

Dr. Stout announces retirement

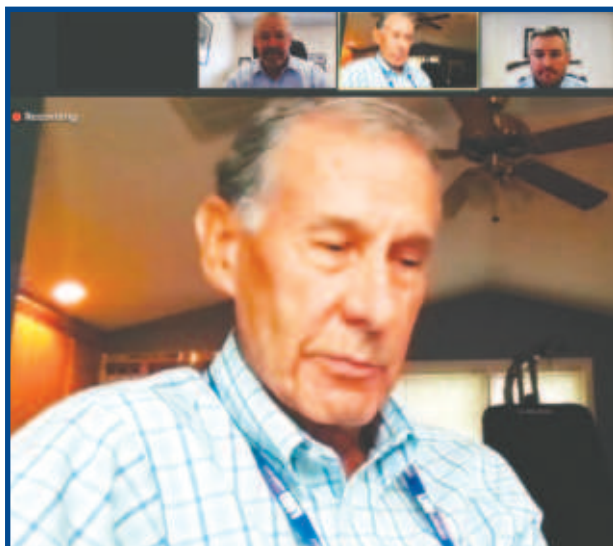
Kentucky State Veterinarian Dr. Robert Stout announced his retirement Friday to members of the Kentucky Board of Agriculture.

Stout became emotional as he told board members of his recent opportunity to reflect on his life and his future. He recalled the songs "Don't Blink" by Kenny Chesney and "Time Marches On" by Tracy Lawrence playing on the radio as he traveled to Owensboro one day last January and said he took that as an omen "to consider where I am in my life, in my career and where I want to go."

Stout accepted the position of state veterinarian almost 17 years ago with plans to serve eight years. He has since earned the respect of Kentucky's agriculture community as well as nationally among his peers.

The board of agriculture, which hires the state vet-

SEE **DR. STOUT**, PAGE 2



Kentucky State Veterinarian Dr. Robert Stout announces his retirement Friday during a virtual meeting of the Kentucky Board of Agriculture.



File photo

AgLand, a popular attraction at the Kentucky State Fair, will look different this year at reduced capacity and under a large tent outside in parking lot A.

IT'S ON!

Kentucky State Fair will look different this year

While other state fairs have been canceled or reduced to junior livestock shows, Kentucky's 11-day experience will go on with an event that Commissioner of Agriculture Ryan Quarles characterized as a "mini Kentucky State Fair."

Scheduled for Aug. 20-30, the fair will include concerts, a midway, food trucks and Kentucky agriculture's premier showcase, AgLand.

4-H and FFA livestock, poultry and rabbit shows will continue to be held indoors with attendance limited to exhibitors and those with the required armbands.

The World Championship Horse Show will still go on in Freedom Hall but with limited spectators.

State fair board member Joe Goggin, a familiar face during the fair, said months of planning have taken place to make sure a fair can be held while following recommended guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

"We started in late April when we acknowledged that we weren't going to have a traditional fair," Goggin said.

The fair board called together a group of stakeholders, representing carnival, entertainment, and other traditional fair elements. But Goggin added, "The fair staff did a tremendous job. They thought outside the box to have a very manageable and doable fair."

The fair will definitely have a different look and feel with extensive precautions for social distancing at the concerts, especially significantly increasing the size of the concert aisle and row spacing and several jumbo screens so people will not congregate in the concert area.

Goggin also emphasized the support the state fair receives from Kentucky Department of Agriculture

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ASIAN LONGHORNED TICK FOUND IN KENTUCKY: Aggressive biter found on Metcalfe County bull **7**

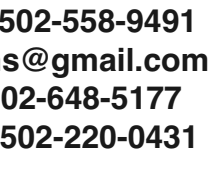
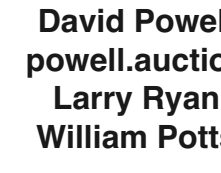
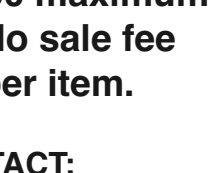
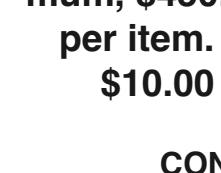
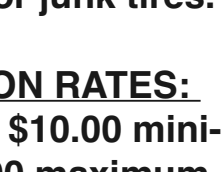
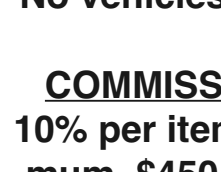
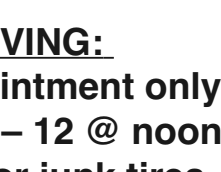
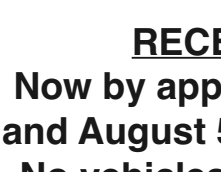
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Stout announces retirement

FROM PAGE 1

erinarian, held a virtual meeting Friday. Numerous board members shared their respect for Stout following his announcement, including Commissioner of Agriculture Ryan Quarles, who serves as chairman of the board.

“Dr. Stout, I think I speak on behalf of everyone on the State Board of Agriculture as well as Kentucky’s agriculture community in a sincere appreciation for the hard work and sterling performance you have had as Kentucky’s state veterinarian,” Quarles said. “Over the last 17 years you have become not only a model of how the office should be run but also a nationally recognized leader.”

According to state law, the state veterinarian remains in the position until a successor is named and Stout said he intends to honor that.

Quarles recommended members for a search committee and the board approved the plan. A proposed timeline calls for a recommendation to be made to the full board during the last week of October.

