

BEEFING UP THE FARM

Farmer's daughter creates farm-to-fork spin-off on childhood land

Living through the coronavirus pandemic brought a lot of changes for everyone. For Laura Richard, it brought her closer to her roots, what she was raised doing — farming.

Richard is now president of Larland Beef, a company she began in 2020 on her father's farm in northern Garrard County. Her dad, Larry Donnell — “a real cowboy,” she says — began developing Larland Farm in 1988, which started as a 200-acre dairy. He transitioned into tobacco and crop farming, then eventually to beef cattle.

Four expansions later, it's now 550 acres of cattle he ships out West to feedlots. “We run about 800-1,000 head at any given time,” Richard says.

After losing her job in the thoroughbred industry due to pandemic lay-offs, she decided to pursue a longtime goal of starting her own business.

“The shelves were empty of beef, and I wanted to branch off of his farm, get back to my roots and cattle ...” she said, with an aim for a farm-to-fork option. “Covid was probably a blessing in that way, what pushed me to do it.”

In the first few months of operating, she was awarded a Small Farm Grant through Kentucky State University, which offset costs. They bought freezers, coolers and farmers' market supplies.

Now, Richard owns anywhere from 10-20 head that she finishes on the farm, pasture-raised and grain-fed.

“We finish them somewhere around 1,100-1,200 pounds,” she said.

She sells at Boyle County Farmers' Market, for instance, on which she sits on the board, and through Larland's website, as well as by word of mouth.

“People have been really happy with the product ... I've honestly never had a complaint. And I'm not trying to brag, because there's a lot of great farmers out there doing this,” Richard said.

Richard said their herd is raised humanely and, in addition to grass, they feed with “the farm's special blend of locally-sourced nutrients, including corn and soybeans — we think it's the key to maximum marbling and flavor.”



Laura Richard began going to the stockyards with her dad as a child, spending her evenings and summers checking cattle on the farm.

A fifth-generation farmer, Richard pays no mind to the fact that as a woman in the beef industry, she's a minority.

“I didn't feel weird in that regard, being a woman. I grew up in the stockyards with my dad. I know all those guys — they call me ‘Bubby,’ don't even think they know my real name ...”

All of her summers and after-school time growing up were spent on the farm, on the back of a Quarter Horse, checking cattle. But she wasn't all tomboy — Richard competed in pageants when she was young.

During an interview segment of one show, they asked her to share something interesting about herself.

“My answer was, ‘I learned to castrate bulls when I was about five.’”

She eventually studied broadcasting and electronic media in college.

“I went to ECU, first time I'd been away from the farm ... But it started my creative juices for marketing and photography.”

Richard landed a photography job with Taylor Made Farm, then went into guest services and ended up developing the farm's hospitality department over the last 10 years.

“That's something else that probably helped, being in the thoroughbred industry, also super-male dominated. For

SEE FARMER'S, PAGE 13

Black vultures cause havoc for livestock producers

Vultures are a common sight in Kentucky. Their ubiquitous presence is part of the landscape. They serve an essential role in the food chain as one of nature's garbage disposals. Few people notice them until they fly up from clearing a dead animal from the road unless you are a livestock producer.

Livestock producers are becoming more and more aware of the predatory behavior of black vultures.

Take the case of Cyndi Steele, in Bourbon County, who raises top quality Boer goats for 4-H and FFA projects. In the late spring of 2019, she came home from her full-time job with the Bourbon County Health Department to find one of the show wethers dead with wounds so severe it appeared half-eaten. Her first inclination was coyotes, even though the fatal injuries weren't totally consistent with a coyote attack.

Over the next weeks, she regularly came home to find a severely injured or dead goat. The injuries were particularly gruesome. The predator tore away the anus, rectum, and vagina of the animal to the point Steele described her animals as “disemboweled.” She still wasn't sure what was causing the destruction.

Steele stayed home from work one day and witnessed five black vultures descend on an unsuspecting doe and surround her. The birds spread their wings and began attacking the doe. When the doe swirled, the birds on the opposite side would attack. Steele was able to scare the birds off before the doe was injured, and now she had her answer.

She researched what to do and talked to other livestock producers. She hung effigies

SEE BLACK, PAGE 3

Several plead guilty to crop insurance fraud

Charges stem from multi-peril tobacco claims

Several central Kentucky men, Roger Wilson, Robert Livingood, John Watkins, and Morgan Wayne Culbertson, pleaded guilty in federal court last week to charges related to crop insurance fraud.

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Kentucky issued a press release outlining the charges in the criminal cases.

Wilson, 88, former owner of Clay's Tobacco Warehouse and current owner of Ag Wood, Inc., both in Mt. Sterling, pleaded guilty to conspiring to commit crop insurance fraud before U.S. District Judge Karen K. Caldwell.

Wilson admitted that between September 2013 and May 2018 he arranged for farmers to purchase poor quality tobacco to present to tobacco graders so the farmers could receive poor quality tobacco grades to report to on their federally-backed tobacco insurance (called multi-peril crop insurance or "MPCI") claims of loss.

Wilson further admitted he knew his actions were designed to facilitate the filing of false claims of loss, which in turn caused the federal government to pay out indemnity payments, or to increase the amount of those payments, to farmers who were not entitled to them.

Livingood, 64, a farmer who owns and rents tobacco farmland in Bourbon, Fleming, Harrison, and Nicholas counties, also pleaded guilty to conspiring to commit crop insurance fraud.

Livingood admitted that, in crop year 2014, he submitted a false MPCI claim of loss by submitting fake tobacco sales bills he obtained from Clays Tobacco Warehouse and underreporting the amount of tobacco production he had that year.

He further admitted to selling muddy tobacco, which he knew would be used by other farmers to obtain fake grade reports.

According to his plea agreement, Livingood also obtained MPCI policies in his son's name in crop years 2014 and 2015 even though the crop insured in his son's name actually belonged to Livingood. As a result of his misrepresentations, Livingood caused a loss to the federal government of approximately \$313,652.

Watkins, 49, a farmer who owns and rents tobacco farmland in Bath, Fleming, and Nicholas counties, pleaded guilty to one count of conspiring to commit crop insurance fraud and one count of crop insurance fraud.

In his plea agreement, Watkins admitted to failing to report his total tobacco production from crop years 2011 through 2014, which influenced the federal government to pay out sums of indemnity payments to which he was not entitled. He further admitted to having an agreement with Watkins, a co-defendant, to handle Watkins' MPCI paperwork and to fail to accurately report Watkins' tobacco production, likewise influencing the federal government to pay out indemnity payments to which Watkins was not entitled.

Culbertson, 33, a farmer with tobacco farmland in Montgomery, Clark, and Bath counties, also pleaded guilty to a conspiracy to commit crop insurance fraud.

According to his plea agreement, Culbertson underreported his crop production on his MPCI claims of loss, by, among other things, selling tobacco for cash at Clay's Tobacco Warehouse and failing to report tobacco he sold in others' names.

He also admitted to obtaining fake grade sheets by paying 20 cents per pound to obtain quality adjustments on the tobacco production he did report. In crop years 2015 and 2016, Culbertson also failed to report his total production on his own policies. He also obtained policies and filed claims of loss, including fake sale bills from Clay's Tobacco Warehouse, on MPCI policies in the names of his brother (2014 and 2015), grandfather (2014 and 2015), and mother (2015 and 2016).

Previously, two other farmers, Jesse Smith and R. Chad Price, pleaded guilty to crop insurance fraud related offenses.

On April 29, Smith, 56, pleaded guilty to committing crop insurance fraud. On

May 5, Price, 39, pleaded guilty to conspiring to commit crop insurance fraud and tax evasion. Smith and Price both admitted to working with others to submit false MPCI claims of loss.

Acting U.S. Attorney Carlton S. Shier IV; Jason M. Williams, Special Agent in Charge, United States Department of Agriculture Office of Inspector General; Bryant Jackson, Special Agent in Charge, IRS - Criminal Investigation; James Robert Brown, Jr. Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Louisville Field Office; and Sharon P. Clark, Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Insurance jointly announced the guilty pleas.

The investigation was conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture Office of Inspector General; United States Department of Agriculture

Risk Management Agency; Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation; Federal Bureau of Investigation; and the Kentucky Department of Insurance. The United States was represented by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Kathryn Anderson and Erin Roth.

Smith and Price face a maximum sentence of five years in prison and a fine of \$250,000. Smith, Price, Wilson and Watkins are scheduled to be sentenced on Aug. 19.

Wilson faces a maximum sentence of five years in prison and a fine of \$250,000, while Watkins faces a maximum of 30 years in prison and a fine of \$1 million.

Livingood and Culbertson face a maximum sentence of five years in prison and a fine of \$250,000 and are scheduled to be sentenced on August 12.

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MARKET REPORT: WEEK OF May 11, 2021

Farmers Regional Livestock Market of Glasgow, LLC

Total Receipts: 639. Supply included: 9% Feeder Cattle (15% Steers, 74% Dairy Steers, 11% Heifers); 64% Slaughter Cattle (85% Cows, 15% Bulls); 27% Replacement Dairy Cattle (24% Fresh/Milking Cows, 3% Bred Heifers, 13% Springer Heifers, 28% Open Heifers, 25% Baby Bull Calves, 8% Baby Heifer Calves). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs was 0%; Feeder cattle supply over 600# was 61%.

