

Annual mule auction brings buyers from 25 states



Photos by Lynn Pruett

A mule team returns to pen after being auctioned at Adin Hoover's 11th Annual Mule Auction in Christian County.

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky. – Buyers gathered at the Christian County Livestock Market for Adin Hoover's 11th Annual Mule Auction recently. Trucks, trailers, and buggies from 25 states lined both sides of U.S. 68 for a mile in each direction. Inside, all the stalls were full. Hoover had advertised 250 mules on consignment but sold 295.

"It was a big sale," he said.

The day was cold and clear, which allowed fresh air to circulate in the crowded, open barns. Unlike a cattle auction facility with a large arena, stadium seats, catwalks and video monitors, this market barn was a maze of paths that could become stalls with the swing of a wooden gate. Buyers stood in the alleyways and pressed against the plank walls as the mules, generally in pairs, were escorted to the sales arena by professional teams of young men.

The arena was small and packed. Those who had come



A mule that is half of a team sold for \$13,600.

early stayed put so the overflow stood on tiptoe in the halls or climbed stall walls to keep up with the current bid.

Mules are working animals. They are accustomed to being handled by people. This familiarity made them easy going and unafraid of potential buyers who could touch, look, and even talk to the beasts in their stalls. The feel

SEE **MULE**, PAGE 2



A mule mare team sold for \$28,000 at the annual auction.



National Farm Machinery Show cancels 9.

INSIDE

EDITORIAL	4	MARKET REPORT	19
OPINION	5	CLASSIFIEDS	22

Mule teams still popular in United States

FROM PAGE 1

was friendly, hands-on, and almost old fashioned.

Dave Binns of Binns Farms in Ontario, Canada, had brought four cross-bred horses to the sale. Horses were sold after the mules. He comes to Hoover's auction every year as he is in the "export" trade side of the horse business.

He pointed to his horse as an example of good confirmation and "pride." "It's the difference between driving a car and driving a fancy car," he said. Binns will buy crossbred colts and fillies at one of the Kentucky auctions and feed them for a year then bring them back to Hoover's to sell.

When a donkey is bred to a mare, the result is a mule. The jack has 62 chromosomes, the mare 64, but its offspring will have 63, which makes it sterile. In order to reproduce, an organism needs an even pair of chromosomes. The mare often determines the characteristics of the mule such as hip size, color, shape of the head. The jack passes on a longer ear, a wider brow, endurance, and musculature.

The highest priced team at the auction was a pair of mare mules, which sold for \$28,000. They are four years old, trained

to all kinds of farm equipment, and were colored like a palomino. Their mother was a Belgian draft horse, heavily-muscled and rounded, characteristics that the pair exhibited.

Mules can be broke for riding, for hauling equipment like hay wagons, for pulling transport vehicles, such as buggies, or for packing. Their endurance made them the most necessary animal on the farm in the United States until the 1940s when the combustion engine brought tractors to agriculture.

In the 19th century and into the first half of the 20th, Kentucky breeders provided mules for the cotton South, the settlement of the west, and the U.S. armed forces. By 1890 mules had almost totally replaced horses as farm work animals. The mule business continued until 1957 when the last mule was decommissioned by the U.S. Army. In the 1980s, mules were again requisitioned to help U.S. troops maneuver through the mountainous terrain in the fight in Afghanistan.

For those who want to see the Hoover auction, go to dixielongears.com.

Cindy Odle, editor of Dixie Longears, a publication devoted to the mule business in the Southeast, recorded the sale but



A donkey and his mule offspring on Palestine Church Road in Calloway County.

could not stream it live because the internet in Hopkinsville was not adequate. However, those who attended were part of the "record-breaking crowd setting record-breaking prices," Odle wrote in her Jan. 10 report. "With absolutely amazing stock, the 2021 Hoover Mule Sale leaves one for the record books."

By Lynn Pruett
Field Reporter

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MARKET REPORT: WEEK OF Jan. 26, 2021
Farmers Regional Livestock Market of Glasgow, LLC

Cattle: 689 Supply included 9% feeder cattle (100% dairy steers), 61% slaughter cattle (86% cows, 14% bulls); 31% replacement dairy cattle (13% fresh/milking cows, 1% bred heifers, 9% springer heifers, 43% open heifers 25% baby bull calves, 9% baby heifer calves). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs. was 22%.

Fresh Milking Cows: Supreme 1525.00-2000.00, Approved 1375.00, Common 750.00-1075.00.

Dairy Steers: Large 3: 325# 79.00, 405-435# 77.00-84.00, 458-474# 80.00, 510# 90.00, 563-580# 80.00-84.00, 675# 77.00, 841# 78.00. Large 4: 420# 74.00, 522# 70.00-74.00, 655-685# 70.00-75.00.

Bred Heifers: Common 500.00 Jersey, Common 575.00 Jersey.

Springer Heifers: Supreme 1350.00-1575.00, Approved 1100.00-1150.00, Medium 875.00-1075.00, Common 725.00-825.00.

Open Heifers: Supreme 350# 310.00, Approved 425-475# 335.00-350.00, Approved 525-575# 410.00-450.00, Approved 625# 525.00, Approved 758# 610.00-650.00, Medium 275# 170.00.

Baby Bull calves: 30 head 10.00-90.00, 9 head 150.00-260.00 Beef Cross, 2 head 60.00-80.00 Crossbred, 1 head 50.00 Jersey.

Baby Heifer calves: 11 head 10.00-110.00, 1 head 160.00 Beef Cross, 4 head 50.00-80.00 Crossbred.

Slaughter Cows: Breaker 75-80 percent lean 1340-1735# 50.00-57.00, H.Dr. 1465-1875# 58.00-67.00, Boner 80-85 percent lean 1100-1440# 48.00-57.00, H.Dr. 1280# 58.00-68.00, L.Dr. 1115-1365# 40.00-47.00, Lean 85-90 percent lean 740-1160# 40.00-47.00, H.Dr. 840-1045# 48.00-57.00, L.Dr. 780-1145# 27.00-47.00.

Bulls: Y.G. 1-2 1495-2090# 91.00-99.00, H.Dr. 1735-2190# 100.00-110.00, L.Dr. 1285-1845# 80.00-87.00.

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Governor Andy Beshear's Office of Agricultural Policy

Gov. Andy Beshear ruffled some feathers when he interjected his name into the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy. A Senate bill seeks to move the Agricultural Development Fund from GOAP into the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

Bill would shift role of GOAP to KDA

One of five bills fast-tracked by Republicans, Senate Bill 3, aims to get tobacco settlement money out of the governor's office and under the purview of the agriculture department.

As some say the bill is political and part of the power-pull against the Democratic governor, others say its origin in the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy – from two decades ago – was a political move that needs to be corrected.

