



Federal court bans Dicamba; EPA, companies respond

A federal court ruling on June 3 halted the sale of three dicamba-based herbicide products, a major hit for soybean producers who use the product on two-thirds of the nation's crop.

The 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals in California vacated labels for the weed control after a lawsuit from several conservation groups that argue that the EPA ignored the risks the product poses to non-resistant crops and natural areas.

The Environmental Protection Agency responded with a 12-page order that allows for the use of the herbicide through July 31 under specific conditions, helping producers in the middle of planting season.

"At the height of the growing season, the court's decision has threatened the livelihood of our nation's farmers and the global food supply," said EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler. "Today's cancellation and existing stocks order is consistent

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KENTUCKY STATE FAIR UPDATE: Modified livestock shows will go on. 2



Elizabeth Vaughan, associate senior director of philanthropy at the University of Kentucky, joined Dr. Timothy Woods, (bottom from left) Dr. Will Snell and Dr. Kenneth Burdine, agriculture economists and extensions professors in a Zoom meeting recently.

UK ag economists discuss COVID-19 impacts

In some ways, a national pandemic has brought Kentucky farmers and the consumers of their products closer together. At the same time, 2020 will be remembered for drastic market changes and economic downturns.

On June 5, the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment hosted its second installment of CAFE Conversations, this one featuring ag economists Dr. Will Snell, Dr. Tim Woods and Dr. Kenny Burdine. It was moderated by Elizabeth Vaughan, associate senior director of philanthropy at the college. The economists discussed the impact of COVID-19 on Kentucky's ag community and answered questions submitted by viewers.

Snell said a positive outcome is that consumers started paying attention to the food supply chain and gained an understanding of the complexity of it. In general, consumers tend to see the finished product on shelves and never think about "all the hands that have touched it" on its journey from the farm to the store.

The pandemic has created an opportunity for sales and

policy support directed at this captive audience, he said.

COVID-19 has had a positive economic impact on Kentucky specialty crop producers and direct-marketers who have seen a surge in orders from consumers who want to buy local and want to know where their food comes from, according to Dr. Woods. Meat processors who process local meats are booked up until 2021 as a result.

He said producers at farmers' market are "amazingly resilient" when it comes to adjusting to market changes. Many have shifted to online sales to replace in-person contact, a trend that will likely continue past the end of the pandemic.

However, the overall prognosis for the year 2020 is lukewarm, according to the economists.

Snell said this economic downturn is different than any in the past and it is bigger than the Great Depression. In 2009, the GDP drop was 7.5 percent, which was the biggest drop

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INSIDE

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State fair is a go, but under different guidelines

The Kentucky State Fair will happen this year but precautionary measures against the coronavirus will make the show look a lot different.

“We have approved the state fair proposal. It will look very different this year, but the main thing is that we are keeping the agricultural competition and so many of the things that make the fair great,” Gov. Andy Beshear announced June 9.

THE COVID-19 PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

It is anticipated that attendance will be reduced by 50 percent.

New requirements include reduced occupancy, wider aisles, an increase in hygiene accessibility, reduced hours of operation, increased use of outdoor areas, and requiring the use of masks

and gloves.

Beshear said the South Wing B and C portion of the fairground facility will not be used because he does not want to remove a state field hospital put in place in case of mass COVID-19 cases.

Credentialed individuals will only be allowed in Broadbent Arena and Freedom Hall and no spectators are allowed, but the events will be live streamed.

Livestock entries are expected to be down by 69 percent this year. This allows for appropriate space and to adhere to social distancing guidelines. Judges and participants will be required to wear masks when exhibiting their livestock.

“The Kentucky State Fair is an important tradition for our agricultural community. As agriculture commissioner and a state fair board member, I worked closely with the fair board to put forth a

plan to put public health first and allow for this tradition to continue,” said Commissioner Ryan Quarles.

Quarles sent a letter to the governor just prior to the announcement requesting swift approval of the plan proposed by the fair board.

“...the next day the governor announced during his daily update that his administration had approved of it. While we expect more details in the days and weeks ahead, I have full confidence in the state fair board, Kentucky Venues, and Venues CEO David Beck,” said Quarles.



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Feeder cattle supply over 600# was 42%.

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Dairy Steers: Large 3: 292# 103.00, 465# 83.00, 535# 79.00, 745# 76.00, 849# 70.00, 906# 64.00.

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Springer Heifers: Supreme 1400.00, Approved 1150.00-1250.00, Medium 800.00-975.00, Medium 800.00 Jersey, Common 700.00-850.00, Common 750.00 Jersey.

Open Heifers: Supreme 275# 240.00, Approved 425# 335.00 Jersey, Approved 550# 400.00-450.00, Common 625# 375.00.

Bull calves: 18 head 30.00-120.00, 8 head 160.00-320.00 beef cross, 2 head 130.00-140.00 crossbred.

Heifer calves: 7 head 50.00-120.00, 4 head 150.00-280.00 beef cross, 2 head 90.00-110.00 crossbred, 4 head 80.00-140.00 Jersey.

Slaughter Cows: Breaker 75-80 percent lean 1510-1835# 62.00-67.00, H.Dr. 1495-1785# 68.00-77.00, L.Dr. 1825# 57.00, Boner 80-85% lean 58.00-67.00, H.Dr. 1085-1470# 68.00-78.00, L.Dr. 50.00-57.00, Lean 85-90% lean 987# 48.00-57.00, H.Dr. 830-1065# 58.00-68.00, L.Dr. 914# 35.00-47.00.

