack perfect for back to school

1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1 cup quick oats (uncooked)
2 teaspoons baking soda
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice
1 1/4 cups thawed frozen pureed winter squash

3/4 cup firmly-packed light brown sugar
3/4 cup mashed banana
1 egg
2 tablespoons canola oil
1 cup dried cranberries

Preheat oven to 350°F. Prepare mini muffin pan with vegetable pan spray.

In large bowl, stir together flour, oats, baking soda, salt and pumpkin pie spice.

In medium bowl, whisk together squash, sugar, banana,

egg and oil. Make a well in center of flour mixture; whisk in squash mixture until just combined. Stir in cranberries.

Fill cavities 2/3 full with batter. Bake 12-14 minutes or until toothpick inserted into center of muffin comes out clean.

Recipes courtesy of

familyfeatures

Reach. Engage.

EPA proposes restrictions on wood-burning stoves

The Environmental Protection Agency’s proposed restrictions on emissions from wood-burning stoves are being criticized in rural areas, where residents are more likely to rely on the stoves for heat and water, Tim Marema reports for the Daily Yonder. Rural areas burn twice as much wood for heat as urban areas, according to a report by George Mason University.

“The proposed rule will lower the emissions standard for all new woodstoves to 4.5 grams per hour of operations, according to Chimney Sweep News,” Marema writes “The standard is currently 7.5 grams per hours for stoves without catalytic converters and 4.1 for catalytic stoves. The new standard will not differentiate between the two types of stoves. Five to eight years after the new rule is implemented, the standard would drop to 1.3 grams per hour.”

Stonehill College economics professor Sean Mulholland wrote in an opinion piece in U.S. News and World Report that “the claim that the tighter standards will improve human health doesn’t take into account that most wood for heat gets burned in rural areas. Most of the emissions reductions will take place in rural areas with low population densities. The rule overestimates total health benefits realized by averaging these reductions across all U.S. residents. So a reduction in particulates in the rural community of Forest City, Maine, has the same estimated value as a reduction in the densely-populated urban city of Oakland, Calif.

Jack Goldman, president and CEO of the Hearth, Patio and Barbecue Association, said at an EPA hearing, “This is an industry populated overwhelmingly by small businesses. All but a handful of our manufacturers qualify as a small business. Because our industry’s health is very closely tied to new home building and remodeling, these businesses are just beginning to emerge from a horrendous recession. They are in no position to invest the relatively huge amounts that this proposal will require for research, testing, certification and retooling plants.”

In a letter to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, Republican Sen. John Thune of South Dakota wrote: “The rule would have a disproportionate impact on South Dakota families who rely on wood stoves to heat their homes. . . . With the recent propane shortage throughout South Dakota and many areas of the country, the last thing the EPA should be doing is making it harder and more expensive for families to heat their homes.”

But advocates say new rules will be good for consumers. John Ackerly, president of the Alliance for Green Heat, wrote on the group’s Facebook page: “Few people argue that the 1988 regulations were bad for con-

sumers, and in five years, few will argue that these were. Cleaner, higher efficiency appliances will end up selling much better, even if they are a little more

expensive, because fuel savings in any appliance always outweigh a bump in purchase price.”
From the Rural Blog (rjci.blogspot.com)



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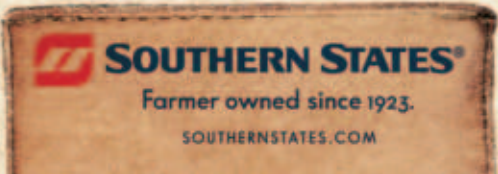
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of The Farmer's Pride**

Comer announces for governor

FROM PAGE 1

he would push to revamp Kentucky's tax code in a bid to improve the state's economic competitiveness. Comer said he wants to eliminate the state's individual income tax and lower the corporate income tax rate as part of an overhaul.

Talk of redoing the tax system has gone on for years, but action has been limited to targeted changes in the tax code.

"I think we can do some things in this state, with bold leadership from the governor, to make Kentucky a more competitive state to attract good-paying jobs, and I think I'm the man that can do it," he said.

Comer said he also would promote right-to-work legislation and efforts to lower workers' compensation costs.

Comer, a farmer, was elected state agriculture commissioner in 2011 amid a Democratic wave for other statewide offices.

Comer inherited an agriculture department shaken by scandals involving the previous agriculture commissioner, Richie Farmer.

Farmer, a former University of Kentucky basketball player, pleaded guilty to government corruption charges and is serving a 27-month sentence in federal prison.

During his tenure, Comer closed an agriculture department fuel lab that he called a waste of money. The lab's equipment was sold at auction and the money was returned to the state. Comer also has championed efforts to put Kentucky at the forefront of efforts to revive hemp as a crop.

Comer's department sued the federal government in May to force the release of imported hemp seeds that were held up by customs officials. The legal standoff ended when federal drug officials approved a permit allowing limited experimental plantings in the state to let researchers study the crop.

Both political parties are bracing for a hard-fought race to succeed Beshear, who is in his second term. Governors are limited to two terms in Kentucky.

By Bruce Schreiner
Associated Press

ANDREWS: We're racing to find data...

FROM PAGE 3

it will be assumed that it is," Burchett said.

EPA uses TMDLs (total maximum daily load) to regulate nutrients and that can impact Kentucky farms, he said.

"This is something that is going to be important on your farm—the way you are managing nutrients, the way you rotate your crops, your conservation practices," he said. "We have to be engaged. If we're not we really won't like what comes out."

Andrews shared an experience working on TMDLs for Floyd's Fork in Jefferson and five other counties.

"We're racing to find data because if we don't have a good handle on what we are putting on and what is coming off, they will create some sort of mathematical equation that tells them that for you," Andrews said. "I want to talk about how bad that can go wrong."