SB 3, sponsored by Sen. Paul Hornback, R-Shelbyville, was created in "a move to tighten things up," he said. But some lawmakers, and the governor's of-

fice, say it's purely a political move. The bill would move the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board and the Agriculture Finance Corporation from the governor's office to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture. This would abolish the Kentucky Council on Agriculture and the Kentucky Tobacco Settlement Trust Corporation.

The bill has passed the Senate by 29-8 and has moved on to the House.

KADB was created in 2000 to distribute 50 percent of monies the state receives from the Tobacco Master

SEE **HORNBACK**, PAGE 7



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I've always
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to help people
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themselves.

I was having a discussion with someone about the Agricultural Development Fund and we began talking about former Gov. Paul Patton and the creation of the fund.

That was a lot of years ago, but it was a pivotal moment in time for Kentucky's farm community.

That earlier conversation, however, was the first time I ever said, "Who knows if *The Farmer's Pride* would even still be here" were it not for that fund.

We've never received a dollar from the ag fund, mind you, nor should we. Those funds are earmarked for agriculture diversification.

We have, however, benefited by the diversity that has taken place in our industry. The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board has invested more than \$630 million to stimulate agricultural entrepreneurship in all 120 Kentucky counties during the past 19 years, according to the 2020 annual report from the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy. In 2020 alone, the KADB approved more than \$27 million in state and county funds for more than 230 projects and programs.

Just imagine what Kentucky agriculture would look like right now without those funds.

Other states are envious of the work that has taken place in Kentucky over the past two decades. Our industry has worked hard to give farmers a foundation where they can build their businesses and be successful during the most challenging times.

Twenty years ago, it was almost impossible to sell meat and eggs at a farmers' market. Nobody could clearly explain the rules, but we knew there were rules to prohibit it. Now, the fund is being used to help expand meat-processing facilities because the opportunities are endless for producers who want to sell directly to consumers.

Our feeder cattle had a terrible reputation back then, but now we are considered the place to go for quality livestock. Pre-conditioning programs and working facilities were needed back then, but farmers often couldn't justify the costs. Now they can and they can get help to implement those efforts.

So many good things have happened, including programs to improve water management, providing shared use equipment, investing in young farmer programs, and programs to get Kentucky products on store shelves.

I really don't know what *The Farmer's Pride* would look like today without that ag funding because we rely on Kentucky's farm community. Our farm community would look so different today had it not been for the cooperative spirit between our farm industry and our

SEE WHEN, PAGE 16

Giving back to the community

During a COVID-19 press conference in early January, Gov. Andy Beshear announced the state had fully defined the phases of the COVID-19 vaccine rollout. In that announcement, he also added food and agricultural workers to the essential worker list. We applaud his efforts because we know the transition from "the farmgate to the consumer plate" is not an easy one. Agriculture is essential as we feed Kentucky, the U.S., and the world. Being recognized by the governor brings us one step closer to recognizing the real and unique value of Kentucky Agriculture.

Many of our Kentuckians had been hit rather hard during 2020. Agricultural Commissioner Ryan Quarles created the Kentucky's Hunger Initiative. The objective is to study the sources of hunger, identify the unique issues that affect different regions of the commonwealth, and take an inventory of resources related to this critical issue-facing one in six Kentuckians. It is always easy to remember those in need around the Holidays. Food banks see an increase in donations of products, time, and energy in November and December. However, what about the other ten months? How can you be part of the solution?

Poultry is Kentucky's number one agricultural commodity. As we think globally, we act locally.

The poultry companies are always giving back to their community. Local organizations know to ask for poultry donations when working on fundraisers. Food banks in Kentucky receive locally grown chicken, turkey, and eggs on a regular basis. Community gardens, gleaning programs, and USDA food programs are other ways to give to local food banks. As I am planning the produce I will plant for 2021, I am thinking of ways that I can give back to the community. Sometimes it is as simple as giving your neighbor a watermelon, a few tomatoes or a dozen eggs. Giving is a mindset that we should all strive for.

Giving not only benefits those who are receiving the items, but benefits the giver as well. Giving has a huge positive impact on our mental health and well-being. Without our normal interactions at the country store, local and state meetings, church or fellowshiping

SEE GIVING, PAGE 6



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Food banks in
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receive locally
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regular basis.

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Spring is around the corner



MARKET WATCH

Dewey Strickler

We must ship 58.4 million bushels each week to reach USDA's target of 2.55 billion bushels.

It will not be long until spring rolls around. With global stocks the tightest since 2016, weather and planting estimates will be the focus in the weeks ahead. However, that is the case every year. The long-range forecast through April is for normal to above normal rainfall in the Midwest and drier conditions in the Plains.

Both the bulls and bears will interpret what they want from this forecast. Regarding corn planting, Informa Economics projects a 3.4 million acre increase to 94.2 million. This would be the largest acreage since 2016.

In other developments, the export pace has risen the past 10 weeks with inspections last week a marketing year high of 54.7 million bushels. We must ship 58.4 million bushels each week to reach USDA's target of 2.55 billion bushels. While the fundamentals of corn are improving from recent purchases by China, there are bumps in the road ahead. The dollar is showing signs of a major bottom, the funds are long over two billion bushels, and friction has arisen with China over Taiwan.

As we go into February, the focus in South America shifts to soybean harvest, yield reports, and less on weather. Here in the U.S., spring planting intentions will come into light. Next month, the USDA Ag Outlook Forum will share their view on 2021 planting. In the meantime, Informa Economics forecasts 90.1 million acres of soybeans, an increase of 7 million from 2020. This would be the third largest on record.

In other developments, export inspections last week were strong at 72.7 million bushels, and are up 8 percent the past couple of weeks.

However, overall shipments are down 24.5 percent since peaking in mid-November. China took 44.8 million bushels last week with their pace rising three straight weeks. However, the overall pace has fallen 34.8 percent since early November.

Meanwhile, the honeymoon with soybeans will likely continue a while longer as the funds are long 725 million bushels with the record being 1.125 billion bushels set in May of 2012.

Wheat is mostly a follower of corn and soybeans and that will likely continue until the crop comes out of dormancy. Russia imposing an export tax may swing business to the U.S. However, the dollar showing signs of forging a major bottom could be a limiting factor. Export inspections last week were an improvement at 19.2 million bushels.

Meanwhile, we must ship 21.8 million bushels each week to reach USDA's projection of 985 million bushels. This is a tall order as only five times this marketing year have exports exceeded this level.

Questions surround carbon sequestration

One topic most red, blue, and green politicians – and, even more strikingly, farmers – agree on is climate change; it's real.

In fact, notes the December 2020 Iowa Farm and Rural Life Poll, 58 percent of Iowa farmers and landowners now agree that climate change is both occurring and is caused by either human activity or nature.

Moreover, if you add the 23 percent who told pollsters climate change exists but is only natural, 81 percent of Iowa landowners and farmers now believe climate change is real and ongoing.

Those numbers also suggest that most everyone in agriculture is at least somewhat open to ideas for on-the-farm carbon sequestration, a long-discussed strategy to both slow and reduce the impact of climate-altering atmospheric carbon. So far, however, farm-directed carbon storage has been a tough sell for two big reasons.

