HOMETOWN NEWS FOR KENTUCKY'S FARM COMMUNITY

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KCARD CELEBRATES 20TH YEAR

Non-profit leads as resource to farmers

As the Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development celebrates its 20th anniversary, its executive director explains how the needs of farmers and rural businesses have changed over the years.

KCARD, a non-profit aimed at facilitating agricultural and rural business development in Kentucky, is in its 20th year of operation. And although Executive Director Aleta Botts says its mission of helping farmers stays the same, the organization continues working to change as ag needs continue to change.



Executive Director of Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development Aleta Botts.

"We are definitely seeing new demands," Botts says, in her eighth year as director. For instance, over the past year, after riding the wave of changes forced on the industry by the COVID-19 pandemic, KCARD worked to help producers reach customers in new ways.

Supported primarily through grants from the USDA Rural Cooperative Development Program and the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board, KCARD provides multiple opportunities for businesses — educational and technical assistance – for instance, and support services to agribusinesses.

"Now, we have these tools that allow customers to find farmers, buy directly from producers. But, customers are also very demanding now — they really want products the way they want them and when they want them," Botts said. "Part of our role has really changed to helping producers fulfill those needs and how they serve the customers, and in ways that are still going to meet their bottom line, keeping them a sustainable business."

KCARD has also had to become more of a full-service

SEE KCARD, PAGE 2

Noisy insect emerges in parts of Ky.

THEY'RE HERE!

After seventeen long years of growth in the soil, Brood X – or the Great Eastern Brood – is emerging.

This periodic cicada is making itself known in several states, from Indiana to New Jersey and Pennsylvania. By mid-May Brood X began their Kentucky appearance predominately in northern Kentucky, along the Ohio River, in the Frankfort area, and a few scattered counties in eastern Kentucky.

University of Kentucky Extension Entomologist Dr. Jonathan Larson discussed this noisy bug he describes as his favorite insect.

"Once the soil temperature reaches 64 degrees, the insects start to emerge in the nymph stage. They climb a nearby vertical structure, go through a metamorphosis, shed their skins, and molt into adult cicadas, leaving behind their empty shells. The approximately 2 inch long insects' wings will unfurl, their exoskeleton will harden, and their new yellow-white skins will darken to amber," Larson said.

After three or four days, the cicadas have matured and do the only thing they are born to do – reproduce. With tongue firmly in cheek, Dr. Larson described why we hear so much racket from cicadas.

"The males have a call that attracts males to come together; there can be hundreds or even thousands in a tree. It's like they are saying, 'come on over guys, let's make a band and get the girls to stop by."

Another call for mating attracts the female cicadas. The females note their acceptance by clicking their wings. The insects mate, and the males die soon afterward.

Larson noted that cicadas have four different calls emitted from tymbals, two rigid drum-like membranes on the undersides of their hollow abdomen. Cicada volume can reach as high as 100 decibels, but most noise is that of a lawnmower.

Females do not have tymbals and therefore don't make any noise, except for the wing clicking. Lar-



A mature cicada at the Alexandria Farm of Owen Prim.

son also pointed out three different species in Brood X, the Pharoh, Periodic Dwarf, and Periodic Little, all with different calls. Each species can emerge simultaneously but they don't like each other's songs and aren't attracted, therefore eliminating the chance of cross-mating.

Once mated, the females look for a place to lay their eggs, and this is where any significant damage from cicadas might occur. Laden with up to 600 eggs, she uses her ovipositor, a tube-like organ on the underside of her abdomen, to cut a very thin slice about a half-inch long in a small tree branch, and there she deposits around 24 eggs. She does this repeatedly until all her eggs are

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KCARD: Grants now available for producers

FROM PAGE 1

organization, she said.

"In that we're helping folks with business plans, their financials, helping them look at that customer base and how to reach it, but also using what knowledge we have of those lenders and programs to help those farmers find what funding is out there that can help them grow."

A lot of the grants KCARD works on are very competitive, Botts said, and Kentucky farmers are competing nationwide for them.

"The good news is that there's a lot of funding out there right now for ag projects, due to Covid-related funding for issues in the food supply chain — a lot of recognition there that was needed."

The challenge for farmers in competing for these grants is "how do you demonstrate what you're doing in a way that others understand, can see the vision of and how do you demonstrate you are a good investment for the funder."

Botts said many people are under the impression that "because it's a grant and you don't have to pay it back, you don't have to demonstrate that. But it's more important now than ever, because it's more competitive."

The USDA Agricultural Marketing Service has three levels of grants it is accepting applications for now, Botts said, which are at record levels due to the COVID stimulus money.

"The deadline is June 21, so if anyone needs help or wants more information, they can go to our website to find out more about those," she said.

Grant opportunity currently includes the Farmers Market Promotion Program; Local Food Promotion Program; and Regional Food Systems Partnership Program.

"We expect more programs to be announced in the next few months," including a new federal program expected to be aimed at meat processing.

Anyone can sign up for KCARD's newsletter, which Botts said includes a running list of what funding is available.

"The diversity of projects we're seeing is so much greater now. We've been undergoing the tobacco transition for decades now, so I think what we're seeing are new ideas coming from farmers, a lot more on-farm sales are happening now than ever before," she says.

As far as the biggest change she be-

"The good news is that there's a lot of funding out there right now for ag projects, due to Covid-related funding for issues in the food supply chain — a lot of recognition there that was needed.

Aleta Botts, Executive Director
KCARD

lieves the organization has seen over the last 20 years, Botts said the "different types of sales channels and just the overall diversity of what people are doing on their farms."

Diversification brings new challenges

With diversification, Botts said marketing become more complicated.

"If you're selling to multiple marketing channels, it is hectic. You could have a farm that's selling a product wholesale, some direct-to-consumer, some online or through an online store, stores on the farm — they could be doing all of those things."

She says this can be both good and bad for farmers.

"You do reduce your risk being dependent on one marketing channel, but that's a lot of management — the producer who is selling will have to manage it all," she said.

For KCARD's 20th-year mark, Botts says it will be "looking back and forward."

It's an opportunity to revel in the past, "and say here are the great things we've been able to do, and how Larry Snell was involved and how critical he was to KCARD," she said.

Snell served as director of the Kentucky Center for Cooperative Development from 2002 to 2013, the predecessor

to KCARD. Botts said what began as a cooperative development center now has evolved into a nonprofit that assists all different types of agricultural and rural businesses with development, grant facilitation and more.

Without the vision and founding board, she says, and the leadership they set in place, the organization wouldn't be where it is today. She encourages those interested in the history of the organization to visit the website and read a tribute to Snell, in order to understand the work behind KCARD.

"We are also looking ahead to what do we need to be doing, how to approach challenges, are there things out there we can do a better job with," Botts says. "We treat this organization like a business — how can we improve, how can we do better jobs for our customers. And KCARD's customers are Kentucky farm-



Larry Snell

ers."

To learn more about KCARD, which is based in Elizabethtown, visit kcard.info, call 859-550-3972; or email kcard@kcard.info.

By Bobbie Curd Field reporter

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MARKET REPORT: WEEK OF May 25, 2021 Farmers Regional Livestock Market of Glasgow, LLC

 $\begin{tabular}{l} Total Receipts; 434. Supply included: 11% Feeder Cattle (14% Dairy Steers, 29% Heifers, 57% Bulls); 63% Slaughter Cattle (72% Cows, 28% Bulls); 26% \\ \end{tabular}$

Replacement Dairy Cattle (15% Fresh/Milking Cows, 10% Bred Heifers, 20% Springer Heifers, 13% Open Heifers, 23% Baby Bull Calves, 20% Baby Heifer Calves).

Dairy Steers: Large 3: 445# 90.00

<u>**Heifers:**</u> Medium and Large 1-2: 510# 121.00; Medium and Large 2-3: 540# 108.00

Bulls: Medium and Large 1-2: 240# 165.00, 250# 151.00; Medium and Large 2-3: 375# 122.00, 515# 112.00

Slaughter Cattle: Cows Breaker 75-80%: 1420-1820# 63.00-72.00; 1420-1835# 1541; Boner 80-85%: 1100-1430# 62.00-72.00, 1085-1410# 73.00-84.00, 1140-1325# 54.00-61.00; Lean 85-90%: 760-1090# 54.00-62.00, 845-1065# 63.00-71.00, 790-1010# 41.00-50.00; Bulls 1-2: 1315-2540 90.00-99.00, 1630-2250# 102.00-120.00, 1280-1455# 84.00-89.00.