EPA consultants used the amount of nitrogen brought into Jefferson County and the number of acres of farmland to determine the amount of nitrogen runoff. They came up with a number of 6,000 pounds per acre and assumed that all of it washed into streams.

"This number comes from Jefferson County where there happens to be a fertilizer hub," Andrews said.

Andrews said they first heard the number in the summer of 2011. In the fall of 2012,

after four rewrites and half a dozen formal responses apposing the number, it remained in the EPA data.

"That's how bad things can go. This needs to be a two-day process, not a four-year process," Andrews said. The number has finally been revised, and now the 6,000 pounds number has been reduced to 28 pounds of nitrogen available for runoff per cropland acre.

"That's what it's going to take—having good data, being able to prove what you do, being willing to tell what you do," Andrews said, adding they also learned that having paid staff like him and Burchett at the table alone does not work.

"It's going to take you guys, sitting down with them," he said.

The Floyd's Fork data had to be correct because it will probably be a model to develop TMDLs across Kentucky, Andrews said.

"They wanted the biggest number in which to regulate. We want an accurate number," Andrews said.

One way producers can help is to make sure they have an Agriculture Water Quality Plan, which is required by state law for producers with 10 acres or more used for agriculture or silviculture purposes.

Contact your local Extension or NRCS office to start your Ag Water Quality Plan.

By Sharon Burton
snburton@duo-county.com



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Opening bids at elevators and processing plants.

7/31/14 4:00 pm est
Bids for next day
Cash Bids
Corn #2 Yellow
Corn #2 White
Soybeans #1 Y
Wheat #2 SRW
Barley

Louisville	Pennyrile	Purchase	Bluegrass	Green River	Northern KY
3.61-3.75	3.72-3.89	3.52-3.72	3.39-3.60	3.87	3.86
11.86-12.48	12.06-12.24	12.11-12.21	11.49-12.05	12.26	12.97
4.36-4.85	4.96-5.01	4.81-4.91	4.67-4.90	4.96	5.20

New Crop Delivery Contract

Louisville	Pennyrile	Purchase	Bluegrass	Green River	Northern KY
3.32-3.34	3.47-3.62	3.39-3.52	3.27	3.52	3.38
10.19-10.55	10.58-10.71	10.81-10.83	10.41	10.76	10.87
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Weekly Feed
Ingredient Price
Wholesale prices, \$ per ton
Rail or Truck FOB Location

Owensboro
Grain
8/01/2014

Soybean Meal 48% Sol
Soybean Hulls
Corn Distillers Grain Dried
Distillers Grain Modified
Distillers Grain Wet
Corn Condensed Solubles
Corn Gluten Feed 20-21 pct
Corn Gluten Meal 60 pct
Cottonseed Meal 41 pct
Whole Cottonseed
Wheat Middlings

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Agri-Energy
Hopkinsville
8/01/2014

USDA ESTIMATED DAILY LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

	CATTLE	CALVES	HOGS	SHEEP
Thurs 7/31/2014 (est)	115,000	2,000	405,000	9,000
Week Ago (est)	115,000	2,000	393,000	8,000
Year Ago (act)	119,000	2,000	413,000	10,000
Week to Date (est)	451,000	8,000	1,603,000	35,000
Same Pd Lt Week (est)	458,000	8,000	1,558,000	33,000
Same Pd Lt Yr (act)	484,000	12,000	1,589,000	37,000

Upcoming Events

KENTUCKY STATE FAIR AUGUST 14 - 24
LOUISVILLE, KY

Eastern Cornbelt Ethanol
Plant Report
8/01/2014
Indiana Ohio Illinois

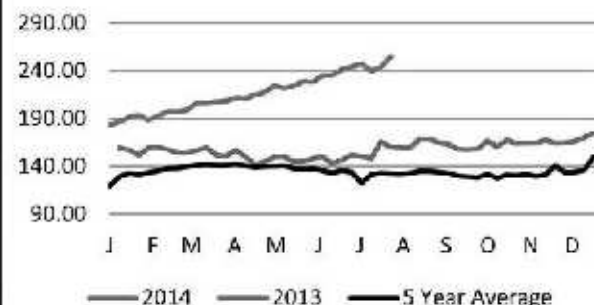
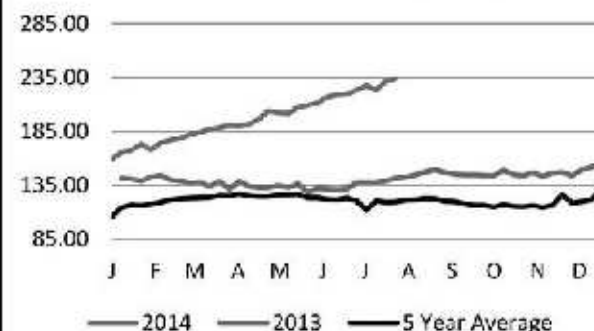
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07/25/14	19,258
08/01/14	19,183

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Saturday, Aug. 23rd • 9 a.m.

