

## Lawmakers propose bills to address solar lease concerns

FRANKFORT – Lawmakers heard constituents' concerns over the influx of solar power farms moving into the state, particularly those voiced by county officials focused on farmland protection.

Two bills have been introduced this session, one in each chamber, attempting to set requirements when land is leased for solar projects.

Advocacy groups say both bills do a great job of clarifying what the solar companies' responsibilities are before and after they move into these mostly rural areas.

Two of those groups, each backing a different bill, shared some insight into why the legislation is important to landowners, taxpayers and to anyone who is concerned about responsible land use.

### Farm Bureau backs House Bill

House Bill 392, primarily sponsored by Rep. Josh Branscum, passed the House last week with a 91-3 vote.

Sen. Paul Hornback presented Senate Bill 69 on Jan. 10. It last moved Jan. 13 when it was sent to the Natural Resources and Energy Committee.

"We're supporting this one," Jeff Harper, lobbyist with Kentucky Farm Bureau, said about HB 392, "and working on Senate Bill 69, as well."

Harper said both bills include a requirement for decommissioning bonds for solar projects, which is KBF's top priority. Decommission bonds are sureties that protect landowners and taxpayers from any responsibility when solar farms are dismantled.

Solar companies have asked local fiscal courts to issue bonds, something judge executives have spoken out about being too great a risk to take on.

SEE **LAWMAKERS**, PAGE 12



Residents in Taylor County were hit when deadly tornadoes moved across Kentucky on Dec. 10, 2021. The county was hit again by another tornado (above) on Jan. 1, 2022. Afterward, Woodford County cattleman Greg Dotson led a campaign that raised \$70,000 to aid farmers in Taylor County who suffered losses. Shown left, (from left) Pat Hargety, Taylor County Extension Agent, who helped Dotson; John Marcum, vice president of the Taylor County Cattlemen's Association; Dotson; and Karen Venis, who won the raffle but gave prizes back so the benefit could continue.

## CATTLEMAN LENDS HELPING HAND Producer leads effort to aid farmers hit by tornadoes

In the wake of deadly tornadoes that hit Kentucky late last year, towns are still working through the wreckage left behind and will be for some time.

After a second tornado hit Taylor County in south central Kentucky just weeks later, a Woodford County farmer decided to refocus a yearly raffle to benefit farmers who are trying to survive in the aftermath. With the help of a Taylor County Extension agent, \$70,000 will be directed to those who suffered land, structural and animal losses over the course of the two violent storms.

Greg Dotson said that after the deadly E-4 tornado outbreak ravaged western Kentucky in December of 2021, most of the news coverage highlighted Mayfield, Dawson Springs and parts of Bowling Green.

And for good reason, he said. "Those areas got hit badly. Very badly."

But then, rural Taylor County got a second punch just three weeks later. On New Year's Day, as

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**YIELD CONTEST WINNERS** – Corn, soybean and wheat top producers of 2021 **1B.**

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# Cattleman leads effort to aid farmers hit by tornadoes

FROM PAGE 1

the area was still in clean-up mode over the devastation left behind, the weather warning alarm went off again.

Another tornado came through, and although it was only registered as an E-1, it brought 110 mile-per-hour winds with it, causing more destruction to multiple structures and downing power lines and trees — again.

Officials estimated that after the second tornado, 10 additional homes received severe damage, and up to 50 structures in the city and county were also damaged.

“But what people don’t realize is that the farmers of that area received a major blow, too,” Dotson said, who is a Woodford County cattle farmer.

Adjusters were still determining the farmland damage from the first tornado when the second one ripped through, and close to 50 farms have reported damage.

In December, Dotson had already begun selling tickets to a second annual raffle — something he started the year before during the pandemic, which resulted in \$10,000 being raised and donated to charity.

“I was seeing the news, and seeing what people were going through, thought what in the world can I do? Beef, I can give beef, that’s what I do, so I decided to offer a raffle for it,” he said. He donated a quarter of a beef, which was perfect timing because of beef supply issues due to Covid-19.

He had first set it up to allow the overall raffle winner to decide where the proceeds raised by ticket sales would be donated.

“I decided to change it up, make it a requirement that the money had to directly benefit an entity that was badly hurt by the tornadoes,” he said.

And it took off from there, Dotson said. Some other gems were added to the prize mix, like a bottle of Pappy Van Winkle, bringing even more ticket sales.

After it became widespread that the raffle money would benefit tornado victims, Dotson said people came out of the woodwork. Some wanted to donate outright, without taking tickets. Dotson said there were a lot of situations he never expected but was happy to see.

He also didn’t expect the raffle’s winner, Karen Venis, to donate some of the prizes back, like the side of beef and

a tree, in order to keep the ticket sales growing.

Venis works for a nonprofit and said she gets the incredible importance and powerful effects of charitable giving, especially in the midst of a pandemic or disaster.

“So, when I was lucky enough to be the winner, I knew immediately that the way to keep that thing growing was to donate the prizes right back ...”

Venis decided to keep the bourbon. “I haven’t done anything with that yet but plan in some capacity to have a raffle for Sayre Christian Village ...” the senior living community she works for in Lexington. She said serving one of the most vulnerable populations throughout the pandemic has been challenging.

A tree that was part of the big prize package was gifted to Taylor County Cattlemen’s Association.

“The tree represents strength, endurance, and in the wake of what all those farmers have gone through, thought it was the appropriate thing to do,” Venis said.

When all was said and done, Dotson’s raffle raised a whopping \$70,000, which still shocks him to say out loud. And after the second storm hit Taylor, he knew where the money needed to be directed — and Venis agreed.

He got in touch with longtime Taylor County Extension Agent Pat Hardesty. He helped Dotson decide to turn the funds over to the local Cattlemen’s Association that, with Hardesty’s help, will get the funds out to those who need it.

“It was something you don’t want to see, that sky,” Hardesty said. He shared an ominous picture he snapped, showing the formation of a massive, dark gray funnel cloud, hanging low and thick over farmland.

“You’re not going to get any photos of devastation, not from anyone around here,” Hardesty said. Reports show how areas that were hit had to get enforcement help to control crowds, many of them coming from other communities driving through to get a glimpse of the aftermath, causing problems for first responders and other workers.

“That’s not something they want to share and put out there — it’s not about getting a look, it’s about what can we do to help them, now.”

Hardesty took part in the check

presentation to the cattlemen’s with Dotson and is working closely with the association to get the funds to farmers in need.

But, Hardesty said, farmers are proud. Many have turned down money offered to them, which Dotson has also experienced in hearing some farmers say, “Give this to someone else who needs it more,” which really is just amazing. That’s just the type of people they are.”

He said having Hardesty’s help on dispersing the funds appropriately is priceless; he is a greatly respected agent of the area, highly trusted and well known.

Hardesty said the damage on some farms was massive, with entire fence rows disappearing, tree lines displaced and barns dilapidated. Some experienced big losses in cattle. Others had to sell their cattle because of missing roofs off of feed barns or no longer having a fence line for enclosure.

Hardesty said it’s going to take time and money to get them back to where they need to be, and the \$70,000 is a major help.

“It was amazing to me that people came together like this, because these farmers — these entire communities, have been through so much,” he said.

Dotson said he plans to continue a raffle yearly and would like to do one around the holidays for this year.

“It was my idea, the raffle, but let me tell you this — I definitely did not do this. People came together, from all walks, donated prizes, money ... It really blew me away. Some just made outright donations — wouldn’t take the tickets.”

“Farming is hard enough, anyone can tell you that,” Dotson said. “And if this is something that can help them maintain, stay in it and keep those farms going, it’s all worth it.”

By Bobbie Curd  
Field reporter

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**Dairy Steers:** 1 Head 515# 87.00; 1 Head 628# 80.00; 2 Head 735-745# 82.00-85.00; 1 Head 765# 73.00; 2 Head 903# 70.00.

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**Bulls:** Medium and Large 1-2: 465# 135.00.

**Cows:** Breaker 75-80% 1300-1600# 55.00-62.00; 1328-1590# 64.00-75.00. Boner 80-85% 945-1520# 50.00-59.00; 1065-1580# 60.00-76.00; 1090-1570# 30.00-49.00.

**Bulls:** 1-2: 1280-2500# 85.00-95.00; 1500-2100# 96.00-106.00; 965-1305# 60.00-68.00.

**Fresh Milking Cows:** Medium 975.00; Medium 900.00 Jersey; Common 800.00-925.00.

**Bred Heifers:** Approved T1-2 1200-1450# 93.00-106.00; Medium T1-2 980-1315 79.00-90.00; Common T1-2 1050# 78.00.

**Springer Heifers:** Approved T3 1000.00-1150.00; Medium T3 850.00-975.00; Medium T3 850.00 Jersey; Common T3 700.00-800.00; Common T3 725.00 Jersey.

**Open Heifers:** Medium 200-250# 110.00-130.00; Common 200# 100.00.

**Baby Bull Calves:** 20 Head 20.00-140.00; 5 Head 200.00-250.00 Beef Cross; 3 Head 90.00-130.00 Crossbred.



# Cattle producers respond to proposed WOTUS rule change

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association submitted a letter to the Environmental Protection Agency on behalf of over 1,600 cattle producers from 44 states calling for a definition of "Waters of the United States" that works for the cattle industry.

The letter is in response to a rule proposed by the Biden administration to repeal the Navigable Waters Protection Rule and implement new regulations on water features, including features commonly found on farms and ranches. The letter asks EPA Administrator Michael Regan to support a limited, clear definition of WOTUS that maintains agricultural exclusions and respects existing Supreme Court precedent limiting federal jurisdiction over small bodies of water.

"The Biden administration's rule repeals bipartisan exclusions for agriculture that existed under both Democratic and Republican administrations," said NCBA Chief Environmental Counsel Scott Yager. "Without these critical exclusions, common features like stock

ponds, agricultural ditches, and drainage systems can fall under federal jurisdiction, preventing cattle producers from actively managing their land and caring for their cattle."

Despite the Biden administration representing this approach as a simple repeal, the draft rule is a significant change from both the Obama-era 2015 WOTUS rule and the Trump-era Navigable Waters Protection Rule, both of which maintained these exclusions which sought to protect the farmers and ranchers who manage stock ponds and certain ditches without disruptions from the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers.

The Biden WOTUS proposal also removes exclusions for ephemeral features, or water features that only flow during rain or after snow melt. This creates even more confusion for cattle producers who may find puddles and creeks on their property that qualify as a "WOTUS" during a rainstorm but are normally dry land.

*Organic Association of Kentucky*

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# Becoming an auto expert



ONE VOICE

Sharon  
Burton  
Publisher

I was no longer needed as a van mom, and I had been a van mom for a very long time.

My first car was a well-traveled hand-me-down from my parents and I was thrilled to get it. It got me to my first job and it got me through college.

Even after I graduated and was married, my vehicles were not something to brag about. For years, we purchased rebuilt vehicles to save on the expenses.

After starting this newspaper company, however, I began traveling a lot and had a few experiences of being stranded on the side of the road. I started buying “newer” vehicles, but it wasn’t until our daughter was grown that I decided to buy a new vehicle, and even then it took me a year to decide what I wanted. I honestly can’t tell you one vehicle model from another. I have just considered a vehicle a tool that was required to get where I wanted to go.

That’s part of the reason it took me so long to find the vehicle I wanted, but there was another reason, too.