The first is the age-old dilemma for all farmers and ranchers: Does this new idea cost or does it pay?

Limited evidence from relatively new, private-financed efforts show decidedly mixed results. Payments, mostly in the \$30- to \$50-acre range, are often less than what participating farmers claim carbon storage schemes cost when bringing in and managing new elements needed for sequestration like cover crops, machinery modifications, extra data collection, and labor.

The second, bigger concern, though, is if carbon sequestration is even possible. Can farmers grab, for example, 10 percent of the earth's climate-changing carbon and put it back into the soil to help save the planet while feeding it?

Scientific theory says yes; in-the-dirt practice, however, says maybe and, but even then it could take decades before minor amounts of carbon can be added to, then stored, in food-growing soils.

At least that's the conclusion of Iowa State University research published in November 2019. The 10-year ISU research project (that used winter rye as a cover crop) showed "The ability of cover crops to stimulate microbes deep in the soil of farm fields leads to significant gains in water quality but

does not necessarily increase the capacity of soil to store carbon..."

The main reason, according to the Iowa research, is the same reason we need to store carbon in the first place: While crops do stimulate soil microbes to store carbon, they also "digest" at least as much carbon as they store. The digestion converts the carbon "to carbon dioxide, which is released to the atmosphere..." which then wipes out any "stored" carbon benefit.

In short, it's what plants were designed to do; asking them to do it differently might be a hard pull for both science and Mother Nature.

But neither is deterring investors and curious farmers from seeking new ways to marry future carbon sequestration with workday agronomy.

On Jan. 22, the *Washington Post* published a highly detailed, well-balanced examination of carbon sequestration efforts underway on a 10,000-acre Maryland corn, soybean, and wheat farm. It included the farmer's hopes as well as his skepticism. (Links at farmandfoodfile.com)

Indeed, the farmer, Trey Hill, told the *Post*, farming for carbon "makes life a lot more difficult, and not necessarily more profitable."

Still, he, like many others who back "regenerative" farming, view carbon sequestration as not only possible, but necessary if the world is to avoid a climate – and food – catastrophe.

Maybe it doesn't work well right now, they admit, but more research, farm testing, and adaptation could provide other ways to some near- and long-term storage successes and profits.

Call me crazy, but that sounds exactly like the work the U.S. Department of Agriculture was created to perform.

USDA, after all, has the checkbook to finance public research to make carbon sequestration work and the bureaucratic skill to manage such a multi-disciplinary, multi-year push. It also has a public mandate to supply safe and abundant food today while ensuring the nation's means of food production tomorrow.

What could be more important for our children, grandchildren, and the world?



FOOD & FARM FILE

Alan Guebert

The first is the age-old dilemma for all farmers and ranchers: Does this new idea cost or does it pay?

The secret to clean air is no secret, it's ethanol



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The 1970s are famous for bell-bottom jeans and the rise of disco. For the record, I wasn't really a fan of either. And I'm thankful there were no smart phones back then to prove otherwise.

One song that stuck with me from that decade was "Everything Old Is New Again." I find a lot of truth in the song's message when I think about climate change and solutions like ethanol, which, coincidentally, also took off in the 1970s amid growing environmental concerns with gasoline.

Compared with the ethanol from the seventies, or even from the 1990s, today's ethanol offers improved environmental benefits with the potential to achieve net zero emissions.

President-elect Joe Biden made climate change a signature issue of his campaign, with legislative action expected in the new year. While some have singled out electric vehicles, or EVs, as a solution to reducing emissions from transportation, we know a mix of options is needed to meet this challenge.

The good news is we can deploy and scale current technologies to make progress toward decarbonizing our economy today, while other technologies catch up.

Instead of mandating EVs, setting a standard

for carbon reduction would allow all fuels, vehicles and technologies that meet that performance standard to compete to lower emissions. A level playing field would also give consumers more choices and greater affordability.

Ethanol has proven it can decarbonize our liquid fuel supply and deliver greater environmental benefits. A 2019 U.S. Department of Agriculture analysis showed that ethanol results in up to 43 percent fewer greenhouse gas emissions than gasoline. The analysis went on to find that continued improvements in farming practices and ethanol production would result in ethanol with up to 70 percent fewer GHG emissions.

Looking ahead, through expanded use of carbon capture technologies and accounting for soil carbon sequestration from corn production, ethanol has the potential to achieve net zero carbon emissions.

It's not just USDA that sees the benefits of ethanol. According to California Air Resources Board data, the carbon intensity of ethanol under the state's Low Carbon Fuel Standard is more than 30 percent lower today than it was in 2011 and at least 40 percent lower than gasoline. Depending on the power source for electricity,

whether it is predominantly coal or wind power, the environmental impact of an EV is often much higher than you think.

Today, nearly 97 percent of America's fuel supply is blended with 10 percent ethanol and use of 15 percent ethanol blends is growing. Higher blends of ethanol will produce even greater environmental benefits, especially when used with high efficiency engines designed to improve fuel economy with higher octane fuel.

So how do we do that? We start with the Next Generation Fuels Act, legislation from Illinois Rep. Cheri Bustos, to make liquid fuels more competitive for the future and increase low carbon octane for greater efficiency and lower emissions.

Americans want access to the lowest cost, most efficient, environmentally friendly, and safe motor fuels available. Corn ethanol is uniquely positioned as it is the only option that checks all these boxes today.

Ethanol is a commercially available, low-carbon, affordable source of octane that stands ready to reliably supply the U.S. transportation market with a homegrown fuel.

The secret to cleaner air is no secret. It's ethanol.

Giving back to the community

FROM PAGE 4

together which have been put to a halt by the pandemic, we have all felt a negative impact on our mental health and well-being.

Just think, when is the last time you shook somebody's hand? Giving of your time, energy, and finances go a long way toward improving your mindset and helping our communities.

Participating in youth activities, local and state commodity groups, and judging events are other ways to give back to your communities. In my role as president of the Kentucky Poultry Federation, I ask that you become active in your communities and other agricultural endeavors. The Kentucky Poultry Federation has started its 2021 membership drive and you can join our group by going to kypoultry.org.

As we begin this new year, I encourage you to make time for God, your family, and community as well as yourself during these challenging times. I always enjoy spending time with my family and friends and a little bass fishing when the work is completed. Whether you are fishing in a farm pond or one of our great Kentucky lakes, keep your line wet and your feet dry. All the best to you in 2021!

DAN FLANAGAN is president of Kentucky Poultry Federation.

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Hornback leads movement to move GOAP to KDA

FROM PAGE 3

Settlement Agreement, funds that are earmarked for ag diversification. And since its creation, the fund has been under the purview of the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy.

"The idea has long been a subject of discussion in ag circles, and consensus has emerged in the last year that this is a reform whose time has come," said Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles.

Hornback leads movement

Hornback, the sponsor of the bill, is chairman of the Senate agriculture committee and a known advocate for the state's agriculture industry.

