

Burley growers get update

Discuss lawsuit, market trends

GREENSBURG, Ky. – A group of tobacco growers met recently to hear updates on lawsuits, consider future market potential, and discuss what organizations will represent them in coming years.

The Council for Burley Tobacco held its annual meeting at the Green County Extension Office.

Al Pedigo, president of the Burley Tobacco Growers Cooperative and vice president of the Council, gave an update on legal action taken to dissolve the co-op and distribute its assets.

Pedigo said the different groups involved in the 2020 class action lawsuit agreed that funds would be paid out to producers who grew tobacco from 2015-2019, and the judge in the case added the year 2020.

The groups involved worked through mediation to agree on major factors involved in the case, Pedigo said. The judge ruled that class counsel – McBrayer Law Firm – would receive 7.5 percent payment while Billings Law Firm, which represented a group of producers who originally sought to dissolve the co-op without a lawsuit, would receive reimbursement for expenses.

While there were around 4,000 people who signed up to qualify as a producer, Pedigo said less than 2,500 actually turned in W-9

SEE **BURLEY**, PAGE 7



David Kessler and wife May pose with their flock in Springfield. Kessler came on with Bluegrass Lamb Co. in March and is in charge of finding new producers to contribute to the reinvention of Kentucky's lamb industry.

Thankful for Ewe

Lamb will be sole focus of processing facility

As part of the Meat Processing Investment Program, Kentucky lamb producers will benefit from a new USDA-inspected processing facility in Hardin County, how Bluegrass Lamb Co. will spend its \$250,000 in state funds. And the company says it's extremely thankful for the move, positioning the state to retake the lamb industry.

Today, many may not be aware of Kentucky's rich history in lamb production, something that Valerie Samutin, executive director of Bluegrass Lamb Co. LLC, and others are out to change.

And the move recently made by the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board to approve \$250,000 in state funds for Bluegrass Lamb to purchase a processing facility in Hardin County will only further that attempt of change, she says.

"This is a huge thing for Kentucky shepherds and our industry here," Samutin said. "It will position us to retake the lamb industry – Kentucky lamb was known up and down the East Coast and in all the finest restaurants. It

was a desirable piece of Kentucky agricultural product, and that's what we want to get back to."

During the 19th century, a huge rush of Scots-Irish settlers raised their sheep for wool, milk and meat in Kentucky, which became one of the largest sheep-producing regions in the country, having more per square mile than any state east of the Mississippi.

Samutin says that back then, it was older mutton that was mostly eaten, leading to the popularity of barbecue mutton in Kentucky, and it becoming a staple of the western region.

"Lamb barbecue is a part of our history and something to be really proud of," she said.

In 1935, Samutin says Kentucky had just under 1.08 million sheep and lambs, which outnumbered hogs and pigs by almost 45,000, based on statistics from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. But, due to a number of reasons,

SEE **HARDIN**, PAGE 2

Hardin Co. processing plant dedicated to lamb products

FROM PAGE 1

lamb production drastically fell – today, it’s at 6 percent of what it was then.

“And our mission is to change that,” she says, and she along with others want to help Kentucky regain its reputation as “a producer of some of the finest lamb in the world.”

Producers Join Forces

Bluegrass Lamb, which sells under the label Freedom Run Farm, works with 30 partner farms in 27 Kentucky counties “and counting,” Samutin says, and the company just “came on board with Kroger last spring.”

The \$250,000, which was awarded as part of the Meat Processing Investment Program, will be used to renovate an older slaughter house, located across from the fairgrounds in Hardin County, turning it into a processing facility with all the equipment needed.

“...Which is very expensive, so we’re so appreciative for the support and encouragement,” from KADB, she says.

Commissioner of Agriculture Ryan Quarles says the board launched the meat processing program because COVID-19 “exposed many problems in our society, including that Kentucky lacked sufficient processing capacity for meat,” including lamb, “a sector of the economy that thrived here long ago.”

While Kentucky is known for being a big beef cattle and poultry state, KADB made the decision to invest in a lamb processing facility to “help support further diversification” of the state’s ag economy, Quarles said.

“Consumers want locally-sourced meat, whether it’s beef, poultry or lamb,” Quarles said. “The Ag Development Board is continuing its great tradition of anticipating future consumer trends and helping position Kentucky to benefit from them.”

Facility Dedicated to Lamb

Samutin says the company is growing, with two new “incredible professionals” who came on board last year – David Kessler, managing director of shepherd operations, and Dan Thompson, controlling operational officer at the facility.

Kessler helped Samutin apply for the KADB funding.

“It just makes sense, because lamb isn’t an area that’s supported well within the state,” Kessler said. It’s almost a

sideline for processors, who mostly work with beef and hogs, he said.

The processing facility in Hardin will be solely for lamb.

“Valerie has built a big opportunity for sheep producers in the state, with what she’s doing with producers to processors, to working with Kroger and beyond.”

Kessler, who has worked on the side with Samutin for a few years, came on as an employee of the company in March. His goal is to find more producers to work with the new facility.

“My job is to try to help any interested producers along, help find them and recruit them and teach them what they need to do with sheep,” Kessler says. “We’re focused on meat sheep, they don’t have any wool, they shed every year so farmers don’t have that expense of having to shear sheep and sell the wool for less than it costs to get them shorn ...” He said they also help farmers by eating many of the weeds they have trouble with.

They anticipate being functional by late summer, due to the wait-time on equipment lists.

“We are thrilled with the location ... incredibly easy access for our producers to deliver the lamb, but also for our distributors to come, since it’s less than five minutes off the highway.”

The new processing facility will give them the opportunity to track lambs into the pasture onto the restaurant plate or the table at home, she said. It will also allow them to meet more of the market demands.

“This was very much needed here in Kentucky – the processing component has been a real hindrance to the growth of our industry. It’s why we give 60 percent of our market share to imports,” Samutin said.

With the new investment, she thinks the sheep industry will be able to bounce back in Kentucky agriculture, offering a more consistent way to get it to market in a professional looking cut and packaging to be proud of.

“My bet is on the Kentucky shepherd and the program,” Samutin said.

Farmers interested in becoming sheep producers may contact Kessler at dkessler@bluegrasslambcompany.com. Samutin can be reached at Valerie@freedomrunfarm.org.

By Bobbie Curd
Field Reporter



Freedom Run Farm.

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MARKET REPORT: WEEK OF April 6, 2021
Farmers Regional Livestock Market of Glasgow, LLC
Total Receipts: 468. Supply included 15% feeder cattle (100% dairy steers), 57% slaughter cattle (78% cows, 22% bulls), 28% replacement dairy cattle (15% fresh/milking cows, 1% bred heifers, 8% springer heifers, 20% open heifers, 36% baby bull calves, 20% baby heifer calves.)
Feeder cattle supply over 600# was 78%.
Dairy Steers: Large 3: 300# 100.00, 405# 105.00, 540# 91.00, 648# 87.00, 753# 93.00, 812# 93.00, 940# 85.00, 1087# 86.00.
Slaughter Cows: Breaker 75-80 percent lean 1465-1810# 58.00-65.00, H.Dr. 1610-1690# 67.00-76.00, Boner 80-85% lean 1070-1440# 58.00-65.00, H.Dr. 1110-1440# 68.00-76.00, L.Dr. 1140-1335# 44.00-54.00, Lean 85-90 percent lean 740-1145# 46.00-54.00, H.Dr. 870-1065# 59.00-65.00, L.Dr. 740-1210# 37.00-43.00.
Bulls: Y.G. 1-2 1630-2210# 873.00-97.00, H.Dr. 1780-2045# 98.00-107.00, L.Dr. 1495-1755# 83.00-86.00.
Fresh Milking Cows: Supreme 1500.00, Approved 1375.00, Medium 1225.00, Common 700.00-950.00.
Bred Heifers: Common 750.00.
Springer Heifers: Approved 1175.00, Medium 900.00-950.00, Common 675.00-850.00.
Open Heifers: Approved 225# 200.00, Approved 675# 510.00, Medium 675# 400.00, Medium 750# 600.00, Medium 850# 675.00.
Steers: 285# 150.00, Medium and Large 2-3 385# 130.00.
Baby Bull calves: 18 head 5.00-80.00, 9 head 140.00-270.00 Beef Cross, 1 head 140.00-270.00 Brown Swiss, 3 head 80.00-100.00 Crossbred.
Baby Heifer calves: 9 head 50.00-90.00, 6 head 160.00-250.00 Beef Cross, 3 head 90.00-110.00 Crossbred, 1 head 140.00 Jersey.



Fencing school instructors Jody Watson from ACI Distributors and Clay Brewer from Stay-Tuff Fencing demonstrate proper post driving techniques at a past Kentucky Fencing School. Photo by Chris Teutsch, UK forage extension specialist.

