

Sugaring in Kentucky

The maple tree, both sugar and red, is valued statewide for its spectacular fall foliage and its beautiful furniture wood. But landowners across the state, especially in eastern Kentucky, are learning these trees have a natural resource worth tapping into – the sap.

Kentucky is at the southern limit for tapping maple trees due to the critical rise and fall of winter temperatures. In Vermont, a leading state in maple syrup production, temperatures average 10-15 degrees lower than Kentucky, which provides a more extended flow season.

Shad Baker, Letcher County Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources, realized Kentucky maple trees could be tapped when he attended a 2012 demonstration in neighboring Virginia. Along with Harlan County Agent Jeremy Williams, Baker has been a leader in bringing “sugaring” to eastern Kentucky.

In 2015 Baker and Williams offered the first maple syrup school, and the Letcher County Extension Office meeting room was packed with people wanting to learn more. Attending the program were six sugar pro-

SEE CBD, PAGE 2



Ben McKenney of Grandpa Joe's Sugar House in Maine demonstrates value-added maple syrup products during a video presentation.



Caleb and Leanne Ragland of LaRue County received the top honor at AFBF's virtual convention. As winners of the Young Farmers and Ranchers achievement award, the family will receive a new Ford pickup truck. Pictured is the family receiving a new Kubota RTV as the prize from Kentucky Farm Bureau when they won the 2020 Outstanding Young Farm Family.

Kentucky family wins top honor from American Farm Bureau Federation

Caleb and Leanne Ragland of LaRue County won a top honor during the American Farm Bureau Federation virtual convention, being named winners of the Young Farmers and Ranchers “Achievement Award.” After winning Kentucky Farm Bureau’s “2020 Outstanding Young Farm Family” honor, they were entered to compete with young farm families from across the country and were ultimately awarded the top prize.

The award recognizes young farmers and ranchers who have excelled in their farming or ranching operations and have exhibited superior leadership abilities. Applicants are evaluated on a combination of their agricultural operation’s growth and financial progress, Farm Bureau leadership and leadership outside of Farm Bureau.

The Raglands have a hog, corn, wheat, and soybean farm and employ a team of 13. Caleb handles a variety of business and marketing work while Leanne home-schools their three young boys and manages daily office work and social media for the farm.

“We are humbled by this honor,” said Caleb. “We owe so much to the support of our Farm Bureau family and to the many others who have encouraged and supported us on our journey.”

As winners of the award the Raglands will receive a new Ford truck, courtesy of Ford. They will also receive paid registration to the 2021 AFBF FUSION conference.

For more information about the American Farm Bureau Federation Virtual Convention, visit annualconvention.fb.org.



Sugar maple trees has untapped potential in Kentucky

FROM PAGE 1

ducers who thought they were the “only ones.” This first meeting led to the development of the Kentucky Maple Syrup Association. Current president Seth Long says the association is there to work together, learn new techniques and mentor new producers.

Using Kentucky timber survey maps, Long estimated Kentucky has 42 million red and sugar maple trees the size for tapping and 6.9 million trees in the six counties around Floyd.

“That’s a lot of untapped potential,” he said.

It’s important to note that the trees are not on tillable land.

“This is a crop that takes advantage of land that, for the most part, people consider to be wasted land, hillside land that has not historically been used for agriculture, or at least not in the past 100 years,” Baker said.

The 2020 maple school was held Nov. 7 and was a virtual education session with 90 participants from across Kentucky. Moderator Billy Thomas, UK Ex-

tension Forester, said the school was designed to start conversations and not teach people how to tap trees. The school showed various aspects of syrup production, including tapping walnut trees.

The keynote speaker was one of the leading national maple syrup producers, Glenn Goodrich from Vermont, who began tapping in his back yard and now has 125,000 taps. Attendees also learned about value-added products from Ben McKenney of Grandpa Joe’s Sugar House in Maine.

As more and more people began to look at sugaring, it became apparent that research about Kentucky production doesn’t exist.

“There is plenty of research for north-eastern producers, but nothing specific to Kentucky conditions,” Thomas noted. In response, the forestry department established a maple syrup research group to focus on key challenges and opportunities in maple syrup production.

U.K., the maple syrup association, and the Kentucky Center of Agriculture and

Rural Development are now partnering with new and experienced maple syrup producers in a citizen science research study. Using information from producers, these agencies plan to develop best management practices distinctive for Kentucky.

Another research project will provide an economic analysis of syrup production and determine the number of potentially tappable trees, climate trends, on-farm cost benefits and a study of the types and costs of energy used in sap dehydration.

A third study will look at the maple tree itself, particularly the red maple, which is more common in Kentucky. Sap samples will be taken from various trees across the state and compare local climate, site conditions, maple species, tree size, growing space as well as volume production and sugar content.

With the increased interest in maple syrup, will there be a glut on the market?

Long answers that question with an emphatic no.

“I don’t believe we are reaching 5 percent of the available market,” Long said. “Producers sell out, and we haven’t looked at more value-added products and wholesale markets such as bakeries and restaurants.”

The Department of Forestry provides a wealth of information about maple syrup production on the Kentucky Maple Syrup web page, ky-maplesyrup.ca.uky.edu. The weekly Into the Woods Today Episode 29 featured maple syrup and can be seen at forestry.ca.uky.edu/woods-today.

As interest in maple syrup production increases, the Kentucky Maple Syrup Association is holding its second annual Kentucky Maple Day. On Feb. 6, during the peak of sap production, producers across the state will open their woodlands to visitors who want to learn more about production. A list of locations is also available on the UK maple syrup page.

By Toni Riley
Field Reporter

Kentucky Maple Day

Feb. 6 – maplesyrup.ca.ky.edu/ky-maple-day

Kentucky Maple Day is a celebration and educational event all rolled into one. The event will take place on Feb. 6 during the peak of the Kentucky maple sugaring season.

Producers from across the state open their sugarhouses and operations for the public to learn about maple sugaring and purchase pure Kentucky maple syrup.

Attendees typically get an up close look at how maple sap is collected and then turned into syrup. Each maple syrup producer is different, so careful planning can allow visitors to attend several sugarhouses to enjoy a variety of how sap becomes syrup.

The biggest part of the tour will be around the evaporator. This is where the maple sap is boiled, and the sugar in the sap is concentrated, thus resulting in a golden maple syrup for the table.

At this point, visitors will learn how maple syrup is made and bottled for retail.

During Maple Day, operations may

also offer tours of their sugar bush, the location where the trees are tapped and the sap is collected. Also, some sugar makers will have product for sale when the tour is complete.

Check with your local county extension agent to find a participating producer in your area. Participants come from across Kentucky. More information can be found at ky-maplesyrup.ca.uky.edu/ky-maple-day.



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MARKET REPORT: WEEK OF Jan. 12, 2021

Farmers Regional Livestock Market of Glasgow, LLC

Cattle: 535 Supply included 14% feeder cattle (100% dairy steers), 59% slaughter cattle (79% cows, 21% bulls); 27% replacement dairy cattle (23% fresh/milking cows, 5% bred heifers, 8% springer heifers, 11% open heifers 43% baby bull calves, 11% baby heifer calves). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs. was 10%.

Fresh Milking Cows: Supreme 1500.00, Approved 1125.00-1425.00, Medium 1275.00, Common 75.00-1000.00.

Bred Heifers: Medium 925.00-950.00, Common 775.00, Common 675.00-725.00.

Springer Heifers: Medium 900.00-1025.00, Common 675.00-850.00.

Open Heifers: Approved 625# 500.00, Approved 725# 635.00, Medium 250# 150.00, Medium 300-375# 160.00-220.00, Medium 400# 190.00.

Baby Bull calves: 40 head 10.00-100.00, 9 head 130.00-230.00 Beef Cross, 13 head 50.00-110.00 Crossbred, , 2 head 20.00-60.00 Jersey.

Baby Heifer calves: 9 head 20.00-70.00, 5 head 120.00-220.00 Beef Cross, 2 head 80.00-90.00 Crossbred.

Slaughter Cows: Breaker 75-80 percent lean 1460-1905# 47.00-55.00, H.Dr. 1455-1845# 56.00-58.00, Boner 80-85 percent lean 1090-1480# 46.00-55.00, H.Dr. 1140-1420# 56.00-64.00, L.Dr. 1070-1590# 35.00-45.00, Lean 85-90 percent lean 840-1270# 36.00-45.00, H.Dr. 830-1045# 46.00-54.00, L.Dr. 760-1240# 27.00-35.00.

Bulls: Y.G. 1-2 1360-2310# 85.00-92.00, H.Dr. 1670-2110# 93.00-113.00, L.Dr. 1490-1660# 70.00-80.00.

Farm Bureau continues push for legislature to fund ‘the last mile’

As broadband expansion continues to be a need, now more than ever, Kentucky Farm Bureau continues to keep its eye on the funding ball.

The General Assembly wrapped up the first part of its 2021 session on Jan. 13 and is due to reconvene on Feb. 2. KFB is staying focused on its long-term initiative, something that’s stood out as an imperative need now more than ever: getting broadband coverage extended into rural Kentucky.

Mark Haney, KFB president, who is also an executive committee member for the American Farm Bureau Federation, said they are very pleased that Gov. Andy Beshear announced he allocated \$50 million for the implementation of broadband expansion into his budget.