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Blue Grass Stockyard

Lexington, KY

July 28 & 29, 2014

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1

23 hd. 544# 248.00 blk

54 hd. 737# 225.75 blk

60 hd. 856# 210.75 mixed

55 hd. 916# 211.00 blk

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1

76 hd. 657# 223.50 blk-smokes

75 hd. 680# 224.10 charx-red-blk

68 hd. 681# 223.75 bwf

70 hd. 742# 211.50 blk

63 hd. 747# 210.25 mixed

69 hd. 765# 211.95 blk-charx

Russell County Stockyards

Russell Springs, KY

July 30, 2014

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

46 hd. 691# 244.75 blk

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

82 hd. 647# 234.00 blk-charx

81 hd. 692# 228.25 blk-charx

United Producers Owenton

Owenton, KY

July 30, 2014

Holstein Steers: Large 3

57 hd. 908# 167.75

Blue Grass of Campbellsville

Campbellsville, KY

July 30, 2014

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

63 hd. 812# 216.00 blk-charx

Holstein Steers: Large 3

82 hd. 617# 197.00

42 hd. 736# 182.50

Washington Co. Livestock

Springfield, KY

July 28, 2014

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

23 hd. 534# 270.75

32 hd. 810# 269.90

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

44 hd. 490# 269.90 blk

Blue Grass of Richmond

Richmond, KY

July 25, 2014

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

92 hd. 563# 266.00 blk-charx

55 hd. 746# 229.50 blk-charx

64 hd. 871# 212.00 mixed

110 hd. 948# 208.10 blk-charx

99 hd. 962# 207.00 blk-charx-red

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

77 hd. 643# 234.00 blk-charx

43 hd. 681# 220.00 blk

United Producers Bowling Green

Bowling Green, KY

July 29, 2014

Feeder Bulls: Medium & Large 1-2

20 hd. 508# 245.00 blk

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

31 hd. 506# 232.00 blk

Farmers Livestock

Flemingsburg, KY

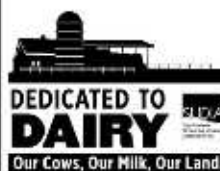
July 28, 2014

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

75 hd. 724# 238.00 blk

62 hd. 825# 216.75 mixed

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- Heifers were A.I. bred to the Select Sires Angus bull FORWARD 6025 7AN366
- Black Angus clean up bulls were used with heifer acceptable CE scores
- All heifers had to meet or exceed 160 sq. cm. pelvic area
- Pelvic area was age adjusted to one year of age on all heifers
- All heifers have data available on intra-muscular fat

Heifers were assembled in October 2013 and have remained together and developed under the guidelines from Dr. Les Anderson, UK Extension Beef Specialist.

All sale heifers are source verified and farm raised.

Guaranteed bred for 60 days after the sale

Free delivery for purchases of 10 or more up to 200 miles.

Health records, sire information and heifer information will be provided in a sale catalog.

Catalog will be available on sale day.

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Charles May
Perry Co. Extension Office
(606) 436-2044



Larry Clay
D & D Ranch
(606) 438-9914

Heifer data can be viewed at <http://ces.ca.uky.edu/perry>.

Click on the AG & Natural Resource link

Sale can be watched at www.cattleusa.com

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TRACTORS: FD 3000 diesel, MF 35 gas, JD 345 lawn mower, 2) Farnall Super A w/cult, IH 140 w/ fast hitch, JD 2020 salvage, Case 1845C w/forks, bucket, & extra tires rims, JD 4310 hydro 4x4, IH 1086 cab, IH 84 hydro w/ 2250 loader, JD 830, Agco GT35 4x4 33ers, Case IH 385, MF 255, JD 4000, Long 310, FD 5000, NH 4580 turbo w/loader, JD 5900, MF 245 diesel (smokes), MF 1100 cab, MF 1085 cab, Kubota L245H wheel, IH 140 wheel.

HAY EQUIPMENT: Haybuster 2650 male processor, Vermeer 554X1 rd baler, JD 670 dolly rake, Heaton 540 rd baler, NH 273 sq baler, Vermeer 5400 noble rd baler, Case IH 551 rd baler, Krone 250B rd baler (no controls), JD 535 rd baler, Vermeer 5410 rd baler, Vermeer 504H rd baler, Bumper hitch 6-Bale trailer, Gehl 1875 rd bldr, 2) JD 350 sickle mowers, 2) IH 1300 sickle mowers, 3) NH 451 sickle mowers, Kuhn 10-bale accumulator, 2) NH 477 haybines, NH 411 discbine, NH 855 rd baler, Vermeer 605F rd baler, Agco 1006 disc mower, Agco 4-basket hyd field tedder, Kuhn grad 700 disc mower, NH 268 sq baler.

MISC: KK 6' grader box, Bushhog 307, Woods B315 harrow, 3) Dump wagons, WW cattle chute, 2) IH 10' wheel discs, Woods 3240 harrow, NH 3622 spreader, Taylor Way 3pt 8x chisel plow, 2) Bestway 900 gal sprayers, JD 48 loader, Case IH 520 loader, Woods 3180 harrow, 1000 plo, Haybuster 147 drill w/small seed box, Barnhard 835 mill, Noble 8-row cult, Ritchie Bestway Field Pro II 750 sprayer, Hyd fold chain harrow, Holland 3 row transplanter, 3pt hyd fold field cult, DR 3pt chopper, JD 616 bushhog, BarCut chopper, 14sp kohler bumper hitch, Case 8' wheel disc, 8x Disc chisel, NH 324 picker, 2) NH 323 pickers, IH 40 hyd blade, H&S 2202 tandem spreader, NH 3639 tandem spreader, MF 3pt 6' disc, MF & JD 2x plows, Arctway silencer 800, Harli 500 gal sprayer tandem axle, JD R spreader, JD 40 spreader, JD 145 loader, JD 35 hyd blade, JD 4-row cult, 2) Shaver 8" post drivers, IH 720 chopper w/ corn head, Line body fat truck, JD 370 coresder, E-Z flow w/seed box, NH 4622 spreader, Bushhog 5' 3pt, 3pt 2-row cult & side dresser, 84" Grapple bucket, Brilliant 10' seed stand seeder, Landpide 6' grader blade, Bushhog 2415 harrow, Bushhog 6' pull type, JD 1560 10' drill w/ small seed, Shaver 8" hyd post driver, Danuser post driver, 10' Cultipacker, AC 2300 wheel disc, Hawse 5' bushhog (new), DMI center dump wagon, Bobcat 609 backhoe attachment, 2) JD 609 bushhogs, Woods MD 315 harrow, JD 8300 drill w/small seed.