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Gov. Beshear makes several fair board appointments

Gov. Andy Beshear recently made several appointments to the Kentucky State Fair Board.

James Steven (Steve) Wilson, CEO and co-founder of 21c Museum Hotels, replaces Kentucky farm leader Sharon Furches, of Murray. Wilson was also appointed to replace Mark Lynn as chairman. Wilson represents a member-at-large.

Delmar Lee Robey, a partner in D.L. Robey Farms in Adairville, has been appointed to replace farmer Ryan Bivens, of Hodgenville. Robey represents all segments of crop and plant production on the board.

Former Agriculture Commissioner Billy Ray Smith, of Bowling Green, replaces David Wallace, of Verona. Smith represents a member-at-large.

All three board seats are for four-year

terms expiring May 10, 2024.

Beshear appointed Michael E. Berry, secretary of the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet, as vice chair of the board last December.

The governor serves on the board along with Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles and Dr. Nancy Cox, dean and director of the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. Other current board members are Edward Bennett, Shelbyville; Marshall Coyle, Owingsville; Joseph T. Goggin, Danville; Michael J. Grisanti, Louisville; Dr. Mark E. Lynn, Louisville; Philip McCoun, Shelbyville; Tandy Patrick, Louisville; Michael Poynter, Stanford; and David Williams, Danville.

David S. Beck is the president and CEO.





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Farmers and processors step up



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While we still face some challenges ahead, the American farmer and hard working people allowed us to weather this storm.

In America's darkest hours, be it during the American Revolution, the Civil War or World War II, our farmers were there to feed our nation and nourish its citizens. These last three months have been one of the most difficult that many of us have ever endured or will ever see again. But through it all, the American farmer provided. The American farmer prevailed.

In the early days of the coronavirus crisis, political pundits and coastal elites warned that the food system was on the brink of collapse. They said that in all of history a time of disease was always followed by a time of famine. But because of the American farmer, that has yet to occur.

Americans enjoy the safest and most abundant food supply in the history of the world. The scale that our farmers produce and the bounty they provide is both complex and incomprehensible in scale. During this pandemic, there were fears that as the virus ravaged meat packing plants there would be mass shortages. While we still face some challenges ahead, the American farmer and hard working people allowed us to weather this storm.

Here in Kentucky, our farmers and processors stepped up in a big way to fight hunger. Through the efforts of our staff and the Hunger Initiative, we were able to adapt quickly and get food in the hands of those who needed it the most. Thanks to a historic half-million dollar donation from Kentucky Farm Bureau Insurance, we partnered with all of our commodity groups to provide fresh, nutritious protein for our food banks.

With historic numbers of people utilizing food banks, it was a welcome sight for many to see products like fresh sausage, cheese, and beef as options. We came together and made sure that the richest and poorest of us still had access to food.

While there have been sporadic reports of crops being plowed under or massive depopulations of some of our livestock, we are confident that moving forward, our farmers will continue to meet the demands of not only our citizens, but also the rest of the world. All the while, we discovered some long-time problems – like our lack of broadband access and our reliance on foreign countries for medical supplies – can no longer go unaddressed.

As we look towards the future, we've got some work to do. We must increase our local meat processing capacity. We must innovate and adapt like we've always done. But perhaps most importantly, we must continue to remind our urban residents that we are responsible for their food, not the grocery store.

RYAN QUARLES is Kentucky's Commissioner of Agriculture.

Kentucky dairy farmers are resilient

What do you say about a life altering event that you have absolutely no control over? Everyone in America has been affected in some way – unfortunately, most in a very negative way. The negative has played out in our dairy world in a severe way.

In January, I think every dairy farmer and all our support industries were very optimistic about a great year. At our Dairy Partners meeting in Bowling Green in February, there was such a positive spirit that we had put the past four extremely tough years behind us. Then, in two weeks' time, everything changed. I remember sitting in a UK regulatory meeting in early March in Lexington when they announced the SEC Basketball Tournament had been cancelled and UK was shutting down classes. I really could not believe it was true.

The dairy supply and distribution networks were the first to feel the shutdown. Who would ever believe groceries would have empty milk shelves? I still do not get the run on toilet paper...Where's the Sears Roebuck catalog when you need it? The sight of milk being poured down the drain was tragic, such beautiful, nutritious food being thrown away.

We operate in a unique industry. During several interviews, the one big question always was, "Why is milk being dumped?" Very few people have any comprehension of what it takes to get that milk in the bottle or block of cheese. It is a long way from the cow to the dairy case. I am daily so thankful to see that milk truck coming down the road. We must remember how many people and all the processes that our product goes through before it gets to the consumer. I wish everyone could tour a milk plant – they are truly amazing. It is so disappointing that our KDDC summer tour of the Bel Cheese plant in Leitchfield was cancelled.

Cancellations have become a way of life. It was bad enough for basketball tournaments to be cancelled, but what about school, senior prom and graduations? My granddaughter worked years for her degree and now there is no graduation ceremony. Please pray for all graduates at every level to know they still truly succeeded in accomplishing something that is exceedingly valuable.

Our dairy world did not escape cancellations. All the 4-H and FFA events have been cancelled at least through June, no celebration of June Dairy Days. Life as we have always



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HH
Barlow

With restaurants opening and the huge government buy of dairy products, dairy demand has skyrocketed and on June 9, commodity cheese closed at \$2.54 per pound.