The search committee includes Keith Rogers, KDA chief of staff, as chairman; Mary Bach, Adam Hinton and Eddie Melton, all board of agriculture board members; Dr. Stout, as an ex officio, non-voting member; and a representative from the Kentucky Cattlemen’s Association, Kentucky Pork Producers Association, Kentucky Poultry Federation, Kentucky Dairy Development Council, Kentucky Sheep and Goat Development Office, Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association, and a representative of the equine industry.

By Sharon Burton
snburton@farmlandpub.com

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Dairy Steers: Large 3: 260# 87.00-100.00, 334# 95.00, 387# 94.00, 485-488# 85.00-98.00, 505# 85.00, 600-630# 88.00-90.00, 795# 87.00.

Dairy Steers: Large 3-4: 355# 77.00, 407# 75.00, 510# 78.00.

Fresh Milking Cows: (2-4 years old) Approved 1275.00, Medium 1150.00, Medium 800.00 Jersey, Common 875.00.

Bred Heifers: Medium 825.00 Jersey, Common 535.00, Common 550.00-585.00 Jersey, Common 675.00-750.00.

Springer Heifers: Supreme 1325.00, Approved 1150.00-1250.00, Medium 850.00-1000.00, Medium 900.00 Guernsey, Medium 800.00 Jersey, Common 725.00-850.00, Common 700.00 Jersey.

Open Heifers: Supreme 425# 435.00 Jersey, Supreme 625# 600.0, Approved 325# 250.00, Approved 475# 375.00 Jersey, Approved 500# 400.00 Jersey, Medium 500# 325.00, Medium 650# 485.00 Jersey, Medium 725# 560.00, Common 225# 125.00, Common 625# 310.00.

Bull calves: 39 head 10.00-70.00, 1 head 60.00 Ayshire, 6 head 140.00-180.00 Beef Cross, 10 head 50.00-130.00 Crossbred, 2 head 50.00-70.00 Guernsey, 7 head 5.00-30.00 Jersey.

Heifer calves: 9 head 10.00-70.00, 4 head 140.00-160.00 Beef Cross, 4 head 90.00-120.00 crossbred, 2 head 30.00-40.00 Jersey.

Slaughter Cows: Breaker 75-80 percent lean 1455-1740# 63.00-71.00, H.Dr. 1440-1825# 75.00-86.00, Boner 80-85 percent lean 1030-1420# 63.00-72.00, H.Dr. 1090-1410# 73.00-86.00, L.Dr. 1120-1520# 52.00-62.00, Lean 85-90 percent lean 815-1215# 53.00-62.00, H.Dr. 825-1075# 64.00-74.00, L.Dr. 805-1160# 45.00-52.00.

Slaughter Bulls: Y.G. 1-2 1480-2280# 96.00-106.00, H.Dr. 1700-2200# 107.00-116.00, L.Dr. 1550-1685# 77.00-85.00.

Kentucky State Fair will go on with limited capacity

FROM PAGE 1

and University of Kentucky College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences.

FAIR INCLUDES MODIFIED AGLAND

AgLand was first introduced during the 2018 state fair and agriculture organizations come together in one location to promote the industry. AgLand will continue to be a main attraction in 2020, but there are changes, according to Nancy Monroe, ag program coordinator at the Kentucky Department of Agriculture. Monroe and Fran McCall, commodity specialist at Kentucky Farm Bureau, serve as logistic coordinators for AgLand.

"We have a 100 ft. x 100 ft. tent in parking lot A, which is next to South Wing," Monroe said. Nine displays will be open to visitors under the tent and farm equipment displays will be set up outside the tent.

AgLand traditionally has 25 exhibitors,

but not everyone's display would work in the outdoor setting. The organizations not displaying this year will be listed on a banner inside the tent.

KDA's peddle tractors will be part of the event and Southland Dairy will be there, but they won't be passing out yogurt. The popular Discovery Farm and the Kentucky Soybean Board grain bin theater will not be there this year.

Fair officials have worked tirelessly to make sure youth livestock shows will be a special experience. Commissioner Quarles recently emphasized the importance of these shows.

"More than half of county fairs canceled, and we want to make sure that any 4-H or FFA member who wants to show will have the opportunity to show at the Kentucky State Fair," he said.

Photo backdrops feature the banners from last year's drive, and for the first time, all livestock shows will be live-streamed to enable those who can't attend to still be ringside.

One of the highlights of the 4-H and FFA shows is the championship drive,

which will again be the culmination of the week's shows. Still held in Broadbent Arena but with very limited attendance, the championship drive excitement won't be diminished with a smaller crowd. The event will be live-streamed, and officials predict the atmosphere will be as electric as the two previous drives.

Even though there are no general exhibits, competitive crafters, gardeners, and bakers are encouraged to participate in the fair through virtual entries. Email photos of projects to communications@kyvenues.com and include the competition where the project would normally be entered in the subject line by Aug. 10.

While the Kentucky State Fair board and Kentucky Venues staff have developed a fair type event, public safety is a constant concern.

Commissioner Quarles updated members of the Kentucky Board of Agriculture during a meeting on Friday.

"A lot of things could change. It's a very fluid process, and we want to put

the public's safety first," he said. "There needs to be high compliance with masks. People are not minding the masks, and we are keeping those rules and guidelines in place throughout the fair."

Ian Cox, Kentucky Venues assistant director of communications, said, "The Kentucky State Fair has worked tirelessly to make this an event where attendees feel safe. We have created and are following multiple procedures to offer a welcoming environment for the fair."

More details are available online at kystatefair.org.

