HOMETOWN NEWS FOR KENTUCKY'S FARM COMMUNITY

FEBRUARY 13, 2020

1-800-489-9454



BURLEY CO-OP VOTES

Burley Co-op board votes to distribute assets

Proposal would keep co-op alive

The board of directors of the Burley Tobacco Growers Cooperative has voted to remain in operation but to take steps to liquidate most of the organization's assets.

The board last week approved a plan that starts by distributing \$15 million to members by the end of 2020.

In addition, the board voted to sell its assets and distribute all but \$3.5 million to members, keeping the organization intact to provide services to future burley tobacco growers.

The vote comes after the co-op received a petition by a group of growers calling for a meeting of members to vote to dissolve the co-op. The petition, filed by attorney Nathan Billings, calls for a special meeting of members on April 8.

In addition, a separate lawsuit has been filed in Fayette County Circuit Court, also calling for dissolution of the organization and requesting to become a class action case.

Al Pedigo, president of the co-op, said he intends to honor Billings' request but that an annual meeting of members was already planned for March 27.

The co-op board's plan calls for the final distribution of all but \$3.5 million by Dec. 31, 2023.

"My goal has been to distribute assets with as small amount of legal fees as possible," Pedigo said.

The Burley Tobacco Growers Cooperative serves growers in Kentucky, Indiana, Missouri, Ohio and West Virginia. Bylaws currently require that members certify burley production annually before becoming a member.

Pedigo said the distribution plan would recognize 2019 growers as members but would distribute assets to producers who grew burley from 2015-2019.

"We have tried to be inclusive, and I think we have to be," Pedigo said.

Producers in 2019 would have voting rights and would be voting to make decisions about the distribution plan, but growers from 2015 would be considered to have property rights and would share in the distribution.

The Billings petition from members to dissolve the organization calls for funds to be distributed to producers

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Walmart enters into the beef supply chain

Industry warns of move to vertical integration

Walmart, the largest food retailer in the U.S., expanded its ownership in the food chain and opened a case-ready beef plant in Thomasville, Ga., in January.

The beef plant, operated by FPL Foods, will supply 500 Walmart stores in the region with "natural" Angus beef produced by the producer group 44 Farms in Texas.

Walmart contends that its move to provide an end-to-end supply chain will assure genetics, traceability, and hormone-free practices. Others question if the move is the beginning to the end of the nation's independent beef supply chain.

CoBank issued a press release last week under the headline "Walmart's entrance into beef supply chain not expected to drive near

SEE WALMART, PAGE 2



Photo by Lynn Pruett

Will Walmart's 2020 move into the beef processing business change the market for Kentucky heef?

Farmer's Pride Hometown news for Kentucky's farm community.

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Walmart could be a concern for beef producers

FROM PAGE 1

term changes to cattle industry."

For others, the move is seen as a first step to a vertical integration of the beef industry that eliminates independent producers and small family farms.

Jim Akers, chief operating officer of Blue Grass Stockyards, answered questions about this likely disruptive maneuver.

"Our goal is for the average, everyday farmer to stay in the game," Akers said.

Akers said beef producers should be concerned about Walmart's attempt to move up the supply chain.

"Don't be fooled, their goal and their history is supply chain management. It is far more difficult in the beef business than in many other commodities, but that is their goal," Akers said.

The new plant will cut and prepare steaks and roasts produced by Walmart's Angus beef supply chain and will be marketed as hormone-free, traceable and potentially of higher grade.

Will Sawyer, animal protein economist with CoBank, cited a report developed by CoBank and called Walmart's move "something of a test."

"While Walmart's new beef strategy could make waves for the industry in the future, in its current state we don't see it shifting the price and leverage dynamics of U.S. beef production," said Sawyer. "By our calculations, this new supply chain will account for less than 5 percent of Walmart's U.S. beef business and less than .5 percent of U.S. beef production."

Akers said Walmart's history of how they treat suppliers makes it difficult to see this as an opportunity. He is also concerned about claims to make the product appear to be safer or more appealing to the consumer.

"My hope is that we can find some middle ground on the claims they are trying to make on their product so the average producer here in the Southeast can sell their cattle in our markets and benefit from a new buyer," Akers said. "Most natural programs have to this point been somewhat contained, niche markets. This takes natural into the commodity arena and there simply aren't enough certified natural cattle to supply their demand. I believe that this is the point in history where they have to begin to help us educate the consumer that all American beef is good, wholesome, and safe."

While Walmart has operated on a business model based on being the price leader, Akers calls this a dynamic shift into a premium market.

"It will be interesting to see if they are willing to reward producers for the added recordkeeping, decreased production efficiency and liability involved in producing for a supplier of this nature," Akers said. "We have sold Kentucky cattle through our internet system that have been purchased by them and at least on the finished cattle side they seem willing to pay a premium."

The CoBank press release notes that Walmart sees an opportunity to move up the supply chain at a time of historically high margins for beef processors. Akers agrees that media reports indicate record profits for the packer and processor side of the industry for the past couple of years.

While there is concern about Walmart moving up the supply chain, the industry has not been stagnant in efforts to provide products for niche or premium markets.

"Here at Blue Grass we continue to evaluate these changes and figure out ways we can make new markets available to our customers without changing the way they do business," Akers said. "We have options for people who want to market their cattle with added claims like traceable, natural, NHTC, GAP and others

SEE WALMART'S, PAGE 3



Walmart's move into the beef market has producers concerned

FROM PAGE 2

as well as a new program for genetic verification through Top Dollar Angus."

Akers said the industry is constantly changing to meet consumer demands and he is attending a national meeting this week where this topic will be the forefront of discussion.

"We believe in the auction market system and open price discovery as the best method to sell any commodity and especially cattle," he said. "We have a great crew of young people who understand these programs and are here to help farmers who are interested in what it takes to produce and sell into these new programs."

Jess Peterson, executive vice president for the U.S. Cattlemen's Association, in an interview in The Counter, said that since Walmart is working with select suppliers, others who used to sell to Walmart would lose out.

"Before, the cattle were going into the regular bunch of cattle to be bid on, but now they're going directly, streamlined into Walmart. You create a little more supply-demand in one area but you run the risk for a vertically integrated model on the other," Peterson said. "Even producers who work with Walmart become vulnerable in the vertically-integrated system because the buyer can better control the price it pays."

Vertical integration "makes our guys nervous and rightly so," Peterson said.

CoBank's press release states that "U.S. cattle producers, feeders, and packers will not likely suffer any signifi-

cant near-term changes from Walmart's entry, but its success could lead Walmart to make a bigger move in the future. Other retailers will be watching how Walmart fares. Potential new entrants may also see opportunity to add value and capture margin, a reality that the rest of the supply chain should expect more of in the future."

By Lynn Pruett Field Reporter



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WHY BUY A SEPARATE ENGINE FOR EVERY SEASONAL OUTDOOR TASK?







THE EADMED'S DOIN

When the market demands



ONE

Sharon Burton

I trust my
fellow
Americans
much more
than I trust my
federal
government to
resolve the
issues of the
land.

recently saw an article that compared the cost of college tuition to the minimum wage, then compared that data to past decades. Obviously, the data showed a substantial increase in tuition versus a much smaller increase in minimum wage.

At first I thought the comparison was insightful, then I realized I was being manipulated.

The government-declared minimum wage has not changed in more than a decade, but less than 1 percent of Americans who are paid an hourly rate are paid minimum wage (Another 1 percent reports they are paid less than minimum wage but they are compensated further with tips).

Check out the payscales of what were once considered entry-level jobs, the retail food industry. I just recently saw a Taco Bell advertising jobs at \$16 an hour.

I'm not saying tuition isn't eating students' ability to pay off debt once they enter the workforce, I just don't appreciate data that is misleading. I really did want to see data that compares the cost of a college education today to past years based on incomes, but that's not what I found.

I doubt there is a farmer in the nation paying anyone minimum wage these days, except maybe to their 10-year-old son or daughter (they are more likely to be paid in calves, however).

Employee wages are dictated by the marketplace, and all employers know they have to pay quite a bit more than minimum wage to hire quality people.

To me, that says the marketplace is working and the government doesn't need to fix something that isn't broken.

I only wish we would look at the needed changes in our country through the marketplace lens before we start getting government involved.

The farming industry is hearing from consumers who want this or don't want that as part of their food supply. Whether the issue is environmental or animal health, does government really need to add more regulations? Not when the marketplace takes care of the concerns because of consumer demand.

When the government imposes change it usually goes overboard and it always has adverse affects. When consumers talk, however, the marketplace listens.