Fresh/Milking Cows: Approved 1381.25, Medium 1225.00, Common 837 50

Bred Heifers: Approved T1 850.00, Medium T1-2 825.00, Common T1 716.67, Common T2 775.00.

Springer Heifers: Approved T3 1150.00, Medium T3 939.29, Common 741 67

Open Heifers: Supreme 7 Head 425# 400.00, Approved 1 Head 450# 330.00, Medium 1 Head 275# 190.00, Medium 2 Head 525# 330.00.

<u>Baby Bull Calves:</u> 5 Head 20.00-15.00; 7 Head 240.00-320.00 Beef Cross; 7 Head 30.00-90.00 Jersey.

Baby Heifer Calves: 7 Head 40.00-110.00; 6 Head 150.00-260.00 Beef Cross; 1 Head 130.00 Crossbred; 2 Head 20.00-50.00 Jersey.

Two workers died

Virus outbreak at Smithfield plant was worse than known

"The Covid-19 outbreak at Smithfield Foods' Milan, Missouri, plant — the focus of a worker safety lawsuit that garnered national attention last year — resulted in two worker deaths and was worse than previously thought," according to newly obtained documents from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Madison McVan reports for the Midwest Center for Investigative Reporting.

It's been difficult to get clear numbers about infections at the plant. Early on, the Sullivan County Health Department told a local TV station that there were 14 cases, and later a local hospital told the St. Louis Post-Dispatch there were 35 cases tied to the plant, but since then the news media hasn't been given updates, McVan reports. A health department administrator told the Midwest Center that it doesn't track coronavirus cases by employer.

OSHA "found the total number of cases was likely more than double what has been previously reported. By the end of May 2020, at least 77 workers were presumed to be positive for the virus, and more than 300 were either suspected to have the virus or had been in close contact with a positive case. Also, at least two workers at the plant died from the virus last year, according to the OSHA inspections obtained by the Midwest Center for Investigative Reporting," McVan reports. "Smithfield, which employs about 1,100 people at its Milan facility, told OSHA inspectors the company determined that the employees who died had contracted the virus from close contacts outside of work, rather than in the plant,"

Smithfield Chief Administrative Officer Keira Lombardo said in a statement that the company has spent more than \$800 million to respond to the coronavirus pandemic and has seen a "sustained period of extremely low reported cases across our employee workforce."

The real case numbers are likely much higher than even the OSHA reports found, said Axel Fuentes, executive director of the Rural Community Workers Alliance. The group advocates for better working conditions for Smithfield employees and has been in contact with Milan plant workers during the pandemic. The group sued Smithfield last spring, claiming the

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company's pandemic safety measures were inadequate.

"The judge dismissed the case, ruling that it was OSHA's job, not the court's, to ensure that Smithfield was adequately protecting its employees," McVan reports. "OSHA inspectors found few issues with the virus mitigation measures at the plant during in-person inspections that took place in May and November 2020. OSHA closed the investigations without issuing any penalties."

Some workers told the Midwest Center they thought Smithfield's safety measures didn't go far enough, and said the production line moved so quickly that they couldn't step away to cough or sneeze. But "Smithfield didn't start distributing masks to its employees in Milan until mid-April 2020, after hundreds of employees at its Sioux Falls plant had already tested positive," McVan reports.

There are no federal emergency standards to protect

meatpackers during a pandemic, which Fuentes said makes it harder to hold employers accountable. The day after his inauguration, President Biden ordered OSHA and other federal agencies to come up with emergency standards by March 15, but the agency has vet to publish one.

"On April 26, OSHA said in a press release that it had sent a draft of the standard to the White House for review. It's unclear how long that process could take," McVan reports.

The Midwest Center has covered several aspects of the meatpacking industry during the pandemic. Go online at investigatemidwest.org/2021/04/08/meatpacking and covid/ for a recent package that looks back on how the pandemic has affected workers, what's happening now, and what they predict for the future.

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The stimulus pools



ONE VOICE

Sharon Burton

We appear to be ready to get back to work, however, and the proof can be found in the abundance of help wanted signs and ads in all of our communities. y husband and I have had more than one conversation about a couple of swimming pools we have named "stimulus pools."

They both popped up last year in the yards of nearby rental properties just as a round of stimulus checks were making their way across the nation.

I guess I should be ashamed to say it, but we both questioned how long those pools would last. I admit we have some bias about certain lifestyles, and the care of these particular properties led us to believe that the people living there did not value the things they own.

Bias or not, we were correct in our guess that the pools would not last to be enjoyed a second year. Neither were covered during the winter, and one stayed filled with tall floats as the weather turned to snow and freezing temperatures. They are now gone.

I don't begrudge anyone a stimulus check or any other assistance they might receive during hard times. There is no question that 2020 was a difficult year and a lot of people and businesses were able to survive financially because of federal aid.

Still, those stimulus pools were a reminder to me that you do not fix everything with a handful of cash. Some people do not have either the skill set or the ethics to seize opportunity and benefit from it. It's just wasted money.

Our nation was close to panic during the pandemic and federal investment appears to have been successful in preventing an economic crisis.

We appear to be ready to get back to work, however, and the proof can be found in the abundance of help wanted signs and ads in all of our communities.

I hope we don't see another round of stimulus pools this summer. I think for the most part, Americans are ready to rely on their own ingenuity to determine if they sink or swim.

Some targeted assistance may still be warranted, and we need to support hardworking Americans as we hopefully see the end of this pandemic and the ramifications from closing for business.

Targeted assistance is different from throwing out a bunch of money and seeing how and where it sticks, however. Plugging holes keeps the pool around for another year and so does strategic maintenance. That's all our government should be offering now.

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KOAP kicks off at full speed ahead

was honored to be asked by Commissioner of Agriculture Dr. Ryan Quarles to serve as the executive director of the new Kentucky Office of Agricultural Policy. While the name of the office might have changed with the passage of Senate Bill 3, the mission and commitment this team has to our Kentucky agricultural community has only grown stronger with the move to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

I have had the opportunity to work with this team in different roles through my career in Kentucky agriculture. In the early years of the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund, I administered programs at the county level and saw the impact the county funds had in improving farm infrastructure and helping growers diversify their farming operations away from tobacco. As my career path changed, I was afforded the opportunity to work with the Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation team on loans in western Kentucky. Serving as the Kentucky Farm Service Agency director these past few years, I have worked with our agriculture leadership and the staff at KOAP on issues impacting all of Kentucky.

I knew from working in agriculture the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund investments played an important role in growing and diversifying our agricultural economy over the past 20 years. However, it wasn't until I joined the KOAP team I began to truly understand the far reaching impact of these investments in Kentucky.

Since the creation of the KADF, Kentucky has grown its agricultural economy from \$3.4 billion a year in 2000 to nearly \$5.5 billion in 2020. We have successfully reduced our rural economy's dependency on to-bacco production, going from 24 percent of our agriculture economy coming from tobacco to now less than 4 percent of our total income derived from that source. While reducing this dependency, we have also diversified and grown that pie that makes up our agriculture economy with investments in all 120 Kentucky counties. Today, across the commonwealth, we see new endeavors in agritourism and horticulture, farmers' markets in almost every county, expansion of our grain production, and improved forages for our thriving livestock industries.

I am excited to get out in the state this summer and meet with producers, extension agents, and our other partners to see the investments in action. I want to learn what has been successful in their communities and to hear suggestions on how we can build on the programs available through KOAP.

I am also excited to work with an amazing staff and the dedicated board members of the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board and the Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation. They all give tirelessly of their time and share their extensive knowledge of the agriculture industry to guide the investments in Kentucky agriculture. We have tremendous opportunity to strengthen and diversify our agricultural economy, and I am excited to hit the ground running with this amazing team and our partners in agriculture.



KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF
AGRICULTURAL
POLICY
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

Brian Lacefield

I am excited to get out in the state this summer and meet with producers, extension agents, and our other partners to see the investments in action.

The Farmer's Pride

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Too many bulls



WATCH

Dewey Strickler

At the current pace, exports may struggle to reach USDA's target of 2.28 billion bushels.

orn futures are meeting a headwind from China's intentions to curb commodity speculation as well as greenhouse type conditions that are forecast through the first week of June.

The long range forecast for June-July-August shows no threatening conditions other than the far western sections of the Corn Belt might see below normal moisture.

In the meantime, planting is winding down at 90 percent done and emergence is 10 percent ahead of the average. Looking at exports, inspections last week were below the previous week at 68 million bushels with China taking the lion's share of shipments.

Meanwhile, there was a downtick in the overall pace of shipments, which needs to be monitored for signs of a peak. Right now, the funds are in a liquidation mode and pulling in their horns as they have trimmed 580 million bushels of their long position since mid-April. Long story short, too many bulls have been listening to hype stoking fears about in-

Not much has developed in soybeans of late other than planting is progressing at a rapid pace, and there are no threatening conditions in the forecast for the next couple of

As of last week, 75 percent of the crop was in the ground compared to 63 percent a year ago and 54 percent for the average. The crop is ahead in development with 41 percent having emerged versus the average of 25 percent.

Meanwhile, exports are lethargic. Inspections last week were 7.1 million bushels, the third lowest of the season. Shipments to China were barely noticeable. At the current pace, exports may struggle to reach USDA's target of 2.28 billion bushels. In the meantime, the bulls are losing enthusiasm as they have liquidated 170 million bushels of their long position over the past three weeks. The bottom line is that if soybean stocks were not tight, prices would not be at these levels.

Wheat has been facing a headwind from the approaching harvest and improving conditions in Europe and Australia. Meanwhile, the rating for the winter crop dropped one notch last week to 47 percent in good-to-excellent condition and compares to 54 percent a year ago.

In other developments, exports have no bragging rights as inspections last week were below the previous week at 21 million bushel. With only a couple of weeks left in the marketing year, it could be a photo finish in reaching USDA's target of 965 million bushels.

Beware of philosopher kings and prophets of 'synthetic alternatives'

hortly after America's largest private farmland owners, Microsoft billionaires Bill and Melinda Gates, acknowledged their pending divorce, some wag on Twitter wondered what might be the appropriate time to wait before he approached the soon-to-be-former missus to ask about renting some of her farmland.

While he was joking, it's no joke that the about-to-split pair owns the largest amount of working farmland in the nation. According to the Winter 2020 issue of The Land Report, a quarterly magazine that tracks U.S. land sales, Bill and Melinda Gates now own 242,000 acres of farmland worth "more than \$690 million."

If their "transitional" and "recreational" acres are added in, the Gateses own 268,984 acres.

According to the article, most of it was acquired through Cascade Investments LLC, a private, Washington State-based firm that handles both the Gates family's personal investments and those of the \$50-billion Gates Foundation, a global philanthropic effort dedicated to fight 'poverty, disease, and inequity."

Much of the land, mostly purchased in the last decade, lies in the South: 69,071 acres in Louisiana, 47,927 acres in Arkansas, 16,963 acres in Mississippi, and 14,828 in Florida.

When asked on the social media platform Reddit in late March why farmland and why now, Bill Gates first deflected: "My investment group," presumably Cascade, "chose to do this. It is not connected to climate." But he quickly pivoted to what sounded more like Gates Foundation strategy than a Gates family farm plan.

"The agriculture sector is important," he explained. "With more productive seeds we can avoid deforestation and help Africa deal with the climate difficulty they already face. It is unclear how cheap biofuels can be but if they are cheap it can solve the aviation and truck emissions."

Fighting climate change in Africa and solving "the aviation and truck emissions" thing aren't the focus of many American farmers or any American poli-

Still, if your net worth exceeds \$140 billion and you own 378 square miles of farmland, reality tends to be what you

Cascade Investments did tell The Land Report that it is "very supportive of sustainable agriculture" and it has invested Gates' money in "plant-based protein companies Beyond Meat and Impossible Foods..."

The two companies make no bones about their zeal to, as Beyond Meat touts on its website, shift "from animal to plant-based meat" so "we can positively impact four growing global issues: human health, climate change, constraints on natural resources, and animal welfare."

Gates himself went even further about his views on plant-based meats in a February interview with MIT Technology Review, according to the website Ag Funder News. In it, "Gates argued that higher-income societies should completely replace their consumption of cattle-derived beef with 'synthetic' alternatives."

He did add that he "doesn't think poorest... countries will be eating synthetic meat." Even so, "...all rich countries should move to 100 percent synthetic beef."

From an agronomic point of view, however, most regenerative or sustainable farming systems require a livestock component—oftentimes cattle—as a key element in most farm's successful and profitable multi-year, multi-crop rota-

Livestock or not, Gates believes he's backing a winner. "...(P)lant-based protein makers like Impossible Foods and Beyond Meat 'have [a] quality road map and cost road map that makes them totally competitive" with animal protein, he told the Reddit audience.

His family's fabulous personal wealth, the Gates Foundation's commitment to funding research into seed, plant, and food technology, and now its immense landholdings will make this self-anointed philosopher king a player in the future of farming and food.

That power, however, should worry farmers everywhere, noted Nick Estes, an assistant professor at the University of New Mexico, in an April 5 column in The Guardian.

"The principal danger of private farmland owners like Bill Gates," explained Estes, "is not their professed support of sustainable agriculture often found in philanthropic work—it's the monopolistic role they play in determining our food systems and land use patterns.'

Just ask Microsoft competitors about "monopolistic" roles in computer software—if you can find any.



FOOD FARM FILE

Alan Guebert

In it, "Gates argued that higher-income societies should completely replace their consumption of cattle-derived beef with 'synthetic

ALAN GUEBERT

alternatives.

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

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CICADAS:

The 17-year bug is back

FROM PAGE 1

placed, then she dies, her work complete.

"This can wreak havoc in an orchard with young trees or a nursery operation." Larson said.

All these little slices damage the tree, but the worst damage is when the eggs hatch, the extra weight from the nymphs causes the small branch to snap and fall to the ground. When the branch falls to the ground, the nymphs can burrow into the ground to begin their 17-year transformation.

While this process is damaging for young trees, it acts as a nature pruning in mature forests, Larson noted. He also pointed out the burrowing nymphs aerate the soil and help water filtration.

Larson said there are reasons why cicadas will be heard for six to eight weeks this summer. By some natural instinct, cicadas have "periodic staggered emerge," which provides predator satiation

In layman terms, the first emerging cicadas are quickly picked off by predators: wild turkey, snakes, dogs, squirrels, and of course, birds. Once these predators have had enough of these quick protein snacks, they leave those coming out later alone.

Emergence can also depend on how deep the nymphs' ground has burrowed and if the soil temperature warms at a different rate. "The first X's were sighted in Maryland in late March because a family had warmed the ground around a hot tub," Larson said.

While most people living in the range of Brood X are cringing at the noise they produce, researchers are giddy with the opportunity to study the habits of this true insect. Over the last 100 years, cicadas are a significant research subject. Researchers study why there are "early risers" and is climate change contributing factor.

Is there localized extinction when terrible flooding washes away soil where cicadas burrow? Why are there 17-year cycles and 13-year cycles and maybe 15-year cycles? And the list goes on.

This research is why Larson calls the cicada his favorite insect.

"I just love the prolonged lifecycles they go through. It's their periodic living and the historical connection for current entomologists to the great pioneers of entomology research. Brood maps are ways we discuss the long chain of science and feel very connected to its roots."

For those living in the state that are missing out on the excitement over Brood X, they just have to wait until 2024 when the 13 year Brood XIX emerges.

By Toni Riley Field reporter

Be a part of Cicada Citizen Science Projects

There are two ways that Kentuckians who are sighting cicadas can help document the areas where the insects are emerging and mating, according to entomology Dr. Jonathan Larson.