By Toni Riley
Field Reporter



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Kentucky State Fair guidelines in place



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Certain areas will be closed and maximum occupancy of indoor spaces will be reduced by up to 82 percent to offer sufficient space for social distancing practices.

The first operational event since March 12 will take place at the fair and exposition center with the Street Rod Nationals this week. The Kentucky State Fair will so follow, so I wanted you to be aware of the fair guidelines for 2020.

COVID-19 PLAN

As an annual outdoor attraction, the Kentucky State Fair board is responding to concerns regarding the spread of COVID-19. All options are being considered to create a safe environment for all those in attendance while keeping true to the Kentucky State Fair and World's Championship Horse Show. This plan encompasses all expectations and emerging requirements.

COVID-19 PLAN HIGH-LIGHTS

The inside of the facility will be closed to the general public and only accessible to livestock and horse show exhibitors, judges and related staff. Aisle ways inside the facility and at the concert series will be widened and some identified as one-way aisles.

Certain areas will be closed and maximum occupancy of indoor spaces will be reduced by up to 82 percent to offer sufficient space for social distancing practices.

Hand sanitizer and handwashing stations will be available throughout the property.

Hours of operation will be reduced to ensure staff and vendors time to thoroughly clean and sanitize in preparation for the next day.

Masks will be required for all staff, vendors, judges and livestock participants. Gloves will be worn by staff accepting physical payment for

goods. Visitors are suggested to wear masks.

Outdoor areas will be reprogrammed to accommodate events that are normally inside the facility.

BROADBENT ARENA

The number of people in the arena will be limited to meet lower-capacity numbers.

Only credentialed individuals will be allowed in Broadbent Arena.

CAPACITY CONTROL

Anticipate 50 percent reduction in attendance for 2020.

Increasing the square footage per person to 15 sq. ft. each, an increase to the NFPA standard of 7 sq ft.

Access control will be able to keep a count of attendees and capacity.

Employ currently-established procedures to close gates when necessary – same procedures have been employed during previous fairs.

FREEDOM HALL

Adhere to guidance from the Saddlebred associations and the governor's office. Continue to livestream the shows online in a pay-per-view format. Freedom Hall will be closed each night to thoroughly clean and disinfect. Judges will be required to wear masks. Large class sizes will potentially be limited to enhance social distancing practices. No spectators will be allowed into Freedom Hall. Trainers and media will be allowed in the upper concourse of Freedom Hall.

– Freedom Hall typically has a capacity of 14,555 for the World's Championship Horse Show. Capacities for 2020 will be approximately 310 individuals compromised of 300 trainers and up to 10 members of the media, a 98 percent reduction in

capacity.

Number of people along the show ring will be limited and required to wear masks.

Number of trainers in the areas around Freedom Hall, including the make-up ring and gate area, will be reduced.

Only riders/drivers, trainers and groomers will be allowed in the gate area.

GENERAL/ NON-LIVESTOCK ENTRIES

General/non-livestock entries will be canceled for the 2020 Kentucky State Fair. General Entries for the 2019 Kentucky State Fair totaled 20,807.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday-Thursday: Noon-11 p.m. (Food vendors open at noon, other activities will begin at 2 p.m.)

Friday: Noon-Midnight (Food vendors open at noon, other activities will begin at 2 p.m.); Saturday: 10 a.m. - Midnight; Sunday: 10 a.m.-11 p.m.

Operating hours will only apply to the general public, not people showing in the livestock and horse shows.

LIVESTOCK ENTRANTS

Adhere to guidance from livestock associations. Adhere to strictest guidelines provided by the governor's office. Barriers will be installed at the counter in the livestock office.

Each entrant will be given 2-4 tickets for family or chaperones to help with the animal. The number of tickets will be decided when a location is set and the number of entrants determined.

Entries for 2020 are expected to be down 69 percent compared to

2019 entries, allowing space for social distancing practices. Below are the number of entries from the 2019 Junior Livestock Shows (4-H and FFA):

- Beef Cattle: 381 entries (77.9 percent reduction of entries)
 - Dairy Cattle: 396 entries (82 percent reduction of entries)
 - Dairy Goats: 120 entries (63.3 percent reduction of entries)
 - Sheep: 800 entries (28.6 percent reduction of entries)
 - Swine: 850 entries (47.2 percent reduction of entries)
 - Market Goats: 600 entries (7.6 percent reduction of entries)
- Judges and entrants will be required to wear masks while in the show rings. Only Junior Livestock Shows (4-H and FFA) with Kentucky youth entrants will be allowed.

Pedestrian aisles will be increased to 8 ft. – 10 ft. wide. Shows will be livestreamed. Showtimes will be spaced out to clear up congestion in and around the make-up ring areas.

OUTSIDE VENDORS

Reduce the number of public tents from 6 to 1 – an 83 percent reduction.

SOUTH WING B

Will remain un-utilized or re-programmed as a location for livestock

SOUTH WING C

Will remain dedicated to the field hospital. We have not accepted or seen any patients onsite.

WEST HALL

A show ring will be set up in the southern portion of the Pavilion and used for shows during the first half of the fair. Anchored stalls used by cattle will be reduced by up to 82 percent based on entries.

The Farmer's Pride

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Clock running out on weather



MARKET WATCH

Dewey Strickler

Long story short, the focus in corn is shifting from weather back to demand and supply.

The clock has run out for weather being a factor in corn, which means demand must take the lead if a price recovery is to develop. While the dollar has fallen nearly 9 percent since peaking in March, making values more attractive to users, supplies are abundant. In addition, the crop's yield potential looks strong.