When we rely on the government to solve our problems, we lose sight on our ability to resolve issues ourselves. I trust my fellow Americans much more than I trust my federal government to resolve the issues of the land. Government should only get involved when we can't address an issue ourselves. Government should never be the first option.

Give FFA Day is Feb. 25

"I outgrew my FFA Jacket and told my ag teacher I would have to make really small payments on a new one. I have a job, but lots of other expenses. A FFA Jacket Grant took away my worry and helped me to stay active in FFA."

"The Washington Leadership Conference was an experience I always wanted to have, but my family has many financial burdens and I never thought I would get to go. To say I'm blessed and impacted by this grant would be an understatement."

hese are two student testimonials, selected from the dozens we've received this year from FFA members that have been impacted by the Kentucky FFA Foundation. I get so excited to share the great work we are doing because of generous donations! We truly are making a difference in the lives of young people and the next generation of agriculturalists.

I'm proud to tell you that in 2019, the Kentucky FFA Foundation gave \$255,854 directly back to FFA chapters. We awarded \$219,605 to FFA members in grants, prize money and opportunity scholarships. In addition, we funded premier leadership events and opportunities to members and chapters to the tune of \$198,601. If you give the Kentucky FFA Foundation a dollar, we can tell you where it goes and why it matters.

We know that FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students. It builds confidence, provides endless opportunities for leadership development and encourages entrepreneurship. If I asked you to think back on your life and the experiences that set you on a path of success, would FFA be one of them?

Yes

Then you should be a donor to the Kentucky FFA Foundation. Giving is easy and every donation, big and small, makes a difference.

I invite you to join us and make a gift on our very first Give FFA Day on Feb. 25. Go to kyffa.org/donate and make a donation of any amount. Owensboro Grain will be matching donations, so your contribution is doubled! Also, if you choose to make your gift a recurring monthly gift, we will send you a Kentucky FFA T-Shirt as a thank you.

Funds raised on Feb. 25, Give FFA Day, will all support our Ag Venture Capital Grants, or "Shark TanK" where students pitch their Ag business ideas and we offer the best projects support to get them started!

I encourage you to follow Kentucky FFA on all social platforms to keep up with Give FFA Day and so much more! Sharing your FFA Experience and your commitment to give back inspires others.



KENTUCKY FFA FOUNDATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sheldon McKinney

I invite you to join us and make a gift on our very first Give FFA Day on Feb. 25. Go to kyffa.org/donate and make a donation of any amount.

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THE FARMER'S PRIC

Trade agreement is wonderful news



KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU PRESIDENT

Mark Haney

I couldn't be
prouder of our
Young Farmer
program and
the young
people who
always
represent KFB
so well.

o say it has been an eventful year for agriculture thus far might be an understatement, especially since we are just over a month into it. But farm families, in need of a little good news, have gotten just that since the holidays.

From a trade perspective, this time period has likely been the most productive in the last few years with a signed U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement that will create so much opportunity for agricultural trade between this country and our biggest export markets

This agreement updates an antiquated North American Free Trade Agreement and could be worth billions to American farmers.

News of the Phase I Trade Agreement between the U.S. and China is also a huge win for the ag industry, bringing back much of a market American agriculture has missed due to an ongoing trade dispute.

Our advocacy efforts to get adequate broadband service to all rural areas got a boost with word of funding coming to this state for that purpose. Thanks to Hilda Legg and her work as USDA Rural Development state director for Kentucky in helping to move this initiative forward. While there is plenty of work left to do, we are making big strides to further this priority.

The last federal funding bill that was passed in December proved favorable to agriculture. The bill included a provision that retains \$1.5 billion in disaster relief; it fully funds the Farmer and Rancher Stress Assistance Network; it continues USDA's rural broadband efforts with \$550 million in grant funding for the Re-Connect program, which will help expand broadband access to historically underserved communities; and retroactively extends the biodiesel tax credit to apply to 2018 and 2019, extending it through 2022, bringing stability to producers after years of debate in Congress.

We also can expect an upturn in net farm income if USDA estimates hold true, and, while the bottom line is as thin as it can be, news of nearly \$6 billion in farm cash receipts for 2019 demonstrates the strength of Kentucky's agriculture industry even in the toughest of economic times.

From an organizational perspective, the recent American Farm Bureau Federation's annual convention was very successful on many levels. Kentucky brought the largest group of any state, including host Texas. Our Young Farmer competitors were extraordinary with a national Excellence in Agriculture winner and a top-ten finish in the Achievement Award competition, and a very strong showing in this year's Discussion Meet.

I couldn't be prouder of our Young Farmer program and the young people who always represent KFB so well.

While we love good news, there are still hills to climb. As we continue through this current General Assembly session, we must maintain a high level of advocacy to ensure our voices are heard and the issues we face on the farm reach every legislative member. The upcoming Congressional Tour will allow us to do the same with our federal delegation.

In receiving the Distinguished Service Award at the AFBF convention, Sen. Pat Roberts of Kansas told the gathering that Farm Bureau is the strongest of advocacy groups in the country. Be assured that KFB will continue to do its part to make sure that never changes.

Going green is about getting green

ne thing Big Ag has gotten very good at over the last two decades is fighting what it sees as the "green" invasion of do-good outsiders into American farming and ranching.

You know who I'm talking about; these tie-dyed, righteous interlopers of Eastern Elites and Left Coast Libs riding impossibly white unicorns into battle in defense of climate change, natural resources, governmental environmental rules and – warning: hum loudly if you don't want to hear this one – over-population.

For the most part, however, Big Ag's powerful lobbying arms have grabbed these environmental anarchists and tossed them and their Birkenstocks aside. This is especially so since the beginning of the deregulation-driven Trump Administration. Gone or made toothless is the Waters of the U.S. rule, the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Paris Climate Agreement.

While most farmers and ranchers cheered these deregulatory actions, upstream food and fiber users were busy identifying, buying, packaging, and retailing clothing, food, and beverages that mostly younger, more affluent customers saw as "green" or "sustainable" or "regenerative."

In short, they were demanding – and getting – through their purchasing power the exact opposite of what U.S. farmers and ranchers and their commodity lobbying groups were actively fighting against.

In late January, Tyson Foods, Inc. joined the fight on the side of its customers by announcing it would help form and fund, according the to Wall Street Journal, "a world-wide coalition of protein producers, academics and environmental and human-rights groups to work together on social and environmental issues."

Wring the PR from that sentence and what Tyson hopes to do is take on animal agriculture's biggest problems – an enormous greenhouse gas footprint, increasing water pollution, an at-best spotty record on animal rights and worker rights – so it can tell its customers, "We care about the same things as you do so buy Tyson protein."

And Tyson has a lot of protein to sell. Each week the big-shouldered butcher, according to 2018 data, slaughters 37 million chickens, 408,000 hogs, and 133,000 head of cattle in 50 U.S. facilities.

Little wonder then that a new Tyson heir, 29-year-old John R. Tyson, returned to the family business (after acquiring a

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FOOD & FARM FILE

Alan Guebert

In short, they
were
demanding —
and getting —
through their
purchasing
power the exact
opposite of
what U.S.
farmers and
ranchers and
their commodity
lobbying groups
were actively
fighting against.

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: Letter to the Editor, The Farmer's Pride, P.O. Box 159, Columbia, Ky. 42728

Coronavirus a mere bump in the road



MARKET WATCH

Dewey Strickler

Even if China

increases

purchases from

the U.S. and

reduces those

of Brazil, global

supply will not

change.

he coronavirus is spreading, but fear of a global pandemic seems to be subsiding amid optimism that efforts by China will bring it under control. However, the virus is a mere bump in the road compared to the political instability and evolving demographics that we will face this decade. That is a story for another day.

Meanwhile, the resilience of China's economy is the big question and whether they can meet their obligation in the trade agreement. Time will tell. Looking at corn exports, inspections last week were up slightly at 22.1 million bushels. The pace has picked up the past couple of weeks, but we need to ship 45 million bushels each week to reach USDA's projection of 1.775 billion bushels. Unless buyers become active soon, the odds of it happening are unlikely.

While news continues to be centered around the coronavirus, little is being said about Brazil's soybean harvest, which is getting underway at 9 percent complete. Mato Grosso, the largest producing state, is 28 percent done. So far, better than average yields are being reported, which means another large crop is looming. It will be ready to ship in 4-6 weeks.

Even if China increases purchases from the U.S. and reduces those of Brazil, global supply will not change. Looking at exports, inspections last week were 44.4 million bushels and have picked up the past 3 weeks. Shipments to China were 20.3 million bushels, their highest since mid-December. While traders would like to see more, we cannot complain because the impact of the coronavirus on demand is still unknown.