The University of Kentucky entomology department hosts a Facebook page entitled Kentucky Bugs. The page will post photos submitted via messager.

Another way is through Cicada Safari, a mapping project of the emergence of the Brood X. Download the free app and then go on a safari to find periodic cicadas. Submitted photos will be verified and posted on the live map. For more information:go to cicadasafari.org.





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USDA forecasts record farm exports in 2021

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's quarterly agricultural trade forecast, released May 26, projects fiscal year 2021 U.S. farm exports at \$164 billion – the highest total on record. This represents an increase of \$28 billion, or 21 percent, from last fiscal year's total, and a \$7-billion increase from USDA's previous fiscal year 2021 forecast published in February. The annual export record of \$152.3 billion was set in fiscal year 2014.

"U.S. agricultural trade has proven extraordinarily resilient in the face of a global pandemic and economic contraction. This strength is reflected in today's USDA export forecast," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "As we conclude World Trade Month, it's clear that trade remains a critical engine powering the

agricultural economy and the U.S. economy as a whole. Today's estimate shows that our agricultural trading partners are responding to a return to certainty and reliability from the United States. Yesterday's action regarding the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement also made it clear that our trading partners must play by the rules. Ensuring that all U.S. producers and exporters have access to global markets is a key to building back better and ensuring the continued strength and resiliency of rural America."

Key drivers of the surge in exports include a record outlook for China, record export volumes and values for a number of key products, sharply higher commodity prices, and reduced foreign comnetition

China is poised to be back on top as the United States' number one customer, with U.S. exports forecast at \$35 billion, eclipsing the previous record of \$29.6 billion set in FY 2014. This growth is led by Chinese demand for soybeans and corn. Other top markets, in order, are Canada, Mexico, Japan, the European Union, and South Korea, with demand remaining strong across the

board.

USDA projects that total exports of bulk commodities and meat will reach record levels for both volume and value in fiscal year 2021. On the bulk commodity side, this is true for both corn and soybeans exports, with sorghum export value also at a record. On the meat side, beef and pork export values and volumes are projected at an all-time high, as is broiler meat volume.



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Quarles: Halt federal pandemic unemployment bonus



Commissioner of Agriculture Dr. Ryan Quarles

Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture Dr. Ryan Quarles is renewing his call for Gov. Beshear to immediately end Kentucky's participation in the federal pandemic unemployment assistance program and instead offer a "back-towork" bonus to encourage Kentuckians to reenter the workforce.

"As I travel the state and speak with employers, I hear about the immense labor shortage facing our businesses," Quarles said. "While pandemic unemployment assistance was needed temporarily to help Kentuckians put out-of-work by the governor's executive orders, we now have employers competing with government checks. There are plenty of jobs in Kentucky. If the gover-

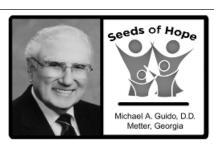
nor is serious about getting back to normal and fully reopening our economy, he should encourage people to reenter the labor force."

According to a report from the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce and the University of Kentucky's Gatton College of Business and Economics, Kentucky's labor force participation rate in March "remained well below pre-pandemic levels" and is nearly 5 percent lower than the national average and Kentucky's border states. The report states the difference in labor force participation "suggests that a larger share of workers who lost jobs...are not looking for work in Kentucky compared to the rest of the nation."

"While we continue to encourage people to take the vaccine, like I did, we should also encourage people to get back to work," Quarles said. "Governor Beshear should follow the example of many other governors around the nation who have offered back-to-work bonuses. This would be a great way to get people back to work, especially in our hospitality sector, which has 19 percent fewer workers employed in it as compared to January 2020."

Commissioner Quarles first called on Governor Beshear to end the pandemic unemployment bonus after hearing from restaurant and other small business owners during his "Restaurant Roundtable" tour.





Why Does God Do What He Does For Us?

Everything we do in life is the result of a choice or decision we make. Every choice has its consequence or outcome. There are times when we make a choice, and we are pleased with the outcome or result. Other times we make decisions that hurt or haunt us; bring results that embarrass us or bring our lives or our goals to a grinding halt. Sometimes the results of the choices we make force us to look carefully at what we have done with our lives. Every choice, however, contributes to the legacy that we will leave behind us.

David made some especially important decisions that caused him pain and suffering. grief and fear. He knew that he was often disobedient to the promises he made to God and knew that he had to face the consequences of his choices. With deep humility he recognized the poor decisions he made and said. "I am under vows to You, O God!" Making a commitment or decision to honor and serve God is serious. It is not to be made without considering the implications it will have on our lives and the lives of others. A vow to God can be the beginning of a chapter of righteous living.

We all know of the tragedies in David's life because he consciously broke his vows to God. With careful planning and deliberate choices, he committed crimes against both God and man. He knew what he deserved but went to God and repented, asked for and then received His forgiveness. The result? "You have delivered me from death...that I may walk before You in the light of life."

Visit us at SowerMinistries.com

Want to share your favorite recipe on Homeline?

Send it to toni@farmlandpub.com, mail it to P.O. Box 159 or call 270-384-9454 and ask for Toni.

Bourbon Steak

1 1/2-Lb Top Round Steak (cut 1-1/2 inches thick

3 Tbsp Olive Oil

2 Tbsp Dijon Mustard

1/4 Cup Kentucky Bourbon

1/3 Cup Soy Sauce

2 Tbsp Red Wine Vinegar

1 Tbsp Worcestershire Sauce

1/4 Cup Brown Sugar (packed)

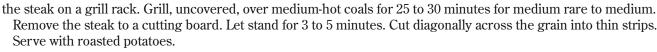
2 Tbsp Garlic Cloves (minced)

1 Tsp Salt

2 Tsp Pepper

Combine all ingredients except steak in a bowl. Mix well to produce marinade. Place steak in a sealable plastic bag. Pour the marinade over the steak and seal the bag. Marinate in the refrigerator for 6 to 12 hours.

Drain the steak, discarding the marinade. Place



Recipe courtesy of Kentucky Proud Kitchen

Kentucky livestock producers encourage grilling this summer



Memorial Day weekend is widely known as the traditional kickoff to summer, and Kentucky's livestock and poultry producers are looking forward to grilling season being in full swing. Whether you choose hamburgers and hot dogs, steak and ribs, or something more adventurous for your holiday weekend, we want you to know that our families stay busy year-round, raising safe, nutritious, and affordable protein for families like yours.

Fresh, lean beef is rich in vitamins and minerals, especially iron – which helps your body use oxygen – and zinc, which helps maintain a healthy immune system. In just one three-ounce serving, you'll get ten essential nutrients, including about half of your daily value of protein.

Have a preference for pork? Pork has many beneficial

qualities that make it easy to incorporate into a balanced diet and diverse menu. The variety of options range from decadent and flavorful to lean and nutrient-rich cuts that are affordable, easy to make, and enjoyable to people of all ages. Pork is naturally low in sodium and an excellent source of potassium — two nutrients that, together, can help regulate blood pressure.

Chicken is also a versatile protein source that goes great on the grill. From a whole smoked bird to chicken breast kabobs, there's a wide variety of ways to prepare this economical meat. A three-ounce serving of chicken breast has 26 grams of protein and only 2.7 grams of fat, with only 128 calories.

If you're looking to try something different on your plate, Kentucky has a thriving lamb and goat industry. With 122 calories, less than 3 grams of fat and less than 65 mg of cholesterol per serving, 3 ounces of goat can easily fit within the Dietary Guidelines for Americans set by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Whatever your choice of protein for the holiday weekend, we hope that you have a safe and enjoyable time gathered around the grill.

Rae Wagoner, Communication Director rwagoner@kysoy.org

The Kentucky Livestock Coalition is composed of 10 member organizations that have an interest in promoting poultry and livestock in the commonwealth. For more information on livestock and poultry in Kentucky, visit www.kylivestockcoalition.org.

Family farms struggle with health insurance, child care

The average American farmer is 58 years old, presaging a crisis in agriculture if younger farmers don't take their place. But only 8 percent of farmers are under age 35.