Last week, the rating improved 3 points to 72 percent in good-to-excellent condition and compares to a rating of 58 percent a year ago. According to Ag Watch's yield model, the national yield is 177.4 bushels per acre compared to USDA's estimate of 178.5 bushels per acre. Meanwhile, the export pace has declined since May with inspections last week unspectacular at 31.3 million bushels.

Currently, shipments are on track for 1.65 billion bushels versus USDA's projection of 1.775 billion bushels. Long story short, the focus in corn is shifting from weather back to demand and supply.

For the past couple of weeks, soybeans have been underpinned by steady export sales to China. However, that may be changing because of increased tensions with the U.S. In addition, weather is currently nonthreatening. While August is the critical month for pod setting, the crop is entering the month under healthy conditions.

Last week, the rating improved 3 points to 72 percent of the crop in good-to-excellent condition and compares to last year's rating of 54 percent. According to Ag Watch's yield model, the national yield is 51.1 bushels per acre compared to USDA's estimate of 49.8 million bushels. If realized, ending stocks could rise to 532 million bushels versus USDA's current projection of 425 million bushels. While exports to China have not faltered, even though tensions have risen, their interest has been mostly for new crop.

Last week, export inspections were mostly mundane at 17.3 million bushels. Shipments are projected at 1.65 billion bushels but are on track for 1.513 billion bushels. With weather nonthreatening into early August and resurgence of the coronavirus in many states, the market faces a headwind.

There is little fresh news in wheat to stimulate prices. Harvest is winding down at 81 percent complete, just below the average of 82 percent. The spring wheat crop has improved with 70 percent reported in good-to-excellent condition up 2 points from the previous week. Export inspections were 19.9 million bushels with shipments on track to reach USDA's target of 950 million bushels.

Prices came under pressure this week from needed rainfall in Russia, and expectations for their plantings to increase 5 percent over a year ago. Partially offsetting this is lower production in the EU.

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

Twenty-four miles of bad spending

One trillion is one thousand billion or one million million.

In money terms, \$1 trillion is a stack of \$100 bills 631 miles high.

Now consider that the three coronavirus relief bills already approved by Congress will collectively spend about \$3 trillion, or a \$100-bill stack 1,893 miles high.

But wait, Congress isn't done. Its leaders are now negotiating how to spend between \$1 trillion and \$4 trillion on a fourth relief package. That would add another 631 to 2,524 miles of \$100 bills to the stack.

With that kind of lunar spending, why should you worry about a relatively puny congressional request to raise the annual spending authority of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation from \$30 billion a year to \$68 billion?

Because in both principle and practice, the CCC should not be a political slush fund to cover up farm and trade policy malpractice.

The CCC is, by design, USDA's checking account for most farm bill-authorized programs except crop insurance. Its checks pay for everything from soil conservation programs to flood relief.

Its financial reach, though, is limited; Congress currently restricts CCC spending to \$30 billion per fiscal year. According to figures cited by the conservative Heritage Foundation, "The CCC has not come close to breaching that limit from FY 2005 to FY 2019."

That streak ended under the Trump Administration, however, when it tapped CCC for "\$28 billion of so-called trade aid to farmers in 2018 and 2019" to pay for its tariff war with China, notes a July 16 Heritage report.

The tariff fight, when added to an already faltering ag economy, helped undermine farm income. To shore it up, USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue devised a clever scheme, called the Market Facilitation Program, to send

CCC cash to farmers.

Perdue had the authority because after the GOP takeover of Congress and the White House in 2016, Obama-era limits were lifted on USDA's "discretionary" use of CCC money. In short, the Trump Administration used the CCC to fill the income gap fueled by its own trade policies while bypassing Congress.

According to a July 14 analysis by Politico, USDA's "trade bailout has now spanned three years, and surpassed \$23 billion, even though it was never appropriated by Congress. Instead the money was funneled through USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation..."

Importantly, no one in the Administration asked Congress if it could use the CCC this way and, strikingly, few on the Democratically-led House Agriculture Committee even asked for an accounting.

It was just a "Hey, let's tap the bank. We'll buy our way out of this" problem, Neil Hamilton, the former director and emeritus professor of Drake University's Agricultural Law Center, told Politico.

But now the problem is too big for even the CCC to mop up. No worry, some in Congress have a plan.

On May 5, Rep. Austin Scott, who, coincidentally, is the GOP congressman from Perdue's home district in Georgia, proposed legislation to "permanently increase the CCC's annual borrowing limit from \$30 billion a year to \$68 billion."

Few in Congress objected to the plan, but former USDA officials and fiscal watchdogs howled.

The increase, argued former USDA chief economist Joseph Glauber and Vincent Smith, the American Enterprise Institute's director of agriculture, in a July 20 op/ed in The Hill, allows "any administration free rein to spend... with no accountability to Congress..."

Others joined the chorus. The Heritage Foundation, in its detailed July 16 report, noted that current pandemic spending is "so broad" that an



FOOD & FARM FILE

Alan Guebort

Because in both principle and practice, the CCC should not be a political slush fund to cover up farm and trade policy malpractice.

To spray or not to spray

‘Should I spray this field?’ is such a common question, it should be easy to answer, right? Turns out, it is not. I was recently looking at an excellent orchardgrass/red clover pasture (with occasional ironweed and Queen Anne’s lace) when the producer asked me if he should spray the field. I think he was surprised when I said no. Spraying was not warranted for several reasons, but mainly because spraying to kill the problem broadleaf weeds would completely take out the clover, which was significant.

