

HOMETOWN NEWS FOR KENTUCKY'S FARM COMMUNITY

270-384-9454

ONLINE PORTAL Ky. hemp applications now accepted

FRANKFORT – The window to apply for the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's 2022 hemp licensing program is now open.

While hemp has tremendous market opportunities, producers are being cautioned to take other factors into consideration as they make production decisions.

"The nation's hemp industry continues to face challenging headwinds, including continued regulatory inaction by the Food and Drug Administration toward cannabinoids," said Agriculture Commissioner Dr. Ryan Quarles. "As we enter the ninth growing season, we encourage all hemp growers and processors to carefully consider all of the factors in this industry."

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture, which administers Kentucky's hemp licensing program, is hosting an online application portal on its hemp webpage, kyagr.com/hemp.

Grower applications, including renewals, must be submitted by March 15, 2022. New processor/handler applications may be submitted year-round. Annual processor/handler license renewals must be submitted by Dec. 31.

During last year's application period, KDA licensed 450 hemp growers to cultivate up to 12,000 acres and 140 hemp processors and handlers for 2021. The Department also licensed 3.7 million square feet of greenhouse space for production. Of the 450 hemp grower licenses, 135 were "storage only" licenses for growers to market a previously grown hemp harvest.

The 2021 numbers reflect national trends for hemp production. According to a review of states with hemp programs, 30 out of 40 states reported reduced or significantly reduced applications for 2021.

Earlier this year, the U.S. Department of Agriculture implemented a final rule for hemp production. The final rule comes after state agencies, industry groups,

SEE HEMP, PAGE 5

Christmas Tree



Wesley Parker is the 2021 Farmer of the Year, an award being presented this week by Kentucky Farm Bureau. Parker (right) shares the recognition with farm employee, Greg Campbell, and Wesley's wife, Marsha Parker.

Parker recognized for leadership, service

OAK GROVE, Ky. 42728 – "I really like watching livestock and crops grow, said Wesley Parker, the 2021 Kentucky Farm Bureau Farmer of the Year.

During the mid 1970s, Parker would return home from Murray State University and realize how much pleasure he received from being on his family's 150-acre dairy farm in the south Christian County community of Oak Grove.

This realization established his farming career and led to numerous agriculture leadership roles and now the prestigious recognition from KFB.

The award recognizes an individual whose efforts not only strengthen his state's agriculture industry but also demonstrate service and leadership both on and off the farm.

Parker still farms the 150-acre homeplace, owns another 250 acres and leases an additional 1,250 acres with half in a wheat/soybean double-crop rotation and half in corn, all within a two-mile radius of his home. He considers himself a small farmer in a county with large and very large farming operations.

Parker demonstrated resiliency in years of agriculture turbulence through diversifying his operation and being willing to change.

When he moved back to the farm in 1977 with his wife, Marsha, a 40-cow dairy was the primary farming operation. In a few years, they phased out the dairy and went into a feeder pig operation and eventually farrow to finish with 140 sows.

One of the reasons he left the dairy business was the time constraints, but the hog operation required considerable time, "if you did it right."

When hog prices dropped below 10 cents per pound, he discontinued the hog operation but continued the row crop operation that had been used as hog feed.

Parker has raised as much as 30 acres of tobacco but has downsized to seven acres. He likes to have tobacco because he has had a tobacco crop since he

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Volume 33, Number 11

PRIDE IN AG - How to grow a Kentucky

9.

www.thefarmerspride.com

Winter meetings, annual events:

Kentucky Fruit and Vegetable Conference

Jan. 3-4, 2022 – Sloan Convention Center, Bowling Green *kyhortcouncil.org*

Kentucky Commodity Conference

(Joint meetings of the Kentucky Soybean, Corn and Small Grain Growers) Thursday, Jan. 13, 2022 – Sloan Convention Center, Bowling Green *kycommodityconference.org*

Kentucky Cattlemen's Association Convention

Jan. 13-14, 2022 – Lexington Convention Center *kycattle.org*

Kentucky Pork Producers Association Annual Meeting

Friday, Jan. 14, 2022 – Sloan Convention Center, Bowling Green *kypork.org or contact KPPA at 270-737-5665*



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Ag Expo

Wednesday, Jan. 26, 2022 – Owensboro Convention Center *daviess.ca.uky.edu/2022agexpo*

National Farm Machinery Show

Feb. 16-19, 2022 – Ky. Fair and Expo Center *farmmachineryshow.org*



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MARKET REPORT: WEEK OF November 9, 2021

Farmers Regional Livestock Market of Glasgow, LLC Total Receipts: 759 Supply included: 4% Feeder Cattle (63% Steers, 25% Heifers, 13% Bulls); 58% Slaughter Cattle (83% Cows, 17% Bulls); 38% Replacement Dairy Cattle (52% Fresh/Milking Cows, 3% Bred Heifers, 15% Springer Heifers, 4% Open Heifers, 20% Baby Bull Calves, 5% Baby Heifer

Calves). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs was 12%. Steers: Medium and Large 1-2: 536# 139.00. Heiforg: Large 2: 420# 114.00.520# 100.00

Heifers: Large 2: 420# 114.00; 580# 100.00.

Bulls: Large 2: 665# 95.00.

Bulls: 1545-2045# 82.00-99.00; 1840-1985# 92.00-100.00; 1640-1740# 72.00-77.00.

Fresh/Milking Cows: Supreme 1500.00-1600.00; Approved 1250.00-1450.00; Medium 1100.00-1400.00; Common 700.00-1075.00.

Bred Heifers: Medium T2 775.00; Common T2 625.00-700.00 Jersey; Common T2 625.00-650.00 Jersey.

Springer Heifers: Approved T3 1100.00; Medium T3 875.00-1125.00; Common T3 675.00-825.00.

Baby Bull Calves: 27 Head 20.00-90.00; 4 Head 100.00-150.00 Beef Cross; 2 Head 90.00-120.00 Crossbred. 1 head 20.00 Jersey.

Baby Heifer Calves: 7 Head 20.00-40.00; 2 Head 90.00-100.00 Beef Cross.

Rural banker survey finds record-high farmland price index

A November survey of rural bankers in 10 Midwestern states that rely on agriculture and energy marked 12 straight months of positive outlooks on economies in about 200 rural communities with an average population of 1,300 in Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming.

The Rural Mainstreet Index rose to 67.7 from October's 66.1, and the farmland price index hit a recordhigh 85.5, up from 81.5. "Readings for farmland prices and equipment sales over the last several months represent the strongest consistent growth since 2012" writes Creighton University economist Ernie Goss, who compiles the index. "Solid grain prices, the Federal Reserve's record-low interest rates, and growing exports have underpinned the Rural Mainstreet Economy."