"I don't want that money not to be used properly," Hornback said.

When asked if there have been questions over actual funding, Hornback said no.

"What the biggest turning point for me was, a generic type name ..." he said, referring to the GOAP – something the of-

fice has been called since it was created by Democratic Gov. Paul Patton, who served from 1995 through 2003.

"The first meeting Beshear comes into, he changes the name to 'Governor Andy Beshear's Office of Agricultural Policy,'" Hornback said. "I just don't – that's not the way it needs to be run. It's not his, personally. It's the governor's and the people's ..."

"This is a political move," Gov. Beshear's office responded, via Sebastian Kitchen, his deputy communications director. Kitchen said the name has not changed, but it "apparently ruffled a lawmaker when the governor's name appeared in the title of a newsletter."

Kitchen said the office is and has always been the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy, "with the executive director appointed by the sitting governor to assist Kentuckians with financing agricultural projects in the commonwealth. Matt Bevin appointed his own executive director."

Quarles claimed that with new appointments by Beshear, "the governor will

soon have a rubber stamp for spending tobacco settlement dollars without proper vetting. That's the agriculture community's money. I cannot sit by and watch that money be spent for political ends."

When asked for an example of such "political ends," Quarles wanted to talk how policies are created through the KADB, of which he is vice chair.

"The normal course is for a member of that board to originate new policy," he said, giving the meat processing investment committee's actions of last spring as an example. He described "robust board discussions" that were held over several months in order to "get the policy right."

"Recently, last month, a proposal came from staff that did not originate from board members. Unfortunately, it needed a lot more vetting, and we're still working on it a month later to get it right; it's still not ready," he said.

Although policies must be passed by the voting board, Quarles said, "what we saw was a preemptive pressure to vote

on a policy that didn't derive from our board members and was prematurely attempted to be approved."

He described the proposal as "whipped up in Beshear's office by staff," and said it is "something I've never seen in my time as commissioner."

Quarles said the proposal "would have spent half a million dollars for the first 50 farmers to sign up to buy qualified farm equipment. We're in a big discussion about ag tech; we've been working on it for two years."

He said the board identified the issues in the policy, "and we're actually vetting any expenditures related to ag tech, and were able to divert it into a committee similar to the meat processing commit-



Sen. Paul Hornback

SEE AG, PAGE 21

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1 (14.5 ounce) can diced tomatoes, undrained
1 (8 ounce) can tomato sauce
½ cup water
2 teaspoons sambal oelek chili paste
½ teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
2 large bell peppers, any color - cut in half lengthwise, cored, and seeded
4 (1 inch) cubes Colby-Jack cheese
aluminum foil
⅓ cup shredded Colby-Jack cheese
4 teaspoons reduced-fat sour cream
8 slices pickled jalapeno peppers (Optional)

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F. Spray a baking dish with cooking spray.

Heat olive oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Stir in ground turkey, onion, jalapeno, and garlic. Cook and stir until turkey browns and vegetables are tender, 8 to 10 minutes. Drain grease from the skillet. Add frozen riced cauliflower, tomatoes, tomato sauce, water, chili paste, salt, and pepper; stir until well incorporated. Reduce heat and simmer for 5 minutes.

Place bell pepper halves in the prepared baking dish. Place 1 Colby-Jack cheese cube in each pepper half, and fill with turkey mixture. Spoon remaining turkey mixture into the dish around the peppers.

Cover dish with aluminum foil, and bake in the preheated oven for 30 minutes. Remove foil and sprinkle each pepper with shredded Colby-Jack cheese. Bake, uncovered, until peppers are soft and cheese has melted, about 10 minutes more.

To serve, spoon a little turkey mixture onto a plate, and place a bell pepper half on top of it. Top each serving with 1 teaspoon sour cream and 2 jalapeno slices.

1 (18.25 ounce) package white cake mix
1 ¼ cups water
⅓ cup vegetable oil
3 egg whites
8 drops red food coloring
2 drops raspberry candy oil

Preheat an oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Line a standard muffin tin with paper cupcake liners.

Beat the cake mix, water, vegetable oil, and egg whites together on low speed for 30 seconds, then on medium for 2 minutes, until smooth. Fill cupcake liners 1/3 full with white batter; set aside.

Stir 4 drops of red food coloring into the remaining bowl of batter to make the batter pink. Stir in the raspberry oil. Pour 1/3 of pink batter into a resealable plastic bag and set aside.

Mix more food coloring into the remaining bowl of pink batter until it is an orange/red color and pour the batter into a resealable plastic bag. Cut a corner off the bag, stick the open tip into the center of each cup of white batter and squeeze in about two tablespoons of red batter.

Cut the corner off the bag with the



pink batter, stick the open tip into the center of the red batter and squeeze about 1 tablespoon pink batter into each cup.

Bake the layered cupcakes in the preheated oven until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean, 15 to 20 minutes. Cool completely before frosting.

Valentine candied popcorn

½ cup butter
1 (16 ounce) package large marshmallows
2 cups popped popcorn
1 cup red candy-coated chocolate pieces

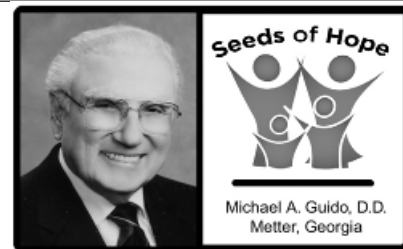
In a saucepan over low heat, combine the butter and marshmallows. Stir until marshmallows are softened.

Add popcorn and red candies; mix until evenly coated with marshmallows.

Allow to cool enough to touch. Grease hands with butter and form into balls.



All recipes are courtesy of AllRecipes.com



Miracles

What is a miracle? And who decides what a miracle is? Is there some special committee that looks at various events in history and classifies them as being a miracle or an ordinary event? Or can two people look at the same event and one say, "This is indeed a miracle!" and the other say, "Nothing amazing here. It just happened to end up this way. That's the way life works."

Our Psalmist looked around and said, "You are the God who performs miracles; You display Your powers among the peoples."

There is a beautiful theme in this Psalm. In the first several verses the writer seems to be having a difficult time seeing God. Then, suddenly, God's Spirit jarred his thinking and brought God's grace to his attention. When he finally puts things into context, he recalled that it was God who controls everything and it was his God who was the One who parted the waters and led the Israelites to safety. Those who were drown and destroyed by the "mighty waters" could not see their "misfortune" as God performing a miracle. But those whom He saved did!

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National Farm Machinery Show cancels 2021 show

LOUISVILLE – National Farm Machinery Show and Championship Tractor Pull announced scheduled events will be postponed until Feb. 16-19, 2022. Despite initially planning to continue the shows this March, the ongoing uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic has led show management to make the difficult decision to postpone events until next year.