Improving conditions in the southern Plains and Australia has weighed on wheat the past couple of weeks, but it is beginning to recover. Meanwhile, the dollar has turned up suggesting that gains may be limited.

Looking at exports, they are mediocre at best. Inspections last week were 15.2 million bushels which was a stark improvement from the marketing year low of 8.2 million bushels set the previous week. However, shipments must average 21.3 million bushels each week if USDA's target of 975 million bushels is to be reached. Inspections have not attained the weekly average necessary since mid-January. Right now, shipments are on track for 900 million bushels.

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

Going green is about getting green

FROM PAGE 5

MBA from Stanford University) as the company's new chief sustainability officer. He knows that in the long run, an environmentally greener Tyson means a profitably greener Tyson, too.

Tyson isn't the only major food company to see green. Last November, Maple Leaf Foods, Canada's leading animal and plant protein purveyor, announced it was the "first major food company in the world to be carbon neutral." It did so as a way to "acknowledge... the urgent need for transformative change" in "the global food system..."

A big part of the change, explained Sylvain Charlebois, writing in the Nov. 28, 2019 Manitoba Co-operator, is that in today's hyper-competitive, global marketplace, "...everything in on the table."

And, added the professor of food distribution and policy at Nova Scotia's Dalhousie University, Maple Leaf Foods is "becoming a completely different company" in order to "adapt to a wider variety of customer situations" it now faces due to environmen-

tal challenges.

Players in other industries are feeling the same urgent environmental concerns as their customers. It's been widely reported that Nestle SA intends to cut its use of oil-based plastic by one-third. Microsoft Corp. recently said it intends to cut its carbon emissions to zero.

Curiously, however, as these customer-driven, globe-spanning giants move into greener pastures, American farmers and ranchers are openly celebrating – what almost certainly will be – their short-lived, rule-tossing victories that will make rural America and what it grows less green and less customer friendly.

Worse, in today's world of perverse politics, these farmers and ranchers – and their powerful allies in Congress and the White House – believe they are winning the day for themselves when, in fact, they're losing the future for all who follow.

ALAN GUEBERT publishes a weekly column Farm and Food File through the U.S. and Canada. Past columns, events and contact information are posted at farmandfoodfile.com. Contact Alan Guebert by email at agcomm@farmandfoodfile.com.

Farmer's Pride

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You are invited to attend the

BURLEY COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Friday, March 27, 2020

Located at Fayette County Extension Office 1140 Harry Sykes Way (Off Red Mile Rd.) • Lexington, KY Parking and entrance in rear of building

10-12: GAP training

1 p.m.: Members Annual Meeting, including:

1) Discussion of the Board of Directors APPROVED DISTRIBUTION TO MEMBERS (PRESENT AND WITHIN PAST FIVE YEARS) consisting of:

- Distribute \$15,000,000 by Dec. 31, 2020
- Sell current 4.1 million pounds of inventory and distribute net proceeds annually
- Place property building at 620 S. Broadway for sale by December 31, 2020
- Make a final distribution of any excess assets above \$3.5 million by December 31, 2023
- 2) Other business and Q & A.

Contact your Director for further information and questions on your membership status for present and the past five years. Their names, telephone numbers, and the areas they cover are as follows:

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Breathitt, Clark, Estill, Fayette, Harlan, Knott, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Owsley, and Perry counties

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State of Onio

DISTRICT 7: GUY HEITKEMPER 812-946-7027

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DISTRICT 19: HALLECK ADKINS 304-360-1288

State of West Virginia

DISTRICT 20: KEVIN RAWLINGS 816-591-5295

State of Missouri

THE FARMER'S PRINE

Spicy potato soup

2 bacon slices

1 cup chopped carrots

1 cup chopped poblano chiles

1 cup chopped onion

2 tablespoons minced seeded jalapeno pepper

1/2 teaspoon cumin

3 minced garlic cloves

2 16-ounce cans fat free chicken broth

5 cups diced peeled baking potatoes

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/3 cup flour

2 1/2 cups skim milk

5 ounces Cabot 50% Light Jalapeno Cheddar

2 ounces Cabot 50% Light Cheddar cheese 2/3 cup onion

Cook bacon until crisp. Remove bacon from pan leaving 1 tablespoon drippings in pan. Crumble bacon, set aside.

Add carrots and next 5 ingredients to drippings. Saute until golden brown. Stir in broth and add potato and salt. Bring to a boil. Cover, reduce heat and simmer 25 minutes or until potato is tender.

Combine flour and milk in a small bowl stirring with a whisk. Add to pan slowly. Cook over medium heat until thick, about 12-15 minutes. Remove from heat.

Add reduced fat and jalapeno cheddar cheese, stirring until melted.

Serve in bowls topped with green onions and crumbled bacon.



All recipes are courtesy of the Southeast United Dairy Industry Association.

Baked mozzarella sticks

1 (12-ounce) package reducedfat Mozzarella string cheese 1 egg

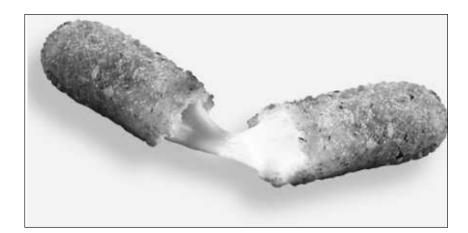
1 teaspoon Italian seasoning 8 tablespoons panko (Japanese) bread crumbs

1/2 cup prepared marinara sauce, warmed (optional)

Position rack in upper third of oven and preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Line a baking sheet with foil and spray lightly with cooking spray.

Remove cheese from packaging and set aside. In a small bowl, whisk egg until foamy. In small non-stick skillet, mix Italian seasoning with bread crumbs and place over medium heat. Cook and stir bread crumbs until lightly browned, about 5 minutes.

Dip one piece of string cheese in egg until coated and then into toasted bread crumbs, coating completely. Redip the string cheese in egg and again into the bread crumbs, if desired.



Place on baking sheet. Repeat with remaining string cheese and place on baking sheet 1 1/2 inches apart. Spray string cheese lightly with cooking spray.

Bake 5-6 minutes or until heated

through. (Cheese may melt slightly and loose shape. Simply press it back into place.)

Suggested serving: Pair with warmed marinara sauce for dipping.

Baked brie

1 (13 to 16 ounce) whole Brie cheese with rind left on 3 tablespoons strawberry preserves

2 teaspoons balsamic vinegar 1/2 cup sliced fresh strawber-

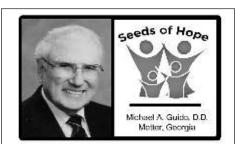
Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Place the brie on a baking sheet or in a shallow baking dish. Bake for about 10 minutes or until the brie is soft and warm, but not runny.

While the brie is baking, heat the preserves and balsamic vinegar in a small saucepan until thick 1-1/2 tablespoons toasted hazelnuts or sliced toasted almonds Heart-shaped toasted bread and crackers

and bubbly and then remove from the heat.

Remove the brie from the oven and transfer to a serving dish. Arrange the strawberries on top of the brie. Drizzle with the heated preserves and sprinkle with the nuts. Serve with crackers or toasted bread hearts.





Standing firm

Not long ago I was stopped by a police officer who motioned to me to pull to the side of the street. When I looked up to see what was going on I saw two large trucks coming toward me with a home that had been cut in half and placed on two trailers.

The two halves were slowly being moved to a new location where they would be joined together and the home would look the same as it had in the past.

It was almost unnerving as I waited patiently for them to pass by. For years it rested comfortably on a corner across from an elementary school. Soon it would have a new address in a new neighborhood and perhaps new owners.

How things have changed. Years ago people rarely moved from one home to another. There was a certain permanence in life that brought a sense of security to families. Now, moving from one place to another is a routine part of life that seems to go with the turmoil in the world.

Everywhere we look, we see signs of instability. We awaken each morning wondering what devastating news awaits us. What once was a world that made sense is now a world that longs for the "good old days."

Psalm 93, however, gives comfort to the Christian. It begins with a burst of hope and assurance, a promise of peace and predictability. "The LORD reigns."

And it ends with a reminder of His faithfulness: "Your statutes stand firm...for endless days!"

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Dairy families team up in value-added market

TRENTON, Ky. - Small dairy farms across Kentucky are struggling to stay in business, and dispersal sales are all too frequent.

But a close-knit community of dairy producers took matters in their own hands to help each other. This community of Amish and Mennonites dairy farmers in Todd and Christian counties determined they needed to do something to enable their dairying families to survive for the next generation.

Dave Roberts, western Kentucky consultant with the Kentucky Dairy Development Council, works closely with these producers.

"It's essential to Amish and Mennonite families to keep their families on the farm and not take work 'off the farm,' which was the impetus for the new enterprise," said Roberts.