“Our agenda is pretty much the same that we’ve had for the last couple of years,” Haney said. “We’re going to focus on broadband – trying to get funding into the bill that we got passed last year.”

Haney was referring to HB 362, which established the Broadband Deployment Fund, providing grants to government

agencies and private sectors to construct infrastructure for broadband service in underserved areas.

“That was sort of a placeholder, without funding. Now we’re trying to secure that funding ... to have a broadband way for people to cost-share if they need to, a place to go where they can invest in their own infrastructure,” Haney said.

KFB will also continue to support the rural secondary and county road aid programs. The rural road fund gets 22.2 percent of the excise tax, which will help fund those infrastructure projects in rural areas.

“It’s well needed, of course,” he said. “Now is the time we have to take our game up in Kentucky and do the ‘last mile’ we’ve been talking about ...” referring to finishing where Kentucky Wired left off, a state-run project aiming to construct more than 3,000 miles of high-speed fiber optic cable in every county.

“We need coverage for farmers, for business people in rural Kentucky and absolutely in homes for students to be

SEE **KFB**, PAGE 12

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The meetings in the hall



ONE VOICE

Sharon Burton

We all rolled our eyes when Gov. Beshear insisted that the office now be called the "Governor Andy Beshear's Office of Agricultural Policy."

As a journalist, I've always known that the conversations in the hall were just as important as covering the meeting in the adjoining room. Most meetings are designed to be informative, but the information is more controlled while the conversation in the hallway provides the rest of the story.

The hallway conversation may not be something that will even go into print, but it helps a journalist understand details and provide more in-depth coverage. It's also where journalists develop relationships and earn trust.

I miss having in-person meetings as the pandemic has caused most of our annual winter gatherings to go online. Everyone has found a way to continue to conduct business, but I sure wish I could shake a few hands, grab a few hugs, and hear some hallway tales.

I would love to have some hallway conversations right now to help me understand some recent legislation moving in the legislature.

Agriculture's home team has done a complete 180 on moving the Agricultural Development Fund from the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy into the Department of Agriculture.

That bill has been proposed in the past but never managed to get a foothold. Now, Sen. Paul Hornback, a leader in pro-agriculture causes, is sponsoring the bill, and the list of pro-ag co-sponsors is long.

I really need a hallway conversation or two to help me understand why this suddenly became a good idea.

We all rolled our eyes when Gov. Beshear insisted that the office now be called the "Governor Andy Beshear's Office of Agricultural Policy." Geez, like we don't know who that guy is who shut down our businesses, told us to stay home, and gives us almost daily updates on a deadly virus while encouraging us to be part of Team Kentucky.

Beshear is not known for being a friend of agriculture, but then rural communities did not get him elected. He listens to people who spend their days on concrete, not on combines. That's no secret. It's no secret he appointed an ag committee without involving the ag community.

Thankfully, governors come and go (I wish we could say the same for members of Congress, but that's a whole other article). The Ag Development Fund has remained intact because of bipartisan support from the legislature. It helps tremendously that the governor gets credit for investing millions of dollars into our ag economy for diversification. Those funds reach every county and people in those counties know those funds

SEE MEETINGS, PAGE 6

2021 DAIRY – moving forward

Predictions have proven to be totally unreliable, and so, we start 2021 with an uncertain future when it comes to specifics, when it comes to all areas of dairying. However, today, I stand with the poet, Alexander Pope, who said "Hope springs eternal."

2020 is behind us and we mustn't start 2021 by complaining about our past. I've personally been dairy farming my entire life and I have never experienced anything like 2020. The four big takeaways for me were 1) both the highest and lowest milk prices in the same year in modern history, 2) huge government payments sent directly to farmers, 3) massive amounts of dairy products given to food banks and citizens, 4) most importantly, the resilience and adaptability of dairy producers, processors and support personnel, e.g. truckers, feed companies, supply companies, and most of all, our hired labor force that never quit working, never shut down, and always did the job put before them. All of us owe our labor force a debt of gratitude.

There are many unknowns in 2021. The administration of CFAP-3, which just passed in December, does not have any specific guidelines yet. Also, president elect Biden is proposing another round of stimulus that I am confident will have an agriculture aspect, which will include dairy. This government involvement in our lives is unprecedented. The payments in 2020 were a lifesaver to many of us milking cows, but I don't think we can plan our futures around continued government payments.

Dairymen's greatest challenge in 2021 will be high feed prices. At this writing, feed commodity prices are increasing rapidly.

2021 more than ever will prove that we live in a global economy. We're watching grain harvest in South America, weather conditions in New Zealand and pandemic conditions all across the globe. All these factors will have a significant impact on dairy farmer's economic health.

The potential for exports looks positive, and if we can get the U.S. economy to open up, with restaurants and schools returning to normal, dairy product demand will be strong. Dairy economist Mark Stevenson, of Wisconsin, says, "We expect smoother sailing in 2021, but there are warning signs all around."

As for Kentucky's dairy industry, I'm pleased to announce



KENTUCKY DAIRY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HH Barlow

Dairymen's greatest challenge in 2021 will be high feed prices. At this writing, feed commodity prices are increasing rapidly.

SEE KDDC, PAGE 6

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Only heartache will be remembered



MARKET WATCH

Dewey Strickler

With ending stocks of soybeans at 140 million bushels, we are looking at the smallest stockpile since 2013.

Enjoy the ride while it lasts! The USDA gave the bulls another portion of grain when they lowered their ending stocks estimate of corn to 1.552 billion bushels in their latest report and world stocks to 283.8 million tons. This is the smallest global stockpile since 2016. While

China's imports rose 1 million tons, U.S. exports were lowered 100 million bushels with feed usage and ethanol down 50 million bushels and 100 million bushels respectively. Exports may fall further as the dollar is attempting to post an important bottom. While inspections were a marketing year high last week at 44.5 million bushels, they must average 57.9 million bushels to reach USDA's target of 2.55 billion bushels.

Right now, the traditional funds are sporting a record long position in corn of 1.98 billion bushels. Meanwhile, the index, or institutional funds, are long 2.045 billion bushels, their largest position since 2014. Although the funds can take the grains to unprecedented heights, only the heartache is remembered when they depart.

With ending stocks of soybeans at 140 million bushels, we are looking at the smallest stockpile since 2013. World stocks at 84.3 million tons are their lowest since 2014. In their latest report, the USDA increased their export estimate 30 million bushels to 2.23 billion bushels which was expected. Meanwhile, no increases were noted for imports by China. Last week, export inspections rebounded to 65.5 million bushels.

However, since mid-November, the pace has fallen 25.5 percent. In the meantime, the pace of shipments to China has declined 40.6 percent. This suggests that the USDA may be reluctant to make additional increases in subsequent reports. While all eyes have been on South America's weather, conditions are improving from recent moisture and more is in the forecast.

In their recent report, the USDA left Brazil's production unchanged at 133.0 million tons but lowered Argentina's crop 2 million to 48 million tons. Right now, the funds are long 825 million bushels of soybeans. With the record of 2.225 billion bushels set in 2012, they have a bit of wiggle room in tacking on additional longs.

While the USDA pegs global wheat stocks falling 3.3 million tons to 313.2 million, it is still the second largest on record. This means that it will have to be pulled higher by gains in corn and soybeans. Meanwhile, there is a bright spot in that Russia's exports are forecast to fall 1 million tons. In addition, there are rumors that they will increase exports quotas further. Last week, export inspections were scraping the barrel at 10.2 million bushels and must average 21.1 million bushels to reach USDA's projection of 985 million bushels.

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

THE FARMER'S PRIDE

Blood washes away; lies will be remembered

Like any schoolboy, I was both giddy and awed when I walked into the U.S. Capitol for the first time. Here Abraham Lincoln walked and John Kennedy laid. This is where Henry Clay and Daniel Webster debated, where wars were declared, peace was cherished, and democracy watered.

Only I wasn't a schoolboy; I was nearly 30 years old and I was playing hooky from covering dull farm bill hearings in the House Ag Committee. My press pass, I discovered, was a passkey to almost every room on Capitol Hill.

The U.S. Capitol was the first star attraction I explored. It was as solid as the government it housed and as breathtaking as the ideals it represented. I was unprepared, however, for its solemnity. I heard whispers, not words; saw directions gestured, not spoken; and encountered guards with folded hands, not crossed arms.

The Capitol seemed more a church than citadel, a place where the voices of American saints, our patriots, prayed for us, the living. My heart heard them. No public building, before or since, ever affected me like it.

When news broke on Jan. 6 that an anger-fueled mob was kicking in its doors and windows and attacking its police, employees, and members of Congress, I was sure the building would endure. The Capitol, after all, had seen its share of thugs (Sen. Joseph McCarthy), despots (President Richard M. Nixon...), and crooks (take your pick) come and go.

Nor was I surprised that the mob mobilized after given what sounded to it like orders by the White House. After four years of lies upon lies – "The pandemic will be gone by Easter." "This is the best economy ever." "We won the election by a landslide." – there simply wasn't enough oxygen left on either end of Pennsylvania Avenue for fact or truth to have a fighting chance in any debate, let alone a riot.

What was shocking, however, was the pure hatred the attackers carried from the White House to the Capitol. They believed that killing Vice Presi-

dent Mike Pence and murdering Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi would somehow keep Donald Trump in office after Jan. 20.