However, labor shortages continue to plague rural businesses; Bureau of Labor Statistics data show nonfarm employment in Rural Mainstreet states remains 2.5 percent lower than before the pandemic. Some bankers also worry about the infrastructure bill; asked what parts of it would most help agriculture, 30 percent percent said it has too many negatives to help at all, while more than a fourth each said it would help most with broadband and waterways. From The Rural Blog

AGRONOMY ONE

Nutrient Management Planning in Kentucky

CAP* 102 – Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan for confined livestock operations

- CAP* 104 Nutrient Management for cropland
- CAP* 114 Integrated Pest Management

* Conservation Activity Plan practice, as part of N.R.C.S. EQIP program

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 Owensboro, KY

Thanks for riding out this year with us. We couldn't ask for better customers, neighbors and friends.

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A sleighful of happy wishes

and appreciation to everyone we

know this holiday season!

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OPINION

THE FARMER'S PRIDE

The evil Tom turkey



I fyou have ever been involved in raising livestock, you probably have had at least one experience where you saw a child being chased by a critter. I can recall two such experiences during my childhood, and my least favorite to remember involves a turkey.

Actually, there isn't really one "turkey chasing" story to tell, it's one long, bad memory of summer visits to see my cousins in Missouri.

ONE VOICE

Sharon Burton

All I know for sure is that I headed out of that little building and she headed out after me. We made several circles around the building, her chasing after me, before I realized I was getting nowhere.

My Uncle Eugene had the meanest Tom turkey that ever stalked the planet, and we knew if he was around, we should head in the opposite direction. Tom liked to take over the back yard, and I remember

more than once a child's planned adventures being curtailed because that blasted turkey was between us and our destination.

I don't remember what finally happened to Tom, but I do remember that my summers improved after he was gone. I loved visiting my cousins and my aunt and uncle on their

farm, but I still think about that mean turkey at Thanksgiving time. I have no remorse when it comes to the main dish for the holiday season, but I bet old Tom would have been a tough bird and not much good for anything by the time he took his exit from this world.

My second memorable race with a chasing critter came when I got too nosy and wanted to see the new piglets that were born in the small shed in a field behind our house. Dad only had the one sow, but she was providing him with another generation, and I wanted to learn all about it. He warned me, but I didn't listen.

As soon as that mama took a break and headed out the door, I jumped the electric fence and headed into the building.

I'm not sure how the next step happened, I only know it happened quickly. Maybe I heard her returning and got scared, or maybe she ran in the door and I ran out.

All I know for sure is that I headed out of that little building and she headed out after me. We made several circles around the building, her chasing after me, before I realized I was getting nowhere. After making a corner, I headed toward the fence. The protective mama sow kept going around in circles a few more times before she quit. I think she was enjoying the change of pace from caring for her young. I, however, was exhausted.

I didn't hate that sow after that; I even liked her protective spirit. She was being a good mom. But Tom, well, he was just downright mean.

Grassroots work leads to progress

s most of you know, this is the time of year when Kentucky Farm Bureau readies itself for our annual meeting. It's an exciting time as we gather together to conduct the business of this organization, adopting policy and setting priorities, as we prepare ourselves for the advocacy efforts of the coming year.

Just one year ago, we found ourselves facing an annual meeting like no other in that we conducted it completely by virtual means due to Covid-19 restrictions. And, while it was very different from a logistical standpoint, its purpose was unchanged, as it has been for over a century.

We have never failed to move forward in our operations as an organization, and have done so through wars, depressions, droughts, recessions, and yes, pandemics.

Throughout any given year, KFB county volunteer members are busy formulating policy recommendations to be sent to our State Resolutions Committee for consideration. This is a very important process by which we decide our position on a number of ag-related topics and set forth our priority issues for the new year.

We will take these priorities to Frankfort and Washington, D.C. to engage with our lawmakers on matters that are affecting or could affect farm families throughout our state. Often, these advocacy efforts stretch far beyond the farm gate as we reinforce our commitment to improve our communities for all citizens.

Many of the policy ideas that come from KFB members have gone on to become legislation, passed at state and national levels for the benefit of all Kentuckians, rural and urban, farm families and those who may have never been on a farm.

You see, what we do as an agriculture industry impacts everyone. We don't take this obligation lightly, and this grassroots way of operating has, and will continue to serve us well in these efforts.

Just as we have faith that a planted seed will bring forth a productive crop each year, we have the same faith in the members of Farm Bureau, knowing that the seeds of policy development they plant will be productive, and move our organization and the agriculture industry we serve into the future.

All this work conducted throughout the past several months culminates in our annual meeting and it is truly amazing to watch this process come full circle each year, whether we are in

SEE LOCAL, PAGE 5



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KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU PRESIDENT

> Mark Haney

All this work conducted throughout the past several months culminates in our annual meeting and it is truly amazing to watch this process come full circle each year...

Hemp applications nova amainked tol

FROM PAGE 1

and hemp growers across the nation provided feedback to USDA on the interim final rule. The final rule took effect March 22.

In line with the process outlined in the 2018 Farm Bill, Quarles submitted a state plan to govern Kentucky's hemp program to USDA for the 2022 growing season. Kentucky's state plan was recently approved and not setting the world on fire i will be implemented in January 2022.

The public comment window for the regulations will remain open until Dec. 31. Comments can be e-mailed to Clint Quarles at Clint.Quarles@ky.gov.

For more information about the KDA's hemp program, go to kyagr.com/hemp.

Local tefforats rvest. bring strength to annual convention **FROM PAGE 4**

person or on a computer screen.

Nothing can come between us and our service to the commonwealth as we continue to stand as the Voice of Kentucky Agriculture.

As we have prepared for this annual meeting, I want to thank our volunteer members for their dedication to this organization and the industry that supports us all, and I want to remind you how important the process is of developing solid policy we can hang our hats on.

The future of current and future farm families depends on how effective we are now as strong advocates for agriculture, for rural communities, and for all those who depend on the American farmer to provide the necessary food, fuel, and fiber none of us can do without.

Letters to the editor are welcomed. Letters must include the author's name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Letters should be no longer than 500 words and will be edited for clarity. Send to newsroom@ thefarmerspride.com or mail to Pride, P. O. Box 159, Columbia, Ky. 42728

e all know a few people who think of themselves as the smartest person in the room. We also

he was the smartest person in the room wherever he went and everyone either already knew it or quickly exports, they tend discovered it. More importantly, Harl knew it, too,

and he often used his fierce intellect and equally quick smile to dominate public debates and charm dinner ened the fight with an energy after his the given rate the quickly guests.

