



Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles stood in front of a play area at Evans Orchard as he announced a lawsuit over state COVID-19 guidelines. Operators of the orchard have been told they can only have 10 people on the 96,000 sq. ft. playground.

## Quarles, Evans Orchard file lawsuit

GEORGETOWN, Ky. – Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles has joined a Georgetown agritourism venue in a lawsuit against Gov. Andy Beshear claiming that vague and improper state guidelines from COVID-19 have unfairly affected their business.

Quarles and Evans Orchard and Cider Mill held a press conference Monday to announce the lawsuit filed in Scott Circuit Court.

Jenny Evans, co-owner and manager of the agritourism business on the fifth generation farm, said they have been told from a health department official that they can only have 10 people at a time on the farm's 96,000 sq. ft. play area. Attempts to reach out to the governor's office went

*'It seems like we are being treated unfairly when businesses like a trampoline park in Lexington or other indoor rec facilities and gyms are allowed to operate.'*

Jenny Evans  
Evans Orchard and Cider Mill co-owner

tions in place due to COVID-19, this year's revenue for the play area dropped 93 percent and they lost all their revenue for an event barn where weddings are held.

The farm has continued to provide products for pickup and increased staff numbers to make sure safety guidelines are followed, Evans said.

unanswered, she said.

The playground served as a backdrop to the press conference, held at Evans Orchard.

"When we started out this year, we were in a good financial position," Evans said. Her father was considering retirement and they purchased an adjacent farm.

After Beshear put restric-

## Agreement would dissolve burley co-op

The Burley Tobacco Growers Cooperative Association will come to an end and millions of dollars will be distributed to growers as part of a partial lawsuit settlement filed in Fayette Circuit Court.

The cooperative board has agreed to a partial settlement that includes liquidating the organization and distributing funds to producers who grew burley tobacco during crop years from 2015 through 2019 in Kentucky, Indiana, Missouri, Ohio and West Virginia.

The agreement comes as part of a lawsuit filed by Haynes Properties in Fayette Circuit Court and includes a group of producers who hired Billings Law Firm in Lexington who attempted to dissolve the co-op through a membership vote.

According to the agreement, a committee that will include Penny Greathouse, Mitch Haynes and Greg Craddock, members of the co-op seeking dissolution, as well as directors Al Pedigo, Eddie Warren and Donald Mitchell, will manage the dissolution.

While the once-powerful cooperative that operated the "pool" during the tobacco program will close its doors, the agreement allows for \$1.5 million to be set aside to organize or support an existing non-profit organization to serve as a liaison for tobacco growers with leaf dealers and tobacco purchasers, to advocate for producers, and to provide support for education and research beneficial to growers of all types of tobacco.

Due to the agreement, the demand for a membership meeting is no longer valid. McBrayer PLLC., which represented Haynes Properties, and Billings Law Firm, PLLC, which represented growers who de-

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# Agreement would dissolve burley co-op

FROM PAGE 1

mandated a vote for dissolution, are appointed as counsel for the partial settlement agreement.

The cooperative board agreed to not oppose attorney fees of up to 25 percent of the dissolution proceeds.

Members of the dissolution committee will receive \$85 per hour for their time spent on the dissolution. The agreement allows for counsel to request a lump sum of \$5,000 for each of the producers representing the class: Mitch Haynes, Scott Haynes, Penny Greathouse, and Greg Craddock.

The agreement restricts press releases from individual parties involved in the lawsuit. In a joint release from the cooperative and the attorneys, co-op president Al Pedigo said the settlement is not a perfect solution but “was the right solution.”

“It’s a healthy compromise and now we need to move on. The co-op has a 99-year history of helping growers. But many of us agree it’s time to change directions,” Pedigo said.

Penny Greathouse, one of the plaintiff class members, said “this partial settlement was a long and hard process whose time had finally come, and I am thankful for the hard work of our attorneys in seeing this through, as well to the work of the co-op’s own attorneys; I too look forward to closing this chapter.”

Roger Quarles, a former co-op presi-

dent, was one of two board members who voted against the agreement. Quarles was one of the first growers to publicly call for the dissolution of the cooperative through a membership vote.

Quarles said the agreement gives the board “immunity for alleged mismanagement of the past” and he questioned the need to allow up to 25 percent to go toward attorney fees. The attorney working to have a vote on dissolution capped his fees at 7.5 percent, Quarles noted.

“I think it was a selfish vote,” Quarles said.

Quarles said he plans to oppose the \$1.5 million being set aside for an organization and believes producers should be able to decide if they want to contribute those funds.

“It’s the final poke in the eye to the grower,” Quarles said. Court procedures will allow producers a chance to contest certain aspects of the lawsuit. A website would be established pertaining to the class action. As of presstime, the judge in the case had not signed the proposed agreement.

A 2018 operational review of the cooperative showed the organization’s net worth declined by \$2.5 million from 2014 through 2018 and pointed out numerous problems in its operations. It is estimated the organization’s current value is somewhere around \$30 million.

By Sharon Burton



Photo by Lynn Pruett

The Burley Tobacco Growers Cooperative Association building in Lexington.

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**Steers:** Medium and Large 1-2: 500-520# 137.00-145.00, 635# 126.00, 650# 124.00, 702# 124.00, 499# 122.00, 545# 119.00, 570# 117.00.

**Dairy Steers:** Large 3: 275# 95.00, 340# 96.00, 465# 92.00, 553-585# 85.00-98.00, 610-625# 93.00-99.00, 693# 81.00, 723# 94.00, 770# 87.00.