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture has made concerted efforts to help young and beginning farmers, particularly with access to farmland, credit and marketing skills. But focusing on the technical side of farming misses a fundamental fact about farms: They are inherently social entities, and their success depends upon social infrastructure as much as biophysical or financial infrastructures. Bolstering food systems' resilience means supporting individuals so they can grow food," Ohio State University professors Shoshanah Inwood, Andrea Rissing and Florence Becot report for The Conversation, a site for journalism by academic researchers.

"Our research indicates that health care and child care are two crucial ingredients for a successful food system."

Two-thirds of farmers have underlying health conditions, and one in three farm-

ers have a family member whose health problems make farming difficult.

Though more than 90 percent of farmers have health insurance, that number "hides details that plague the entire U.S. health care system, Inwood, Rissing and Becot write. "In addition to farming, half of all farm families have at least one adult working an additional full-time job, often primarily to get health insurance coverage. It's an affordable option, but pulls time and energy away from farm work."

Health care expenses remain a big worry for farmers. Half of farmers said they worried they would have to sell farm assets to pay health expenses, and many told the researchers they had gone to great lengths to stay eligible for public health insurance, including tactics such as keeping marriages secret. Some said they feel trapped because too much income can disqualify them for public benefits.

Child care is also a big concern for younger farmers.

"In a national study of farm parents

before the pandemic, we found that two-thirds had struggled with the cost, availability and quality of child care. Surveying farm parents during the early months of Covid-19, we found 58 percent reported that taking care of children became harder during the pandemic - especially for women farmers and those with children under age 6," Inwood, Rissing and Becot report. "Women are one of the fastest-growing groups of farmers, and their role as primary caregivers influences a farm's success. In our research, women were almost twice as likely as men to report that child care was an important factor in farm decisions, 44 percent compared to 24 percent among men."

The researchers also found that most female farmers with child-care problems operated small or medium farms and were much more likely to sell directly to consumers through avenues such as farmers' markets.

"Over the last 10 years, farm families have told us that public insurance options, making insurance easier for selfemployed people to access, universal health insurance, and affordable rural child care would help them grow better food and stronger businesses," Inwood, Rissing and Becot write. "The Department of Agriculture announced on April 21, 2021, that it was beginning an effort to 'improve and reimagine' the supply chains for food production - including meeting the need of agriculture workers and addressing the needs of mid-to small-size farms. This an opportunity to integrate health insurance and child care as core infrastructure that supports the future of farmers and rural communities, along with the U.S. food supply."

By Heather Chapman The Rural Blog irjci.blogspot.com

Forgivable PPP loans went to fake farms

The Paycheck Protection Program is meant to help small businesses and employees hurt by the pandemic, but the program has been criticized for emphasizing loans to large businesses at the expense of smaller and rural businesses. Now ProPublica has found that nearly 400 PPP loans worth \$7 million were given last summer to fake companies, mostly farms.

"All of these loans to nonexistent businesses came through Kabbage, an online lending platform that processed nearly 300,000 PPP loans before the first round of funds ran out in August 2020, second only to Bank of America," Lydia DePillis and Derek Willis report. "ProPublica found 378 small loans totaling \$7 million to fake business entities, all of which were structured as single-person operations and received close to the largest loan for which such micro-businesses were eligible. The overwhelming majority of them are categorized as farms, even in the unlikeliest of locales, from potato fields in Palm Beach to orange groves in Minnesota."

The Kabbage loans are only part of "a sprawling fraud problem that has suf-

fused the Paycheck Protection Program from its creation in March 2020 as an attempt to keep small businesses on life support while they were forced to shut down. With speed as its strongest imperative, the effort run by the federal Small Business Administration initially lacked even the most basic safeguards to prevent opportunists from submitting fabricated documentation, government watchdogs have said," DePillis and Willis report. "While that may have allowed millions of businesses to keep their doors open, it has also required a massive cleanup operation on the backend. The SBA's inspector general estimated in January that the agency approved loans for 55,000 potentially ineligible businesses, and that 43,000 obtained more money than their reported payrolls would justify. The Department of Justice, relying on special agents from across the government to investigate, has brought charges against hundreds of individuals accused of gaming pandemic response programs."

By Heather Chapman The Rural Blog irjci.blogspot.com

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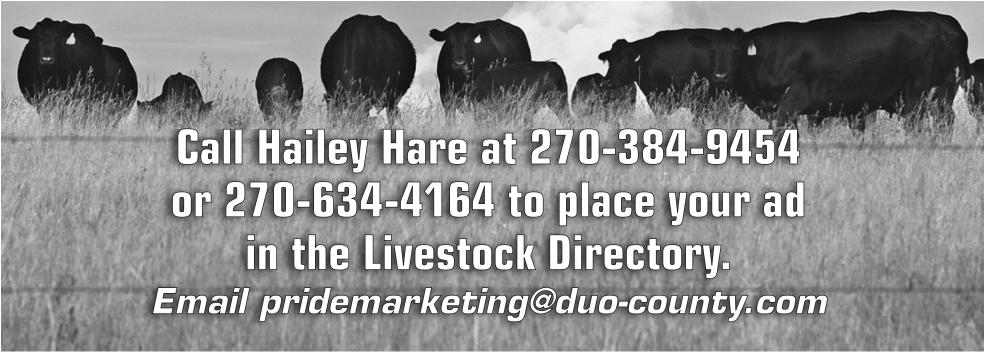
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Wendell Berry Farming Program graduates first class

The Wendell Berry Farming Program, a tuition-free college degree program named for the author, poet, farmer and conservationist, graduated its first cohort of 12 students in Kentucky May 15.

Berry gave the graduates "a stirring assessment of the consequences to our country when millions of people have moved from farms to urban areas in a single lifetime," a news release reports. "Sharing his belief in the fundamental laws of nature and human nature," Berry said, "If the land is to be used by people, then it must be used by people who love it. Who are culturally prepared and instructed to use it lovingly. And whose cultures, therefore, are sustained economically."

Speaking at Henry County High School, Berry, 86, told the graduates, "I believe that you, along with all the rest of us, are called to take good care of our country. Which in the foreseeable future will mean both using it well and, so far as we can, healing the wounds we have given it."

"The graduates plan to follow Berry's advice: Some will return to family farms

to revitalize the land, manage forests, grow crops and raise livestock using sustainable methods," the release reports. "Others will apply their education to establish new enterprises that focus on connecting people with food and farms."

The Berry program "is a partnership between The Berry Center of New Castle and Vermont's Sterling College, a small liberal arts college committed to using education as a force to advance ecological thinking and action," the release says. Graduates earn a Bachelor of Arts degree in sustainable agriculture and food systems. Tuition is replaced by grant support from the NoVo Foundation, co-founded by Peter Buffett (youngest son of billionaire Warren Buffett) and his wife Jennifer, and gifts from other foundations and individuals. Students pay room, board and fees.

Sterling President Matthew Derr said in the release, "The Berry Center's generational, local understanding of this place and its people has been critical to the success of this program. It's so clear that we share a sense of trust, friend-



Berry Farming Program graduates and faculty members (Photo provided)

ship, and commitment to community with all of those here in Kentucky."

Graduate Lizzie Camfield, of Campbellsburg, said her graduation plans include starting her own family farm and continuing the small-batch fermented hot sauce business she established as her capstone senior project.

"Without this program, I would never have felt empowered enough to pursue farming as a career," Camfield said. "I love Kentucky, but I didn't consider it a place where I could make a life and a living, especially farming. Now I have a whole different perspective and I treasure it more than ever."

By Al Cross The Rural Blog irjci.blogspot.com

Crop prices seem to hit 'market top'

Corn, soybeans and wheat were all selling at or near the highest prices in eight years. Last week, the market fell, "with virtually no change in fundamentals except some improvement in soil moisture levels in the western Corn Belt," Ray Grabanski reports for Successful Farming.