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AUCTION/MARKET

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

Blue Grass South

Stanford, KY
July 28 & 31, 2014

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

27 hd. 670# 244.00 blk-charx
54 hd. 680# 242.75 blk-charx
60 hd. 818# 222.00 blk
64 hd. 816# 213.50 mixed
59 hd. 830# 208.75 mixed
25 hd. 833# 221.00 blk-charx
81 hd. 837# 213.00 mixed
57 hd. 851# 213.75 mixed
60 hd. 928# 205.00 blk
63 hd. 931# 203.75 blk-charx

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

97 hd. 588# 244.74 blk
395 hd. 599# 247.80 blk
244 hd. 608# 245.00 charx
79 hd. 636# 237.50 blk-bbwf
61 hd. 817# 210.85 blk

Blue Grass of Albany

Albany, KY
July 30, 2014

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

57 hd. 853# 217.90 mixed

Video Receipts:

70 hd. 750# 228.00 blk steers
126 hd. 825# 219.80 blk steers
62 hd. 830# 216.00 blk steers
61 hd. 850# 215.25 blk steers
63 hd. 800# 220.00 blk steers
72 hd. 725# 210.50 blk heifers

KY-TN Livestock Auction

Guthrie, KY
July 31, 2014

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

26 hd. 473# 251.00 bbwf
45 hd. 543# 246.00 bbwf
37 hd. 639# 222.25 bbwf

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

85 hd. 483# 245.50 bbwf
63 hd. 557# 224.00 bbwf

Feeder Bulls: Medium & Large 1-2

62 hd. 454# 260.00 bbwf
29 hd. 560# 230.00 bbwf

Blue Grass East

Mt. Sterling, KY
July 30, 2014

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1

18 hd. 682# 238.00 blk-charx
51 hd. 745# 230.00 blk-charx
44 hd. 794# 229.00 mixed
102 hd. 806# 230.00 charx-blk-red
20 hd. 849# 224.75 blk
87 hd. 871# 215.10 mixed
60 hd. 945# 211.85 blk-smokes
50 hd. 1030# 199.60 mixed

Holstein Steers: Large 3

70 hd. 728# 192.75

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1

22 hd. 677# 229.75 blk-charx

Paris Stockyards

Paris, KY

July 31, 2014

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

22 hd. 419# 286.00 blk-charx-red
28 hd. 490# 270.00 blk-charx-red
42 hd. 564# 268.00 blk-charx
33 hd. 679# 243.50 blk-charx
41 hd. 772# 224.50 blk-charx
53 hd. 850# 216.75 blk-charx
46 hd. 872# 214.00 blk

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

31 hd. 470# 265.50 blk-charx
21 hd. 476# 275.50 blk-charx-red
40 hd. 604# 238.75 blk-charx-red
24 hd. 730# 225.00 blk-charx

Mid-KY Livestock Market

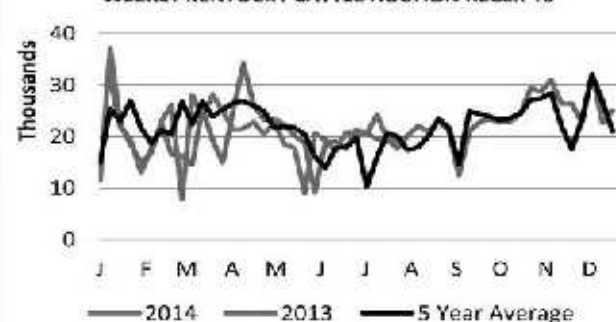
Upton, KY

July 29, 2014

Feeder Bulls: Medium & Large 1-2

27 hd. 355# 264.50 blk
24 hd. 424# 269.50 mixed
16 hd. 512# 246.50 blk
20 hd. 828# 216.00 blk

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FOR SALE: Eleven fresh Holstein heifers, carrying ET calves; available at calving June 4 to Aug. 14. Call Jim Davenport at 270-772-0286 or 270-539-9072. Adairville, Ky. 8/21

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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: Vermeer R23 twin rake, excellent condition. Call 270-789-0943. Elkhorn, Ky. 8/7

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FOR SALE: Gehl 1275 chopper, tandem axel, hydraulic tongue, 3 row corn head, grass head, direct truck load and wagon capability, inoculant applicator. Call 270-865-3919. Loretto, Ky. 8/21

FOR SALE: Miller/Badger 15 ft. side dump forage wagon, flotation tires, large screen top. Call 270-865-3919. Loretto, Ky. 8/21

FOR SALE: NH FP230 chopper, Kernnel processor rollers, direct truck load and wagon capability, newly rebuilt, 3 row corn head, tandem axel and hydraulic tongue. Call 270-865-3919. Loretto, Ky. 8/21

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Reports to help producers prepare for new farm bill programs

WASHINGTON — U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency Administrator Juan M. Garcia announced Friday that farmers should start receiving notices updating them on their cur-

rent base acres, yields and 2009-2012 planting history. The written updates are an important part of preparing agricultural producers for the new safety net programs established by the 2014

Farm Bill.

"We're sending these reports to make sure that farmers and ranchers have key information as they make critical decisions about programs that impact their livelihood," said Garcia. "It's important that producers take a few minutes to cross check the information they receive with their own farm records. If the information is correct, no further action is needed at this time. But if our letter is incomplete or incorrect, producers need to contact their local FSA county office as soon as possible."

Verifying the accuracy of data on a farm's acreage history is an important step for producers enrolling in the upcoming Agriculture Risk Coverage program and the Price Loss Coverage program.

Later this summer, farmers and ranchers will have an opportunity to update their crop yield information and reallocate base acres.

"We're working hard to prepare and educate farmers on the new programs

created by the 2014 farm bill," added Garcia. "I encourage producers to bring their USDA notice to any scheduled appointments with the local FSA county office. This will help ensure they have the information they need with them to discuss the available program options."