Harl died Nov. 4 in Ames, IA, the home of Iowa State University and his academic home since his freshman

days there in 1951. His record is legendary: a bachelor's degree, two years of military service, one year as an ag and, a full professorship and endowed chair at

ISU by 1976. During that remarkable rise, Harl also made

himself into the most published, most soughtout ag attorney/ag economist in the nation. During his career he would publish 29 books and give more than 3,400 presentationarithe backbolar (didn't woods hiscon) rus th America's hiscon) states and 17 foreign nations. of whom are the backbarry of our fand system as farmers af these,

And, of course, he kept an immaculate record of it all.

In 1981, as his national reputation was soaring, Harl did one of the most courageous of whom are the bac things I've ever seen: he put everything he had - his career, the accolades, and his impeccable reputation - on the line to predict that fast-expanding farm debt and the just-passed Reagan tax cuts would bring economic calamity to rural America.

It wasn't a guess; it was an act of conscience. In August 1981, he would write a decade later in his book The Farm Debt Crisis of the 1980s, he had spent weeks studying the Reagan Administration's new taxharisn't workling – at least paying the didio't chalce him the smartest lecture notes. What he learned, though - when combined with the tight money policy of Paul Volker's Federal Reserve - troubled him.

He soon sounded the alarm through speeches, op/eds, and conversations with reporters. Harl supplied the facts, figures, and forecasts; the newspapers supplied the gongs.

'He soon sounded the alarm through know a handful of people who actually are the smart-est person in the room. Neil Harl was the latter; Neil Harl was the latter; with reporters.

The smartest person in the room

some shippers next "considered more efficient to ship empty con-tainers" back to Asia "which has led to a significant decline in the Des Moines, he later wrote.

the facts, figures,

How and forcessts; on-first washinder Latove liBepubli-

supplied the

His warnings, however, were met by scowls from ag bankers and rural politicians. All were certain that the 1970s' fat times would continue to roll under the White

do to our president?'" he was asked by "a flying wedge of

"I assured the phalanx of critics," he explained "... that

can (and that) there was just

rowing money, and that was voting Democratic."

It made no difference; the hatchets were out for Harl beans, pork, and performed to the sime of ful, and relentless.

He stayed on message, however, and by 1984, everything Harl had said would happen editor, then a law degree, a PhIlalkin-excodenticisf what deithet charapenighter was happening. Ag banks were bleeding bad loans, many Farm Credit banks needed federal bailouts, and thousands of farmers and ranchers were either closing their barn doors for good or having lenders foreclose them. It was the biggest U.S. farm crack-up since the Great Depression.

> debt that was crushing farmers and banks alike. His specialties, law and economics, gave him unique insights on how lenders and the government could work together to develop kbone (of our food system) as farmers, fishers, new strategies and assistance programs to work through mountains of farm debt while

healing broken markets.

And, slowly - far too slowly for far too many - the laggards finally listened to what the lion in the current Octarn 2003 opto fisspir 303 sagings dalaye had Ibean right all along and only later, decades after the calamity had passed, would he acknowledge that his critics had been wrong. Dead wrong, in fact.

> person in the room. It did, however, make him one of the most courageous and, sure, more than just immodest.

It made him, in fact, Neil Harl.

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 agcomm@farmandfoodfile.com.



FOOD ß FARM FILE

Alan Guebert

Ag banks were bleeding bad loans, many Farm Credit banks needed federal bailouts, and thousands of farmers and ranchers were either closing their barn doors for good or having lenders foreclose them.

KFB FARMER OF THE YEAR: Parker recognized for leadership, service

FROM PAGE 1

was 10 years old.

A small herd of beef cattle is still a part of the operation in honor of Parker's mother, Hazel. Mrs. Parker liked to stand at her kitchen sink and see the cows. Parker's home is in the exact spot as his boyhood home, and now Marsha can stand at her sink and enjoy a similar view.

There are two role models Parker credits with his success as a farmer. He says his father, V. W. Parker, instilled his strong work ethic, and his father-inlaw, Charles O'Nan, taught him about row crops. He smiled when he recalled visits to his future in-laws and even after marriage when Mr. O'Nan would say, "Come on, I've got some things you can help me with."

Parker shakes his head as he remembers how tough farming was in the 1980s when interest rates where in the 20 percent range. Many of his friends are no longer farming because of those tough times, he recalls. The Parkers wouldn't have been able to survive without Marsha's cooperative extension job. She served as Christian County 4-H agent and Family and Consumer Science Agent before retiring in 2013.

The award emphasizes service to agriculture and Parker's application includes a long list of leadership in KFB and other agriculture organizations. Parker has served as treasurer, vice president, and president on the Christian County Farm Bureau board and several state-level committees. He believes Farm Bureau

THANKS to all of the customers and friends who have made our year so special!

We appreciate your support, and we wish you a happy holiday.

RUSSELL COUNTY STOCKYARDS 211 Loy Brothers Rd. | Russell Springs 270-866-3930 is a critical voice for agriculture.

With more than 30 years of leadership, Parker has seen the issues in agriculture change. There has been the decline of family farms, advancements in technology and increases in government regulations, Parker noted

Parker's leadership skills have also served the Southside Church of Christ in Hopkinsville, where again he has taken on several different responsibilities within the church.

Neighbor and friend John Maddux said Parker is hard working and modest.

"He's a great farmer and conservationist, dedicated to his family, community, church, and friends. I can't think of a more deserving recipient."

When asked how he came to be nominated, Parker laughed and pointed at farm employee Greg Campbell. Campbell and Marsha wanted to nominate Parker without his knowledge but quickly realized the award required more information than they could complete. Parker chuckled and admitted he completed the application to ensure it was correct.

Email: kddc@kydairy.org • www.kydairy.org

Parker learned during the summer that he was a finalist and completed an interview.

Two weeks later, he and Campbell were riding in his truck, and he received a call. When he hung up, he looked at Campbell and said, "Well, I hope you are all are satisfied; we won."

Parker has been a little overwhelmed with all the attention after the award announcement in October. He has received many calls, letters and cards from people all over the state, some he hasn't heard from in years.

KFB produced a video of Parker's farming operation during the late summer and fall harvest season, including an interview with Parker. The video has aired on the KFB Facebook page, RFD-TV, and other agriculture media outlets.

In addition to being recognized at this week's KFB annual convention, Parker will represent Kentucky for the Swisher/Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farm of the Year, next October.

1510 Newtown Pike, Ste. 110 · Lexington, KY 40511

By Toni Riley Field Reporter



National no-tillage conference coming to Ky.

Scholarships available for first-time attendees

'Although the idea of no-till farming had been researched for years, it wasn't until 1962 that Christian County, Ky. farmer Harry Young had the first successful commercial crop of no-till corn. them.'

No-till planting, a practice that first found success in Kentucky, is celebrating 60 years next year. And for only the second time in its 30-year history, the National No-Tillage Conference, the event that celebrates and encourages no-till practices for agriculture, will be back in Kentucky.