Where did they get such a crazy idea? Had they never been to the U.S. Capitol before that day?

Had they not heard how its statues still call every American to defend both liberty and the rule of law?

Had they never read the words – some given as last words – of Americans who believed so deeply in free elections that they died so even fools and traitors could walk in their shadows as free people?

Did they not see the pall their rioting cast on the honored dead of Concord, Gettysburg, Iwo Jima, Khe Sanh, or Fallujah?

If not, that's truly tragic because their first visit to the U.S. Capitol came as pawns in service of soulless demagogues and accomplished liars who used them to make a grab for power American citizens had not given them through either vote or voice.

But many of the mob will pay for that mistake with the loss of the very thing they were told was at stake: their freedom. That, too, was a lie.

The real mobsters, the elected officials who planted, then fueled, what they clearly knew were lies about "voting irregularities," now want to deflect attention from their treason with calls for unity and bipartisanship.

These are lies, too. They don't want unity; they want cover. They want America to see them as peacemakers when, in fact, they're the soulless demagogues powered by only ambition and lies. They're phonies.

But the Capitol riot was real; so are its shattered windows, splintered wood, and bloodstained floors. All will be swept, scrubbed and repaired.

The stain left by the public servants too cowardly to tell the truth to the mob they inflamed, however, can best be purged at the ballot box in the next fair and free election.

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 ag-comm@farmandfoodfile.com.



FOOD & FARM FILE

Alan Guebert

Had they never read the words – some given as last words – of Americans who believed so deeply in free elections that they died so even fools and traitors could walk in their shadows as free people?

First (and hopefully only) virtual Commodity Conference a success



KENTUCKY SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION
COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR

Rae Wagoner

As with so many events over the past year, the Kentucky Commodity Conference transitioned to a virtual event. It was held on the Conference’s regular date, January 14, on the Zoom platform.

I have heard a number of people, both farmers and industry partners alike, say that they’re just “Zoomed out,” and I understand. Zoom fatigue is a very real thing, and it affects folks from the boardroom to the classroom.

I have to say that while I am a “people person” and am looking forward to a time that we can all get together safely, I am also extremely thankful for the technology that allows us to continue to do business during the pandemic. The Kentucky Soybean Association and Board have utilized this virtual platform for individual board and committee meetings, but the Conference has far more moving parts.

We didn’t get to shake hands in the hallway, but we got to wave at friends on the screen. Farmers didn’t get to visit the trade show, but our Platinum sponsors (Bayer, Farm Credit Mid-America, H&R Agri-Power, and Pioneer) and our Gold sponsors (Agri-Gold, Corteva, and Syngenta) supported this conference just as if it

were live and in-person. We appreciate that.

Those who tuned in were able to participate in the annual meetings for the Kentucky Small Grain Growers Association, the Kentucky Soybean Association, and the Kentucky Corn Growers Association from the comfort of their shop, recliner, or truck. Michele Payn delivered a keynote address on mental health that we all needed to hear, and we celebrated wins in the production contests.

KSA recognized Brent Gatton with the Eddie Voils Leadership Award, Becky Thomas as our Top Recruiter, and Mr. Agriculture himself, Warren Beeler, with the KSA Distinguished Service Award.

I know that we are all looking forward to “getting back to normal,” whatever that looks like. I just think it’s important to be thankful for the technology that enables us to gather, even virtually, to celebrate accomplishments and honor people for a job well done.

Farmers are the most adaptive and resilient people that I know, and where there’s a will, there’s a way. We were able to record the Zoom meeting of the conference’s general session, and by the time this issue of The Pride reaches your

mailbox, you should be able to watch it on the Conference website, www.kycommodityconference.org.

Finally, I’d like to send a shout out to our 2020 KSA President, Fred L. Sipes. Many of our presidents serve for two years, but as our bylaws include a nine-year term limit, his eligibility to serve as a director precluded him from a two-year presidency. The year started out great with last year’s conference, followed by a trip to Commodity Classic and our annual BBQ lunch at the state Capitol. Then travel restrictions were put in place, and Fred’s presidency became a virtual one.

He was a champ, adapting to the new technology and making Hill visits via conference call. He talked to biodiesel technicians with his mask firmly in place and never missed a beat. I am sure this presidency was nothing like he expected, but he rose to the occasion and continued to conduct business on behalf of Kentucky’s soybean farmers – just in a different way.

That, my friends, is a testimony to the resilience and determination of those of us in agriculture, and it’s surely something to be proud of.

Meetings in the hall

FROM PAGE 4

come from “the governor’s office.”

Maybe we see the well running dry and the real reason leaders now want it moved into KDA is to keep control over the millions that have been converted into the Ag Finance Corporation. That pot provides low interest loans and will be a way to assist farmers for years to come even if new tobacco settlement money is gone.

That’s a hallway conversation I haven’t

had, so I’m not sure why this has become such a good idea. I do hope it’s not part of the Republican response to what many people consider the governor’s overreach during the pandemic. One has nothing to do with the other.

There are pros and cons to housing these funds in either office, but if it’s not broke, why fix it? So I have to ask, is it broke? I am not convinced that it is.

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

LETTER TO EDITOR

Keep Ag fund in GOAP

Dear Editor,

The Kentucky legislature is considering a fast-track bill, Senate Bill 3, sponsored by Sen. Paul Hornback.

SB 3 moves the Agriculture Development Fund from the Governor’s Office of Agricultural Policy to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

While to some that might seem to have some logic, it certainly does NOT.

The history of elected ag commission-

ers is littered with “clowns to the left and jokers to the right.”

Can anyone in Kentucky ag think that past commissioners Richie Farmer or Ward “Butch” Burnette or Alben Barkley II could administer this fund (\$40+ million per year currently) without getting their hand in the cookie jar?

s/Hoppy Henton.

Full time farmer

Woodford County

KDDC implements new program

FROM PAGE 4

we’ve had very few dairies cease operation. I refer again to the resilience of Kentucky dairy producers. Another positive in 2021 is, I’m confident we won’t have the upheaval in dairy markets experienced by the bankruptcies of Dean and Borden. In addition, more Kentucky farms are participating in Dairy Margin Coverage Insurance, which puts a floor under our milk price. Price risk management will be a vital part of economic strategy every year from now on.

The Kentucky Dairy Development Council is remaining active and true to our mission of promoting and representing dairy producers and fostering an environment of growth and sustainability of the Kentucky dairy industry.

KDDC is implementing a totally new program named MILK 4.0 that incentivizes dairy producers to improve profitability through genetics, genomics, improved pregnancy rates, lower somatic cell counts, financial analysis and exploring dairy beef opportunities.

I’m confident KDDC will be able to, once again, hold educational meetings

that provide an environment for our producers to learn new technology, share ideas for increasing profits, and most of all, to interact with one another on a personal and social basis. Most of the 2020 meetings have been cancelled and we are eager to provide these meetings in 2021. Dairy farmers are a relatively small fraternity compared to most other ag commodities, so it is vital for our success that we stay connected.

I am proud to announce a shortened one-day Dairy Partner Conference February 24 with a virtual option. In addition, we have planned a road show in Hopkinsville, Campbellsville and Glasgow, to kick off our new programs on March 27-29. We invite everyone to come and see the exciting things planned for dairy in 2021.

Thank you, *Farmer’s Pride*, for giving us this forum and we encourage all your readers to raise a glass of milk and eat plenty of cheese, butter, yogurt and ice cream for your good health and helping your neighborhood Kentucky dairy farmers.

HH BARLOW is executive director of Kentucky Dairy Development Council.

Free series focuses on stewarding resources in hard times

LEXINGTON – During challenging times, producers may worry about changing farming practices or find it hard to maintain new ones. Yet, soil health and good stewardship practices are as important during times of stress and uncertainty as they are under more settled circumstances.

Virtual Shop Talks for Farmers is an opportunity for farmers across the Midwest and Mid-South to have meaningful conversations with other farmers and experts about practical ideas and programs that can help them weather hard times and succeed with stewardship practices on their farms.

Registration is now open for the free series, which will take place through the social conferencing platform Zoom on four Wednesdays in February and March from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. EST.

In each session, participants will hear about solutions from specialists and direct experiences from farmers during a 40-minute panel discussion, after which everyone will break out into conversation rooms, where they can chat farmer-to-farmer about their experiences, challenges and solutions related to that particular topic.

“I am very excited about this opportunity for farmers to talk to other farmers about how they are using practices to protect soil, water and farming legacies, particularly during challenging times, such as we’ve been experiencing lately,” said Amanda Gumbert, water quality extension specialist in the University of Kentucky

College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. Gumbert is one of the organizers of the event, which is being arranged by an alliance of land-grant universities in Mississippi River Basin states. Collaborating universities include UK, Mississippi State University, University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Arkansas and University of Illinois. The series is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The series will include the following sessions:


- Making Conservation Make Cents, Feb.3. Panelists Paul Dietmann of Compeer Financial, farmer Steve Stierwalt of the Illinois STAR program and Arkansas farmer Adam Chappell will lead an economics discussion focused on ways to finance conservation practices.
- Re-Thinking How We Manage On-Farm Nutrients, Feb. 17. Panelists Josh McGrath, UK soil management specialist, and Wisconsin farmers Tony Peirick and Dale Macheel will discuss how to maximize the benefits of nutrient resources through manure utilization and cover crop management.
- Making Progress through On-Farm Trials, March 3. Participants will engage with farmers who are embracing innovative approaches and stressful conditions to improve their own operations. Panelists to be announced.
- Farmer-to-Farmer Perspectives to Help You Nail Down Your Next Steps, March 17. A discussion about the economics, practicality and reality of conservation

practices in times of farm stress. This session will be an all-farmer panel.