“The health and safety of our guests, exhibitors and coworkers is our highest priority and unfortunately the best way to keep them safe is to postpone the show. Postponing the National Farm Machinery Show and Championship Tractor Pull was not made lightly, but in consultation with exhibitors, pullers, sponsors and attendees who are a valuable part of our decision-making process,” said David S. Beck, president and CEO of Kentucky Venues.

The National Farm Machinery Show is held annually at the Kentucky Exposition Center and is the largest indoor farm show in the country, consisting of 1.2 million square feet of sold-out exhibit space. The show is a key player in the global agriculture industry featuring the most comprehensive display of equipment, services, and technology.

Held in conjunction with the farm show, Championship Tractor Pull draws more than 70,000 fans in person and online from across the globe to watch five action-packed pulls over the course of four days. The

event draws the nation’s top drivers as they compete for the title of grand champion and a prize pool of over \$200,000.

“We look forward to welcoming everyone back in 2022 for the 56th National Farm Machinery Show and 53rd Championship Tractor Pull with a focus on the future of agribusiness. As we strive to produce the best experience for everyone, we will take the lessons of 2020 and 2021 to plan a comprehensive show with relevant seminars and educational content alongside the latest state-of-the-art farming equipment,” said Beck.

Exhibitors and Vendors

Similar to previous years, space contracted for the prior show is reserved for the same exhibitor at the next show. Exhibitors’ 2020 floor space is reserved in 2022. If you have an interest in exhibiting at the 2022 show, applications will be available online in late April.

Championship Tractor Pull Ticket Holders

Priority ticket holders’ 2020 seats are reserved for 2022. If you purchased seats for 2021, your purchase will be refunded automatically. Contact the ticket office at 502-367-5144 or email tickets@kyvenues.com if you want your purchase to be applied to 2022. General admission tickets go on sale in fall 2021.

For more information, visit farmmachineryshow.org/2021-reschedule.



File photo

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Farm Machinery Show is canceled for 2021. The farm show will return Feb. 16-19, 2022.

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– Ag Career Profiles – Live Production Manager

Jared Shelton is the Live Production Manager at Perdue Farms in Cromwell.

In his current job, Jared helps his “very talented and dedicated management team” manage all aspects of live broiler production, starting with the egg all the way through to the market age chicken that is delivered to the processing plant.

He grew up on a row crop farm in the small town of Slaughters, located in Webster County, where he still lives with his wife and three boys. Since Jared’s father was a professional truck driver and his mother worked during the day, he spent a lot of time with his grandfather, James Loehr.

“I always enjoyed working with him around the farm and knew that agriculture was where I belonged,” remembers Jared. “I started working for my uncle, who owned a plumbing business, when I was 15 years old and continued to work for him during high school and college. Working for my uncle and with my grandfather taught me to work hard and the value of a hard day of work.”

After graduating from Webster County High School in 2000, Jared attended Madisonville Community College for two years and continued to work as a plumber. After he earned his basic credits, he attended the University of Kentucky College of Food, Agriculture and the Environment to earn a Bachelor of Science in Public Service and Leadership with a minor in Agriculture Economics.

For the first 15 years of his career, Jared worked for Tyson Foods in Robards. During his employment at Tyson Foods, he worked in management in all aspects of live production, including live haul, the feedmill, broilers, breeders, and hatchery. He is now the Live Production Manager at Perdue in Cromwell and manage all aspects of live production. His experience allowed him to move to Perdue Farms last summer to pursue his goal as a live production manager.

“In any management position communication skills are probably the most important part of being successful,” Jared replied when asked what skills are needed for his job. “It is very important that the people who work with

you understand your expectations and job duties on a daily basis. It is also very important as a manager to work closely with your employees by spending time with them doing their job, if you haven’t already. I pride myself on working in all the different departments that I manage at some point in my career to get the experience, so I understand what each person is dealing with on a daily basis and know how to manage each department. I see too many people that graduate from college and automatically think that they should be CEO of a company and it just doesn’t work that way. Even when you have worked hard to earn a college degree, it is still important that people work hard to earn their position in the workplace. It allows us as managers to appreciate the people who work with us and what they do on a daily basis.

“College taught me to be a responsible person and that the time and effort you put toward anything you do will determine the outcome and results you get,” Jared continued. “Growing up working around a farm and in the plumbing industry taught me to work hard and take pride in everything I do. Everything that you do affects someone else in some way and it’s important to do the best job you can.”

When asked what he would have done differently if he had known he would be working in the poultry industry, he said he would have definitely taken more animal science courses/labs while in college, especially courses in poultry science.

Jared said his favorite part of his job is the different challenges that he faces each day.

“You would think that after 15 years in the poultry industry,” he remarked, “I would have seen it all, but it seems as if there are always new challenges. I also really enjoy working with the contract poultry producers and the birds out in the field. There are some really great people that work in the poultry business that take pride in what they do and caring for the chickens. I am an outdoorsman, and I like that my time at work is split between the office and being out in the field.”



Jared Shelton

His advice for a young person looking at this career would be to learn as much as they possibly can about poultry science while in school.

“Most importantly,” Jared said, “any poultry field experience that you can gain while attending school would be very beneficial. When hiring individuals, education is important, but work experience is just as important. Once you have a job in the poultry industry, the sky is the limit, especially if you are willing to travel. Set goals for yourself, short and long term. As I stated earlier, gaining experience in different aspects of the poultry industry is crucial in growing your career. If you have a chance to promote or grow your knowledge, take advantage of it.”

**To find more ag career profiles,
visit kyfoodandfarm.com**

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



Biden seeks to overturn Trump’s enviromental rollbacks

Climate change was one of the four main planks in the campaign platform for President Biden, and he’s wasting no time acting on it. On his first day in office, he rejoined the Paris climate accord and took aim at more than 100 environment-related actions by the Trump administration.

“Administration officials are suggesting that they will go well beyond reversing Trump’s policies. On Thursday U.S. presidential climate envoy John F. Kerry said the U.S. and other nations must commit to much deeper carbon cuts to avert dire climate impacts, and the Interior Department issued an order requiring sign-off from a top political appointee for any new oil and gas lease or drilling activity. The directive, which could slow approval for more than 400 drilling permit applications, prompted an immediate outcry from the oil and gas industry,” Juliet Eilperin, Brady Dennis and John Muyskens report for The Washington Post. “Those initial moves are the first in what promises to be a much longer – and more arduous – effort to unwind the Trump administration’s sweeping environmental and energy policies, which were marked by aggressive deregulation, prioritizing the fossil fuels industry and sidelining efforts to combat climate change or protect imperiled animals.”

The Trump administration tried to reduce or eliminate more than 200 environmental protections, and succeeded with more than 170, the Post reports. Most related to air pollution and greenhouse-gas emissions

linked to climate change, some had to do with wildlife, and some were related to infrastructure and plan-

ning. Biden can reverse some by executive order, but others will take legislation, and some will be diffi-

cult to reverse at all.
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irjci.blogspot.com

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Kentucky Farm Bureau Beef Expo given green light

FRANKFORT – With sales approaching or exceeding the \$1 million mark each year, the Kentucky Farm Bureau Beef Expo offers purebred cattle breeders one of the most unique and effective state-supported promotional events.