"We are excited to once again host the National No-Tillage Conference," said Commissioner of Agriculture Dr. Ryan Quarles. "Since the practice first found success in Kentucky in 1962, it's only fitting we welcome the conference that celebrates and encourages this agricultural execution, back home to where it all began. No-till planting has changed the way Kentucky farmers can work the land for the benefit of all."

The National No-Tillage Conference is set for Jan. 4-7, 2022 at the Galt House in Louisville. The four-day event will include information from leading no-tillers, agronomists, researchers and other no-till experts sharing ideas for farmers to get the most out of their no-till farming system.

Although the idea of no-till farming

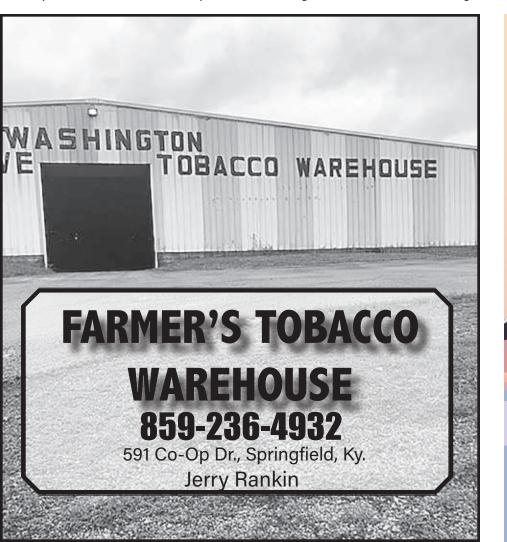
had been researched for years, it wasn't until 1962 that Christian County, Ky. farmer Harry Young had the first successful commercial crop of no-till corn. Using a combination of herbicides and atrazine for weed control and a mule-powered planter, Young harvested 0.7 acres of corn using this new method. It was a method needed by Kentucky farmers who were having issues with soil erosion with regular agricultural practices on the state's rolling hills.

Sixty years later, the no-till movement is mainstream. Now more than 104 million U.S. acres are in no-till productions, according to the 2017 agriculture census. Agricultural producers are still eager to learn more about the practice. The national conference is expecting as many as 1,000 attendees in January.

To help farmers in Kentucky and other southern states take a more operative approach to their soil conservation practices, the Southern Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SSARE) program has provided scholarship funding to support farmers attending the National No-Tillage Conference for the first time.

"We are honored to announce this first-ever scholarship, which reflects the importance of soil health, continued education on best conservation practices," said Frank Lessiter, founding editor of the No-Till Farmer publication and the 30th annual National No-Tillage Conference. "We are grateful to SSARE for the scholarships for firsttime conference attendees, and also to the Kentucky Department of Ag and Commissioner Quarles for its support and welcome of farmers as the event returns to no-till's Kentucky birthplace in 1962 – 60 years later."

The scholarship covers the full registration fee of \$449 for the four-day event. To apply for the scholarship (limited to first-time attendees from southern states), visit <u>www.no-till-</u> <u>farmer.com/NNTCscholarship</u>. The application process will be first-come, first-served through Dec. 15.



'Tis the season for celebrating friends and neighbors like you!

Greetings and best wishes to all of the folks who make our town such a wonderful place to work and live. We can't imagine anywhere we'd rather be this holiday season, and we're especially grateful for your support through the challenges and setbacks of this past year.

Looking ahead, we're excited to keep on growing with this community and sharing more time with all of you in 2021. Thanks again for sticking with us. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year!

> **CAMPBELLSVILLE** 265 Airport Rd., Campbellsville, Ky., 42718 **270-465-4051**

BLUEGRASS STOCKYARDS

HOMELINI



Right Way -Wrong Way

God created us to follow Him - not to forsake Him. He chooses for us triumph over temptation – not struggle with guilt for surrendering to sin. He wants us to walk with Him and not stray from Him because of our self-centeredness. He waits to help us achieve the potential He has given us and not be satisfied with less than what is possible. He is willing and able to share His wisdom and give His insights whenever we need to make any decision – if only we ask Him.

There are many wrong ways but only one "best" way – His way. And only God can reveal that way, His way, to us. We may search one way and then another, try this route, or another until it comes to a dead end. However, only when we allow God to lead us will we be in the center of His will.

Israel's experience during the Exodus gives us a great example of God's guidance and guardianship.

The Psalmist gives us a vivid picture of what can happen when people "try to make it on their own" and do not follow God: "Some wandered in desert wastelands, finding no way to a city where they could settle. Some were hungry and thirsty, and their lives ebbed away." How sad. How true. Without God's guidance, we are all wanderers!

"Then they cried out to the Lord!" And listen to what happened. "He led them by a straight way to a city where they could settle."

No one will ever find a "straight way" to a "safe place" in life unless they surrender their life to God and follow Him. Life without God is a "wasteland," and unless we accept His salvation, our lives will "ebb away."

Visit us at SowerMinistries.com

Chicken Fajita Soup

- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 pound skinless, boneless chicken breasts, cut into strips
- 1 (1.27 ounce) packet fajita seasoning
- 1 red bell pepper, cut into thin strips
- 1 green bell pepper, cut into thin strips 1 poblano pepper, cut into thin strips
- 1 large onion, cut into thin strips
- 1 (14.5 ounce) can fire roasted diced tomatoes
- 1 (15 ounce) can seasoned black beans
- 1 (14 ounce) can seasoned black 1 (14 ounce) can chicken broth
- 1 dash hot sauce

salt and pepper to taste

Heat oil in a large soup pot over medium heat. Place chicken in the hot oil; cook, stirring only occasionally, until brown, about 10 minutes. Sprinkle fajita seasoning over the browned chicken and stir well to coat. Add the red and green bell pepper, poblano pepper, and onion to the seasoned chicken. Stir and cook over medium heat until the vegetables are soft, about 10 minutes.

Pour the fire roasted tomatoes, black beans, and chicken broth into the pot with the chicken and vegetables.



Bring the soup to a boil over high heat, then reduce the heat to medium-low, and simmer uncovered for 30 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Season the soup with hot sauce, salt, and pepper to taste before serving.

Homemade Flour Tortillas



4 cups all-purpose flour

- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 2 tablespoons lard
- 1¹/₂ cups water

Whisk the flour, salt, and baking powder together in a mixing bowl. Mix in the lard with your fingers until the flour resembles cornmeal. Add the water and mix until the dough comes together; place on a lightly floured surface and knead a few minutes until smooth and elastic. Divide the dough into 24 equal pieces and roll each piece into a ball.