“We invite you to connect with like-minded farmers who share your interest in having a profitable operation, productive soils and clean water,” Gumbert said.

To find more information or to register for the series, go to northcentralwater.org/farmer-to-farmer-conservation-learning-and-leadership/virtual-farmers-hop-talks/.

By Carol Lea Spence
University of Kentucky



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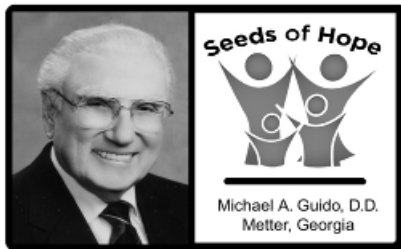


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Be aware of God

We live in a busy world. Days are crowded with more things to do than time allows. Instant texting and rapid responses to anything and everything, whether accurate or not, crown every moment of our lives. Everyone seems to have an opinion we need to hear on every subject – from the mundane to the insane, from the very important to “stuff” that does not matter. We have become conditioned to listen for something to listen to whether it matters or not.

Psalm 75 explodes with an important reminder. “We give thanks to You, O God, we give thanks for Your Name is near! Men tell of your wondrous works!” The fact that the word thanks appears twice in one sentence makes it intense and dramatic. But we should not be surprised. We are to thank God not only for His wondrous works but because He is near! God Himself, our God Who created everything and is in everything and sustains everything is close by.

Jesus once commanded Peter to cast his net into the water to catch some fish. He did and was amazed at the results. The disciple falls at His feet in fear and wonder. What a miracle! Jesus spoke and things happened. God’s presence and power came to life instantly.

The same is true for us today. While we may not see many extreme displays of His power, nonetheless He is at work. The little gifts in our lives as well as the immense miracles in our lives prove that He is near us and caring for us. We must always be aware of His presence.

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Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Line a baking sheet with aluminum foil.

Heat olive oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Saute onion, red bell pepper, and green bell pepper in hot oil until soft and translucent, about 5 minutes. Add garlic to vegetable mixture; saute until fragrant, about 1 minute more. Season with salt and black pepper; remove from heat to cool.

Mix turkey, beef, quinoa, milk, eggs, 2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce, sweet chili sauce, and ground ginger together in a bowl until well-combined. Add sauteed vegetable mixture; stir until completely incorporated.

Gradually add bread crumbs to meat mixture until mixture is moist and holds together. Form into 6 mini loaves and place loaves on prepared baking sheet.

Whisk brown sugar, ketchup, and 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce together in a bowl until sugar is dissolved and glaze is smooth.

Bake meat loaves in the preheated oven for 30 minutes. Spread glaze over each loaf and continue baking until no loaves are longer pink in the center, 10 to 15 minutes more. An instant-read thermometer inserted into the center should read at least 160 degrees F.

1 tablespoon olive oil, or as needed
1 onion, diced
½ red bell pepper, diced
½ green bell pepper, diced
1 clove garlic, minced, or to taste
salt and ground black pepper to taste

1 pound ground turkey
1 pound lean ground beef
2 cups cooked quinoa, or more to taste
½ cup milk

2 eggs, beaten
2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
2 tablespoons sweet chili sauce
¾ teaspoon ground ginger
¼ cup bread crumbs, or as needed (Optional)

Glaze:
¼ cup brown sugar
¼ cup ketchup
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce

Corn Casserole with Crackers



1 tablespoon vegetable oil
½ large onion, chopped
2 ribs celery, chopped
1 pinch salt and ground black pepper to taste (Optional)
3 (15.25 ounce) cans sweet whole-kernel corn, drained
2 (15 ounce) cans creamed corn
1 (4 ounce) packet saltine crackers, crushed
2 eggs
2 tablespoons milk
4 tablespoons melted butter
¼ teaspoon ground black pepper
salt to taste (Optional)

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Grease a 9x13-inch baking dish.

Heat oil in a skillet over medium heat; stir in onion and celery. Saute until the onion has softened and turned translucent, about 5 minutes. Season with salt and pepper, if desired. Transfer to a large bowl with whole-kernel corn, creamed corn, and crushed crackers.

Whisk together eggs and milk in a small bowl and add to the corn mixture. Add butter, pepper, and salt; mix until all ingredients are incorporated. Pour into the prepared baking dish.

Bake in the preheated oven until edges are golden brown, 45 to 60 minutes. Let cool for 5 to 10 minutes before serving.

Make-ahead Mashed Potatoes



5 pounds Yukon Gold potatoes, cubed
2 (3 ounce) packages cream cheese
8 ounces sour cream
½ cup milk
2 teaspoons onion salt
ground black pepper to taste

Preheat the oven to 325 degrees F (165 degrees C).

Place potatoes in a large pot of lightly salted water. Bring to a boil, and cook until tender, about 15 minutes. Drain, and mash.

In a large bowl, mix mashed potatoes, cream cheese, sour cream, milk, onion salt, and pepper. Transfer to a large casserole dish.

Cover, and bake for 50 minutes in the preheated oven.

Recipes courtesy of allrecipes.com

Making sense of baleage tests

Baleage (round bale silage) is a beneficial option for making high quality stored forage in Kentucky. Baleage technology is well proven but not without challenges. Most of these challenges revolve around achieving a moisture content (MC) in the target range of 40 to 60 percent. Getting a fermentation report and fully understanding its terms will provide a great deal of information about how well the forage ensiled.

Interpreting the terms on a fermentation report

Moisture/Dry Matter – The moisture content of the forage as tested. The MC of baleage should fall between 40 and 60 percent to be conducive to good fermentation and to inhibit the growth of clostridial bacterial. Fermentation results are better when MC are between 50 and 60 percent. Baleage with MC below 50 percent will have limited lactic acid production and pH values usually above 5.

Crude Protein – The estimate of the protein value of baleage, calculated by measuring nitrogen (N) content and multiplying by 6.25. Higher crude protein values are associated with early-cut forages (vegetative to early reproductive stage) and often indicate a higher level of readily-fermentable carbohydrates.

Lactic Acid – The product of anaerobic fermentation of soluble sugars and carbohydrates by lactic acid bacteria.

Lactic acid values of 3 percent or greater are desired in baleage (DM basis). Lactic acid values are frequently below 3 percent in baleage and are generally lower than in chopped haylages because the fermenting bacteria (on the plant surface) have limited access to the fermentable, soluble carbohydrates inside plant cells. Lactic acid should be the dominant acid in well-fermented baleage, present in greater quantities than acetic, propionic and butyric acid.

Acetic Acid – Acetic acid inhibits yeast and mold growth and helps keep baleage from spoiling during feeding. Concentrations of acetic acid should be between 1 and 4 percent (DM basis) and ideally no more than half of the lactic acid present. High acetic acid (>4 percent) can be caused by very high moisture (>75 percent), slow fermentation (possibly due to high protein content which buffers pH change) or loosely packed baleage. Some clostridial fermentations can produce acetic acid.

Propionic Acid – Propionic acid levels should be less than .5 to 1 percent (DM basis). High levels indicate that insufficient sugar was available for fermentation.

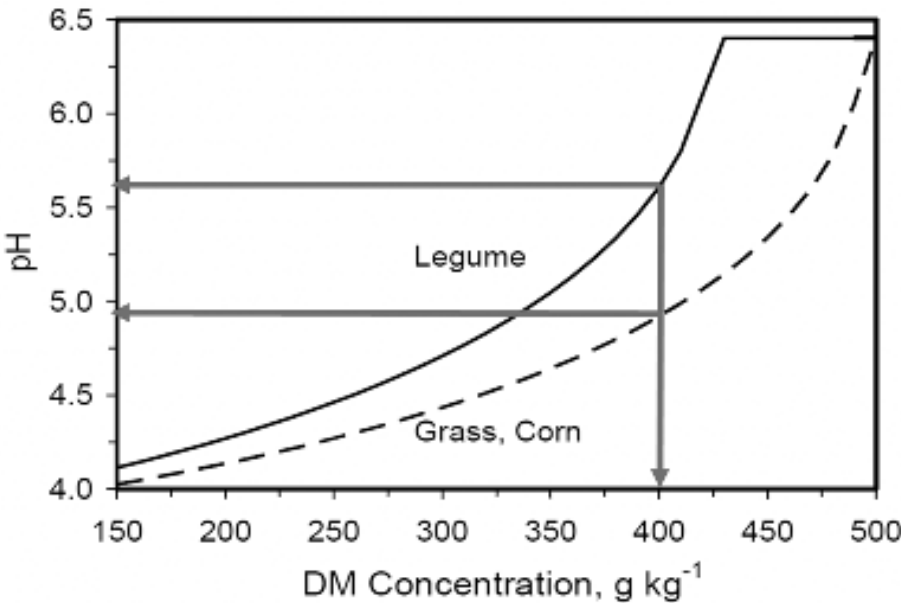
Butyric Acid – Butyric acid should be no more than .5 percent (DM basis) and ideally less. Cattle intake has been shown to be depressed by as little as .3 percent butyric acid. Elevated butyric



Knowing the quality of your baleage starts with a good sample using a core sample, such as demonstrated here by Brandon Sears, University of Kentucky Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources. If you make baleage, you need a fermentation report. Fully benefiting from those tests requires understanding the key terms.