I was no longer needed as a van mom, and I had been a van mom for a very long time.

Until that year of searching, I never considered what I wanted in a vehicle. I just wanted it to go and I wanted it to have enough room in it for family travel.

Now that I was experiencing an empty nest, I really struggled with a vehicle purchase. I settled for a brand new Kia Sportage, which fit me perfectly because it was considered a highly reliable vehicle but fell on the low cost end. It was practical. That pretty much sums up my way of thinking.

After driving the Sportage for several years and well over 100,000 miles, it was experiencing an air conditioning problem and I took it to the Kia dealership to get it repaired. I was thinking about making a trade, and I shopped while I was there. I left the dealership with a new Kia Sorento, another SUV but a size larger than the small Sportage.

I wanted the black one but my husband, who also puts a lot of weight in determining if something is practical, assured me I would not like the heat-absorbing black, so I got a white one.

I have never been one of those people who names their vehicle, but I do tend to get attached to one, if it treats me right. This Sorento and I have never really developed a close relationship, however, and I’ve had it for several years now.

It did leave me stranded a couple of times before it even clicked off 30,000 miles and the engine had to be replaced. That seems to be the situation with millions of Kias, but I will say the company treated me well through the process.

SEE BECOMING, PAGE 5

# A milestone with Ky. FFA Foundation

This February, I have two special anniversaries to celebrate and they go hand in hand.

At the 2012 National Farm Machinery Show, I interviewed for a job as interim Executive Director of the Kentucky FFA Foundation, working alongside my mentor and friend, Billy Ray Smith, as he transitioned to retirement.

That day I attended my first Kentucky FFA Foundation board meeting, where I was offered and enthusiastically accepted the position. I had been a high school agriculture teacher and prior to that, I had worked as an intern for the Foundation in college. If you had told me, and the folks that hired me in a bit of a pinch back in 2012, we would still be going strong... I think we may all be surprised. I’m so grateful the folks in that room took a chance on me.

That day my colleague Matt Chaliff gave me a list of things I needed to work on immediately, the most pressing being promoting this new “Ag Tag” program. Jamie Comer had recently been elected as Agriculture Commissioner and had committed to a transparent and fair farm license plate program.

The week before, a few Kentucky FFA and 4-H State Officers had gone to his office and taken a picture at his desk. They quickly mocked up a poster and had over 1,000 printed. They needed me to get them in the hands of every FFA chapter and county clerks’ office in Kentucky. As a funny side note, the posters were in Keith Rogers’ car. At the time, Keith was the Executive Director of the 4H Foundation and is now Chief of Staff for Ryan Quarles. We have been in this Ag Tag venture together since the very beginning!

So, I’m celebrating my 10th Anniversary of working with Kentucky FFA by reminiscing on how I stuffed 1,000 posters into hundreds of mailing tubes in my living room to commemorate my new dream job. We worked so hard to tell folks that the \$10 voluntary donation included in your farm license plate bill would be divided equally between Kentucky

SEE A MILESTONE, PAGE 6



KENTUCKY  
FFA  
FOUNDATION  
EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR

Sheldon  
McKinney

If you had told me, and the folks that hired me in a bit of a pinch back in 2012, we would still be going strong... I think we may all be surprised.

## 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

Send news items to newsroom@  
thefarmerspride.com  
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P.O. Box 159, Columbia, KY 42728  
E-mail: pride316@duo-county.com  
thefarmerspride.com

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# Becoming an auto expert

FROM PAGE 4

Still, I have just never bonded with the thing. I was shopping for a replacement when the pandemic hit so I decided to just stay the course. It's not that I hate it, it's just boring.

I bought a specialty place so I could find it in a parking lot, and I promise you 70 percent of the vehicles in a parking lot on any given day will be white, mid-sized SUVs. My granddaughters have tried to get in a stranger's vehicle more than once thinking it was mine because the white SUVs look so much alike.

I may not be a picky vehicle owner, but I would at least like to be able to find it in the parking lot.

I really struggle parking it, too. In the past, when I would see a large vehicle parked all crooked, I would mouth off with something like, "If you can't park it, you shouldn't drive it." I've had to amend that a bit.

Recent news has really gotten me rethinking my decision to postpone a new purchase. I read this past week that Kia is recommending owners to not park their vehicle in a garage because it could catch on fire...when it's not running.

That really upset me. Not because I am afraid it will burn my house down. I don't have a garage.

It bothered me because my husband refused to build a garage when we built our house years ago because one of his friends filled him with horror stories about vehicles catching on fire and burning down the house.

It's been 20 years since we built the house but I still bring it up from time to time, especially in the cold of the winter or during a rainy day.

But now, thanks to Kia, my husband has a response to my complaints. For 20 years I have not heard of one house burning down because of a vehicle in the garage. Then a major auto company warns the world that it could happen, and the warning is about my vehicle!

Now I certainly want to get rid of the vehicle – not because it might catch on fire – but because it is part of a conspiracy to keep me from ever getting a garage.

I might as well start looking now, because it will probably take me a year again to decide what I even like. Then I have to research its reliability, then I have to think about it a bit longer. It's a real chore!

I guess I should be glad I can easily accommodate Kia's request to park their vehicles outside. It's not like I have much of a choice.

At least I'm becoming more aware of what kind of vehicle I like. Before, I just wanted something that didn't tear up if it was cared for. Now, I can make a list.

I don't want it to be susceptible to catching on fire, because that would just be real unhandy. I need it to be something I can actually find in a large parking lot, and I need to be able to park it between the lines.

I am starting to become one of those picky consumers!

## THE FARMER'S PRIDE

# Smarm, snarl, and snark can't replace facts

**A**s deep winter reasserted itself over most of the nation's farms and ranches, the New York Times brought some real heat to the Big-Ag-Fights-Climate-Change debate.

In a 14-minute, fast-paced video titled "Meet the People Getting Paid to Kill Our Planet," the film's subtitle not only names the killers, it convicts them, too: "American agriculture is ravaging the air, soil and water" and, it adds, "But a powerful lobby has cleverly concealed the damage."

The "powerful lobby," says the newspaper, is the American Farm Bureau Federation, the nation's largest farm group.

To hear The Times tell it, AFBF is at the center of Big Ag's "web of industries" responsible for "churning out at least one-third of all greenhouse gas emissions around the world."

Well, maybe not, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

The U.S. is the world's second largest contributor to climate change; China is first. EPA data shows that 25 percent of all global greenhouse gases derive from "electricity and heat production," 21 percent from "industry," and 24 percent from "agriculture, forestry, and other land use."

In the U.S., however, "agriculture," notes EPA, is responsible for 10 percent of all greenhouse gases. Whatever number you choose, neither is "at least one-third of... all."

But The Times video sticks with its figure to then figure that agriculture is a "significant polluter," responsible, in fact, for annual emissions that are "about the same as 143 million cars," or one-half of all vehicles in the U.S.

Again, not so, according to EPA data.

The Times points to fat profits as the reason for all ag's emissions: "Annual profits?" it asks to immediately answer, "About \$116 billion."

If only that were true. But this is farming and ranching, two notoriously feast-or-famine businesses where profits rise and fall faster than the local creek. In 2020, for example, U.S. net farm income was \$121 billion; in 2016, it was half that, or \$62.3 billion.

Adding legitimacy to The Times video is New Jersey Democrat Cory Booker, a member of the Senate Ag Committee. Booker makes a handful of appearances throughout the video to note—correctly—that any solution to our worsening climate predicament will also require fixing "the American and global food system."

Quickly, however, that contention is jettisoned for the video's central theme: "It's time for you to ditch your view of the farm," the narrator urges. To drive home the point, an activist attorney appears on camera to say a cow's gassy "burp" is like a bullet—it "doesn't last long-term but it can have a big impact."

Finally, we are introduced to the video's fall guy, Zippy Duvall, the Georgia dairyman who serves as AFBF's current president. Zippy and his allies are "out to destroy the truth," "buy influence," and have "gotten away with" defeating any regulation of ag-generated methane by labeling—rather cleverly, truth be told—any effort to do so as a "cow tax."

"That's the big ag lobby, baby," the narrator breezily notes, adding a bit later on a different AFBF stand, "Seriously, that is some manure lagoon-sized BS."

The Times describes the video editorial as an "innovative video journalism commentary." It's not; it's a sloppy slice of half-truths and loose connections presented in a casual, "Yo, bro!" style that generates more derision than discussion.

AFBF thought the snarky editorial so off the mark it didn't even publicly comment on it. Why would it? Having The Times as an enemy only raises AFBF's credibility in really red rural America.

Make no mistake, though, AFBF—and Big Ag—can't do enough climate penance in the coming two generations to make up for the climate sins they've committed in just this generation. But it's not alone. Like Sen. Booker notes, the world won't fix the wobbling climate unless the world fixes all farming and food from, literally, the ground up.

That means the AFBF, The Times, and you and me.



**FOOD  
&  
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**Alan  
Guebert**

In the U.S., however, "agriculture," notes EPA, is responsible for 10 percent of all greenhouse gases.

### 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).

# A milestone with Ky. FFA Foundation

FROM PAGE 4

FFA, Kentucky 4H and Kentucky Proud. That fall, we received our first check from the program, FFA's one third of the total was \$109,307. It was a huge win and we celebrated.

The Ag Tag program kept growing. We worked with Jamie Comer to promote the program and for the last six years with Commissioner Dr. Ryan Quarles. They have both been incredible advocates and partners. We have designed ten posters, several radio ads, lots of press releases, marketing programs, and hundreds of visits to county clerks to share the impact each donation could make. Ten years later, sharing the opportunity for Kentucky farmers to support the program is still a significant part of my work and our budget. In 2021, we had our highest giving year ever and received \$245,987. Since the very first year, we proudly give half of that back to the local counties it came from and use the half we retain to support programs that impact all of our members.

It's something worth celebrating! In ten years, Kentucky FFA has received \$1,870,935 in Ag Tag funds. We have returned \$935,467 back to local FFA chapters to meet their greatest need. That is incredible! The ag tag money we keep has an impact on members everywhere. It funds our exhibit space in AgLand at the Kentucky State

Fair, pays for State FFA Officer travel to visit local chapters, scholarships our students representing Kentucky in contests at the National FFA Convention and additional prize money for their efforts. It also covers our website, helps us create our annual report and is partial funding for our Ag Achiever Grant program, which keeps ag education classrooms up to date with technology and tools.

The Kentucky FFA Foundation has grown leaps and bounds in ten years and you can credit so much of its success to the Ag Tag program. I still love spreading the good news of Ag Tags. For just \$10, you can be a part of the great philanthropic mission of FFA, 4H and Kentucky Proud. Truly, the work of all three organizations grows our industry in every community across the state. By simply giving \$10, you get to join us in the mission.

I looked up the traditional gift for a tenth anniversary. I couldn't wipe the smile off my face when

I learned it was aluminum, the material for license plates. In the last ten years, the number of folks that make the donation has grown, our highest donation rate yet has been 36 percent. We are thankful, but for the other 64 percent who don't make the \$10 gift, I hope that the last ten years of total transparency and faithful stewardship of funds at every level will convince you to join us.

To everyone who has supported the Ag Tag program over the last decade, I want to sincerely thank you. It's incredible what we have accomplished together. As a reminder, you can pay your license plate renewals online at drive.ky.gov. Choose "Vehicle Services" and then "Registration Renewal". It's as easy as can be.