SEE DAIRYMEN, PAGE 7

The Farmer's Pride

- Sharon BurtonPublishersnburton@duo-county.com
- Mindy YarberryGeneral Managerpride316@duo-county.com
- Toni HumphressSales and Marketingtoni@farmlandpub.com
- National Sales RepJ.L. Farmakiswww.jlfarmakis.com...203-834-8832
- Diana WithersCirculationcirculation@farmlandpub.com

Send news items to
newsroom@thefarmerspride.com
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P.O. Box 159, Columbia, KY 42728
E-mail: pride316@duo-county.com
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The questions begin



MARKET WATCH

Dewey Strickler

Corn planting is finished, and now the questions begin. Will Mother Nature cooperate this season? So far, she has as 75 percent of the crop is rated in good-to-excellent condition, 5 percent more than the 10-year average. According to Ag Watch's yield model, the national yield is 179.5 bushels per acre versus USDA's estimate of 178.5 bushels per acre.

What about demand? This is tougher to gauge because of the impact of COVID-19. Exports have improved since January but have sluffed off the past couple of weeks.

Meanwhile, ending stocks for 2020-21 are projected to rise a modest 5 million bushels to 3.323 billion bushels while world stocks are down 1.7 million tons to 337.9. While little can be gathered from USDA's report for June, next month will reflect planted acres and a yield estimate based upon weekly crop conditions.

China has been an active buyer of soybeans the past two weeks, but the overall export pace continues to decline and is down 80 percent since peaking in November. The good news is this is about as bad as it gets. Weather remains cooperative as planting is running ahead of pace at 86 percent complete compared to 79 percent for the average.

The crop is improving with 72 percent reported in good-to-excellent condition, two points above the previous week. This is also one point above the 10-year average. USDA projects 2020-21 ending stocks to decline 20 million bushels to 395 million bushels.

This was the lowest trade guess. As a result, world stocks are forecast to fall 2.1 million tons to 96.3 million. No changes were made to China's imports at 96 million tons. However, this is two million tons above a year ago. Next month's report should provide more input.

Wheat harvest is in the early stages and is 7 percent complete which is on par with the average. Exports are nothing to brag about and off to a slow start for the new marketing year. Ending stocks of wheat for 2020-21 were higher than expected, up 16 million bushels to 925 million bushels.

However, world stocks rose 6 million tons to 316.1 million exceeding the highest guess. This came from production increases in the EU and Ukraine as well as a reduction in Ukraine's exports.

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

No changes were made to China's imports at 96 million tons.

Finding new ground

Some observers see the Black Lives Matter movement as a tidal wave washing away America's original sin, slavery, and the systemic racism it fostered for more than 400 years.

Maybe, but as the last 75 years of the American civil rights movement has proven time and again – and often in blood – rooting out hatred requires more than water or promises. It demands a true change of heart from America's people and its government.

Right now, however, our deeply divided government and even more divided people can't agree on what news is "fake" let alone how to fight a deadly pandemic or eliminate the equally deadly blight of bigotry.

How deep is our divide? Ridiculously deep.

For example, according to survey data cited in the June 9 Wall Street Journal, "Those who say they always wear a face mask in public settings said they support Joe Biden, the Democrats' presumptive presidential nominee, over Mr. Trump, 66 percent to 26 percent. Those who never or rarely wear a face mask back Mr. Trump 83 percent to 7 percent."

The stark difference may partly explain why the U.S. leads the world in COVID-19 deaths. As of June 10, the viral killer has claimed 114,000 Americans in less than four months and, if experts are correct, likely will kill another 50,000 to 60,000 by Election Day, Nov. 3.

With that level of division already present in America, now is not the time to sow more through confounding, conflicting federal action, right? Recent events in ag prove otherwise.

On June 3, a federal appeals court effectively banned the use of dicamba-based crop sprays in the U.S. Five days later, however, the Environmental Protection Agency ruled that farmers and commercial applicators could use dicamba stocks they had on hand as of the court's ruling date.

That meant the court order somehow was bent by the White House for farmers and applicators to spray an estimated 4 million gallons of dicamba on 60 million U.S. acres to create yet another year of "substantial drift harm to farmers" – the exact reason for the lawsuit – who didn't plant dicamba-tolerant

crops.

It's a room service example of why an increasing number of Americans distrust Big Ag, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and government in general: they're better at bending laws than abiding by them; better at sowing confusion than clarifying it.

Another early June example of USDA taking on extra-legal authority is Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue's \$3 billion "Farmers to Families Food Box Program," that the White House explains as a way to deliver excess farm produce directly to hungry families.

The idea, however, flies in the face of reality and has been killed repeatedly by Congress as wasteful, duplicative, and an open-ended Christmas gift to political insiders and posers.

So far, it's been all those things. USDA has already discovered several wildly unqualified suppliers that hopped on its newest gravy train. One, a San Antonio wedding planner, received a \$39 million USDA contract to deliver "produce, meat, and dairy to charitable organizations like the (local) food bank."

When that news became public – and the laughter died down – the wedding planner's contract was placed under review.

By the end of May, however, the San Antonio Food Bank, which made its own national headlines because of "aerial shots of thousands in line to pick up food," still had "not received relief from one of the USDA's... biggest winners," Perdue's food box scheme.

By some miracle, however, a week later Ivanka Trump, Advisor to the President, announced "5 million boxes have been successfully delivered to Americans most in need all across the country..."

Should we believe what she said or what we see? We are free to choose.

We're also free – the freest in the world, most of us believe – to find new ground where every American can stand together in true greatness.

The only thing stopping us is us.

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.



FOOD & FARM FILE

Alan Guebert

And that's only if a second round of Covid-19 – a likely possibility, warn experts – doesn't slam livestock growers this winter.