The Forage Doctor

By Jimmy Henning



The effect of DM concentration and forage type on the minimum pH to inhibit the growth of *Clostridium tyrobutyricum*. At 40 percent DM (400g DM per kg of baleage), the pH required to inhibit the growth of *C. tyrobutyricum* is around 5 for grasses and 5.7 for legumes, as indicated by the red arrows.

acid means the baleage has undergone secondary fermentation by clostridial bacteria. High butyric acid levels are associated with very wet forages, forages contaminated with dirt and manure, and mature forages that do not undergo a quick pH drop.

pH – The acidity of the baleage. Fermentation of forage leads to a drop in pH due to the production of acetic and lactic acids. Ideally baleage should have a pH of 5 or below to inhibit secondary fermentation by clostridial bacteria. However, the pH necessary to inhibit clostridial fermentation depends on the type of forage (grass vs legume) and the moisture content of the baleage (Figure 1). Legumes do not need to be as acidic as grasses to inhibit clostridial growth. Clostridial bacteria are inhibited by MC below 60 percent.

Ammonia, Crude Protein Equivalent – The amount of ammonia (NH₃) present in baleage expressed as crude protein. Some ammonia in baleage is acceptable. Excessive amounts indicate that clostridial fermentation has taken place.

Ammonia-N, Percent of Total N – The proportion of the total nitrogen present in a forage that is ammonia. Ammonia-N levels above 15 percent are as-

sociated with high butyric acid content and indicate clostridial fermentation has occurred.

Ash – Ash is the fraction of the forage that is inorganic minerals. Standing forage is about 8 to 10 percent ash (DM basis). Elevated ash content (>11 percent) indicates that the baleage has been contaminated with dirt. Dirt is the primary way clostridial bacteria get into baleage.

OBSERVATIONS MATTER

To assess the quality of baleage fermentation, observations can tell you a lot. Good baleage will have a pleasant odor, while butyric acid baleage can have a very putrid odor. Squatting bales and seeping effluent are indications of overly wet forage which has likely undergone undesirable fermentation. Finally, bales that with large holes formed soon after baling will lead to poor fermentation in that area and in extreme cases, botulism.

If you make baleage, you need a fermentation report. Armed with the definitions above, understanding that report may be a little easier.

Happy foraging.

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- Soybeans are grown on more than 1.7 million acres in Kentucky. An acre is just a little bit smaller than a football field.
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- Soy Biodiesel is made from soybean oil. As demand for soy biodiesel rises, more oil is needed. The rise in demand for oil increases the amount of soybean meal available. And, farmers see a 63 cent per bushel increase in the price they receive for their crop because of soy biodiesel.
- Soybeans are a high value U.S. agricultural export. More than 50 percent of soy grown in the United States last year was exported, and that is why soybean farmers are so excited about the dredging project underway in the Lower Mississippi River. This project will add 13 cents to the price that farmers will receive per bushel of soybeans.

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Soybean Board
www.kysoy.org

Kentucky art contest increases pollinator awareness

FRANKFORT – Agriculture Commissioner Dr. Ryan Quarles invites Kentucky’s youth to participate in the Kentucky Pollinator Stakeholders Art Contest. The contest is designed to educate the public on the benefits of pollinators and encourage behaviors that promote pollinator habitats across Kentucky.

“In agriculture, we know the importance of pollinators,” Commissioner Quarles said. “This contest will allow

children from across the commonwealth to spread that message in the most colorful, vibrant and artistic ways imaginable.”

With the theme, “Pollinators and Their Floral Hosts in Kentucky,” the contest will focus on the state’s wide variety of flowers and plants and the pollinators that visit them. Youth ages 5-18 are invited to participate “Managed bees and native pollinators are necessary to U.S. agriculture,” Tammy Potter, Kentucky

State Apiarist, said. “More than 90 crops in the U. S., including many fruits and vegetables grown here in Kentucky such as apples, strawberries, peaches, pumpkins, melons, and canola, are dependent on insect pollinators such as bees for reproduction.”

These pollinators are necessary for the Earth’s ecosystem and the art contest allows youth to celebrate that relationship between pollinator and plant.

Contest participants are divided into

age categories with prizes awarded for first, second and third place in each category. First-place winners will receive a \$100 prize, second-place a \$50 prize and third-place winner will receive a \$25 prize. The prizes are sponsored by NiSource Charitable Foundation / Columbia Gas.

For more contest information or an entry form, kyagr.com/statevet/honeybees.html. Contest entries must be postmarked by Friday, Feb. 26.

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KFB continues push for broadband funding

FROM PAGE 3

able to continue school.”

And he doesn’t think the increased virtual needs will be lessened any time soon.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic obviously highlighted that need over the last year, Haney said, “we don’t think this is a one-time thing. Virtual work will continue, whether it’s inclement weather, flu season; we’ll see more of this. And we have to be prepared. So, it’s a high priority for us.”

Kentucky Wired has “gotten it out to those 16 locations, already hot and ready to go,” Haney said. According to the Kentucky Communications Network Authority, 99 percent of the construction is now complete.

“Now the job is to connect those and push it on out to the far reaches of the state. So we’re going to continue to ask for funding to do that.” Haney said this will be an ongoing initiative; it would be impossible to ask for enough funding to do it all at one time.

Estimated costs of the full project are anywhere from \$45-\$65 billion, to lay fiber to all the rural areas that are currently without any service.

Haney also touched on other items contained in the proposed budget that pertain to KFB’s funding priorities. The Kentucky Department of Agriculture was budgeted \$18.1 million.

“We want to seek good funding for the Department of Ag. We work with them on a daily basis, and we want to see that well-funded, where programs can continue,” Haney says.

“We also want to focus on if there’s any movement on wildlife management – that becomes a real issue,” Haney says, although it’s not included as a budget request for funding.

Issues include the size or population of deer herds, wild turkeys, coyotes, black buzzards and others.

“All that takes a toll on the industry, either competing for food supply or killing our animals,” he said.

Other funding included is almost \$35 million proposed for Ag Development

Funds, with \$14.4 million of that allocated to county funds.

Another \$2.5 million is proposed for the Environmental Stewardship Program and \$907,300 marked for Conservation District Local Aid.

“We want to see the budget finished out here. They’re going to do a one-year budget, which is a big deal for us – that’s where programs get funded, so that’s where we’re always interested, of course,” Haney said.

By Bobbie Curd
Field Reporter



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

KyCorn thanks farmer leaders for their service, welcomes new leaders

The Kentucky Corn Growers Association thanked KyCorn Board of Directors Megan Bell (Mayfield) and Shelby Emmick (Lewisport) for their leadership and service to the organization at the KyCorn Annual Meeting on January 14.

Bell, a director for District 1 for the past six years, was active in the CommonGround consumer outreach program and also testified in Washington D.C. on ethanol.

Emmick served as the Green River Corn Growers representative for three years.

Stephen Kelley, of Bardwell, also retired from the Board of Directors, but will remain on the Kentucky Corn Promotion Council.

KyCorn appreciates the time these farmer leaders have dedicated to improving their industry.

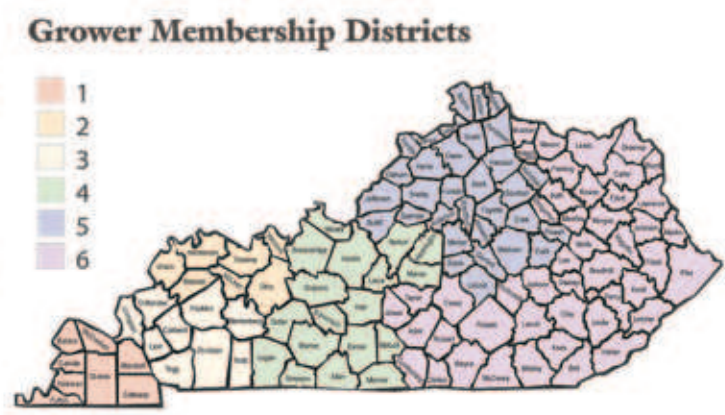
Also during the annual meeting, members elected new directors to serve during 2021 and beyond. The current leadership of KyCorn is as follows:

- District 1 Representatives**
NEW Brandon Wilson, Carlisle Co.
NEW Steve Weatherford, Hickman Co.
- District 2 Representatives**
Micah Lester, Christian Co.
Joseph Sisk, Christian Co.
- District 3 Representatives**
Josh Lancaster, Webster Co.
Bob McIndoo, Henderson Co.
- District 4 Representatives**
Richard Preston, Hardin Co.
Joel Armistead, Logan Co.
- District 5 Representatives**
James Tucker, Shelby Co.
Scott Ebelhar, Nelson Co.
- District 6 Representatives**
Steven Bach, Bath Co.
Chris Pierce, Pulaski Co.