Fencing is topic of field day

PRINCETON, Ky. – The University of Kentucky will host two regional fencing schools this spring to help livestock producers learn the newest fencing techniques and sound fence construction.

The 2021 spring schools will occur May 11 at the Christian County Extension office in Hopkinsville and May 13 at the Daviess County Extension office in Owensboro. The schools begin at 7:30 a.m. CDT and conclude at 4:30 p.m. CDT.

Chris Teutsch, UK forage extension specialist, started these one-day events in 2018 in Kentucky to help producers improve their herd management.

“If you have ever driven around the countryside, there are a lot of fences but not a lot of well-constructed ones,” said Teutsch, extension associate professor in the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. “One of the goals of this school is to help people get the basics of fencing down. That way they can build a strong, durable fence that will last 25 or 30 years, or if they decide to hire a contractor to build it for them, they will know what a well-constructed fence looks like.”

UK specialists and fencing industry experts will use a mixture of classroom instruction and hands-on demonstrations to teach producers the basics of a well-built fence. An added bonus of the school is that the techniques producers learn can help them qualify for cost-share dollars from the Natural Resources Conservation Service for new fence construction.

Each school is limited to 30 participants, and the cost is \$30 per person. This cost covers lunch, a fencing notebook and safety gear. Participants are encouraged to bring leather gloves for the hands-on portion of the school. Those interested in attending can register online at 2021kyfencingschoolhopkinsville.eventbrite.com for the Hopkinsville school and 2021kyfencingschoolowensboro.eventbrite.com to attend the Owensboro event.

Producers can also get the registration form from their local extension office and mail the registration form and payment to Carrie Thrailkill, UK Research and Education Center, 348 University Drive, Princeton, Ky., 42445.

Producers are encouraged to register early, as spots will fill quickly. The registration deadline for each location is two weeks prior to the workshop.

During the event, participants must follow current masking and social distancing guidelines.

The Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council, UK Cooperative Extension Service and Kentucky Master Grazer Educational Program organize and sponsor the schools. Additional sponsors include the UK Grain and Forage Center of Excellence, Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund and the Kentucky Beef Network. Industry partners include Stay-Tuff Fencing, Gallagher USA, ACI Distributors and Applegate Manufacturing.

By Katie Pratt
University of Kentucky



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A last minute mini-family vacation landed me in Chattanooga, Tenn. last week, and I think I may have found my favorite city.

I'm not a city dweller, and downtowns can cause me hypertension. Downtown Chattanooga, however, is a beautiful and friendly place and I enjoyed every minute of our brief stay.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, many of the top tourism attractions in nearby Lookout Mountain were booked. We were able to enjoy Rock City, but other than that our free time was spent in the city.

As a way to make up for missing Ruby Falls, we decided to take a segway tour around the Tennessee River. If you have never braved the experience of riding a segway (defined as a two-wheeled, self-balancing personal transporter) rest assured that you can do it...I can do it, therefore you can do it.

Our tour guide obviously loves what he does, and he shared a lot of information about Chattanooga's retail and industry. We rode across two bridges – one walking bridge and the other with autos zooming by us.

Once I got accustomed to the segway, I had a great time. The most difficult part of learning to control the segway for me was stopping – you have to lean back on your heels, and pulling back without using your feet is ineffective. Thankfully, I caught on before we stopped on a hillside, which was a good thing since a failed stop would have ended in a street.

I started noticing a trend in the information our guide was sharing. As we traveled on or near a street, he would tell us about the locally owned stores and restaurants. It was obvious he stopped in those locations and learned interesting tidbits about each one.

One in particular caught my attention, and the next morning we headed to a shop called, "Locals Only." The store featured items by local people, from jams and jellies, homemade soaps and art. Signs features the people behind the products.

It was the one place throughout the short trip that I requested just for me, and I took my sweet time about it. I came away with a candle that would be a gift, and soaps and artwork for myself.

I thought about how "shop local" has become a popular theme in towns and cities of all sizes. For my small community, we promote locally owned shops and the farmers' market.

It's not that different on city streets, either. Chattanooga has maintained a small-town feel by focusing on its local strengths. I look forward to going there again.

A series of changes



KENTUCKY
DEPARTMENT
OF
AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER

Ryan
Quarles

A another legislative session has come and gone and with it, a series of changes to the functions of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture. I thought I'd take a moment to share with you a few updates about legislation that affects our agricultural community.

The big news of course is Senate Bill 3. Sponsored by Sen. Paul Hornback, SB 3 moved administration of the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund from the governor's office to the KDA. This is no small endeavor, and we've been hard at work these last few weeks with the transition.

We've been kicking the tires and meeting with staff to hear their thoughts as we work to facilitate this move. My office is fully committed to ensuring that these changes are done in a way that does not disrupt the function of the boards, the regularly scheduled meetings, or any of the services that staff have provided so well over the past decades. I recently filled two vacancies on the board and appointed Bourbon County's Brenda Paul and Daviess County's Suzanne Cecil White to the Ag Development Board. With their new perspectives added to the already strong board, the KADF will continue to deliver for farm families many years into the future.

Two other measures reformed the State Board of Agriculture and the Kentucky State Fair Board. Under Senate Bill 93 and House Bill 518, the Commissioner of Agriculture has greater appointment authority over both boards. Reforming the State Board of Ag in this way just made sense: that board advises me, the department, and has hiring authority over the Kentucky State Veterinarian and the Deputy State Vet. HB 518 ensures that agriculture's voice is etched into the fabric of the State Fair Board.

I appointed Dr. Mark Lynn and David Wallace to new positions on the board in March. Preparations are underway for a safe and fun 2021 Kentucky State Fair that all of our farm families will be proud of this summer.

We also secured important funding in the budget to ensure your Kentucky Department of Agriculture can keep up our inspection responsibilities, protect your investments in livestock from foreign disease, and continue our efforts to streamline and modernize our operations. We also kick started an important conversation about broadband funding, and I'm happy to report that the General Assembly invested serious dollars into expanding rural broadband, a top priority of the KDA, Kentucky Farm Bureau, the Kentucky Association of Counties, and the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce.

Two other
measures
reformed the
State Board of
Agriculture and
the Kentucky
State Fair
Board.

SEE A SERIES, PAGE 6

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The race is on



MARKET WATCH

Dewey Strickler

Soybeans have run into resistance recently, but that has not deterred the bulls as stocks are the tightest since 2013.

The planters have sprung from the starting gate, which means the race is on. In their first weekly progress report of the season, USDA shows that two percent of the corn crop is planted, which is on par with the average.

Weather through the third week of April shows normal to below normal rainfall, which means producers will plant corn for as long as seed is available. That said, chances are acres will exceed USDA's current estimate of 91.1 million.

In other developments, exports continue to impress. Inspections last week were the second highest of the season at 75.2 million. China was the largest recipient followed by Mexico and Japan. Traders remain bullish on exports but, eventually, they will peak.

Soybeans have run into resistance recently, but that has not deterred the bulls as stocks are the tightest since 2013. Meanwhile, exports continue to decline with inspections last week setting their fourth consecutive marketing year low at 10.9 million bushels. This was the first time this season that inspections fell below the average needed to reach USDA's target of 2.225 billion bushel. We are still on track to reach their projection, but just barely.

Meanwhile, overall shipments are down 81 percent from their peak in November while those to China are down 88 percent. Looking at Brazil, their harvest is 88 percent complete and on track for a record crop.

Wheat is the most boring of the grains. While it has emerged from dormancy, it still has no story to tell. In USDA's first progress report, they rate 53 percent of the winter wheat crop in good-to-excellent condition compared to 62 percent a year ago.

Meanwhile, spring wheat planting is just getting underway at 3 percent complete compared to the average of 2 percent. In other developments, export inspections last week were 21.8 million bushels. Since late February, the pace has been improving. However, it faces plenty of competition as a tender from Egypt was awarded to Russia and Ukraine.

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

Global meatpackers filet U.S. taxpayers again and again

Like many global meatpacking companies, JBS SA, the giant Brazilian meat and poultry packer with extensive operations in North and South America, Europe, and Australia, spent most of the last six months buying its way out of trouble with U.S. customers and the American government.

Even a cursory examination shows JBS spent \$221.5 million in February to settle allegations it helped rig U.S. poultry prices and, last October, it paid \$280 million "to settle charges it violated (U.S) anticorruption laws."

Both those deals came after a JBS subsidiary paid the U.S. "\$27 million to settle charges it used illegally obtained money to finance the purchase of Pilgrim's Pride," the second largest U.S. poultry company, in 2009.