UK weed scientist helps growers reduce herbicide drift

LEXINGTON – Herbicide drift affects millions of crop acres across the nation every year, resulting in significant losses for many producers, lawsuits and tension among neighbors. A University of Kentucky weed scientist is helping grain producers find ways to minimize herbicide drift through his research and extension programs.

“It is in everybody’s best interest to minimize the off-target movement of herbicides,” said Travis Legleiter, an assistant extension professor in the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. “Not only does it reduce our impact on the environment and maintain neighborly relations, but it assures the farmer is putting all of their investment in that product onto the field where it is intended to go.”

At the UK Grain and Forage Center of Excellence, Legleiter conducts research with UK interns and graduate students on ways producers can reduce herbicide drift. In a 2018 study, he found that the boom height of the sprayer and nozzle droplet size play a role in downwind drift.

“When we raised the boom from 24 inches to 48 inches, we found that our downwind drift potential tripled,” he said.

To reduce drift, many herbicide companies require producers to apply chemicals using larger nozzle droplet sizes. While this technique reduces drift, it

also reduces herbicide coverage on the targeted weeds, which may reduce weed control. In a recent study, Legleiter and UK graduate student Madison Kramer evaluated different situations where larger nozzle droplet sizes might result in a loss of effective weed control, as well as other scenarios that could produce effective weed control.

“We found that producers can achieve excellent weed control when using systemic herbicides with large droplet nozzles, as long as they keep their weed densities down with a pre-emergent herbicide,” he said. “We want to show producers that they can use these larger nozzle sizes and still get adequate weed control.”

Legleiter shares the results of his research through extension meetings and presentations across Kentucky and the nation. In 2019, he presented his research during a United Soybean Board Take Action Webinar that strives to provide U.S. growers with the latest information on pesticide resistance management.

He also presents his findings and educates growers about drift during the spray clinic, which is part of UK’s Kentucky Agriculture Training School. The school’s programs offer producers information during hands-on field demonstrations. The spray clinic is one of the most well-attended events each year.

“We spend about 45 minutes with our



Photo by Lori Rogers, UK KATS coordinator

UK weed scientist Travis Legleiter, center, explains to producers how nozzle size and boom height impact herbicide drift using pink dye during the 2019 Spray Clinic.

spray table simply talking about droplet size, how to control droplet size and why it’s important for herbicide drift, he said. “We then go out to the plots and explain why droplet size and boom height are so critical in reducing drift using live demonstrations with bright pink dye that shows up on everything it touches downwind.”

During the winter, Legleiter travels across Kentucky bringing his spray table to county meetings. During the past two winters, he has educated about

750 farmers, spray applicators and consultants about ways to reduce drift through the meetings.

Going forward, Legleiter plans to create extension publications on herbicide nozzle selection and drift reduction and conduct additional research using a sprayer with pulse-width modulation, a newer technology to control droplet size and reduce herbicide drift.

By Katie Pratt
University of Kentucky

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Dairymen are resilient

FROM PAGE 4

known it has been altered in 2020. My prayer is, "Never again."

That brings us to the financial side of this pandemic, where we will not know all the ramifications for quite some time. When all food service closed except for carry-out, commodity cheese prices dropped to a \$1 per pound in April. With restaurants opening and the huge government buy of dairy products, dairy demand has skyrocketed and on June 9, commodity cheese closed at \$2.54 per pound, which is 154 percent growth in six weeks time. This has caused milk future prices to also increase dramatically, which bodes well for Kentucky dairy farmers.

The changes to our dairy industry over the last three months have been totally unprecedented. Going from clear despair in April to an optimistic outlook

in June has been emotionally and physically stressful.

All of us dairymen want to express our gratitude to the truckers, processors and service industries who have stayed on the job throughout the pandemic to keep us supplied and moved our product to the consumer without any major problems.

During this pandemic crisis period, one thing has become crystal clear, Kentucky dairymen are resilient, and we will do our best to keep producing nature's most perfect food.

Even though we cannot celebrate June Dairy Month with activities, please raise a glass of milk with all of us to salute our state's dairy producers. Thanks to all who have prayed and eat lots of ice cream during these hot summer days.

HH BARLOW is executive director of Kentucky Dairy Development Council.



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KyCorn asked futurist Bob Treadway to provide the same advice to our members that he provided to the National Corn Growers Association.



Bob Treadway is a globally-praised futurist, leadership educator, and strategy consultant. He's advised clients on future operating environments for over 33 years.

His clients include Gillette, Berkshire Hathaway, Motorola, the Social Security Administration, US Gypsum, the National League of Cities, the National Corn Growers Association, the Institute for Management Studies and eight North American universities where he's been adjunct faculty and lecturer.

Bob works extensively in agriculture and counts as clients the US Meat Export Federation, US Grains Council, Syngenta, Dow, the American Soybean Association, Farm Credit Services, Ag Future of America, and Canola Council of Canada.