Megan Bell

Shelby Emmick



- Local Corn Grower Assn. Representatives**
Travis Hancock, Union Co.
Bob Wade Jr., Lincoln Trail
NEW Tyson Sandefur, Green River
Alan Hubble, Southeast Ky.
- Industry Representatives**
Jeff Rice, Rice Agri-Marketing LLC
Ronan Cummins, Agronomy One
John Danesi, Whayne Supply
- Extension Representative**
Clint Hardy, Daviess Co.
- KyCorn Officers**
President - Richard Preston
Vice-President - Joseph Sisk
Secretary - Josh Lancaster
Treasurer - James Tucker

Winners Announced for the 2020 Kentucky Corn Contest

Winners of the 2020 Kentucky Corn Contest were honored during the January 14 virtual Kentucky Commodity Conference, and each received trophies from KyCorn.

- State Tillage/No-Till Winners**
1 - Kevin Hayden - 324.98 bu/A
2 - Ballance Farm - 318.89 bu/A
3 - Sparks Farms - 309.32 bu/A
- State White Corn Winners**
1 - Bobby & Austin Glenn - 264.17 bu/A
2 - PPJ Thompson Farms - 259.80 bu/A
3 - Hopson Farms - 250.65 bu/A
- State Irrigated Winners**
1 - Dennis McKay - 279.83 bu/A
2 - Walnut Grove Farms - 278.09 bu/A
3 - Schwenke Bros. - 271.35 bu/A
- District Winners - Tillage**
D2 - Teresa Turner - 268.92 bu/A
D3 - Darrell Hagan - 297.16 bu/A
D4 - Chris Kummer - 284.40 bu/A
D6 - Donald Poore - 292.59 bu/A
- District Winners - No-Till**
D1 - Hancock Family - 283.60 bu/A
D2 - Gifford Turner - 298.35 bu/A
D3 - Triple T Farms - 284.90 bu/A
D4 - Kenny Straney - 284.23 bu/A
D5 - Scott Ebelhar - 305.20 bu/A
D6 - Clint Poore - 254.10 bu/A

This contest is administered by the University of Kentucky and Cooperative Extension Service. Find the full results and production practices at www.kycorn.org under "News."



KyCorn College Scholarships
Application Deadline: March 5
Up to \$6,000 in scholarships are available to students of KyCorn member families. Find application details and qualification criteria at www.kycorn.org.

Nominations sought for Kentucky Leopold Conservation award

FRANKFORT – Nominations are now being accepted for the 2021 Kentucky Leopold Conservation Award.

“Contrary to popular perception, farmers are some of our greatest conservationists and stewards of the land,” Agriculture Commissioner Dr. Ryan Quarles said. “Every year, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture is honored to work with the Sand County Foundation to present the Leopold Conservation Award to a Kentucky farm family who goes above and beyond in the care and management of natural resources. The nominees support our proud tradition of conserving important resources while keeping farmland productive and sustainable.”

Sand County Foundation, the nation’s leading voice for conservation of private land, presents the Leopold Conservation Award to private landowners in 21 states for extraordinary achievement in voluntary conservation. In Kentucky, the \$10,000 award is presented with the Kentucky Agricultural Council and the Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts.

Given in honor of renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold, the award recognizes landowners who inspire others with their dedication to land, water, and wildlife habitat management on private working land. In his influential 1949 book, “A Sand County Almanac,” Leopold called for an ethical relationship between people and the land they own and manage.

Nominations may be submitted on behalf of a landowner, or landowners may nominate themselves. The application can be found at sandcountyfoundation.org/uploads/Kentucky-CFN-2019WEB.pdf.

The application deadline is April 1. The committee prefers application materials to be sent electronically to colemansteve51@gmail.com.

Materials may be also be mailed with a postmark of April 1.

Mail applications to:

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~ Jeremiah 29:11 ~

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UK offers numerous online beef education opportunities

The University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment has been offering online education for many years, but even more so during the COVID-19 pandemic. Faculty in the UK Department of Animal and Food Sciences are using a variety of methods to teach beef producers.

“We’ve had to get really creative to reach producers in the past year,” said Les Anderson, UK beef specialist. “Many of our programs are traditionally hands-on, but we’ve had to pivot and come up with different ways to reach our clientele such as podcasts, videos and webinars.”

The BeefBits podcast began in August and has served as a way for UK specialists to address clients in an educational, but less formal manner. Since then, topics have included from calf value, current market news and choosing a butcher to reproductive management, fishing and football.

“BeefBits has been a great opportunity for us to share information and create a way to collaborate with our colleagues while we are apart,” said Jeff Lehmkuhler, UK beef extension specialist and podcast host. “We’ve talked about doing this before, but the pandemic pushed us to dive

in.” The podcast offers new episodes twice a month at beefbits.podbean.com.

At the beginning of the pandemic, when many businesses and universities were developing plans to comply with healthy-at-home guidelines, the UK beef group decided to start a weekly series for beef producers called Reaching Out While Locked In.

“Our plan was to provide this to replace our normal in-person county meetings, until we could get back to normal in a few weeks,” said Darrh Bullock, beef extension specialist. “When it appeared that the pandemic might last longer than we initially expected, we expanded the program and invited some of our colleagues in the department and college to participate including forages, health and economic topics for additional sessions.”

The series has reached more than 300 people from more than 70 counties for the program via Zoom and Facebook Live and archived recordings on the Animal and Food Sciences website.

The link for Reaching Out While Locked In is afs.ca.uky.edu/beef/videos/beef-management-webinar-series.

Producers now have an opportunity to

complete the Weaning 101 workshop online. The workshop consists of eight weekly sessions and is approved by the Governor’s Office of Agricultural Policy to fulfill the educational requirements for the County Agricultural Improvement Program. Producers should contact their county extension agent to ensure their local CAIP committee will accept the program. The workshop requires registration. More information is available at afs.ca.uky.edu/beef/extension/virtual-workshops.

Beef Minutes is a weekly video series that began in summer 2020, in which UK extension specialists cover topics important to beef production.

“The Beef Minutes videos address timely topics for beef producers,” said Katie VanValin, UK beef specialist. “We want Kentucky producers to have the research-based information they need for each season of production. Episodes thus far have included topics such as calving, genomics testing, nutrition and feed efficiency.”

Beef Minutes episodes are available online at afs.ca.uky.edu/beef/videos/beef-minutes.

Another opportunity is the online Beef

Quality and Care Assurance program. This program enables beef and dairy producers to enhance their product, maximize marketability and strengthen consumer confidence. Producers can now become BQCA certified through the online program. For more information, visit afs.ca.uky.edu/beef/irm.

In the past, in-person field days allowed producers to see firsthand what goes on in the unit. The UK Animal and Food Sciences department now offers a virtual tour of its beef unit at afs.ca.uky.edu/beef/beef-tour.

“There’s no reason that the pandemic should stop us from relaying information to beef producers,” Anderson said. “In fact, it has just made us see how important it is to reach them in a variety of ways. In pre-pandemic times, we were sometimes limited as to how many we could host at in-person events. I am sure we will always offer virtual options to reach out to more people. Specialists and agents are continuing to be more innovative and use social media and online platforms to reach our audiences.”

By Aimee Nielson
University of Kentucky



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Are GMOs good or bad?

Article from BestFoodFacts.org

Mention GMOs – genetically modified organisms – and you'll likely hear a wide range of opinions. Some believe these plants and animals have great benefits to produce food and protect the environment. Others believe they hold potential risks and should be avoided. GMOs have been in use for many years. Despite the broad scientific consensus that they are safe to eat and safe for the environment, their use has generated plenty of public dialogue, questions and curiosity about the technology.

Genetically engineered plants or animals, often called GMOs, were developed through biotechnology and often carry genes from a bacteria or virus. Biotechnology has been used to help crops better withstand drought, be resistant to insects or be better suited to control weeds. Genetic modifications can help animals to better utilize the feed they eat.

To learn more about biotechnology, we reached out to Dr. Pamela Ronald, a distinguished professor in the Department of Plant Pathology at the University of California-Davis. She has gained worldwide recognition for her work in genetically engineering rice to better withstand plant diseases and flooding.

"Rice is an important staple food crop for more than half the world's people, so it's really important to work with," Dr. Ronald said. "Even a small change that you can make in the ability of the plant to survive stress or resist disease can have an impact on millions of people."

Are GMOs good or bad?

That depends.

First, Dr. Ronald said the biotech foods are safe to grow and to eat. "There's no question about that. They've been planted for 25 years now," she said. "They have reduced the use of chemical insecticide, and I think that's really important for people to know."

Dr. Ronald also explained that biotechnology is just one of the tools farmers can use to help produce food. When farmers have access to a variety of tools or techniques, they can choose the ones that work best for each crop, for each location and for each situation.

"All farmers rely on seeds to grow their crops, and farmers are looking for seeds that help make agriculture more productive and sustainable," Dr. Ronald said. "They want to use less land, use water more efficiently, use soil more efficiently. They want to reduce the use of harmful inputs. Every type of contribution can be really important for farmers."

Dr. Ronald's husband is an organic farmer. She noted that every type of farming has tradeoffs. As an example, in order to grow a crop, the soil must be disturbed, and native plants are removed.