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**Bred Heifers:** Medium 825.00, Medkum 850.00-1025.00, Common 775.00.

**Springer Heifers:** Supreme 1300.00-1575.00, Approved 1100.00-1225.00, Medium 900.00-950.00, Common 75.00-850.00.

**Open Heifers:** Supreme 350# 335.00 Jersey, Approved 475# 335.00, Approved 650# 535.00, Medium 200# 160.00, Medium 475# 260.00.

**Bull calves:** 16 head 40.00-120.00, 17 head 180.00-300.00 beef cross, 5 head 50.00-80.00 crossbred, 14 head 5.00-40.00 Jersey.

**Heifer calves:** 6 head 30.00-70.00, 6 head 140.00-290.00 beef cross.

**Slaughter Cows:** Breaker 75-80 percent lean 1580-1745# 66.00-71.00, H.Dr. 1480-1640# 75.00-80.00, L.Dr. 1585-1640# 60.49, Boner 80-85 percent lean 1090-1415# 62.00-71.00, H.Dr. 1120-1425# 72.00-81.00, L.Dr. 1100-1455# 50.00-61.00, Lean 85-90% Lean 800-1190# 52.00-61.00, H.Dr. 985-1065# 62.00-66.00, L.Dr. 795-1300# 40.00-50.00.

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# THE Farmer's Pride

# Agritourism business files lawsuit filed against Beshear



Jenny Evans spoke in a press conference Monday.

FROM PAGE 1

The orchard and cider mill is primarily a seasonal business and relies mostly of income during a six-month window in the summer and fall.

“We are hurting financially from these orders from not being able to safely open and we don’t have time left for this season,” she said. “We really want to emphasize that safety is our first priority. We want to put public health first.

That has been our focus since we opened for the season in May. That is why we have been so proactive in trying to get clarity from our local and state health department. But our response from these agencies has not been prompt nor clear.”

Evans said they are not asking to open at full capacity, but was even denied a plan submitted to the health department for the play area to operate at a 1 percent capacity.

“It seems like we are being treated unfairly when businesses like a trampoline park in Lexington or other indoor rec facilities and gyms are allowed to operate,” she said.

Evans was asked about her family’s political involvement and she replied that their policy has always been to not be political.

“For us, this is not political,” she said. “It’s just what we had to do to try to save our farm. I can’t just stand by and watch it dwindle away.”

Quarles said he believes the Beshear administration has violated Kentucky

law by filing executive orders and leaving out the legislative process.

While orders are well intentioned, they fly in the face of the spirit of the law, Quarles said.

“The complaint chronicles a series of unorganized, regulatory mayhem that no family should have to face,” Quarles said.

The lawsuit claims that Beshear’s executive orders are in violation of the processes outlined by Kentucky’s Administrative Practices Act and the state constitution.

“Every Kentuckian wants to do the

right thing to flatten the curve and save lives, but these orders have significantly burdened small businesses – especially through their haphazard and selective enforcement. In this case, the agencies responsible for communicating and implementing have been slow to provide guidance to this business,” Commissioner Quarles added. “For agritourism businesses across the state, peak season is approaching in September and October. Our farm families need answers now.”

By Sharon Burton  
snburton@farmlandpub.com

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# Independence Day



ONE VOICE

Sharon Burton

I think we have a history of experiencing something bad then working hard to correct the course. Then we go too far and overcorrect.

As we celebrate Independence Day this weekend, I find myself concerned that our history will be rewritten and the 4th of July will have a different meaning for future generations. As monuments are damaged and statues destroyed, I'm not sure the true history of America is being preserved.

Our history is neither all good nor all bad; it is a history of right and wrong by imperfect people. We are still imperfect people, and the future will hopefully reflect on today and shine a light on our wrongdoings.

Hopefully, there will also be a reflection on the improvements and accomplishments of our great nation. And America is and has long been a great nation.

When we hate America, we hate ourselves. We must take responsibility for our wrongs and we must work to be better. To do better.

Will we be a great nation 20 years from now? Will trade agreement battles, a pandemic, racial tensions or some ball of dust from Africa succeed in ending our "greatness?" That totally depends on us.

If 2020 has shown us anything, it's that we need to prepare for everything. We also need an economic structure in place that can handle a volatile market and unexpected events.

I think we have a history of experiencing something bad then working hard to correct the course. Then we go too far and overcorrect. Then we roll our eyes at the overcorrectness and go back to living in error.

Congress is notorious for that. Bad thing happens. Bad bill gets passed. It's their MO.

I wish we were a nation of thinkers as well as doers. I believe this country was founded by people who were thinkers and doers. They didn't have everything right, but they knew their desired outcome, they weighed the cost, then they laid it all on the line.

Before you can have success you have to know what it is that you consider success. The independence of this nation was the end goal for some, but it was also the beginning of a new way.

That independence has been preserved but it has yet to be perfected. So we keep working on getting it right. We keep working on being a better nation, on better a better neighbor, and being a better person.

I hope as we look to the past on July 4 that we set our sights on the future. We have "freedom" because we fought for it. We have "freedoms" because we protect them with laws. Ironical, that freedom is protected by mutually agreeing to rules and regulations.

Our founding fathers understood that. They were willing to give up everything for the future of this nation.

I am proud to be an American, and I am proud to celebrate this wonderful, messed up, imperfect nation this weekend.

I hope you have a blessed Independence Day.