On a personal note, I want to also thank the folks that took a chance on me ten years ago. I have gotten to work with the most wonderful board, inspiring donors and colleagues that I trust and enjoy being around. It's been a dream.

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FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONE AND ONLY SON, THAT WHOEVER BELIVES IN HIM SHALL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.

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# Vertical farming operation plans growth in Boone Co.

Gov. Andy Beshear announced continued growth within Kentucky's agritech sector, as 80 Acres Farms moves forward with plans to locate a new vertical farming facility in Boone County, which will create 125 jobs with a \$74 million investment.

"Agritech growth is a major part of our effort to create a sustainable economy that works for all Kentuckians, and I am very pleased to welcome 80 Acres Farms to the commonwealth," Gov. Beshear said. "These well-paying jobs will create quality opportunities for our workforce. I want to thank the company's leaders for locating in Kentucky and I can't wait to see the facility up and running this year."

The operation will locate in an existing 200,000-square-foot building on more than 22 acres. The facility will be converted into a vertical

farming operation to serve the local market and is expected to begin operations in the third quarter of 2022. It will include a high-tech indoor vertical farm and harvesting, packaging and distribution capabilities for leafy green, microgreens, berries and tomatoes. Once fully operational, the controlled-environment farm will produce millions of servings of produce for the surrounding area.

"Opening a farm in Boone County will allow us to grow closer to our retail partners in Lexington and Louisville and introduce our fresh, healthy, locally grown produce to many more Kentuckians," said 80 Acres CEO Mike Zelkind. "We're always looking for ways to increase our impact, and this farm is the biggest step forward for us yet, more than doubling our total production and growing our footprint out-

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information,  
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side Ohio."

Founded in 2015, 80 Acres operates indoor farms using 100 percent renewable energy and without the use of pesticides.

The company's flagship farm, located in Hamilton, Ohio, has capacity to grow 10 million servings of produce annually. 80 Acres currently operates eight farms and produces a range of food products, including salad blends,

microgreens, tomatoes, basil and cucumbers, with plans to begin production of strawberries. The company supplies more than 300 Kroger stores nationwide, as well as other regional grocers.

To encourage investment and job growth in the community, the Kentucky Economic Development Finance Authority preliminarily approved a 10-year incentive agreement with the company under the Kentucky Business Investment program. The performance-based agreement can provide up to \$2 million in tax incentives based on the company's investment of \$74 million and annual targets of:

Creation and maintenance of 125 Kentucky-resident, full-time jobs across 10 years; and  
Paying an average hourly wage of \$45 including benefits across those jobs.

Additionally, KEDFA

approved the company for up to \$250,000 in tax incentives through the Kentucky Enterprise Initiative Act.

KEIA allows approved companies to recoup Kentucky sales and use tax on construction costs, building fixtures, equipment used in research and development and electronic processing.

By meeting its annual targets over the agreement term, the company can be eligible to keep a portion of the new tax revenue it generates. The company may claim eligible incentives against its income tax liability and/or wage assessments.

In addition, 80 Acres can receive resources from Kentucky's workforce service providers. Those include no-cost recruitment and job placement services, reduced-cost customized training and job-training incentives.

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### Tuesday, February 22

8:30 a.m. Registration for KDDC Young Dairy Producers Conference  
9-11 a.m. Trade Show Set up  
9:30 a.m. "Dairy Gauge-Focusing on Understanding Cost of Production, Identifying Areas of Financial Strength and Opportunities to Gain Efficiency"  
– David Bilderback, Manage Agent, University of Tennessee  
10:15 a.m. "Animal Care Plans-What's on the Horizon for Producers"  
– Dr. Karen Jordan, DVM, Brush Creek Swiss, Siler City, NC  
11 a.m. Break  
11:15 a.m. "Genomics Advantages-One Producer to another Producer"  
– Lloyd Holterman, Rosy-Lane Holsteins, Watertown, WI  
12 p.m.-1:30p.m. Lunch and Trade Show Opens  
1 p.m.-5 p.m. ADA of Kentucky Board Meeting  
1:30 p.m. "Data Driven Dairying-A Producer's Perspective of Innovating and Advancing in Technology for the Betterment of Dairy Cattle"  
– Mack Drees, Drees Dairy Farm, LLC, Peshtigo, WI  
2:30 p.m. "Marketing Positivity,Bringing People Back to Milk, Dairy Products, Innovative Ideas to Sell More" – Bill Gutrich,  
3:15 p.m. Break  
3:45 p.m. "Bovine Herd Hoof Health Goals and Strategies to Achieve Them:  
–Karl Burgi, Comfort Hoof Care, Baraboo, WI  
4:30- 6 p.m. Visit Trade Show  
6 p.m.-8 p.m. Dairy Awards Dinner

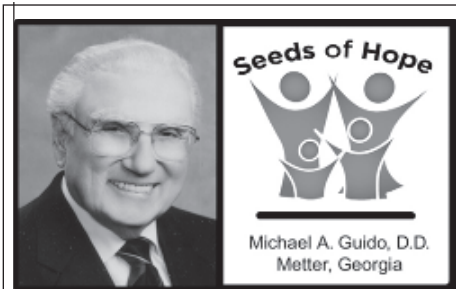
### Wednesday, February 23

8 a.m. Registration and Trade Show Open  
8:20 a.m. Welcome  
8:30 a.m. Lisa McClintock, Dairy Management Inc.  
9:15 a.m. "Refining Reproductive Programs for Improving Fertility"  
– Dr. Ronaldo Cerri, University of British Columbia  
10 a.m. Break  
10:30 a.m. "Dairy Markets and Farm Bill" – John Newton, Chief Economist of the Senate Ag Committee, Washington D. C.  
11:15 a.m. "Monitoring Behavior to Improve Fertility"- Dr. Ronaldo Cerri, University of British Columbia  
12 p.m. Processors and Dairy Farmers: Milk Promotion Is A Joint Effort"  
Al Dejewski, Vice President, Marketing, Milk PEP  
12:45 p.m. Lunch – KDDC Annual Business Meeting  
Trade Show Exhibits (Bidding Ends on Silent Auction Items)  
2 p.m. "Smart Holstein Lab-Experience the Data" – WKU Panel, Adam Blessinger, Dr. Fred DeGraves, Gretchen Colon-Suau and Dr. Jeffrey Bewley, WKU and Holstein Association  
2:45 p.m. Wrap up and Evaluations

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## From Beginning To End

Sitting across the desk from me were two heart-broken parents. They had followed the suggestions and recommendations of other parents on the best methods to raise children in a Christ-honoring home. However, their son had recently entered a recovery program for his addiction.

"How did this happen?" the father asked. I had been asked this question many times, and each time I attempted to answer the question, it became more difficult. After a moment's pause, I tried, to the best of my ability, to explain that in the process of addiction the early experiences seemed to solve problems for people. After the initial experiment with drugs, what once was a problem solver became a problem creator and the "fun" or pleasure once associated with the drug vanished with the joy.

Then I told them the fable of a honeybee that discovered a large jar of honey with no lid on it. The bee decided to enjoy the sweet nectar without the amount of work it normally took to get the "joy of sweetness." As it reveled in the honey, its wings slowly became glued together, and there it was - dying. The promise of pleasure ended up in the grip of death.

A Psalmist warned us of this process: "I am laid low in the dust," he wrote. Another way to interpret it is "I am glued to the things of earth." But he found an escape route: "Preserve my life according to Your Word."

Stuck in sin? Struggling with an addiction? Release is ours through Christ!

**Prayer:** Please, Father, enable us to see the path to happiness goes through Your Son into eternal life! Protect us from seeking substitutes or replacements. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

**Scripture For Today:** I am laid low in the dust; preserve my life according to your word. Psalm 119:25

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4 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves  
salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste  
2 eggs  
1 cup panko bread crumbs, or more as needed  
½ cup grated Parmesan cheese  
2 tablespoons all-purpose flour, or more if needed  
1 cup olive oil for frying  
½ cup prepared tomato sauce  
¼ cup fresh mozzarella, cut into small cubes  
¼ cup chopped fresh basil  
½ cup grated provolone cheese  
¼ cup grated Parmesan cheese  
1 tablespoon olive oil

Preheat an oven to 450 degrees F.

Place chicken breasts between two sheets of heavy plastic (resealable freezer bags work well) on a solid, level surface. Firmly pound chicken with the smooth side of a meat mallet to a thickness of 1/2-inch. Season chicken thoroughly with salt and pepper.

Beat eggs in a shallow bowl and set aside.

Mix bread crumbs and 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese in a separate bowl, set aside.

Place flour in a sifter or strainer; sprinkle over chicken breasts, evenly coating both sides.

Dip flour coated chicken breast in beaten eggs. Transfer breast to breadcrumb mixture, pressing the crumbs into both sides. Repeat for each breast. Set aside breaded chicken breasts for about 15 minutes.

Heat 1 cup olive oil in a large skillet on medium-high heat until it begins to shimmer. Cook chicken until golden, about 2 minutes on each side. The chicken will finish cooking in the oven.

Place chicken in a baking dish and top each breast with about 1/3 cup of tomato sauce. Layer each chicken breast with equal amounts of mozzarella cheese, fresh basil, and provolone cheese. Sprinkle 1 to 2 tablespoons of Parmesan cheese on top and drizzle with 1 tablespoon olive oil.

Bake in the preheated oven until cheese is browned and bubbly, and chicken breasts are no longer pink in the center, 15 to 20 minutes. An instant-read thermometer inserted into the center should read at least 165 degrees F.



## Lemon Bars



1 cup butter, softened  
½ cup white sugar  
2 cups all-purpose flour  
4 eggs  
1 ½ cups white sugar  
¼ cup all-purpose flour  
2 lemons, juiced

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.

In a medium bowl, blend together softened butter, 2 cups flour and 1/2 cup sugar. Press into the bottom of an ungreased 9x13 inch pan.

Bake for 15 to 20 minutes in the preheated oven, or until firm and golden. In another bowl, whisk together the remaining 1 1/2 cups sugar and 1/4 cup flour. Whisk in the eggs and lemon juice. Pour over the baked crust.

Bake for an additional 20 minutes in the preheated oven. The bars will firm up as they cool. For a festive tray, make another pan using limes instead of lemons and adding a drop of green food coloring to give a very pale green. After both pans have cooled, cut into uniform 2 inch squares and arrange in a checker board fashion.



# Free seminars are part of National Farm Machinery Show

Farmers and agribusiness professionals flock to Louisville each February to learn about the latest innovations in farming.

Free seminars offered at the National Farm Machinery Show will showcase new products, strategies and technologies to interested attendees. The seminars occur Wednesday through Friday, Feb. 16-18 and are located in the South Wing of the Kentucky Exposition Center.

Admission to the National Farm Machinery Show is free and open to the public. Parking at the exposition center is \$10 per vehicle and \$20 per bus.

Farm Journal Media will host a live taping for "U.S. Farm Report" hosted by Tyne Morgan with special guests on Thursday, February 17 at 2 p.m. in South Wing B, room 105.