"However, the market rallied \$1 to \$2 from March 30 to May 12 with no change in fundamentals, so it's likely to drop \$1 to \$2 by the time we are done, too, with virtually no change in fundamentals. That is simply what market tops look like and how they behave, and this most certainly now can be called a market top in all three major grains: wheat, corn, and soybeans. If a major crop problem develops this summer yet (like a drought), we could rally back up to new highs or the old highs."

There's no sign of any major crop problems right now, especially since recent rainfall has reduced drought-affected areas of the Corn Belt and the forecast continues to call for normal or above-normal precipitation and cooler temperatures across the Midwest, Grabankski reports.

"Crop conditions vesterday continue

to show an early planted crop (corn 90 percent planted, 10 percent ahead of normal), with winter wheat continuing to improve with above-normal yield potential. However, the first ratings of the year show a hard red spring wheat crop that is the lowest rated ever (even lower than 1988) at only 45 percent rated good/excellent," Grabanski reported last week. "Barley is also poorly rated at only 47 percent rated G/E (vs. 67 percent last year), mostly due to a lack of soil moisture in the west resulting in poor germination. Soybeans are 75 percent planted (21 percent ahead of normal), oats 95 percent planted (5 percent ahead), barley 91 percent planted (4 percent ahead), and HRS wheat is 94 percent planted (9 percent ahead). Yet, while HRS/barley is poorly rated now, recent rains will likely improve those ratings as it has already in pasture conditions (28 percent rated G/E this week, an improvement of 3 percent)."

By Heather Chapman The Rural Blog irici.blogspot.com

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There's toxic and then there's toxic



The emergence of the showy yellow flowers of buttercup is a sure sign of spring in Kentucky. Buttercup can be toxic to livestock when grazed, but is detoxified in hay or silage.

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I don't know about you, but when I consult a list of all of the Kentucky pasture plants that are potentially toxic, it amazes me that livestock ever survive.

Buttercup is one of those weeds. Buttercup contains the toxin ranunculin, which is a blistering agent. Ingested in large quantities, it can be fatal. We can find four species of buttercup in Kentucky, but species differ in their toxicity.

I can almost hear you say 'What? Buttercup is toxic? But it is everywhere!' It does seem to be everywhere, especially in fields that have been grazed closely during the fall and winter. This low growing pasture weed is very visible right now due to its bright yellow flowers.

Livestock will avoid buttercup in pasture, even when it seems to dominate the stand. Buttercup is not a problem in hay because the ranunculin is detoxified by the curing process. This spring, we received questions from multiple sources about the toxicity of buttercup in small grain silage in round bales. At first, this seemed to be one of those questions for which there was no good answer.

Logically, it would seem that if ranunculin was detoxified by the curing process, the wilting required before making baleage (round bale silage) would also detoxify the buttercup.

There are no documented cases of buttercup poisoning at the UK Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, indirect evidence that buttercup toxicity is not a problem in our stored forage. However, neither provide the firm evidence that we needed to say that buttercup was not a problem in silage.

Dr. Ray Smith, my fellow UK forage extension specialist in Lexington, made contact with researchers in Switzerland who remembered an old paper on buttercup detoxification in silage. The 1992 research paper (written in German)

SEE THERE'S, PAGE 15

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Federal tax proposals could affect farm transition to new generation

More than 40 national farm groups joined together in a letter directed at congressional leaders voicing concern about legislative proposals that could had an adverse affect on agricultural operations.

The letter, dated, May 10, states that some current proposals "would jeopardize the viability of the family-owned businesses that make up our respective industries."

The industry is calling for Congress to not "alter or eliminate long-standing tax code provisions that are fundamental to the financial health of production agriculture and the businesses that supply its inputs, transport its products, and market its commodities."

Several proposals are causing concern about the ability for farms to handed down to a new generation, and the letter points out that, "(t) here are more than four times as many farmers and ranchers aged 65 and older as there are those under the age of 35, and these individuals own more than 40 percent of agricultural land in the United States."

As a result, the organizations call for the current estate tax exclusion limits to be maintained.

Federal policy should help facilitate the transfer of agricultural land to family-owned operations, the organizations write.

"As currently outlined, we remain opposed to repealing the step up in

basis and to imposing new capital gains taxes on family farms and ranches when there is a death in the family."

The groups also cites Sec. 199A business income deduction as a key component to keeping tax liabilities affordable for producers.

The letter was signed by commodity organizations and ag-related groups and was delivered to majority and minority leadership in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives.



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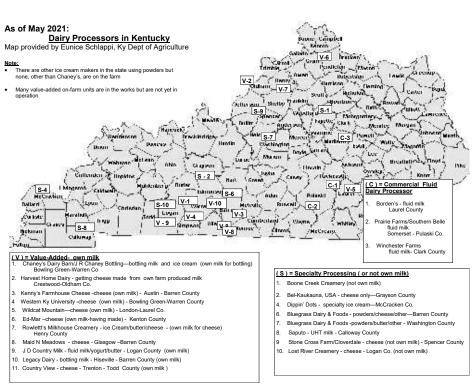
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There's toxic and then there's toxic

FROM PAGE 12

found that ranuncilin levels were reduced by 90 percent in silage compared to fresh forage. The most toxic species of buttercup in this study was not one commonly found in Kentucky.

Dr. Smith is currently the chair of the International Grassland Congress, which is a worldwide gathering of leading scientists, students, industry, extension and primary producers that meet every 3-5 years to share their research results and their experiences. The next IGC will be in Nairobi, Kenya in October.

The Congress will be coming to Cincinnati, Ohio in May of 2023, the first time in the U.S. since Kentucky hosted it back in 1981. Dr. Smith's involvement within this international group of forage workers was instrumental in making the connections to find this key piece of research on buttercup.

If you want to know more about the

IGC, please see their website international grasslands.org.

Although it is good to know that buttercup is not toxic in silage, it is still not a desirable plant in pastures or hayfields. Buttercup emerges from seed in the fall or late winter and can be controlled by numerous broadleaf herbicides. Control is more effective in February through April when buttercup is small but before the yellow flowers emerge.

For more information on weed control in grass pastures, see Weed Management in Grass Pastures, Hayfields, and Other Farmstead Sites www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/agr/agr172/agr172.pdf or Broadleaf Weeds of Kentucky Pastures www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/agr/agr207/agr207.pdf.

So buttercup is still potentially toxic and a problematic weed in pastures and hayfields. But at least we now have solid evidence that it is detoxified in both hay and silage.

Happy foraging.



The emergence of the showy yellow flowers of buttercup is a sure sign of spring in Kentucky. Buttercup can be toxic to livestock when grazed but is detoxified in hay or silage.

Fifth year of LAND forums announced

Commissioner of Agriculture Dr. Ryan Quarles will lead five in-person forums across the commonwealth to strengthen ties between agriculture and manufacturing in an effort to increase income and create jobs.

The fifth annual series of LAND (Linking Agriculture for Networking and Development) forums will open July 14 and continue through Sept. 14. The forums are sponsored by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Kentucky Association of Manufacturers, and financed in part by a grant from the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund.

"Kentucky's agriculture and manufacturing sectors collaborate already in many ways. The LAND forums are intended to strengthen this for the benefit of both," Quarles said. "The goal of these forums is to make sure our manufacturers are aware of the plentiful raw agricultural resources available in their own backyard before they consider importing foreign goods. Our department, along with the entire

KAM team, works to make sure these forums are beneficial to both sides of these two important industries."

"Manufacturers come in all shapes and sizes, and many Kentuckians don't realize that Kentucky's manufacturing industry is tied directly to our agricultural industry," said Lee Lingo, KAM executive director. "If an agricultural product is transformed or processed in any way, it becomes a product of the manufacturing industry.

The partnership between KDA and KAM is designed to bolster col-

laboration between agriculture and manufacturing to develop and expand upon the existing supply chain for agricultural product to the manufacturing sector. The LAND forums are intended for manufacturers, agricultural leaders, economic development professionals, local and state officials, academia, and other stakeholders.

The onsite forums will begin at 10:30 a.m. local time and include a Kentucky Proud lunch for those pre-registered.

For more information about the LAND forums, or to register, go to kam.us.com/land-forums.