Steers: Medium and Large 1-2: 305-328# 140.00-151.00; Medium and Large 2-3: 290# 131.00.

Dairy Steers: Large 3: 311# 110.00; 448# 108.00; 508-530# 91.00-107.00; Large 3-4: 430# 87.00; 460# 87.00.

Heifers: Medium and Large 1-2: 278# 140.00; 385# 145.00.

Slaughter Cattle: Cows Breaker 75-80%: 1400-1745# 61.00-68.00; 1525-1740# 71.00-78.00. Cows Boner 80-85% 1080-1440# 58.00-68.00; 1145-1400# 70.0-743.00; 1110-1330# 49.00-54.00. Cows Lean 85-90: 785-1035# 49.0-58.00; 850-1075# 61.00-68.00; 730-1125# 39.00-44.00. Bulls: 1-2: 1590-2230# 89.00-96.00; 1910-2020# 103.00-111.00; 1440-1810# 82.00-84.00.

Fresh/Milking Cows: Supreme 800.00, Approved 1375.00-1475.00, Common 700.00-1075.00

Bred Heifers: Approved T1: 950.00; Medium T1: 825.00; Medium T2 835.00; Common T2: 700.00.

Springer Heifers: Approved T3: 1100.00-1175.00; Medium T3: 900.00-1025.00; Common T3: 700.00-850.00.

Open Heifers: 2 Head 375# 385.00 Jersey; Supreme 4 Head 450# 425.00; Supreme 5 Head 425# 525.00 Jersey; Supreme 6 head, 525# 510.00; Approved 1 Head 350# 250.00; Approved 2 Head, 425-475# 300.00-335.00; Approved 4 Head 475# 310.00 Jersey; Approved 1 Head 575# 485.00; Approved 5 Head 725# 625.00; Medium 3 Head 500-525 # 300.00-335.00; Medium 5 Head 525# 360.00 Jersey; Common 2 Head 725# 485.00.



Black vultures surround a cow with a newborn calf in Lyon County.

Black vultures cause havoc

FROM PAGE 1

in trees, tried to apply for a federal permit that allows more “takes” than the Kentucky permit. Steele said a representative of the federal agency told her to stay home and protect her livestock. Producers told her to use the common practice of “shoot, shovel and shut up.”

The problem finally resolved itself when she purchased new guard dogs, a solution she said was expensive but effective. The purchase made sense, however, when she compared the cost to losing \$10,000 worth of show and breeding animals over a six-week period.

The black vultures causing havoc for Kentucky livestock producers are not the same birds commonly known as turkey vultures. Black vultures are pack hunters and like a fresh kill while the turkey vulture is content with carrion or a carcass. The black vulture is smaller and stockier and has a black head and white tips on its wings. In-flight it flaps more and doesn't glide like the larger turkey vulture with its longer wingspan.

Birds Are Protected

Joe Cain, director of the commodity division of Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation, has coordinated a black vulture sub permit program for several years. Cain said the answer to eradication is simple – “not possible.”

“The Migratory Bird Treaty Act, signed in 1917 with Canada and now includes Japan, Mexico, and Russia, protects black vultures. Opening a treaty to take one species off is a complicated process,” Cain said. “Producers need to realize that black vultures aren't on the Endangered Species list but protected

through this international treaty.”

Black vultures eased their way into Kentucky as they sought more habitat, moving north from South America through Florida, the Gulf area and southern states. As early as 2006, members of the grassroots organization raised concerns, and Farm Bureau developed an advocacy policy.

Farm Bureau started talking with other states and encouraged them to follow Kentucky's lead and press the issue with their national legislators. The problem – not every state had issues with black vultures and some actually liked them.

Finally, in 2014, with extensive work from Farm Bureau's congressional delegation and the help of 5th District Congressman Hal Rogers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife established a pilot program for Kentucky to offer sub permits for black vulture “takes.”

The sub-permit program began in May of 2015 with Kentucky being allocated 350 “takes” with five per producer. The number of individual takes had to be quickly amended to three because the number of permit requests was great.

Since then, the number of takes allowed in Kentucky has increased to 1500. But as Cain pointed out, there are 30,000 beef producers in Kentucky and Farm Bureau can't arbitrarily issue a permit to every producer.

“To apply for a permit, a producer must document predation. The online application is simple, and we try to have no more than a 48-hour turnaround,” Cain said.

KFB's effort has gone a long way to



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Let's end the mask debate



ONE VOICE

Sharon Burton

We have all had the chance to make a decision. You chose to vaccinate or you chose not to vaccinate.

Finally, the powers that be have acknowledged that people who have been vaccinated no longer need to wear a mask.

While you would think this would be cause for celebration, it is fast becoming more highly debated than the original mask mandate of 2020.

I've mostly kept my opinions to myself as people have debated whether the virus is real, whether masks are needed, whether the vaccines are safe, and whether China made the virus in a lab. I think we all have access to the same information and can form our opinions the way we choose.

I've chosen to be compliant for the most part, wearing a mask in public and setting guidelines for my staff and securing safe access to our office for our customers. I've been a good girl, as my Momma would say.

Whether the CDC and state guidelines were good or bad, for the most part they treated everyone the same. Wear a mask and socially distance...that's what we've all been told.

Now, we are being told that people who are vaccinated can go without a mask but anyone who hasn't vaccinated needs to continue to wear a mask. According to the president: vaxx or mask.

I predict we are in for a bunch of trouble, and I'm not sure I can keep my mouth shut at this point. Who is in charge of verifying that a person is vaccinated? There has been talk of requiring people to carry a certification or even wearing a medical bracelet.

We have all had the chance to make a decision. You chose to vaccinate or you chose not to vaccinate. You have your reasons. I had my reason to vaccinate. I respect those who chose not to vaccinate. But, when I go somewhere and someone asks me for proof of vaccination to be able to do what I went there to do, I'm not going to take that lightly.

It's time to move on. If people are running around not wearing a mask, it's because they have chosen not to. Maybe they are vaccinated, maybe they aren't, but they have made an informed decision about their own health.

We don't need the mask police anymore. We have vaccines and we have medication. We have choices. We have brains. We can't single out the vaccinated from the non-vaccinated and expect that to end any other way but badly.

Snack Attack



KENTUCKY SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR

Rae Wagoner

Many of the soybeans grown here in Kentucky, and in the U.S., are genetically modified. Corn, too.

My name is Rae, and I have a snack problem. Having just been on vacation to the beach, I've recently been heavily invested in road trip snacks. It is my experience that road trips REQUIRE snacks, and, as a fan of snack foods in general, this isn't a hardship for me.

But.

As a person who is involved in agriculture, specifically the wonderful world of soybeans, this "non-GMO" business really grinds my gears, to the point that it's interfering with my snack-food purchases.

Many of the soybeans grown here in Kentucky, and in the U.S., are genetically modified. Corn, too. Seeds are genetically modified for a wide variety of good reasons, including pest resistance, drought tolerance, resistance to herbicides, and many more. One of the most recent modifications to be introduced in soybeans is the high-oleic trait, which contains lower saturated fat and three times the amount of beneficial monounsaturated fatty acids than many conventional vegetable oils, which can benefit heart health!

So.

My aggravation with absence marketing (the use of the terms GMO-free and non-GMO, for instance) is twofold. One, many of the foods that proudly tout their non-GMO status... aren't even available in a genetically modified variety. Like popcorn, for instance. There is no GM popcorn (popcorn is, by the way, an awesome road trip snack choice) on the market today, yet many brands of popcorn are labeled as non-GMO. That, my friends, is like paying extra for water marked "wet." It's technically true, but the marketing is shady.

Another product that goes even a step further by paying for "Non-GMO Project Verified" status and displaying that blasted butterfly logo is Triscuit crackers. While I realize that some folks liken this snack cracker to eating flavored wicker furniture, I like 'em. Stay with me, friends: this is where it gets good. Triscuits are a wheat cracker. There is no genetically modified wheat currently available for commercial use. So, in essence, the folks at Nabisco are also selling "wet water."

The second thing that I find to be disingenuous about the non-GMO hoopla is that products that contain GM ingredients are safe, so why does it matter if they're in there or not? Each TRAIT developed by genetic modification has to be rigorously tested and approved by a number of agencies in order to ever reach the marketplace. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) AND the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) each has to be on board for a trait to be approved for market. GM traits are not hitting the market untested. As a matter of fact, genetic modifications are some of the

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The bulls are in a frenzy, but payback is coming



MARKET WATCH

Dewey
Strickler

Weather looks to be beneficial through the third week of May with no major threats on the horizon.

The first look at USDA's 2021-22 ending stocks estimate of 1.507 billion bushels for corn indicates that supplies will be snug, but not as tight as traders anticipated.

Weather looks to be beneficial through the third week of May with no major threats on the horizon. June-July is always a wild card.