- 2022 Global Commodity Market & Weather Outlook presented by DTN/The Progressive Farmer
- Keeping on Track - What's the state of GPS and positioning for 2022? Presented by Farm Futures
- Staying Disciplined in Volatile Markets presented by Farm Futures
- Carbon Credits On the Horizon presented by DTN/The Progressive Farmer
- The State of Autonomy presented by Farm Futures
- Building Better Grain Dryers presented by Farm Futures
- Tractor Zoom 2022 Farm Equipment Outlook presented by DTN/The Progressive Farmer
- 10 Technologies Changing Agriculture presented by Farm Futures
- Machinery Pete Updates on the Used Machinery Market presented by Farm Journal Media
- Soil Test Trends presented by Beck's Hybrids
- PFR Insight Meeting presented by Beck's Hybrids
- Success Strategies in Corn and Soybeans presented by Beck's Hybrids
- Maximizing Herbicides presented by Beck's Hybrids
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# Farm show offers something for everyone

The National Farm Machinery Show is iconic. Since its beginning in 1963 as an electricity demonstration at the University of Kentucky, it draws large crowds and fills the Kentucky Exposition Center with exhibitors.

With its postponement in 2021 due to Covid-19 restrictions, the farm show is back to full strength with 1.2 million sq. ft. of indoor exhibit space and more than 900 exhibit booths. Held in Louisville Feb. 16 – 19, officials recently announced that registration for the NFMS is recommended but not required.

While it does provide the latest state-of-the-art agriculture product innovation and technology, everyone knows it's also a colossal farm family reunion.

Christian County row crop farmer Bill Garnett regularly attends the NFMS. Garnett said the show has something for everyone, whether your farming experience was your grandparent's farm or it's your livelihood. He pointed out that people who enjoy agriculture love to see the major lines of equipment and make side-by-side comparisons.

Fred Sipes enjoys the social aspect of the four-day event even as much as he does the business opportunity.

"I'm just delighted to get back and see everyone," said Sipes. He is anxious to renew acquaintances he hasn't seen since the 2020 farm show. The Meade County farmer raises 2000 acres of corn and soybeans, a 250 head cow herd, and burley tobacco.

Sipes said visiting with farmers and learning about different farming operations from different areas of the state and the country is a huge benefit of attending the NFMS. Talking with others about what works and what doesn't work is essential, especially when farming can be different from region to region. He noted that farmers with level ground can combine for hours without stopping, but he had to change the combine head five times to combine 80 acres during his fall harvest.

Being only an hour from the show, Sipes doesn't make an overnight stay but will drive back and forth a couple of days and enjoys the tractor pulls.

"Of course, I'll look at the equipment and kick some tires, but I'm looking forward to seeing friends I haven't seen in a year," he laughed.

Elizabethtown farmer Mark Thomas wants to check

in with equipment representatives. Thomas Farms purchased a GPS guidance system after research and then seeing the equipment at a past farm show. The system was installed on tractors pulling grain bug-

gies used during the harvest of the farm's 2000 acres of corn and soybeans. The system takes over the

SEE **NFMS**, PAGE 11

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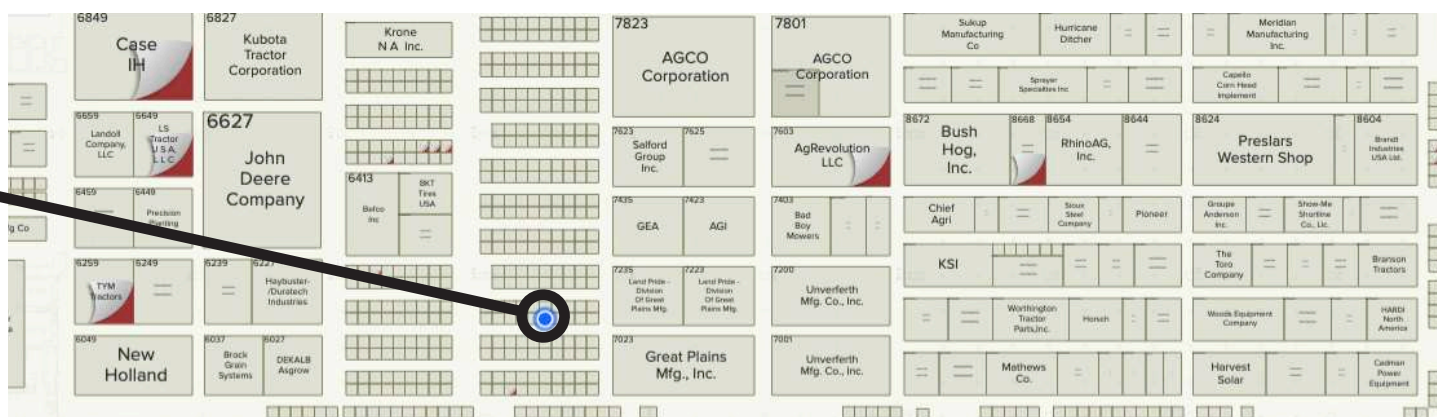
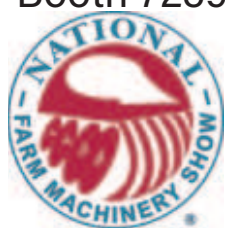
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## NFMS show offers something for everyone

### FROM PAGE 10

steering when the buggy approaches the combine. The system aligns the tractor's speed with the combine and allows an inexperienced driver to negotiate the critical distance between the buggy and the combine with no mishaps. It also lets the buggy driver know when the combine is ready to unload, resulting in no slowdowns or stoppage.

"We have been very pleased with the investment, but it's a new system, and

it's important to talk with the reps that are at the National Farm Machinery Show," Thomas said.

He said all the vendors bring their top engineers to the NFMS.

"It's important to talk with the experts, people that built the equipment, who know the technology."

Ray Tucker talked about the excellent year of production with 2000 acres of corn and soybeans last year, but said input costs will put a damper on look-

ing for any new purchases at the farm show this year. Tucker said he probably takes the show for granted, only being 30 minutes away in Shelbyville.

"I can drive up, look at something and be back home pretty quickly," he noted. He does plan to meet up with a friend from Richmond, Va.

Beginning Wednesday at 10 a.m., five different sponsors will offer twenty 20 seminars on topics ranging from herbicides to carbon markets and market and weather strategies in South Wing rooms.

The NFMS also offers an app that helps attendees plan their visits. A person types in the vendors and workshops they want. The app maps their visit to maximize their time and energy in covering the 27 acres of interconnected indoor exhibit area.

Garnett advised those new to the NFMS to plan ahead and arrive early and be prepared to walk off the two ribeye or pork chops sandwiches they will eat.

"Going to the Farm Machinery Show motivates us to make changes, use new strategies, plan for the coming year and look for the trees in the forest of agriculture," Garnett said.

The National Farm Machinery Show is held at the Kentucky Exposition Center, 937 Phillips Ln, Louisville, and is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily from Feb. 16 through Feb. 19. Admission is free with \$10 parking. The Championship Tractor Pull is held nightly at 7 p.m. with an additional show at noon on Saturday. Tickets are required.

By Toni Riley  
Field Reporter



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# Lawmakers propose bills to address solar lease concerns

FROM PAGE 1

"We want to make sure those bonds are in place and stay in place throughout the life of these projects," Harper said, adding that leases on land for solar farms can run up to 40 years.

As a comparison, Harper talked about the impact from abandoned oil and gas wells in Kentucky.

"There are 14,000 abandoned oil and gas wells (in the state), and the governor just proposed \$104 million to clean that up. I don't think anyone in Kentucky wants to see us in that same situation with solar panels."

KFB worked closely with the Kentucky County Judge Executive Association for input on HB 392, Harper said.

"Right now, the requirement of the bond, the beneficiary is landowner, No. 1. And it gives

county government the option if they want to be a secondary beneficiary on that bond."

Another concern by county officials is the division solar farm leases are causing within communities. Landowners are taking advantage of getting higher lease prices with solar companies, but some neighbors believe that will lower the value of their property.

There are also setback issues and concern about the overall appearance of fields of solar panels they see from their front porch.

"Our bill gives local planning and zoning, if you've got it, or the fiscal court primacy over anything that goes on in Frankfort," Harper said, referring to the decommissioning plans.

The amount of the decommissioning bonds will be determined by an independent engineering expert: "Someone

who has no financial interest in the merchant electric generating facility or the land it's on," Harper said.

Another critically important part, which Harper said is included in both bills, requires the bonds to be reviewed every five years.

"The reason for that is a dollar today is not going to be that same dollar 20-30 years from now."

County officials are also skittish about the fact that many of the solar leases are already being sold, some several times over, not long after being construction, with some companies impossible to reach or located outside of the country.

Both bills require a review of the bond if a facility is sold. In addition, the landowner, county government and a sitting board in Frankfort, for instance, must be notified of a potential sale.



## The conservation group

Lane Boldman, director of the Kentucky Conservation Committee, said the organization's goal is to find a resolution that provides for clean energy and clean farmland.

Boldman said the board consists of farmers and former heads of nature preserve commissions, for instance, as well as representatives from land conservation and clean energy groups.

"My organization has advocates on all sides of the issue —

we advocate for clean energy, but it needs to be done responsibly, with good land-advocating policies, and we try to help facilitate that dialogue."

Boldman said there are good and bad companies involved in the business but there is also some inaccurate information about solar projects.

"If you do a 'solar and birds' search, a plant out in Nevada comes up that kills hundreds of birds, but that's not the same technology that's used here. People don't know that," she

SEE **SOLAR**, PAGE 13

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# Solar bills proposed

FROM PAGE 12

said.

The group is strongly backing Hornback's SB 69 because, according to Boldman, the organization believes "he wrote a very thoughtful, detailed bill that was necessary."

She said HB 392 is moving incredibly fast but needs work. KCC thinks the House bill is weaker than the Senate bill and believes SB 69 is "more thorough in its language." As an example, Boldman said the House bill requires removal of equipment "to the depth of three feet" while the Senate bill requires full restoration.

Boldman does think the process through the Public Service Commission — which requires all applications to go through the Kentucky Electric Generation and Transmission Siting Board, has been working.

"That siting board has local officials on it ... it's been a good advocate to make sure the projects are addressing issues, have bonding and good mediation plans for when their leases are up,

and we've been happy about that," she said. "But, at some point, we want to get that stuff in statute, and we are strongly supporting that."

KCC, a nonprofit nonpartisan group, offers a citizen's guide on its website and includes information on solar and land issues.

"What happens is the public hasn't had time to learn by the time the companies come in and start making their pitches," she said. "If people are armed with information first, they can start asking intelligent questions and not be concerned with someone steamrolling you."

She said KCC has found when there's been more community engagement and groups understand the topic better, they're more confident in the projects.

"But any loss of land is a concern to us. We want to see them limited, see policies that use more brown fields. All that will eventually happen, but it's a work in progress."

By Bobbie Curd  
Field reporter



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# UK booth to highlight tornado resilience at NFMS

As the agriculture world's eyes turn to Louisville this week, the University of Kentucky Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering is using the opportunity to highlight the resiliency of western Kentuckians who are continuing to deal with the aftermath of the Dec. 10 tornadoes that ravaged much of the area.

Attendees of the National Farm Machinery Show Feb. 16-19 in Louisville will see a retrospective display of the tornado outbreak in the department's booth.

Located in the Kentucky Exposition Center's West Wing, the booth will include information on the track of the tornadoes, debris, educational displays about generators, temporary fencing and tornado shelters. It will also feature information about ongoing needs for the area and ways people can donate.