By mid-winter all producers on a farm will be required to make a one-time, unanimous and irrevocable election between price protection and county revenue protection or individual revenue protection for 2014-2018 crop years. Producers can expect to sign contracts for ARC or PLC for the 2014 and 2015 crop years in early 2015.

Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium grain rice (includes short grain rice and temperate japonica rice), safflower seed, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed, and wheat. Upland cotton is no longer a covered commodity.

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Short Bred: (2-3 years old, 1-4 months bred) Supreme 1300-1600# 1600.00-1675.00, Approved 1200-1400# 1425.00-1550.00, Medium 950-1200# 1375.00, Common 800-1100# 1050.00-1075.00.

Open Heifers: 150-200# Supreme 460.00, 200-300# Supreme 460.00-625.00, Approved 360.00, 300-400# Supreme 610.00-650.00, Approved 535.00, Medium 360.00, 400-500# Supreme 825.00, Approved 635.00-650.00, 500-600# Supreme 1025.00, Approved 750.00-760.00, 600-700# Supreme 1135.00-1275.00.

Holstein Steers: 200-300# 215.00-237.50, 600-700# 174.00, 700-800# 170.00.

Hol. Heifer Calves: Small 140.00-200.00, Medium and Large 240.00-370.00 per head.

Hol. Bull Calves: Small 90.00-170.00, Medium and Large 200.00-310.00 per head.

S.L. Cows: Breaker 75-80 percent lean 1100-1800# 107.00-112.00, H.Dr. 113.00-121.00, L.Dr. 102.00-106.00, Boner 80-85 percent lean 1100-1400# 104.00-110.00, H.Dr. 111.00-118.00, L.Dr. 100.00-103.00, Lean 85-90 percent lean 1000-1300# 100.00-105.00, H.Dr. 107.00-111.00, L.Dr. 94.00-98.00, Lights 85-90 percent lean 750-1000# 80.00-85.00, H.Dr. 87.00-97.00, L.Dr. 68.00-76.00.

S.L. Bulls: Y.G. 1-2 1400-2300# 124.00-131.00, H.Dr. 132.00-141.00, L.Dr. 113.00-120.00.

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WATER REGS: Ag industry works toward data-driven models



Adam Andrews, programs director with the Kentucky Corn Growers, talked about water quality regulations in Kentucky.

FROM PAGE 1

have soil and manure tested, with limits based on university recommendations, McGrath said.

“The recommendations are pretty accurate, they are just imprecise. In other words, over a 20-year average our recommendations are dead on what you need on average year after year. But any given year, they are completely wrong,” he said.

McGrath said the farm community needs to admit that some runoff is necessary in the production of the world’s food supply.

“Don’t say I don’t pollute; say I have N and P that leave my farm but I manage it to minimize it and maximize produc-

tion,” he said.

McGrath said he once asked an EPA employee involved in CAFOs (confined animal feeding operations) why there is a zero discharge set on the poultry industry.

“It’s the only industry with zero discharge under CAFO,” McGrath said. “They said, ‘It’s because the poultry industry told us that no N and P left their farm and we are going to hold them to it.’”

While data will be used to create laws, McGrath warned that the regulations are coming anyway.

“I wouldn’t be terrified of the government boogeyman. He’s not coming to take away your farm,” he said. “There are things happening that are not good

for farms and there are people out there...there’s a spectrum...if you take a reasoned, data-driven approach I think you can control your destiny,” he said.

STATE-LEVEL ACTIVITY

Adam Andrews, program director with the Kentucky Corn Growers Association, and Brent Burchett, program director with the Kentucky Soybean Association, gave producers an update on state-level activity to regulate water quality and nutrient management.

Burchett said farmers want to address any problem they may be causing and the state’s associations are providing research to help identify sources of nutrients in waterways.

The association is tracking the source of nitrogen to see if it is coming from agriculture or from a human source, such as a municipal sewer district, he said.

“That’s important for us to prove, because if we don’t prove it’s not from us,

SEE **ANDREWS**, PAGE 14

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A young boy with short brown hair, wearing a red polo shirt and blue jeans, is smiling and holding a small black and white rabbit. The background is a solid green color.

Run, farmers, run!



ONE
VOICE

Sharon
Burton

Both of these speakers developed their attitudes toward government based on their own experiences.

Distrusting the federal government just comes naturally for farmers. Whether it's from experience or from a heritage of minding your own business and hoping others will do the same, farmers like to go the other way when they see federal officials headed their way.

During a field day at Princeton last week, producers were told they can no longer run away when it comes to water quality regulations and nutrient management planning.

Of course, farmers haven't been free to do as they please for quite some time now. The future will look much different, however, with producers told how much and when they can apply nutrients to their soil.

Speakers during the water quality seminar had different levels of trust.

Josh McGrath, an extension soils specialist at the UK College of Agriculture, worked at the University of Maryland as regulations were developed for the Chesapeake Bay area.

You would think McGrath would say, "run, farmers, run," after being part of that fiasco. On the contrary, however, he told farmers they shouldn't be "terrified of the government boogeyman. He's not coming to take away your farm."

Adam Andrews, programs director with the Kentucky Corn Growers Association, was a little more paranoid.

He used terms like conspiracy theory and insanity. Andrews said he believed the EPA consultants working on the Floyd's Fork TMDLs (Total Maximum Daily Load) purposely wanted to create a model using the biggest number they could in which to regulate.

The agriculture industry, Andrews said, wanted an accurate number.

Both of these speakers developed their attitudes toward government based on their own experiences. They have been in the trenches fighting to make sure farmers are fairly represented and farm practices are fairly reflected in any regulation developed to protect water quality.

They agreed on many things, but perhaps the most important is the need for producers to be part of the conversation, and part of the data used to develop regulations.

