

## Farmers and farmland are caught in the middle of the Great solar debate

With the push for renewable energy and the increased federal funding available for it, many in Kentucky are concerned about an onslaught of solar power farms.

Some county officials say “big solar” is moving in, getting huge tax credits while taking some of the very best farmland due to the premium leases they can offer aging farmers. But with many companies coming in from out of the country and expecting local county governments to issue millions in bonds for the projects, county officials are worried about taking high risks and believe the issue will divide communities.

John Logan Brent said he’s not at all opposed to solar, even describing himself as leaning “slightly left” on environmental issues.

“But I don’t think it’s our responsibility to sacrifice the best land and people of rural communities to save the world,” he said.

Brent is Henry County’s judge executive and is definitely not alone with his feelings about large companies coming to the state to lease land from farmers for proposed solar farms.

“Why Kentucky? Here’s the deal – it’s the perfect storm. We’ve had this trillion-dollar infrastructure passed with a lot of money for renewable energy, so there’s a lot of potential government money out there,” Brent said.

So far, there’s only one solar company from Utah that has entered into an option with a farmer in Henry County.

“We know of another company that reached out to us ... called to ask if we have planning and zoning and how to go about the process ... but I can’t get that company to call me back.”

Although Henry County hasn’t been greatly impacted by solar farm operations yet, Brent says he’s getting prepared; he’s concerned about nuisances, including long-term effects to farmland by the equipment.

“And I don’t know too many folks who truly value the beauty of the countryside who want to look out



Photo by Terry Prather

Ernie Leet, (wearing a mask), speaks to protesters of Industrial Solar in Maysville in August during a ribbon-cutting for the office of solar company Acciona.US. Leet is from May’s Lick. Don Solarz, also from May’s Lick, holds his sign high while trying to get noticed by those inside the building across from his location. Many of the protestors are with the Citizens Voice of Mason County, which opposes plans to place solar farms covering several thousand of acres in the May’s Lick area. (Reprinted with permission from the Ledger Independent.)

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**PRIDE IN AG EDUCATION** – Career profile  
– Nutriegenomics Research Technician **2.**

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# Farmers, farmland caught in solar debate

FROM PAGE 1

their front window and see several hundred acres of black panels.”

But at this time, Brent’s main concern is that the proposed projects will divide local areas due to the big money involved.

“And in some cases, they are out of the country – global companies are trying to make profits without regard for the best land, communities and neighborhoods. It’s the perfect recipe to divide people.”

Solar companies are overbidding farm lease prices by offering \$600-\$800 per acre to lease land, and Brent said he understands why that would be attractive to landowners or even farmers who are near retirement.

“That’s a tremendous, very attractive lease price here for 30 or 40 years. One farm goes, then you potentially have several more ...”

Brent spoke to Harrison County’s judge executive, a county where there was a 400-acre site approved, at first.

“It didn’t impact a lot of people. But that grew to 1,600 acres. If everyone else is selling out, and you and sever-

al neighbors are the last ones left, the property has been greatly devalued because the land around you has been turned into an industrial site – the only recourse you have left is to join in.”

Brent was also aware of two 900-acre lots proposed in Fleming County.

Larry Foxworthy, Fleming County’s judge executive, said solar companies began coming to the county back in 2019 to sign leases.

“No one knew they were here except the people who were signing with them, and they were sworn to secrecy — there were clauses in their leases,” he said. He thinks that’s because of the varying amounts offered to farmers as well as the growing competition in the industry. In Kentucky, it’s been reported that solar farms are leasing land at prices ranging anywhere from \$400 to \$1,200 an acre.

One company that came in has already been sold once, which Foxworthy says is a common practice.

“You never know who you’re dealing with.”

Now, Fleming County has a total of five companies that have signed land-

owner options, with two in the process of applying for a permit through the Kentucky Public Service Commission. They run different sizes, he said, with one being a \$188 million project on 2,500 acres of land.

“There’s an exemption for them for state taxes, and then they want to be exempted from local taxes but they will make a payment each year, for instance, for the school districts. But they’re not paying tangible property taxes for it. And they want the counties to issue these revenue bonds to finance them,” which he said is called a pilot agreement. “That’s the big deal, so they’re tax exempt from everything if the county does that ... They feel like this payment in lieu of taxes should be sufficient.”

Foxworthy said the fiscal court, which issues the bonds, believes it’s too big of a risk.

“When the rest of the county popu-

lation finds out you’ve agreed to help with the financing of these bonds, they’ll probably tear the door off of the courthouse. ... We’ve got a little county with a \$6 million budget. If we bonded each one of them, it’d be a half of a million. But they’re exempt in the case of default, if the project doesn’t go through.”

However, the counties would be exempt from repayment, as well, if the solar companies default.

“That’s what they’re telling us now, but there’s no guarantee. It doesn’t make much financial sense to me,” Foxworthy said. “And with this ‘Green New Deal,’ they’re getting 30 percent federal tax credits right off the top. So if it’s a \$180 million project, they’ll get \$60 million, right off the top.”

While he worries about his community, he said, “it’s all about revenue for them.” Foxworthy said they’ve “picked

SEE **SOLAR**, PAGE 12

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**Dairy Steers:** 3 Head 277# 85.00; 5 Head 425# 74.00; 4 Head 495# 79.00; 4 Head 600# 80.00.

**Heifers:** Medium and Large 1-2: 1 Head 320# 142.00; Large 3: 1 Head 410# 109.00; **Bulls:** Medium and Large 1-2: 310# 150.00.00.

**Springer Heifers:** Approved T3 1100.00-1175.00; Medium T3 875.00-1050.00; Common T3 675.00-850.00.

**Cows:** Breaker 75-80%: 1400-1780# 50.00-59.00; 1590-1840# 62.00-72.00; Boner 80-85% 1095-1685# 49.00-59.00; 1155-1385# 60.00-72.00; 1105-1470# 40.00-48.00; Lean 85-90%: 780-1090# 39.00-49.00; 880-1085# 50.00-61.00; 785-1110# 35.00-38.00. **Bulls:** 1-2: 1620-2145# 79.00-106.00; 1770-2035# 100.00-107.00; 1595-1745# 76.00-80.00.

**Fresh Milking Cows:** Medium 1150.00-1225.00; Common 800.00-1075.00; Common 775.00 Jersey.

**Spring Heifers:** Supreme T3 1375.00; Approved T3 1100.00-1150.00; Medium T3 900.00-1075.00; Common T3 675.00-825.00.

**Open Heifers:** Approved 275# 210.00; Medium 200# 130.00; Medium 300# 180.00; Common 525# 200.00.

**Baby Bull Calves:** 11 Head 30.00-70.00; 6 Head 130.00-250.00 Beef Cross; 7 Head 60.00-120.00 Crossbred; 3 Head 10.00-60.00 Jersey.

**Baby Heifer Calves:** 8 Head 20.00-60.00; 5 Head 120.00-250.00 Beef Cross; 3 Head 50.00-110.00 Crossbred

# Stephens ends tenure on American Soybean board

During its annual meeting in St. Louis, the American Soybean Association elected the leaders who will steer the organization through a new year of soybean policy advocacy, including planning for the 2023 farm bill and other soy priorities. In doing so, they said goodbye and thank you to retiring directors, including Davie Stephens of Clinton.

When Stephens was elected by the farmers of the Purchase Area to the Kentucky Soybean Association board in 2006, he could not have predicted that he'd serve nine years there, along with 12 years on the Kentucky Soybean Promotion Board and nine years on the American Soybean Association Board. He certainly had no idea that he'd be elected by farmer-leaders from across the United States to serve in ASA's highest office, nor that he'd be ASA president during some of the soybean industry's most challenging days for international trade.

He did all of those things, though, and garnered the respect of soybean farmers, lawmakers, and industry partners from across the country in the meantime. During the course of his

leadership role at the national level, Stephens has worked on the farm bill, been in the room when the President of the United States signed an incredibly important trade agreement, and rang the opening bell at the New York Stock Exchange. He has helped soybean farmers' national policy organization to employ a full staff of dedicated employees, find suitable office space in Washington, D.C., and he made a number of friends.