# Where's the beef? Not in the meat case, in some areas

You may be wondering "why is the soybean association president writing about the current meat shortage?" It's because soybeans are a key component of the feed rations of most of our food animals. Here in Kentucky, poultry is big business. Broilers, layers and turkeys alike consume soybean meal for their protein content. Cattle, both dairy and beef, consume soybean meal and sometimes pelletized soybean hulls. Pigs? Soybean meal. When soybean farmers talk about livestock and poultry, one reason is because animal agriculture is our biggest customer.

Sure, we export a lot of whole beans. Soybean oil is in the grocery store, the biodiesel tank and a number of industrial and household applications. But soybean meal is directly tied to poultry and livestock production, and the lack of meat in the grocer's case is a source of frustration for us all.

The farmers who raise livestock and poultry are working hard, just like always, to provide a safe, affordable and abundant food supply. There is no animal shortage... but the meat shortage is a very real concern. And the point where protein turns from cows and pigs to steaks and pork chops is the processor.

I hate to know that people can't always get the cuts of meat they're used to right now, and they may be limited to a certain number of packages of expensive hamburger at the store, but I'm glad to see attention being turned to the processors and how they have so much control over our protein supply.

I am also glad to see the investigation that was launched last fall into the meat packers' margins (prompted when a fire last August in Holcomb, Ka. shut down a large packer) has been brought to the forefront and is being pursued by the Department of Justice. President Trump and U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue are watching this investigation carefully, and it is my hope that they will get to the bottom of the surges in retail prices for beef and, at the same time, the decrease in prices paid to the farmers and ranchers who actually supply the cattle.

The American Farm Bureau Federation reported that during February and March the margin between the retail price of beef and the prices processors pay the farmer



KENTUCKY SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION  
PRESIDENT

Fred L. Sipes

There is no animal shortage... but the meat shortage is a very real concern.

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## The Farmer's Pride

- Sharon Burton .....Publisher .....snburton@farmlandpub.com
- Mindy Yarberry .....General Manager .....pride316@duo-county.com
- Toni Humphress .....Sales and Marketing .....toni@farmlandpub.com
- National Sales Rep .....J.L. Farmakis .....www.jlfarmakis.com...203-834-8832
- Diana Withers .....Circulation .....circulation@farmlandpub.com

Send news items to  
newsroom@thefarmerspride.com  
1-800-489-9454 • Fax 270-384-9343

P.O. Box 159, Columbia, KY 42728  
E-mail: pride316@duo-county.com  
thefarmerspride.com

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# Mother Nature has been generous



## MARKET WATCH

Dewey Strickler

According to Ag Watch's yield model, this equates to a national yield of 50.7 bushels per acre compared to USDA's current estimate of 49.8 bushels per acre.

Mother Nature has been generous to corn producers this season, blessing them with near ideal conditions. Currently, the forecast shows that benign weather will persist through the first week of July. This is disappointing to grain traders that were banking on a weather market, as the crop could skate through pollination without a mishap.

Last week, the crop rating rose one point to 72 percent in good-to-excellent condition. According to Ag Watch's yield model, this translates to a national yield of 180.8 bushels per acre versus USDA's estimate of 178.5 bushels per acre. Looking at exports, they saw an uptick last week with inspections of 51 million bushels, the highest since early May. However, shipments still lag the pace needed to reach USDA's target of 1.775 billion bushels. Although the funds are sporting a hefty short position of 1.55 billion bushels, a catalyst is lacking to force them to cover.

Soybeans are torn between favorable growing conditions and optimism for additional purchases by China. Last week, the crop rating fell two points to 70 percent in good-to-excellent condition but is well above last year's rating of 54 percent. According to Ag Watch's yield model, this equates to a national yield of 50.7 bushels per acre compared to USDA's current estimate of 49.8 bushels per acre.

Although China has been an active buyer the past few weeks, their interest has been mostly for new crop. Inspections last week were meager at 9.3 million bushels, well below the average of 30.9 million bushels that must be shipped each week to achieve USDA's projection of 1.65 billion bushels. While the fundamentals are improving for soybeans, the upside potential will be limited unless weather takes a stark turn for the worse.

Wheat is meeting a headwind from harvest and lack of competitiveness in the global market. As of last week, harvest was 29 percent complete compared to 26 percent for the average. Yields in areas of the east are disappointing as the crop was nipped earlier in the season from frigid temperatures.

Looking at the rating for spring wheat, it fell six points last week to 75 percent in good-to-excellent condition. Export inspections last week were encouraging at 22.5 million bushels, the highest seen since early April. The fund short position is growing at 250 million bushels but has not reached a level of concern. That said, we will probably not see them cover until harvest is closer to completion.

**DEWEY STRICKLER** is president of Ag Watch Market Advisors, LLC. Email Strickler at [agwatchdls@comcast.net](mailto:agwatchdls@comcast.net) or go online at [www.agwatch.biz](http://www.agwatch.biz).

# 'I should have known you were a partisan hack...'

One of the oldest sayings in journalism reminds readers and writers alike that "It's hard to argue with facts."

True, but readers of this weekly effort often rise to the challenge in their letters and emails to me. Most mix "new" or "alternative" (thank you, Kellyanne) facts with their opinion to point out the wrongs of my ways.

Others forgo niceties and jump right to name-calling. These writers often find their black-and-blue prose highlighted in a twice-yearly "letters" column where my detractors debate the pros and cons of – as one noted a few years ago – my "shrinking brain."

For example, after the White House announced a new, ag-heavy trade deal with China in mid-January, David C. from Illinois was not surprised that I failed to highlight the pact in a "positive column," nor was he subtle in noting his disappointment.

"... I should have known you are a partisan hack who gives no credit nor respect to the President when he does well by Illinois farmers."