It's good to know that our land-grant universities and our

SEE **RUN**, PAGE 7

The African slate is not blank

In the talk of William Easterly at the World Affairs Council of Northern California, he ended his talk by declaring that the principles of development have been wrong. "It's a myth that the technocratic solution is a solution. It's a myth that the blank slate is blank. It's a myth that benevolent autocrats are benevolent." He then said, "If the ideas are wrong, we have now a battle of ideas" and called for a debate.

We'd like to engage in the debate by first agreeing with his myths for the most part and congratulate him on his courage to so openly discuss them. We will focus on the first two myths—the technocratic solution and the blank slate. Only we would put them in the reverse order and start with the myth of the blank slate, because we have a slightly different take on Easterly's blank state characterization with regard to Africa's experience with democratic decision making and structures.

Let's start with Easterly's "favorite example of a technocratic dictator." Using the example of Ethiopia, working backward from Meles, Easterly said, "Why is Ethiopia so poor? Could it have something to do with Meles Zenawi's 20 years of autocratic rule, preceded by 30 years of a previous autocratic ruler, preceded by Haile Selassie, preceded by other indigenous autocrats, preceded by the slave trade which oppressed Ethiopia for so long? It's all a very long history of autocracy (which) is part of the reason that Ethiopia is poor. The autocrat is not the solution to Ethiopia's poverty; he is the cause of Ethiopia's poverty."

Later on in his talk, Easterly said, "One sad thing about autocracy is that a history of autocracy often leads to more autocracy. So a long history of colonial autocracy set the stage for indigenous autocracy by the new rulers of Africa. There was no democratic tradition to go on and so the new rulers of Africa were also autocrats."

That statement is the Easterly's blank slate problem with which we want to respectively disagree. There is a long democratic tradition in the Ethiopian Empire, just not among the Abyssinian (Amhara and Tigray) national groups that have ruled the country since Menelik's colonization of more than 70 other nationalities as a part of the Scramble for Africa in the late 19th century. Today, Ethiopia is the only empire in sub-Saharan Africa that has not been decolonized. In fact, Ethiopia has been a neocolonial state since its inception.



DARRYL E.
RAY

University of
Tennessee
Ag Policy

Today, Ethiopia is the only empire in sub-Saharan Africa that has not been decolonized.

SEE **THE AFRICAN**, PAGE 6

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Operation Main Street



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spreading the
message and
securing the
future of our
industry.

In 2004, the Pork Checkoff launched Operation Main Street, an intensive training program for producers to help spread the message about the pork industry. This program helps producers across the country upgrade the pork industry's image starting at the vital local level.

Producers who participate in Operation Main Street gain public speaking experience, receive training on how to deliver a positive industry message to media and the public, and walk away ready for public presentations. Participants also receive updates on emerging issues facing the pork industry, and have the opportunity to connect with other producers. As of June 30, 2010, more than 790 speakers have been trained to give presentations.

REACHING OUT

Producers aren't the only beneficiaries of Operation Main Street. Research shows that having producers promoting a positive image is paying off for the pork industry.

Operation Main Street speakers say they have had a positive impact by telling the industry's story of innovation, quality and environmental stewardship. According to a survey of 9,888 audience members, 81 percent of the audience left the presentation with a positive impression when it comes to the pork industry.

TAKING IT ON THE ROAD

Are you ready to take it on the road? Operation Main Street trainings are available all over the country. Entertaining and supportive educators will assist and train you to develop your public speaking skills, as well as inform you about current issues facing the industry. Pork producers are an integral part of spreading the message and securing the future of our industry. Ensure that your community is aware about the positive aspects of the pork industry.

If you are interested in participating in Operation Main Street and attending one of the training presentations, call the Pork Checkoff Service Center at 800-456-PORK or email Ernie Barnes at ebarnes@pork.org.

We must continue telling our story so if you would like to be trained as a presenter for your local church or civic clubs etc. please contact the State Office 270-737-5665.

Recognizing the importance of this program the KPPA Board has agreed to reimburse you for your mileage to and from your presentation.

The Kentucky State Fair is Aug. 14-24 in Louisville. The swine shows are scheduled for Aug. 19-24. When you come to the fair be sure and stop by any of the five KPPA serving booths which are located in the Commodity Tent, Freedom Hall, South Wing B, South Wing C and in front of Freedom Hall on the Circle.

BILL COCHRAN is the president of Kentucky Pork Producers Association.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor are wel- 500 words and will be edited for comed. Letters must include the clarity.
author's name, address and phone Send letters to Editor, The
number for verification purposes. Farmer's Pride, P. O. Box 159, Co-
Letters should be no longer than lumbia, Ky. 42728.

Going to school during recess

As the calendar turns to August, Congress turns to recess. What, our federal legislators haven't earned a five-week furlough after 90 or so days of sweaty inaction since January?

In preparation for their stopovers in fly-over country, farmers, ranchers and foodies should read "Packing Political Punch in Rural America," six-part online series, on, literally, the lay of the farm and food political landscape in today's badly fractured Washington, D.C.

Authored by Sara Wyant, Agri-Pulse Communication's editor and publisher, the series dives into the changing demographics of rural America and how those changes have changed the way farm and food lobbyists and advocates work Capitol Hill.

(Links to the four completed reports are posted at <http://www.agri-pulse.com/> or links to individual reports are at <http://farmandfoodfile.com/in-the-news/>. The final two reports will be posted on Agri-Pulse's website the weeks of Aug. 3 and Aug. 10.)

For example, the series' first report reminds readers that the foundation for all federal farm policy was laid in bipartisanship: in 1933, the newly-elected president, Franklin Roosevelt, an ardent Democrat, chose an Iowa Republican, Henry A. Wallace, to serve as his secretary of agriculture.

Over the years that bipartisanship frayed as America's connection to farming and rural America lengthened. In 1960, writes Wyant, ag-based Iowa had eight members of the House of Representatives, the same as Florida. Today, Iowa has four, Florida 27. That math is as simple as it is overwhelming.