Here are some guidelines that help me formulate a weed control plan. I will be the first to admit this is a highly subjective set of guidelines or suggestions.

Weed management is more than chemical control

Farmers have other options besides spraying herbicides. Sometimes the best approach is to use agronomic or grazing management to strengthen the forage crop and deal with the weed. Johnsongrass is a classic example of a weed that can be managed by grazing but it is very problematic in a hay field.

Mowing is another tool for weed management. Mowing annual or biennial thistles after they bolt (put up a seed head) but before they make seed is a good way to prevent the spread of these weeds. Timely mowing of cockleburrs can prevent seed production as well. The UK publication AGR 207 ‘Controlling Broadleaf Weeds in Kentucky Pastures’ evaluates the effectiveness of mowing as a weed management tool for many of our problem pasture weeds.

Determining if a spray threshold has been reached

The Clover Dilemma

Controlling broadleaf weeds usually means killing the clover present, something I call the clover dilemma. How do you decide if the infestation is bad enough? How much clover does it take to withhold the herbicide and live with the weeds? Certainly it does depend on the weed and the extent of the infestation. And it depends on the type and amount of clover. A vigorous, thick stand of red clover would be worth protecting in all but the worst infestations. A stand of small, white dutch clover probably not. And remember that some new herbicide formulations will take out

broadleaves without killing clover. Pro-clova is one example.

Annuals

With annual weeds, it is usually best to first try to thicken up the stand of the forage. Annuals are opportunistic; they germinate and grow when forage stands get sparse.

Addressing lime, P and K needs and strategic use of nitrogen fertilizer are some of the most powerful tools to shift the advantage to the desirable forage. Implementing rotational grazing and maintaining good residual heights on the base grass will help suppress the onset of these weeds.

Managing toxic and invasive plants

Toxic and invasive weeds will often necessitate the use of herbicides. The cost/benefit ratio of using chemical control is influenced greatly by the threat of loss of livestock and the loss of value due to their presence in hay. An infestation of hemp dogbane, which contains toxic glycosides, caused one farm owner to avoid using that field for horse hay and used it for cattle after he had sprayed it.

The harvest interval for the herbicide he used was 14 days, which means he had to wait 14 days after spraying to cut for hay. The harvest intervals for many common forage herbicides are found in AGR 172 ‘Weed management in grass pastures, hayfields and other farmstead sites.’

Cash hay vs. pasture

Some weeds can be tolerated or even be beneficial in pasture that would warrant herbicide application in a cash hay crop. For example, johnsongrass and crabgrass are highly palatable forages that benefit summer pastures but are not welcome in hay intended for high end horse markets.

Estimating the spray threshold

Quantifying the area of the pasture covered by weeds can help assess the spray threshold. Assuming these weeds are not palatable, they will reduce the expected yield on the field by the proportion of weeds present. Infestations of ironweed have been shown to reduce pasture yield by 25 percent or more. If the expected yield for the field is two

The Forage Doctor

By Jimmy Henning



Would you spray this field? Tough question to weigh the value of a good stand of vigorous red clover (18 inches tall) compared to freedom from ironweed (24 inches tall). The decision to spray is a subjective process depending on many factors, including weed pressure, invasiveness and/or toxicity of the weed, cost of the control measure, forage value of the weed and its life cycle, and the ability to restore the pasture stand.

tons per acre, then the ironweed infestation would ‘cost’ you .5 tons per acre. At \$50 value per ton of forage yield, the ironweed could be said to ‘cost’ you \$25 per acre, which is close to the cost of spraying.

Weed growth stage matters

Weeds are most easily controlled when they are vegetatively and actively growing. Ironweed in full flower in August is very hard to control. For that reason, late summer may be a poor time to try to control weeds even though they may be very visible at this time. For perennials like ironweed, initiate herbicide applications when plants are young and vegetative. Often that means timely mowing in mid-summer to knock them back and following up with herbicide in two or three weeks.

A replant strategy is needed

A plan to spray almost always requires a plan to replant because when the weed is gone, mother nature will insert another one. I find the various replant schedules and labels confusing. For this reason, I refer often to the label for the proper re-seeding interval.

The decision to spray herbicide on pastures and hayfields is complicated. The decision to spray is a subjective process depending on many factors, including the visual assessment of the weed pressure, the invasiveness and/or toxicity of the weed, the cost of the control measure, the forage value of the weed and its life cycle and the ability to restore the pasture stand.

Don’t forget that the best first step is to thicken up the existing stand of forage. The best weed control is a thick, dense stand of the desired species in a pasture or hay field.

Happy foraging.

Bad spending

FROM PAGE 5

expanded CCC “might allow the Agriculture Secretary to provide money to special interests that have nothing to do with farming...”

Like, maybe, already favored meat-packers?

Glauber told Politico that raising CCC “farm aid” is like “giving USDA a blank piece of paper and saying, ‘Here’s a bunch of money. You decide how to spend it.’”

He’s right; putting \$38 billion more into what already looks a lot like a multi-billion dollar political slush fund virtually guarantees more bad policy – especially if you can hide it behind a stack of \$100 bills.

Make that a 24-mile-tall stack of \$100 bills.

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.

Asian longhorned tick found in Kentucky

LEXINGTON – The Asian longhorned tick, which preys on a variety of hosts including humans and wild and domestic animals, has been found in Kentucky. This new tick is known to attack animals in large numbers and will be a concern to livestock producers, wildlife enthusiasts and pet owners.