Hack or not, my non-response to the January deal – the numbers didn't add up then or now – looks like a good call. Despite big, recent Chinese purchases of U.S. pork and soybeans, November soybeans futures are now \$1 per bushel less than in January and August lean hog futures are \$35 (\$35!) per cwt. lower.

Speaking of numbers, Bob C. from Iowa wrote in April to say that I "was misinterpreting what he... a Trump voter and others... were saying about the (corona) virus. We're not actually saying itself is a hoax. We are saying the press and the Dems are working together... (to take) advantage of the virus and make it worse. It should really be termed a scam."

Well, Bob, I like your sense of humor; Dems working together... now that's funny.

What isn't funny, though, is the number of COVID-19 dead in the U.S., now about 120,000 and climbing. As such, if COVID is a "scam," it's the deadliest scam either you, me or the nation has ever witnessed.

Another emailer, Marvin H., had a different take on an April column that examined COVID-19's impact on rural

America. It's not the disease that's killing people, Marvin suggested; instead, "Fear is killing people."

Fear?

Well, "How many alcohol and smoking deaths are there per year? 10 million worldwide," he claimed. And with "social distancing... people are sitting at home in fear, drinking and smoking to calm their nerves."

Okay, Marvin, you got me on that one.

The past six months have set a record on what my mother called "upside down compliments," or compliments that poked you in the ribs as hard as they slapped you on the back. For example, in late March Rob W. wrote from St. Paul to say that he has "tried to read my column... many times but I rarely get through the first few paragraphs before I move on."

But, he quickly adds, "The headline this week caught my eye... (I read) the first sentence about your dad. I continued to read on, praying that the story would stay focused on him... It did and I thank you."

Thank me? Sounds like the Lord did the heavy lifting, Rob.

The best left-handed compliment I've ever received, however, arrived by email just this week from Joe in Maryland. In its entirety, it reads:

"Hi, Alen." (no worry, Joe; there are too many ways to spell my name) "Just wanted to let you know I appreciate your articles. Good, bad or whatever, you give us something to ponder. Also, (it) doesn't hurt that you seem to be truthful and forthright, regardless of your thoughts on the subject. Thank you."

No, Joe, thank you. Your letter was straight from the heart and I treasure it and you.

And thank you, faithful readers, emailers, letter writers, and – at least twice a year – columnists. Good, bad or whatever, you, too, are treasures.



## FOOD & FARM FILE

Alan Guebert

The best left-handed compliment I've ever received, however, arrived by email just this week from Joe in Maryland.

**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](http://farmandfoodfile.com). Contact Alan Guebert by email at [agcomm@farmandfoodfile.com](mailto:agcomm@farmandfoodfile.com).

# We are still farming; we are still working



**KENTUCKY  
POULTRY  
FEDERATION  
PRESIDENT**

**Dan  
Flanagan**

The age-old question is which came first the chicken or the egg. In Kentucky, we know we cannot have chickens nor eggs without our farmers that raise them or employees that process them.

During the pandemic, Kentucky poultry farmers and employees have stepped up. When America asked us to supply the needed products, we did. We are still here, gathering eggs every day, setting eggs, hatching birds, placing and processing chickens and turkeys.

So, which came first? Kentucky's poultry industry started with egg layers in the '50s. Today we have two large commercial operations and three companies that oversee the organic access to pasture birds that are continuing to increase their presence on farms and on the grocery's counters. Americans eat around 280 eggs per year. The newest industry is turkeys. Americans consume almost 16 lbs. of turkey each year.

In the '80s formerly Avian Farms now Cobb-Vantress set up shop in Monticello. Their main goal was to raise genetic stock to be sold

around the world. Today Cobb sells tractor-trailer loads of day-old chicks to farmers in the U.S., Brazil, the European Union, Russia, and Asia.

In the '90s, we saw the expansion of the broiler industry in Kentucky. With the rapid growth in the amount of chicken consumed in the world each year, Kentucky farmers saw an opportunity to diversify their farming operations and start raising chickens. Most of our growers were tobacco farmers.

With the aid of the Governor's Office of Ag Policy through the tobacco settlement funds, Kentucky invested in poultry. Kentucky has become a broiler state, producing over 300 million head each year. Over the past 30 years we have scratched our way up to the 7th largest broiler producing state.

With Kentucky also being a basketball state, we know with March Madness defense wins championships. Poultry growers and companies went into a full court press in an attempt to stop the spread of COVID-19. Our farmers were asked to limit access on and off poultry

farms. While we are still processing birds to make the desired products for our retail locations, the process inside the plant and on farms have changed. The most notable differences are the physical distancing of employees, physical barriers between employees, slowing down processing lines speed and temperature checks prior to entering the building. We have increased safety measures across the board.

Technology has always been an ally of farmers. We can currently monitor and adjust settings in our chicken houses with our cell phones. Like many of you, virtual meetings have become the preferred way to communicate during this outbreak.

So, which came first? I think it is clear, our farmers and our employees come first. We are still farming; we are still working. The safety and security of our employees comes first as we continue to provide the safest poultry products.

**DAN FLANAGAN** is president of Kentucky Poultry Federation.

## THE Farmer's Pride



**Your hometown news for Kentucky agriculture.**

## Where's the beef

**FROM PAGE 4**

more than doubled. The gap got wider, we need to know why – and that situation needs to be corrected.

I am the Kentucky Soybean Board's representative to the U.S. Meat Export Federation, and developments shared on a recent call indicate that U.S. slaughter numbers are almost back up to pre-COVID 19 levels.