Three years ago, dairymen Harvey Zimmerman and Jesse Ramer, with the help of KDDC, brought together a group of investors. These investors, who now number 80 members, appointed a sevenmember board of board of directors who planned and developed a value-added enterprise now known as Country View Creamery.

The creamery, located at 1290 Watts Rd. in south Todd County near the Christian County line and a mile from exit 1 on I-24, opened in mid-December.

Roberts, as well as past KDDC director Maury Cox, were actively involved in helping the group learn about developing a cheese-making enterprise. KDDC organized a trip for the leaders to Wisconsin to learn from active cheese producers.

"They asked the questions; we just facilitated the trip," Roberts recalled.

The group wanted to learn what local restaurants and groceries in western Kentucky and middle Tennessee would want if locally sourced handmade cheeses were available. Roberts developed a survey and sent it to 100 regional businesses to gather the needed information for the group to make management decisions.

Kentucky Department of Agriculture representatives Robert Snell and Eunice Schlappi brought together a group of substantial food businesses, including

Kroger, the Liquor Barn, and the Fish Market, a Louisville food distributor. These businesses explained what their customers wanted in a locally-sourced cheese. One of the outcomes of this meeting was the purchase of a vacuum sealed packaging machine.

Roberts also gave credit to Ricky Gulley of Bluegrass Dairy and Food in Glasgow, who mentored the group in planning and designing their creamery.

The 4,200 square foot creamery's main area contains a milk storage tank that

holds 1,000 gallons of milk, two cheese tanks that hold 260 gallons of milk, cheese trays where the curds are emptied and stirred, and a press that compacts the cheese curds into a 40 pound block of cheese. There is also a large area for future expansion.

The creamery has a lab that tests each load of milk for bacteria count before being unloaded into the storage tank. There is also a packaging room, sanita-

SEE SMALL, PAGE 12



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slaughter cattle (91% cows, 9% bulls); 18% replacement dairy cattle (7% fresh/milking cows, 19% springer heifers, 10% open heifers, 49% baby bull calves, 16% baby heifer calves). Feeder cattle supply over 600# was 0%.

Dairy Steers: Large 3: 300-335# 81.00-87.00, 455# 87.00, 125# 120.00, 150-175# 140.00-160.00.

Fresh Milking Cows: (2-4 years old) Medium 1150.00, Common 725.00-1075.00, Common 600.00 Jersey.

Springer Heifers: Approved 1100.00-1300.00, Medium 875.00-1075.00, Common 775.00-850.00

Open Heifers: Medium 525# 350.00, Medium 500# 285.00 crossbred, Common 475# 180.00, Common 650-675# 315.00-375.00.

Bull calves: 34 head 5.00-50.00, 6 head 110.00-170.00 beef cross, 1 head 90.00 crossbred, 8 head 5.00-35.00 Jersey.

Heifer calves: 8 head 10.00-50.00, 5 head 110.00-160.00 beef cross, 3 head 45.00-

Slaughter Cows: Breaker 75-80 percent lean 1420-1785# 53.00-61.00, H.Dr. 1160- $1840 \#\ 62.00\ -73.00, Boners\ 80\ -85\ percent\ lean\ 1095\ -1495 \#\ 52.00\ -61.00,\ H.Dr.\ 1105\ -61.0$ 1490# 62.00-73.00, L.Dr. 1115-1435# 41.00-51.00, Lean 85-90 percent lean 725-1090# 45.83, H.Dr. 745-1075# 52.00-62.00, L.Dr. 745-1360# 31.00-41.00.

Slaughter Bulls: Y.G. 1-2 1310-2450# 82.00-92.00, H.Dr. 1660-2180# 93.00-103.00, L.Dr. 1190-1790# 70.00-78.00.

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5030	465	505	560	19'-4"	8'-3"	9'-8"	85
5930	555	805	660	19'-8"	8'-3"	10'-8"	110
4430	395	440	495	23'-5"	8'-3"	8'-3°	85
6730	575	630	700	26'	8'-3"	9'-2"	125
8030	745	820	910	27'-6"	8'-3"	9'-3"	140
9630	690	965	1060	27"-10"	8'-3"	10'-2'	180
1130	1045	1130	1225	28'-1"	8'-3"	111-11	200
1330	1280	1335	1400	28'-5"	8'-3"	12"	225
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11

FOCUS ON KENTUCKY'S AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

The Kentucky Soybean Association and the Kentucky Soybean Promotion Board work together to help promote the Kentucky Soybean industry. From ag in the classroom to the National Farm Machinery Show to FFA and the State Fair, you'll find volunteers and staff representing Kentucky soybeans in all the right places.

The Kentucky Soybean Association was



by the members, to represent the soybean producing areas of the Commonwealth. The number of directors an area has is based on the membership in that area. Each January, area members caucus during their annual meeting to elect the directors to serve their interests.

Like farmers of other commodities, such as beef, dairy and eggs, soybean farmers collectively invest a portion of their product revenue to fund research and promotion efforts. This collective investment is called a checkoff. The **Kentucky Soybean Promotion Board** invests those checkoff dollars, also with the mission of improving grower profitability.

The funding is available through an assessment program, approved by the U.S. Congress in 1990. Checkoff funds work 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.

The United Soybean Board (USB) directs the soy checkoff's national efforts. USB consists of farmer-directors from across the country. These volunteers invest checkoff funds in projects to benefit all U.S. soybean farmers. USB's farmer-directors are nominated by their state-level checkoff organizations and appointed to the national board by the U.S. secretary of agriculture.

The soybean checkoff works to improve farmers' profit potential through marketing and promotion, production research and educational efforts. The Kentucky Soybean Promotion Board is the Qualified State Soybean Board (QSSB) that administers the soy checkoff program at the state level for Kentucky's soybean farmers. The Board focuses on challenges and opportunities faced by Kentucky soybean farmers.

A farmer-driven board oversees and manages KSPB's share of checkoff investments, which focuses on soybean research, domestic and international marketing, and education to support the profitability of soybean farmers here in Kentucky.

Through the checkoff, each farmer contributes onehalf of one percent of the price of each bushel at the first point of sale. KSPB keeps one-half of the checkoff funds collected to conduct state-specific soy research and promotion activities on behalf of farmers. The other half gets sent to the national soy checkoff.

KSPB allocates a large portion of its operating budget each year to production research. This research helps leverage state and federal funds for research at Kentucky universities. Some are long-term, ongoing projects for which funds are renewed annually and other projects that are brought before the board for consideration focus on new facets of soybean research.

Providing farmers with cutting-edge research on soybean production is one of the soy checkoff's most important jobs. The checkoff funds variety trials, test plots and collaboration with university researchers to provide farmers with valuable information that helps them make informed crop-management decisions and improve their bottom lines.

KSPB also works to promote animal agriculture, discover and promote new uses for soy-based products and helps educate the public, thus keeping soybeans as a top-of-mind commodity with consumers.

KSPB board members are appointed – four by KSA, two by Kentucky Farm Bureau and one by the Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture. The Kentucky representatives who serve on the United Soybean Board and the American Soybean Association Board are also members of the KSPB by virtue of those positions.

Board members are not designated by geographic region, but are selected/appointed on a statewide basis. KSPB is always on the lookout for farmers interested in filling Kentucky's director positions with the United Soybean Board. Any soybean farmer who is affected by the soybean checkoff is eligible to serve.



To learn more, visit www.kysoy.org

Leadership

Kentucky Soybean Promotion Board Chairman - Ryan Bivens, Hodgenville Vice Chairman - Jed Clark, Mayfield Secretary/Treasurer - Larry Thomas, Elizabethtown

Kentucky Soybean Association
President - Fred L Sipes, Ekron
Vice President - Allen Pace, LaCenter
Secretary - Brent Gatton, Bremen
Treasurer - Adam Hendricks, Auburn

Staff

Executive Director - Debbie Ellis Education Director - Becky Kinder Communication Director - Rae Wagoner



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The articles and information in the Pride in Agriculture Education page are provided by KyAEC. Learn more by visiting www.teachkyag.org or www.kyfoodandfarm.com.

Small Kentucky community producing variety of cheeses

ROM PAGE S

tion room and a break room.

Cheese making is under the supervision of Omar Stoltzfus, who is a small herd dairyman himself. On Tuesdays and Fridays, Stoltzfus and his team of three make cheese, starting with 1,600 pounds of milk. After 4-6 hours of labor-intensive work, they have produced three batches of handmade cheese. Each batch produces 160 pounds of cheese.

Stoltzfus admitted he knew nothing about making cheese. Still, through the process of building the creamery and the tutorage of Ricky Gulley, he feels confident in bringing together milk, bacteria, and rennet into a very delicious product.