Planting is progressing rapidly and is 67 percent complete compared to 52 percent for the average. Chances are for increased acres and above average yield potential.

Looking at exports, they remain strong with inspections last week at 67.2 million bushels. China took the biggest share of shipments. However, there may be some cracks developing as shipments to them fell 4.2 percent last week. If they are down again next week, it will be a sign that their imports could be peaking. It is no secret that if shipments to China fade, so goes the rally in corn.

Soybean stocks for 2021-22 are projected to be up slightly at 140 million bushels but will remain tight. Meanwhile, planting is running at great guns with 42 percent of the crop in the ground versus 22 percent for the average.

If weather holds out through the rest of the month as forecast, an increase in acres is likely. While bullish sentiment in soybeans has reached the stratosphere, exports have been on the downswing.

Inspections last week were up slightly at 8.7 million bushels, but China was barely visible. They have kept a low profile for the past 6 weeks. When soybean exports peak, the pace generally falls somewhere in the range between 65-85 percent through the end of the marketing year. So far, this season, it has declined 92 percent. For months, the bulls have been in a frenzy, but payback is coming!

Wheat is taking their lead from corn and soybeans, and that will likely continue unless weather says otherwise. Last week, the rating improved one point to 49 percent of the crop in good-to-excellent condition. This compares to the rating of 53 percent a year ago. The improvement of weather in the upper Midwest allowed for rapid progress in planting of the spring crop as it is 70 percent done compared to the average of 51 percent. Looking at exports, inspections last week were up slightly to 20 million bushels with the pace of shipment mostly steady the past four weeks.

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China's buying binge continues... until it doesn't

China is even hungrier, richer, and—to the delight of almost every American farmer—more impatient in today's global food market than anyone thought possible even a decade ago.

In fact, according to the data crunchers at Agricultural Economic Insights (aei), China now imports “about 100 million acres worth of crop production, or roughly 25 percent of total crop consumption.”

Think about that; one in four bushels of any grain like soybeans, rice, corn, wheat, and sorghum used in China today is not grown in China today. Part of the reason is that the nation's farming acreage, explains aei, “has remained mostly stable since 1990.”

Another key reason, of course, is that the country's population has been anything but stable. In 1990, China was a nation of 1.13 billion; today it's home to 1.41 billion people, or 18 percent of the world's population.

Put another way, since 1990, China has added as many people as now live in Indonesia, 280 million, the world's fourth most populous nation.

This wild, continuous growth, however, is over. According to the May 10 New York Times, only 12 million children were born in China last year, the lowest birth total since famine-ravaged 1961.

This change, however, can't change China's demographic challenge in the coming decade: it still has too many people to feed from too little land.

In the past, notes aei in a May 10 post, that mattered less. For example, from the 1970s through the 1990s, “China's production and consumption of soybeans was nearly lock-step.”

Of course, balancing the books back then often came with the wave of an autocrat's hand, not the market's free hand.

Soon thereafter, though, a growing, more trade-dependent economy took root and “(a)round 2000... China's consumption of soybeans surged from 20 million metric tons to 114 million in 2020/21...”

That's an “average annualized 7.6 percent” growth rate. As a result, China quickly grew to become the big dog in the global bean business and, now, it buys “more than 60 percent of globally

imported soybeans.”

The growth picture for Chinese corn imports is similar. From the 1970s onward, “Production and consumption have been essentially in lock-stop... In the last three years, however, domestic consumption has outpaced production... [and] for the 2020/21 marketing year, China purchased 13 percent of the globally traded corn...”

In fact, China's grocery list is so long, say the aei analysts, that it now purchases “85 percent of global trade” in sorghum, “more than 60 percent of the global trade in dry milk powder,” and “nearly 30 percent of global beef trade.” (A decade ago, it “essentially imported zero beef.”)

And that's not all.

China now composes “10 percent of the global chicken trade,” and, with the onset of its devastating African Swine Fever outbreak in 2019, China moved from buying “roughly 20 percent of global [pork] trade... to nearly 50 percent for 2020/21.”

With a cash buyer like that roaming global grocery markets, little wonder any food production glitch—like a run of dry weather in South America or a crop-flattening wind in Iowa—sends many commodity markets to once-in-a-decade highs.

But can China's big—and, perhaps, overly big—market influence last?

Big, probably; overly big, probably not. “...China likely holds strong growth in consumption and more reliance on imports,” aei analysts forecast. “But trends will also be impacted by consumer preferences and habits, policies, trade disruption, and global events...”

“In short,” aei concludes, “it will become harder to point to China and make a blanket statement about strong demand for agricultural commodities.”

That's a prudent reading of today's ag export markets. There are reasons—like China's binge buying and today's weather-tightened supplies—why commodity prices soar. Once those reasons flatten or disappear so, too, do the once-in-a-decade markets.

Or, as a now near-90 year old farmer once told me: “I've been through four or five ‘new market plateaus’ in my life and not one ever became an ‘old’ market plateau.”



FOOD & FARM FILE

Alan
Guebert

1990, China was a nation of 1.13 billion; today it's home to 1.41 billion people, or 18 percent of the world's population.

ALAN GUEBERT

publishes a weekly column Farm and Food File through the U.S. and Canada. Past columns, events and contact information are posted at farmandfoodfile.com. Contact Alan Guebert by email at ag-comm@farmandfoodfile.com.

Federal proposals could burden next generation of farmers



**KENTUCKY
FARM
BUREAU
PRESIDENT**

**Mark
Haney**

One of the most important issues facing the agriculture industry today is the ability to pass a farm on to the next generation either by inheritance or through selling. It sounds easy enough but often tax laws can make the process cumbersome and expensive.

We have been fortunate in Kentucky to have some specific legislation to help in the matter. The bill that created the Kentucky Selling Farmers Tax Credit Program passed dur-

ing the 2019 General Assembly and is a prime example of how Kentucky Farm Bureau's advocacy efforts can pay off when working with our legislative members.

Kentucky Senate President Pro Tempore David Givens was instrumental in getting this legislation through to fruition.

The KSFTC Program promotes the continued use of agricultural land for farming purposes by granting tax credits to selling farmers who agree to sell agricultural land and assets to beginning farmers.

We are thankful to Senator Givens for his devotion to agriculture and his help in getting this legislation passed.

However, there is much work that needs to be done to continue this forward progress when it comes to helping with the passing of farmland along to a new generation of farm families. All too

often we see production farmland turn into to housing developments because so many young and beginning farmers just don't have the capital to make the purchase, and an oversized tax bill only makes the situation worse.

There is currently national legislation that has been introduced in the U.S. House and Senate that would eliminate the estate, or "death" tax, which would be of considerable help as it relates to this issue.

But there is also the discussion of lowering the current estate tax exemption to a level that would be detrimental to many farm families.

Lowering the exemption below current levels would cause an increased tax burden on many of them looking to take over the family farm after a death.

The last thing a family needs to worry about at a time like that is how to transfer their property when losing some or all of it because of an undue tax burden. This isn't rocket science folks. Simply put, we must have farms to eat, therefore we must do all we can to ensure ex-

isting farms can be passed on to the next generation without breaking the bank.

Another issue that has surfaced when it comes to inheriting farmland is the announcement of a new proposal to end stepped-up basis when calculating capital gains taxes on inherited income, which would include inherited farmland.

Current stepped-up basis law allows heirs to step up their cost basis in inherited property to match the value on the date of the previous owner's death, meaning that only capital gains above that point could ever be subject to income taxes.

Removing stepped-up basis would require the heir of the property to pay tax gains based on the original purchase price of the farmland rather than the market value on the date of inheritance. Farm Bureau opposes this, and we must continue our efforts, at all levels, to ensure sound legislation is passed that would help farm families, not penalize them for wanting to continue a tradition which we all depend upon.

Snack Attack

FROM PAGE 4

MOST tested scientific advancements in the world, and NO negative health effects can be traced to the consumption of food with genetically modified ingredients.

If you have time for some not-so-light reading, The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine published a report on genetically engineered crops in 2016 that aggregated data from hundreds of tests and experiments pertaining to genetically engineered crops. The full report is available online at NAP.edu. Enter the term Genetically Engineered in the search bar and this report will be the

first result. If you DON'T have time to read it, the Cliff's Notes version is that the scientific community deems GMOs as being as safe (and as nutritious) as their conventional counterparts.

These two issues, absence marketing and the safety of products that contain GMO ingredients (often my very favorite, soy), have me looking at labels in the snack food aisle very carefully, and supporting the science behind genetically modified ingredients with my grocery-buying dollars. I won't knowingly buy a product that boasts the non-GMO label. Sadly, that cuts my snack-buying choices nearly in half. In spite of this hardship, my road trip snack bag was bursting at the seams.

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Quarles, cattle producers celebrate May as Beef Month



Commissioner of Agriculture Dr. Ryan Quarles, right, receives a platter of Kentucky steaks from Kentucky Beef Council Chair Joe Lowe, of Bowling Green, center, and Kentucky Cattlemen Association President Chris Cooper, of Richmond, left. (Kentucky Department of Agriculture photo).