The most important thing he's done, though, is to advocate for soybean farmers in all 26 soybean-growing states. "

It's very rewarding," he said. "Not just because of who you meet and where you go, but because we get to educate legislators and the Administration on so many different issues. Whether it's the farm bill, crop protection, ag data, exports, the environment, or other issues farmers face, we are representing soybean farmers' best interests."

Stephens said, "While the reputation of the national and state organizations can help us open doors, when the legislators and the Administration have a situation or a particular issue they want

to acknowledge, they contact us. That is very fulfilling."

Stephens' retirement from the ASA board leaves some big shoes to fill, and the farmer-leaders of the Kentucky Soybean Association have elected Fred L. Sipes of Meade County for this role.

"There's nothing like coming on as an ASA director right behind the first guy from Kentucky to be national president," Sipes joked, "but I do have a real heart and passion for policy and trade, and I will represent the farmers not only from Kentucky, but from across the nation, to the best of my ability."

Sipes said that when he was elected

to the KSA board in 2012, he made it a point to remember that he didn't just represent F.L. Sipes Farms, but every soybean acre in the state of Kentucky.

He has had experience in Washington, D.C. not only through his leadership in KSA – which concluded with his presidency in 2020 – but also through his ties to Kentucky Farm Bureau.

Sipes has been involved with numerous high-level meetings with Kentucky's U.S. senators and congressmen, and said that he is looking forward to representing the best interests of soybean farmers in a leadership role.



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# What you really do for a living



ONE VOICE  
**Sharon Burton**  
Publisher

It's a balance.  
I feel blessed  
because I  
have been  
able to  
operate the  
business  
while  
"keeping my  
hands in the  
dirt."

I am in the news business. Or maybe it's the newspaper business. Or maybe I'm in the "run around in circles and try to meet deadlines and pay bills" business. Sometimes, what I say I do and how I spend my day look completely different.

I'm sure our readers feel the same way when they say, "I'm a farmer."

What does that really look like?

There are probably still plenty of people in the world who have visions of overalls and pitchforks when they hear the word farmer. They envision a man driving a small tractor while turning soil and planting seeds or positioning a pail under a cow to draw milk for their family.

My guess is that some of you long for the days when you could actually drive the tractor or spend your mornings in the presence of a cow. Instead, you are managing multiple people, coordinating logistics, purchasing inputs, developing marketing strategies and running around in circles trying to meet deadlines and pay bills.

I learned a long time ago that operating a business requires flexibility. It also requires an understanding about why you do what you.

I've seen businesses open their doors only to close them a few months later. Those failures are a reminder that not everyone understands the commitment that comes with owning a business. They may have been committed to an idea, but good ideas don't keep the doors open. For most of us, we learn from experience, and if we aren't quick to respond to the latest learning curve, we may not survive to reach the next one.

When I worked for someone else, I was a writer and editor. My job was about covering the news, writing the news, and editing the news. I was in the news business. I wasn't concerned with profits or whether other people in the company pulled their weight. I wasn't part of any strategic planning or quarterly goal setting.

Today, writing and editing are only a small part of what I do. On too many days, the writing and editing get pushed aside while I deal with the millions of other tasks on my list.

Am I complaining? Not really. Honestly, I enjoy it. I love to write but I also love to see an idea forged into a successful project. I enjoy the challenges of business ownership. I may be in the news business, but much of my time is spent running the business, not necessarily covering the news, and that

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# Market, inflation are key issues for 2022

After nearly two years of dealing with Covid-19, I hope you were able to gather together once more with your families for Christmas.

This month, the Kentucky General Assembly will gavel in for the 2022 legislative session. This is a budget year, so I will be working with the legislature on a number of important priorities, including research and infrastructure, investments in our agricultural community, western Kentucky tornado relief, and to secure funding needed for the Kentucky Department of Agriculture to continue serving you and your family. I'll also be holding the line on tax exemptions that benefit our sector.

In December, we received positive news from ag economists from the University of Kentucky at the Kentucky Farm Bureau annual meeting. Ag economists expect last year's agricultural receipts to exceed \$6.7 billion, which would break 2014's record year of \$6.5 billion. They also projected net farm income to reach \$2.5 billion, a number they noted would be the highest since 2013. UK's Dr. Kenny Burdine projected for us to end the year with record beef exports and also believes continued global demand will improve prices for calves and feeder cattle in 2022.

While this is good, we can't rest on our laurels. Things changed dramatically for a section of our ag economy in mid-December with the quad-state tornado that hit our state. We are still analyzing the long-term economic effects of the damage in west and western Kentucky, particularly to our poultry sector. Consider also that our farmers were already facing dual supply chain and labor crises before the tornadoes.

Whether you are a farmer needing inputs like seed, fertilizer, or parts, or if you're a consumer shopping for next week's meals, you're seeing the effects of inflation. We also have a lot of able-bodied Americans who are not returning to the workforce. These problems are affecting each and every business in this state and around the nation.

Even though the answers to inflation and labor problems may be complicated, the ag community has worked hard to strengthen our food supply where we can. Since the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board started the Meat Processing Incentive Program in 2020, we have invested more than \$7 million into expanding small meat processors across our commonwealth. At the KDA, we will continue to identify stress points in our food supply chain and work to build out our

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KENTUCKY  
DEPARTMENT  
OF  
AGRICULTURE  
COMMISSIONER  
  
**Ryan Quarles**

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## The Farmer's Pride

- Sharon Burton** .....Publisher .....snburton@farmlandpub.com
- Toni Humphress** .....General Manager..... toni@farmlandpub.com
- JaCinda Warner** .....Sales .....pridemarketing@duo-county.com
- National Sales Rep** .....J.L. Farmakis .....www.jlfarmakis.com...203-834-8832
- Hailey Hare** .....Circulation .....readerservice@farmlandpub.com

Send news items to **newsroom@thefarmerspride.com**  
270-384-9454

P.O. Box 159, Columbia, KY 42728  
E-mail: **pride316@duo-county.com**  
**thefarmerspride.com**

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## Non-market issues affect grains



### MARKET WATCH

**Dewey Strickler**

Soybeans have been supported the past few weeks from dry conditions in southern Brazil.

Persistent dryness in southern Brazil and portions of Argentina has stirred bullish interest in corn for the past several weeks. This, along with weather and spring planting intentions, will be traders' primary focus in early 2022.

However, geopolitical issues could be a factor that blindsides them. It is no secret that China's intentions are to be the world's dominant superpower. They know that the U.S. is a divided country, and the timing may be prime to challenge our leadership and assert their influence among our allies. This could cause a whirlwind in currencies and the world financial markets.

Meanwhile, in other matters, export inspections last week were disappointing at 28.3 million bushels and must average 56.2 million bushels each week to reach USDA's projection of 2.5 billion bushels. China took 20 percent of shipments but the pace to them is beginning to show signs of slipping.

Soybeans have been supported the past few weeks from dry conditions in southern Brazil. As a result, the state of Parana has lowered their production estimate 2.5 million tons to 18.4 million.

Meanwhile, it should be remembered that weather markets tend to be short lived. In other developments, export inspections last week were 57.9 million bushels, the lowest since late September.

Since early November, the pace of shipments has fallen 22.4 percent while deliveries to China have declined 39.2 percent. The bottom line is that while traders are currently focused on weather in South America, exports will eventually come back into the picture.

News in wheat is mostly nonexistent other than there is dryness in the southwestern Plains.

However, this does not seem to be a factor for the moment. In other developments, exports are limping along with inspections last week at 9.9 million bushels. They must average 18.2 million bushels on a weekly basis to reach USDA's target of 840 million bushels. We have not seen a shipment of that size since late September.

**DEWEY STRICKLER** is president of Ag Watch Market Advisors, LLC. Email Strickler at [agwatchdls@comcast.net](mailto:agwatchdls@comcast.net) or go online at [www.agwatch.biz](http://www.agwatch.biz).

## You can only postpone reality for so long

Despite an honest-to-goodness flood of evidence to the contrary, more than 100 million American adults continue to deny the existence of climate change. That's roughly one third of the country.

Congress is little better. Currently, 109 House members and 30 senators, or about 26 percent of all members, have cast "doubt on the clear, established scientific consensus that the world is warming," according to the Center of American Progress, a policy research institution headquartered in Washington, DC.

The good news is that this astonishing total is down from 150 just three years ago; the bad news is that it's still 139.