Matt Dixon, UK agricultural meteorologist, and Karin Pekarchik, UK senior extension associate, are spearheading the booth's development.

"I wanted to give attendees of the National Farm Machinery Show the opportunity to learn about the long-track tornadic system and how western Kentuckians are successfully overcoming adversity from this devastating event," said Dixon, a meteorologist in the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. "I also want people to learn about the needs that still exist and ways they can continue to help Kentucky's tornado victims recover. This is not a quick turnaround for those involved, and in many cases, it will take years to recover."

The department is working with the UK Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History to record and archive an oral history of the tornadic event. During the National Farm Machinery Show, department faculty and staff will record the professional stories of area emergency management personnel and first responders who were on the front lines during and after the tornado.

First responders and emergency management personnel interested in providing an account of their professional challenges and duties during the National Farm Machinery Show may contact Dixon at [matt.dixon@uky.edu](mailto:matt.dixon@uky.edu) or Pekarchik at [karin.pekarchik@uky.edu](mailto:karin.pekarchik@uky.edu) to schedule a time to share their story.

In addition, interested individuals may share their tornado-related stories at their convenience by contacting the Nunn Center's Telestory Archive Hotline at 833-859-7272.

"As a meteorologist, this is one of those events you never want to see," Dixon said. "Unfortunately, it happened, and we hope this retrospective display

will give people a greater understanding of the dangers of a tornado and how we can prepare for

future severe weather events, but at the same time, be a communicative hub to help those in need."



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# Coronavirus may be widespread in white-tailed deer

Evidence suggests the novel coronavirus may become entrenched in the white-tailed deer population. That could give the virus much more opportunity to mutate and spread to other animals, including humans, Emily Anthes and Sabrina Imbler report for **The New York Times**.

"If deer were to become established as a North American wildlife reservoir, and we do think they're at risk of that, there are real concerns for the health of other wildlife species, livestock, pets and even people," said Dr. Casey Barton Behravesh of the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**. "This is a top concern right now for the United States."

Behravesh directs the CDC's **One Health Office**, which focuses on connections between human, animal and environmental health.

"From the start of the pandemic, experts were aware that a virus that emerged from animals, as scientists believe SARS-CoV-2 did, could theoretically spread back to animals. Mink have garnered much attention after the virus spread through mink farms in Europe and North America, leading to massive culls of the animals. But white-tailed deer, which may wander into urban and rural backyards, are also easily infected," Anthes and Imbler report. "Infections in free-ranging deer, which display few signs of illness, are tricky to detect and difficult to contain. Deer also live alongside us in dizzying numbers; about 30 million white-tailed deer roam the continental United States."

Scientists knew mammals, especially deer, would be more susceptible to infection from the beginning of the pandemic; the coronavirus enters cells by attaching to a certain kind of receptor, and many mammals have close cousins of that receptor, Anthes and Imbler report.

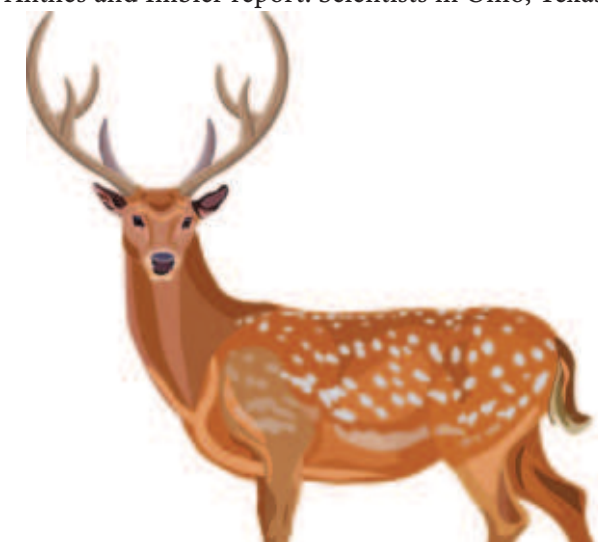
Evidence has borne out the theory. In December 2020, scientists analyzed more than 4,000 dead white-tailed deer in Iowa and found that more than 60 percent were infected. And in July, when the federal **Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service** sampled blood from deer in Illinois, Michigan, New York and Pennsylvania, 40 percent had coronavirus antibodies (which meant they likely had already been infected), Anthes and Imbler report. Scientists in Ohio, Texas,

Ontario, Quebec and Saskatchewan have found similar results.

"Whether the virus makes deer sick remains unknown. There is no evidence that infected deer become seriously ill, but humans might not notice if a wild animal was feeling slightly under the weather," Anthes and Imbler report. Stephanie Seifert, a zoonotic diseases expert at **Washington State University**,

told the Times that, while scientists know many deer have been infected and spread the virus, they're not sure how humans (or other animals) are infecting the deer, how the virus is adapting or what will happen next. Knowing those things, especially how the deer are getting infected, is critical for risk assessment, so scientists are researching it.

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# Fulton Co. farmer Henry Sanger receives UK wheat service award

Fulton County grain farmer Henry Sanger is the 2022 recipient of the University of Kentucky Wheat Science Group's Service Award.

Group members give the award to honor producers and industry representatives for their valuable research collaborations and support.

"Henry has always been a very thoughtful and perceptive evaluator of research carried out by the Wheat Science Group," said David Van Sanford, professor of wheat breeding and genetics in the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. "He asks hard questions that always make us better at what we do and sometimes alerts us to issues that we hadn't even con-

sidered."

Sanger farms Mississippi River bottomland in Fulton County, which has very different growing conditions from the rest of the state. He was an early adopter of many of the group's contributions to Kentucky small grain production, including no-till wheat. In the early years of UK-developed Pembroke wheat seed, Sanger promoted the seed to Purchase Area farmers and worked with local seed houses to make sure they carried the seed.

"Henry believes in the betterment of Kentucky agriculture," said Lloyd Murdock, UK professor emeritus. "He has been an excellent cooperater on many UK research and variety trials over the years."

Adam Andrews, programs director of the Kentucky Small Grain Growers Association and the Kentucky Corn Growers Association, said Sanger is instrumental in making sure Purchase Area farmers are represented statewide and their unique challenges are addressed.

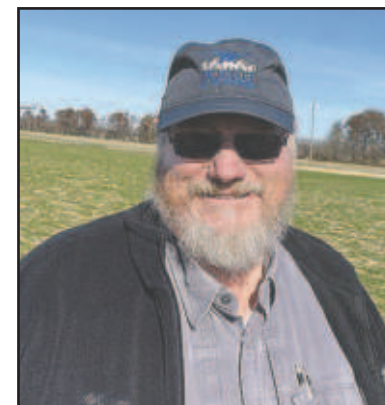
"He has always challenged leaders of the Kentucky corn and wheat industries to meet the production and research needs of the farmers in the Purchase Region, who farm in different environmental conditions and on different soil types than farmers in other parts of the state," he said. "The Kentucky wheat industry is better because Henry is a part of it."

Sanger has hosted on-farm variety trials for the UK Wheat Variety Testing Program for the past four years and from 1997-2001.

"The results from this project are essential for us to be able to provide variety performance data for the Purchase Area," said Bill Bruening, UK agriculture research specialist. "He and his team are remarkably accommodating to our research needs and provide excellent management of the research plots."

He has been a member of many agriculture boards and was an early member of the Kentucky Small Grain Growers Association.

"His willingness to travel, contribute and work to make



small grains strong in Kentucky is amazing," said Chad Lee, director of the UK Grain and Forage Center of Excellence. "I greatly enjoy my visits with Henry. He always has challenging questions and offers one of the best field scouting opportunities anywhere."



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## Alfalfa conference is Feb. 24

Jessica Williamson, an agronomist with AGCO, is the keynote speaker during the upcoming 41st Kentucky Alfalfa and Stored Forage Conference.

She has extensive experience using baleage in her current position and as a former extension faculty member at Penn State University.

The daylong conference is from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. CST Thursday, Feb. 24 at the Warren County Extension office in Bowling Green. It is hosted by the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment and the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council.

Educational presentations will include information on silage fermentation and additives, species and variety options, harvest timing and moisture

determination, mowing and conditioning, insects, bale density and time of wrapping, and Kentucky farmer results using round baled silage. During a panel discussion, Williamson and Warren County producer Craig Cohron will share their experiences making high quality baleage.

Individuals may register for the conference at [www.kyalfalfa2022.eventbrite.com](http://www.kyalfalfa2022.eventbrite.com). Registration is \$45. For an additional \$15, participants can join the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council. Those without internet access may mail registration and a check made payable to KFGC to Jimmy Henning, N-222D Agricultural Science Center North, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40546-0091.

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# USDA sees farm profits falling but still above average

Despite record-high expenses and lower federal subsidies that will reduce their overall income, 2022 will still be one of the best years on record for American farmers, according to the Agriculture Department's Farm Income Forecast. USDA's Economic Research Service releases three such forecasts each year, typically in February, August and November.

If the prediction holds, "It would be the second year in a row that net farm income, a USDA gauge of profitability, ran at sky-high levels, boosted by strong commodity prices and a boom in exports, with China back as the No. 1 customer," Chuck Abbott writes for the Food & Environment Reporting Network.

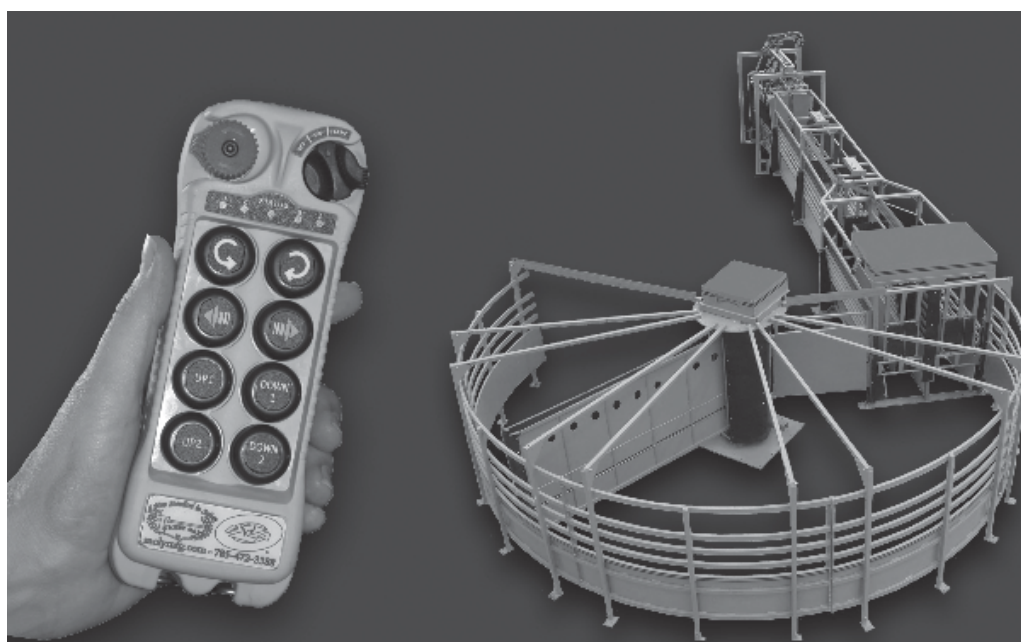
Here are some other highlights from the report:

- Net farm income, a broad measure of profits, is predicted to hit \$113.7 billion in 2022, down from \$119.1 billion in 2021 in inflation-adjusted dollars. If the projection holds true, net farm income would be 15.2 percent above its 2001-2020 average of \$98.7 billion in inflation-adjusted dollars.
- Net cash farm income, a more precise measure of profits, is projected to hit \$136.1 billion, a \$2.9 billion (2.1 percent) decrease from 2021. If the projection holds true, net-cash farm income in 2022 would be 13.6 percent above its 2001-2020 average of \$119.8 billion.
- Cash receipts from commodities sales are forecast to increase by \$29.3 billion (6.8 percent) from 2021 to \$461.9 billion.
- Total crop receipts are expected to increase by \$12 billion (5.1 percent) from 2021 because of higher receipts for soybeans, corn, cotton, and wheat.
- Total receipts for animals and animal products are predicted to increase by \$17.4 billion (8.9 percent) from 2021 because of higher receipts for milk, broilers, cattle and calves.
- Total cash receipts are expected to increase, but lower direct government payments and higher production expenses are predicted to counteract their net effects.
- Total farm household income is

predicted to remain relatively flat, increasing 2.2 percent in inflation-adjusted dollars from \$83,311 in 2021 to \$88,234 in

2022.