After a year marked by a global pandemic that disrupted the nation's supply chain and cattle prices, Kentucky cattle producers joined Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture Dr. Ryan Quarles to commemorate the month of May as "Kentucky Beef Month."

"If the pandemic showed us anything, it was the importance of our beef cattle farmers. When grocery stores shelves were empty, Kentucky residents turned to our farmers and our farmers delivered," Quarles said. "Beef is not only good for you as part of a healthy, balanced diet, but buying Kentucky Proud beef is good for the state's economy, keeping your hard-earned money right here at home. I ask all Kentuckians to join me and our cattlemen in enjoying some delicious beef during the month of May."

With more than half of Kentucky farms raising cattle, the state is home to 38,000 beef cattle producers, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service. The commonwealth is 14th in the nation for the total number of beef cows and calves with an inventory of

2.15 million head as of January 1. With nearly a million beef cows, Kentucky boasts the largest beef cattle inventory east of the Mississippi River and the eighth-most in the nation.

Kentucky produced more than 667 million pounds of beef last year valued at more than \$701 million. Beef cattle sales accounted for more than \$727 million in cash receipts to Kentucky producers in 2020 and gross income of more than \$739 million.

During the pandemic, Quarles and the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board invested more than \$3.5 million into expanding meat-processing capacity across the commonwealth so the state would not be as reliant upon out-of-state meat processors.

In May 2020, Quarles and Attorney General Daniel Cameron wrote the De-

partment of Justice to request an investigation in possible anti-competitive practices that might have occurred during the processing slowdown, which resulted in higher prices for meat at the grocery store but lower prices on the farm.

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture helps producers find new markets for their cattle, conducts beef cattle shows, tracks market prices, and protects Kentucky's herds from disease. To find out more about the Department's services, go to www.kyagr.com.

Consumers can locate Kentucky Cattlemen's Ground Beef burgers, made with locally-sourced beef raised by Kentucky producers at Kroger stores across the state. To find local beef near you, visit kyproud.com/beef.

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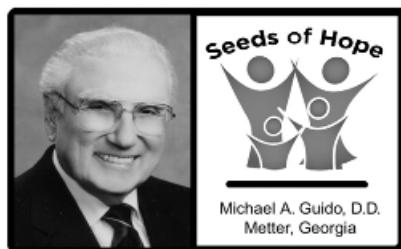
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"I don't want to die. Please do not let me die," he whispered in desperation. He was a world leader – loved by many, dreaded by some, questioned by others. He was a prominent figure on the world's stage having great power and prestige, wealth and control that could not be denied. But in his final moments everything that he had or had accomplished could not extend the life of Hugo Chavez one moment nor release him from his fear of dying. David described the reason that his life ended this way. "Here now is the man who did not make God his stronghold."

Another man came to the end of his life who was also a world leader. His résumé describes him as a ruler with great power and authority, vast wealth and owner of beautiful buildings, a soldier, a poet, one who cared deeply for others and was "a man after God's own heart." When he faced death he said, "When I walk through the dark valley of death, I will not be afraid."

Two different men, two different destinies because of two different choices. One lived his life with no fear of God. He sought fame and the favor of man. The other lived his life in fear of God and sought His favor, often His forgiveness, but always His approval.

All of us have these same choices. We can live for ourselves, as Hugo Chavez did, seeking recognition and power and die in fear as he did. Or we can choose to live for God as David did, serve Him faithfully with great love and passion, and die as he did - in peace and with hope.

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Beef Stroganoff

Olive Oil (drizzle)
 8-oz Crimini Baby Mushrooms (cut in quarters)
 7-oz Shiitake Mushrooms (sliced thin)
 2-Tsp Butter
 2-Ribeye Steaks (trim exterior fat off & cubed)
 Salt
 Pepper (fresh ground)
 1-Cup Flour
 ½-Med Onion (chopped)
 2-Shallots (chopped)
 ½-cup White Cooking Wine
 2-Cups Beef Broth
 1-Tsp Bluegrass Worcestershire Sauce

Heat skillet on med-high heat with olive oil and add butter. Add baby button mushrooms, salt and pepper. Stir often. Cook until golden brown. Add shiitake mushrooms reduce heat and stir. Let Simmer.

Meanwhile, in a medium pot, add water and salt bring to a rapid boil. Add egg noodles. Cook until done. Drain and set aside.

In another skillet

On high heat, add olive oil and butter.

In a large bowl, add flour salt and pepper whisk thoroughly. Add meat to flour, and toss until evenly coated. Using a slotted-spoon, remove meat shaking off any excess flour, and place it into the heated skillet. Repeat with remaining meat stirring together until evenly cooked.

Remove cooked meat and place into a bowl. Set aside.

Using the same skillet with remnants of flour and any meat drippings add in olive oil, and butter. Melt on medium high heat. Add in chopped onions and sauté until tender.

Next, add white cooking wine. Let reduce and thicken. Pour in beef broth, Worcestershire sauce, thyme, pearl onions, and heavy whipping cream. Pour meat back into the skillet, mushrooms and Dijon Mustard. Stir together until meat.

Serve meat mixture on top of egg noodles and garnish with sour cream.



BLT Burgers

1½-Lb Lean Ground Beef
 1-Lb Bacon(cooked) save grease
 Kosher Salt (sprinkle)
 Fresh Cracked Black Pepper
 1-Lrg White Onion (cut in half & sliced thin)
 2-Tbsps Worcestershire Sauce
 2-Tbsps Bacon Grease
 6-English Muffins (toasted)
 Basil Spread:
 1-Cup Mayonnaise
 1-Tbsp Fresh Basil (chopped)
 Toppings:
 2-Lrg Tomatoes (sliced)
 6-Pieces Leafy Green Lettuce
 12-Slices Bacon (cooked)

Add ground beef, salt, pepper Worcestershire sauce. Mix.

In a large skillet, drizzle in bacon grease and heat up over medium heat. Next, place 6 small mounds of onions into the skillet leaving a space in between each one.

Add a mound of the ground beef mixture on top of each onion mounds, and then place another mound of onions on top. Slightly press down with a spatula let sear for a 3-5 minutes. Flip over and sear for another 3-5 minutes. Cook until you reach the desired



doneness.

Basil Spread:

In a food processor, add mayonnaise and fresh basil. Pulse until combined. Transfer into a small bowl or a squirt bottle. Place in fridge until ready to use.

Assemble:

On a toasted English muffin, add basil spread on both top and bottom of English muffin. Add lettuce, tomato, burger, bacon, Add top and serve.

Want to share your favorite recipe?

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Black vultures cause havoc

FROM PAGE 3

help producers, but farmers aren't accustomed to being told they have to wait for permission before they can protect their livestock.

"When I see vultures after a newborn calf, I don't have time to apply for a permit," one producer said. Because of the risk, it is common for beef producers to carry a rifle in their trucks as they check their cattle.

Cain is fully aware of the "shoot, shovel, and shut up" policy.

"We encourage all Kentucky producers to be law-abiding citizens, we recognize it's an issue, and along with the permits, we advocate non-lethal practices including harassment, herd and guard dogs, donkeys and hanging effigies," he

said.

In the fall of 2019, Farm Bureau gathered the U.S. and Kentucky Fish and Wildlife personnel with Kentucky Cattlemen's Association members to discuss other ways to deal with black vultures.

These "talks were getting a bit of traction for qualifying producers to become a safe harbor. But the talks closed when COVID-19 restrictions went into place," Cain said.

"What we are discussing is a state-by-state program where producers can protect their property and livestock by "taking" black vultures – as long as they follow the rules – without fear of prosecution."

Cain also noted that U.S. Fish and Wildlife has been highly cooperative

and representatives understand that black vultures are a problem. He hopes that talks will resume when COVID-19 restrictions are lowered and Fish and Wildlife personnel are back in their offices.

For more information about the sub-permit process, go online to fw.ky.gov/Wildlife/Documents/BlackVulture-DepredationPermitProcess.pdf.

Interested livestock producers may request a sub-permit application by emailing Joe Cain at joe.cain@kyfb.com or calling the KFB Commodity Division at 502-495-7738 and requesting an application.

By Toni Riley
Field Reporter

HELP NEEDED: Universities Research Black Vultures:

Two projects, one conducted by Purdue University with support from the University of Kentucky and Murray State University, and another project conducted jointly by the University of Kentucky and Murray State University, will research the predatory and scavenger habits and the nesting and roosting habits of black vultures.

The Purdue project determines through necropsies if an animal carcass has been killed or cleaned by black vultures. This determination will allow adequate compensation for the loss of the animal through a federal indemnity program. Kentucky livestock producers can support this study. Producers finding a carcass within 24 hours of death can contact UK Extension Wildlife Biologist Dr. Matt

Springer. Springer will retrieve the carcass and transport it to Purdue for study.

Springer and Murray State University are conducting a citizen-based research project to study black vulture nesting habits. Producers can report black vulture nest sites anywhere in the state. This study is part of a widespread project across the Southeast United States. The goal is to be better understand black vulture populations and behaviors, potentially mitigating black vulture damages.