Moreover, Wyant continues, America's "non-metro" population now stands at 46.2 million, or about 15 percent of the national total, "spread across 72 percent of the nation's land area." Interesting, too, 2010 to 2012 marked "the first time there was an estimated population loss for non-metro America as a whole."

Those shifts change Congress and change how Congress sees farmers and ranchers, explains Wyant. Today's more urban-based Congress naturally tilts more toward food programs than farm programs.

Another change is redistricting; it has created highly "safe" seats—many rural and many Republican—observes former Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman.

For 18 years before leading the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Glickman served as the Democratic congressman from Kansas' Fourth District, a mixture of rural and urban centers. That "blending," he notes, "meant I had to build bridges that crossed party lines."

Today's "safe" seats have made bridges unnecessary and, because of that, Glickman tells Wyant, "The redistricting process has not helped agriculture." The explanation goes to the heart of the messy 2012/13 farm bill stalemate.

It also points to the need for new, more strategic coalitions to influence farm and food policy on Capitol Hill today. Farmers and ranchers, however, aren't known for their flexible policy positions, a "mentality," says Jon Doggett, the vice president of public policy for the National



**FOOD
&
FARM
FILE**

**Alan
Guebert**

Today's more
urban-based
Congress
naturally tilts
more toward
food
programs
than farm
programs.

Traders brace for a record crop



MARKET WATCH

Dewey Strickler

Bounces in corn since April have been brief. This has been the M.O. (modus operandi) for all of the rebounds in this long-term decline.

Crop conditions are good, although they fell one point last week to 75 percent in good-to-excellent condition. A recent survey of traders showed that they expect a yield of 170.5 bushels per acre compared to USDA's current estimate of 165.3 bushels per acre.

Ag Watch's yield model puts the yield at 168 bushels per acre. Export inspections last week were 31.7 bushels per acre, below the average needed to reach USDA's target of 1.9 billion bushels. Current shipments reflect that they may fall slightly short of their projection.

Last week, the trend following funds sold 95 million bushels of corn, putting them short 20 million bushels. This is their first short position since February. Looking ahead, the crop report on August 12th will be the next mover and shaker in the grains.

Soybeans have been on the downswing since June as traders brace for a record crop.

For the past several weeks, China's interest has exclusively been for new crop soybeans. Inspections last week were 4.1 million bushels with China absent for old crop shipments. Last week, the crop rating for soybeans fell two points to 71 percent

in good-to-excellent condition. This was the largest point drop for this season.

However, the tendency is for the ratings to decline from July through harvest. Looking at the forecast into August, no inflammatory weather is on the horizon.

In other developments, the trend following funds increased their short futures position 45 million bushels last week to 330 million bushels, a new record.

Wheat is featureless as there is not a great deal of fresh news. Harvest is winding down at 83 percent complete, while 70 percent of the spring wheat crop is rated in good-to-excellent condition, unchanged from a week ago. Russian wheat remains a thorn in the side of U.S. wheat as their values continue to fall. Export inspections last week were lethargic at 14.5 million bushels and below the average needed to reach USDA's projection of 900 million bushels.

At the current pace of shipments, we will fall 75 million bushels short of their target. In other developments, the trend following funds increased their short position 45 million bushels last week to 370 million bushels. With little fresh news on the horizon, look for wheat to follow the whims of corn and soybeans.

DEWEY STRICKLER is president of Ag Watch Market Advisors, LLC. Email Strickler at agwatchdls@comcast.net or go online at www.ag-watch.biz.

At the current pace of shipments, we will fall 75 million bushels short of their target.

Going to school during a recess

FROM PAGE 5

Corn Growers Association, that "does the opposite of what we need to do."

Today it's all about reaching out to bring new people and new players to agriculture's side, lobbyist Randy Russell tells Wyant.

"Organizations aren't going to survive very long or be very successful if all they are doing is talking to the 35 members of Congress that are primarily representing rural districts," he says.

The lengthy, well-sourced stories (the final two pieces will showcase 50 movers on tomorrow's ag policy scene and what they'll need to do to succeed) are filled with more insights and ideas on today's changing politics and what they mean for tomorrow's farmers and ranchers.

They also showcase Wyant's extensive skill as a shoe-leather reporter and her Rolodex of well-connected sources.

More importantly for us, Wyant purposely posted the series in front—not behind—Agri-Pulse's online pay-wall "to spark a conversation by farmers and foodies alike on the new state of ag politics," she explained in a July 29 telephone interview.

Good thing, too, because while our hired hands are on recess, we can go to school on what we need to do.

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.

The African slate is not blank

FROM PAGE 4

It is true that the Abyssinians (constituting third or less of Ethiopia's peoples) do not have a tradition of democracy. But the largest nationality within Ethiopia is the Oromo. And the Oromo have a democratic tradition that can be traced back to at least the 14th century. They were governed by a democratic tradition called gadaa/siqqee long before Christopher Columbus "discovered the New World" and four centuries before the American Revolution. And it is not only the Oromo who have a long-standing democratic tradition, similar traditions can be found among many of the other non-Abyssinian nationalities in what today is called Ethiopia.

Under siqqee/gadaa, the Oromo established their laws and selected their leaders every eight years at a representative national assembly called gumi gayo or caffee Oromo. The leaders who were selected lead the Oromo for a period of 8 years at which time the gumi gayo reconvenes, reviews the laws, and selects a new

leader. Many Oromo groups were democratically governed in this manner until they were conquered and colonized by the Abyssinian ruler, Menelik II, who colonized the Oromo and others with the help of European colonial powers during the Scramble for Africa.