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# No-tillage agriculture: A legacy born in Kentucky

In the 60 years since the first commercial no-tillage planting in Christian County, the agricultural practice continues to improve soils and water quality on millions of acres across Kentucky, the United States and the world.

It all began with .7 acres of no-till corn and the late Harry Young, a Herndon producer, determined to find a better way to farm.

"My dad wanted to make the world a better place and help farmers better manage their land," said John Young, Harry Young's son. "He set out along with Shirley Phillips (University of Kentucky agronomist) to turn the United States and world onto a completely different type of agriculture."

Harry Young planted his first commercial no-till crop during a time when Kentucky farmers were faced with eroding soils that were becoming increasingly difficult to farm.

"All of our topography is rolling, and people farmed it using conventional tillage because they had to. We had so

many ditches. It was a real mess," said Lloyd Murdock, professor emeritus in the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. "Kentucky was headed for a situation that would have put us out of crop production had it not been for no-tillage."

Today, the number of producers implementing no-tillage continues to increase well beyond the state's boundaries. Farmers practice no-tillage on more than 104 million acres in the United States, according to the 2017 U.S. Department of Agriculture's Census of Agriculture.

John Young said his father learned about no-till production while on a 1961 farmer field trip to Dixon Springs, Ill., led by Reeves Davie, Christian County agriculture agent with the UK Cooperative Extension Service, and by reading the book, "Plowman's Folly" by Edward H. Faulkner. Harry Young selected the site for his first commercial no-tillage planting on land that bordered the road because he wanted everyone to see

what he was doing – even if it failed.

"My dad loved to talk about farming and no-tillage," John Young said. "The only problem we had when dad planted

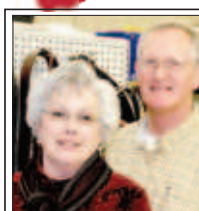
the first crop was people were driving off the road because they were look-

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No-till pioneer the late Harry Young and his son John Young in a field of wheat at harvest. Photo courtesy of Alexander Young.

# No-tillage agriculture

FROM PAGE 19

ing at the field to see what was going on.”

Area farmers, including Howard Martin and Allen Franks from neighboring Todd County, followed Young’s lead and began experimenting with no-tillage in the 1960s. Martin borrowed Franks’ Allis Chalmers 333 no-till planter to produce his first crop.

“In the early days, Harry Young was an inspiration,” said Martin, who sat on the Hopkinsville Elevator board of directors with Young. “I started no-tilling because I thought it would save us on labor costs and help conserve our soil.”

An Ohio transplant, Franks was new to the state when he began practicing no-tillage in the 1960s. He quickly realized its benefits. A decade later, he would be among the first adopters of no-tillage wheat.

“I started no-tilling wheat in the late 1970s,” Franks said. “We ended up with two bushels less in our no-till fields compared to our tilled land then but that didn’t pay for the time, labor and fuel that comes with tillage.”

## Not as easy as it sounds

A self-proclaimed “never tiller” for 25 years, Martin will be the first to admit that no-till farming wasn’t easy in its infancy. His second year of planting no-till corn ended up in disappointment.

“The second year we grew no-till corn, it was a wet planting season. I could not get a good stand, and I ended

up throwing out the seed,” Martin said. “It would be 15 years before I would try no-till corn again.”

But Martin did not give up on no-till production, and UK specialists worked with farmers like him to help make no-tillage work for their systems. John Young said it was evident early on that UK had a strong commitment to making the practice work.

“UK really came on board in a big way,” John Young said. “They have been sold whole heartedly on it from the beginning and have played an important role in no-till research.”

## Research to make the system work

Over the years, UK specialists have conducted numerous no-tillage research projects. Bob Blevins, UK soil scientist, started his research plots at UK’s Spindletop Farm in Lexington in 1970. Those plots are still active today and are one of the longest continuous no-till research sites in the world. Additional early UK researchers who studied no-tillage included Grant Thomas, Wilbur Frye, Lloyd Murdock, Jim Herbek, Bill Witt, Morris Bitzer, Ron Phillips and Scott Smith.

“When I arrived at UK to study soil fertility in 1981, no-tillage already had a very solid start,” said John Grove, UK soil scientist. “One of the things that helped make no-tillage so successful was that there was a large group of scientists all doing research to make it a workable system.”



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6730	575	630	700	26'	8'-3"	9'-2"	125
8030	745	820	910	27'-6"	8'-3"	9'-3"	140
9630	890	965	1060	27'-10"	8'-3"	10'-2"	180
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# No-tillage agriculture

## FROM PAGE 20

Allen Franks and his son Tim have relied on their county agents and specialists at UK's Research and Education Center in Princeton to help them with their no-till challenges over the years.

"We have annoyed county agents for years," Allen Franks joked. "Specialists at Princeton have done test plots on our farms. If we have a problem, we call someone."

Murdock said no-till's success in the state has been due to the farmers willing to collaborate with UK researchers. Murdock and Herbek, fellow UK professor emeritus, were instrumental in no-till wheat research and adoption.

"Farmers have really contributed a lot, and I really enjoy working with them," Murdock said. "They come to us with problems that they are facing every day, and there are thousands of them thinking about how they can do things better."

## Advancements and inventions

As time passed, advances in weed

control made it possible for more farmers to practice no-tillage.

Kentucky farmers also made many advances to make no-tillage production easier to adopt for farmers across America. Among the inventions was a row cleaner patented by Howard Martin that helped the seed make better contact with the soil. Murdock would do some of the first research on the row cleaner at the UKREC in Princeton.

"Dr. Murdock has been a blessing to our no-tillage adventure and put in extensive time on our farm," said John Martin, Howard Martin's son. "He keeps inserting things to keep us excited. He has definitely been our cheerleader."

## Environmental improvements

The improvements to the soil have been dramatic for no-till farmers.

"Two or three years after beginning no-till, we noticed the water penetrated into the soil better, even with our

SEE **NO-TILL**, NEXT PAGE



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# No-tillage agriculture

## FROM PAGE 21

fragipan soils, but we didn't understand why," John Martin said. "We didn't know at that time that the soil was alive."

Curt Judy, Todd County agriculture and natural resources extension agent, has worked in multiple counties over his 40 years with the UK Cooperative Extension Service. He has observed obvious differences between counties with a lot of no-till adoption and counties with very little.

"When I was an agent in another county that did not have a lot of no-till

adoption, there would be mud in the roads a foot deep after a rain," Judy said. "With no-till, the soil stays in place and nutrients and chemicals stay put too."

Chad Lee, director of the UK Grain and Forage Center of Excellence, echoed Judy's response. Lee has worked on numerous no-tillage studies including the system's response to irrigation, cover crops, row spacing, high input and high management scenarios.

"The soil structure is so much more resilient," he said. "You can see a big difference in the soil's behavior

in no-till and conventional-till fields during heavy rainfall events."

Grove has conducted numerous no-tillage studies over the years in areas such as nutrient response, cover crops, rotation and variety differences. Additionally, he managed the Blevins plots upon Blevins' retirement and started his own long-term, no-till rotation study.

"While both tillage systems have had a stronger response to nitrogen rate with time, the no-till system has remained superior throughout the entire study in terms of yield and long-term soil productivity," he said. "This is likely due to an increase in soil organic matter in the no-till system, which also

serves as a source of nitrogen. No-till also has a higher yield response in dry years, because it conserves water better than conventional tillage systems."

## Only way to farm

In 2021, the Frankeses sold all their tillage equipment to make room in their equipment shed.

"We haven't pulled a chisel plow in 20 years, and most of our fields have not been tilled for 30 years," Tim Franks said. "Our yields have trended up. Our organic matter has trended up. The biggest tractor we own has 150 horsepower."

SEE **NO-TILL**, NEXT PAGE

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# No-tillage agriculture

FROM PAGE 22

The Martins' corn yields have increased from 140 bushels per acre in 1976. In 2006, they won the Kentucky corn yield contest with 275 bushels per acre. According to their farm analysis records, they also have above-average soybean yields. Improved yields coupled with lower labor and fuel costs have allowed the Martins to expand their farm over the years to land in Todd and Muhlenberg counties.

"Our labor went to zero. It's basically a one-man show now until harvest. It is amazing to make these yields on this soil type," Howard Martin said.

## Continued commitment to Kentucky farmers

UK continues its strong commitment to no-tillage agriculture as researchers continue to work with the next generation of no-till farmers.

"Thirty years ago, we focused a lot of

our research on ways to make no-tillage work but now it is assumed," Lee said. "Our job now is to continue to work with producers to advance the practice. One of the latest things I'm interested in is strip planting of cover crops. Producers say it gives them a better stand, so I want to document what they are seeing."

Hanna Poffenbarger, UK assistant professor, manages the Blevins and Grove continuous long-term no-till research studies.

Her current research focuses on ways cover crops can complement a no-tillage system. She sees no-tillage adoption growing as producers become more aware of its carbon sequestration benefits and looks forward to helping producers navigate a new set of challenges.

## Family legacy

John Young and his son Alexander

SEE **NO-TILL**, NEXT PAGE

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# ONLINE ONLY ESTATE

**THE RYAN FAMILY FARM EQUIPMENT AUCTION  
BEGINS CLOSING SAT., FEB. 26 AT 9 A.M., CENTRAL  
PALESTINE, ILLINOIS (7 miles southeast of Robinson, Ill.)**

**Items from the Estates of Jerry Ryan and Jerry Dale Ryan, along with items from Marcella Ryan.**

**LOCATION:** 17485 E 700th Ave, Palestine, IL 62451. **DIRECTIONS:** From just east of Robinson at the junction of Rt 1 and Rt 33, take Rt 1 south 3 1/2 mi to Co Rd (Ave) 700 N, turn east and proceed 3 1/4 mi to the farm.

**INSPECTION:** Sat, Feb 19, Thurs, Feb 24 and Fri, Feb 25 from 9 A.M. – 4 P.M. **CENTRAL SELLERS:** Lindsay B. Ryan, Administrator of the Estate of Jerry Dale Ryan; and Marcella Ryan. For complete catalog & register to begin bidding NOW; or during the "Race-Horse" style finish.