Exports remain strong, according to USMEF, which is great. Consumers may be concerned that we are exporting meat while there are shortages at the grocery store, but it's important to know that many of the meat products that we export are parts of the animal that aren't usually consumed in the U.S., such as

chicken paws (feet) – a delicacy in many Asian countries.

When a pig is slaughtered, processors push pork chops and bacon out to retail outlets here at home and ship feet, snouts and organs, which have little value in the U.S., to areas overseas that consume these cuts on the regular. It is important to note that the U.S. livestock and poultry industries are large enough to sufficiently supply both our domestic and export markets. These industries have been growing volume to accomplish this goal for years, and it is my hope that the supply chain is back to normal volumes by the time this issue reaches your mailbox.

**FRED SIPES** is president of Kentucky Soybean Association.



Tell them  
*“I saw it in the Pride!”*

# Trump advisor walks back comment that trade deal is 'over'

White House trade adviser Peter Navarro last week walked back his earlier remarks that the U.S.-China trade pact was 'over', stoking volatility in markets already frazzled by the coronavirus pandemic," Eric Beech reports for Reuters. "Navarro said his comments were taken 'wildly out of context.'" President Trump said in a tweet that the deal was "fully intact."

Earlier that day, Navarro said "it's over" when Fox News asked him about the trade agreement, saying it began

going downhill immediately after the Phase 1 deal was signed Jan. 15. He said U.S. officials learned about the pandemic immediately after the trade delegation left, and China "had already sent hundreds of thousands of people to this country to spread that virus," Beech reports.

Navarro, a longtime critic of China, said his remarks had nothing to do with the trade deal itself, and was only speaking to his lack of trust in the Chinese government, accusing them of lying

about the origins of the coronavirus and causing it to spread to the rest of the world, Beech reports.

The pandemic and other factors such as African swine fever and recent national security disputes have jeopardized the trade deal, in which China has promised to increase purchases of American farm products by \$32 billion over two years. But the deal has been in trouble since nearly the beginning, since China has not sufficiently increased its purchases. In fact, farm exports to China re-

cently fell behind pre-trade-war levels, Ryan McCrimmon reports for Politico's Morning Agriculture.

Chinese officials announced yesterday that they plan to increase purchases of U.S. farm goods to catch up on its commitments under the trade deal, McCrimmon reports.

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# Thoughts on Independence Day

The Forage Doctor



By Jimmy Henning

When you read this, you will likely be enjoying your Independence Day holiday. In reflection, we owe much to those WHO have sacrificed so much for our country and its freedoms. Independence in the historical sense means self-government and all the responsibility it entails.

The choice of our country's founders to go it alone was significant and life changing. In one act they went from being part of one of the most organized and sophisticated empires in the world, to a collection of independent (there's that word again) colonies who were hardly ready to govern themselves.

Over the past 244 years, our country grew to understand just what it means to be the United States. While we were independent as a country, we are interdependent in so many ways on other people, other states and other countries.

Farmers are often characterized as independent. If you ask a farmer what they like best about their profession, I will bet that independence plays a big part. And I would agree that in many ways farming has more independence than other professions. Yet, further thought reveals that farming is one of the most dependent, or at least interdependent professions.

This interdependence was brought home to me recently from a picture that I posted on Facebook. The picture was of the rusted hubcap of the last pickup truck that my maternal grandfather ever drove – an International Harvester. I posted it because it brings back fond memories of my grandfather and his small little farm in western Oklahoma.

This post led to some surprises. First I discovered there are a lot of IH (International Harvester) fans out there. Many commented on how they had

used them growing up, especially for cultivating tobacco. However, the comment that really surprised me was from a friend in Southeast Kentucky who said “The steel in that truck was made with the use of coal from International Har-

vester's Wisconsin Steel Coal Mines in Benham, Kentucky.” Turns out his dad, uncles and grandad worked at that coal mine, sending coal to Chicago to make steel for IH and my grandad's pickup. Who knew 70 years ago, my future was going to be connected to Kentucky.

Fast forward to the spring of 2020 and the dramatic life disruption of COVID-19. How could anyone anticipate that a virus from a market in China would move across the world to impact line-workers in processing facilities and seriously compromise the supply of food, decrease farm prices, and in some cases the ability of farmers to sell livestock?

Forage producers are reminded daily of the interdependence of agriculture. With forages, every decision has to take into account multiple facets of agriculture, whether it relates to production, management or marketing. Because forages are primarily marketed indirectly, farmers have to be highly aware of all of the downstream ramifications of every decision they make.

For example, the grass-fed beef producer must balance animal genetics, nutrition and health management every day to meet the specific demand of their consumer. Even the cash hay producer has to produce a crop that give him enough marketable yield and that will meet the demand of the buyer and still allow for the persistence of the crop. And pasture management plays a big role in maintaining environmental quality of the water sources in Kentucky.

Even the growth of a blade of grass relies on a combination of soil fertility,

weather and previous management factors. Farmers may be independent but truly agriculture is not!

So as you celebrate Independence Day, let's be mindful

of the interdependence of the many facets of agriculture and how it affects the quality of life of the other 98 percent of the population.

Happy foraging.



The steel that went into my grandfather's International Harvester pickup in Oklahoma in the 1950s was forged using coal from Benham, Ky. Farmers may seem to be very independent, but the events of this spring remind us that agriculture is highly interdependent. Like my grandad's pickup, these connections are vital but sometimes not obvious.



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# Herbicide dicamba is blamed for millions of tree deaths

A Midwest Center for Investigative Reporting effort found that dicamba, a herbicide known for drifting over and damaging nearby crops, is also responsible for killing millions of trees in the Midwest and South. That could be devastating news for orchards.