Even more astonishing, the money river flowed both ways: JBS USA, the serial bad boy of global meatpacking, received \$90 million in "trade mitigation commodity contracts" for pork purchased by the Trump Administration in its 2019-20 tariff fight with China.

Still, as noted here last week, JBS wasn't – isn't – the only global meatpacker making an already dirty business even dirtier. Other packers are targets of ongoing market investigations while some, like Tyson Foods, have joined JBS in paying millions to settle civil suits.

In fact, given these settlements and an ongoing U.S. Department of Justice investigation, Big Meat might just be the most collusive, most corrupt, and most unrepentant business sector in the U.S. today.

Which begs two questions: Why do we, both its customers and lawmakers, tolerate so much confessed – and unconfessed – corruption in meatpacking? And what, if any, benefits do we receive in return for all this evident corporate lawlessness?

It can't be great value because Big Meat doesn't provide great value.

Indeed, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture data, as meatpacker control on both the animal buying side and meat selling side grew since 2000, consumer prices have risen 82 percent in beef, 44 percent in pork, and 33 percent in poultry.

Moreover, it's not like farmers and ranchers now receive better prices for their livestock and poultry. In fact, if cal-

culated in current 2021 dollars, total "cash receipts" farmers pocketed for their sales have fallen since 2000.

For example, in today's dollars, farmers received \$76.4 billion for cattle and calves in 2000. (USDA doesn't divide the two.) In 2021, they will pocket an estimated \$66 billion, or \$10 billion less.

Similarly, in today's dollars, U.S. farmers received \$25.5 billion for their hogs in 2000. This year, the estimated market value will be more than \$1 billion less, or \$24.3 billion.

Also, two decades ago, broilers (frying chickens) brought farmers \$28.7 billion; this year, they'll bring 15 percent less, or \$24.3 billion.

So, today, farmers are receiving less for their livestock and poultry, consumers are paying more for their beef, pork, and chicken and meatpackers – the highly integrated link between the two – are paying hundreds of millions in civil and criminal penalties to keep their admittedly-crooked system more than profitable to continue operations and expand their global reach.

And expand they are.

On November 10, two months before it announced it will pay \$221.5 million to settle "broiler chicken antitrust civil price fixing litigation," Tyson Foods announced "plans to invest in new processing facilities and expand existing plants in Thailand, China, and The Netherlands."

In early April, JBS, the global poster child of meatpacker malfeasance, announced that it is prepared to spend part of its 2020 "record cash flow" to both "boost capital spending by as much as 48 percent this year" and "actively seek acquisitions."

Meanwhile, according to recent reporting, U.S. taxpayers sent cattle producers \$7.17 billion under the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program Aid, "\$2 billion more than any other eligible livestock or crop," while "(p)ork producers so far have received about \$1.14 billion..."

Little wonder then why meatpackers like JBS can buy their way out of corruption charges one day and announce plans to expand their empires the next: they're not using shareholder money to fund any of it.

They're using yours.



FOOD & FARM FILE

Alan Gueberty

For example, in today's dollars, farmers received \$76.4 billion for cattle and calves in 2000. (USDA doesn't divide the two.) In 2021, they will pocket an estimated \$66 billion, or \$10 billion less.

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Benji
Hudnall

My first memories of the Kentucky Pork Producers Association go back to my days as a youth. As a farm kid growing up on one of the many hog farms in our area, my parents and I were regular attendees of the local and state pork producer meetings and events. I hold fond memories of the networking and cooperation of the farm families that helped to establish our state association we have today.

A prime example of how dedicated these families were to the association was the promotion of pork at the Kentucky State Fair. This all started in the 1980s with the idea that local pork producer groups vol-

unteer to cook pork chops and pork burgers to sell to the attendees.

Today Kentucky Pork Producers sell delicious pork at all events held at the Kentucky Exposition Center. KPPI has continued to operate, supervised by David Lewis, right through the Covid restricted events and there are numerous events planned to take place this year. David's positive attitude helps our organization manage through these unprecedented times. We appreciate the continued dedication that David provides for the Kentucky Pork Producers.

Ms. Bonnie Jolly has devoted more than 34 years of her professional career to the pork producing

families of the commonwealth working for our own Kentucky Pork Producers Association. The past 11 years, she has served and continues to serve as the executive director of the Kentucky Pork Producers Association. She has done a tremendous job in representing the interests of the swine industry on many fronts.

She has earned and announced her desire to retire and spend time with family and friends. Therefore, the board of directors has initiated the daunting task of finding a new executive director to continue the strong leadership that we have enjoyed for the past 30 plus years.

The executive director is the key

staff position of the Kentucky Pork Producers Association and represents the association, its pork producers and affiliate members, and other KPPA staff in a professional and efficient manner.

Interested candidates should submit a statement of interest in the position and a curriculum vitae or resume to kypork@bbtel.com.

More information about the position can be requested by contacting the KPPA office in Elizabethtown. Applications will begin being reviewed May 1 and continue until a suitable candidate is identified.

BENJI HUDNALL is president of Kentucky Pork Producers Association.

A series of changes

FROM PAGE 4

It's high time we brought rural Kentucky online and I'm grateful to our state legislators for allocating some dollars towards that goal.

With that, I want to wish you and yours a happy and successful planting season. In the next few months, I am getting back out on the road to talk with small business owners and producers about what they need as the rest of the state reopens. In the agriculture community, we never really slowed down or embraced the "shutdown" mentality so many other industries have faced in the last year.

I look forward to visiting you on your farm, learning about what you need, and how the Kentucky Department of Agriculture can advocate for you the rest of this year and beyond.

RYAN QUARLES is Kentucky's Commissioner of Agriculture.

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Burley group considers next steps in challenging market

FROM PAGE 1

forms to qualify.

Growers can verify if they are on the list by going online to btgcasettlement.com.

Around \$28 million is expected to be distributed, with qualifying producers receiving an equal share, whether they produced one year or multiple years and regardless of pounds produced. A final ruling by the judge is still pending.

A controversial part of the agreement calls for \$1.5 million to be retained for the development of a grower organization, but a challenge has been filed. Pedigo said they want to make sure that a checkoff program is preserved.

"Let me just say that we only need one commodity group in the state," Pedigo said. "We are not trying to do anything to the Council."

Currently checkoff funds go to the Council, which has an agreement with the co-op for use of the funds. Pedigo said he hopes that the new group would

work with the council and gradually the two groups would merge.

The proposed agreement also calls for a forbearance clause that protects board members from accusation of misuse or fraud, but a lawsuit has also been filed against the board. That case is now in the hands of the judge and pending in Fayette Circuit Court.

Market Potential

Producers continue to deal with a changing domestic and global market and discussed potential buyers as well as how political leverage plays into their industry.

Will Snell, University of Kentucky ag economist, talked about the price difference of U.S. and foreign burleys.

Last year, the average price of U.S. burley exported (processed) was \$3.79 per pound versus the average import price coming into the U.S. from Brazil at \$2.31 and from Malawi at \$1.84.

That price differential has widened during the past decade, especially in 2020 between the U.S. and Brazil, the closest "quality" competitor, Snell said.

Snell said there will be pounds available to growers this year but any increase is likely the result of other producers getting out of the market.

Buyers may be getting concerned about the smaller grower base, which could help producers still in the market, but "they have been able to find pounds" outside of the U.S., Snell said.

Snell said he believes the U.S. now has 2,000 or fewer burley tobacco growers.

Aside from market stresses, production issues are also a concern.

"Yield is killing us. Argue what you want on the price...but these yields are pretty challenging right now," Snell said.

The group discussed the need for the organization and growers to work on relationships with congressional leaders and the need for political influence to keep buyers involved. As companies continue to increase imports of foreign

tobacco, political influence could slow the tide.

Darrell Varner, president of The Council for Burley Tobacco, discussed meetings the organization held with buyers and how last year's contracts fared.

The topic returned to the need for political influence.

"Political pressure on tobacco has always been vital," said Hampton "Hoppy" Henton, the Council secretary/treasurer. "We can ask for a better price, we can ask for more volume, we can do all that, but ever since tobacco has been around, if you wanted something done you went to Sen. McConnell, or Sen. Wendell Ford, or Alvin Barkley, or somebody...it was always a political issue."

Also during the meeting, Brad Shearn, a grower from Hawesville, and Chris Clark, a grower from Greensburg, were elected to grower-at-large board seats, replacing Greg Harris and Tom Ingram.