The really bad news, however, is that the majority of congressional climate deniers represent rural America, arguably the economic sector with the most to lose in today's climate upheaval. Not even 22 "extreme weather events" in 2020, where damage "exceeded \$1 billion each," turned their heads.

As such, it's doubtful that 2021, which will be record-breakingly grim again, will thaw their frozen minds. That means another year of unpredictable risks with no plan – other than governmental aid – after disaster strikes for farmers, ranchers, and eaters in 2022.

And beyond 2022, in fact, because very few American farmers, ranchers, suppliers, commodity groups, ag lenders, elected officials or government agencies have an idea, let alone an entire plan, on how to deal with the increasing risks climate change will bring each passing year.

Worse, today's collective inaction means most of the damaging change for years ahead is already baked in. Indeed, any chance to minimize climate change's effects, noted delegates to the Glasgow climate summit last November, relies on keeping today's rising temperatures at or below a 1.5 degrees-Centigrade increase by 2030.

To do so, the Glasgow scientists stressed, will take a radical and massive international effort beginning now.

American agriculture needs a similar plan to meet the production challenges it will face in the long-run and, more importantly, limit the rising production risks it faces now.

For example, you're an ag lender and a farmer or rancher comes to you for a standard, 20-year mortgage on a \$2 million land loan. Do you factor climate change into the loan repayment cost and schedule? If not, why not because it certainly will impact repayment.

Equally important, if you want to factor climate change into the repayment, how would you do it? How do you price the growing threat of extended droughts, historic floods, warmer winters, hotter summers and, well, who knows what else?

And, remember, your shareholders, as well as your clients, are very invested in your answer.

If you have no answer, you too could be an ag banker today because most ag lenders have no working plan on how to mitigate – or more precisely, price – climate change risk into the massive short- and long-term lending that is agriculture's lifeblood.

In fact, the \$325 billion Farm Credit System, American ag's biggest lender with 42 percent of all U.S. farm loans, is confronting this reality right now. Its regulator, the Farm Credit Administration, is doing the same. Neither the regulator nor the regulated, however, have clearly identified the impacts climate change will have on FCS's enormous ag loan portfolio or their solutions.

These problems, and FCA's failure to respond to this existential threat, were laid bare in a comprehensive, 19-page letter from the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy late last year. The letter, authored by IATP



### FOOD & FARM FILE

**Alan Guebert**

As I stared at the silhouette of Hoard the Dairyman in the glow of the Christmas lights I saw a man of great warmth, vast wealth and pure honesty.

**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](http://farmandfoodfile.com). Contact Alan Guebert by email at [agcomm@farmandfoodfile.com](mailto:agcomm@farmandfoodfile.com).

## Quarles

FROM PAGE 4

capacity so that families have more local food options and our producers have more ways of marketing their goods.

As we embark upon 2022, I want to wish you and your families well. I'm looking forward to this year. I'm excited about the positive economic news and the fact that the world is beginning to look normal again. If you ever need anything from me or my office, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at [www.kyagr.com](http://www.kyagr.com) or call us at 502-573-0282.

## Guebort

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Senior Policy Analyst Steve Suppan, urged FCA to make several rule changes that would, for example, allow it to move swiftly into "climate-stressed capital markets" to improve its "liquidity" position if the need arises.

And the need will arise. Quoting a U.S. Department of Agriculture economist's recent view on government foot-dragging over climate change, Suppan pointed out: "You can only postpone reality for so long."

Then, as every farmer and rancher knows, reality bites. So what's the cost of that bite?

There's no way to calculate it, offers Suppan in a telephone interview. But he adds quickly, "It's a lot less than the cost of doing nothing."

## What you really do for a living

FROM PAGE 4

works for me.

Most of us have to decide at what level we want to operate. Do you want to go bigger or keep your hands in the dirt? It's often a challenging question because most people get into the business they are in because they enjoyed doing the very work they are pulled away from by managing a business.

It's a balance. I feel blessed because I have been able to operate the business while "keeping my hands in the dirt." I know others in the same business who have grown and expanded their business but they have lost connection with the reason they went into the business to begin with. Others, however, may not be hands-on when it comes to producing news, but they make sure the products they produce reflect the commitment and quality that brought them into the business to begin with.

For some of you, I'm sure you look forward to the days when you are in the combine. For others, you

haven't been in a combine for quite some time, but you get satisfaction when you drive by the fields and know that you are managing the operation that produces the goods coming from the soil.

There have been several times in my career when I had to make a critical decision that would determine the direction of the company. Each time I made the choice that kept me connected to the newsroom. That was important to me, and it still is. Other paths may have led to a larger company and maybe even a more profitable company, but I was having fun, and that counts for a whole lot.

I'm still having fun. I'm still weighing what I do with why I do it, and I'm sure farmers everywhere have to reflect on these very things as they make decisions about their operations. You don't have to run your operation the way your neighbor does, you run it in the way that best fits your goals and interests. I hope all of you have a clear perspective of what you do and why you do it, and I hope that 2022 is a year where you get to have fun while doing it.

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# Innovation challenge seeks new soybean uses

Kentucky's soybean farmers, and soybean farmers across the United States, are experts in growing soybeans. So many, in fact, that finding new uses for this versatile, renewable resource is a big job. Some innovative uses of soybean components include soy-based tires, shoe treads, asphalt, concrete additives, lubricants, and perhaps the biggest win in soy use history, biodiesel.

The Kentucky Soybean Board partnered with the University of Louisville for its inaugural Soy Innovation Challenge, seeking soy-based concepts and prototypes that are potentially commercializable. Student teams, under the supervision of a faculty member, presented concepts to the board via Zoom in September. Four concepts were awarded seed money to develop those concepts, and the final projects were presented to the board at its December 17 meeting in Lexington.

The winner of the Kentucky Soybean Board 2021 Soy Innovation Challenge

and a \$10,000 prize is the team of Athira Nair Surendran and Dr. Sreesha Malayil. Their concept, developed through work in the Conn Center for Renewable Energy Research, is to manufacture supercapacitors using activated carbon derived from soy hull fibers. The premise of this project is that soy hulls may be used to feed livestock at a low rate of return to the farmers, or they may be utilized to produce activated carbon and the carbon used for the 3-D printing of supercapacitors, which are basically batteries, and used for a wide variety of applications at a much higher rate of return. Key findings and expectations in the proposal included the possibility for multiple value-added products, less energy used to develop this product, controlled emissions, no effluents, and no additional wastes.

Of particular interest to the farmer-leaders who compose the Kentucky Soybean Board was this project's focus

SEE **WINNERS**, PAGE 9



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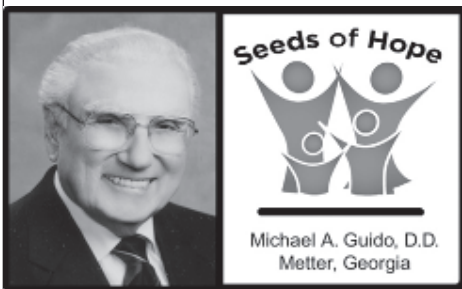
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## When Courage Fails

“Pastor,” said the voice on the phone, “I don’t know what to do. My business that was doing well has crashed, and I’ve had to declare bankruptcy. I’ve never been sick a day in my life, and now my health is failing. And to add more grief, my wife told me a few moments ago that she is going to leave me. I can’t go on any longer. My life is not worth living!”

Fearing he was about to do something desperate that would end his life, the pastor asked, “Where are you?”

“At wit’s end,” he replied.

“Yes, I can understand, but where can I find you?” asked the pastor.

He gave his location, the pastor hurried to meet him, and shared God’s Words of love, salvation, and hope with him. The man surrendered his life to the Lord and was saved.

Psalm 107 contains a story of a group of merchants that remind us of this man. They went out to sea in ships. Things went well for a while. They marveled at “the works of the Lord.” But suddenly things changed. “He stirred up a tempest...lifted high the waves...up to the heavens and then they came crashing down to the depths...and they were at wit’s end. Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and He brought them out of their distress.”

Every now and then God has to bring us to the end of our resources - our wit’s end - before we turn to Him and cry out for His “resources.” How blest we are to know that He will calm the storm, still the waves, rescue us, bring out the stars and guide us safely into His harbor of hope.