Now in its 35th year, the show has recently been given the green light for 2021 and is planned for March 5-7 at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville.

“Kentucky is the largest beef cattle state east of the Mississippi River and each year that fact is on display at the Kentucky Farm Bureau Beef Expo,” Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Dr. Ryan Quarles said. “After the coronavirus pandemic cancelled or severely limited many events last year, there was concern the 2021 Kentucky Farm Bureau Beef Expo would see a similar fate. But knowing how critical events, such as the Beef Expo, are for our producers, we are extremely pleased to announce it’s scheduled for the first weekend in March and we, as a department, are excited to once again be a sponsor.”

The 2021 Kentucky Beef Expo will

feature 11 breed shows and sales including Angus, Beefalo, Black Herefords, Charolais, Gelbvieh, Limousin, Hereford, Red Angus, Red Poll, Shorthorn and Simmental. In addition, an all breeds Pen Heifer Show and Sale will also take place at the expo. The Pen Heifer Show and Sale offers beef cattle producers the opportunity to market their registered and commercial cattle.

Junior Heifer and Junior Steer shows are also scheduled for the 2021 Expo. However, this year’s modified show won’t feature the traditional trade show or judging contest due to the restrictions placed on the show because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The coronavirus brought incredible pressures on food and agriculture sectors in 2020 and had negative effects on market prices. In spite of that, the 2020 Kentucky Beef Expo finished with nearly \$1 million in total sales, an increase of \$92,228 compared to 2019 sales.

The 2021 Beef Expo’s major sponsors are the Kentucky Farm Bureau and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.



File photo

The Beef Expo has been given the green light for March 5-7 at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville.

For the most up-to-date information on this year’s show and public health

guidelines to ensure a safe show, visit kybeefexpo.com.

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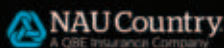
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USDA suspends CFAP payments for review

WASHINGTON – President Biden has issued a regulatory freeze that results in the suspension of payments to farmers through the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program.

USDA posted on a CFAP website that payments are being suspended in accordance with a White House memo that issues a regulatory freeze pending review.

FSA offices will continue to accept CFAP applications during the review, according to the website, www.farmers.gov/cfap.

“In the coming days, USDA and the Biden Administration intend to take additional steps to bring relief and support to all parts of food and agriculture during the coronavirus pandemic, including by ensuring producers have access to the capital, risk management tools, disaster assistance, and other federal resources,” the statement continues.

We’ve essentially paused implementation until the review is complete,” USDA

spokesman Matt Herrick told *Successful Farming*. “Applications can continue to come in even while the program is on pause. This is a big, big program, and we need to get it right.”

Applications will continue to be accepted until Feb. 26.

American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall issued a press release urging swift resumption of distribution.

“The pandemic has taken an unprece-

dented toll on American agriculture, and the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program has provided a lifeline for farmers and ranchers across the country,” Duvall said. “Many growers who previously did not qualify for assistance continue to suffer losses and need the help CFAP provides.

Producers received more than \$23 million through CFAP during the Trump administration, *Successful Farming* reported.

UPDATE ON PPP

Paycheck Protection Program gives farmers more options

FRANKFORT – Agriculture Commissioner Dr. Ryan Quarles and Kentucky farm groups are highlighting changes to the Paycheck Protection Program benefiting Kentucky agricultural producers. PPP provides forgivable loans to small businesses to pay employees to keep them on the payroll.

The Small Business Administration opened an application round with new rules on Jan. 15 after Congress passed a COVID-19 relief package in December.

According to an analysis by the American Farm Bureau, the package:

- Allocated an additional \$284 billion in funding for a second round of PPP loans;
- Clarified that allowable expenses that had been paid for with forgiven PPP loans may be counted as a business deduction for income tax purposes without limitation;
- Cut in half the qualifying reduction in gross revenue from 50 percent to 25 percent;
- Expanded eligible expenses to include personal protective equipment for workers and adaptive costs in addition to previous eligible expenses of payroll, mortgage interest, rent, and utilities; and
- Changed the metrics for loans from net farm income to gross income for farmers who file taxes as sole proprietors.

“The changes made to the already suc-

cessful Paycheck Protection Program will enable more Kentucky farm families to participate in this critical COVID-19 relief program,” Commissioner Quarles said. “It’s much better for both workers and employers to keep people on the payroll than throwing our most vulnerable people into our state’s disastrous unemployment system. I hope every Kentucky farm and agribusiness will take a serious look at the changes to this program and take action to keep employees on the payroll.”

“The latest COVID stimulus package approved by Congress in December updates the Paycheck Protection Program loan program to provide greater access for farmers to secure first and/or second round loans,” said Mark Haney, President of Kentucky Farm Bureau. “It is critical that we do all we can to support our agriculture industry and additional access to PPP loans will provide added certainty during a period that has seen so much uncertainty.”

“The new COVID-19 relief package’s PPP loans recognizes the value of Kentucky’s agricultural producers,” said Tod Griffin, Executive Director of the Agribusiness Association of Kentucky. “Our agribusiness partners stand ready to help them provide for Kentucky’s families.”

The Paycheck Protection Program is administered by the U.S. Small Business Administration and approved lenders. To locate an eligible PPP lender, visit sba.gov/paycheckprotection/find.

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- All agricultural commodities generating income for the entity on the grower’s Schedule F federal tax document must be included to determine coverage.
- Animal or Animal Products are limited to a cap of \$2 million per entity.
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Webinars on soybean cyst nematode this month

PRINCETON, Ky. – The soybean cyst nematode is the single greatest pathogenic threat to soybeans. Each year, it accounts for substantial monetary and yield losses, even though the plants may appear healthy in the field.

To help Midwestern soybean growers learn more about this microscopic roundworm that feeds on soybean roots, the University of Kentucky and the University of Missouri are hosting a webinar series in February on Zoom.

The MO-KY Soybean Cyst Nematode Webinar Series will occur Feb. 11, 18 and 25. Each of the three webinars will last one hour and will begin at noon CST.

“Preliminary findings from an ongoing survey that began in 2019 show that the soybean cyst nematode is present in 84 percent of Kentucky soybean fields,” said Carl Bradley, extension plant pathologist with the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Envi-

ronment. “While some producers will see signs of yellowing or stunted growth in their soybeans, most will not. Soybeans that appear healthy but are in a soybean cyst nematode-infested field may have as much as a 30 percent yield loss.”

Bradley and Kaitlyn Bissonnette from the University of Missouri will lead the webinars that are hosted by the Southern IPM Center. They will cover soybean cyst nematode basics, distribution, sampling and management practices including variety resistance, crop rotation and seed treatments.

Continuing education units for Certified Crop Advisers and Kentucky pesticide applicators are available at each webinar.