“Forest health experts said trees are being damaged from Indiana to Kansas, from North Dakota to Arkansas. Cupped-up leaves, the most easily recognized symptom, can be seen in towns miles away from agricultural fields, as well as in nature preserves and state parks set aside as refuges for wildlife, experts said,” Jonathan Hettinger reports. “In some areas, the damage is so severe that tree mortality is higher than from the Emerald Ash Borer, an insect that has killed tens of millions of trees across 25 states.”

Farmers have been increasingly spraying dicamba and other volatile herbicides, such as 2,4-D, in recent years, Hettinger reports. In early June, a federal court essentially banned sales of dicamba-based herbicides for the next six months, after finding that the Environmental Protection Agency hadn’t done its due diligence in 2018 when reauthorizing the chemical until December 2020.

The same environmental groups filed another lawsuit

with the same complaint about 2,4-D, but it’s still pending in court. The EPA said farmers can still spray already-purchased dicamba through July.

In February, a Missouri peach farmer was awarded a \$265 million verdict in court after suing Bayer and

BASF, alleging that their dicamba-based herbicides had damaged his orchards.

**From The Rural Blog**  
**irjci.blogspot.com**

Leaves on oak tree show damage from herbicide.

Photo by Illinois Department of Natural Resources





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# Quarles praises legislators for support in meat price investigation

FRANKFORT – Agriculture Commissioner Dr. Ryan Quarles praised a bipartisan group of legislators for joining his efforts with Attorney General Daniel Cameron in asking the Department of Justice to investigate possible anticompetitive practices in the beef packing sector.

"I am grateful to the bipartisan group of legislators who have joined the Attorney General and me in asking the Department of Justice to keep a watchful eye on suspect price disparities between the price of beef at the farm level and at the grocery store," Quarles said. "It is critical Kentucky's constitutional officers have the support from the General

Assembly so we can have a united front on issues facing Kentucky families. I thank Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Paul Hornback and House Agriculture Chairman Richard Heath for their leadership."

"Kentucky's cattle producers deserve answers about why they are continuing to make less, even as the price of beef increases," said Attorney General Cameron. "I'm appreciative of the members of the General Assembly, Chairman Hornback, and Chairman Heath for forming this bipartisan coalition and joining Commissioner Quarles and me in asking the Department of Justice to investigate potential market manipula-

tion on behalf of Kentuckians."

The letter, issued by a group of Kentucky House and Senate Republicans and Democrats, reiterated the need for confidence in the beef cattle market.

"We have heard from our constituents across the commonwealth about the wide disparity between the price of cattle and the price of processed beef," the legislators wrote. "Some of us are cattlemen ourselves and have personally witnessed this disparity."

On May 15, Quarles and General Cameron sent a letter to U.S. Attorney General William Barr asking the DOJ to look at possible price-fixing in the beef cattle industry. The letter noted that, de-

spite steady consumer demand for beef, the prices paid to Kentucky's cattle producers have declined, suggesting the presence of possible market manipulation and other anticompetitive practices. As a result, Kentuckian consumers are paying more for beef while hardworking Kentucky farmers are making less during the coronavirus pandemic.

According to a report from Axios on May 26, the DOJ began investigating the allegations in late May.

Kentucky is the largest beef cattle state east of the Mississippi River, with more than 38,000 beef cattle farms in the state.

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# Porter Road to add 83 jobs at Princeton meat processing facility

FRANKFORT – Gov. Andy Beshear announced Porter Road Butcher Meat Co. LLC, a meat processor based in Princeton, plans to relocate and expand within Caldwell County with a more than \$1.5 million investment expected to create 83 full-time jobs.

“I want to congratulate and thank Porter Road for this commitment to Kentucky and our strong workforce,” Gov. Beshear said. “As we look to reestablish and strengthen our economy, existing businesses like Porter Road will play a critical role in our success. I anticipate plenty more to come for the commonwealth in the months and years ahead.”

Facing heightened demand, Porter Road is expected to relocate to two buildings encompassing 35,000 square feet of space on Masonic Drive in Princeton to increase capacity. The move would be a substantial increase from its current 7,000-square-foot facility.

The project would provide Porter Road with a larger cutting room and expanded packaging and shipping capabilities. The company plans to complete the move to the new location by the end of 2020.

The 83 projected jobs would include various wage levels and primarily consist of production staff, such as butchers and packaging and shipping positions. An increase in administrative and management, as well as maintenance roles is also expected. Currently, Porter Road employs 31 people in Caldwell County.

“Our business is built on strong relationships with our partners, customers and community,” said Chris Carter, co-

founder of Porter Road. “It was relationships that brought us to Princeton six years ago, and relationships that have encouraged us to deepen our roots and expand. We count ourselves fortunate to be working with a proactive team of economic developers including Princeton’s elected officials and the Lake Barkley Partnership to meet our needs during this exciting time of growth. We are excited to bring more jobs to the community and continue the success of Porter Road and Princeton for years to come.”

Carter and James Peisker founded Porter Road in 2010. Having previously worked together as chefs, the pair opened a butcher shop in East Nashville, Tenn., to provide high-quality, locally sourced meat. In 2014, Porter Road Butcher Meat Co. was established as the company expanded to include the Princeton processing facility. The company went online in 2017, serving customers nationwide with all products processed and shipped from the Princeton facility.

Porter Road’s expansion contributes to Kentucky’s already strong food and beverage industry, as the state is home to more than 350 food and beverage facilities, which employ over 52,000 people.

Sen. Robby Mills, of Henderson, said the project comes at the perfect time for a rebounding economy.