The creamery has a simple but attractive retail section, which includes their Colby, Monterey Jack, Mild Cheddar, Pepper Jack, and Mozzarella cheeses as well as cheese curds. The creamery is testing the marketing of smoked Colby and mild cheddar. Also available is Chaney's Ice Cream by the scoop or pint, locally sourced meats, a deli sandwich area, and snacks and drinks to go with the deli sandwiches. A large window in the retail section allows visitors to see the cheesemaking area and watch the cheese-making when in operation.

Daniel Stoltzfus is the manager of the retail space. Stoltzfus is an investor and glad to be a part of the new business, having "worked off the farm," himself.

Stoltzfus said business had been excellent even though this is not cheese and "ice cream season." He expects business to pick up with warmer temperatures

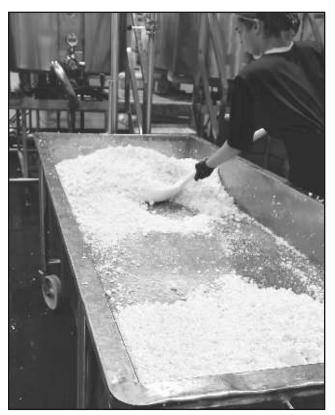


Photo by Toni Riley

Country View sells 5 different kinds of cheeses in large and small squares. Shown is an employee mixing cheese curds.

and increased marketing.

Roberts said the ability of this group of farmers to come together as a group and develop a value-added market for the community is exceptional.

"There's not another one like this in Kentucky, and I'm not aware of one even in the Southeast," he noted.

Daniel Stoltzfus summed up the group's vision. "The creamery isn't

for this generation but the next and the next."

By Toni Riley Field Reporter



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Co-op board votes to distribute funds

FROM PAGE 1

who grew tobacco from 2016 through 2020.

The Haynes lawsuit calls for distribution to growers from 2014 through 2020.

Pedigo said he believes the board's decision addresses the concerns of growers who have called for dissolution, but he does not know if the plan will end the lawsuit or the petition activity.

"We hope that it would (address grower concerns). As far as attorneys go, we can't stop that; we will deal with that as that comes up."

Pedigo said he believes it is important to keep the coop alive to help growers deal with issues addressing their industry.

"We need one now more than ever," he said.

Roger Quarles, a burley co-op former president, current board member and a producer who helped initiate the vote to dissolve the organization, said he voted against the plan during last Wednesday's board meet-

The plan came as a recommendation from the executive committee and the board had 15 minutes to discuss it, Quarles said.

"It's the largest decision the co-op has ever made," he said.

Quarles said he is glad the board is at least addressing the need to distribute funds and has "given up any pretense of doing any type of programs." He does not think the cooperative should continue operations and

believes all funds, including the \$3.5 million the board voted to keep, should be distributed to growers. In addition, he said an additional \$2 million would be spent as the co-op put the plan in place.

The dissolution plan would be quicker, possibly completed within two years, and more money would ultimately go directly to growers, Quarles contends.

With two meetings now planned for March and April, Quarles said he is concerned growers will become confused with a membership annual meeting being held, then followed by the April 8 special meeting. He said he has yet to talk to any growers who oppose the plan of dissolution prepared by Billings.

"I think Mr. Billings is going to win the vote. I will be surprised if it does not occur," Quarles said.

Quarles said he would support an effort to start a tobacco organization similar to other commodity groups funded by active growers but continues to support the activity of the Council for Burley Tobacco. He believes grower issues could be supported by current growers and funds from past growers held by the co-op should not be used for that effort.

The co-op, established in 1921, once protected Kentucky's number one cash crop and its growers. Today,

the association is losing an average of \$436,000 a year and its net worth has declined by \$2.5 million since 2014, according to a 2018 report.

The report, which was an operational review of the association conducted by the Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development, reported that the cooperative had around \$34 million in net assets at that

MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING

Burley tobacco producers can contact the cooperative to make sure they are recognized as a member by calling prior to March 1 at 859-252-3561. More details and a list of board members who can be contacted is listed on page 7.

Billings can be reached at 859-225-5240 or email at nbillingsky.com, and more information about the petition can be found at www.blfky.com/burley. More information is available on page 24B.

Attorney for the plaintiffs in the lawsuit filed in Fayette County is Robert E. Maclin, III, in Lexington.

By Sharon Burton

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Dairy farmer added value workshop starts March 9

Hilltopper Creamery at WKU is offering a four-day workshop for dairy farmers and the public that includes hands-on instruction in cheesemaking March 9-12 at the farm in Bowling Green.

The class will cover many aspects of

adding value to producer's milk production as well as two full days of actually making cheese. This workshop is limited to six people.

For more information, call Gary at 270-746-1515 or visit wku.edu/hilltop-percreamery.



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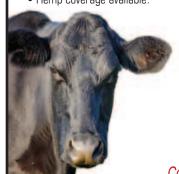
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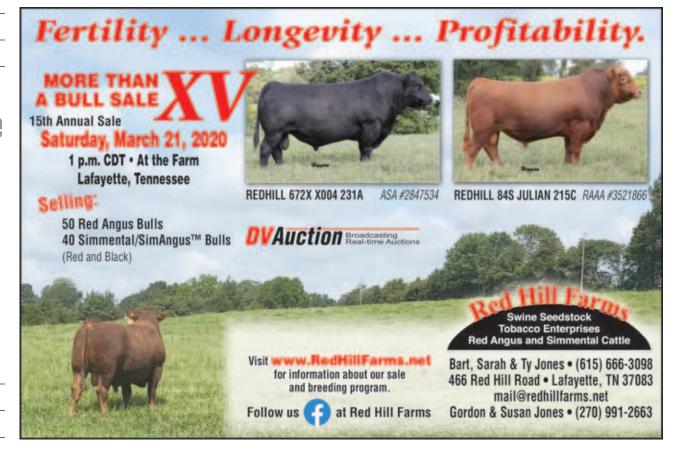
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More than \$4.5 million in tobacco settlement funds earmarked for farms

FRANKFORT – Gov. Andy Beshear and Energy and Environment Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Goodman announced that the Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission has selected 705 projects in 82 counties to receive a total of \$4,554,818 in tobacco settlement funds for projects on Kentucky farms.

The majority of the projects being funded will install fencing for facilitation of rotational grazing or watering facilities to offer alternative water sources for livestock.

"This money is being used on projects that will improve both soil and water quality on Kentucky farms," said Gov. Beshear. "This will help keep farms productive and local economies strong."

Said Secretary Goodman: "I'm pleased that we can provide these funds to so many worthy projects on farms across the commonwealth."

The Soil and Water Conservation Commission is ad-

Floods made 2019 crop insurance payout highest in history

"Flood-related federal crop insurance payouts for the 2019 growing season total more than \$6.4 billion so far – the costliest on record," Ryan McCrimmon reports for Politico's Morning Agriculture.

"Most of those indemnities are tied to the spring and summer floods across states like North and South Dakota, Minnesota, and Illinois, according to an analysis of USDA data by Steve Bowen, a meteorologist and head of catastrophe insight at Aon, an insurance company."

Bowen told Politico, "Given the record rainfall that occurred and the multiple 'waves' of flooding that affected areas across the Mississippi, Missouri, and Arkansas River basins, the heightened impacts are not overly surprising. Last year was a very tough year for farmers, and there are concerns that already saturated soils across the Plains and Midwest may set the stage for more possible flooding in 2020."

Department of Agriculture economists predicted last year that climate change will fuel bigger and more frequent storms, which will increase the price of crop insurance by 4 percent to 22 percent. Inside Climate News reported in 2018 that drought, partly driven by climate change, was driving up crop insurance payouts and accounted for almost half the payouts from 2000 to 2016. Floods were second.

McCrimmon notes that the crop-insurance program "is overseen by USDA and carried out by private companies. Taxpayers cover companies' costs of administering the program and subsidize, on average, 60 percent of farmers' premiums; growers pay the other 40 percent."

From The Rural Blog

ministered by the Kentucky Department for Natural Resources, Division of Conservation.

"I applaud these landowners that have identified areas where they could improve water quality for livestock and prevent soil erosion," said Division of Conservation Director Paulette Akers.

The Commission has obligated over \$165 million in

state cost share over the past 26 years. Projects include practices like livestock waterers, grassed waterways, rotational grazing establishment and cover crops. Funds are distributed with the assistance of the 121 Soil and Water Conservation Districts across the commonwealth.