By Sharon Burton
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Chicken and Asparagus with Penne Pasta

- 1 pound chicken breast tenderloins
- 1 pinch garlic salt, or to taste
- 1 pinch seasoned salt, or to taste
- 1 pound uncooked penne pasta
- 2 tablespoons butter
- ¼ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 pound fresh asparagus, trimmed and cut crosswise into thirds
- 1 pinch garlic salt, or to taste

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F.
Cover a baking sheet with aluminum foil.
Spread the chicken breast tenderloins on the baking sheet and sprinkle with garlic salt and seasoned salt.
Bake chicken in the preheated oven until no longer pink in the center and the juices run clear, about 15 minutes. Set aside; when cool enough to handle, cut tenderloins into bite-size pieces.
Fill a large pot with lightly salted water, bring to a boil, and stir in penne. Cook pasta at a boil, stirring occasionally, until penne are cooked through but still slightly firm, about 11 minutes; drain.
Transfer penne back to cooking pot and stir in butter and Parmesan cheese until pasta is coated.
Heat olive oil in a skillet over medium heat; place asparagus into the hot oil and sprinkle with garlic salt. Cook and stir until asparagus are tender, about 7 minutes.
Transfer penne pasta into a large serving bowl and top with asparagus and chicken tenderloin pieces. Lightly mix asparagus and chicken into the pasta to serve.

Rusty Chicken Thighs

- 1 clove garlic, sliced, or more to taste
- 2 teaspoons Asian chile pepper sauce (such as sambal oelek), or more to taste
- 1 ½ tablespoons maple syrup
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons mayonnaise
- 3 tablespoons rice vinegar
- salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
- 2 pounds skinless, boneless chicken thighs
- 1 lime, cut into 8 wedges

Mash garlic to a paste with a mortar and pestle. Mix chile pepper sauce, maple syrup, soy sauce, mayonnaise, and rice vinegar into garlic until marinade is thoroughly combined.
Transfer chicken thighs to a large flat container (such as a baking dish) and pour marinade over chicken; stir until chicken is coated. Cover dish with plastic wrap and refrigerate about 3 hours; if preferred, let stand about 30 minutes at room temperature. Unwrap dish and sprinkle with salt.
Preheat charcoal grill to high heat.
Place chicken thighs onto the hot grill with smooth sides down. Cook until chicken shows grill marks, about 3 minutes. Turn chicken over and cook until other side shows grill marks, about 5 minutes. Continue to cook, moving them occasionally and turning over every 2 minutes, until meat is no longer pink inside and the thighs are golden brown, 10 to 12 minutes.
Transfer chicken to a platter, let rest for 5 minutes, and serve garnished with lime wedges.



Unstuffed Bell Peppers

- 1 pound ground beef
- 3 cups cooked rice
- 1 red bell pepper, chopped
- 1 orange bell pepper, chopped
- 1 green bell pepper, chopped
- 2 cups tomato sauce
- ½ cup brown sugar
- 8 ounces shredded Cheddar cheese

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F.
Heat a large skillet over medium-high heat. Break ground beef into pieces and add to skillet;

cook and stir until about half of the beef is browned, 3 to 5 minutes. Stir red bell pepper, orange bell pepper, and green bell pepper into the beef; continue to cook and stir until the beef is entirely browned, about 5 minutes more. Drain and discard grease.
Mix tomato sauce and brown sugar together in a bowl; pour over the beef mixture. Stir rice into the beef mixture and stir; transfer to a 9x13-inch baking dish. Sprinkle Cheddar cheese over the mixture.
Bake in preheated oven until the cheese is bubbling, about 30 minutes. Cool dish 5 minutes before serving.



Recipes from AllRecipes.com



False gods

Many anthropologists who study human behavior say that the one universal behavior is worship. There seems to be an internal compass in everyone, everywhere that says, “There is someone, somewhere who is greater, more powerful than any of us here or all of us combined.”
Man seems to be incurably religious – having a deep desire or need to have a god. Shrines and idols of all shapes and sizes are as old as history. And if people do not worship the God of the Bible they will make a god of themselves or another object.
A story is told of a British scientist who had a famous chameleon named “Billy the Lizard.” Before he left for a vacation he asked his butler to take special care of him while he was away. When he returned home, he went to Billy’s cage but did not see him. He went to his butler and demanded an explanation.
“Sir,” said his butler, “it was this way. Some of the villagers wanted to see Billy. So we put him on a piece of red cloth and he turned red. Then we put him on a green cloth and he turned green. Then we put him on a piece of striped cloth and he exploded. What can I say?”
“Hear, O my people,” God said to the Israelites, “I will warn you...You shall have no foreign gods before me!” It is almost impossible to believe that after all God had done for Israel He had to warn them about worshiping idols.
Is it any different today? Not really. The problems we face in the world today are not political problems but spiritual problems. We worship too many “foreign” false gods.

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Time for wheat growers to check for freeze damage



A dissected wheat head at Feekes 7 with signs of freeze damage including the white coloring, papery to the touch and easily broken. Photo by Carrie Knott, director of the UK Research and Education Center.

PRINCETON, Ky. – Kentucky wheat producers may want to check their fields in the next couple of days for signs of freeze damage.

Much of the state experienced temperatures below 32 degrees Fahrenheit the nights and mornings of March 30-April 3. While the temperatures were cold, they did not reach the typical threshold for wheat damage, which is below 24 degrees F for more than two hours for Feekes 6 and 7. However, Carrie Knott, director of the University of Kentucky Research and Education Center, said nearly all her fields at the center have signs of freeze damage.

“Freeze damage does not appear until seven days after the first freeze event,” said Knott, who is a faculty member in the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. “Now is really the earliest time producers would begin to see damage, if there is any.”

The wheat at Princeton was at Feekes 6 and 7, which is the typical growth stage for this time of the year. The fields appeared mostly healthy with a visual inspection, but when Knott dissected the heads, she could see signs of freeze damage.

“The dissected heads at Feekes 7 look white, easily break and feel papery,” Knott said. “They should be a light green, shiny and feel like plastic. Wheat at Feekes 6 had heads that looked like a light brown line with no sign of floral structure. They should be shiny, firm and somewhat transparent.”

While the Princeton wheat damage could be an isolated event, Knott encouraged producers to dissect their wheat heads to check for potential freeze damage to their crop.


When freeze damage occurs at this growth stage, the crop will likely produce another head and

recover much of the yield, as long as normal growing conditions hold through harvest. Yield loss may potentially be between 10 percent to 20 percent in wheat with freeze damage at Feekes 6 and 7.

For more information about assessing wheat freeze damage, producers may refer to UK Cooperative Extension Service’s publication AGR-253: Identifying Damage and Estimating

Yield Reductions in Wheat. It is available online at <https://bit.ly/39UHBzg> or by contacting the local extension office.

By Katie Pratt
University of Kentucky




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Lacefield named Kentucky Office of Agricultural Policy director

FRANKFORT – Brian Lacefield, of Versailles, has been named the new director of the Kentucky Office of Agricultural Policy, Agriculture Commissioner Dr. Ryan Quarles announced Monday.

The Kentucky Office of Agricultural Policy is the new name for the former Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy after Senate Bill 3 shifted responsibilities for the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund from the governor's office to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

"Brian Lacefield is well-respected in Kentucky's agricultural community and has years of agribusiness and investment experience that makes him the perfect fit to lead the Kentucky Office of Agricultural Policy," Quarles said.

"Brian will be a strong asset for the KDA as we implement Senate Bill 3 and move the management from the Governor's Office to the Department of Agri-

culture. I am grateful for his willingness to serve."

"I am honored to be named to this position by Commissioner Quarles," Lacefield said. "I look forward to working with board members to uphold the great tradition of innovation and excellence at the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund. There is tremendous opportunity to strengthen and diversify our agricultural economy and I am excited to hit the ground running."

Lacefield most recently served as the Kentucky State Director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency, where he directed and administered FSA programs and managed staff across the state.

Prior to joining the Trump administration, Lacefield served in various roles in the agriculture industry, most recently as market president at Trigg County FNB Bank. He has also worked as chief

financial officer of Agri-Chem and general manager for Commonwealth Agri-Finance, both divisions of Hopkinsville Elevator Cooperative. He served as vice president of agriculture and commercial banking with Planters Bank and as an area extension specialist with the University of Kentucky Farm Business Management Program.

Lacefield has been a board member for the Kentucky Retail Federation, Kentucky Corn Growers, Kentucky FFA Foundation, and the Kentucky Ag Leadership Program. Over the past decade, he has served nonprofits and charitable organizations in his communities including Cadiz Rotary, the United Way of the Pennyrile and the Hopkinsville Farmers Market.

"Commissioner Quarles has made a solid appointment in the selection of Brian Lacefield to serve as director for the Kentucky Office of Agricultural Pol-

icy," said Warren Beeler, former executive director of the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy. "Brian has the experience and the passion for this role and will help move Kentucky's agricultural community forward."

Lacefield is a graduate of Western Kentucky University, where he gained a bachelor's degree in agribusiness and a master's degree in agriculture. He also holds a master's degree in agricultural economics from the University of Florida. Lacefield and his wife, Michelle, live in Versailles with their two children, Brianne and Braden.