“I am pleased that Porter Road Butcher Meat Co. will be expanding here in Caldwell County,” Sen. Mills said. “During these unprecedented times, when Kentucky businesses are struggling and unemployment is at record levels, our state craves good news like this. Jobs in the cutting room

are more than doubling with this investment. That will go a long way in helping our economy rebound. I am also excited for an increased distribution of Kentucky Proud meat products. I thank Porter Road for its investment and trust in Kentucky and Caldwell County.”

Amanda Davenport, executive director of the Lake Barkley Partnership, said the expansion signals continued growth for the region.

“I am very excited to announce the expansion of one of our local industry partners, Porter Road,” Davenport said. “This expansion will aid in Lake Barkley Partnership’s overall mission of bringing strong, resilient industry to the Lake Barkley Region. Development of local companies like Porter Road will continue to establish our region as a leader in agriculture and food production. We are proud to work with and support Porter Road as they grow and continue their commitment to our community and local prosperity.”

To encourage the investment and job growth in the community, the Kentucky Economic Development Finance Author-

ity preliminarily approved a 10-year incentive agreement with the company under the Kentucky Business Investment program. The performance-based agreement can provide up to \$750,000 in tax incentives based on the company’s investment of \$1.51 million and annual targets of:

- Creation and maintenance of 83 Kentucky-resident, full-time jobs across 10 years
- Paying an average hourly wage of \$19.46 including benefits across those jobs

By meeting its annual targets over the agreement term, the company can be eligible to keep a portion of the new tax revenue it generates. The company may claim eligible incentives against its income tax liability and/or wage assessments.

In addition, Porter Road can receive resources from the Kentucky Skills Network. Through the Kentucky Skills Network, companies can receive no-cost recruitment and job placement services, reduced-cost customized training and job training incentives.

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**Mid-KY Livestock Market**  
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June 16, 2020

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June 17, 2020

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June 18, 2020

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26 hd. 376# 163.50 blk

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Paris, KY  
June 18, 2020

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**Blue Grass East**  
Mt. Sterling, KY  
June 17, 2020

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59 hd. 794# 125.80 blk-charx  
88 hd. 801# 127.75 blk-mixed  
33 hd. 912# 117.00 blk-mixed  
92 hd. 934# 117.80 blk-mixed  
52 hd. 942# 113.50 blk  
51 hd. 963# 114.85 blk-charx  
109 hd. 967# 112.10 blk  
53 hd. 1066# 107.90 blk-mixed  
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June 17, 2020

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41 hd. 738# 132.00 blk  
58 hd. 880# 120.00 mixed  
**Feeder Heifers:** Medium & Large 1-2  
25 hd. 578# 132.50 blk

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**Feeder Steers:** Medium & Large 1-2  
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06/19/2020 4:00 pm est Bids for next day Cash Bids	Louisville	Pennyrile	Purchase	Bluegrass	Green River	Northern KY
Corn #2 Yellow	3.45-3.53	3.48-3.55	3.35-3.43	3.43	3.53	3.42
Corn #2 White		NA				
Soybeans #1 Y	8.49	8.57-8.77	8.82	8.52	8.91	9.03
Wheat #2 SRW	4.36-4.58	4.66-5.05	4.81	4.71	4.73	4.76
Barley						
New Crop Delivery Contract						
Corn #2 Yellow	3.30	3.20-3.30	3.25-3.27	3.20	3.35	3.30
Corn #2 White		NA				
Soybeans #1 Y	8.27	8.36-8.56	8.76	8.31	8.67	8.73
Wheat #2 SRW	4.36-4.58	4.66-5.05	4.81	4.71	4.73	4.76
Barley						

Weekly Feed Ingredient Price	Owensboro Grain	Commonwealth Agri-Energy Hopkinsville	St. Louis Weekly Feed Prices	Memphis Weekly Feed Report	Corn Belt Feedstuffs Report	Eastern Cornbelt Hog Prices	FOR DAILY LIVESTOCK AND GRAIN MARKET REPORTS
Wholesale prices. 5 per ton Rail or Truck FOB Location	06/22/2020	06/22/2020	06/16/2020	06/16/2020	06/16/2020	06/19/2020	
Soybean Meal 48% Sol	298.50	—	313.00-318.00	287.90-309.90	282.90-294.90	06/19/2020	
Soybean Hulls	135.00	—	—	110.00	—	Barrows & Gilts	
Corn Distillers Grain Dried	—	148.00	—	—	135.00-165.00	Receipts: 7,139	
Distillers Grain Modified	—	82.00	—	—	—	Base Price: \$25.00-	
Distillers Grain Wet	—	52.00	—	—	—	\$30.00	
Corn Condensed Solubles	—	NA	—	—	—	Wt. Avg. \$28.53	
Corn Gluten Feed 20-21 pct	—	—	165.00	—	120.00-130.00	Compared to prior	
Corn Gluten Meal 60 pct	—	—	430.00-440.00	—	390.00-400.00	day, wt. avg. prices	
Cottonseed Meal 41 pct	—	—	NA	240.00-255.00	—	were 0.49 lower to	
Whole Cottonseed	—	—	—	210.00	—	0.65 higher, mostly	
Wheat Middlings	—	—	75.00-85.00	—	—	unevenly steady.	