Learn more about his work at <https://trendtalk.com>

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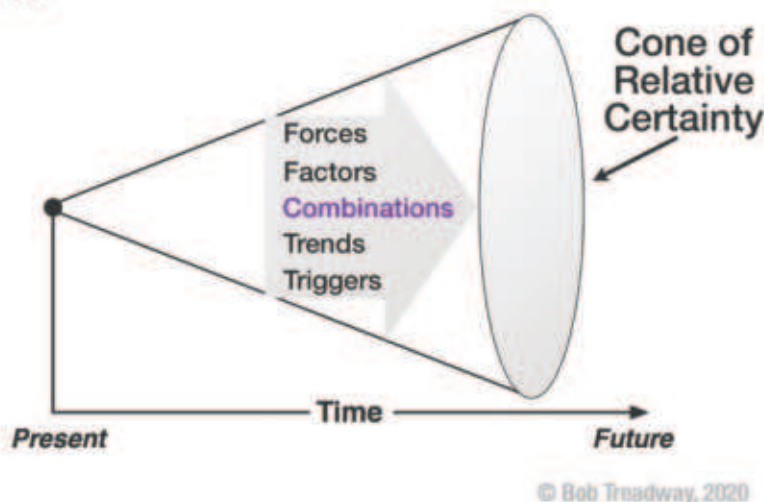
News from the Kentucky Corn Growers Association and Kentucky Corn Promotion Council

Over the Horizon

Recently the National Corn Growers Association invited me to brief state association executives on the 10-20 year future for their organizations and members. Your own staff asked me for an article pointing out what Kentucky agricultural producers should be considering and working into their own strategy. Here are signals of the future and points I made based on 30 years of working with agriculture and looking at the 2030-2040 timeframe. I've also posed some actions you could be taking now in order to be proactively ready for the future of agriculture.

How to Look Ahead

I base forecasts on a range of issues, trigger events, driving forces, trends, and stakeholder behavior. You might think that 10-20 years is too long a timeline to look at but the best organizations I work with always use long-term vision to advise and shape the decisions they make today using the approach in this illustration:



Which Operators Thrive?

Consolidation is coming for farmers and ranchers. There will be fewer but larger and more sophisticated operations in another 10 years. Expertise in business decision-making, technology choices, nimble capability to shift operations will no longer be "nice-to-haves." They will be the bedrock intellectual assets for slightly less than half of current producers that will thrive. Another 25% of farmers carry low levels of debt, are protected by current land values, and can continue to operate as they have but will probably not see growth.

Actions? Commit to becoming smarter at the business of farming. Ask your associations to ally with institutions and learning sources to contribute to your expertise. Rethink

"going your own way" and realize that alliances, combined powerful voices, and shared expertise are going to be even more necessary in the future.

Trade

Export market access through trade policy is crucial to prices and profitability in the next 20 years. Farmers and ranchers benefit by keeping markets they spent decades developing. Competitive pressures from South America and burgeoning developments that threaten biofuels and feed demand are real. Smart farmers who are my clients believe US producers can't depend on subsidies and don't want them. They want to compete on talent, practices, and the quality of their production. Food demand globally will go up. Asia, Africa, and the Middle East where another 2 billion consumers will be born in the next 2 decades will lead that demand. But a fair share for you and your fellow producers will depend on open, not closed markets. China is a crucial market for US output and especially for corn, DDGS, and beef – a trade category that China experts say could grow substantially in the next decade.

Actions? Raise your voice in support of a growing range of markets for your output. Belong and be active in commodity associations and alliances. Think, speak, and act globally about your part in contributing to America's exports to feed the world what it wants to eat.

Social/Political Strategy

In 10 to 20 years US producers will want to have an even stronger bond with the American consumer and frankly, voter. The ability to simultaneously hold your own political views but also communicate and advocate with an even more diverse, informed, and opinionated consumer will be an adjustment. But the demographic and societal trends indicate more commitment and involvement with your associations, check-offs, and national commodity/product alliances. The most recent podcast from the National Corn Growers (ncga.com/stay-informed/media/podcast) features a candid conversation about the "Urban-Rural Divide" between CEO Jon Doggett and three-time Olympic gold medalist Jackie Joyner-Kersey.

Actions? Get behind your state association's advocacy efforts. Become agnostic in reaching out to consumers and voters who won't always share all of your opinions but stand on common ground with you in providing for their families and communities.

kycornCONNECTION

News from the Kentucky Corn Growers Association and Kentucky Corn Promotion Council

FROM PAGE 8

Biofuel Competition

“Nothing uses corn better than ethanol,” a top farm machinery executive told me in 2005. If we consider 2030 to 2040 there will still be demand for liquid fuels but there’s a threat. In that time period electric vehicles will be able to travel hundreds of miles on a charge.

Batteries will be environmentally friendly. The electrical grid in America will see over half of its supply come from renewables in 2025. Gains in wind and solar will accelerate through 2040. Electric vehicles by then are not just simpler, almost maintenance-free, and substantially cheaper to operate but you’ll use the same power system for your farm machinery.

Actions? Support the RFS. Advocate for higher blends of ethanol. Emphasize the sustainability and renewable nature of ethanol. Press for investment in research and development for new uses for corn.

Other Competition

Meat substitutes and eventually non-animal meat are now and will continue to take market share. Plant protein substi-

tutes are becoming a significant factor in fast-food and fast-casual dining in America and Europe. It’s heading to the supermarket next. What tells me it’s not going away?

Ramped-up production and marketing of these substitutes by Hormel, Tyson, Smithfield, Nestle, and Perdue. While you might be skeptical of in-vitro factory-produced meat it’s about to make an appearance in the market. These are not dire threats to meat production now but we’re considering what they may mean in the market that’s 10 to 20 years ahead.

Actions? Strengthen the alliance with meat producers. Support building export markets for US producers. Look for opportunities for corn to participate in new food development.