Producers can choose to attend one or all of the free webinars. Preregistration is required for each.

By Katie Pratt
University of Kentucky

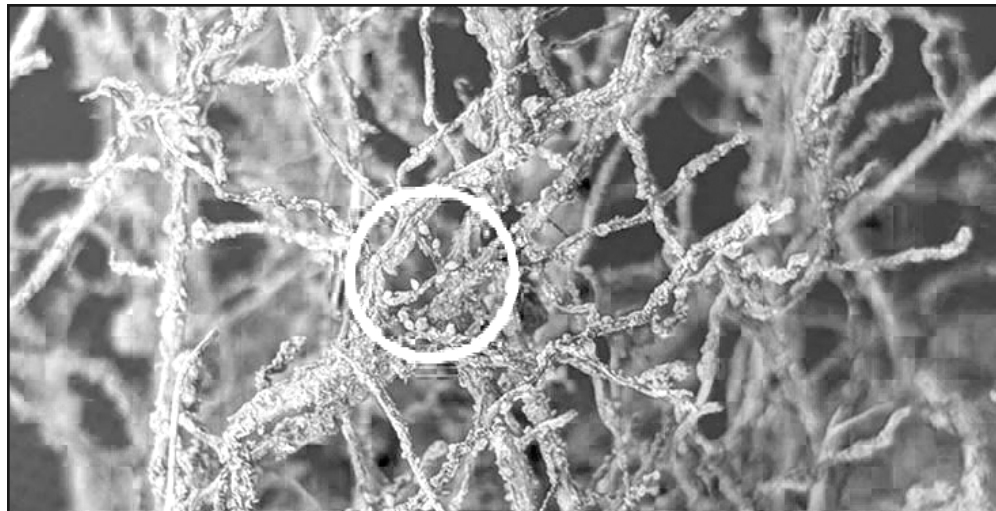


Photo by Carl Bradley, UK extension plant pathologist

A magnified image of soybean roots with soybean cyst nematodes. The soybean cyst nematode females are the cream-colored, lemon-shaped objects attached the roots within the red circle.

Registration links are below.

Feb. 11 – [zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_mfHUvAkwSHCts2X5AFBU8w](https://zoom.us/join/zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_mfHUvAkwSHCts2X5AFBU8w)

Feb. 18 – [zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3uoRUzAeQcOHqxCbWmXtow](https://zoom.us/join/zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3uoRUzAeQcOHqxCbWmXtow)

Feb. 25 – [zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_A2tRdecwSV2g1hdDsz1t6A](https://zoom.us/join/zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_A2tRdecwSV2g1hdDsz1t6A)

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Potassium fertilizer (above), also referred to as potash, muriate of potash or MOP, is essential for forage growth and persistence and is required in large quantities for high yields. The use of balanced fertilizers (with equal amounts of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium) for hay fields has resulted in many potassium deficient fields. Applying fertilizer according to a current soil test is the best way to manage forage potassium.

– Potassium –

The ‘I don’t get no respet’ nutrient

When your only tool is a hammer, everything looks like a nail. So goes an old joke about someone who seems to be fixed on one issue or action. Applying enough fertilizer potassium (often referred to as potash, muriate of potash, or MOP) to forage crops seems to be my current hammer. It is truly too simplistic to think potassium application fixes every problem, but an increasing number of my farm forage inquiries end up involving a lot of discussion about this fertilizer nutrient. What I hope to do with this article is to help you better understand potassium and its importance in forage production.

First potassium is an essential nutrient for plant production. Potassium is involved in plant water relations – opening and closing of the leaf pores that regulate water flow through the plant. Potassium is also needed for plants to fully express their disease resistance. And potassium is well known for its role in the expression of winter-hardiness in perennial forage crops.

Potassium is removed in large quantities by forage crops, especially hay crops. Each ton of forage will remove about three to four times the potassium as phosphorus. Using a ‘balanced’ fertilizer like triple-19 (19-19-19) over a long period of time can cause a hay-

field soil to have sky high soil test phosphorus numbers and soil test potassium values in the basement.

Soils differ in their ability to supply potassium to plants. For example, the Eden silty clay soils of Northern Kentucky typically have high levels of potassium and release added potassium rather slowly to crops. On the other hand, the Tilsit silt loam soils around Princeton are low in K but release added K readily. Frankly, the reasons behind the different K-supplying abilities of various soils is beyond my capability to explain and the space available in this column. The best way to determine K status of soils is through a soil test.

Timing matters. When potassium is applied to forages in the early spring, plants take up more potassium than needed, a process called luxury consumption. This surplus potassium is removed in the first hay cut, robbing the plant of the long term benefits of the added nutrients. Fall is the preferred time to apply potassium to avoid luxury consumption. When large amounts of K₂O are needed, a split application may be needed, such as after the first cutting and in the early fall. With potassium and perennial forage crops, you are

The Forage Doctor

By Jimmy Henning



SEE **POTASSIUM**, PAGE 17





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When government gets it right

FROM PAGE 4

state government.

The Ag Development Fund is not just an example of how to diversify the farm community, it's also an example of how the future can be better when government gets it right. I've always believed one role of government is to help people help themselves. That's what this fund has done for almost two decades now,

and it's something Kentucky's leadership can always be proud of.

Sometimes, government does get it right. We've seen the government step up and help our local businesses and communities survive through a pandemic, with the Payroll Protection Program being a perfect example.

While debate is always good any time the government spends money (especially when it's money they don't actu-

ally have that just increases the deficit), the rewards can be life changing when egos and politics get out of the way and the good of the people is made the priority.

Ag diversification is a solid reminder that making sound decisions today can have a positive impact for many generations to come when we make a commitment to work together to find common ground.

I may not know what *The Farmer's Pride* would look like without the diversification that has taken place in our industry, but I am certainly glad to still be around and to still be a relevant voice for Kentucky's farmers. We love the opportunity to serve the finest industry filled with the finest people on earth: Kentucky farmers.

SHARON BURTON is editor of *The Farmer's Pride*.

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Summit offers producers tips for direct sales

LEXINGTON – When income flows directly from consumers to farmers, everyone benefits. Consumers have access to the freshest food, farmers can ask a premium price for their product because there is no middleman, and local economies benefit in the form of jobs and local purchases. For farmers who are thinking about this for the first time or have been doing direct sales for years, the Agriculture Direct Marketing Summit, Feb. 16-18, offers tips to improve the direct sales process.

“Selling agriculture products directly to consumers can be a highly profitable business strategy,” said Tim Woods, UK extension specialist in the College of

Agriculture, Food and Environment. “All Kentucky producers can benefit greatly from the material to be presented at the summit.”

The program will feature university specialists and business consultants who will discuss social media, marketing resources, creating value-added products and customer retention. A farmer panel of Kentucky and Tennessee producers will share their experiences and best practices when selling directly to consumers.

The three-night event on the social conferencing app Zoom begins each evening at 7 p.m. EST.