Like U.S. society until relatively recently, women were not included in the male leadership cycle called gadaa. Instead they had an institution called siqqee that provided them with significant economic control over their lives and protection from spousal abuse. Together the two institutions represent the democratic principles of Oromo society which Asafa Jalata and Harwood have called gadaa/siqqee (siqqee/gadaa). Without going into the details of this tradition, it is important to note that Oromo democracy included the election of leaders, the separation of powers, the involvement of the representative assembly in establishing of laws, and the right to recall leaders who abuse their power: all activities that were denied most Europeans of the time.

So when the representatives of European companies and monarchs arrived in the Horn of Africa in the 16th and 17th centuries, they recognized the monarchical traditions of the Abyssinians while characterizing the democratic traditions of nationalities like the Oromo as anarchy. They could make deals with a monarch or a warlord, but dealing with a democratic assembly was a much different proposition.

After the conquest of Menelik II, the Abyssinians did their best to suppress siqqee/gadaa among the Oromo because it represented a threat to their autocratic rule. Many have thought that the autocrats of the Ethiopian Empire had been successful over all but the hinterlands which were occupied by pastoralists. As the Oromo have talked about replacing the current autocratic government with one patterned on gadaa/siqqee, the question has often been one of the likelihood of being able to revive a tradition that has

SEE **THE AFRICAN**, NEXT PAGE



At its recent summer board meeting, the Kentucky Soybean Promotion Board elected its 2014-2015 executive committee. Keith Tapp, of Sebree, right, was named chairman. Davie Stephens, of Wingo, (center) was named vice chair, while Ryan Bivens, of Hodgenville, was elected secretary-treasurer. The Kentucky Soybean Board is comprised of four producer-directors appointed by the Kentucky Soybean Association, two Kentucky Farm Bureau appointed directors, and one Kentucky Department of Agriculture appointed director. In addition, Kentucky’s representatives to the American Soybean Association and United Soybean Board (both national organizations) serve on the board.

The African slate is not blank

FROM PAGE 4

been suppressed among most Oromo groups. A generation of young scholars has just begun to show that gadaa/siqqee has not died out, even in populous regions where the Abyssinians have sought to suppress anything Oromo—names, religion, language, culture, siqqee/gadaa—for over a century. While not having governmental functions, gadaa/siqqee has thrived in the social arena, even to the extent of maintaining an eight-year rotation of symbolic leaders. So, most of the peoples of Ethiopia are not bereft of a tradition of democracy. It is just that Western powers have supported the autocrats who have kept the empire at the top of the list of those with the highest level of hunger and malnutrition in the world. Usually, only Eritrea has a greater level of hunger. And it is not only in Ethiopia that the colonial powers failed to recognize democratic traditions because various Haalpulaar groups also democratically elected their local chiefs. Though the democratic traditions were not as robust among some African ethno-nationalities as among others, they are widespread and provide a foundation from which to start. The slate is not and was not blank. There are/were democratic traditions across the continent, just as there have been hereditary rulers like those in Europe. One key is to pay attention to what Easterly said when he told his audience that we, in the West, need to stop praising and funding autocratic leaders. We also need to give up the myth of the blank slate when it comes to development and indigenous knowledge. Harwood found a rich slate of knowledge among the people in Guédé Chantier Senegal during his visit

last February. That realization reminded him of the experience he had as a young pastor. Based on his seminary training, Harwood assumed it was his task to get his parishioners to do what he thought best, after all he was the “expert.” A member of his first church quickly disabused Harwood of that idea by saying, “Reverend, we are going to be here long after you are gone.” He soon learned that the task of leadership was to listen to people and their needs and with that knowledge enable them to live up to their full potential. And that was what happened in Guédé. Harwood actively listened to people and reflected back to them what he heard and how they might make connections among various ideas they had shared with him. He also shared some of the knowledge he has access to at the university. The result of his 2-week visit is a new mudbrick classroom in an elementary school, the revitalization of the local genetic resource center, interest in reviving the use of indigenous crops that are better suited to the conditions of the Sahel, and a desire to continue to move forward. Most of the resources needed were already present among various people in the community. And they have carried out and continue to work on projects well beyond anything that Harwood had in mind. They are looking forward to his return. The slate is not blank and those of us who work in development need to be humble enough to accept that fact. **DARYLL E. RAY** is the director of UT’s Agricultural Policy Analysis Center. *Cowritten with Harwood D. Schaffer. Research Assistant Professor, University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture.*

Run, farmers, run!

FROM PAGE 4

farm commodity organizations are staying on top of efforts to regulation inputs on the farm. They can only do their jobs, however, if producers are at the table with them. There’s never been a more important time to be involved. Your commodity groups are looking out for you and you need to be part of their voice and their strength. Producers also need to have an Agriculture Water Quality Plan. It’s the law, and it’s your protection when regulators come to your farm to see if you are in compliance. These EPA regulations are not going to go away. It’s not a matter of if, but when they come to your town. The models developed in places like Chesapeake Bay and Floyd’s Fork will affect everyone. If you aren’t involved with your commodity organizations, I urge you to get involved now.

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

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Deadline extended for emergency assistance

U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency Administrator Juan M. Garcia announced today that the enrollment deadline for the 2012 and 2013 Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) has been extended to Aug. 15, 2014. Originally, program sign-up was scheduled to end Aug. 1.

The new deadline gives livestock, honeybee, and farm-raised fish producers who experienced losses because of disease, adverse weather, wildfires or colony collapse disorder between Oct. 1, 2011 and Sept. 30, 2013, an additional two weeks to enroll in ELAP.

For more information contact your local FSA office.

“Because ELAP is an important safety net for key sectors of American agriculture, we’ve provided this two week extension so that producers can submit required documentation and apply for program benefits,” said Garcia.

Producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA service center or visit FSA’s website at www.fsa.usda.gov for additional information regarding ELAP.

Call 1-800-489-9454 and talk to Diana to get your ad in the Kentucky State Fair issue of The Farmer’s Pride

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