Technology

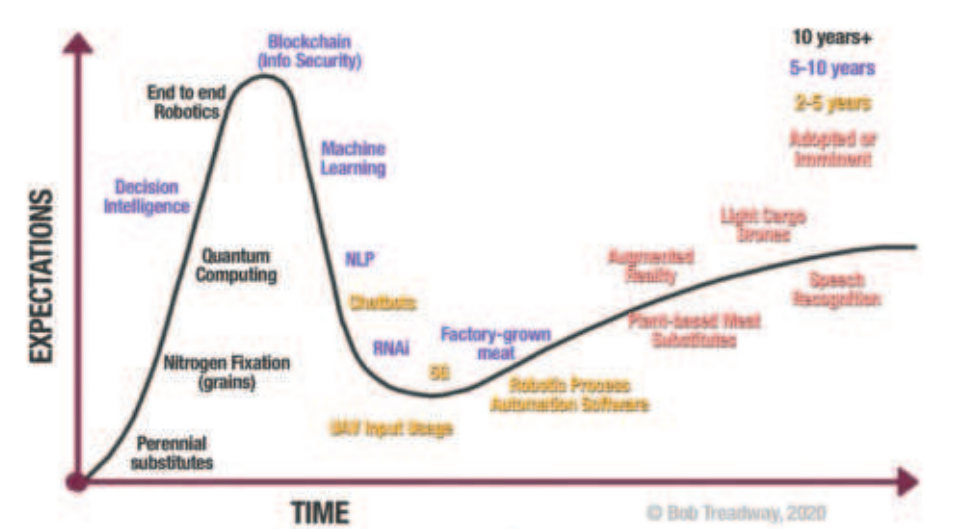
No matter what you farm, in another 10 years technology will make up a major share of your investments, decision-making, and financial/competitive edges. Too often futurists who work in the ag sector breathlessly hype the

major impacts. But when we focus a decade to two decades out we can see that developments beyond their first generation really begin to take hold and change agriculture. In the short term you’ll see the new 5G mobile system deploy allowing huge data transfers and potentially a higher level of precision, data-driven agriculture.

After 2030 look for major aids to agonomic decision-making, pragmatic robotics, breakthroughs in pest resistance and drought tolerance. At the 2040 time-

frame it’s realistic to expect major developments like biennial crops, perennial food crops, and even the ability of corn to fix nitrogen. I diagrammed agriculture-related developments on a “hype curve” in a recent presentation to the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers.

Actions? Build awareness of the tools and techniques that can increase margins, enable smarter decisions, and enhance stewardship.



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Is rain on hay any good?

The early part of June has seen thousands of tons of hay cut and baled. The weather was good, but not perfect, as Kentucky weather is notoriously unpredictable. If you got some rain during hay-making, you are not alone. So how much rain can hay take? Can it get so bad that there is no feed value left? What happens to hay when it rains? Here are a few thoughts.

The majority of the damage from untimely rain is loss of the soluble nutrients of the forage (the sugars). Even before rain damage, we lose some sugar during plant respiration, that occurs from the time forage is cut until it reaches about 50 percent moisture content. Rainfall will extend the length of time that forage is wetter than 50 percent moisture, leading to more loss of sugars from respiration.

Rainfall leaches the soluble sugars from forage. The amount of leaching depends on the type of forage, the moisture content of the forage before rainfall, the concentration of soluble sugars, and the number, amount and intensity of rainfall event(s). Leaf shatter can also be significant in legumes, especially on nearly dry forage.

Hay that has been rained on during curing will also have greater levels of dirt as well as higher numbers of microorganisms that will cause molding in the bale. Finally, the extra tedding and

raking that may be needed to cure the crop can lead to further losses, especially in legume hay.

Research done by Dr. Mike Collins, retired UK forage scientist, gives us some insight into the question of how much quality is lost due to rain. Dr. Collins measured the digestibility of alfalfa and red clover forage which experienced rain at different times after cutting (Table 1). In 1980, one inch of rain that fell soon after clipping had little negative impact on forage digestibility (as measured by IVDMD - a laboratory estimate of the extent of digestion of a forage in the rumen). In a second study, 1.6 inches of rain during curing (after some drying had occurred) caused significant losses in digestibility. Getting 2.4 more inches of rain on almost dry hay caused further damage, truly making some of the forage of little value (for example, 36 percent digestibility in rain-damaged late-bloom alfalfa).

Similar research at the University of Arkansas found dry matter losses were below 2 percent for second cutting orchardgrass with up to 3 inches of simulated rainfall when the forage was 67.4 percent moisture (moisture level just after cutting). Dry matter losses quadrupled to 8 percent when the same amount of water fell on forage at 15.3 percent moisture (moisture level desired for



making dry hay).

These findings help clarify the nature and causes of losses, but what about the original question: ‘Can forage get so much rain that it loses its feeding value?’

Based on the work of Mike Collins, the 1981 alfalfa and red clover had lost most of its feeding value after the two rainfall events totaling 4 inches. In cases like these, the best course may be to remove the forage from the field or chop it with a rotary mower to speed decomposition of the damaged forage and to min-

imize shading of the next crop.

In the end, deciding what to do with rain-damaged hay is a judgment call. Many factors come into play such as when the rainfall occurs during curing, the amount and intensity, and how dry the crop was when rained on. I find it helpful to know that rain immediately after cutting can do minimal damage. Hopefully, this knowledge can help make your next cutting decision a little easier.

Happy foraging.