Livestock producers interested in being a part of either study should contact Springer at mattspringer@uky.edu, 859-257-8633, or Phil Kavouriaris at Murray State University msu.blackvultures@murraystate.edu, 270-288-6097.

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CAN EATING BEEF BE SUSTAINABLE?

Source: BestFoodFacts.org - The Center for Food Integrity

Sustainable food is important to many people, including farmers and food producers. As we have explored the complexity of food production decisions with the help of BestFoodFacts.com, we've looked at the dimensions of sustainability, animal confinement, antibiotic use, and GMOs.

This post examines the methods used to raise and feed cattle for beef. Most beef cattle live in grass pastures most of their lives. After calves are weaned from their mothers, they may either be "grass fed" or "grain fed" and sometimes a combination of these two methods.

Grass-fed beef comes from cattle raised primarily on grass, pasture or hay. Some grass-fed beef programs include non-grain products, such as soyhull pellets and others. Grain-fed beef comes from cattle who are fed a diet of high-energy grains, which includes corn, soy meal and other ingredients. Grain-fed beef may also be called corn-fed.

Questions around the sustainability of beef have recently been raised, as studies have examined the greenhouse gas emissions linked to livestock and beef production. An article by Tamar Haspel in the Washington Post explained some of the key considerations and noted there are many connected factors, including methane emissions, manure management, specific feeding and cropping practices, and more.

"Some grass-fed cattle are better for the planet than some grain-fed, and vice versa," Haspel states.

"No matter what strategy you choose, there are always trade-offs," Dr. Rattan Lal, director of the Carbon Management and Sequestration Center at Ohio State University, stated in the article.

We reached out to Dr. Jason Rowntree, associate professor in animal science at Michigan State University, who is conducting research to better understand sustainable ways to raise cattle. Dr. Rowntree became interested in the topic while he was researching beef cattle at Louisiana State University. He and his family lived in Baton Rouge when Hurricanes Katrina and Rita caused extensive damage to the area and many farms.

"I began thinking about the resiliency of our food system. We do have a solid food system, but I wanted to find out how to make our food system better and more resilient," he said. "For any system to be sustainable long-term, it's got to be something we can sustain environmentally, it has to be profitable, and it's got to be a system that can be supported socially."

Some conversations about beef production sustainability involve greenhouse gas emissions linked to livestock and beef production.

"There's always balance to this discussion," Dr. Rowntree said. "We understand that science is revealing the fact that we have made some mistakes in how

we grow food. We've been addressing things strictly from volume perspective. We are learning about actions that have a better impact on the environment and contribute to food security."

About 80 percent of beef in the United States is grain-fed. Because the animals receive a high-energy diet, they reach their final weight faster, which reduces the amount of land and water required.

"If we want more land for wildlife and recreation, it means we have less land to grow food on. If we have less land to grow food on, we then focus on how to be more intense and efficient, which can have deleterious effects to the environment. A balance is needed," Dr. Rowntree said.

His current research is looking at ways to improve grass-fed beef operations. On the research farm, Dr. Rowntree and his colleagues study various practices, such as working to add carbon to the soil, increasing biodiversity and selecting cattle with genetics best suited for grass feeding. The results have been promising.

"As our land has gotten better, we can run more cows on less land and with fewer inputs. Our research has actually shown we can produce beef with a net carbon sink to the environment," Dr. Rowntree said.

But, he noted that there are tradeoffs. "Grass-fed does require more land to produce the same amount of food. You can't have your cake and eat it too."

He is hopeful that the research will find ways to reduce costs for beef farmers, which can support affordable beef for consumers, help farmers be profitable and improve the long-term sustainability of farming.

"Ranchers are people. Farming families are people. Farmers have to feed their family day in and day out," he said of his work to improve farmers' livelihoods.

Both grain-fed and grass-fed systems can be sustainable, Dr. Rowntree believes. He said there are many misunderstandings about beef production. For instance, not all grain that is raised goes into animal feed, because much of it is used for other purposes. Research has shown that cows do not produce as much methane gas as was once believed.

"Cows are ruminants, which means they can upcycle nutrients from plants that we can't. They eat grass from untillable ground, so grazing cows are not taking away from land to grow crops," he said.

Beef cattle are either grass-fed or grain-fed. Grass-fed beef takes more time and requires more land to produce the same amount of food, while grain-fed beef concentrates animals in smaller areas and requires land and water to grow crops. Both methods of raising beef can be sustainable from the perspective of the environment, animal well-being and farmer livelihood.

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.



Kentucky Agriculture & Environment in the Classroom, Inc.



Can I afford my own bale wrapper?



I get my best questions from producers. Such as this one: How many acres do I need to justify buying my own bale wrapper?

Digging deeper into this question makes me better appreciate my Ag Econ colleagues, because, as you will see, it is complicated.

Figuring the cost is the easy part. Wrappers can be purchased new or used and the cost will depend on the type, model and features. To determine cost, I used a loan calculator to finance varying amounts at two interest rates, figuring to pay off the loan in five years. Annual cost ranged from \$1056 for \$5000 at 2 percent interest to \$7,128 for \$30,000 at 7 percent interest (Table 1).

To determine the dollar value advantage for making baleage over hay, I considered two main benefits: lower storage loss and lower supplementation costs. For storage loss, I compared netwrapped hay stored outside to baleage. In this scenario, netwrapped bales lose about 15 percent of their dry matter in storage. This loss was valued using four different values per ton of dry matter (Table 2). Even at \$100 per ton, this loss equaled only \$15, a very

The Forage Doctor

By Jimmy Henning



modest benefit. Granted that netwrapped hay stored outside would lose nutritive value as well as dry matter, but this was

not accounted for in this analysis.

Second, I considered savings in supplementation for cows during lactation. To do this, I compared hay with 8 percent crude protein and 48 percent TDN to baleage testing 14 percent crude protein and 60 percent TDN. Putting these two forages through the UK Beef Forage Supplementation tool, I determined that 13 pounds of soyhulls were needed per day if our low quality hay were fed to 1250 pound beef cows in lactation. I estimated that lactating cows might need supplementation for 60 days (March and April) with a spring calving herd. At current prices, this comes up to a staggering \$87 additional supplementation costs needed for hay vs baleage (the baleage did not require any supplementation).

When I ran this by my UK beef nutrition colleague and a knowledgeable county agent, it was clear that a) my nutrition example was too extreme, and b) few would consider feeding that much

SEE CAN I, PAGE 15



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BEEF

Farmer's daughter creates farm-to-fork spin-off on land she grew up on

FROM PAGE 1

nearly a decade (of her career), I was riding the trenches with men.”

When COVID-19 hit, the department was cut.

“The rest is history,” Richard said. “We started processing beef, and Covid had us take off since there was none to buy. We got some processing spots here locally, developed a customer base that way.”

She didn't take her

goals lightly.

“Farming can be volatile, it was nerve-racking there for a little while ... It was make or break, needed Larland Beef to take off. We're blessed it did, but we still have a long way to go.”

At 71, her dad still operates “every aspect of the farm,” along with help from Richard's husband, Will, who came to work for the farm three years ago. Her whole family, including mother Debbie,

have supported her along the way, she said, and she's thrilled that her 2-year-old daughter, Liv, could become a sixth-generation farmer.

“The goal is to expand. If I was being truthful, I'd love to start a farm market or have a storefront in a downtown,” she says. As her dad and husband do most of the day-to-day on-the-farm management, she focuses on the marketing aspect of the company.



Larry Donnell holds granddaughter Liv Richard, from left, with wife Debbie, with daughter Laura Richard and husband Will, on Larland Farm in northern Garrard County.

“And taking beef orders, which is really my favorite thing to do ...” Richard said. “It's fulfilling to hear customers like it, they're shopping local

and supporting farms. That's what I'm in it for.” To find out more about Larland Beef or to shop, visit larlandbeef.com. Richard can be contacted

by emailing larlandbeef@gmail.com or calling (859) 321-7966.

By Bobbie Curd
Field reporter



Cattle graze on the Larland Farm where Laura Richard became president of Larland Farm in Garrard County after the pandemic began.

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Owensboro, KY

Cattle markets more stable a year into COVID-19 pandemic

A year ago, cattle markets were swinging up and down amid the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, cattle markets are more stable, and the future looks promising.

"2021 looks a whole lot like the 2020 we expected had it not been for COVID-19," said Kenny Burdine, agricultural economist for the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. "The supply this year looks about the same as it did last year, maybe a little bit better. The calf crop will be a bit smaller, which usually helps support our fall markets."

Burdine said one thing that is really helping is improved demand. When COVID-19 hit, most of the country shut down. Many restaurants closed or reduced sales without indoor dining, and the demand for beef went down. But now with fewer restrictions, warmer weather for outdoor dining and many people going back out, demand is up.

"I think everyone expects more of the constraints to be lifted as we move through this year," Burdine said. "Demand should continue to improve throughout 2021."

The first few months of 2021 were encouraging in terms of exports. The U.S. moved quite a bit of beef to other countries, with China particularly strong the first two months of 2021.