**Scripture For Today:** They reeled and staggered like drunkards and were at their wits’ end. Psalm 107:27

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Recipes courtesy of [allrecipes.com](http://allrecipes.com)

# Cajun Crab Soup

½ cup unsalted butter  
1 onion, chopped  
2 cloves garlic, minced  
¼ cup all-purpose flour  
2 cups clam juice  
2 cups chicken broth  
1 (10 ounce) package frozen white corn  
1 teaspoon salt  
½ teaspoon ground white pepper  
¼ teaspoon dried thyme  
¼ teaspoon ground cayenne pepper  
2 cups heavy cream  
1 pound lump crabmeat, drained  
4 green onions, chopped

Melt butter in a large saucepan over medium heat. Sauté onion and garlic until onion is tender. Whisk in flour, and cook 2 minutes. Stir in clam juice and chicken broth, and bring to a boil. Mix in corn, and season with salt, white pepper, thyme, and cayenne. Reduce heat, and simmer 15 minutes.

Stir in cream, crab meat, and green onions. Heat through, but do not boil once the cream has been added.



## Cheesy Chicken Pot Pie



1 ½ cups chicken stock  
1 cup cooked, shredded chicken meat  
¾ cup green peas  
½ cup diced celery  
½ cup diced carrots  
1 ½ cups shredded Cheddar cheese  
2 tablespoons cornstarch  
¼ cup milk  
9 inch double crust pie

In a medium saucepan combine the stock, chicken, peas, celery and carrots. Bring to a boil.

Mix cornstarch with milk and stir into stock mixture. Cook stirring constantly for 5 minutes. Remove from heat and let cool for 1 hour.

Preheat oven to 325 degrees F.

Stir cheese into filling mixture and pour into a 9 inch pie crust. Top with second crust, seal edges and cut slits in top crust. Place on a cookie sheet and bake for 35 to 40 minutes or until top crust is golden brown.

## Chocolate Bar Hot Chocolate

1 (1.55 ounce) bar milk chocolate candy bar, chopped  
¾ cup milk, or more to taste  
1 pinch ground cinnamon (Optional)

Place chocolate pieces in a saucepan over medium-low heat; add milk and whisk constantly until chocolate is melted and well blended, about 5 minutes. Whisk in cinnamon. Remove from heat; add more milk if desired. Serve in a mug.



# Winners of Soy Innovation Challenge announced



FROM PAGE 7

on the increased crush in future years, and the potential revenue that could be realized from soy hulls, a byproduct of the crush.

"Cool new uses are great, but new uses that can provide a significant return on investment to the soybean farmers that we represent will get my vote every time," board chairman Larry Thomas said.

Second place, winning \$5,000, was a project titled Soy 3D, developed and presented by Saleh Khanjar. This project focuses on something most of us use every day – a car or truck. Khanjar referenced the soybean car that Henry Ford experimented with back in the 1940s. Using soy polymers in place of plastics made from petroleum can make a car more renewable and sustainable while reducing the weight of the vehicle by as much as 1,000 pounds. According to Khanjar's proposal, in 2019 the light vehicle industry in North America required 2.9 million tons of plastics and polymer composites. If those parts were all replaced with soy polymers, that could create demand for 32 million bushels of soybeans annually.

Two other concepts were awarded seed money from the September presentations. The SoyData project included the creation of a database of amino acid and other compound profiles in vegetable oils, and the methods used to produce different types of resin, so that scientists looking for raw materials

would have a central source for data on a variety of input options and the possibility for developing an app to make it easy for manufacturers to understand pathways to soy-based resins. The final project that was submitted had more of an agronomic twist and was focused on genetically modifying soybeans for

drought resistance. These two project development teams were awarded \$1,000 each for their efforts.

Jagannadh Satyavolu, Ph.D., endowed chair in Renewable Energy Research and theme leader for biomass conversion and biofuels at Conn Center, UofL, provided oversight for the project.

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# Testing my marriage over math

## The Forage Doctor

By Jimmy Henning



One Christmas, my wife and I were trying to calculate the square footage from potential house plans while driving to her parent's home in Georgia. I was doing it one way and she was doing it another, and we kept coming up with significantly different answers. The conversation got a little tense since, surprise, both of us thought we were right. I convinced Faye that as long as we were both doing the math correctly, we should come up with the same number no matter what approach we took. By the time we got to Georgia, we had resolved the math question and our marriage, though tested, was back on a sound footing. By the way, I got to the right answer first.

That's just it about truth, even in agriculture. No matter how you approach it, we all should end up in the same place or at least be coming together. I am going to apply this principle to the current discussion around soil health and regenerative agriculture.

I admit that I am struggling to understand and reconcile all of the various claims of proponents of regenerative agriculture, especially on social media. To that end, I attended a seminar on regenerative forage management given by a land grant professor turned consultant who seemed to be very well thought of.

I was badly disappointed. What I heard was unsubstantiated claims delivered to a group of people who had apparently, at least to me, already bought into his message. At one point, the claims were so over the top and impossibly wrong that I considered

SEE TESTING, PAGE 24



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# Kentucky Pork Producers Annual Meeting

Friday, Jan. 14, 2022

Holiday Inn University Plaza - Sloan Convention Center, Bowling Green

• 8 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. - Registration - Board Room

• 9 a.m. -10 a.m. - Industry Update - Ballroom

*Speakers: Cody McKinley, Stephen Herring*

• 10:00 a.m. - Noon - FAD Update - Ballroom

*Speakers: Dr. Katie Flynn, Sustainable Environmental Consultants Jen Jensen - Sustainability Pilot Projects*

• Noon-2 p.m. - Lunch and Networking

• 2:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. - Annual Meeting/Producer Spotlight - Ballroom

• 3:30 p.m. -4:30 p.m. - Economic Outlook - Steve Meyer - Ballroom

• 4:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. TBA - Ballroom

5:30 p.m. -6:30 p.m. Retirement Reception

*Honoring Bonnie Jolly*

• 6:30 p.m. -8:00 p.m. - Dinner - Awards - Auction/Drawing

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# Solar issue divides communities

FROM PAGE 12

some of the best farmland in the county, and it's divided the landowners, because so far, we've refused to write these bonds. The landowners don't understand why we're doing this and are really upset with me because of what's happening."

Foxworthy said many of the solar companies making these land deals are from outside the country.

"One is from Spain, another's offices are in Canada ... It's all a smoke and mirrors game for them, to get all the tax credits they can, then resell it to someone else. One of the clauses (in the pilot agreement) is that it would be transferable, the bonds, to whoever the purchaser is."

He doesn't see the benefit to local governments.

"They took advantage of KRS 103, that allows people to come in and 'make an investment' in your local counties and be exempt from taxes. But there's nothing tangible to these projects – no job creation, which is one of

the reasons that statute was created."

The only jobs created are construction, which the solar companies will bring in the form of subcontractors who already work with them. Foxworthy said he's spoken "very briefly" with state Rep. William Lawrence about local officials' concern, but has never been able to talk to Sen. Steve West.

Neither Lawrence nor West responded to emails for comment.

Foxworthy said he is also worried about the disposal "of all these solar panels. They tell you that they have toxic particles in them, that no landfill in the state will take any of them."

Solar farms are so new to the area, Brent says, that the PSC "doesn't have their arms around it yet. Prior to 2019 – between '13 to '19 – they had one approved. From 2019 to now, they've approved more than 20, and more than 100 applications."