Getting a jump on stubborn winter pasture weeds

All but the thickest of grass pastures and hayfields are being invaded. Invaded by winter annual or biennial weeds like buttercup, chickweed, henbit (and its cousin deadnettle), musk or nodding thistle and poison hemlock. All are winter annuals except for musk thistle, which is a biennial – meaning it takes two years to complete its lifecycle. These plants can be very competitive with our perennial cool season grasses, especially in new seedings. Mowing these weeds is generally ineffective, but they can easily be controlled with common broadleaf herbicides in the coming weeks if we get tem-

Every year, I personally struggle with identifying these weeds, especially early enough to have a meaningful chance at control. I am especially motivated this year as I am helping a producer nurse a few hundred acres of newly seeded orchardgrass and bluegrass through to spring.

peratures approaching 60 degrees. These weeds can be recognized pretty easily (with a little coaching, which is just about to

This article will focus on five very common winter weeds of pasture: buttercup, common chickweed, henbit, purple deadnettle and poison hemlock.

Identification

happen, so read on).

Buttercup is the common name for several Ranunculus species that are short-lived perennials. Most often, we are not aware of buttercup until their yellow flowers appear. Once you see the yellow flowers, buttercup has won and will produce seed. Right now, buttercups are present in pastures as individual or clumps of plants (Figure 1 picture below). Leaves are shiny and lobed.

Buttercup can be toxic to livestock. The risk for toxic effects are low since buttercups are not palatable and grazing animals rarely consume them if other forage is available. The toxin is found in the leaves and stems, and flowering plants contain more of the toxin than younger plants. The drying process in haymaking eliminates the toxic agent.

Mowing is usually ineffective for controlling buttercups. However, buttercups are easily controlled with several herbicides (see Control Options later in this article).

Common chickweed (Stellaria media) is a winter an-



Figure 1. Buttercup should be vegetative to get good herbicidal control. Leaves are shiny and about the size of a fingertip.

nual with smooth, oval-shaped leaves with pointed tips that grow opposite each other (Figure 2, page 18).

Common chickweed typically grows close to the ground and often forms

SEE IDENTIFYING, PAGE 19





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Figure 2. Common chickweed. Leaves are shiny and small, about a quarter inch across or less. This weed often grows in dense mats at the soil surface.



Figure 3. Vegetative henbit is easily confused with purple deadnettle, which is a closely related species. Leaves are 1/2 to 3/4 inch across but are more 'lobed' than deadnettle.



Figure 4. Vegetative purple deadnettle. Leaves are about ½ to ¾ inch across and are more heart shaped and less 'lobed' than henbit. Control for both is similar.



Figure 5. Poison hemlock grows in patches in fields and has a fern-like appearance with triangular, dark green leaves. At later stages, stems have a characteristic purple mottling.

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Identifying weeds

FROM PAGE 17

a dense mat.

Henbit and purple deadnettle are winter annual species of the same genus (Lamium) and are frequently confused with each other. Henbit leaves (Figure 3, page 18) are more lobed than deadnettle, which tend to look heart shaped (Figure 4, page 18). These weeds germinate in the fall and sometimes in the spring. Henbit flowers are pink to red and occur in clusters, 6 to 10 inches tall in the upper leaf stalks.

Purple deadnettle flowers occur near the tops of the plant and are less purple than henbit flowers. The most striking difference is that the purple deadnettle's upper leaves and stems are very red in appearance compared to henbit.

Poison hemlock is a toxic plant actively growing now in many pastures (Figure 5, page

18). Hemlock is aggressive and can overtake areas if uncontrolled. Although not usually grazed, poison hemlock can be poisonous to livestock, particularly when other forages are limited or when hay contains large quantities of hemlock. Cattle, goats and horses are considered to be most susceptible to toxicity. In addition, poison hemlock can crowd

In addition, poison hemlock can crowd out desirable plants in areas where it becomes established. This is especially so in the newly-seeded pastures I am assisting with.

Control Options

The best weed control in pastures is a thick stand of perennial grass. In any weed management scenario, all methods of control should be considered, not just chemical. The UK publication 'Broadleaf weeds of Kentucky pastures' (AGR-207) is one of the best places to start in developing a control strategy (Figure 6). To utilize the herbicide table, locate the weed to be controlled, note the time(s) of most effective control and find the herbicide choice(s) that give good control.

All of the weeds in this article are poorly, managed by mowing, but many herbicide choices are available. And February and March are good times for chemical control. Choice of herbicide will depend on many factors, but with these weeds, it appears that a mixture of 2,4-D plus dicamba will be good choice if all of the weeds are present in the same field. Temperatures need to be approaching 60 for herbicides to be effective. Purchase your desired product and make sure spraying equipment is working and calibrated now so that fields can be treated when the temperatures are favorable. As with any herbicide, always read and follow label instructions.

Summary

Right now, winter pasture weeds are present but are small and sometimes overlooked. Weeds like those in this article can be identified with a little practice. Early identification along with timely herbicide application can give you a headstart on cleaner spring pastures. In my case, effective control will help get a more uniform stand of grass. I will let you know how I make out.

Happy foraging.

AGR-207 is very helpful in identifying mature broadleaf weeds, but even more helpful in determing the timing of control and the choice of

herbicide.

Response of Pasture Weeds to Herbicides and Mowing

Weed Species	Life Cycle?	Preferred Time for Herbicide Treatment ²	2,40	dicamba (Banvel/Distinct)	dicamba + 2.4-D [Weedmaster]	Crossbow	PastureGard	Milestone	ForeFiont	metsuffuroni	MOWINGS
Amaranth, Spiny (Pigweed)	A:	May-July	F/G	F/G	6	G	F/65	+	G	G	- X
Aster app. (White Heath Aster)	A-	July-Sept	FAG	6	6	-6	112	1		F.	R
Burdock, Common	8.1	Fetr-Mar	6	F	6	G	G	F	0	F.	H.
Buttiercup spp.	A:	Feb-Mar	G	FNS	:6	- 6	\$	F	0:	G.	K
Carrot, Wild (Queen Anne's Lace)	- 1	May-June	G	Œ	F/G	P/G	- F	10.00	0	6	H
Chickweed Common	A	Nov or Feb-Mar	- P	935	- 0	. #	6	- 6	G	.6	H.
Chicary	p.	Feb-Mar or Aug-Nov	FAG	F/G	6	- 6	.0	-6	- 6	F./5	
Clover, White	- 8	May-Aug	F/G-	G	6-	116	G	-6:	G	G	X.
Cocklettue Common	A.	Mary-July	G.	G	6	.6	- 0	6	0	6.	R
Dandelion	p :-	Oct-Nov or Mar-Apr	- 0	- G	- 6	-6	F/15	680	- 61	6	X
Deadloettle, Purple	A.	Feb-Mar	p	FIG	- 6	-	-6	6	6:	6	X.
Dock, Curly or Broadlest	P.	Feb-Apr	P/F	F	FifG	.6	F/15	-6-	- 6	G	X:
Dogbane, Hemp	P	May-Aug	F	: F -	. F	F/G	.: 6	p	P/F	31	5
Garlic, Wild	P.	Nov or Mar-Apr	F	F	F	E	P	p	F	G	16
Goldenrod spp.	p.	June-Aug	F	F/G	16	9	G	P.	F/G	p.	5.
Hamilack, Paison	- 8	New or Mar-Apr	F/G	6	∴£	P/G:	- p-	. p.	F/G	F	B.
Historia	A	Feb-Mar	P	FIG	6	- 1	-6	·G	G	G.	X.
Horsenettle	D	hilly-Mises	D		E	- 1	D	6	- 6	E.	K.
Sorrel, Red (Sheep Sorrel)	P	Sept-Nov or Mar	· P	G	F/G	FAG	F	+-	-	#/G-	X
Thistie, Bull	- 1	Oct-Nov or Feb-Mar	- 9	6	- 6	0.	FAS		-43	F/IC:	- A
Thistie, Canada	P	Prebud or Oct-Nev	. p	NF	:#	F.	PIF	6	-0	(F)	- 5
Thirtie, Musk	- 1	Oct-Nov or Feb-Mar	- 6	- 6	6	10	FAG	6	-6	F/91	A.
Thestie, Phameless	- 8	Oct-Nov or Feb-Mar	6	-6	-6	G	F/6	6	G.	F/G	. A.
Trumpetcieeper		Aug-Sept	- #	BYE	P/F	1	+	#	1	P	×
Yarrow, Common		Feb-Mar	.6	G	G		-	-	-	F/G	X.

Control: G ~ Good or Excellent: F ~ Fair (suppression or partial control): P ~ Pooc. ~ ~ No Informatio

Life Cycle: A = Annuals; P = Perennials; B = Biennia

The preferred time for herbicide treatment will depend on environmental conditions and other factors.