“This tick is an aggressive biter and frequently builds intense infestations on domestic hosts that can cause stress, reduced growth and severe blood loss,” said Jonathan Larson, UK extension entomologist in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. “One reason for their rapid buildup is that the female ticks can lay eggs without mating. It only takes a single fed female tick to create a population of ticks. Potentially, thousands can be found on an animal.”

The tick has been found in small numbers on elk in Martin County and black bear in Floyd County. It was found in large numbers on a bull in Metcalfe County.

“The Metcalfe County ticks were submitted by a veterinarian who answered a

call about a bull so infested that it was showing signs of severe fatigue,” said Anna Pasternak, UK entomology graduate student who manages the Kentucky Tick Surveillance Program. “The tick samples that the veterinarian submitted for identification to the UK Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory contained Asian longhorned ticks.”

Pasternak and Monica Cipriani, a student in the UK College of Public Health, sampled the Metcalfe County field and found more Asian longhorned ticks.

“With the first two findings being in eastern Kentucky, the Metcalfe County finding is particularly troubling as it means the tick may have already spread farther across the state,” Pasternak said.

A native of Asia, the tick was first found in 2017 in the United States. In addition to Kentucky, it has been confirmed in Arkansas, Delaware, Connecticut, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee and West Virginia. In addition to cattle, black bear and elk, it preys on deer, raccoons, opos-

sums, cats, dogs, coyotes, foxes, sheep, goats, groundhogs, horses, Canada geese, chickens, cottontail rabbits, red-tailed hawks and skunks. As it gets further established in the state, the tick is expected to have adverse effects on the state’s deer and wildlife population. Humans also are a host.

The tick is small and reddish-brown with no distinctive markings to make it easy to identify. Making detection more difficult, unfed Asian longhorned adults are smaller than other common adult ticks found in Kentucky. It is also a known or suspected vector of several important livestock viral, bacterial and protozoan agents. Scientists are conducting tests on ticks collected in the United States, and it is likely that some ticks will contain germs that can be harmful to animals.

Individuals who find a usually large number of ticks on their pet or livestock should contact their local veterinarian. Those who find single ticks they think might be an Asian longhorned tick should work with their county extension

agent for agriculture and natural resources to submit the sample to UK entomologists for positive identification.

Additional information on tick bite prevention and proper tick removal is available in UK entomology’s ENTFACT 618: Ticks and Disease in Kentucky. It is available online at entomology.ca.uky.edu/ef618 or by contacting a local extension office.

By Katie Pratt
University of Kentucky



Photo by Anna Pasternak

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Unsolicited seed packets could be invasive

More than 500 people have contacted the Kentucky Department of Agriculture after receiving unsolicited packets of seed through the mail. The packets appear to have originated in China.

The packets have also been mailed into at least 30 states and KDA and USDA are asking anyone who receives the seeds to, first and foremost, not plant them.

Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles told members of the Kentucky Board of Agriculture Friday that he is aware of at least a half dozen people who planted some seed.

When asked if they know what kind of seeds are being mailed into Kentucky, he said that has not been determined.

“The ones I personally picked up looked like sunflower seeds and the plants I yanked out of somebody’s back yard looked like a bean of some sort,” he said. “They are not labeled. They are delivered to people who did not order seeds.”

Some seeds have been identified by USDA. Osama El-Lissy, with the plant protection program at APHIS, said 14 different species were identified as of last week, including mustard, cabbage, morning glory, and several herbs and flowers.

The seeds may simply be a prank but Quarles said it’s important to take steps to

prevent invasive species in Kentucky.

“If you want to know what devastation looks like check out kudzu this time of year in eastern Kentucky or go fishing with Asian carp in our lakes out west,” he said.

State Veterinarian Dr. Robert Stout also commented on the potential seriousness of the seeds, noting that the seeds and the novel coronavirus that have entered the country show how vulnerable we can be.

“These things are not trivial,” Stout said.

Individuals who have received unsolicited foreign seeds should bag them in an airtight bag and send it to the United States Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service’s Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) at:

USDA-APHIS PPQ
P.O. Box 475
Hebron, Kentucky 41048

“The message is the same: Do not plant unsolicited seeds,” Quarles said. “If you have planted these seeds already, we are awaiting guidance from USDA about how to proceed. Once we have an update, we will be sure to let the public know.”

Ric Bessin, extension entomologist in the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, also warns of



the danger of planting the seeds.

“These packets could potentially contain invasive species or plant diseases, so do not throw them in the trash either. Instead, seal them tightly and send them to the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s office in northern Kentucky.”

APHIS is working closely with the Department of Homeland Security’s Customs and Border Protection, other federal agencies and state departments of agriculture to investi-

gate the situation.

“At this point in time, we don’t have enough information to know if this is a hoax, a prank, an internet scam, or an act of agricultural bio-terrorism,” said Quarles.

KDA has created the webpage kyagr.com/foreignseeds to help anyone who receives the seeds.

Contact KDA at 502-573-0282 or email ag.web@ky.gov.

By Sharon Burton
snburton@farmlandpub.com

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Auburn farmer elected chairman of soybean research program



Adam Hendricks of Auburn was elected chairman of the Southern Soybean Research Program during the organization’s summer meeting, which was held virtually on July 14.

SSRP uses soybean checkoff dollars to coordinate and fund production research projects that benefit the southern soybean-producing region. The six states that make up SSRP are Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, Alabama, South Carolina and Georgia. The United Soybean Board provides funding for administrative activities and overhead.