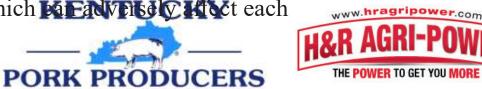
Preheat a large skillet over medium-high heat. Use a well-floured rolling pin to roll a dough ball into a thin, round tortilla. Place into the hot skillet, and cook until bubbly and golden; flip and continue cooking until golden on the other side. Place the cooked tortilla in a tortilla warmer; continue rolling and cooking the remaining dough.

Butterscotch Haystacks

1 (12 ounce) package butterscotch chips 1 cup peanut butter ½ cup crispy chow mein noodles Melt butterscotch chips and peanut butter together in a microwave-safe glass or ceramic bowl in 30-second intervals, stirring after each melting, for 1 to 3 minutes. Stir noodles into butterscotch mixture and spoon mixture into muffin cups; cool until set. 800-489-9454 sows and disparities in feed hich ban advensely affect each

THE FARMER'S PRIDE

19 DECEMBER 2, 2021







alth and productivity. How to Grow a Rentucky ChipiEstmas Tree

ar healthy, safe, and are free from disease that co seed, pine seeds must be pollinated and nation was provided by the National Pork Board (Des allowed to germinate before the possibility growth can occur. External condition of growth can occur. External conditions, such starn as soil quality and weather must also be right for a new tree to take root. That process is surprisingly lengthy, sometimes taking a year or more. For that reason, most of the farmers of the Kentucky Christmas Tree Association buy and plant seedlings from experienced nurseries **specific sow housing components** that specialize in producing stock from seeds. These seedlings are usually at least two years old before they are planted in a field. At this stage, they are only about 12 – 14 inches tall. is no one-size-fits-all approach — tradeoffs ex Depending on weather and soil conditions, the seedlings may require watering or fertilizing, SING TOT SOWS also makes pige. which can be time consuming and expensive. a havites had a transparse stand in elso at in g uncommon for our farmers to report that they lost one third, or even all their seedlings to drought or some other external cause.

When the trees have been in the field for 5 years, they begin to grow more noticeably ensing and moving. Though the trees are taking shape and growing, they are still not ready fobbastedt unless ise opvirerante en filtree.

During the 6th or 7th year, the tree may have reached 6 feet tall and be considered ready for harvest. Some trees will be shorter, some taller, depending the tree variety, seil and weather In an innal, welfare, Despite the onditions, disease, and even gamage from d endether hardivoid ual housing for

In the Fall, when tree farmers prepare for the Christmas cutting season, they will give bread an enter the to end bles refieving ranger branches and unwanted debris, and last-minute corrective pruning. Trees that are unsightly may became kadookuse gsomeath on meonetive greenery. Trees that are not cut are simply left tergrew conarcitoen adap to fleasing their sizes and value.

Source: Kentucky Christmas Tree Association

forme are exactly alike but as nig



Around the third week in November, several Kentucky farm families open their gates, experience of cutting a fresh, homegrown experience of cutting a fresh, homegrown is a KCTA member and former president. Christmas tree. A tree grown and nurtured in Kentucky soil, with Kentucky hands.

"There's a lot of talk these days about the environment and going "green," says the Kentucky Christmas Tree Association. "We smile a little bit at that because we've always been green werke always and better Kantucky farier agricultural history and are doing everything we cbresstpeds char coild to may the atera decreates c of growers. For many families, an outing to the nearest Christmas tree farm marks the official start of the Christmas season. Friends gather. Meals are shared. Decorations are brought down from the attic. Traditions are revisited. We're honored to be a part of that."

Of the many Christmas tree farms dotting the state, approximately 20 are Kentucky Christmas Tree Association members.

Steve McManus, owner of Cathole Bend Christmas Trees & Nursery, has been selling

McManus says even though Christmas tree farming is a relatively small industry in the commonwealth, it truly is a "green-oriented industry" where trees are rooted right here in Kentucky soil, rather than being grown elsewhere and shipped here.

arrectes, gestappotentstallistate the farming offers local communities a valuable. Service Charspheressingtop Jouran Sucharics II says selecting and cutting your own tree is a fun activity with lots of photo-snapping moments.

"For people who live in town, it's an opportunity to get out in the country a little bit and walk around amongst the trees and the fields that the farmers have," he says. "It's a good outdoor family experience."

For more information about Kentucky Christmas trees, visit kychristmastreefarms.com.

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



Thankful - the story of an Oklahoma windmill



Forgive me for departing from a purely forage theme to share some thoughts about being thankful. By the time you read this, you will have celebrated Thanksgiving, hopefully with friends and family, and maybe enjoyed a little rest. As I have gotten older (much older), the list of things to be grateful for gets too long to recount. This reflection brings to mind a simple fact – I am here, right now, because of others choices, work, love, sacrifice and support. And in the words of the poet Robert Frost, "that has made all the difference."

First a little about the windmill. This is a working windmill (most of the time) on a remnant of the half section of land that my maternal grandparents acquired over a century ago. When most of their family was choosing to leave Oklahoma for (hopefully) better days in California, my mom's parents chose to stick it out in Oklahoma. This was the mid-1930s, right in the middle of the dust bowl of the American Midwest. The water from this well irrigated a garden that helped feed my mom and her family through the period New York Times journalist Timothy Egan wrote about in his book, "The Worst Hard Time." To this day there are glass mason jars of vegetables in the storm cellar of the farm. They are at least 17 years old, and probably much more.

My parents live on the farm now, and the garden now produces native grasses, Russian thistle and wild sunflowers. But it will always be a symbol of the hard work of my grandparents, parents and others. Their efforts made a life for them, a good life, and made for my parents and my generation to succeed.

Over the years, I learned that my mom's parents first started with sheep, because they were more profitable. That led to a fully diversified farm that in

SEE THANKFUL, PAGE 15



This Oklahoma windmill watches over a patch of ground that at various times has been a garden, pasture and is now reverting back to native prairie. It is a reminder to me to be thankful for the opportunities provided to me and my family and others like me by the sacrifice of others, for which I am thankful.



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Soybean board marks 800 biodiesel course grads

Biodiesel is an important use for soybean oil. So important, in fact, that studies show this renewable, sustainable advanced biofuel contributes 13 percent to the selling price of every bushel of soybeans that farmers sell here in the United States. For reference, Kentucky soybean farmers grew 101,200,000 bushels in 2020.

Through an online course developed by the National Biodiesel Board, the Kentucky Soybean Board has been educating diesel tech students about soy biodiesel since 2013, and this semester marks a major milestone. "I can't believe we have had 800 people mostly students, and also their teachers - take this course," said Keith Tapp, a farmer-leader from Sebree who serves as Kentucky's representative to the National Biodiesel Board. "I remember when soy biodiesel first got started. We were growing soybeans for the meal to feed livestock and poultry, and the oil was pretty much a byproduct. The United Soybean Board invested farmer checkoff dollars into finding a practical use for the oil, and now here we are, 30 years later, still benefiting from a great return on that investment."