Active ingredient in several products (e.g. Cimarron, Patriot, Purestand). May cause temporary sellowing, stunting and seedhead sup-

Mowing: R = Timely moving reduces top-growth and seed production: S = Suppression of top growth: X = Not very effective

Annual Alfalfa and Stored Forages Conference

Practical Considerations for the Production of High Quality Hay and Baleage

WHEN: Thursday, Feb. 20 • 7:30 a.m. – 3:45 p.m. EST WHERE: Hardin Co. Extension Office 111 Opportunity Way • Elizabethtown, KY 42701

Register before Feb. 13 for \$30 • After Feb. 13 \$40 Add KFGC membership for just \$15 more! (Reg. \$25)

Register at www.KYAlfalfa2020.eventbrite.com or by mailing payment to: KY Alfalfa Conference N-222C Ag. Science North, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40546-0091



The program will focus on the basics of alfalfa production such as 'Getting the full benefit from your fertilizer dollar' and 'Don't let insects eat your alfalfa profit.' The new weed control publication for alfalfa will be highlighted as well as 'Advances in hay mechanization.' The capnote speaker will be Clayton Geralds, a Hart County KY hay producer who produces and sells alfalfa hay across the Southeast. He will address 'Making a profit with a cash hay operation - Integrating all the pieces.' We look forward to seeing you there!

Mid-South stocker conference gives cattle producers tools to succeed

LEXINGTON – Cattle and grass just go together. With plentiful, lush pastures, Kentucky is a prime place for grazing stocker cattle. The University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment supports cattle producers in many ways, including focused conferences that address their challenges in practical ways.

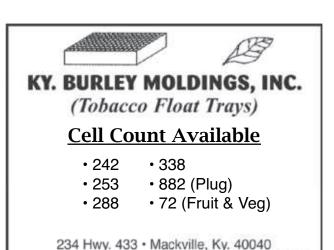
The Mid-South Stocker Conference is an annual offering, in partnership with the University of Tennessee and industry partners. This year, the rotating conference is coming to Bowling Green Feb. 26 at the Warren County Cooperative Extension office.

"This year, our major focus is on health-related topics," said Jeffrey Lehmkuhler, UK beef specialist. "We'll be relaying information cattle producers need to help them manage stocker cattle in this new decade."

The conference will begin with registration at 8 a.m. CST, followed by the opening session at 9 a.m. Morning topics include internal parasite control, Asian long-horned tick, antibiotic availability and changes in procuring feeder cattle for the feedlot. After lunch and an opportunity to visit the trade show, the afternoon session begins at 1:30 p.m. Topics for the afternoon include virtual tours of local cattle operations, capturing profit and field necropsy for diagnostics.



Photo by Aimee Nielson Cattle graze lush Kentucky pastures.



859-262-6105

The day ends with a wrap-up at 4:15 p.m. A brochure is available online.

To register for the conference, visit the conference website. Registration is \$65 per individual, \$110 per couple and \$45 per student. Participants may register

and pay online or contact Ben Crites at Benjamin.crites@uky.edu or Lehmkuhler at jeff.lehmkuhler@uky.edu.

By Aimee Nielson University of Kentucky

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A small-grain value chain comes full circle at UK

LEXINGTON – A longtime relationship between a University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment researcher and a Kentucky wheat producing family has led to UK students having a unique learning experience with small grains on campus.

The Halcomb family, of Schochoh in Logan County, have worked with David Van Sanford, UK wheat breeder, on numerous research projects over the course of three decades, including hosting UK's wheat variety trials on their Walnut Grove Farms.

Both are interested in establishing regional, small-grain value chains to connect Kentucky wheat producers with local millers, restaurateurs and bakers who are interested in incorporating local grains into their products and their menus. As a result, the Halcombs have been growing a small amount of the Edison wheat variety, a hard, white, spring wheat known for its flavor.

"If consumers know where their food is coming from and that it is produced ethically and sustainability, they are going to be proud to eat that food," Sarah Halcomb said. "That's the experience we want to be able to provide for them."

Edison wheat is used to produce scones, biscuits, cakes, muffins, artisan breads and pizza dough. It is not a variety typically grown in Kentucky, but with some production modifications, the Halcombs were able to achieve decent vields.

"We want people to be aware that we do have the capability to produce it," said Van Sanford, a professor in the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences. "The bakers who have used it, like Bluegrass Baking in Lexington and Sixteen Bricks up in Cincinnati, just love it, because it is so flavorful and has good dough functionality."

While the Halcombs look for commercial outlets for their product, they are also providing some of the grain to UK for teaching and research purposes.

This is a hands-on teaching opportunity Bob Perry, chef in the UK Department of Dietetics and Human Nutrition, was excited to pursue. He recently purchased a flour mill with funds from the

Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station for a teaching tool at the Lemon Tree, the college's student-run restaurant. Perry will instruct students how to mill the grain and prepare its resulting products in the Lemon Tree class that he co-teaches with UK lecturer Aaron Schwarz. Perry plans to use the flour in each of the breads served at the Lemon Tree this semester and show the students that whole grains can be flavorful. He will also let the Lemon Tree's customers know the bread they are eating is local.

"This is a true value chain," Perry said. "Dr. Van Sanford breeds the wheat. The Halcombs grow the wheat. We mill the wheat, and the customer gets to enjoy it."

William Burgess is a UK student who is excited about the project.

"For me, actually, it's a local thing," he said. "If I can support a local product or a product made by Kentucky families or people who have studied at UK, then it is well worth it to eat that kind of grain."

Van Sanford continues to screen varieties for aroma and taste with the hopes of Kentucky producers growing other nontraditional varieties in the state to meet the needs of the growing local food industry.

"We are interested in working with any farmer who is interested in having the ability to trace flour on store shelves directly to their farms," he said.

By Katie Pratt University of Kentucky

Visit The Pride at the NFMS Feb. 12-15 • Booth #7259 South Wing



China keeps tariffs on U.S. farm goods but promises to buy more

CATALOG AVAILABLE ONLINE AT cogwincattle.com shorthorncountry.net iowabeefexpo.com

In a new trade deal, China keeps tariffs on U.S. farm goods but promises to buy more over next two years.

Chinese and U.S. officials signed the first phase of several planned trade resolutions recently at the White House. The agreement has more than 50 agriculture-related commitments, including a faster approval process for biotech crops and tariff exclusions for many U.S. commodities.

"The pledged changes will remove obstacles for U.S. ag exports from beef, pork, poultry and seafood to avocados, blueberries, pet food and hay," Ryan Mc-

Crimmon of Politico's Morning Agriculture reports. "China won't lift any of its retaliatory duties on American farm goods, which total \$110 billion, but the new tariff exclusions will facilitate an uptick in agricultural purchases from U.S. producers."

China promised to buy about \$40 billion in U.S. farm products this year and next year, contingent on market conditions. "Beijing had balked at committing to buy set amounts of U.S. farm goods earlier, and has inked new soybean contracts with Brazil since the trade war started," Ryan Woo and Jeff Mason re-

port for Reuters. "Although the deal could be a boost to U.S. farmers, automakers and heavy equipment manufacturers, some analysts question China's ability to replace imports from other trading partners with more shipments from the United States."

Another possible issue: if China reneges on its promises, the deal allows the U.S. to again put tariffs on Chinese goods. "But according to the text, if the offending party disagrees with such a result, its only recourse is to quit the agreement. There are no provisions for appeal or levying retaliatory tariffs,"

David Lawder reports for Reuters. "Trump administration officials insist that they have set up a robust process for resolving disputes, with each country opening an enforcement office to field and review complaints about compliance. Those grievances will be aired through a series of consultations with escalating levels of officials over a roughly 90-day period before penalties can be levied."