Projects funded (or co-funded) by SSRP range from the recently completed Irrigation Management Strategies for Soybean Production in Humid Regions of the U.S., which was led by the University of Kentucky’s Dr. Ole Wendroth, to past projects on soybean cyst nematode, the evaluation of soybean varieties and ex-

otic germplasm for tolerance to soil waterlogging, fungicide trials to control Asian soybean rust, and a yield loss prediction tool for risk management of Asian soybean rust.

Farmers who are interested in learning more about checkoff-funded research should visit www.SoybeanResearchInfo.com, which houses farmer-facing information on a wide range of research projects.

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Calhoun farmer elected chairman of WISHH

Gerry Hayden of Calhoun was elected chairman of the World Initiative for Soy in Human Health. Hayden serves on the WISHH committee as a representative of the American Soybean Association and has long been a champion of this program.

WISHH serves as U.S. Soy's catalyst in developing and emerging markets, connecting trade and development across global market systems, and improving food security. While investing time and resources in developing and emerging markets, this program also seeks to instill a preference for U.S. soy in those who will make purchasing decisions.

WISHH provides trade solutions starting at the ground level and works to shape market dynamics while positioning U.S. soy as a protein partner for the future. WISHH works with key stakeholders in developing markets to demonstrate U.S. soy's value for businesses and communities, and as an agricultural development partner, WISHH

identifies markets that demonstrate growth potential and then works within those systems to build resilience in trade.

Current and ongoing success stories for the program include the Commercialization of Aquaculture for Sustainable Trade in Cambodia, partnering in Ghana to help provide local communities with access to quality protein, and working in collaboration with the United Soybean Board to compress the time for a new U.S. soybean market to go from an emerging market to being market-ready.

Hayden has been involved in soybean leadership in Kentucky for more than twenty years, serving in various capacities in both the Kentucky Soybean Association and the Kentucky Soybean Promotion Board. He has been one of Kentucky's representatives to the American Soybean Association since 2013, and was appointed as ASA's representative to the WISHH Committee in 2018.



Gerry Hayden



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Water quality plan needed for county cost-share applications

Starting this year, a Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Plan is required to participate in the County Agriculture Investment Program, also commonly referred to as local cost-share.

A Kentucky Ag Water Quality Plan is required by state law for agricultural operations 10 acres or more in size. This plan documents the best management practices you're using to protect water resources on the farm. These best management practices could include rotational grazing systems for livestock, filter or buffer strips around crop fields, animal waste storage structures and nutrient management plans. Your plan

should also include limiting livestock access to streams, proper handling of herbicides and pesticides, and proper maintenance of septic systems.

To implement a Kentucky Ag Water Quality Plan, first consider the activities in your operation. You can use a producer's workbook to answer questions about the operation. By answering these questions, you can identify the appropriate best management practices needed. Then, document that these practices are being used and properly maintained.

In many cases, proper practices are already in place, and creating a Kentucky Ag Water Quality Plan provides a docu-

ment stating that you are doing the right things to protect water quality on your farm.

Periodically review and update your plan to reflect changes in farming and forestry practices or land ownership. Keep a copy of your plan on hand, and file a copy of your plan plus a self-certification sheet at your local Soil and Water Conservation District. A water quality plan is required by the local Soil and Water Conservation District if you plan to apply for state or local cost-share programs.

By implementing a Kentucky Ag Water Quality Plan, you help protect both surface and groundwater from agricultural contaminants. Keeping the

water resources of the state clean protects human and animal health and reduces the cost of treating drinking water.

For more information on developing your Kentucky Agriculture Water Plan, contact your local Conservation District or Cooperative Extension Service office. Additional resources are available from the University of Kentucky at uky.edu/bae/awqp, including videos of farmers who have successfully implemented their water quality plans.

By Amanda Gumbert, PhD, Extension Specialist for Water Quality

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61 hd. 808# 135.30 blk-charx
68 hd. 818# 129.30 charx-red
125 hd. 825# 135.00 blk-mixed
41 hd. 830# 132.50 blk-mixed
55 hd. 858# 134.85 blk
62 hd. 858# 133.75 blk
58 hd. 879# 126.60 blk-charx
58 hd. 898# 129.90 blk
58 hd. 915# 127.90 blk
56 hd. 941# 128.70 blk-mixed

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

86 hd. 809# 133.75 blk-charx
318 hd. 830# 138.00 blk
75 hd. 656# 134.60 blk
75 hd. 671# 134.00 blk-charx
75 hd. 675# 129.50 charx
73 hd. 681# 134.80 blk-charx
75 hd. 697# 135.25 blk
73 hd. 702# 134.10 blk-charx
71 hd. 706# 127.00 blk-charx
130 hd. 764# 127.80 blk-charx
133 hd. 770# 128.70 charx