Eastern Cornbelt Ethanol Plant Report 06/22/2020 Indiana Ohio Illinois
Yellow Corn Spot Bid 3.18-3.68
Dried Distillers Grain (\$/ton) 10% moisture 130.00-165.00
Modified Wet Distillers (\$/ton) 50-55% moisture NA
Kentucky Weekly Cattle Receipts as reported at local markets:
05/30/20 15,545
06/06/20 17,621
06/13/20 16,946
06/20/20 19,872

USDA ESTIMATED DAILY LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER				
	CATTLE	CALVES	HOGS	SHEEP
Friday 6/19/2020 (est)	119,000	1,000	457,000	7,000
Week Ago (est)	115,000	1,000	432,000	7,000
Year Ago (act)	119,000	3,000	458,000	7,000
Week to Date (est)	597,000	7,000	2,297,000	38,000
Same Pd Lt Week (est)	582,000	7,000	2,221,000	38,000
Same Pd Lt Yr (act)	604,000	10,000	2,368,000	38,000

United Producers Inc. - Bowling Green, Ky. June 11, 2020

SLAUGHTER LAMBS WOOLLED: Choice and Prime 1-2 50-60 lbs 160.00; 70-80 lbs 175.00; 90-100 lbs 160.00; 106 lbs 137.50

HAIR BREEDS: Choice and Prime 1 60-70 lbs 160.00; Choice and Prime 1-2 50-60 lbs 220.00; 70-80 lbs 160.00; 90-100 lbs 135.00; 105 lbs 137.50; 145 lbs 105.00. Choice 2 50-60 lbs 192.50; 60-70 lbs 187.50; 80-90 lbs 145.00. Good and Choice 2-3 40-50 lbs 150.00; 90-100 lbs 160.00.

SLAUGHTER GOATS KIDS: Selection 1 40-50 lbs 325.00; 50-60 lbs 345.00; 70-90 lbs 322.00. Selection 2 40-60 lbs 307.00; 60-70 lbs 250.00; 70-80 lbs 150.00. Selection 3 40-60 lbs 220.00-277.00; 60-70 lbs 245.00.



# Continental Industries, Inc.

- Drexel Chemical Company  
Sucker Stuff HC  
Super Sucker Stuff  
Sucker Plucker  
Leven-38  
Drexalin Plus  
Plucker Plus  
Transplanter Moly
- Continental Float, Plant & Garden Ag Covers
- Continental Mud & Erosion Control Fabric
- Continental Straw Blankets and Sod Staples
- Bridon/Fabpro Plastic Baler Twine and Bale-Lok Plus Net Wrap

For Further Information on Distribution, contact:

## Jim Hamilton

P.O. Box 865 • Shepherdsville, Ky. 40165  
(502) 543-2600 • jchamilton@windstream.net

# ONLINE AUCTION

FARM & LIVESTOCK EQUIP., LAWN & GARDEN, TOOLS, COMMERCIAL  
RESTAURANT EQUIP, COLLECTIBLES, & FURNITURE

## ENDS MONDAY, JULY 20 @ 6 P.M. CST

### BOONVILLE, INDIANA

**LOCATION:** DAS is holding a auction @ 1444 North White Rd Boonville In 47601. From Boonville take Hwy 62 East about 5 ½ miles past Bakers Chapel Church and it will be on the right. Follow the signs.

**LISTING:** Farmall M; Ferguson tractor; 6’ bar mower; Hesston 1090 mower conditioner; Hay Tedder fluffer; Cardinal 6x61’ auger; JD 6600 combine; JD 443 high tin 4 row 30” corn head; 2 bot plow; 3pt 4’ mower; 6’ grader blade; like new 100 gal fuel tank w/pump; 11’ offset disc; Utility golf cart; Befco 7’ C26 Cyclone finish mower; 16’ car trailer; Lazy boy push mower; 2-4’ steel wagon wheels; concrete mixer w/ motor; Yard edger; few coins; several tools; primitive tools; small amount of glassware and collectibles; few action figurines; few toy tractors; stack of iron grates; pair of side truck tool boxes; 6 volt fence charger box; old wood windows; echo blower; LP deep fryer; 2 ton chain fall; small wood cooking stove; Door entry heater; Stainless steel tables; 2- Hobart mixers; 3 hole stainless sink; Refrigerator display cases; small salad bar; desert drink refrigerator; baking racks; and many items will be added.

For more updates or if you have any questions please call or look on our website at **dimmettauctionservice.com**  
**SHOWING:** Sunday June 19th from 1-3 p.m. **TERMS:** Pick up items Tuesday, July 21st from noon to 7 p.m. Pay with cash, check, and or credit at pickup. Any announcements made day of auction shall take precedence over any verbal or printed material.  
**OWNER:** Robert Dimmett & guest consignors

## Dimmett Auction Service & Realty

www.dimmettauctionservice.com


(812) 897-1747  
1444 White Road  
Boonville, IN 47601

**Robert E. Dimmett**  
Owner/Auctioneer  
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**FOR SALE:** Registered Angus cows, calves and heifers for sale. Call Ridge View Angus at 606-787-7307. Kings Mountain, Ky.

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270-524-0005

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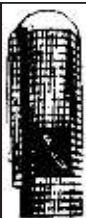
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20 words or less  
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Mail form to:  
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Photo by Jimmy Henning

This photo was captured from a home in Henry County belonging to Ben and Katlyn Roberts. Photographer Jimmy Henning commented that he liked the U.S. flag and red and white flowers, and thought the green lights on the porch made it so relevant to 2020.

# ONLINE ONLY AUCTION

**Seller: Loudermilk Equipment**

Bidding opens July 11 at Noon and begins to close July 16 at 7 p.m.

**Locations:** 1646 IL Rt 130, Albion, IL & 405 W Lancaster, West Salem, IL

Pick up is scheduled for July 18th from 8am-10am.  
Please practice social distancing.

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