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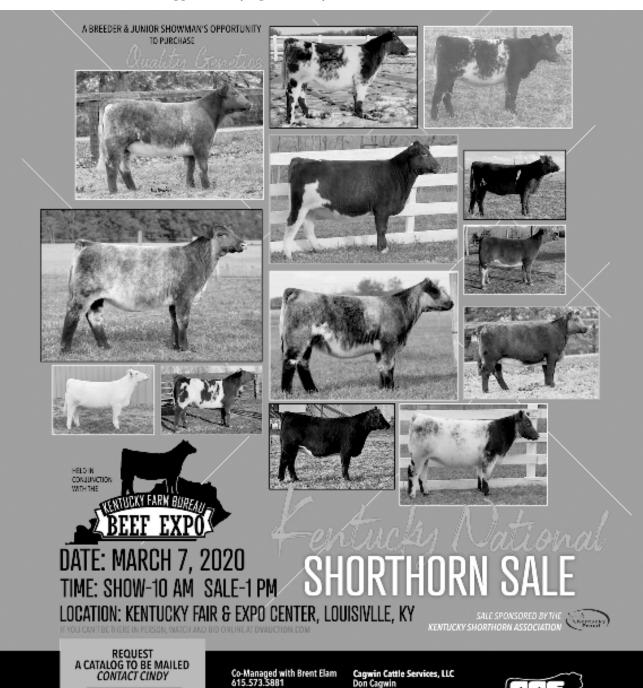
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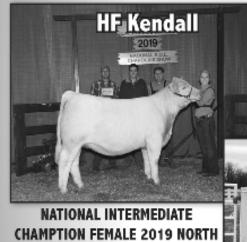
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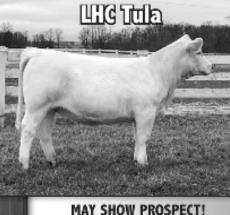
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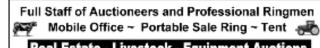
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UK to host irrigation workshop

PRINCETON, Ky. – The University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment will host a Kentucky Irrigation Workshop Feb. 19 at UK's Research and Education Center in Prince-

During the workshop, scientists with the UK Grain and Forage Center of Excellence and the Kentucky Geological Survey will share their most recent research results from their irrigation-related studies in row crops. They also would like to discuss possibilities for future research in this area with workshop participants.

"Even though we have been doing irrigation research for at least five years, we feel like we are just beginning as well," said Chad Lee, director of the Grain and Forage Center of Excellence. "We think we have some good results to share with growers and consultants, but we hope to learn from them also."

Participants will hear from scientists about results on the following research projects: corn, soybean and water demands and the need for irrigation in Kentucky; a summary of center-pivot systems in western Kentucky and underlying variables; an on-farm study on soil spatial variability and its implications for variable-rate irrigation; and testing irrigation schedules in wet sum-

The half-day workshop begins at 8:30 a.m. CST with registration and concludes with lunch at noon. Kentucky Farm Bureau is sponsoring the work-

To register, email Colette Laurent, UK grain crops coordinator, at colette.laurent@ukv.edu.

By Katie Pratt University of Kentucky



During the workshop, UK scientists will share their latest results from their irrigation-focused research.



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USDA announces details of risk management programs for hemp producers

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced the availability of two programs that protect hemp producers' crops from natural disasters.

A pilot hemp insurance program through Multi-Peril Crop Insurance provides coverage against loss of yield because of insurable causes of loss for hemp grown for fiber, grain or Cannabidiol oil and the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program coverage protects against losses associated with lower yields, destroyed crops or prevented planting where no permanent federal crop insurance program is available.

Producers may apply now, and the deadline to sign up for both programs is March 16.

"We are pleased to offer these coverages to hemp producers. Hemp offers new economic opportunities for our farmers, and they are anxious for a way to protect their product in the event of a natural disaster," said Farm Production

and Conservation Undersecretary Bill Northey.

Multi-Peril Crop Insurance Pilot Insurance Program

The MPCI pilot insurance is a new crop insurance option for hemp producers in select counties of 21 states for the 2020 crop year.

The program is available for eligible producers in certain counties in Alabama, California, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia and Wisconsin. Information on eligible counties is accessible through the USDA Risk Management Agency's Actuarial Information Browser.

Among other requirements, to be eligible for the pilot program, a hemp producer must have at least one year of history producing the crop and have a contract for the sale of the insured

hemp. In addition, the minimum acreage requirement is 5 acres for CBD and 20 acres for grain and fiber. Hemp will not qualify for replant payments or prevented plant payments under MPCI.

This pilot insurance coverage is available to hemp growers in addition to revenue protection for hemp offered under the Whole-Farm Revenue Protection plan of insurance.

Also, beginning with the 2021 crop year, hemp will be insurable under the nursery crop insurance program and the nursery value select pilot crop insurance program. Under both nursery programs, hemp will be insurable if grown in containers and in accordance with

federal regulations, any applicable state or tribal laws and terms of the crop insurance policy.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program

NAP provides coverage against loss for hemp grown for fiber, grain, seed or CBD for the 2020 crop year where no permanent federal crop insurance program is available.

NAP basic 50/55 coverage is available at 55 percent of the average market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of expected production. Buy-up coverage is available in some cases.

SEE USDA, PAGE 30

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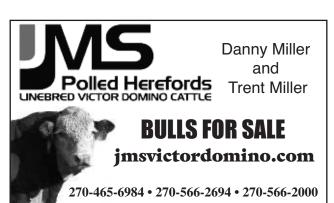
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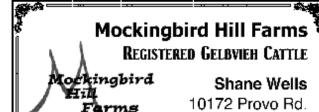


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30 | FEBRUARY 13, 2020 THE FARMER'S PRIDE

USDA announces risk management programs for Kentucky hemp producers

FROM PAGE 28

The 2018 farm bill allows for buy-up levels of NAP coverage from 50 to 65 percent of expected production in 5 percent increments, at 100 percent of the average market price. Premiums apply for buy-up coverage.

For all coverage levels, the NAP service fee is \$325 per crop or \$825 per producer per county, not to exceed \$1,950 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties.

Eligibility Requirements

Under a regulation authorized by the 2018 farm bill and issued in October 2019, all growers must have a license to grow hemp and must comply with applicable state, tribal or federal regulations or operate under a state or university research pilot, as authorized by the 2014 farm bill.

Producers must report hemp acreage to FSA after

UK researchers advancing cover crop knowledge

LEXINGTON - University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment researchers Erin Haramoto and Hanna Poffenbarger are part of an international group of scientists working to enhance the effectiveness of cover crop-based conservation tillage systems to create more sustainable agriculture production.

The five-year, \$10 million project is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative and led by North Carolina State University. The project aims to show how cover crops increase crop profitability, resilience and sustainability for corn, soybeans and cotton and increase cover crop adoption by farmers.

While not typically harvested for income, farmers use cover crops in their production rotations to protect and regenerate the soil and improve soil, water and pest management. By using both cover crops and reduced tillage, producers increase carbon sequestration in their soil, improve their soil health and allow for a more climate-resilient production of food and fiber.

Haramoto and Poffenbarger, assistant professors in the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, received more than \$425,000 for their portion of the project. They will study how cover crops contribute to nutrient cycling and pest management in Kentucky as part of a coordinated effort with 14 other locations across the

"We aim to determine how nitrogen inputs to corn should be adjusted following winter cover crops such as cereal rye and crimson clover," Poffenbarger said. "The coordinated effort of researchers at 15 locations planting to comply with federal and state law enforcement.

The farm bill defines hemp as containing .3 percent or less tetrahydrocannabinol on a dryweight basis. Hemp having THC above the federal statutory compliance level of .3 percent is an unin-

surable or ineligible cause of loss and will result in the hemp production being ineligible for production history purposes.

For more information on USDA risk management programs for hemp producers,

visit farmers.gov/hemp to

read farmers.gov frequently asked questions. For more information on the U.S. Domestic Hemp Production Program, visit USDA's Agricultural Marketing Services' website to read AMS frequently asked questions.



UK team studying best ways for a cover crop

FROM PAGE 30

across the country will provide a unique dataset to understand how cover crops function in different environments."

In the common pest management experiment, also conducted at 15 locations, the UK team is studying how cover crop termination time affects complex pest dynamics in corn, including diseases, pest and beneficial insects, and weeds.

"This information will help producers make more informed decisions on pest management inputs in cover crop systems," Haramoto said.

In addition to these common experiments, they will also develop a new multi-institution undergraduate course to foster better understanding of regional cover crop use and adaptation. This course will use cutting-edge teaching tools and techniques to provide students with a better understanding of the ways cover crops can contribute to agricultural systems.

The coalition of scientists, known as the Precision Sustainable Agriculture team, have expertise in crop management, systems modeling, social science, technology and human-centered design. They will use the latest technology, including real-time data flow and cloud-based platforms, to measure the benefits of cover crops across different climates, locations and

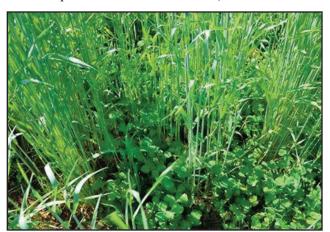


Photo by Erin Haramoto, UK weed scientist.

One of the experiments will examine the nutrient dynamics of a mixture of cereal rye and crimson clover prior to corn.

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soil types. They will use the results from their experiments to develop decision-making tools for farmers to help them determine which cover crop is best for their area and production system. More information about the group is available online at precisionsustainableag.org/.

By Katie Pratt University of Kentucky



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