"The combination of improving demand, increased exports and just a more normal scenario overall points to a better 2021," Burdine said. "The fall feeder cattle board is

trading at a big premium. That means the expectation is that prices are going to be a whole lot better as we get into summer and fall. So, a lot of our fall cow-calf operations that are now moving weaned calves are going

to benefit from the fact that those calves could be placed in a grazing program and sold on a much stronger market this fall."

The cattle industry has weathered the pandemic storm, but not without significant impacts on

profitability for cattle producers across the system. Impacts were seen on cow-calf, stocker, backgrounding and finishing operations. Burdine said direct payments through the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program cer-

tainly helped, but they didn't make up for what producers lost last year.

"There were losses last year that we're not going to get back, but we are certainly set up for an improved 2021," he said. "Our newest challenge is

drastically higher feed prices, which are impacting costs for growing operations and the value of heavy feeder cattle being sold."

By Aimee Nielson
University of Kentucky

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Can I afford my own bale wrapper?

FROM PAGE 12

supplement. Feeding six pounds per day was a more 'normal' supplementation level. So I rolled back the supplementation savings in Table 2 to \$40 per 60 day feeding period. As it turns out, it takes about a ton of forage dry matter to feed a 1250 pound cow for 60 days. Therefore the \$40 savings could be considered 'per ton' which allowed calculations in Table 2 to be per ton of dry matter. You could argue that the cost for plastic should be accounted for here, but I will balance that cost with that of a bedding operation needed when making hay and call it even. (I told you I was not an economist).

To calculate the tons needed to make the annual wrapper payment, I divided the annual cost by \$59 (the added value if forage was valued at \$60 per ton). From this calculation, it would take 121 tons of baleage annually to pay for a \$30,000 wrapper in five years (Table 3).

Table 1. Annual cost to finance varying amounts over five years at two different interest rates

Annual Cost
Amount financed, 5-year payback

| Rate | \$5000 | \$1000 | \$15,000 | \$20,000 | \$30,000 |
|------|---------|---------|----------|----------|----------|
| 2% | \$1,056 | \$2,100 | \$3,144 | \$4,212 | \$6,312 |
| 7% | \$1,188 | \$2,376 | \$3,564 | \$4,752 | \$7,128 |

Table 2. The estimated added value of a ton of grass baleage compared to a ton of dry hay on a dry matter basis for hay at four different forage values. Quality value was calculated to be the cost of additional supplementation needed for a ton of hay compared to baleage for 60 days of feeding to a cow in lactation.

Forage Value Per Ton Dry Matter

| | \$40 | \$60 | \$80 | \$100 |
|------------------|------|------|------|-------|
| 15% Storage Loss | 6 | 9 | 12 | 15 |
| Quality | \$40 | \$40 | \$40 | \$40 |
| Total Value | \$46 | \$49 | \$52 | \$55 |

At a presumed yield of two tons of forage dry matter per acre, that equates to only 62 acres of baleage needed annually to justify the cost in our most expensive scenario.

Are there flaws in this logic? Probably. You could argue for less added value from supplementation savings, but you would have to balance that with the cost of losing body condition in lactating cows that are not well fed.

The bottom line: this scenario and calculation is different for each producer. But the fact that a fairly low number of acres of baleage were needed to make the payment on a pretty much full cost implement indicates a significant amount of added value for making baleage.

So, should you buy your own wrapper? To quote my Ag Economics colleagues, "it depends."

Happy foraging.

Table 3. Number of tons needed to payback varying principal amounts and two interest rates for baleage versus dry hay considering storage losses and additional supplementation needed for 60 days of feeding to a 1250 pound lactating beef cow.

Tons to payback purchase price in five years
with forage valued at \$60 per ton
Amount Financed

| Interest Rate | \$5000 | \$10,000 | \$15,000 | \$20,000 | \$30,000 |
|---------------|--------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 2% | 18 | 36 | 53 | 71 | 107 |
| 7% | 20 | 40 | 60 | 81 | 121 |

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kycorn CONNECTION

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

KyCorn Talks Bourbon with NCGA, Frazier Museum and Green River Master Distiller



Bourbon is a uniquely American beverage, in that it's the nation's only native spirit. But you can't tell the story of Bourbon without telling the story of America's crop: corn.

To help do that, the National Corn Growers Association traveled to the Frazier History Museum for a special recording of their podcast, *Wherever*

Jon May Roam. Hosted by NCGA Chief Executive Officer Jon Doggett, *Wherever Jon May Roam* follows Jon throughout his travels around the country to examine the amazing world of corn, America's top crop.

The latest episodes feature Bourbon and its deep roots in Kentucky agriculture.

"As the first official stop on the Bourbon Trail, we were thrilled to have Jon chat about our signature corn product at the Frazier History Museum," Laura Knoth, KyCorn Executive Director said. "There, in the middle of the exhibit on Bourbon, we wanted to give his listeners a deeper appreciation of the unique way that corn farmers helped build and grow the Bourbon industry."

KyCorn staff joined Doggett in the conversation along with Andy Treinen, museum president and CEO and 8th generation master distiller Jacob Call from Green River Distilling. KyCorn recently partnered with Green River in the production of Yellow Banks Bourbon, where sales will help support corn production research. The partnership is the focus of a second podcast. To listen, visit kycorn.org.

www.kycorn.org

Contact Us:

800-326-0906

KyCGA President

Richard Preston

KyCorn Promotion Council Chairman

Ray Allan Mackey

Executive Director

Laura Knoth - laura@kycorn.org

Programs Director

Adam Andrews - adam@kycorn.org

20
Million Bushels
of Kentucky corn are
used annually by local
distilleries.

\$8.6
Billion
is generated annually
from the sale of Kentucky
bourbon.

Heartland Whiskey Competition for Craft Distillers is coming to Louisville, July 22-23



KyCorn is happy to announce that the next Heartland Whiskey Competition will take place July 22-23 in Louisville, and craft distillers from Kentucky are invited to compete.

This is the third successive Heartland Whiskey Competition that state corn marketing associations throughout America's Heartland have come together to sponsor. The biennial contest is sanctioned by the American Craft Spirits Association and strictly limited to craft whiskeys that contain some amount of corn as an ingredient.

Any craft distiller in the U.S. is eligible to enter product for judging

in several categories. According to the Kentucky Distiller's Association, there are 19 craft distillers in the commonwealth.

"We are thrilled to once again work with the state corn associations and support a competition that highlights small distilleries in their individual states which this covers over 90 percent of all U.S. craft distilleries," said Margie A.S. Lehrman, Chief Executive Officer of ACSA. "Ours is a rapidly growing industry that requires continual support which corn growers have so graciously provided these last several years. This competition provides craft distilleries—many of which are

independent, family-run businesses—a unique opportunity for visibility among consumers and distributors."

Spirits competitions carry significant weight in the spirits industry, as award medals are often the reason a consumer purchases a product at retail. Kentucky distillers have performed well in previous Heartland Whiskey competitions, earning several coveted medals.

ACSA will select judges from accomplished mixologists who have experience with craft spirits. The actual judging will occur July 22 and 23 and winners will be announced in early August.

AUCTION/MARKET

Blue Grass South

Stanford, KY

May 13, 2021

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

62 hd. 809# 134.90 mixed
 66 hd. 860# 133.50 bwf
 59 hd. 863# 134.00 blk
 60 hd. 866# 129.75 blk-charx
 60 hd. 893# 128.50 charx-blk
 59 hd. 897# 131.00 blk
 60 hd. 916# 130.85 blk
 64 hd. 926# 126.80 blk-charx
 60 hd. 939# 127.75 blk
 51 hd. 989# 119.00 blk
 51 hd.1044#111.75 blk-charx