The key is weighing the impacts, tradeoffs, and benefits, and then making an informed choice.

"We farm because we have to eat," she noted. "It's a huge trade-off. How do we farm more sustainably and try to minimize our impact on the environment?"

Some farmers have found that GMOs can contribute to making

farming more sustainable. Dr. Ronald gave an example of farmers in Bangladesh growing eggplant. Previously, farmers needed to spray insecticide several times a week during the growing season to save the crop from destructive insects. In recent years, they have planted a genetically modified eggplant seed that contains a gene from a bacteria that prevents the insects from reproducing. As a result, the farmers use much less insecticide spray, the crops have yielded more eggplant from the same amount of land and families have a better income.

Because there is a lot of misunderstanding and incorrect information about GMOs, Dr. Ronald encourages those with questions to explore reputable sources of information, such as the National Academy of Sciences or the USDA.

"I think it's important to realize that all farmers rely on seeds that have been genetically altered in some manner. The method is not important. What matters is what kind of trait that's being imparted to the plant," she said.

"It's always good to just think about the challenges faced by farmers. Floods come through, which is predicted to occur more frequently with climate change. Then some farmers can't grow their crops because there's not enough water. Some farmers' crops are devastated by insect pests. So anytime you can develop

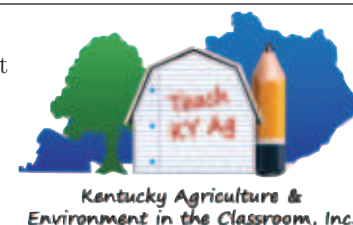


crops that are resistant to insects, it can have a massive benefit to farmers."

To further investigate the benefits and trade-offs to GMOs and biotechnology, visit www.kyfoodandfarm.com and click on Engage in the top menu.

The articles and information in Pride in Agriculture Education page are provided by the Kentucky Agriculture and Environment in the Classroom. KyAEC and its members partner to bring agriculture learning to Kentucky schools and youth organizations through educational programs, workshops, and curriculum development.

Learn more by visiting teachkyag.org or kyfoodandfarm.com





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AUCTION/MARKET

KENTUCKY GRAIN PRICES							Eastern Cornbelt Ethanol Plant Report		
LOUISVILLE AREA: Louisville & Bagdad; PENNYRILE AREA: Allensville, Auburn, Franklin, Hopkinsville & Pembroke; BLUEGRASS AREA: Bardstown, Lexington & Winchester; GREEN RIVER: Caneyville & Livermore; NORTHERN KENTUCKY AREA: Silver Grove at Cincinnati; PURCHASE AREA: Clinton & Mayfield. Opening bids at elevators and processing plants.							01/11/2021 Indiana Ohio Illinois		
01/11/2021 4:00 pm est Bids for next day Cash Bids Corn #2 Yellow Corn #2 White Soybeans #1 Y Wheat #2 SRW Barley		Louisville	Pennyrile	Purchase	Bluegrass	Green River	Northern KY	Yellow Corn Spot Bid 4.83-5.19	
		4.70-5.25	4.92-5.07	5.07-5.19 5.34-5.42	4.87	5.14	5.22	Dried Distillers Grain (\$/ton) 10% moisture 200.00-234.00	
		13.45 6.00	13.53-13.73 6.50	13.88-13.98 6.21-6.36	13.45 6.04	13.75 6.14	13.98 NA	Modified Wet Distillers (\$/ton) 50-55% moisture 70.00	
New Crop Delivery Contract								Kentucky Weekly Cattle Receipts as reported at local markets:	
Corn #2 Yellow		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	12/05/20	27,198
Corn #2 White		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	12/12/20	38,873
Soybeans #1 Y		NA	5.94-6.24	NA	NA	NA	6.35	12/19/20	19,120
Wheat #2 SRW								01/09/21	24,767
Barley									
Weekly Feed Ingredient Price Wholesale prices, \$ per ton Rail or Truck FOB Location		Owensboro Grain 01/11/2021	Commonwealth Agri-Energy Hopkinsville 01/11/2021	St. Louis Weekly Feed Prices 01/05/2021	Memphis Weekly Feed Report 01/05/2021	Corn Belt Feedstuffs Report 01/05/2021	Eastern Cornbelt Hog Prices 01/11/2021 Barrows & Gilts Receipts: 5,820 Base Price: \$44.00-\$57.40 Wt. Avg. \$55.14 Compared to prior day, wt. avg. base prices were 0.15 higher. 5 Day Rolling Average: \$55.05	FOR DAILY LIVESTOCK AND GRAIN MARKET REPORTS CALL FARMLLOT 1-800-327-6568 1-502-573-0553	
Soybean Meal 48% Sol		497.40	—	457.00-462.00	445.30	431.80-441.80			
Soybean Hulls		190.00	—	—	130.00	—			
Corn Distillers Grain Dried		—	218.00	—	—	195.00-210.00			
Distillers Grain Modified		—	122.00	—	—	—			
Distillers Grain Wet		—	74.00	—	—	—			
Corn Condensed Solubles		—	NA	—	—	—			
Corn Gluten Feed 20-21 pct		—	—	220.00	—	165.00-195.00			
Corn Gluten Meal 60 pct		—	—	635.00	—	580.00-620.00			
Cottonseed Meal 41 pct		—	—	470.00	430.00	—			
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Wheat:		Basis	Option Month	Futures
June/July 2021	\$6.42	-0.15	WN1	\$6.570
Aug. 2021	\$6.42	-0.15	WU1	\$6.570
June/July 2022	\$6.05	-0.30	WN2	\$6.350

Corn:		Basis		
Feb. 21	\$5.31	.00	CZ0	\$5.31
March 21	\$5.34	.00	CH1	\$5.34



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AUCTION/MARKET

Producers Livestock Auction Co, San Angelo, Texas Jan. 5, 2021
No recent comparison. All classes sharply higher than last test. Trading fairly active, demand good.

SLAUGHTER LAMBS WOOLED & SHORN: Choice and Prime 1-2 80-82 lbs 268.00-272.00; 90-94 lbs 250.00-272.00. Choice and Prime 2-3 108-145 lbs 140.00-190.00; 165 lbs 175.00. Choice 1-2 79 lbs 278.00; 84-88 lbs 262.00-274.00; 113 lbs 225.00. **HAIR BREEDS:** Choice and Prime 1-2 30-37 lbs 332.00-350.00; 40-48 lbs 338.00-356.00; 50-59 lbs 330.00-356.00; 60-69 lbs 320.00-358.00; 70-76 lbs 298.00-332.00; 81-87 lbs 275.00-298.00; 95 lbs 230.00; 100-108 lbs 240.00-260.00. Choice and Prime 2-3 117-138 lbs 164.00-196.00. Choice 1-2 43-46 lbs 304.00-320.00; 51-59 lbs 292.00-334.00; 62-69 lbs 300.00-320.00; 71-79 lbs 260.00-295.00; 85-88 lbs 250.00-282.00; 90-96 lbs 200.00-220.00; 100-113 lbs 190.00-210.00. Good 1 48 lbs 285.00; 78 lbs 240.00; 89 lbs 230.00. **SLAUGHTER GOATS KIDS:** Selection 1 41-49 lbs 335.00-396.00; 51-58 lbs 330.00-385.00; 60-67 lbs 328.00-358.00; 72-78 lbs 315.00-340.00; 80-85 lbs 270.00-285.00; 93 lbs 279.00; 105-110.00 lbs 270.00-273.00. Selection 1-2 42-48 lbs 290.00-318.00; 51-59 lbs 310.00-328.00; 63-69 lbs 295.00-318.00; 71-76 lbs 290.00-318.00; 80-88 lbs 236.00-260.00; 95-98 lbs 240.00-265.00. Selection 2 55 lbs 270.00; 82 lbs 280.00; 70-78 lbs 244.00-278.00.

New Holland Sheep and Goat Auction New Holland, Pa. Jan. 11, 2021
Compared to last week, woolled and shorn slaughter lambs sold steady to 5.00 lower. Hair slaughter lambs sold weak on a light comparison. Slaughter ewes sold weak with no comparison on slaughter hair ewes or slaughter bucks. Buyer demand was moderate on a moderate supply for the slaughter sheep sale. Slaughter kids sold 40.00 to 60.00 higher. Slaughter nannies sold strong on a light comparison. Slaughter bucks/billies sold strong. Slaughter wethers sold strong on a light comparison. Buyer demand was moderate to good on a light supply for the slaughter goat sale.

SLAUGHTER LAMBS WOOLED & SHORN: Choice and Prime 1-3 42-48 lbs 355.00-399.00; 52-58 lbs 315.00-360.00; 60-68 lbs 320.00-365.00; 70-78 lbs 295.00-397.00; 80-88 lbs 272.00-320.00; 90-98 lbs 260.00-285.00; 100-125 lbs 220.00-285.00; 138-145 lbs 175.00-260.00; 150-173 lbs 150.00-230.00. Good and Choice 1-2 55 lbs 260.00; 60 lbs 250.00; 90 lbs 190.00; 100-130 lbs 165.00-195.00; 141-148 lbs 150.00-155.00. **HAIR BREEDS:** Choice and Prime 1-3 45 lbs 325.00; 53-57 lbs 355.00-375.00; 61-68 lbs 360.00-385.00; 75-79 lbs 290.00-315.00; 80-85 lbs 285.00-305.00; 95 lbs 265.00; 103-120 lbs 237.00-260.00. Good and Choice 1-2 75 lbs 260.00. **SLAUGHTER GOATS KIDS:** Selection 1 30 lbs 115.00; 40-49 lbs 120.00-155.00; 50-59 lbs 125.00-215.00; 60-69 lbs 205.00-260.00; 70-79 lbs 220.00-285.00; 80-89 lbs 245.00-275.00; 90-99 lbs 250.00-295.00. Selection 2 40-49 lbs 90.00-100.00; 50-59 lbs 120.00-155.00; 60-69 lbs 150.00-195.00; 70 lbs 175.00; 90 lbs 200.00. Selection 3 50-59 lbs 95.00-115.00; 60 lbs 95.00.