The full conference program and registration information is available at kyhortcouncil.org/direct-ag-marketing-summit. Registration can also be done through Eventbrite 2021directagmarketingminisummit.eventbrite.com. After registering, participants will receive a Zoom link to join the event.

Those with questions may call 859-490-0889 or email info@kyhortcouncil.org.



Photo by Matt Barton

Direct sales through venues like farmers markets benefit the farmer, the consumer and the local economy.

POTASSIUM

The ‘I don’t get no respect’ nutrient

FROM PAGE 15

playing the long game for future returns.

Spring-applied potassium on grass pasture fields causes double trouble with grass tetany or hypomagnesemia. High soil test potassium inhibits the uptake of magnesium by forage crops, and the resulting high potassium forage inhibits the uptake of magnesium in the rumen. Grass tetany is most frequently seen in mature cows in early lactation. These cows cannot mobilize magnesium from their bones fast enough to replenish that lost in milk, leading to tetany. Feeding a mineral high in magnesium is the best way to prevent grass tetany.

So how do you develop a potassium plan for forage crops? Here are the key takeaways:

Soil test and soil test often. Take the soil sample as long after the last applica-

tion of potassium as possible, such as each year after the last cutting but before applying fall fertilizer.

Make sure your pH is in the right range. Do not add lime when your pH is too high. If your soil pH is low, apply lime according to UK guidelines. This will maximize the effectiveness of the fertilizers that you add, including potassium fertilizers.

Get your fertilizer custom blended to match soil test results. In fields with historic application of Triple-19 we typically see high-very high soil test phosphorus and low-very low soil test potassium.

Add potassium according to soil test recommendations. If your soil test potassium is low, causing the recommended rate to be high, you’ll want to split that application.

Happy foraging.



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AUCTION/MARKET

KENTUCKY GRAIN PRICES							Eastern Cornbelt Ethanol Plant Report 01/11/2021 Indiana Ohio Illinois	
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.							Yellow Corn Spot Bid 4.83-5.19	
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	Dried Distillers Grain (\$/ton) 10% moisture 200.00-234.00	
	4.70-5.25	4.92-5.07	5.07-5.19 5.34-5.42	4.87	5.14	5.22	Modified Wet Distillers (\$/ton) 50-55% moisture 70.00	
	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		
New Crop Delivery Contract Corn #2 Yellow Corn #2 White Soybeans #1 Y Wheat #2 SRW Barley							Kentucky Weekly Cattle Receipts as reported at local markets:	
							12/05/20	27,198
							12/12/20	38,873
							12/19/20	19,120
							01/09/21	24,767
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 FARMLOT 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	—			
Whole Cottonseed	—	—	—	295.00	—			
Wheat Middlings	—	—	165.00-195.00	—	—			



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Wheat:

		Basis	Option Month	Futures
June/July 2021	\$6.36	-0.15	WN1	\$6.210
Aug. 2021	\$6.36	-0.15	WU1	\$6.210
June/July 2022	\$6.18	-0.30	WN2	\$5.880

Corn:

		Basis		
Feb. 21	\$5.47	.00	CZ0	\$5.47
March 21	\$5.47	.00	CH1	\$5.47

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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
26 hd. 635# 136.00 blk
22 hd. 740# 120.00 blk-charx
40 hd. 748# 132.00 blk
64 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. 1182# 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. 816# 131.85
59 hd. 852# 117.85
60 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

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

United Producers Irvington

Irvington, KY
Jan. 4, 2021

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

34 hd. 706# 129.75 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# 128.85 blk
57 hd. 992# 119.50 blk-charx

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
26 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
66 hd. 795# 136.95 blk
25 hd. 802# 132.25 blk
Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2
21 hd. 870# 124.00 blk

Blue Grass of Campbellsville

Campbellsville, KY
Jan. 6, 2021

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

29 hd. 504# 167.75 blk
26 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

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Ag fund home in question

FROM PAGE 7

tee. It's just a better, more strategic use of funds to help producers out."

Politics or Planning for the Future?

Hornback said, "As time goes on, some of the recommendations (Beshear is) bringing to this board are not investing in the future. They're ways to spend money, but not investing in the future."

The senator said when the GOAP was created back in 1998, "it should have been under the department of ag."



Commissioner
Ryan Quarles

And he said that "politics is the reason" it was not placed in KDA.

"Gov. Patton had worked very, very hard, harder than any in the nation, to

ensure tobacco companies did compensate these states. They thought he probably deserved to have it under the governor's office."

Hornback said SB 3 contains "safeguards" to prevent ag commissioners "from also trying to politicize the groups," including ensuring revolving terms on the boards and preventing those funds from being "commingled" with other ag department money.

The bill would also put a cap on administrative costs for operating the program, he said, "making sure that the money is utilized correctly and it can't be abused."

When asked to give an example of any prior abuse of funds, he said, "I don't have an example. I will say that there's a wide variance of administrative costs of almost 30 percent. ... don't have a good reasoning of why it's like that. ... I know our personnel don't change that much."

Hornback said when the committee meeting over SB 3 was held during the first week of January, no one showed up to testify in opposition.

"All the commodity groups and Kentucky Farm Bureau are in favor of it. All ag groups are in favor of it."

The senator disputed the claim that the bill is political.

"What I'm trying to do is get it set in a position so it maintains itself for the next

25 years. It's a declining revenue stream, based on the amount of cigarettes sold every year in Kentucky."

Democrat says current structure works

Sen. Robin L. Webb, D-Grayson, is one of the eight Democratic senators who voted against SB 3. She thinks those ag boards should remain under the purview of the executive branch because "it has far more cabinets and resources to dovetail with the ag groups' projects or recommendations," and that she helped draft the legislation that created those boards.

Those groups came after the 1998 Tobacco Master Agreement, a court settlement resulting in tobacco companies paying billions of dollars to states in annual installments. The money served as a compensation for taxpayer money spent in connection with tobacco-related diseases.

Kentucky's legislature and Gov. Patton earmarked half those funds to help farmers diversify as the number of tobacco farms declined from 250,000 to less than 3,500.

Webb said she was "hesitant to dismantle something that has worked so well since its implementation in the early 2000s," and that Hornback's concerns "could be addressed with small changes" easily accomplished by "tweaking of the language."

Sen. Damon Thayer, R-Georgetown, said the bill streamlines government. He said he has introduced similar legislation in the past because he believes it's a duplication to have a GOAP created by statute when there is a department of agriculture in the constitution.

"Kentucky is unique - we lead by consensus building," Commissioner Quarles said. "Unlike other states, with divisiveness in ag groups - we don't have that. We work to build consensus to create a good policy. We all work together towards one cause - and yes, oftentimes that includes 'rigorous' discussion."

He said he is interested in watching the legislative process to see where the board ends up.

"Many Kentucky farmers feel the natural place for it is within the Department of Ag. KDA is best positioned to understand the need of producers," Quarles said.

By **Bobbie Curd**
Field Reporter



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