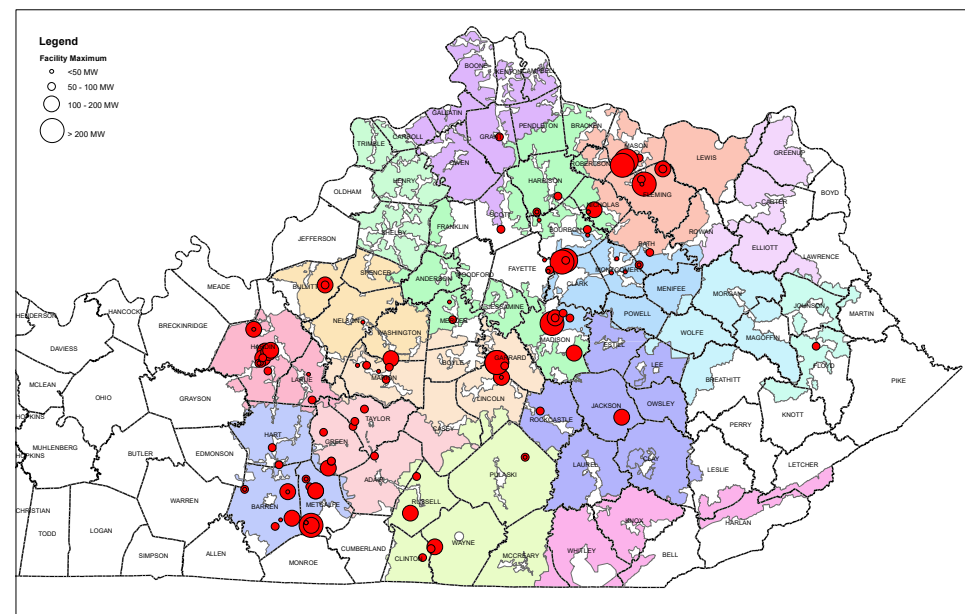
PSC Public Information Officer Karen L. Wilson said that in 2020, the Kentucky Electric Generation and Transmission Siting Board received 29

applications from merchant developers for solar projects. The board does not issue permits, she said, but rather reviews applications to determine whether they comply with applicable

statutes. If approved, the board issues a certificate of construction for a project.

So far, Wilson said of the 29 appli-

SEE COUNTIES, PAGE 23



An East Kentucky Power Cooperative map shows proposed solar farms that have requested to interconnect to EKPC's transmission structure.

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Mike Jenson, the 2020 Forage Super Bowl standard corn silage winner, tells the story like this:

**"Last year I got a new nutritionist who didn't have much history on our farm. She tested this corn and came back to me asking why I hadn't told her I grow BMR corn. I told her it's because I don't—it's KingFisher. The digestibility was so amazing, she thought it had to be a BMR."**



# Drone are becoming popular, but regulations preventing use

Farmers say drones could revolutionize agriculture, allowing them to assess their crops' health by leaf color and more. Led by North American farmers, the global market for agricultural drones was worth \$1.32 billion and is expected to grow to \$9.89 billion by 2028, according to a recent report. But farming advocates say U.S. regulations are often confusing and prevent farmers from using the technology.

"The Federal Aviation Administration determines which regulations and permits apply to drones based on how high they fly, how much they can lift and whether they are for commercial or private use," Capital News Service's Nicholas Simon reports for Michigan State University's Great Lakes Echo.

"You have to be in sight of the aircraft with unaided vision and you can't use binoculars," said Robert Goodwin, project manager of MSU's Remote Sensing

and Geographic Information System. "You can use extra people in the field with radio contact to keep an eye on it. But, if your using drones you're trying to limit labor, not bring more people into the field."

Farmers have had little input in such regulations. The FAA's Advanced Aviation Advisory Committee regulates commercial drones, but none of its members represented farmers until recently. Congress passed a bill in January 2020 mandating that the committee expand to include representatives from farms and local government organizations, Simon reports.

Sen. Gary Peters (D-Mich.), who introduced the bill, said in a statement: "Rural America deserves a seat at the decision-making table."

From the Rural Blog  
<http://irjci.blogspot.com>



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# Farm Credit Mid-America names Dan Wagner president & CEO

Farm Credit Mid-America has named Dan Wagner as its president and chief executive officer. Wagner assumes the top leadership position at the financial services cooperative following a nationwide search that began in September when then-president and CEO Bill Johnson announced his plans to retire. I

"We are pleased to announce Dan as our next president and CEO," said Andrew Wilson, chair of Farm Credit Mid-America's board of directors.

"Throughout this search, we have remained committed to selecting a leader who exemplifies our values and works cooperatively to secure the future of rural communities and agriculture. Dan's leadership experience, business knowledge, curiosity and courage to seek creative solutions fit well with the



direction Farm Credit Mid-America is going. We are confident in his ability to lead us into the future."

Wagner has progressive leadership experience spanning nearly 20 years in the Farm Credit System. He joined Farm Credit Mid-America in June 2012, and most recently served as executive vice president chief operating officer. Wagner has also served on the board of directors at Farm Credit Foundations since 2018. His experience also includes roles with IBM and Cap Gemini.

"I am blessed and honored to be named president and CEO of Farm Credit Mid-America," Wagner said. "I believe in our people and our potential. Together, we will build on our past successes and continue to secure the future of rural communities and agriculture."

## Happy New Year

**Greetings at the New Year,  
and best wishes always!**

Thanks to our dear friends and neighbors here for being so good to us in 2021. We look forward to sharing another year with all of you.

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Saturday, March 5th, 4 p.m.

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Saturday, March 5th, 11:30 a.m.

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### RED ANGUS

Friday, March 4th, 10 a.m.  
Saturday, March 5th, 10 a.m.

### RED POLL

Friday, March 4th, 2:30 p.m.  
Saturday, March 5th, 9:30 a.m.

### SHORTHORN

Saturday, March 5th, 10 a.m.  
Saturday, March 5th, 1 p.m.

### SIMMENTAL

Friday, March 4th, 4 p.m.  
Saturday, March 5th, 11 a.m.

### PEN HEIFER

Friday, March 4th, 2 p.m.  
Saturday, March 5th, 2 p.m.

### BLACK HERFORDS

Saturday, March 5th, noon  
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## AG CAREER PROFILE: NUTRIGENOMICS RESEARCH FELLOW

Layne Ellen Harris is a PhD Research Fellow for the Alltech Center for Animal Nutrigenomics & Applied Animal Nutrition in Nicholasville. Her experiments observe how nutrition influences the gene expression of plants and animals, and how the downstream effects of that expression can affect the overall health of the plant or animal. Layne's doctoral research was investigating, using both field and molecular genetic research, how we can utilize plant immune systems to naturally prime crops to have enhanced disease resistance.

Some days she is out in the field or greenhouse planting, harvesting, or sampling crops. Some days, she says she is sitting at the computer all day analyzing large data sets or in the lab doing experiments. Layne may also be working with the Alltech sales and marketing teams to develop materials or present information to growers or other customers.

"I'm often answering questions around the scientific development of our products or helping develop solutions to solve specific challenges facing growers," Layne remarked.

When asked how she became interested in agricultural biotechnology, she said she has always been fascinated with growing food.

"I grew up helping my grandfather in his garden each summer and developed a real passion for plant science. My family is from the Land between the Lakes area in Lyon County, so my roots grow deeply in this state, and it was important to me to do work that makes a difference for growers in Kentucky. I also found out I liked biology and the thrill discovering something new or of finding the answer to a question. Agriculture biotechnology was a perfect combination of challenging science and real-world experience, giving me the ability to do cutting edge research. The Agricultural and Medical Biotechnology Program at the University of Kentucky gave me the set of tools I needed to solve real problems facing growers, as well as a unique set of research skills valuable in the workplace."

Layne noted a number of educational and work experiences that led her to the career she has today, including apprenticeships at a farm, working in a molecular biology lab analyzing genetic differences between lines of heirloom beans from Eastern Kentucky, analyzing coffee tree leaves in

Brazil, and trying entomology, the study of insects, by investigating genetic differences between viruses in moths

As she completed her bachelor's degree at UK, Layne was accepted into the Alltech Research Internship program, where she investigated gene expression differences between corn plants treated with different biological products.

"This internship led to being hired on full-time at Alltech the following year in the Animal Nutrigenomics research group and one year later I started a doctorate in the Integrated Plant and Soil sciences program at UK, in partnership with Alltech. I will be completing my PhD in plant molecular biology this year (2021) and will continue using my research skills to develop sustainable, nutrigenomics-based solutions in agriculture with Alltech Crop Science. All along the way, I was fortunate to gain familiarity and skill in molecular biology techniques, while always staying connected to agriculture. Each research project or internship I did gave me valuable experience and a marketable set of skills that can be used to uniquely understand plant genetic responses, biochemistry, and growth, which is valuable for both commercial product development and solving agricultural problems."

Additional skills Layne described that helps her at her job include being comfortable and capable of working in a lab where everything is done on a molecular level.