Tapp said that the renewable, sustainable nature of biodiesel, along with its cleaner-burning nature, is right in line with the attention that is currently being paid to environmental concerns. He added that because of the versatile nature of soybean oil and the push by manufacturers to transition from petroleum oil to more sustainable inputs, demand for soybean oil has skyrocketed.

"These students are the fleet managers and service advisors of the future," he said, "and many of them are already turning wrenches in addition to attending classes. It's important that they know about biodiesel and the benefits it can bring, both to a diesel engine and to the environment."

Tapp recently presented certificates and flashlights to students at both Gateway Community and Technical Collage and Ashland Community and Technical College. He thinks it's important that the students hear directly from a farmer whenever possible. "Our staff



Kentucky soybean farmer Keith Tapp (left) presented certificates to diesel tech students at Ashland Community and Technical College. At right is instructor Shannon McCarty, whose classes have completed the biodiesel training course since its inception in 2013.

knows a lot about biodiesel, and they do a great job talking about it," Tapp said. "But there is something about being able to relate biodiesel back to my farm, and talk about how I use it in my farm equipment, and how much money biodiesel contributes to my operation's bottom line that really drives the point home."

The program is offered annually to diesel technician programs in the

Kentucky Community and Technical College System, and farmer-leaders give the presentations whenever possible. In addition to framed certificates and logo flashlights, the board also furnishes each program that has the required number of students complete the course with a passing grade a check made out to Snap-On Tools so that they can purchase tools to augment their programs.

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Adair dairy family receives young farm family award

The Gaskins family from Adair County will be recognized this week during the Kentucky Farm Bureau convention as the "2021 Outstanding Young Farm Family."

This annual award recognizes an individual or couple under the age of 36 who demonstrates strong farm management skills, KFB and community involvement and consistent financial growth through their farm.

Jonathan and Jessica Gaskins are first-generation dairy farmers, although Jonathan grew up on a beef cattle and grain crops farm. Jessica didn't grow up on a farm, but she quickly found a passion for agriculture after her relationship with Jonathan began.

Jonathan and Jessica operate 1,722 acres of farmland and own nearly one-third of the property. They produced more than 5 million pounds of dairy last year, substantially increasing their production since they began farming in 2008. Their other major crops include corn silage, alfalfa hay and soybeans. In addition to their dairy and row crops, the Gaskinses started a sweet corn enterprise as a way to begin a college fund for their children. They recently added watermelons to their vegetable enterprise as well.

The Gaskinses hope to continue growing their successful farming operation in the years to come.

"We wish to continue expanding our family farm with the hopes of someday milking 300 cows and operating in additional areas," they noted. "We would also like to invest in a sand saving system for our dairy."

Jonathan and Jessica include their children in their farming operation, which is something they also hope to do even more of moving forward.

"As our children grow, we want to find ways to capture their interest on the farm and help them grow their own enterprises. In recent years we have helped our daughter develop a sweet corn enterprise," the couple said.

While the Gaskins family stays busy with their farm and family, they have also been involved in numerous organizations, including the FFA and Adair County 4-H. Additionally, they hope to get more involved in their Farm Bureau and in the agriculture community in the future. 2021 Kentucky Farm Bureau Outstanding Young Farm Family



Jonathan and Jessica Gaskins, with their children, Alexis, Allie and John.

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Thankful - the story of an Oklahoma windmill

FROM PAGE 10

the end had a modest dairy. Really modest, as they could only milk three of their Jersey and Brown Swiss cows at a time. My grandfather wound up being allergic to the cows (really) so he did the feeding and my grandmother did the milking until my uncles got old enough to help. Together my grandparents did a little bit of everything over the years, including alfalfa and cotton. But the biggest crop they grew were their kids and grandkids.

My paternal grandparents were not as fortunate. In fact, my dad and his parents lived in a sod house at one point on the Oklahoma prairie. My grandfather on this side of the family was a sharecropper and never owned a house his entire life. Yet he was a smart man who loved to read. And I do, too. And my daughter as well.

Neither side of the family passed on material wealth as an inheritance – they endowed us with something much more valuable. I am certain that my grandparents did not think of what they were doing as instilling a love for the land, pride in hard work and providing opportunity for me some 60 years later, but they did. For this I am very grateful.

I am thankful for the land grant mission, of which I am now a part. That mission of giving opportunity to children and families of rural America reached down to my dad on a street corner of Reydon, Oklahoma on the 4th of July in 1953. A fresh high school graduate (in a class of 15), he had a bright future for the time – full-time work on a hay farm. His high school principal saw him on that summer day and told my dad he should go to college. As the oldest son of a sharecropper in a family of five, my dad felt he had a better chance of flying home than going to college. By the fall, Mr. Roberts had arranged for my dad to be matriculated into an A & M (Agricultural and Mechanical) school that provided a job and let him pay tuition as he could.

Like so many before and since, my dad and ultimately my life was changed by the opportunities afforded by the land grant mission in America and the fact that somebody cared, really cared. And that is the point of this rambling expression of thanks in this time of Thanksgiving.