Visit [bostoncentury.hibid.com](http://bostoncentury.hibid.com) **NOTE: NO BUYERS FEE**

**TRACTORS:** 2004 John Deere 9320, 4x4, 24 / 6 gear drive, (4) SCV's, lg 1000 PTO, nicely weighted, F.S. 710 / 70R38 radial duals (2458 hrs); 1998 CIH / Steiger 9390, 4x4, bareback, 24-spd gear drive, (4) SCV's, F.S. 710 / 70R38 radial duals (3109 hrs); 1977 John Deere 8430, 4x4 w/ CAH, "Quad Range", 3-pt, 1000 PTO, (3) SCV's, 20.8x34 duals (5903 hrs); 1979 John Deere 4440 w/ CAH "Quad Range", (3) SCV's, 18.4R38 radial duals (1-owner, 5073 hrs); 1974 John Deere 4430 w/ CAH, "Quad Range", 18.4-34's (8354 hrs); Kubota L 3600DT, MFWD compact diesel, 8 / 8 gear drive w/ left hand reverser (846 hrs); **COMBINE and RELATED:** 2010 John Deere 9770 STS 4x4 w/ "C.M.", chopper, "Green Star Ready", bin ext, F.S. 20.8R42 radial duals & more (only 1456 / 1999 hrs); 2013 JD 630F-30 "Hydra-Flex" (1-owner, only 2000 total acres); 2005 JD 893-8R30 poly C.H. w/ hyd deck plates; 30' & 25' carriers; **COMBINE TRACKS:** Riplo Grip-Trac mod HD317-36" (off of the 9770); **PLANTERS and DRILLS:** 2000 Kinze 3600, 12/23, no till (bean meters only); 1998 Kinze 2600, 16x30, no-till w/ liq fert, insecticide and monitor, no pump (1 owner, corn meters only); CIH 5400, 20'x8" press wheel drill on Yetter no-till caddy; JD 8300, 23 x 7 1/2" drill w/ seed attach (1-owner); **FERTILIZER / CHEMICAL EQUIPMENT:** 1993 John Deere 6500 4-whl sprayer, 420-gal, newer Demco 60' dble-fold boom, monitor (1-owner, 1123-hrs); Ag-Chem "Terra Gator" 1803, 3-whl floater truck w/ 6-cyl Cummins, auto, 1750-gal s.s. tank, 80' boom (4,990 hrs); Ag-Chem "Terra Gator" 1603T 3-whl floater truck w/ 3208 Cat, 10-spd, 1500-gal s.s. tank, 62' boom (8,065 hrs); 1977 Fruehauf 40' flatbed chemical trailer w/ (3) 1700-gal poly tanks & pump; (3) 1000-gal s.s. water / fert tanks on gears; 34' x 8" dia steel fert tank; 1000-gal NH3 tank and gears; **TILLAGE:** Sunflower 6432-30' soil finisher; J&M TF212, 33' crumbler; JD 970, 28' culti-mulcher; JD 331, 27' x 9" disk; JD 331, 28'x9" disk; JD 1610, 25' chisel; JD 12'x11" tandem disk; JD 400, 30' hoe; JD 100, 14-sh, 3-pt chisel; JD 2800, 7-bott "Vari-Width" onland plow; JD 1350, 6-18" & 5-18" s.m. plows; (2) JD F145, 5-16" s.m. plows; JD 5-14" p.t. plow; JD FM, 6R30 front cult; **SEMI'S:** 1987 Int 9370 day cab w/ 855 Cummins, 13-spd, 206" W.B., air ride susp and "Wet Kit" (636K); 1979 GMC "General" day cab w/ 318 Detroit, 10-spd, 172" W.B., air ride susp, and "Wet Kit" (564K); **ALUMINUM DUMP TRAILERS:** 1987 Trail Star 34' frameless w/ air ride, tandem axle + front air lift axle, roll tarp (grain use only); 1980 Mate 30' frameless w/ spring ride, roll tarp (grain use only); **DROP DECK TRAILER:** 1978 Fruehauf 43' w/ ramps; **PICKUP:** 2003 GMC SLE 2500, 3/4-T reg cab, 2-WD w/ 6.0L gas, auto, tow pkg, power equip, Pewter Metallic w/ cloth interior (105k); **GRAIN TRUCKS:** 1974 Chev C65, twin screw w/ 20' M.W. bed, 52" sides, hoist, air brakes, roll tarp, 427, V-8, 5 / 4 trans (solid body, 82k); 1967 Chev 50 S.A w/ (2) sets of sides incl 14' M.W. bed, hoist + 2' gravel sides, 6-cyl w/ 4 & 2-spd (solid body, 41K); 1969 Chev C50 S.A w/ 15' M.W. bed, 52" sides, hoist, 350, V-8, 4 & 2-spd (solid body); **GRAIN CART and WAGONS:** J&M 875-16 cart; (2) M&W 300B gravity wagons; (2) KB 350 seed wagons; & more; **SPECIALTY:** Eversman 650 dirt pan; FMC 14", 3-pt ditcher; Clark C500-45, 4000 lb gas forklift (2978 hrs); Hotsy 2000 PSI steam jenny (low usage); 1951 Adams 124-S, 2-per. road grader; 5' W x 5' dia pentle hitch roller; JD Type 25-1, 540 PTO alternator, 120 / 240-V; **EQUIPMENT:** New Idea 224, 10-T, 2-axle manure spreader; (2) JD 350, 9', 3-pt sickle mowers; Donahue 21'x7' impl. trailer; Chem Farm 250-gal ea s.s. saddle tanks; Westendorf 3-pt forklift; JD 400 hydro lawn tractor; Rhino 5', 3-pt R.M.; Danuser 3-pt, 12" p.h. digger; Rhino 10', 3-pt, hyd tilt blade; Rhino 7' & 8', 3-pt blades; Ford 6', 3-pt blade; Leon 10' front dozer blade; **AUGERS:** Brandt 1070, 70'x10" swing-away; Brandt 1060, 60'x10" swing away; Mayrath 60'x10" top drive PTO transport; Brandt 835, 35'x10" PTO unloading auger; and **GOOD FARM MISC; ANTIQUE ANVILS:** 200 lb Hay Budden w/ hardy; and 120 lb Vulcan

**TERMS:** NO Buyer's Premium. All items sold "As-Is". Nothing removed until settled for. Payment Type Accepted: Cash or Check w/ valid picture I.D. NOTE: For customers unknown to the auction service, we require a bank wire transfer by Monday, February 28th at 1 PM Central on amounts greater than \$10,000.



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# No-tillage agriculture

FROM PAGE 23

continue to farm today on more than 6,700 acres, 100 percent no-till.

"I know nothing but no-tillage," Alexander Young said. "Other farms that do not practice no-tillage have deep gullies and erosion right up to the property line. I don't have any intentions of going backward."

While Alexander and John run the day-to-day operations of the farm, all of John Young's five children return in the fall each year to help with harvest. Their family's no-tillage legacy is extremely important to them.

"To me, no-till farming is at the nexus

of stewardship, efficiency and legacy," said Jeff Young, an agribusiness professor at Murray State University and John Young's son. "It has been said that if we take care of the land, then it will take care of us. What's more, disturbing the ground that feeds us any more than necessary costs money, time and valuable organic matter. My family's role in this agricultural revolution gives not just a sense of pride, but one of accomplishment that we are part of the solution to more than one of mankind's shared challenges."

By Katie Pratt  
University of Kentucky



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# THE Farmer's Pride

## CORN: 2021 Yield Contest Champions



State Champion, Corn: John and Mark Mitchell, Webster County. (From left) Chad Lee, UK; Lani Mitchell, Brad Mitchell (Mitchell Farms); Vicki Shadrick, Webster Co. ANR; and Richard Preston, 2021 president of the Kentucky Corn Growers.



White Corn Champion: Cundiff Farms, Trigg County. (From left) Chad Lee; Barry Alexander, Cundiff Farms; and Richard Preston.



Irrigated Champion: Drew Langley, Hardin County County. (From left) Chad Lee and Richard Preston.

## SOYBEAN: 2021 Yield Contest Champion

*With New State Yield Record*



State Champion Goetz Brothers Farm, Daviess County, with a yield of 112.02 bu/a. (From left) Conner Raymond, UK; Scott Goetz; Joe Goetz; Larry Thomas Kentucky Soybean Board chairman; Justin Goetz; and Tate Smith, Goetz Brothers Farm.

## WHEAT: 2021 Yield Contest Champions



State Wheat Champion, Tillage: Glenn Thompson, Daviess County. (From left) Chad Lee; Philip Anderson for Glenn Thompson; and Sam Halcomb, Kentucky Small Grain Growers president.



No Till Wheat State Champion: Tanner Stroup, Daviess County. Presented by Sam Halcomb, Kentucky Small Grain Growers president.



# CORN: 2021 State Winners

Corn Yield Awards are being presented by Richard Preston, who served as president of the Kentucky Corn Growers for the past three years.



White Corn, 2nd Place: Gene Glenn and Sons Farm, Daviess County. (From left) Austin Glenn with Richard Preston presenting.



White Corn, 3rd Place: PPJ Farms, Daviess County. Nathan Thompson with Richard Preston presenting.



Irrigated, 2nd Place: Walnut Grove Farms, Christian County. Sam Halcomb, with Richard Preston presenting.

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# CORN: 2021 District Winners



No-Till, District 5: Kevin Smith, Dusty Feather Farms, Shelby County.



Tillage, District 4: Shane Wells, Mockingbird Hill Farm, Butler County.



Tillage, District 5 : Donnie Poore, Cumberland County represented by Sandra and Clint Poore.

No-Till, District 6: KSW Farms, Wayne County, Keven Williams.



Tillage, District 1: Jason Greenwell, Greenwell Acres, Union County.

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*Annual*

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# SOYBEAN: Division Champions



Division 1, Single Crop Irrigated, Champion: O'Bryan Grain Farms, Daviess County. Jerry O'Bryan with Larry Thomas presenting.



Division 1, Single Crop Irrigated, 2nd Place: Knott Farms, Daviess County. Caleb Knott with Larry Thomas presenting.



Division 1, Single Crop Non-Irrigated, 2nd Place: Greenwell Farms, Union County. Jason Greenwell with Larry Thomas presenting.

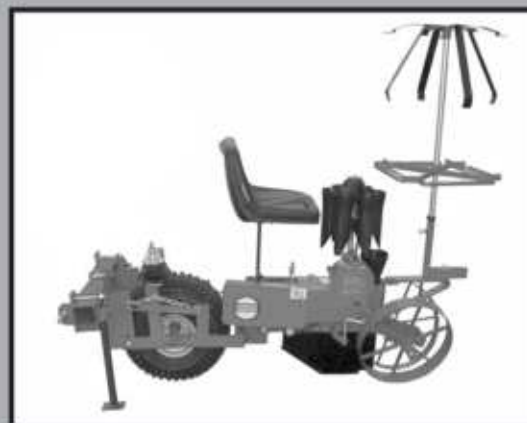
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# SOYBEAN: Division & District Awards

Soybean awards were presented by Larry Thomas, chairman of the Kentucky Soybean Board.



First place Division 2, Double Crop Irrigated, Champion and 2nd Place, Division 2, Double Crop, Non-Irrigated: Dixon Farms, Hickman County. Kyle Dixon,



Division 2, Double Crop, Irrigated, 2nd Place and 100 Bushel Club: Ken Maur Farms, Scotty Ebelhar.