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

85 hd. 636# 136.25 blk
 75 hd. 674# 134.90 blk-charx
 78 hd. 715# 134.00 blk

Kentuckiana Livestock Market

Owensboro, KY

May 10, 2021

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

28 hd. 708# 127.50 blk

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

23 hd. 632# 130.00 blk

Blue Grass Maysville

Maysville, KY

May 11, 2021

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

23 hd. 644# 140.25 blk

KY-TN Livestock Auction

Guthrie, KY

May 13, 2021

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

20 hd. 567# 145.00 bbwf

58 hd. 917# 126.00 bbwf

Feeder Bulls: Medium & Large 1-2

21 hd. 541# 135.00 bbwf

35 hd. 618# 132.50 bbwf

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

28 hd. 428# 141.00 bbwf

38 hd. 493# 138.00 bbwf

33 hd. 556# 131.00 bbwf

26 hd. 619# 116.50 bbwf

Blue Grass of Campbellsville

Campbellsville, KY

May 12, 2021

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

29 hd. 665# 135.75 blk

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

27 hd. 646# 120.25 blk

Mid-KY Livestock Market

Upton, KY

May 11, 2021

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

24 hd. 811# 120.00 blk

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

25 hd. 515# 125.00 blk

20 hd. 585# 124.50 blk

United Producers Owenton

Owenton, KY

May 12, 2021

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

118 hd. 817# 134.25 blk

Blue Grass Stockyards

Lexington, KY

May 11, 2021

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

60 hd. 883# 131.00 blk

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

30 hd. 675# 132.00 blk-charx

Washington Co. Livestock

Springfield, KY

May 10, 2021

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

25 hd. 700# 138.00 blk

62 hd. 726# 135.10 blk-charx

59 hd. 795# 133.70 blk

Blue Grass East

Mt. Sterling, KY

May 12, 2021

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

70 hd. 672# 130.00 blk

Lake Cumberland Livestock

Somerset, KY

May 15, 2021

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

58 hd. 900# 124.75 blk

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

70 hd. 814# 116.75 mixed

64 hd. 843# 115.10 mixed

Paris Stockyards

Paris, KY

May 13, 2021

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

36 hd. 717# 135.50 blk

62 hd. 851# 126.00 blk-mixed

48 hd. 967# 118.40 mixed

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

68 hd. 750# 122.80 blk

78 hd. 802# 115.75 blk-charx

Blue Grass of Richmond

Richmond, KY

May 14, 2021

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

66 hd. 833# 132.00 blk

63 hd. 871# 126.95 mixed

29 hd. 892# 121.25 blk-charx

56 hd. 990# 119.00 mixed

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

22 hd. 737# 125.50 mixed

Russell County Stockyards

Russell Springs, KY

May 12, 2021

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

21 hd. 684# 135.00 charx

20 hd. 749# 129.25 charx

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

76 hd. 690# 125.75 blk-charx

Central Kentucky Premier Heifer Sale

June 5th, 2021 • 1:00 PM EST
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- Guaranteed bred to bulls with known EPDs and have met stringent requirements for health, quality and pelvic measurements.
- Guaranteed pregnant 30 days past sale.
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AUCTION/MARKET

KENTUCKY GRAIN PRICES

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.

Eastern Cornbelt Ethanol Plant Report 05/17/2021 Indiana Ohio Illinois

Yellow Corn Spot Bid 6.54-6.94

Dried Distillers Grain (\$/ton)
10% moisture 250.00-280.00

Modified Wet Distillers (\$/ton)
50-55% moisture 120.00

Kentucky Weekly Cattle Receipts as reported at local markets:

| | |
|----------|--------|
| 04/24/21 | 20,024 |
| 05/01/21 | 17,255 |
| 05/08/21 | 15,244 |
| 05/15/21 | 15,965 |

| 05/14/2021 Bids for next day Cash Bids | 4:00 pm est | Louisville | Pennyrile | Purchase | Bluegrass | Green River | Northern KY |
|--|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| Corn #2 Yellow | | 6.85 | 6.84-6.94 | 6.69-6.74 | 6.54 | 6.89 | 7.12 |
| Corn #2 White | | | | 6.73 | | | |
| Soybeans #1 Y | | 15.67 | 15.91-16.16 | 16.06-16.22 | 15.86 | 16.21 | 16.07 |
| Wheat #2 SRW | | NA | 7.07 | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Barley | | | | | | | |
| New Crop Delivery Contract | | | | | | | |
| Corn #2 Yellow | | 5.35 | 5.38-5.43 | 5.28-5.53 | 5.18 | 5.53 | 5.54 |
| Corn #2 White | | | | 5.48-5.63 | | | |
| Soybeans #1 Y | | 13.40 | 13.76-13.91 | 14.00-14.06 | 13.56 | 13.86 | 13.90 |
| Wheat #2 SRW | | 6.95 | 6.72-6.92 | 7.07-7.17 | 6.82 | 6.92 | 7.11 |
| Barley | | | | | | | |

| Weekly Feed Ingredient Price Wholesale prices, \$ per ton Rail or Truck FOB Location | Owensboro Grain 05/17/2021 | Commonwealth Agri-Energy Hopkinsville 05/17/2021 | St. Louis Weekly Feed Prices 05/11/2021 | Memphis Weekly Feed Report 05/11/2021 |
|--|-------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Soybean Meal 48% Sol | 438.90 | — | 445.00-450.00 | 467.00 |
| Soybean Hulls | 200.00 | — | — | 155.00 |
| Corn Distillers Grain Dried | — | 253.00 | — | — |
| Distillers Grain Modified | — | 141.00 | — | — |
| Distillers Grain Wet | — | 87.00 | — | — |
| Corn Condensed Solubles | — | NA | — | — |
| Corn Gluten Feed 20-21 pct | — | — | 275.00 | — |
| Corn Gluten Meal 60 pct | — | — | 670.00 | — |
| Cottonseed Meal 41 pct | — | — | 400.00-405.00 | 350.00-360.00 |
| Whole Cottonseed | — | — | — | 385.00 |
| Wheat Middlings | — | — | 140.00-150.00 | — |

| Corn Belt Feedstuffs Report 05/11/2021 | Daily Direct Hog Prices LM_HG218 05/17/2021 Barrows & Gilts Purchased Swine Receipts: 6,639 Base Price: \$103.12-\$122.00 | FOR DAILY LIVESTOCK AND GRAIN MARKET REPORTS |
|---|---|--|
| 442.00-475.00 | | |
| — | | |
| 240.00-275.00 | Wt. Avg. \$112.25 | |
| — | | |
| — | | |
| 200.00-230.00 | Compared to prior day, wt. avg. base prices were 1.20 lower. | |
| 630.00-635.00 | | |
| — | | |
| — | | |
| — | 5 Day Rolling Average: \$115.01 | |
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Loretto Grain

Currently Contracting Fall Grain

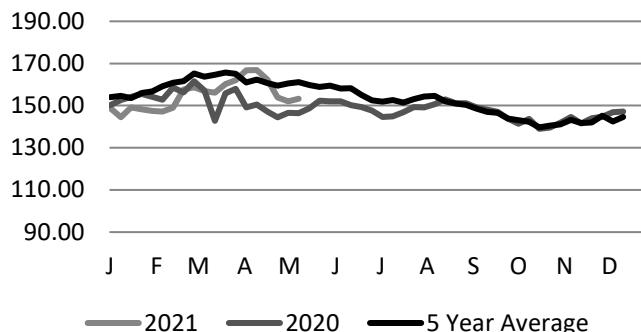
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at peterson-farms.com

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270-699-0792
Deliveries call: Brent Hupman
502-827-3344

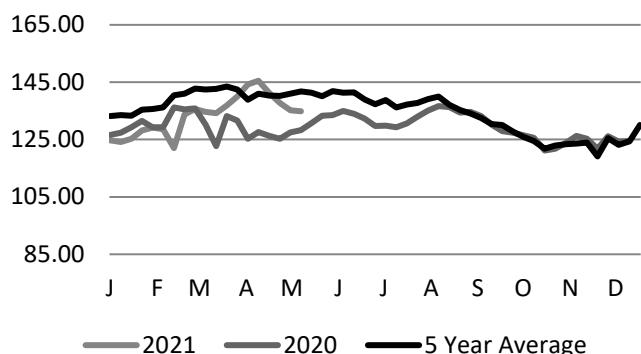


AUCTION/MARKET

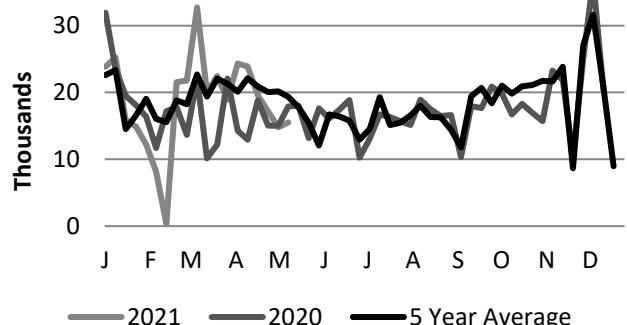
**WEEKLY 400-600 LB FEEDER STEER M&L 1-2
WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE (\$/CWT)**



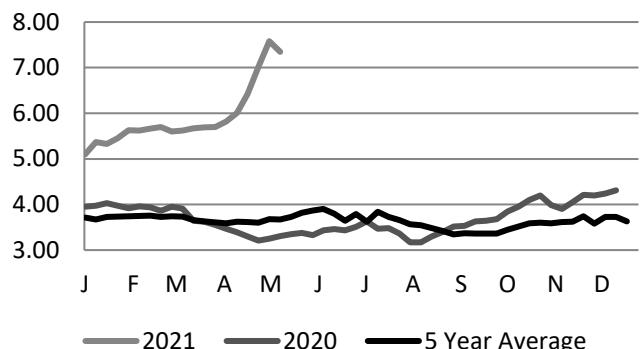
**WEEKLY 400-600 LB FEEDER HEIFER M&L 1-2
WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE (\$/CWT)**



WEEKLY KENTUCKY CATTLE AUCTION RECEIPTS



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



Producers Livestock Sheep and Goat Auction , San Angelo, Texas May 11, 2021

Compared to last week slaughter lambs sharply lower. Slaughter ewes 5.00-10.00 lower. Feeder lambs not well tested. Nannies weak to 10.00 lower; kids weak. Trading and demand moderate at best.