The Forage Doctor



By Jimmy Henning

		IVDMD (% DM)					
		1980		1981			
	Maturity	No Rain	1.0 in after clipping	No Rain	1.6 in during curing	2.4 in on dry hay	
Alfalfa	Bud	67.6	65.2	72.7	57.2	49.3	
	Late Bloom	60.1	58.8	62.3	39.2	36.0	
Red Clover	Late Bud	74.6	72.1	68.3	47.2	43.4	
	Late Bloom	67.1	62.6	62.1	48.6	43.7	

The effect of rain on mowed hay at different times after cutting. Source: M. Collins. 1983. Agronomy Journal 75: 523-527

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Economists discuss impacts the pandemic has on ag economy

FROM PAGE 1

in 70 years. In 2020, the projected decline in the GDP is 30-40 percent.

With bottlenecks on the supply side, agriculture has been hurt by price drops. Kentucky's ag economy of \$5 billion will likely see a 10 percent drop, or a loss of \$500 million, this year.

"It's not good when ag is dependent on good weather and government payment supports," Snell said.

Burdine echoed the cautionary note. Despite the optimism in ag at the beginning of 2020 due to trade talks, by February there were signs of trouble. First there was the demand shock and lay-offs, then shut-downs of processing plants, and now overall supply chain disruptions.

Beef and pork prices to producers were 34 percent below the 2019 levels at the time that COVID-19 was acknowledged. The soybean market, which is dependent on international trade, appears likely to be uncertain due to China's devastating pork death loss and its replacement of U.S. suppliers with those from other countries due to the trade war. The USMCA did not give a boost to grain sales but kept it level.

Work policies like sheltering-in-place and working remotely have cut into consumer commuting. The reduced need for gasoline has dropped the demand for ethanol and harmed corn producers and processors.

With nationwide layoffs, consumers have less money to spend, though they will need to purchase food. The irony is that there is a more than adequate supply of beef, pork, dairy, and chicken but getting the products safely to consumers has become difficult.

The close proximity of workers to each other in processing plants, which allowed the coronavirus to

spread, has created shutdowns in major meatpacking facilities, which has contributed to bottlenecks in the supply chain.

Snell mentioned that closing immigration offices at the border will likely impact harvests later this year, which are labor intensive. In general, immigrant laborers live and work in close quarters, which makes social distancing and worker safety difficult.

Timber has taken a hit. The forestry industry is also caught in the trade war. It has a backlog of inventory, factory shutdowns, and market uncertainty since housing starts are depressed.

"People are conservative about making big investments right now, even though lending rates are low," Woods said.

The equine industry shut down racing for a short time but since its biggest revenue is generated in the fall through sales, it may take longer to understand the impact of COVID-19, according to Burdine. It took the industry three years to recover from the 2008-09 recession but, "it's a steeper drop this time."

The economists pointed out strategies for weathering these new market conditions.

Snell mentioned CFAP but called the program "a bandaid that's not sustainable. What will happen when these programs go away?" He suggested that working toward a stronger farm bill next round is crucial. Rural development programs should include more dollars for broadband access. If producers are to make use of the new on-line markets COVID-19 revealed, they need vastly-improved speeds.

"It's a difficult era politically to give out dollars equitably, though the CFAP is generally easier to apply to than most programs. Be patient as policy makers are making good faith effort so we can all come out of this

safely," Woods said.

Burdine sees a shift from intensive manual labor in processing to more automation in the future.

"We have done a pretty good job with our food system. Production at the end of April was up 6-8 percent. Operating plants had to make changes. There was a slow down and it cost them money but these changes are good for the long term," He said.

Food prices will increase and process and delivery will change, Snell said.

"Our supply chain system is not broken but disrupted. We see how complex and efficient our food supply chain is. We will make it through," he said.

"The COVID disruption underscores what a global market we live in," Woods said. "It will leave a scar for a very long time."

The webinar, which contains more in-depth figures and touches on other sectors, is available to view at youtube.com/watch?v=wXwYRbbS0iQ.

By Lynn Pruett
Field Reporter

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New dairy business starts during global pandemic



During a time when the world was at a pause, Legacy Dairy and the Jones family felt like they were on top of the world. Genelle, Doug, Ally and Jagger Jones live in the Hiseville community where they have just recently turned their dreams into a reality.

Dairy farms are some of the essential businesses in Kentucky lives. Research shows that there are about 850 dairy farms and 80,000 cows in the bluegrass state. Together, they produce 130 million gallons of milk per year.

In 2018 there were 600 dairy farms with a Grade A permit in Kentucky. According to the Kentucky Dairy Development Council, that number dropped to 513 by Dec. 1, 2018. Dairy products are a staple in diets and dairy farmers work hard every day to provide fresh, wholesome, quality milk and dairy products to consumers.

Through the trying times of the dairy industry, the Jones family wanted to continue milking and raise a variety of dairy breeds. In 2013, they purchased a dairy farm that had sat unused for years, cleaned up the facilities and started milking in 2014. After a structural fire in one of their facilities, they lost several pieces of equipment so in June 2016 they decided to close their parlor doors.

Ally graduated from Glasgow High School in May 2017 and attended University of Kentucky that upcoming fall.

"I vividly remember the day I called my dad in October 2017 and telling him I really want to milk again and he responded with, 'No Ally that will never happen' but I kept pushing the subject towards him," said Ally.

She and her dad had many discussions about milking again but it wasn't until a family friend who bottled her own milk in Alabama gave the family the idea and let them sell some milk in their local area.

The difficulties of the dairy industry result from a number of factors, but particularly the price of milk paid to dairy farmers. According to data from the National Family Farm Coalition, farmers are paid \$1.45 on average per gallon of milk. With the uncertainty of the dairy industry, the Jones family was unsure of the direction to take. They visited other bottling and processing facilities to learn more about the process. The family decided to pursue the bottling business and started contacting banks for a loan.