Dates and locations of the 2021 LAND forums

- **July 14** Western Kentucky University Agricultural Exposition Center, 406 Elrod Road, Bowling Green
- Aug. 5 Beck's Hybrid's, 5741 Airline Road, Henderson
- **Aug. 12** Maysville Community and Technical College, 1755 U.S. 68 Business, Maysville
- **Sept. 9** Robinson Center for Appalachian Resource Sustainability, 130 Robinson Road, Jackson
 - Sept. 14 Gallrein Farms, 1029 Vigo Road, Shelbyville.

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AUCTION/MARKET

Blue Grass South Stanford, KY May 17& 20, 2021 Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 26 hd. 602# 158.50 blk-charx 135 hd. 743# 145.10 blk 57 hd. 840# 131.00 blk-charx 40 hd. 854# 130.25 mixed 60 hd. 895# 131.80 blk 62 hd. 895# 127.00 blk 60 hd. 898# 128.80 blk 59 hd. 907# 127.75 blk 61 hd. 935# 125.10 blk 58 hd. 960# 123.10 blk-charx 60 hd. 971# 117.90 blk-charx Holstein Steers: Large 3 69 hd. 861# 94.70

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 87 hd. 470# 158.00 blk 77 hd. 670# 134.00 blk 24 hd. 681# 128.00 blk 72 hd. 728# 129.85 blk 76 hd. 776# 126.00 mixed

133 hd. 839# 123.00 blk-charx Blue Grass Maysville

Maysville, KY May 18, 2021

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 79 hd. 651# 137.00 blk-charx

Christian Co. Livestock Auction Hopkinsville, KY May 19, 2021 Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

55 hd. 1010# 118.25 blk

National Daily Direct Slaughter Negotiated Purchases 05/21/2021

Live Bids- weighed average weights & prices Steers:

80%-up Choice 1463.4 lbs 119.59 80%-up Choice 1274.5 lbs 119.89 **KY-TN Livestock Auction**

Guthrie, KY May 20, 2021

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 36 hd. 548# 151.25 bbwf

Feeder Bulls: Medium & Large 1-2 21 hd. 361# 174.00 bbwf 26 hd. 423# 160.00 bbwf 23 hd. 487# 148.25 bbwf

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 21 hd. 357# 149.00 bbwf 24 hd. 436# 147.00 bbwf 28 hd. 487# 145.00 bbwf 43 hd. 550# 139.00 bbwf

Mid-KY Livestock Market

30 hd. 631# 121.00 bbwf

Upton, KY May 18, 2021

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

20 hd. 521# 126.00 blk 26 hd. 560# 122.00 blk 23 hd. 620# 118.00 blk 63 hd. 786# 118.70 mixed

United Producers Owenton

Owenton, KY May 19, 2021

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 59 hd. 960# 126.30 mixed

Blue Grass of Albany

Albany, KY May 19, 2021

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 60 hd. 889# 133.00 mixed

Lake Cumberland Livestock

Somerset, KY May 22, 2021

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 65 hd. 868# 130.75 mixed

44 hd.1203#110.95 blk

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

97 hd. 561# 143.00 mixed 96 hd. 611# 135.50 mixe4d 87 hd. 637# 135.75 blk-charx 81 hd. 642# 131.75 mixed

USDA ESTIMATED DAILY LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

	CATTLE	CALVES	HOGS	SHEEP
Friday 05/21/2021 (est)	119,000	1,000	463,000	6,000
Week Ago (est)	115,000	1,000	461,000	6,000
Year Ago (act)	103,000	1,000	387,000	7,000
Week to Date (est)	591,000	6,000	2,361,000	38,000
Same Pd Lt Week (est)	578,000	8,000	2,381,000	38,000
Same Pd Lt Yr (act)	514,000	6,000	1,992,000	44,000

Blue Grass Stockyards

Lexington, KY May 17 & 18, 2021

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

58 hd. 801# 141.75 blk 61 hd, 811# 140,75 blk

57 hd. 850# 132.60 blk-mixed

65 hd. 859# 136.00 blk

Feeder Heifers: Medium & large 1-2 20 hd. 881# 116.75 blk

Washington Co. Livestock

Springfield, KY May 17, 2021

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

71 hd. 770# 137.90 blk 59 hd. 840# 128.50 blk 24 hd. 857# 125.25 blk 59 hd. 909# 129.90 blk

Holstein Steers: Large 3 58 hd. 918# 97.10

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

22 hd. 597# 143.50 blk 78 hd. 689# 132.70 blk 23 hd. 865# 114.50 blk-charx Paris Stockyards

Paris, KY May 20, 2021

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

28 hd. 588# 156.00 blk 59 hd. 805# 132,25 blk-charx 58 hd. 918# 127.60 blk-charx

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

45 hd. 479# 152.75 blk 29 hd. 536# 139.25 blk-charx

34 hd. 570# 143.75 blk 80 hd. 667# 140.10 blk

Russell County Stockyards

Russell Springs, KY May 19, 2021

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

62 hd. 865# 137.00 blk-charx

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 66 hd. 849# 117.00 charx-blk-red

Blue Grass East

Mt. Sterling, KY May 19, 2021

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 30 hd. 795# 118.75 blk-charx

49 hd. 578# 136.00 blk-charx



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AUCTION/MAR

LOUISVILLE AREA: Louisville & Bagdad; <u>PENNYRILE AREA</u>: Allensville, Auburn, Franklin, Hopkinsville & Pembroke; <u>BLUEGRASS AREA</u>: Bardstown, Lexington & Winchester; <u>GREEN RIVER</u>: Caneyville & Livermore; <u>NORTHERN KENTUCKY AREA</u>: Silver Grove at Cincinnati; <u>PURCHASE AREA</u>: Clinton & Mayfield. Opening bids at elevators and processing plants.

05/24/2021 4:00 pm est Bids for next day Cash Bids	Louisville	Pennyrile	Purchase	Bluegrass	Green River	Northern KY
Corn #2 Yellow Corn #2 White	6.97	6.97-7.07	6.82-6.87 6.97	6.67	7.02	7.07
Soybeans #1 Y Wheat #2 SRW Barley	14.85 NA	15.13-15.28 6.62	15.38-15.55 NA	15.23 NA	15.42 NA	15.47 NA
New Crop Delivery Contract	-7.5					
Corn #2 Yellow Corn #2 White	5.33	5.35-5.40	5.30-5.50 5.45-5.60	5.15	5.50	5.54
Soybeans #1 Y Wheat #2 SRW Barley	13.00 6.25	13.37-13.52 6.27-6.47	13.62-13.67 6.57-6.72	13.17 6.37	13.42 6.47	13.54 6.83

Plant Report 05/24/2021 Indiana Ohio Illinois

Yellow Corn Spot Bid 6.70-7.20

Dried Distillers Grain (\$/ton) 10% moisture 225.00-255.00

Modified Wet Distillers (\$/ton) 50-55% moisture 110.00

Kentucky Weekly Cattle Receipts as reported at local

17,255 05/01/21 05/08/21 15,244 05/15/21 15,965

17.451

05/22/21

Weekly Feed Ingredient Price Wholesale prices, \$ per ton Rail or Truck FOB Location	Owensboro Grain 05/24/2021	Commonwealth Agri-Energy Hopkinsville 05/24/2021	St. Louis Weekly Feed Prices 05/18/2021	Memphis Weekly Feed Report 05/18/2021	Corn Belt Feedstuffs Report 05/18/2021	Daily Direct Hog Prices LM_HG218 05/24/2021 Barrows & Gilts Purchased Swine Receipts: 3,071	FOR DAILY LIVESTOCK AND GRAIN MARKET
Soybean Meal 48% Sol Soybean Hulls	424.20 200.00	772 <u>—30</u> 7	472.00-477.00	430.80-447.80 155.00	405.80-438.80	Base Price: \$101.68-\$111.75	REPORTS
Corn Distillers Grain Dried Distillers Grain Modified		253.00 141.00	2012d	=	250.00-280.00	Wt. Avg. \$104.94	CALL FARMLOT
Distillers Grain Wet Corn Condensed Solubles	0 	87.00 NA		_	(-	Compared to prior day, wt. avg. base	
Corn Gluten Feed 20-21 pct Corn Gluten Meal 60 pct	9 33	10 1	260.00 670.00	_	205.00-220.00 598.00-635.00	prices were 4.64 lower.	1-800-327- 6568
Cottonseed Meal 41 pct Whole Cottonseed	10 35 10 31	×	420.00	365.00-375.00 385.00	2 1 2 22 -5	5 Day Rolling Aver-	1-502-573-
Wheat Middlings	2 1	20-5	150.00-180.00		22 1 - 	age: \$109.75	0553