SLAUGHTER LAMBS WOOLED & SHORN: Choice and Prime 1-2 43 lbs 286.00; 50-58 lbs 276.00-288.00; 60-62 lbs 256.00-280.00; 70-75 lbs 234.00-272.00; 85 lbs 254.00; 95 lbs 252.00. Choice and Prime 2-3 108-130 lbs 150.00-188.00. Choice 1-2 74-75 lbs 230.00; 95 lbs 190.00. Choice 2-3 122-140 lbs 130.00-134.00.

HAIR BREEDS: Choice and Prime 1-2 33-38 lbs 270.00-286.00; 40-49 lbs 262.00-288.00; 50-59 lbs 260.00-288.00; 60-69 lbs 260.00-286.00; 70-78 lbs 234.00-270.00; 80-89 lbs 233.00-260.00; 90-98 lbs 220.00-250.00; 100-113 lbs 228.00-260.00. Choice and Prime 2-3 128 lbs 226.00. Choice 1-2 42-49 lbs 250.00-260.00; 52-59 lbs 240.00-260.00; 60-69 lbs 240.00-258.00; 71-79 lbs 222.00-232.00; 82-88 lbs 220.00-232.00; 90 lbs 220.00; 103-116 lbs 190.00-204.00.

SLAUGHTER GOATS KIDS: Selection 1 45-49 lbs 442.00-462.00; 50-59 lbs 440.00-469.00; 60-69 lbs 440.00-466.00; 70-78 lbs 445.00-455.00; 90 lbs 390.00. Selection 1-2 40-49 lbs 390.00-438.00; 50-59 lbs 415.00-438.00; 60-69 lbs 400.00-436.00; 73-75 lbs 400.00-440.00; 80-88 lbs 300.00-370.00; 90-95 lbs 360.00-365.00; 100-107 lbs 365.00-375.00. Selection 2 40-48 lbs 340.00-392.00; 50-58 lbs 330.00-380.00; 60-69 lbs 325.00-380.00; 70-73 lbs 340.00-380.00.

New Holland Sheep and Goat Auction New Holland, Pa. May 10, 2021

Compared to last week, slaughter woolled and shorn lambs sold steady. Hair breed lambs sold steady. Ewes and hair ewes sold strong. Bucks sold steady on a light comparison with no comparison on hair bucks. Buyer demand was moderate on a moderate to heavy supply for the slaughter sheep sale. Slaughter kids sold weak. Nannies/does sold steady. Bucks/billies sold weak. Wethers sold 20.00 to 40.00 higher. Buyer demand was moderate on a moderate supply for the slaughter goat sale.

SLAUGHTER LAMBS WOOLED & SHORN: Choice and Prime 1-3 40-48 lbs 270.00-320.00; 50-59 lbs 297.00-345.00; 60-65 lbs 293.00-330.00; 70-79 lbs 275.00-320.00; 80-89 lbs 284.00-325.00; 90-98 lbs 285.00-335.00; 100-115 lbs 295.00-365.00; 140-148 lbs 230.00-275.00; 150-190 lbs 170.00-250.00. Good and Choice 1-2 51 lbs 265.00; 61 lbs 250.00; 78 lbs 220.00; 80-88 lbs 212.00-275.00; 98 lbs 177.00; 100-135 lbs 210.00-280.00.

HAIR BREEDS: Choice and Prime 1-3 49 lbs 295.00; 50-58 lbs 290.00-317.00; 60-68 lbs 290.00-320.00; 70-78 lbs 280.00-300.00; 89 lbs 285.00; 90-95 lbs 275.00-315.00; 101-133 lbs 210.00-360.00; 143 lbs 190.00. Good and Choice 1-2 53 lbs 280.00; 65-69 lbs 277.00-285; 78 lbs 270.00; 83-88 lbs 252.00-260.00; 90 lbs 265.00; 124-130 lbs 145.00-190.00.

SLAUGHTER GOATS KIDS: Selection 1 30-39 lbs 85.00-120.00; 40-49 lbs 110.00-195.00; 50-59 lbs 200.00-290.00; 60-69 lbs 205.00-290.00; 70-79 lbs 270.00-350.00; 80-89 lbs 320.00-390.00; 90-99 lbs 305.00-355.00. Selection 2 30-39 lbs 75.00-90.00; 40-49 lbs 110.00-115.00; 50-59 lbs 125.00-192.00; 60-69 lbs 155.00-190.00; 70-79 lbs 175.00-225.00.

United Producers Inc. Graded Sheep/Goat Sale - Bowling Green, Ky. May 13, 2021

Lamb prices for 45-60 lbs dipped however mid to heavy weight lambs continue to remain strong. Kid prices remained strong. 970 hd. received 952 hd. graded

SLAUGHTER LAMBS WOOLED: Choice and Prime 1-2 54 lbs 265.00; 68 lbs 260.00; 87 lbs 255.00; 113 lbs 230.00. Choice 2 53 lbs 270.00; 70 lbs 260.00; 97 lbs 260.00; 146 lbs 115.00. Good and Choice 2-3 73 lbs 230.00.

HAIR BREEDS: Choice and Prime 1-2 53 lbs 250.00; 67 lbs 232.50; 87 lbs 230.00; 100-110 lbs 130.00-230.00. Good and Choice 2-3 55 lbs 200.00. SLAUGHTER GOATS KIDS: Selection 1 55 lbs 460.00; 67 lbs 435.00. Selection 1-2 90 lbs 320.00. Selection 2 38 lbs 340.00; 50-59 lbs 340.00-440.00; 70 lbs 380.00; 93 lbs 270.00. Selection 3 48 lbs 340.00.

WEEKLY COW SUMMARY

| Slaughter Cows | Average | High | Low |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| Breakers | 53.50-76.50 | 61.50-83.00 | 57.00 |
| Boners | 43.00-74.00 | 52.50-83.00 | 40.00-58.50 |
| Lean | 36.00-70.50 | 52.00-72.00 | 30.00-60.00 |
| Slaughter Bulls | Average | High | Low |
| Yield Grade 1&2 | 73.00-104.00 | 89.00-111.00 | 60.00-92.00 |

May 13, 2021

Bowling Green, KY

SLAUGHTER GOATS: 216

Kids-Selection 1 55 lbs 460.00; 67 lbs 435.00. **Selection 1-2** 90 lbs 320.00.

Selection 2 38 lbs 340.00; 51-59 lbs 380.00-440.00; 70 lbs 380.00; 93 lbs 270.00.

SLAUGHTER SHEEP: 614

Woolled-Choice and Prime 1-2 54 lbs 265.00; 68 lbs 260.00; 87 lbs 255.00; 113 lbs 230.00. **Woolled-Choice 2** 53 lbs 270.00; 70 lbs 260.00; 97 lbs 260.00; 146 lbs 115.00. **Hair Breeds-Choice and Prime 1-2** 53 lbs 250.00; 67 lbs 232.50; 87 lbs 230.00; 100-110 lbs 130.00-230.00.

AUCTION/MARKET

STATE AVERAGES

| | <u>This Week</u> | <u>Prior Week</u> | <u>Last Year</u> |
|------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Steers (M&L 1-2) | | | |
| 350-400 lbs | 165.09 | 162.61 | 160.88 |
| 400-450 lbs | 158.31 | 159.86 | 153.31 |
| 450-500 lbs | 158.66 | 153.88 | 149.38 |
| 500-550 lbs | 152.42 | 149.23 | 145.63 |
| 550-600 lbs | 144.97 | 143.62 | 140.01 |
| 600-650 lbs | 138.89 | 135.70 | 135.43 |
| 650-700 lbs | 135.76 | 134.48 | 129.46 |
| 700-750 lbs | 127.98 | 122.08 | 121.64 |
| 750-800 lbs | 126.15 | 119.28 | 119.96 |
| 800-850 lbs | 120.96 | 116.57 | 114.16 |
| 850-900 lbs | 119.34 | 121.02 | 115.27 |
| Heifers (M&L 1-2) | | | |
| 300-350 lbs | 143.88 | 146.75 | 142.35 |
| 350-400 lbs | 141.27 | 141.70 | 139.85 |
| 400-450 lbs | 139.48 | 138.59 | 136.16 |
| 450-500 lbs | 137.74 | 138.08 | 130.06 |
| 500-550 lbs | 132.64 | 131.19 | 125.94 |
| 550-600 lbs | 128.38 | 129.55 | 120.97 |
| 600-650 lbs | 120.71 | 120.53 | 118.37 |
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| 700-750 lbs | 112.80 | 111.73 | 113.15 |
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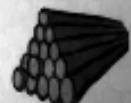
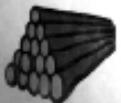
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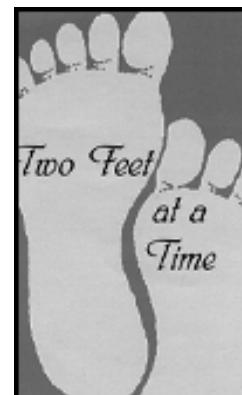
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