KY-TN Livestock Auction

Guthrie, KY

July 23, 2020

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

75 hd. 850# 137.25 bbwf

Feeder Bulls: Medium & Large 1-2

21 hd. 631# 126.00 bbwf

Washington Co. Livestock

Springfield, KY

July 20, 2020

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

69 hd. 790# 138.00 blk

61 hd. 830# 136.70 blk

41 hd. 1068# 106.30 blk

Kentuckiana Livestock Market

Owensboro, KY

July 20, 2020

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

24 hd. 667# 127.00 blk

Wilson Livestock Market

London, KY

July 21, 2020

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

60 hd. 864# 132.00 blk-charx

Christian Co. Livestock Auction

Hopkinsville, KY

July 22, 2020

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

68 hd. 714# 131.00 blk

Blue Grass Stockyards

Lexington, KY

July 20 & 21, 2020

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

25 hd. 620# 144.00 blk-charx

45 hd. 640# 134.75 blk-charx

78 hd. 661# 148.00 blk

71 hd. 692# 144.75 mixed

78 hd. 693# 144.00 blk-charx

36 hd. 730# 140.90 blk

71 hd. 739# 140.30 blk-charx

22 hd. 759# 124.50 mixed

40 hd. 764# 137.75 blk-mixed

65 hd. 790# 137.00 blk

64 hd. 818# 134.00 blk

68 hd. 819# 129.30 charx-red

125 hd. 825# 135.00 blk-mixed

41 hd. 830# 132.50 blk-mixed

55 hd. 858# 134.85 blk

62 hd. 858# 133.75 blk

56 hd. 868# 134.25 blk

105 hd. 876# 132.85 blk

55 hd. 888# 128.00 charx-red

60 hd. 918# 129.00 blk

56 hd. 941# 128.70 blk-mixed

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

77 hd. 613# 134.00 blk-mixed

73 hd. 701# 126.85 mixed

Blue Grass of Albany

Albany, KY

July 22, 2020

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

62 hd. 775# 135.50 blk

57 hd. 877# 127.00 mixed

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

69 hd. 563# 135.75 blk

Paris Stockyards

Paris, KY

July 23, 2020

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

20 hd. 771# 134.50 charx-blk

52 hd. 778# 133.75 blk-charx

116 hd. 819# 135.00 blk

57 hd. 874# 131.00 blk

58 hd. 9073 124.75 blk-charx

55 hd. 965# 124.00 blk-red

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

24 hd. 564# 129.00 blk

53 hd. 605# 133.00 blk

Blue Grass of Richmond

Richmond, KY

July 24, 2020

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

71 hd. 684# 145.00 blk

69 hd. 781# 137.80 blk/charx

60 hd. 874# 132.00 blk

60 hd. 912# 131.40 blk

55 hd. 930# 129.80 blk

57 hd. 941# 131.95 blk

110 hd. 948# 130.00 blk

108 hd. 1009# 124.75 blk

54 hd. 1012# 123.30 mixed

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

68 hd. 601# 134.40 blk

78 hd. 627# 137.00 mixed

136 hd. 859# 120.50 mixed

73 hd. 844# 120.50 mixed

United Producers Owenton

Owenton, KY

July 22, 2020

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

63 hd. 855# 132.35 blk

Blue Grass of Campbellsville

Campbellsville, KY

July 22, 2020

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

40 hd. 675# 123.00 blk

Livingston County Livestock

Ledbetter, KY

July 21, 2020

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

47 hd. 632# 132.00 blk

Mid-KY Livestock Market

Upton, KY

July 21, 2020

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

38 hd. 762# 133.00 mixed

64 hd. 802# 132.10 blk

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

27 hd. 734# 124.90 mixed

Blue Grass Maysville

Maysville, KY

July 21, 2020

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

70 hd. 762# 124.60 blk-charx

73 hd. 786# 121.35 blk-charx



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FOR SALE: Registered polled Hereford bulls and Gelbvieh bulls. Call Clifford Farms at 859-234-6956. TFN

FOR SALE: Registered Angus cows, calves and heifers for sale. Call Ridge View Angus at 606-787-7307. Kings Mountain, Ky.

FOR SALE: BWF Simmental and Sim-Angus yearling bulls. Qualify for heifer acceptable high productivity and carcass merit w/ Ag Development program. Call 502-604-1757 or 502-839-6651. Anderson, Ky. 8/20

Tobacco

FOR SALE: 600 JD Hi-cycle spray; Big Tobacco Baylor w/portable hydraulic pump, 200+ tobacco boxes with wires. Call 606-758-8486. Brodhead, Ky. 9/3

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FOR SALE: Old barn siding; 10,000 tobacco sticks, 5 cents each; large collection of farm caps, \$1.50 each; broom making machine, \$2,000. Call 270-993-0636. Utica, Ky. 8/20

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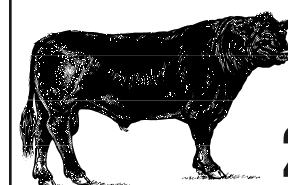
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Suicide prevention resources available for farm community

Free online course aims to help prevent farmer suicide

A free online course aims to help rural farmers and those in farming communities learn how to recognize the signs of stress and suicide risk, communicate effectively with stressed farmers, and help reduce the stigma attached to mental health issues. The course is timely, because suicide and mental illness are higher for farmers, especially during the pandemic.

Rural Resilience: Farm Stress Training takes less than three hours to complete, but you can go at your own pace. It has slide presentations and downloadable resources, and is available through June 2021.

The course was funded by the Cooperative Extension Service, Farm Credit, the American Farm Bureau Federation

and the National Farmers Union. Course content was created by Extension experts at Michigan State University, the University of Illinois, the University of Wisconsin, Montana State University, and South Dakota State University.

The course brings together the knowledge of agriculture and evidence-based approaches in behavioral health to help people recognize the signs of stress.

The course better equips farmers, their families, and the agricultural community with tools and resources to help in time of need.

The course can be found online at opencoursesstore.d2l.com/product?catalog=msu_urmfs_2020.

From the Rural Blog
<http://irjci.blogspot.com>

Online resources:

- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255 (24 hours)
- Crisis Text Line: 741-741 (24 hours)
- Farm Aid farmer hotline: 1-800-327-6243 (Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Eastern)
- National Farmers Union Farm Crisis Center: farmcrisis.nfu.org/
- Suicide warning signs: American Foundation for Suicide Prevention: afsp.org/risk-factors-and-warning-signs

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Commissioner of Agriculture

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