Brian Lacefield

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There has been much attention on how animal agriculture affects the environment, and many in high places are encouraging meat-outs and drastic changes to food production methods. But the agriculture industry is constantly evolving. Today's farmers are producing more food using less land and resources—an important fact considering that global food demand will double within the next 50 years. Farmers are showing their commitment to land conservation and sustainability time and time again.

MYTH

By eating less meat, Americans will improve the environment and free land and resources for the production of more plant crops to feed the world's hungry.

FACT

Americans can eat both animals and plants to manage the nation's natural resources in the best way possible and feed its people. For example, about half the land area of the U.S. can't be used for growing crops—it can only be used for grazing. That land would be of no use as a food resource if it were not for grazing livestock like cattle, goats and sheep. Grazing animals in the United States more than doubles the area that can be used to produce food while limiting soil erosion, preserving wildlife habitat and reducing the risk of wildfires.

MYTH

Meat production is not an efficient use of grain.

FACT

Anti-meat advocates have devised some creative ways to blow the feed needed to produce meat out of proportion. There are many factors of meat and grain production that are not being considered. As for beef cattle, most are grazed for the majority of their lives, and they are eating hays, grasses and legumes that humans cannot utilize. If and when beef cattle are placed on grain (corn and soybeans) diets, they are fed with additional plant forages. Many livestock producers are also utilizing grain byproducts from bio-fuel and milling industries. This feed is higher in protein, fat and digestible fiber and results in similar if not better weight gain.

MYTH

Meat production is a large contributor of greenhouse gases.

FACT

Animal agriculture has minimal impact on greenhouse gas production in the United States. All animals naturally produce the greenhouse gas methane by way of food digestion, but according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the entire U.S. agricultural sector contributed only 9.9 percent of total U.S. greenhouse gas

emissions in 2018. Beef production, which has received recent focus, only contributes 1.9 percent of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.

Consumers may also hear that animals raised in a feedlot or in modern production systems create more methane than animals raised alternative ways. According to a report on beef released by the Hudson Institute's Center For Global Food Issues, pound-for-pound, beef produced in a conventional feeding system generates 40 percent less greenhouse gas emissions and uses two-thirds less land than beef produced using grass-fed only production systems.

MYTH

Meat production creates large amounts of water-polluting manure.

FACT

The efficiency of manure use to support crop production is the critical metric. Because of the nutrient and organic matter content, manure is an alternative to commercial fertilizers with the added benefit of substantial energy savings. For example, in the case of corn production, energy savings from the substitution of swine manure for commercial fertilizer result in net energy savings on the order of 31 to 34 percent. And all farmers ensure proper conservation is practiced to protect our water supply. They drink it too.



Livestock Agriculture Practices that are Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Farmers adjust their feeding practices and other management methods to reduce the amount of methane resulting from enteric fermentation. They can do this by improving pasture quality to increase animal productivity, which can reduce the amount of methane emitted per unit of animal product. Increased productivity can also be improved through breeding practices.

When it comes to manure management, farmers can control the way in which manure decomposes to reduce nitrous oxide and methane emissions. Spreading solid manure onto fields quickly is one method suggested by the Environmental Protection Agency. Methane from manure composition can also be captured as a source of renewable energy.



The articles and information in the 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 education programs, workshops, and curriculum development.

Learn more by visiting www.teachkyag.org or www.kyfoodandfarm.com.



When your plow is a pencil...

Dwight Eisenhower said "Farming looks mighty easy when your plow is a pencil and you are a thousand miles from the corn field."

With that as a caution, I am going to foray into pencil farming for just a bit. At a recent meeting, I was asked what I would plant if I could start from scratch. There are an infinite number of ways to answer that, but what follows was my response.

First, I considered what I was going to do with the field. I decided that I would advance two different options, first, all pasture and the second, a cash hay option. Further, I limited myself to options that I know that I personally could accomplish, pencil farmer though I am.

For pasture, I decided that a clean field with no history of toxic tall fescue was the perfect opportunity for a field of novel endophyte tall fescue. Novel endophyte tall fescues are a combination of fescue genetics with that of a naturally occurring endophyte that does not produce the toxin



ergovaline like our native Kentucky 31. These varieties have been around for almost 20 years or more and have been shown to establish well all across the fescue belt.

These varieties have been shown to be persistent under Kentucky conditions, except where they have been overgrazed during summer. There are several fields that are approaching 10 years of age with exceptional animal gains.

Most in central Kentucky will know Robert Hall, or Mr. Bobby as he is fondly called. Going to his farm near Stamping Ground in Scott County is like going to a grazing clinic. Mr. Bobby has several acres of novel tall fescue with and without clover that have produced better than two

SEE **WHEN**, PAGE 13



What forage would you plant if you had a clean field to work with? The options are numerous. Performance and economics have to be considered, as well as the limitations of the manager.



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When your plow is a pencil

FROM PAGE 12

pounds of gain per day on six weight heifers.

I don't know if my own grazing skills can hang with Mr. Bobby, but novel tall fescue can support profitable cattle gains, even with my management.

On my pencil farm, I did not have to deal with transitioning from toxic tall fescue, which takes good management. We can successfully transition from toxic to novel tall fescue, but we must ensure that the toxic plants do not make seed the year of establishment and are completely killed prior to seeding the improved forage.

Thinking about getting started in the hay business makes me face my limitations. I know some good alfalfa producers that can work miracles in the hay field. I am not one of them. I am sure I could grow it, but getting it harvested in a marketable form is still a bit of a challenge for me.

For my hypothetical hay field, I chose timothy. Why timothy? For several reasons. First, it is in demand by horse owners across Kentucky and beyond.

Second, it has a later harvest window than orchardgrass, which was a close second in my mental debate over what to plant. This later harvest window increases the chance that I will have decent curing weather to make dry hay. The presence of a seedhead is actually a positive for timothy as it easily recognizable by almost all horse hay buyers. Yes, harvesting at the head stage will mean lower crude protein and digestibility.

However, mature timothy can be useful for a large segment of the mature horse population with just a little commercial supplementation. Timothy is a short-lived hay crop, producing for only two or three years, but is relatively inexpensive to re-seed.

You may never get the chance at a clean start on a pasture or hay field. If you do, novel endophyte tall fescue and timothy can be excellent choices. Even though I am truly 'pencil' farming, I certainly don't assume farming is easy. But it is fun to pretend what I would do, which is a whole lot easier than the real thing.

Happy foraging.

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State FFA convention will be hybrid for 2021

Leadership Training Center offers modified summer program

Kentucky FFA announced that the 2021 State FFA Convention and FFA Leadership Training Center will take place in modified forms this summer.

Both events were held in a complete virtual format in 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 92nd State FFA Convention will be a hybrid event, held June 8-10 in Lex-

ington. Leadership Development events and Career Development events will be conducted virtually in late May.

Award finalists will be notified and invited to attend convention sessions in person. Four convention sessions will be held June 8-10 in Lexington and will be broadcast live through YouTube.

In order to ensure social distancing, attendance will be limited to state FFA officers, award winners, and other invited guests.

"The hybrid convention option will allow us to celebrate the accomplishments of FFA members while keeping everyone safe and healthy. We look forward to having FFA members together

again for the first time since March of 2020," said State FFA Advisor Brandon K. Davis.

The Kentucky FFA Leadership Training Center will offer a modified program for the summer of 2021. The center will offer 10 sessions of FFA Camp with limited attendance.

Officer classes, leadership development workshops, and networking opportunities will be provided to students who attend. A major focus of the camp program will be helping chapters plan activities and events in a post-COVID world.

FFA Leadership Training Center director Josh Mitcham expressed excitement at the prospect of hosting FFA

campers this summer.

"We're so happy that we can provide in-person leadership training for FFA members. Many chapters have been struggling over the past year, and we look forward to helping them make plans for a new year."

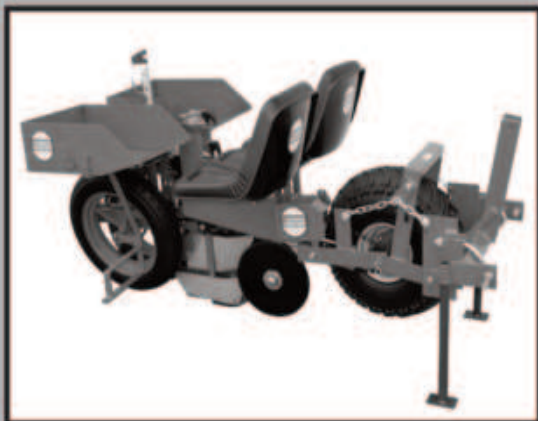
Further details about both events will be shared with FFA advisors in the coming weeks.