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AUCTION/MARKET

STATE AVERAGES			
Steers (M&L 1-2)	<u>This Week</u>	<u> Prior Week</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
350-400 lbs	162.85	165.09	159.73
400-450 lbs	158.71	158.31	155.96
450-500 lbs	155.80	158.66	153.25
500-550 lbs	151.66	152.42	146.63
550-600 lbs	148.14	144.97	142.23
600-650 lbs	141.13	138.89	137.47
650-700 lbs	136.09	135.76	130.02
700-750 lbs	128.65	127.98	123.58
750-800 lbs	127.77	126.15	118.94
800-850 lbs	121.40	120.96	127.12
850-900 lbs	118.75	119.34	118.24
Heifers (M&L 1-2)			
300-350 lbs	145.50	143.88	143.08
350-400 lbs	142.00	141.27	139.79
400-450 lbs	139.88	139.48	136.07
450-500 lbs	137.64	137.74	130.79
500-550 lbs	132.25	132.64	131.99
550-600 lbs	129.38	128.38	123.75
600-650 lbs	122.63	120.71	120.15
650-700 lbs	119.61	118.47	113.90
700-750 lbs	111.14	112.80	109.79
750-800 lbs	111.59	109.77	109.74

WEELKY COW SUMMARY

Slaughter Cows	<u>Average</u>	<u>High</u>	Low
Breakers	55.50-73.50	61.50-86.00	55.00-58.00
Boners	45.00-78.00	53.00-85.00	42.50-69.00
Lean	40.00-69.50	50.00-77.00	27.00-63.00
Slaughter Bulls	<u>Average</u>	<u>High</u>	Low
Yield Grade 1&2	80.00-107.00	86.50-116.00	66.00-91.00

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.

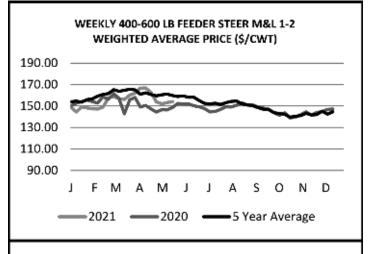
SLAUGHTER SHEEP: 614

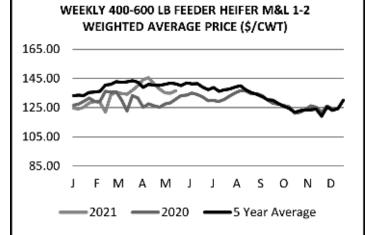
Wooled-Choice and Prime 1-2 54 lbs 265.00; 68 lbs 260.00; 87 lbs 255.00; 113 lbs

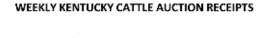
230.00. **Wooled-Choice 2** 53 lbs 270.00; 70 lbs 260.00; 97 lbs 260.00; 146 lbs

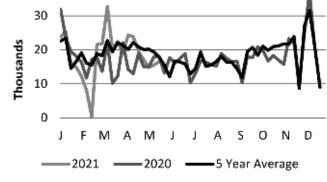
115.00. Hair Breeds-Choice and Prime 1-2 53 lbs 250.00; 67 lbs 232.50; 87 lbs

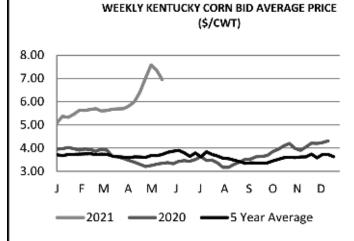
230.00; 100-110 lbs 130.00-230.00.











AUCTION/MARKET

	Produce F	Prices updated 05/24/2	021
Variety	Unit Size	Price Range	Avg. Price
Tomato #1	20 lbs	27.00-60.00	35.98
Tomato #2	10 lbs	20.00	20.00
Tomato small/canne	10 lbs	8.50-14.00	13.15
Asparagus	.5 lbs	2.10-2.20	2.17
Bell Peppers	peck	10.00-12.00	11.20
Broccoli	.5 bu	5.00-31.00	13.52
Cabbage	hd.	0.15-0.90	0.47
Cauliflower	hd.	0.60-1.00	0.78
Cucumbers, slicing	.5 bu	5.00-24.00	14.52
Green Beans	.5 bu	5.00-25.00	21.79
Strawberries	quart	0.50-4.00	1.40
Yellow Squash	.5 bu	5.00-24.00	15.21
Zucchini	.5 bu	3.00-18.00	10.04

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Farm groups outline livestock marketing issues

OVERLAND PARK, Kan. – On Monday, May 10, member leaders of American Farm Bureau Federation, National Cattlemen's Beef Association, National Farmers Union, R-CALF USA, and the United States Cattlemen's Association met in Phoenix, Arizona.

These groups convened at the request of Livestock Marketing Association to discuss challenges involved in the marketing of finished cattle with the ultimate goal of bringing about a more financially sustainable situation for cattle feeders and cow-calf producers.

The group talked candidly about issues facing the industry today, including discussions on packer concentration, price transparency and discovery, packer oversight, Packers and Stockyards Act enforcement, level of captive supply, and packer capacity.

The group also agreed to take to their respective organizations for consideration these action items:

- Expedite the renewal of USDA's

Livestock Mandatory Reporting (LMR), including formula base prices subject to the same reporting requirements as negotiated cash and the creation of a contract library.

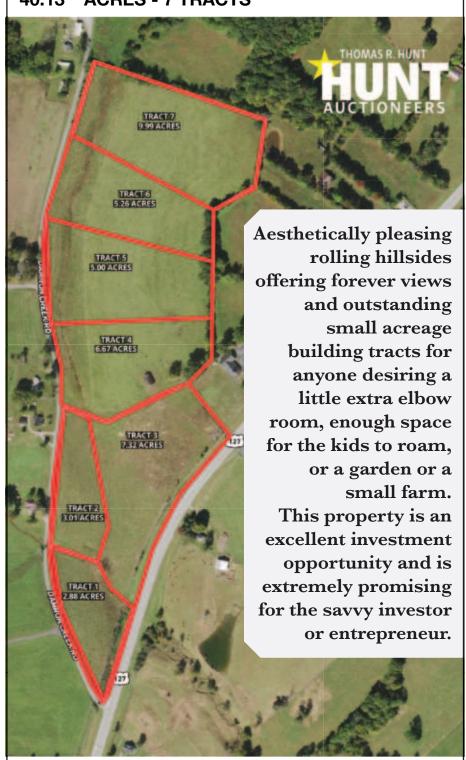
- Demand the Department of Justice issue a public investigation status report and as warranted, conduct joint DOJ and USDA oversight of packer activity moving forward.
- Encourage investment in, and development of, new independent, local, and regional packers.

The meeting brought together diverse producer organizations to identify issues and discuss potential solutions. These issues and action item lists are not comprehensive, due to time constraints of this meeting. Attending organization representatives issued a news release and reported that they were pleased to have reached consensus on many issues and are committed to the ultimate goal of achieving a fair and transparent finished cattle marketing system.



HUNT AUCTION

SATURDAY, JUNE 19TH - 10:03_{AM} HWY 127 & Damron Creek Rd, Russell Springs SELLING ABSOLUTE - ONLINE AND ON SITE 40.13^{+/-} ACRES - 7 TRACTS



Tommy Hunt 270-745-9900 SELLWITHHUNT.COM

Terms- 10% buyers premium will be added to bid price to determine contract sale price. A \$3000 down payment will be required for each parcel upon signing of the sales and purchase agreement upon conclusion of the sale with the balance due on or before 30 days at closing.