"This process took seven to eight months to find a bank that would trust our business and the dairy industry," said Jones.

On March 14, they were approved to fully process, bottle and sell their milk. This was only three days after the global pandemic was issued.

"It worked out perfectly for us to start as soon as the pandemic hit the United States," said Jones. "We started bottling and selling our milk straight from the farm. Within five minutes a man from the grocery store that is within two miles of our facilities contacted me and asked if we could bring our milk to the store to sell. It was a huge hit."

The Jones family supplied milk to their local IGA for



Hiseville residents Genelle, Ally, Doug and Jagger Jones fully process, bottle and sell their milk.

the first three weeks of their opening since the other brands were selling out so quickly.

Supply and demand runs the economy and Legacy Dairy is willing to help meet the demand. Legacy Dairy is fully run by the family and each family member has their own role and to-do list each day. Teamwork is a main priority in their family and without it they would not be able to make the successes they have made over the past three months.

The family currently milks 11 head and plans to continue to add more but wants to continue to add more Brown Swiss, which adds rich flavor.

"We will add other breeds as well but we do not want to lose our rich taste. That's what keeps our customers happy and satisfied," said Ally.

By Abigale Smoot
Summer Intern

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New stinging ant species could cause problems for Kentuckians

LEXINGTON – University of Kentucky entomologists warn people to be aware of a new stinging pest in the state, the Asian needle ant.

Recently, Asian needle ants invaded a home in south central Kentucky and stung the homeowner. This is one of the state's first reports of the ants coming indoors. The insect has been in Kentucky since at least 2013 and in the U.S. since the 1930s. It is found throughout the state, but tends to stay outdoors, preying on other ants and termites. Like other insects who live primarily outdoors, they are most active during warmer months with populations declining as the weather gets cooler.

Fortunately, Asian needle ants do not tend to be aggressive and only sting when they feel threatened. However, the chances of a person getting stung greatly increase when the Asian needle ant moves indoors.

"Their sting is painful, and people report that they have a burning sensation paired with a pins-and-needles feeling for

a couple of weeks after being stung," said Jonathan Larson, extension entomologist with the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. "Most people do not need to seek medical treatment if they are stung by an Asian needle ant, unless they have a known allergy to other insect stings, such as from a bee or a wasp. The literature suggests that the venom from this ant may be more hazardous than bee and wasp stings."

Asian needle ants look similar to other ant species, but UK entomologists say the insect has some distinguishing features.

"This ant has a large stinger at the end of its abdomen, which is usually visible to the naked eye," said Zachary DeVries, UK assistant professor of urban entomology. "The Asian needle ant is about twice as long as the odorous house ant but considerably smaller than carpenter ants."

Not much information is available on effective Asian needle ant control, but DeVries encourages people who find the

ants to not panic.

"Physically removing ants from the home using a vacuum cleaner will help prevent stings and provide immediate control, but given this ant's ability to deliver a nasty sting, it may be worth contacting a licensed pest control company if ants are found," he said.

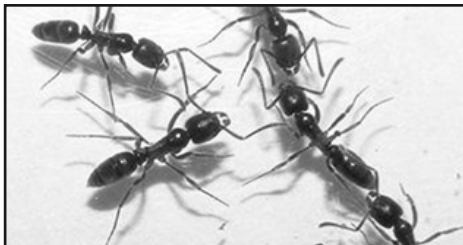
If individuals discover the ants outdoors, they can use granular baits and target their nesting sites and other areas with high ant activity.

Kentuckians can make their home less appealing to ants in general by sealing up cracks and crevices, keeping their grass mowed, eliminating standing

water areas and removing dead trees from their property.

UK entomologists encourage people who think they have encountered an Asian needle ant to submit a sample to their local office of the UK Cooperative Extension Service for identification.

By Katie Pratt
University of Kentucky



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Federal court bans dicamba products

FROM PAGE 1

with EPA’s standard practice following registration in-validation, and is designed to advance compliance, ensure regulatory certainty, and to prevent the misuse of existing stocks.”

The federal order from the EPA prohibits further sale of the product but allows growers and commercial applicators to use existing stocks that were in their possession on the day of the court ruling.

Two companies that provide the products, BASF and Corteva Agriscience, have since filed motions to intervene in the court ruling. Bayer provides XtendiMax, BASF provides Engenia and Corteva provides FeXapan, all herbicides for soybeans and cotton.

“Taking this action during the height of the application season gives no regard to the significant investments farmers have made in their businesses and leaves them without viable options for the growing season,” said Paul Rea, senior vice president of BASF Agricultural Solutions North America, in a press release dated June 12. “Farming is difficult even in the best of times and remains challenging. Making this decision now, when weed resistance continues to threaten farming operations, is disastrous for our customers.”

Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles noted the difficulty the ruling has as farmers have already made planting decisions and made purchases for this year’s crops.

“We are living in an unusual time where a court has inserted themselves into the middle of a production year. The Kentucky Department of Agriculture will continue to be a resource for our farm families and to advocate for the latest crop technology so that they can continue the difficult work of producing food and fiber for a growing world,” says Quarles.

Judge William A. Fletcher, who wrote the opinion for the three-judge panel, cited a report that 56 million acres of soybeans and cotton were planted in 2018 with

seeds with Monsanto’s dicamba-tolerance trait. A university weed scientist estimated that in 18 states, 1.1 million acres of soybeans were damaged from the spread of the product.

The judge stated that they understood the ruling would impact farmers who are planting crops but the EPA underestimated the risks, underreported actual damage, and lacked substantial evidence to support the use of the product.





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