For more information about the FFA convention contact Matt Chaliff at matt.chaliff@education.ky.gov.

For more information on the FFA Leadership Training Center, contact Josh Mitcham at josh.mitcham@education.ky.gov

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2021 Beef Expo sales exceed \$770,000

FRANKFORT – The 2021 Kentucky Farm Bureau Beef Expo finished with more than \$770,000 in total sales in the 35th edition of the event at the Kentucky Exposition Center during the first weekend of March.

Total sales in 2021 were \$773,590, a decrease of \$215,040 compared to last year's sales. Although total sales were down, the average sale increased by \$142 to \$2,191 per lot, with 129.5 less lots (353) auctioned this year.

“As the largest beef cattle state east of the Mississippi River, Kentucky showcases that fact at the Kentucky Farm Bureau Beef Expo each year,” 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 we were extremely

pleased to be able to have this year's show go forward. Although the show was modified and sale totals were down, average prices were up, showing promise as we continue to recover from the pandemic's hardships.”

Gelbvieh cattle brought an average of \$3,417 per lot to lead all breeds. The sale topper was a \$9,500 Gelbvieh Balancer Grand Champion Female from Green Hills Gelbvieh farm out of Mount Ulla, North Carolina. The Beef Expo welcomed 12 states and 11 breeds this year.

In the junior show, 525 cattle from 12 states passed through the show ring, including 267 from Kentucky. This year's expo did not have a judging contest due to the restrictions placed on the event because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The 2021 Beef Expo's main sponsors were Kentucky Farm Bureau and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.



File photo from kybeefexpo.com

The Kentucky Beef Expo finished with more than \$770,000 in total sales at the event in March.

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MSU’S Breathitt Vet Center designated Level 1 lab

MURRAY, Ky. – Murray State University’s Breathitt Veterinary Center in Hopkinsville has been designated as a Level 1 laboratory by the USDA National Animal Health Laboratory system.

Out of 60 diagnostic laboratories nationally in the NAHLN system, the center is now one of 23 state laboratories with Level 1 status and has been a Level 2 laboratory in the NAHLN system since 2005.

“NAHLN Level 1 status gives us additional responsibilities in the arena of livestock and consumer protection,” said Dr. Debbie Reed, assistant professor and director of the Breathitt Veterinary Center. “I am beyond delighted that we have been able to attain the designation. This validates the foresight of the Breathitt Veterinary Center and Murray State University administrators in designing the facility we occupy and the investment that the Commonwealth of Kentucky made in providing funding. Our staff will work hard to remain on the cutting edge of veterinary diagnostics.”

The Breathitt Veterinary Center, part of Murray State’s Hutson School of Agriculture, is a nationally preeminent animal disease diagnostic laboratory that provides animal disease diagnostic services for the region’s equine, livestock and poultry industries.

The center offers a broad range of tests for diagnostic services primarily to the livestock, poultry and equine industries of Kentucky and bordering states of Missouri, Tennessee, Illinois and Indiana.

The center also provides educational and experiential learning opportunities for Murray State students who are pursuing degrees through the Hutson School of Agriculture.

NAHLN, organized in 2002, is a shared partnership between publicly-funded animal health laboratories and federal animal health laboratories for the purpose of protecting U.S. livestock population against foreign animal diseases.

NAHLN laboratories receive federal funding to develop capacity and surveil-

lance programs for high priority foreign animal diseases, which include Foot and Mouth Disease, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, velogenic Newcastle Disease, Swine Influenza, Classic Swine Fever as well as African Swine Fever and Chronic Wasting Disease.

NAHLN laboratories perform surveillance testing for these diseases at all times and in the face of an outbreak, share supplies, reagents and personnel.

The 2,400 square foot BioSafety Level 3 suite at the Breathitt Veterinary Center was designed in preparation for such an event. The molecular diagnostics equipment necessary for this testing is funded through NAHLN. Technicians at the center are proficiency tested on a regular basis to ensure their expertise to test samples for these diseases and equipment and reagents are kept on site.

While the number of Level 1 laboratories across the nation has risen over the past five years, the inclusion of the Breathitt Veterinary Center is an endorsement of the advanced level of diag-

nostics available to veterinarians across Kentucky.

“Murray State University and the Hutson School of Agriculture are proud to have the Breathitt Veterinary Center as an integral part of our program to protect the state’s livestock, wildlife and pets,” said Dr. Tony Brannon, dean of the Hutson School of Agriculture. “Not only does the center provide excellent service to veterinarians and animal agriculture in a state-of-the-art facility, but they also are an integral part of our veterinary technology and pre-vet curriculum that ensures our students get an education, not just a degree.”

In recognition of the Breathitt Veterinary Center moving to Level 1 status, Murray State President Dr. Bob Jackson added, “The federal government is now recognizing us for what we already knew – we have an excellent facility, a great work force and a great deal has been done by many in recent years to advance our work at the Breathitt Veterinary Center.”

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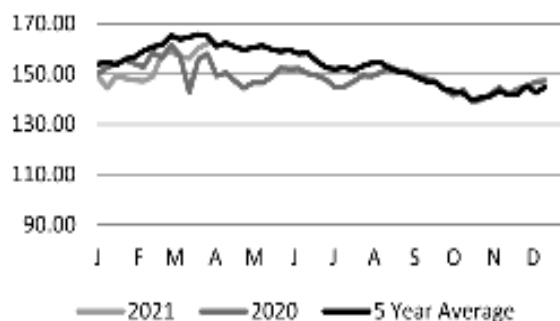
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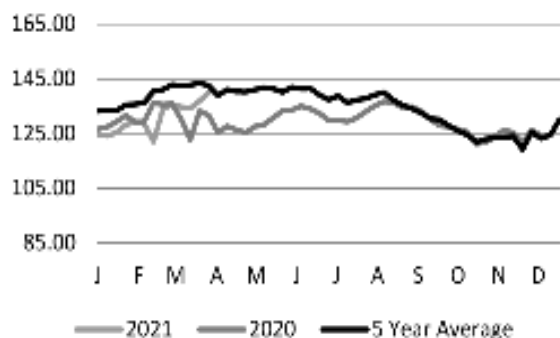
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AUCTION/MARKET

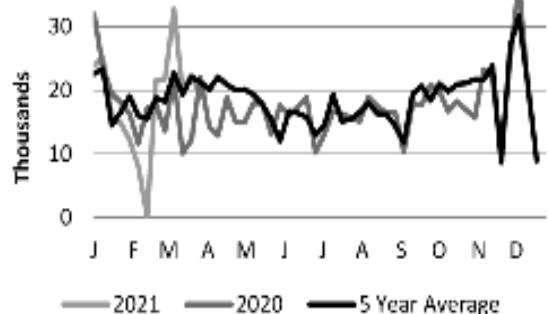
WEEKLY 400-600 LB FEEDER STEER M&L 1-2
WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE (\$/CWT)



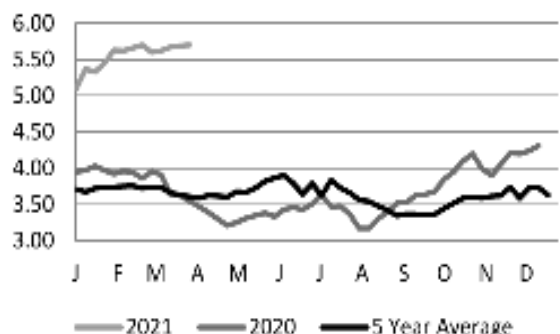
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WEEKLY KENTUCKY CATTLE AUCTION RECEIPTS



WEEKLY KENTUCKY CORN BID AVERAGE PRICE
(\$/CWT)



Produce Prices updated 04/01/2021

Variety	Unit Size	Price Range	Avg. Price
Tomato #1	10 lbs	16.00-31.00	21.19
Tomato #2	10 lbs	15.00-24.00	17.69
Tomato small/canner	10 lbs	9.00-25.00	15.61
Cabbage	hd.	0.35	0.35

Prices and Quotes furnished by Wholesale and Retail Markets

National Daily Direct Slaughter

Cattle

Negotiated Purchases 4/02/2021

Live Bids- weighed average weights
& prices

Steers:

80%-up Choice 1502.3 lbs 117.70

Heifers

80%-up Choice 1343.1 lbs 117.41

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Sunday, May 2, 2021
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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.							04/02/2021 Indiana Ohio Illinois	
04/05/2021 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 5.03-5.99	
	5.66	5.68-5.78	5.73 5.78	5.39	5.76	5.72	Dried Distillers Grain (\$/ton) 10% moisture 196.00-245.00	
	13.57 NA	13.83-13.98 6.23-6.28	14.18-14.23 NA	13.83 NA	NA NA	14.17 NA	Modified Wet Distillers (\$/ton) 50-55% moisture 102.00	
New Crop Delivery Contract							Kentucky Weekly Cattle Receipts as reported at local markets:	
Corn #2 Yellow	4.69	4.69-4.79	4.74-5.03	4.64	4.84	4.74	03/13/21 33,242	
Corn #2 White			4.94-5.09				03/20/21 20,249	
Soybeans #1 Y	12.09	12.44-12.59	12.74	12.24	12.54	12.61	03/27/21 23,000	
Wheat #2 SRW	5.72	5.79-5.94	6.14-6.21	5.89	5.99	6.18	04/03/21 19,996	
Barley								
Weekly Feed Ingredient Price Wholesale prices, \$ per ton Rail or Truck FOB Location	Owensboro Grain 04/05/2021	Commonwealth Agri-Energy Hopkinsville 04/05/2021	St. Louis Weekly Feed Prices 03/30/2021	Memphis Weekly Feed Report 03/30/2021	Corn Belt Feedstuffs Report 03/30/2021	Daily Direct Hog Prices LM_HG218 04/05/2021 Barrows & Gilts Purchased Swine Receipts: 2,755 Base Price: \$92.00-\$100.00	FOR DAILY LIVESTOCK AND GRAIN MARKET REPORTS	
Soybean Meal 48% Sol	432.30	—	424.00-429.00	418.20	396.20-413.20	Wt. Avg. \$99.01	CALL FARMLOT	
Soybean Hulls	180.00	—	—	155.00	—	Compared to prior day, wt. avg. base prices were 2.33 higher.	1-800-327-6568	
Corn Distillers Grain Dried	—	218.00	—	—	200.00-215.00	5 Day Rolling Average: \$96.29	1-502-573-0553	
Distillers Grain Modified	—	122.00	—	—	—			
Distillers Grain Wet	—	74.00	—	—	—			
Corn Condensed Solubles	—	NA	—	—	—			
Corn Gluten Feed 20-21 pct	—	—	260.00	—	195.00-220.00			
Corn Gluten Meal 60 pct	—	—	730.00	—	630.00-670.00			
Cottonseed Meal 41 pct	—	—	NA	450.00-460.00	—			
Whole Cottonseed	—	—	—	330.00	—			
Wheat Middlings	—	—	195.00-230.00	—	—			



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Buying and Contracting Grain

as of 4-9-2021

Wheat:		Basis	Option Month	Futures
June/July 2021	\$6.25	-0.15	WN1	\$6.40
Aug. 2021	\$6.26	-0.15	WU1	\$6.41
June/July 2022	\$5.93	-0.30	WN2	\$6.23

Corn:		Basis		
April 21	\$5.77	.00	CH1	\$5.77
Sep/Oct/Nov 21	\$4.66	-0.30	CZ1	\$4.96



Current bids are on our website at peterson-farms.com

Deborah Gillis
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Brent Hupman
502-827-3344

AUCTION/MARKET

Blue Grass South

Stanford, KY

April 1, 2021

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

100 hd. 644# 156.75 mixed
42 hd. 728# 146.75 blk
28 hd. 830# 127.75 blk-charx
62 hd. 883# 133.95 blk-charx
60 hd. 890# 133.80 blk
54 hd. 936# 127.85 blk-charx
57 hd. 1018# 112.50 mixed

Feeder Bulls: Medium & Large 1-2

30 hd. 667# 140.50 blk

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

40 hd. 399# 163.00 blk
58 hd. 621# 135.75 mixed
29 hd. 625# 137.25 blk-bwf
68 hd. 694# 134.20 blk-charx
67 hd. 798# 126.40 blk

Mid-KY Livestock Market

Upton, KY

March 30, 2021

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

20 hd. 623# 143.50 mixed
51 hd. 746# 140.80 mixed
61 hd. 806# 132.10 mixed

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

72 hd. 720# 128.80 blk

Russell County Stockyards

Russell Springs, KY

March 31, 2021

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

20 hd. 648# 153.50 blk
139 hd. 741# 143.75 bbwf
43 hd. 742# 133.50 mixed
64 hd. 813# 139.95 blk
60 hd. 865# 128.75 blk-charx

KY-TN Livestock Auction

Guthrie, KY

April 1, 2021

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

30 hd. 471# 169.00 bbwf
32 hd. 558# 157.00 bbwf

Feeder Bulls: Medium & Large 1-2

22 hd. 377# 173.00 bbwf
23 hd. 425# 169.00 bbwf
32 hd. 554# 148.50 bbwf

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

25 hd. 371# 154.50 bbwf
28 hd. 427# 155.25 bbwf
30 hd. 450# 154.75 bbwf
26 hd. 491# 151.50 bbwf
23 hd. 548# 133.00 bbwf
20 hd. 622# 123.50 bbwf

Blue Grass Maysville

Maysville, KY

March 30, 2021

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

25 hd. 698# 154.25 blk
25 hd. 704# 149.75 blk
75 hd. 748# 149.95 blk
20 hd. 780# 144.50 blk
92 hd. 798# 138.10 mixed
56 hd. 896# 127.60 blk-charx

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

30 hd. 578# 139.00 blk
63 hd. 886# 113.60 blk

Blue Grass of Albany

Albany, KY

March 31, 2021

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

66 hd. 764# 149.50 blk
63 hd. 773# 143.75 blk

Lake Cumberland Livestock

Somerset, KY

April 3, 2021

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

72 hd. 778# 141.75 blk

Blue Grass Stockyards

Lexington, KY

March 29 & 30, 2021

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

30 hd. 670# 145.25 blk
64 hd. 717# 151.00 blk
62 hd. 795# 143.50 blk
23 hd. 819# 123.50 blk-charx
60 hd. 885# 132.75 blk-charx

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

21 hd. 631# 133.00 blk-charx
53 hd. 643# 133.00 blk-mixed
20 hd. 724# 129.00 blk
65 hd. 727# 129.50 blk-charx
125 hd. 733# 126.35 mixed
24 hd. 796# 120.00 blk

Washington Co. Livestock

Springfield, KY

March 29, 2021

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

26 hd. 637# 155.00 blk
66 hd. 787# 135.95 mixed
63 hd. 828# 136.50 blk
53 hd. 917# 123.45 blk

Holstein Steers: Large 3

60 hd. 917# 99.75

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

21 hd. 564# 141.75 blk
48 hd. 589# 134.50 blk
23 hd. 616# 131.00 blk

Kentuckiana Livestock Market

Owensboro, KY

March 29, 2021

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

21 hd. 534# 157.00 blk
Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2
29 hd. 457# 145.00 blk
27 hd. 565# 138.50 blk
22 hd. 623# 138.50 blk

Paris Stockyards

Paris, KY

April 1, 2021

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

27 hd. 661# 147.00 mixed
71 hd. 704# 140.75 mixed
54 hd. 999# 120.30 blk-charx

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

22 hd. 592# 138.00 blk
90 hd. 607# 139.30 blk
75 hd. 695# 131.00 blk
30 hd. 727# 127.50 blk

Blue Grass of Richmond

Richmond, KY

April 2, 2021

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

60 hd. 946# 127.00 mixed
60 hd. 954# 128.10 blk
23 hd. 761# 140.10 blk

United Producers Owenton

Owenton, KY

March 31, 2021

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

60 hd. 866# 135.60 mixed

United Producers Irvington

Irvington, KY

March 29, 2021

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

21 hd. 678# 135.00 blk

Blue Grass East

Mt. Sterling, KY

March 31, 2021

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

72 hd. 720# 148.00 blk-charx
Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2
88 hd. 542# 144.75 blk-charx

USDA ESTIMATED DAILY LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

	CATTLE	CALVES	HOGS	SHEEP
Friday 4/02/2021 (est)	105,000	1,000	455,000	6,000
Week Ago (est)	115,000	1,000	480,000	7,000
Year Ago (act)	107,000	2,000	483,000	6,000
Week to Date (est)	576,000	8,000	2,411,000	36,000
Same Pd Lt Week (est)	590,000	8,000	2,402,000	36,000
Same Pd Lt Yr (act)	577,000	8,000	2,433,000	29,000

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AUCTION/MARKET

Producers Livestock Sheep and Goat Auction , San Angelo, Texas March 31, 2021

Compared to last week slaughter lambs 10.00-15.00 lower. Slaughter ewes weak. Feeder lambs firm to 5.00 higher. Nannies steady; kids firm to 5.00 higher. Trading and demand moderate.