Bluegrass Stockyards of Richmond Graded Sheep/Goat Sale - Richmond, Ky. Jan. 11, 2021

SLAUGHTER LAMBS WOOLED: Choice and Prime 1-2 73 lbs 295.00; 95 lbs 260.00; 113 lbs 219.00. Choice 2 52 lbs 252.50; 85 lbs 285.00. **HAIR BREEDS:** Choice and Prime 1-2 49 lbs 310.00; 61 lbs 315.00-327.50; 73-77 lbs 290.00-305.00; 82-89 lbs 260.00-275.00; 110 lbs 218.00. Choice 2 73 lbs 285.00; 88 lbs 266.00; 107 lbs 187.50. Good and Choice 2-3 54 lbs 290.00; 64-67 lbs 255.00-277.50; 71 lbs 250.00; 81 lbs 257.50. Good 3 75 lbs 250.00. **SLAUGHTER GOATS KIDS:** Selection 1 90 lbs 272.50. Selection 1-2 46 lbs 332.50; 53-58 lbs 310.00-337.50; 68 lbs 337.50. Selection 2-3 45 lbs 270.00.

WEEKLY COW SUMMARY			
Slaughter Cows	Average	High	Low
Breakers	44.00-60.00	50.00-68.00	40.00-51.50
Donors	39.00-50.00	44.00-68.00	30.00-51.00
Lean	50.00-57.00	58.00-62.00	22.00-51.00
Slaughter Bulls	Average	High	Low
Yield Grade 1&2	72.00-97.00	89.00-110.00	55.00-84.50

December 10, 2020

Bowling Green, KY

SLAUGHTER GOATS: 227

Kids-Selection 1-2 54-59 lbs 335.00-340.00; 71 lbs 300.00; 91 lbs 260.00.

Selection 2 51-53 lbs 270.00-330.00; 67-68 lbs 250.00-290.00; 118 lbs 220.00.

SLAUGHTER SHEEP: 433

Woolled-Choice and Prime 1-2: 48 lbs 390.00; 52 lbs 250.00; 94-95 lbs 180.00-210.00; 131 lbs 160.00.

Hair Breeds-Choice and Prime 1 89 lbs 320.00; 90 lbs 225.00.

Hair Breeds-Choice and Prime 1-2 58 lbs 300.00; 73 lbs 250.00; 88 lbs 240.00; 105 lbs 195.00.

View Full Cash Report

GRAINS	This Week	Prior Week	Last Year
Corn	4.72-5.38		3.78-4.12
Soybeans	2.77-14.15		8.87-9.64
Red Winter Wheat	6.04-6.92		5.50-6.30

USDA ESTIMATED DAILY LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

	CATTLE	CALVES	HOGS	SHEEP
Friday 1/8/2021 (est)	117,000	1,000	487,000	6,000
Week Ago (est)	0	0	0	0
Year Ago (act)	120,000	3,000	489,000	6,000
Week to Date (est)	583,000	8,000	2,458,000	35,000
Same Pd Lt Week (est)	448,000	7,000	1,838,000	30,000
Same Pd Lt Yr (act)	612,000	13,000	2,478,000	36,000



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AUCTION/MARKET

Blue Grass South

Stanford, KY

Jan. 7, 2021

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

42 hd. 583# 150.00 blk
28 hd. 635# 138.00 blk
22 hd. 740# 120.00 blk-charx
40 hd. 748# 132.00 blk
84 hd. 783# 132.90 blk
20 hd. 820# 121.00 blk
120 hd. 875# 129.95 blk
59 hd. 886# 119.80 blk-charx
61 hd. 896# 129.30 blk-charx
92 hd. 1162# 116.70 blk

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

55 hd. 538# 122.10 blk-charx
84 hd. 631# 127.00 blk-charx
71 hd. 653# 117.50 mixed
75 hd. 715# 125.60 blk-charx

Farmers Livestock

Glasgow, KY

Jan. 4, 2021

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

59 hd. 891# 130.10 blk

Lake Cumberland Livestock

Somerset, KY

Jan. 9, 2021

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

29 hd. 528# 151.00 blk
53 hd. 1046# 115.85 blk

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

20 hd. 468# 135.00 blk
25 hd. 554# 128.00 blk

Russell County Stockyards

Russell Springs, KY

Jan. 6, 2021

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

68 hd. 784# 134.00
66 hd. 818# 131.85
59 hd. 852# 117.85
80 hd. 857# 130.85
58 hd. 881# 126.10

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

44 hd. 754# 122.75

KY-TN Livestock Auction

Guthrie, KY

Jan. 7, 2021

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

21 hd. 482# 150.00 blk
20 hd. 667# 135.50 blk

Feeder Bulls: Medium & Large 1-2

40 hd. 494# 141.75 bbwf
22 hd. 561# 131.00 bbwf

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

24 hd. 432# 128.00 bbwf
24 hd. 501# 122.50 bbwf
28 hd. 545# 120.00 bbwf
23 hd. 630# 112.75 bbwf
68 hd. 742# 125.50 blk

Blue Grass of Richmond

Richmond, KY

Jan. 8, 2021

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

64 hd. 867# 128.25 blk-charx
55 hd. 921# 126.70 mixed
60 hd. 957# 127.00 blk
56 hd. 1012# 124.00 blk-charx

Blue Grass of Albany

Albany, KY

Jan. 6, 2021

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

87 hd. 580# 155.50 blk
42 hd. 643# 131.00 blk
66 hd. 743# 131.75 blk
68 hd. 749# 138.90 blk
58 hd. 882# 129.10 blk

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

30 hd. 483# 128.50 blk
72 hd. 573# 128.70 blk
31 hd. 619# 123.30 blk
35 hd. 621# 119.25 blk

Blue Grass East

Mt. Sterling, KY

Jan. 6, 2021

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

31 hd. 550# 124.75 blk

United Producers Irvington

Irvington, KY

Jan. 4, 2021

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

34 hd. 708# 129.75 blk

Blue Grass Stockyards

Lexington, KY

Jan. 4 & 5, 2021

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

20 hd. 403# 164.50 blk
28 hd. 430# 164.00 blk-mixed
92 hd. 575# 145.80 blk-charx
74 hd. 625# 140.00 blk
23 hd. 634# 140.50 bbwf
78 hd. 645# 138.50 blk-charx
67 hd. 690# 135.00 mixed
43 hd. 775# 130.00 blk
65 hd. 863# 131.95 blk
45 hd. 935# 123.00 blk

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

21 hd. 544# 125.00 bbwf
61 hd. 552# 129.90 blk
56 hd. 683# 130.10 blk

Mid-KY Livestock Market

Upton, KY

Jan. 5, 2021

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

24 hd. 659# 131.00 blk
24 hd. 683# 134.75 blk
21 hd. 716# 135.75 blk
22 hd. 721# 134.25 blk
24 hd. 713# 134.50 blk
56 hd. 788# 128.00 mixed

Feeder Bulls: Medium & Large 1-2

20 hd. 717# 107.00 blk

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

20 hd. 538# 130.00 blk
26 hd. 570# 131.75 blk
34 hd. 688# 122.25 mixed
35 hd. 720# 116.50 mixed
24 hd. 731# 117.75 blk
49 hd. 738# 118.00 blk
27 hd. 808# 114.25 mixed
27 hd. 812# 114.25 mixed

Blue Grass of Campbellsville

Campbellsville, KY

Jan. 8, 2021

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

29 hd. 504# 167.75 blk
28 hd. 645# 128.00 blk
61 hd. 813# 127.00 blk
44 hd. 966# 116.50 blk

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

20 hd. 553# 129.50 blk
62 hd. 680# 125.00 blk
70 hd. 778# 121.20 blk
40 hd. 974# 106.50 blk

Washington Co. Livestock

Springfield, KY

Jan. 4, 2021

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

20 hd. 551# 145.00 blk
75 hd. 657# 147.00 blk
22 hd. 670# 133.75 blk
28 hd. 728# 133.50 blk
70 hd. 730# 134.25 blk-charx
65 hd. 738# 132.25 blk-charx
71 hd. 748# 139.20 blk
68 hd. 795# 136.95 blk
25 hd. 802# 132.25 blk

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

21 hd. 670# 124.00 blk

Paris Stockyards

Paris, KY

Jan. 7, 2021

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

20 hd. 726# 130.00 blk
373 hd. 874# 131.60 blk
58 hd. 881# 127.50 mixed
59 hd. 911# 126.85 blk
57 hd. 992# 119.50 blk-charx

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