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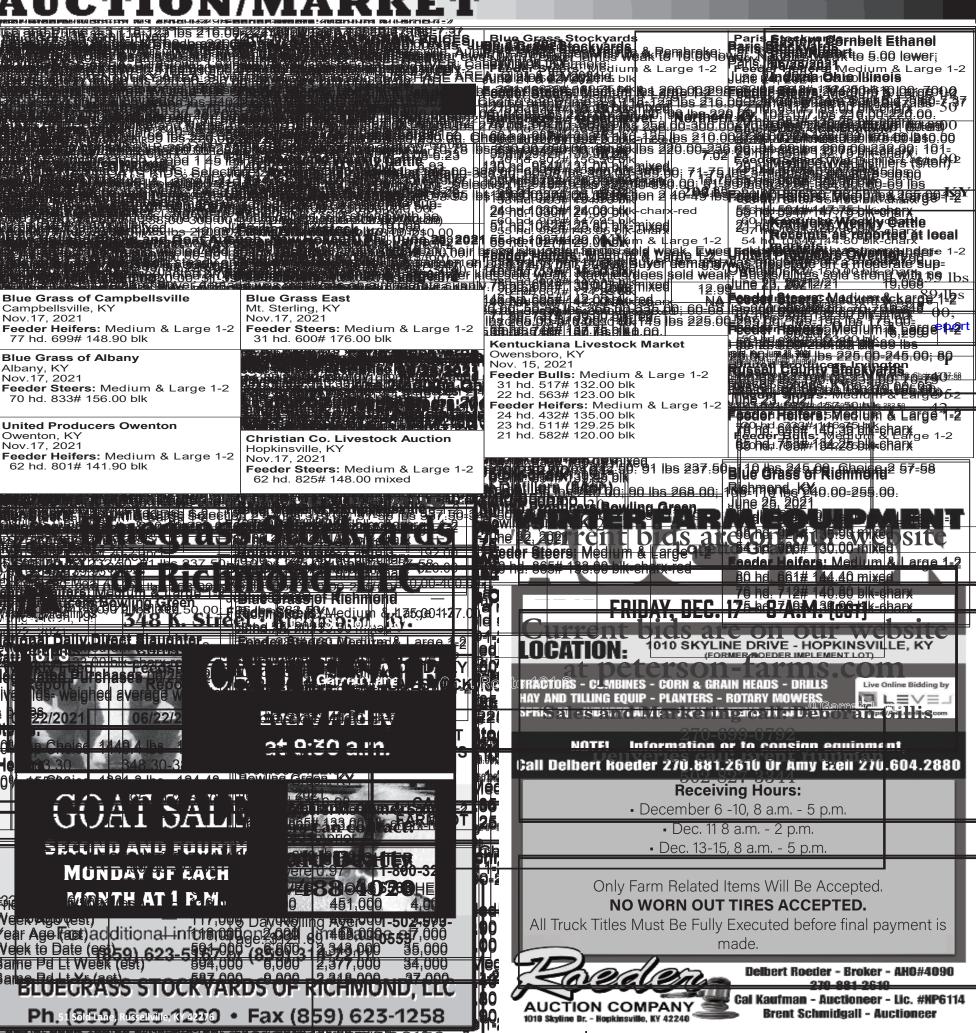
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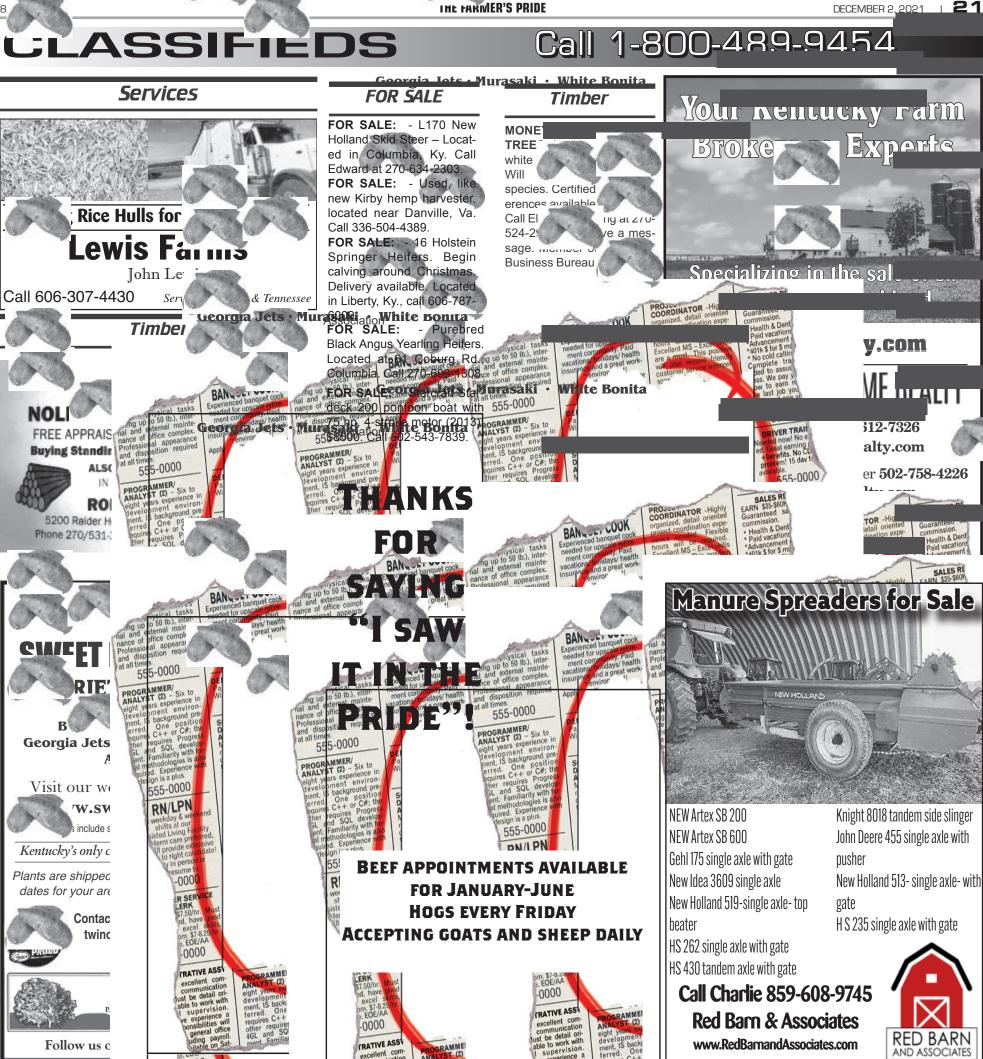
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THE FARMER'S PRIDE

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Commodity groups provide funding for Lock and Dam renovation

ST. LOUIS — To ensure continued and reliable delivery of U.S. soybean exports to customers around the world, the soybean checkoff plans to fund pre-engineering and design work to enhance and maintain Lock and Dam #25 on the Upper Mississippi River — a U.S. infrastructure asset critical for efficient barge traffic.

"The river system in the United States is our lifeline and one of U.S. Soy's biggest advantages over our competitors," said Meagan Kaiser, USB farmer-leader and soybean farmer from Missouri. "It's vital that our supply chain remain strong and reliable so we can continue to market our products and provide the most sustainable, reliable nutrient source for our customers. Soybean farmers understand this, which is why the checkoff is working to modernize U.S. infrastructure and return value back to the farm."

United Soybean Board, the Soy Transportation Coalition, Illinois Soybean Association, Iowa Soybean Association, Minnesota Soybean Research and Promotion Council, Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council and Iowa Corn Promotion Board are proposing a \$1 million investment to offset pre-engineering and design work expenses required to move the project forward.

If approved for federal funding, the project would be the first under the <u>Navigation and Ecosystem Sus-</u> <u>tainability Program</u>. NESP is a long-term program, authorized by Congress, to improve and restore the Upper Mississippi River System. Primary opportunities of improvement include reducing commercial traffic delays while restoring, protecting and enhancing the environment.

Lock and Dam #25 is one of seven existing locks specified by NESP for improvements. These existing locks, constructed in the 1930s, experience significant delays due to the single 600-foot lock chambers that raise and lower vessels moving from one water level to another. The 600-foot chambers require 1,200-foot barges to be disconnected and double-locked, significantly slowing delivery of U.S. grain commodities.