SLAUGHTER LAMBS WOOLED & SHORN: Choice and Prime 1-2 67-68 lbs 256.00-260.00; 81-82 lbs 262.00-278.00; 91 lbs 248.00. Choice and Prime 2-3 108-128 lbs 154.00-194.00; 153-170 lbs 150.00-166.00. Choice 1-2 58 lbs 256.00; 71 lbs 240.00; 82 lbs 246.00; 101 lbs 238.00. Choice 2-3 134 lbs 128.00.

HAIR BREEDS: Choice and Prime 1-2 31-39 lbs 256.00-272.00; 41-49 lbs 256.00-270.00; 50-59 lbs 256.00-266.00; 60-69 lbs 254.00-268.00; 70-79 lbs 256.00-268.00; 80-89 lbs 250.00-270.00; 94-99 lbs 252.00-265.00; 103-108 lbs 246.00-260.00. Choice 1-2 45-49 lbs 248.00-256.00; 50-59 lbs 230.00-254.00; 61-68 lbs 240.00-252.00; 72-75 lbs 242.00-254.00; 80-86 lbs 238.00-248.00; 90-97 lbs 225.00-244.00; 100-115 lbs 200.00-242.00. Choice 2-3 119 lbs 140.00.

SLAUGHTER GOATS KIDS: Selection 1 40-49 lbs 430.00-460.00; 50-59 lbs 432.00-462.00; 60-69 lbs 432.00-460.00; 70-72 lbs 440.00-448.00; 83-87 lbs 338.00-405.00; 96-98 lbs 370.00-380.00; 105 lbs 360.00-368.00. Selection 1-2 40-49 lbs 400.00-440.00; 50-55 lbs 395.00-438.00; 60-66 lbs 400.00-435.00; 80-88 lbs 300.00-335.00; 93 lbs 325.00. Selection 2 40-44 lbs 350.00; 50-57 lbs 325.00-380.00; 65 lbs 345.00; 70-78 lbs 340.00-360.00.

New Holland Sheep and Goat Auction New Holland, Pa. March 29, 2021

Compared to last week, Woolled and Shorn slaughter lambs sold strong; hair breed slaughter lambs sold strong. Ewes sold steady to 5.00 higher; hair ewes sold strong. Bucks and hair bucks sold weak on a light comparison. Buyer demand was moderate on a moderate supply for the slaughter sheep and lamb sale. Slaughter kids sold 10.00 to 20.00 higher. Nannies sold weak. Slaughter bucks/billies 70 to 80 lbs sold 10.00 to 20.00 higher; bucks/billies 80 to 150 lbs sold steady to 20.00 lower. Wethers sold strong. Buyer demand was moderate on a moderate supply for the slaughter goat sale.

SLAUGHTER LAMBS WOOLED & SHORN: Choice and Prime 1-3 20-25 lbs 315.00-330.00; 30-38 lbs 265.00-325.00; 40-48 lbs 290.00-360.00; 50-56 lbs 295.00-317.00; 60-69 lbs 280.00-330.00; 70-79 lbs 290.00-340.00; 80-85 lbs 270.00-340.00; 90-99 lbs 265.00-337.00; 100-134 lbs 222.00-350.00; 140-145 lbs 205.00-290.00; 155-158 lbs 200.00-240.00. Good and Choice 1-2 32 lbs 250.00; 40-48 lbs 265.00-280.00; 57 lbs 245.00; 60 lbs 270.00; 74 lbs 220.00; 80-85 lbs 210.00-255.00; 90 lbs 230.00-235.00; 100-135 lbs 180.00-215.00; 140-148 lbs 165.00-185.00; 150-198 lbs 155.00-175.00. HAIR BREEDS: Choice and Prime 1-3 25 lbs 310.00; 30-38 lbs 260.00-310.00; 40-48 lbs 260.00-295.00; 50-58 lbs 280.00-325.00; 60-68 lbs 270.00-315.00; 70-78 lbs 280.00-340.00; 81-87 lbs 270.00-312.00; 90-95 lbs 200.00-290.00; 100-135 lbs 215.00-310.00; 150 lbs 135.00. Good and Choice 1-2 20 lbs 200.00; 34-35 lbs 235.00-250.00; 45 lbs 250.00; 50-55 lbs 245.00-275.00; 65 lbs 200.00-250.00; 75-78 lbs 235.00-260.00; 82 lbs 245.00; 110-135 lbs 135.00-195.00.

SLAUGHTER GOATS KIDS: Selection 1 20-29 lbs 75.00-115.00; 30-39 lbs 115.00-145.00; 40-49 lbs 120.00-195.00; 50-59 lbs 95.00-245.00; 60-69 lbs 220.00-270.00; 70-79 lbs 230.00-295.00; 80-89 lbs 280.00-320.00; 90-99 lbs 270.00-330.00. Selection 2 20-29 lbs 70.00; 30 lbs 80.00; 40-49 lbs 70.00-130.00; 50-59 lbs 100.00-150.00; 60-69 lbs 170.00-190.00; 70-79 lbs 190.00. Selection 3 40 lbs 25.00; 50 lbs 50.00.

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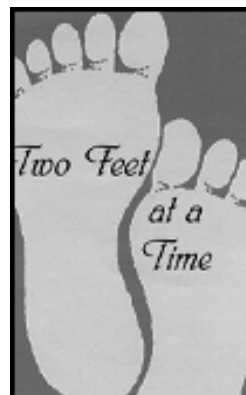
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kycornCONNECTION

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

E15 Coming Soon to Louisville, Lexington, Northern KY and Henderson

KY Corn Unveils Partnership with Thorntons Convenience Stores

Kentucky Corn Promotion Council (KyCPC) has invested with Thorntons Convenience Stores for the installation of new ethanol dispensers at 13 of their Kentucky retail locations. The program marks the largest direct investment by KyCPC in ethanol dispenser infrastructure to date.

At the completion of the project, more than 100 fueling positions will make E15 available to Thorntons customers. The product will be branded as Unleaded88.

“KyCorn initiated a strong friendship with Thorntons over 10 years ago by investing with them to install Louisville’s first E85 dispenser on Fern Valley Road,” said Adam Andrews, KyCorn Programs Director. “We’ve

been very appreciative of the company’s philosophy on ethanol offerings and their commitment to providing advanced liquid fuels to their customers. We were very excited to see them take on the largest E15 expansion in the country, which occurred in Chicago a few years ago. We are simply ecstatic to be a part of their effort to move this initiative into Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio, and Indiana this year.”

Thorntons completed a few installations as a test project in Louisville over a year ago. The decision to move forward with this larger project was based on the performance of those stores. The first opening date for this round of the project is expected to be at a Louisville location on April 30, then six more locations in Louisville

throughout the Spring and Summer.

“Thorntons is thrilled to bring Unleaded88 into new territories as this product has already proven itself to be an important part of our portfolio of fuel offerings,” commented Lee Stevens, Sr. Manager, Supply & Transport Commercial Optimization at Thorntons, LLC. “We are glad to have partnerships via the USDA’s Higher Blends Infrastructure Improvement Program (HBIIP) and the Kentucky Corn Promotion Council. We are confident that the Unleaded88 product will be very successful throughout Kentucky, where we have a large presence of Thorntons stores and look forward to providing high ethanol blends to our Kentucky Guests for years to come.”

www.kycorn.org

Contact Us:

800-326-0906

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KyCorn Promotion Council Chairman

Ray Allan Mackey

Executive Director

Laura Knoth - laura@kycorn.org

Programs Director

Adam Andrews - adam@kycorn.org

Corn planting projections up 60K acres from 2020

According to The ProExporter Network, Kentucky farmers will plant 60,000 acres more than they did in 2020, from 1.49 million acres to 1.55 million acres. Total U.S. corn acres planted is expected to be more than 91 million acres.



KyCorn Scholarship Recipients Announced

The Kentucky Corn Growers Association is proud to announce the recipients of the 2021 scholarship program, which is funded through grower leader contributions.

For eligibility, students must be a child of an association member and attend an accredited Kentucky institution to study agriculture or a related field.

High School students entering college are awarded \$1,000 each, and current college student recipients each receive a \$2,000 award, one of which is named in honor of the late Jim Barton.



Ashley Hinton, from Breckinridge County, is studying Agriculture Education at the University of Kentucky with plans of becoming an agriculture teacher. She is the daughter of Carol and Steve Hinton.



Britney Cox, of Shelby County, is a Junior at the University of Kentucky, studying Career and Technical Education and Animal Sciences. Her dream is to become an FFA advisor. She is the daughter of Kelly and Jennifer Cox.



Sadie McCoun, of Shelby County, will graduate from Christian Academy of Louisville and attend the University of Kentucky to study Biology. She is the daughter of Philip and Monica McCoun.



Jordan Reddick, of Carlisle County, will begin his college experience at Murray State University this fall to study Agribusiness. He is the son of Brad and Amy Reddick.