"I must be skilled with sterile technique, various molecular experiments, and really understand genetics and molecular biology. It's very common for research experiments to fail or be inconclusive, so it's helpful to develop persistence and the ability to troubleshoot problems. My job is unique in that I don't work only in the lab, so I also have also developed on-farm skills – like planting, spraying, harvesting, etc. On a broader level, doing high quality research requires you to be able to concisely ask a



question, figure out a way to answer that question, carry out the experiments to get that information, and report on that information. I often work with different teams of people, not in research, so it is also critical that I can clearly communicate information and listen intently. Collaborating well and supporting my team members is a top priority for me. Lastly, my PhD research has shown me the value of developing project management skills for large, multi-year, complex projects.

To better prepare for her career, Layne said she would have taken advantage of more hands-on experience in the field.

"I would have gotten more involved in local agricultural groups and coops, to get better exposure to real world issues that farmers are facing. It would have also been helpful to take some business courses, as industry research is shaped by commercial and economic development. I am working on developing my business acumen.

To read more about Layne's career and the advice she would give young people interested in similar work, visit the Careers section of [www.kyfoodandfarm.info](http://www.kyfoodandfarm.info).

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](http://www.teachkyag.org).





**KENTUCKY GRAIN PRICES**

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

**Eastern Cornbelt Ethanol  
 Plant Report  
 12/13/2021  
 Indiana Ohio Illinois**

Yellow Corn Spot Bid 5.75-6.26

Dried Distillers Grain (\$/ton)  
10% moisture 150.00-195.00Modified Wet Distillers (\$/ton)  
50-55% moisture 95.00
**Kentucky Weekly Cattle  
 Receipts as reported at local  
 markets:**

11/13/21	28,632
11/20/21	22,436
12/04/21	28,747
12/11/21	28,995

12/13/2021 4:00 pm est Bids for next day Cash Bids	Louisville	Pennyrile	Purchase	Bluegrass	Green River	Northern KY
Corn #2 Yellow	5.68-5.71	5.75-5.85	5.78-5.89	5.54	5.85	NA
Corn #2 White			6.64-6.79			
Soybeans #1 Y	11.79	12.24-12.39	12.47	11.94	12.29	NA
Wheat #2 SRW	NA	7.90	NA	NA	NA	NA
Barley						
New Crop Delivery Contract						
Corn #2 Yellow	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Corn #2 White			6.39			
Soybeans #1 Y	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Wheat #2 SRW	7.25	8.42	NA	7.57	7.47	NA
Barley						

Weekly Feed Ingredient Price Wholesale prices, \$ per ton Rail or Truck FOB Location	Owensboro Grain 12/13/2021	Commonwealth Agri-Energy Hopkinsville 12/13/2021	St. Louis Weekly Feed Prices 12/07/2021	Memphis Weekly Feed Report 12/07/2021	Corn Belt Feedstuffs Report 12/07/2021	Daily Direct Hog Prices LM_HG218 12/13/2021 Barrows & Gilts Purchased Swine Receipts: 5,325 Base Price: \$55.00- \$66.00 Wt. Avg. \$58.67 Compared to prior day, wt. avg. base prices were 0.89 lower. 5 Day Rolling Aver- age: \$60.36	FOR DAILY LIVESTOCK AND GRAIN MARKET REPORTS  CALL FARMLOT  1-800-327- 6568  1-502-573- 0553
Soybean Meal 48% Sol	405.20	—	382.00-387.00	369.70-384.70	359.70-388.90		
Soybean Hulls	210.00	—	—	155.00	—		
Corn Distillers Grain Dried	—	190.00	—	—	145.00-210.00		
Distillers Grain Modified	—	106.00	—	—	—		
Distillers Grain Wet	—	70.00	—	—	—		
Corn Condensed Solubles	—	NA	—	—	—		
Corn Gluten Feed 20-21 pct	—	—	240.00	—	170.00-190.00		
Corn Gluten Meal 60 pct	—	—	655.00	—	600.00-605.00		
Cottonseed Meal 41 pct	—	—	335.00-355.00	315.00	—		
Whole Cottonseed	—	—	—	260.00	—		
Wheat Middlings	—	—	170.00-190.00	—	—		



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<b>Blue Grass South</b> Stanford, KY Dec. 6 & 9, 2021 <b>Feeder Steers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 75 hd. 736# 163.00 blk-charx 74 hd. 758# 159.50 blk-charx 70 hd. 805# 156.75 mixed 70 hd. 812# 159.00 blk-charx 140 hd. 817# 163.00 blk 61 hd. 854# 161.50 blk 70 hd. 856# 160.00 blk 130 hd. 894# 160.10 blk 61 hd. 904# 150.10 blk 56 hd. 908# 156.00 charx-red 66 hd. 912# 148.00 blk-charx 55 hd. 940# 151.10 blk 50 hd. 1088# 143.75 blk <b>Feeder Heifers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 20 hd. 589# 142.50 blk 79 hd. 663# 150.00 blk 72 hd. 706# 149.90 blk 67 hd. 784# 147.80 blk	<b>KY-TN Livestock Auction</b> Guthrie, KY Dec. 9, 2021 <b>Feeder Steers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 20 hd. 717# 141.50 bbwf <b>Feeder Heifers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 35 hd. 424# 145.00 bbwf 33 hd. 498# 145.00 bbwf 32 hd. 548# 138.50 bbwf 37 hd. 625# 127.00 bbwf <b>Feeder Bulls:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 25 hd. 438# 175.00 bbwf 24 hd. 496# 159.00 bbwf 36 hd. 555# 156.00 bbwf 31 hd. 622# 137.00 bbwf	<b>Blue Grass Stockyards</b> Lexington, KY Dec. 6 & 7, 2021 <b>Feeder Steers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 30 hd. 453# 185.00 blk 40 hd. 501# 173.00 blk-mixed 50 hd. 564# 162.00 blk 60 hd. 582# 166.00 blk 62 hd. 612# 166.00 blk 112 hd. 650# 160.25 blk-charx 81 hd. 665# 149.75 blk-charx 78 hd. 675# 162.00 blk-charx 20 hd. 690# 153.00 blk 68 hd. 694# 160.50 blk 78 hd. 703# 164.25 blk-mixed 123 hd. 760# 158.75 blk-charx 67 hd. 772# 166.30 blk-mixed 121 hd. 780# 161.00 blk-red 63 hd. 780# 163.25 blk 55 hd. 804# 160.00 blk 64 hd. 831# 164.00 blk-mixed 58 hd. 892# 153.00 blk <b>Holstein Steers:</b> Large 3 101 hd. 854# 110.25 <b>Feeder Heifers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 20 hd. 402# 143.00 blk 106 hd. 524# 151.50 blk 100 hd. 609# 146.75 blk 86 hd. 684# 148.00 blk-charx 73 hd. 809# 144.50 blk-charx	<b>Paris Stockyards</b> Paris, KY Dec. 9, 2021 <b>Feeder Steers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 87 hd. 769# 162.00 blk 61 hd. 817# 159.00 blk 53 hd. 834# 159.50 blk 63 hd. 1021# 144.60 blk <b>Feeder Heifers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 21 hd. 405# 146.75 blk-charx 36 hd. 509# 131.75 blk-charx 20 hd. 702# 115.50 blk 71 hd. 745# 145.85 blk
<b>Blue Grass of Campbellsville</b> Campbellsville, KY Dec. 8, 2021 <b>Feeder Heifers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 40 hd. 337# 156.00 blk 75 hd. 430# 160.00 blk 53 hd. 962# 140.95 blk	<b>Mid-KY Livestock Market</b> Upton, KY Dec. 7, 2021 <b>Feeder Steers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 24 hd. 556# 162.00 blk 29 hd. 693# 153.00 blk <b>Feeder Heifers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 20 hd. 520# 136.25 blk 29 hd. 571# 125.00 blk 27 hd. 552# 124.75 mixed	<b>Farmers Livestock</b> Glasgow, KY Dec. 6, 2021 <b>Feeder Steers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 20 hd. 590# 143.00 blk <b>Feeder Bulls:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 27 hd. 371# 183.00 blk 29 hd. 451# 161.00 blk 20 hd. 516# 144.00 blk 45 hd. 579# 137.00 blk 20 hd. 659# 130.75 blk <b>Feeder Heifers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 27 hd. 383# 141.00 blk 29 hd. 451# 141.50 blk 46 hd. 522# 130.00 blk	<b>Blue Grass of Richmond</b> Richmond, KY Dec. 10, 2021 <b>Feeder Steers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 21 hd. 555# 159.50 blk 22 hd. 723# 137.25 charx 121 hd. 836# 162.10 blk 60 hd. 838# 158.00 blk 21 hd. 840# 149.50 charx 176 hd. 888# 159.50 blk 137 hd. 903# 148.28 blk-charx 171 hd. 931# 155.00 blk 110 hd. 956# 151.80 mixed 56 hd. 968# 153.00 blk 57 hd. 995# 144.90 mixed <b>Holstein Steers:</b> Large 3 61 hd. 672# 116.50 <b>Feeder Heifers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 70 hd. 776# 146.40 blk 31 hd. 811# 140.25 blk 61 hd. 869# 145.00 blk
<b>Russell County Stockyards</b> Russell Springs, KY Dec. 8, 2021 <b>Feeder Steers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 29 hd. 636# 161.50 blk 65 hd. 720# 157.10 blk	<b>Blue Grass Maysville</b> Maysville, KY Dec. 7, 2021 <b>Feeder Steers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 22 hd. 557# 169.00 blk 32 hd. 602# 166.00 blk 20 hd. 647# 159.50 blk 24 hd. 695# 161.25 blk 38 hd. 704# 149.75 blk 38 hd. 771# 149.00 blk-red 39 hd. 941# 149.50 blk-charx	<b>United Producers Irvington</b> Irvington, Ky Dec. 6, 2021 <b>Feeder Bulls:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 29 hd. 554# 146.00 blk <b>Feeder Heifers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 31 hd. 525# 132.00 blk	<b>Washington Co. Livestock</b> Springfield, KY Dec. 6, 2021 <b>Feeder Steers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 23 hd. 638# 160.50 blk 64 hd. 730# 160.80 blk <b>Holstein Steers:</b> Large 3 59 hd. 862# 109.25 <b>Feeder Heifers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 74 hd. 646# 150.30 mixed
<b>Lake Cumberland Livestock</b> Somerset, KY Dec. 11, 2021 <b>Feeder Steers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 70 hd. 736# 155.00 mixed 31 hd. 760# 149.00 blk-charx 54 hd. 930# 150.50 blk 60 hd. 718# 127cd	<b>Kentuckiana Livestock Market</b> Owensboro, KY Dec. 6, 2021 <b>Feeder Bulls:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 21 hd. 425# 156.00 blk 20 hd. 576# 135.00 blk 25 hd. 669# 119.00 blk <b>Feeder Heifers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 21 hd. 434# 140.00 bbwf	<b>Blue Grass East</b> Mt. Sterling, KY Dec. 8, 2021 <b>Feeder Steers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 26 hd. 592# 160.00 blk <b>Feeder Heifers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 20 hd. 514# 140.00 blk 89 hd. 588# 153.00 blk-charx	<b>Cattlemen's Livestock</b> Bowling Green, KY Dec. 6, 2021 <b>Feeder Steers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 20 hd. 657# 159.50 blk <b>Feeder Heifers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 22 hd. 469# 144.50 blk 26 hd. 513# 133.00 blk 50 hd. 547# 141.50 blk 20 hd. 642# 133.50 blk 24 hd. 723# 135.50 blk