According to a <u>report</u> prepared for the United States Department of Agriculture Agricultural Marketing Service, Lock & Dam #25 accommodates 200 million bushels of soybeans annually. The Waterways Council, Inc. states an outage at this facility would <u>cost nearly \$1.6</u> <u>billion</u> and increase the number of truck traffic trips by more than 500,000 annually. Additionally, a 2016 economic impact <u>analysis</u> by the USDA demonstrated this lock and dam's importance — predicting that even just a three-month shut down (September-November) would result in aggregate economic activity related to grain barge transportation declining by \$933 million.

"Agricultural products comprise 70 percent of what we move through this part of the Mississippi River, so it's significant to U.S. farmers and international customers that rely on this infrastructure to have our transportation corridor functioning," said Andy Schimpf, navigation business line manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. "Barge transport via the lock and dam system provides the most economical, efficient and sustainable method of shipping U.S. soybeans and other goods." Lock and Dam #25 isn't the first critical infrastructure project taken on by the soy checkoff. In <u>2019</u>, the checkoff invested in research, analysis and design to initiate dredging of the lower Mississippi River. That initial <u>funding</u> helped open the door to a \$245 million investment from the federal government and the state of Louisiana to dredge the area from 45 to 50 feet.



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SAT. DEC. 11 AT 9 A.M. • 8141 WOODBURY HWY., MANCHESTER, TN. • NO LARGE EQUIP. SELLS BEFORE 10:30 A.M.















TRACTORS

Buhler Versatile 2180 Tractor, 2735 hrs Buhler (2)Verstaile 2145 Tractor, 2720 hrs NH T6030 (3) Tractor, 4WD, 3200 hrs NH TC21A Compact Tractor, 543 hrs, w/belly mower, like new IH 706 Tractor Ford NAA Tractor **TRUCKS & TRAILERS & 4 WHEELER Ford** F350 Flatbed Truck, 2017, 65,000 miles Int. Model 1724 Grain Truck, 1979, w/16' Midwest dump bed, 5/2 spd, gas, 39,000 miles Trail Master Gooseneck, 28', dual tandem Gooseneck Brand Cattle Trailer, 1999, 24' Carrier King Gooseneck Grain Trailer, 350 bu., 16' dump Flat Trailer, 16', bumper pull (2) Flat Wagons, 16 & 24' Trailer, 2 wheel Trailer for 4 Wheeler, 2 wheel Polaris Sportsman 500 4 Wheeler BBI Lime/Fertilizer Spreader, pull type Case IH 14 Ripper, 5 shank





FIELD & HARVEST EQUIPMENT GSI Grain Bins, 11,000 bushel Superior Grain Bins, 4,000 bushel Kinze 3600 12/23 Interplant Planter, planted about 2500 acres **Great Plains No-Till Drill CHP20** Model 2000, 20', planted 2238 acres Great Plains TSF660 Pull Type Sprayer, w/60' booms Water Wagon, w/pump, 1100 gal. NH TR89 Combine, w/NH model 973 25' header, NH 996 8 Row Corn Head & NH 973 for parts EZ Trail 680 Header Trailer EZ Trail 672 Header Trailer Parker 524 Grain Cart, w/scales (3) EZ Trail Model 300 Gravity Wagons (2) EZ Trail Model 220 Gravity Wagons Harvest King T836 Grain Auger MK 100-61 Grain Auger Clarks AG 2 Box Seed Caddy, w/3 seed boxes Seed Cleaner



(2) Taylor Way Chisel Plows, 11 shank JD 1635 Heavy Cutting Disc, 15' JD 1635 Heavy Cutting Disc, 12' Taylor Way Hyd. Fold Disc, 16' Taylor Way Hyd. Fold Disc, 20' Remlinger Rolling Harrow, 27' Brillion Cultipacker, 25' Taylor Way Spring Harrow, 10' Taylor Way Danish Tine Cultivator, 6 row Misc. Taylor Way Parts Woods Seeder Model GILL STR 60-2, 5' Ford 5 Bottom Plow, w/auto reset Ford 4 **Bottom Plow** Ford Rooter, 9 shank Drag Disc, 6' Misc. Steel Drags

CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT Cat D6R Xl Hi Track Dozer

Cat 953C Track Loader, w/cab, less than 350 hrs on complete motor rebuild, less than 30 hrs on a total new U/C Case 580L Backhoe Series 2, 3909 hrs Prime 9 Yard Dirt Pan Rome KG Cutting Blade Pemberton Root Rake Root Rake, 16' Shulte SRW 1400 Root Rake Shulte RS 320 Picker Rhino 6 Way Heavy Hyd. Blade Model 1540, 10', 3 pt. Rhino Blade, 6' Durabilt Box Blade Pull Type, 12' Land Plane, 16' X 50'

SHOP EQUIPMENT

(2) Craftsman Rolling Tool Boxes Craftsman Drill Press, 15" Power Max 1000 G3 Plasma Cutter Lincoln



255C Power Mig Welder Lincoln 225 Welder Craftsman 6.5 HP Air Compressor, 60 gal. Jet Bench Grinder Torch Gauges & Cart Eagle Hyd. Press, 30 ton Wilton Horizontal Band Saw Heavy Steel Work Bench Steel Work Table Wooden Work Table Several Air & Hyd. Jacks (2) Box Fans On Wheels, 36" Reddy 110,000 BTU Heater EX-Cell Pressure Washer, 11 HP, 3200 PSI Car Quest 7300 Battery Charger Honda EX 1000 Generator Echo CS-501 P Chain Saw, used 5 hrs Bolt Bins **Dayton Electric Hoist** Log Chains Lots of Really Nice Tools and Wrenches

OTHER EQUIPMENT

Bush Hog 2615 L, 15', 1000 RPM Bush Hog, 5', 3 pt.; Feed Troughs Seeder, 3 pt.; Hay Rings Sprayer, 3 pt., 55 gal.; Water Tanks Quick Attach, 3 pt. Ford Post Hole Digger, 3 pt. (4) Fuel Tanks, elec. pumps, 1000 gal. Approx. 400 Tons Lime Tarter Squeeze Chute **Gates & Cattle Panels**

AUCTIONEERS NOTES:

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are endless! The vegetable oil that we use for cooking so many tasty treats is 100% soybean oil, and there's soy lecithin in our yummy chocolate to keep it smooth and creamy.

Whether you enjoy turkey, ham or even shrimp and prime rib for your holiday dinner, chances are that soybean meal helped bring that protein to your holiday table!

The fact is, soy is found in almost everything, and Kentucky's soybean farmers are proud to contribute to this nation's food, feed and fuel supply!

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Soybean Board For more on soybean farming in Kentucky, visit our website, www.kysoy.org.

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 soy shampoo
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 soy lotion
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