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4x	BAR R JET BLACK 5063	18389838	HR 2002B OF 0042 4755	18030533
3x	VAR POWER PLAY 7018	18717078	FWY RITA 4779	18071432
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4x	MYERS FAIR-N-SQUARE M39	19418329	MYERS MISS BLACKCAP M34	17968529



**STATE AVERAGES****Steers (M&L 1-2)**

	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Prior Week</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
350-400 lbs	173.49	172.17	159.45
400-450 lbs	167.59	164.47	153.55
450-500 lbs	167.04	162.31	149.92
500-550 lbs	157.32	156.40	143.27
550-600 lbs	153.80	153.90	137.52
600-650 lbs	150.56	147.05	130.02
650-700 lbs	149.41	143.70	128.37
700-750 lbs	146.98	147.60	124.86
750-800 lbs	145.99	142.83	126.37
800-850 lbs	143.13	148.46	124.61
850-900 lbs	142.19	135.35	119.14

**Heifers (M&L 1-2)**

	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Prior Week</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
300-350 lbs	137.29	139.81	132.98
350-400 lbs	140.15	139.20	133.39
400-450 lbs	140.23	137.44	125.66
450-500 lbs	138.09	133.42	126.21
500-550 lbs	134.58	130.61	122.21
550-600 lbs	131.71	131.38	119.67
600-650 lbs	130.60	131.52	116.55
650-700 lbs	128.88	127.09	115.83
700-750 lbs	127.41	126.48	115.26
750-800 lbs	124.46	121.77	112.77

**USDA ESTIMATED DAILY LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER**

	CATTLE	CALVES	HOGS	SHEEP
Friday 12/10/2021 (est)	121,000	1,000	476,000	6,000
Week Ago (est)	119,000	1,000	474,000	6,000
Year Ago (act)	119,000	2,000	490,000	7,000
Week to Date (est)	610,000	7,000	2,345,000	40,000
Same Pd Lt Week (est)	607,000	7,000	2,397,000	39,000
Same Pd Lt Yr (act)	593,000	8,000	2,460,000	37,000

**National Daily Direct Slaughter Cattle****Negotiated Purchases 12/10/2021**

Live Bids FOB- weighed average weights &amp; prices

**Steers:**

80%-up Choice 1465.8 lbs 138.15

**Heifers**

80%-up Choice 1330.6 lbs 138.92

**Produce Prices updated 12/10/2021**

Variety	Unit Size	Price Range	Avg. Price
Tomato #1	20 lbs	11.00-30.00	15.59
Tomato #2	20 lbs	7.00-16.00	10.67
Tomato small/canner	20 lbs	2.00-13.00	4.80
Cabbage	ea.	0.45-1.20	0.98
Slicing Cucumbers	.5 bu	7.00-14.00	9.85

Prices and Quotes furnished by Wholesale and Retail Markets

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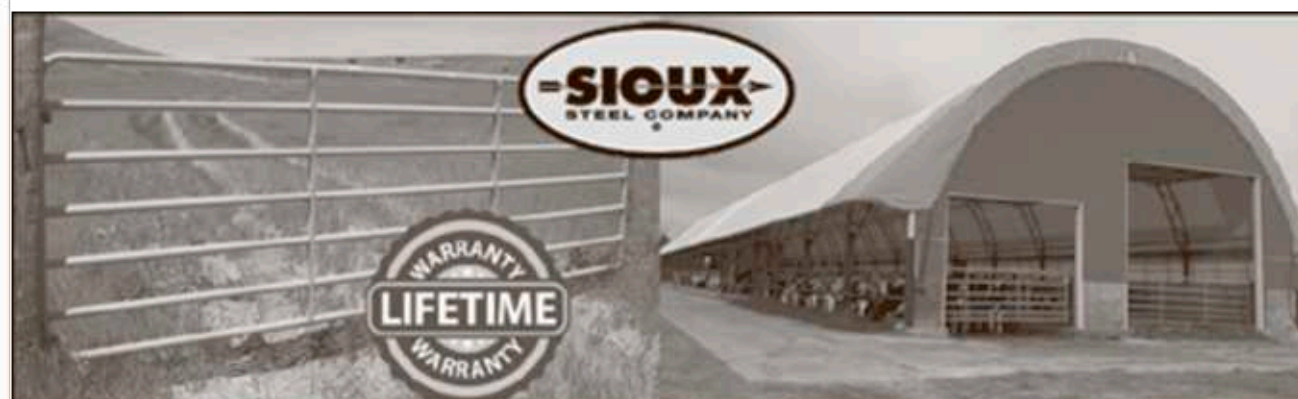
JD 5325/4040/4020/7405

TYE drill - 7 ft - **\$11,000**John Deere 7200- cab - 2WD - **\$40,000**John Deere 6300-cab-2WD-Ldr - **\$35,000**New Holland 570 baler with thrower - **IN STOCK**Horning 1402/1403 Heads - **TO FIT ALL MAKE AND MODELS**Silage Wagons - **15 IN STOCK**JD 3950/3970/3975 - **IN STOCK**NH 790/230/240 - **IN STOCK**IH Tractors - 886/1066/1566/1086/966/766/140 - **IN STOCK**Meyer 510 TMR Mixers - **IN STOCK**Cloverdale 420/500 T - TMR Mixers - **IN STOCK**Caterpillar 303 mini excavator - **IN STOCK**JDTDZ - **IN STOCK****MANURE SPREADERS - H&S 235/262/430 - IN STOCK**NH 790 choppers - **\$7,500**Gehl 7210/8335 feeder wagon - **IN STOCK**Artex SB 200 - vertical beater - **FOR RENTAL**JD 556/567 string roll balers - **CALL**JD 468 - net and twine round baler - **\$16,500**Esch hay tedders, 18, 22 & 32 ft - **IN STOCK**

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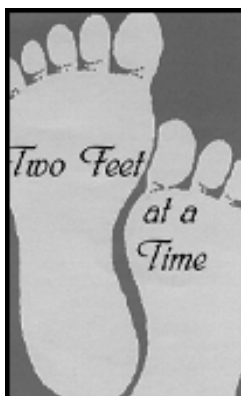
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# Kentucky Maple Day a producer-beneficial activity



Shawn Hines of Hines East Fork Farm in Edmonton shows off his production at the 2021 Kentucky Maple Day. Photo by Steve Patton, UK Ag Communications

February is a busy time for the Kentucky maple syrup industry. That's why the University of Kentucky's College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, in conjunction with the Kentucky Maple Syrup Association, will celebrate its third annual Kentucky Maple Day on Feb. 5. Maple syrup producers can sign up to participate now.

Kentucky Maple Day is a celebration and educational event. Producers from across the commonwealth open their sugarhouses and operations to the public to learn about the maple sugaring process. The public also can purchase pure Kentucky maple syrup and maple syrup-infused treats.

"This celebration is a great way for the public to interact with their local maple syrup producers," said Jacob Muller, assistant professor in the UK Department of Forestry and Natural Resources. "Kentucky's maple syrup industry is growing and previous Kentucky Maple Days have shown some really great benefits for producers who opened their doors to the public."

Producers have touted the benefits the Kentucky Maple Day has brought to their businesses.

"We received enormous feedback on how this celebration with the public helped them attract new customers," said Billy Thomas, UK extension forester. "They were able to attract more business and the customers were able to enjoy delicious Kentucky maple syrup, so I think it ended up being a win-win for everyone."

Producers wishing to open their facilities to the public for the upcoming event can con-

tact Billy Thomas at [Billy.Thomas@uky.edu](mailto:Billy.Thomas@uky.edu) or Jacob Muller at [Jacob.Muller@uky.edu](mailto:Jacob.Muller@uky.edu). To learn more about maple syrup in Kentucky, visit the Kentucky Maple Syrup Project website at <https://ky-maplesyrup.ca.uky.edu>.

Contact:  
Billy Thomas, [Billy.Thomas@uky.edu](mailto:Billy.Thomas@uky.edu) and Jacob Muller, [Jacob.Muller@uky.edu](mailto:Jacob.Muller@uky.edu)  
By Jordan Strickler  
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# Counties asked to give perks for solar projects

FROM PAGE 12

ations, 14 certificates of construction have been issued, "with conditions and required mitigation measures."

The remaining projects are in different phases of review, with several not in the complete application phase, she said.

"In other words, there are a number of notices of intent to file an application," she said.

Companies applying for solar projects must include a required site assessment report with applications containing details of potential impacts to the surrounding property during construction and when in operation. Public notification is required by statute, including notifying the landowners who border the proposed sites and holding public meetings.

The siting board conducts site visits and a formal hearing about projects, where it may receive public comments for intervention. The board must then retain a consultant to review the company's proposed mitigation measures.

In the case of Fleming Solar, a subsidiary of Core Solar LLC, based in Austin, Texas, a long list of conditions and mitigation measures were laid out for the company by the siting board. That list included things like maintaining existing vegetation between solar arrays and roadways and homes. It also requires the company to file a decom-

missioning plan, naming Fleming County as a beneficiary, with the bond amount to be reviewed every five years at Fleming Solar's expense to provide any updates to the cost of decommissioning.

All projects must comply with local, state and federal environmental regulations and are subject to local planning and zoning regulations, meaning the local community can review the proposals and voice any concerns.

"I will say one thing for the PSC," Foxworthy said, where protections are concerned. "They're requiring these companies to have a consultant come in and look at the area and talk to the people there and report back to the PSC on the pros and cons. They've come up with a lot of things that these companies never thought they'd have to do."

Foxworthy said all the companies with sights on setting up solar operations in rural Kentucky "make me a bit nervous; the economic benefits just aren't there. The landowners, I can see. They have a chance to make some real good annual revenue, but the local governments are the ones that are taking all the risk."

To see all records in Kentucky for the solar projects from 2020-2021, visit [psc.ky.gov/Home/EGTSB](https://psc.ky.gov/Home/EGTSB).

By Bobbie Curd  
Field Reporter

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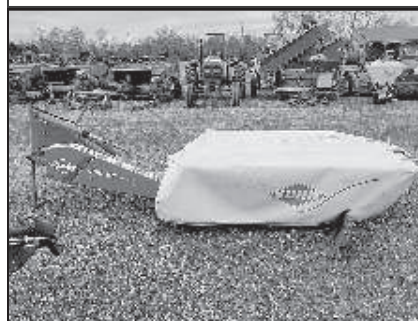
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# Testing my marriage over math



Grazing diverse permanent pasture such as this alfalfa orchardgrass mixture is regenerative agriculture. Well managed pasture systems can play a critical role in rebuilding soil health and sequestering atmospheric carbon.

## FROM PAGE 10

standing up and saying so. He and I were not converging on the same truth.

Please don't misunderstand me, I am very encouraged by the resources and attention currently directed toward soil health and regenerative agriculture. I strongly believe that our agricultural practices should be improving the soil in all dimensions (physical, chemical and biological). I also believe (and the data show) that well-managed forage-based livestock agriculture is regenerative and critical to building soil health. As we all seek to learn the separate the truth from hype, here are some truths that should serve as common ground as we seek to understand regenerative forage farming.

**No-till agriculture is regenerative.** Tillage is sometimes necessary but disrupts soil structure and the microbial network of fungi, earthworms and other microbial components that are important to the physical and chemical properties of the root zone. Kentucky has long been a leader in no-till crop systems.

**Well managed pasture systems are regenerative.** It has long been known that below ground root biomass tends to mirror above ground forage yield. Well managed pasture systems will maintain a critical minimum forage residual that will keep the soil cooler, increase water infiltration and maintain a viable root zone. The native grass prairies of the Great Plains were covered with grasses that had very deep root systems. The over-cropping of these areas, particular-

ly in the Oklahoma/Kansas area led to a devastating loss of topsoil in the dust storms of the 1930's. Closer to home, a Central Kentucky replicated study showed that rotation from a tillage-based cropping system to permanent pasture restored soil carbon content to levels present in permanent pasture.

**Rotational grazing is regenerative.** A properly implemented rotational grazing system will preserve forage productivity (above and below ground) while at the same time providing economic advantages in livestock production. Rotational grazing results in more uniform re-distribution of the nutrients in manure and urine compared to continuously-stocked systems. Rotational grazing contributes to strong nutrient cycling in soil, which encourages the microbes, earthworms and other biological components in a healthy soil.

**Organic matter is well-correlated to soil health.** Organic matter is an easily measured soil component that is known to be highly correlated with soil health. Practices that increase soil organic matter like

cover cropping and permanent pasture will therefore increase soil health.

**Pasture diversity is regenerative but...** Having a diverse mix of forages in a pasture can be beneficial to both grazing livestock (forage quality, mineral content, seasonal yield) and soil health (root biomass, biological nitrogen fixation). Complex mixtures should be approached with some caution if for no other reason than economic – they can be expensive. The research is just now becoming available on the return on investment with these complex mixtures. The best mixes are those with compatible and complementary species that come at reasonable prices.

Returning to my opening analogy, the diverse points of view on regenerative agriculture should be converging on the truth if we are responsibly applying the science. The central principles of well managed forage systems are a big part of the answer of how agriculture becomes more regenerative. No hype needed.

Happy foraging.

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