District 2: Stephen Farms, Daviess County. Nick Stephen.

**Special Thank You to Photographer  
Matt Barton, University of Kentucky.**

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# SOYBEAN Awards



100 Bushel Club: Flat Lick Grain Farms, LLC, Daviess County. Bryan Kuegel and Scott Kuegel.



Soybean Quality Award, Highest Oil % first place: Meredith Farms, Henderson County. Ethan Snow, Andrew Meredith.

Soybean Quality Award, Highest Oil %, 2nd place, and Highest Protein %, 1st place: PPJ Thompson Farms, Daviess County, Nathan Thompson.



District 4, 2nd Place, and Soybean Quality Award, Highest Protein %, 2nd Place: Mark Thomas, Hardin County.

## FAYETTE COUNTY FARM BUREAU'S 39TH ANNUAL



*In Person & Online*

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**SATURDAY MARCH 19TH, 2022  
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# WHEAT: Area Winner

Area 5: Peterson Farms, Mercer County. Albert Peterson and Scott Ebelhar, presented by Sam Halcomb.



Mammoth Cave Area Wheat and Area 3 winner: Walnut Grove Farms, Logan County, Sam Halcomb, presented by Chad Lee.



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### ANGUS

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

### CHAROLAIS

Saturday, March 5th, noon  
Saturday, March 5th, 4 p.m.

### GELBVIEH

Friday, March 4th, 1 p.m.  
Saturday, March 5th, 11:30 a.m.

### HEREFORD

Friday, March 4th, 1 p.m.  
Saturday, March 5th, 1 p.m.

### 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  
Saturday, March 5th, 4 p.m.

### LIMOUSIN

Saturday, March 5th, 10 a.m.  
Saturday, March 5th, 2:30 p.m.

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# Extension Awards



Wheat Supervisor Award – Clint Hardy (Daviness Co. ANR Agent), Sam Halcomb (KySGGA)



Soybean Supervisor Champion – Troy Muse (Daviness Contest Supervisor), Larry Thomas (Kentucky Soybean Promotion Board Chairman)



Soybean Top 3 Avg & Most Entries – Clint Hardy (Daviness ANR), Larry Thomas



Tillage/White Corn Supervisor – Troy Muse (Daviness County), Richard Preston

CCA Crop Advisor of the Year - Shawn Kand, Backroads Consulting



**CONGRATULATIONS  
TO ALL WINNERS!**

## CENTRAL KENTUCKY ANGUS ASSOCIATION 56<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SPRING SALE



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Sunday, May 8, 2022  
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# Wheat and Soybean contest winners

## Kentucky Wheat Contest Winners

Award	Name	County	Variety	Yield
<b>Overall High Yield and Tillage Division Winner</b>				
State Champion	Glenn Thompson	Daviess	Pioneer 25R59	131.89
<b>No-Tillage Division</b>				
State Champion	Tanner Stroup	Daviess	Croplan 9606	131.23

## Area Winners (all No-Till)

Purchase/Pennyrile	Paul Yoder	Todd	AgriMAXX 513	129.86
Green River	Jeff Coke	Daviess	Pioneer 25R50	122.46
Mammoth Cave	Walnut Grove Farms	Logan	Pioneer 26R45	123.83
Rest of State	Peterson Farms	Mercer	AgriMAXX 446	126.28

## Supervisor Awards

Most Entries Submitted - Clint Hardy, Daviess County Highest Average Yield - Clint Hardy, Daviess County

The Kentucky Wheat Production Contest is sponsored by the Kentucky Small Grain Growers Association.

## Kentucky Soybean Contest Winners

Award	Name	County	Variety	Yield
<b>State Champion</b>				
Goetz Brothers Farm	Daviess	Asgrow AG36X6	112.02	
<b>Division 1 - Single Crop Irrigated</b>				
Div. 1 - Champion	O'Bryan Grain Farms	Daviess	Pioneer P32T26E	109.95
Div. 1 - 2nd Place	Knott Farms	Daviess	Pioneer P38T05E	108.06
<b>Division 1 - Single Crop Non-Irrigated</b>				
Div. 1 - Champion	Goetz Brothers Farm	Daviess	Asgrow AG36X6	112.02
Div. 1 - 2nd Place	Greenwell Acres	Union	Channel 3521RXF	109.95
<b>100 Bushel Club (not listed in other awards)</b>				
Ken-Maur Farms	Daviess	AgriGold G3520RX	104.69	
Flat Lick Grain Farms, LLC	Daviess	AgriGold G3520RX	104.59	

## Division 2 - Double Crop - Irrigated

Div. 2 - Champion	Dixon Farms	Hickman	Asgrow AG46X0	73.13
Div. 2 - 2nd Place	Ken-Maur Farms	Daviess	Beck's 4119X2	68.00

## Division 2 - Double Crop - Non-Irrigated

Div. 2 - Champion	Goetz Brothers Farm	Daviess	Asgrow AG40XF1	79.06
Div. 2 - 2nd Place	Dixon Farms	Hickman	Asgrow AG43X0	67.33

## District Awards (irrigated except as noted)

District I	Andrew Bullock	Muhlenberg	Asgrow AG35XF1	77.17
District II	Stephen Farms	Daviess	AgriGold G3520RX	106.30
District IV (non-irrigated)	Mark Thomas	Hardin	AgriGold 4212XF	86.12

## State Quality Awards: Highest % Oil and Highest % Protein

Oil - 1st Place	Meredith Farms	Henderson	Pioneer P36A83X	25.26%
Oil - 2nd Place	PPJ Thompson Farms	Daviess	Pioneer P34T21SE	24.22%
Protein - 1st Place	PPJ Thompson Farms	Daviess	Pioneer P38T05E	41.55%
Protein - 2nd Place	Mark Thomas	Hardin	AgriGold G3722RX	41.06%

## Supervisor Awards

Supervisor w/State Champion	Troy Muse, Daviess County
Top 3 Avg. Yield (108.1 bu/A)	Clint Hardy, Daviess County
Most Entries	Clint Hardy, Daviess County
3+ entries, excluding above winners:	Colton Hardy (Daviess) and Matt Adams (Hardin)

See more winners, next page



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# Corn contest winners

Award	Name	County	Variety	Yield
<b>State Winners</b>				
<b>Tillage and No-Tillage, Non-Irrigated Kentucky Corn "Jack Crowner" Traveling Trophy</b>				
State Champion	John and Mark Mitchell	Webster	DeKalb DKC67-94RIB	328.70
2nd Place	Darrell Hagan Farms	Daviess	Stewart 13DD360	324.96
3rd Place	Hayden Farms	Carlisle	DeKalb DKC69-99RIB	323.90

<b>State Winners, White Corn (Non-Irrigated) Pioneer Traveling Trophy</b>				
State Champion	Cundiff Farms	Trigg	DeKalb DKC6200	299.35
2nd Place	Gene Glenn & Sons Farm	Daviess	Pioneer P1618WAM	286.23
3rd Place	PPJ Thompson Farms	Daviess	Pioneer P1618	253.03

<b>State Winners, Irrigated Corn Traveling Trophy</b>				
State Champion	Drew Langley	Hardin	DeKalb DKC65-99	318.17
2nd Place	Walnut Grove Farms	Logan	Pioneer P1442	315.32
3rd Place	Royal Diamond Farms	Christian	DeKalb DKC67-44RIB	312.30

## District Awards

### Conventional Tillage

District 1	Hancock Family Farms	Fulton	DeKalb DKC70-27RIB	312.46
District 2	Teresa Turner	Todd	AgriGold A6659	292.26
District 3	Greenwell Acres	Union	Channel 214-78	318.78
District 4	Mockingbird Hill Farm	Butler	DeKalb DKC70-27RIB	276.39
District 6	Donnie Poore	Cumberland	Becks 6414	279.58

### No-Tillage

District 1	Dalton Watt/J&K Farms	Marshall	DeKalb DKC65-95	261.98
District 2	Royal Diamond Farms	Todd	DeKalb DKC67-94RIB	306.07
District 3	Scott Zoglmann	Daviess	DeKalb DKC69-99RIB	322.15
District 4	Mike Reynolds	Taylor	Beck's 6374V2P	308.57
District 5	Dusty Feather Farms	Shelby	DeKalb DKC65-92RIB	262.31
District 6	KSW Farms	Wayne	Croplan 5678	282.99

## Supervisor Awards

Division	County	Agent
Irrigated	Hardin	Matt Adams
Tillage	Daviess	Troy Muse
No-Tillage	Daviess	Clint Hardy
White Corn	Daviess	Troy Muse
Most Entries	Daviess	Clint Hardy

# Average of top three yields within a county and division.

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# More thoughts on Nitrogen for pasture and hay

## The Forage Doctor



By Jimmy Henning



With fertilizer prices at historic highs, it is more important than ever to maximize the value of legumes for your hay and pasture system. Forage professionals have always been proponents of using legumes because of their effects on forage yield, nutritional quality and especially to reduce or offset the negative effects of the endophyte of tall fescue. Here are some important things to remember if you are going to rely more on clover to boost yields of your pasture and hay fields.

1. Clover can be established by many methods, but the most common is by frost seeding. Frost seeding relies on clover seed landing on bare soil and several freeze-thaw cycles to get seed soil contact. February is the best time for frost seeding of clover.

2. Address soil fertility, especially pH for successful clover establishment. This is the year to focus on liming pastures and hayfields to get pH to 6.4 or above for clover establishment. Use a current soil test to focus clover establishment on the fields where P and K are in the medium or better range.

3. Grazing removes a fraction of the nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium from soil compared to haymaking. Per acre removal of nutrients on a cow calf system is 10 pounds of nitrogen, seven pounds of phosphorus as  $P_2O_5$  and one pound of potassium as  $K_2O$ . Removing just one ton of hay will remove 40, 15 and 55 pounds of nitrogen,  $P_2O_5$  and  $K_2O$ , respectively.

4. Nutrients in manure and urine tend to be concentrated near shade and water points, especially in continuously grazed fields. Implementing rotational stocking will spread manure and urine more uniformly across the pasture system.

5. Converting your hay program from a grass-plus-nitrogen system to a grass-clover system takes time. Clover established this spring will produce its first harvest in mid- to late June. Red is better than white clover for haymaking because of its higher yields and erect growth. Red clover hay is excellent for cattle but is considered too dusty for horses. A late-summer fungus that often infects red clover will also cause horses to slobber excessively.

6. Little nitrogen from clover is passed directly to the companion grass. Most (80%) of the nitrogen present in legumes is in the top growth and is removed in haymaking. Grass-clover systems can produce comparable yields to grass-nitrogen systems but only if there is at least 25 to 30 percent legume by weight in the stand. Twenty five percent clover by weight looks like 75% visually across the field. Most

SEE MORE, PAGE 13



Legumes add yield, nutritional quality to pastures and hayfields and they fix their own nitrogen. Grass-clover systems can produce like grass-nitrogen systems but it takes time and management.



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# More thoughts on Nitrogen for pasture and hay

FROM PAGE 11

people vastly over-estimate the amount of clover present in a field.

7. For good yields in a grass-clover system, use improved varieties of red clover. While the ladino-type clovers are productive, they do not produce the tonnage of red clovers. The yield increase in grass-clover fields comes from the legume component, not from increased grass production.

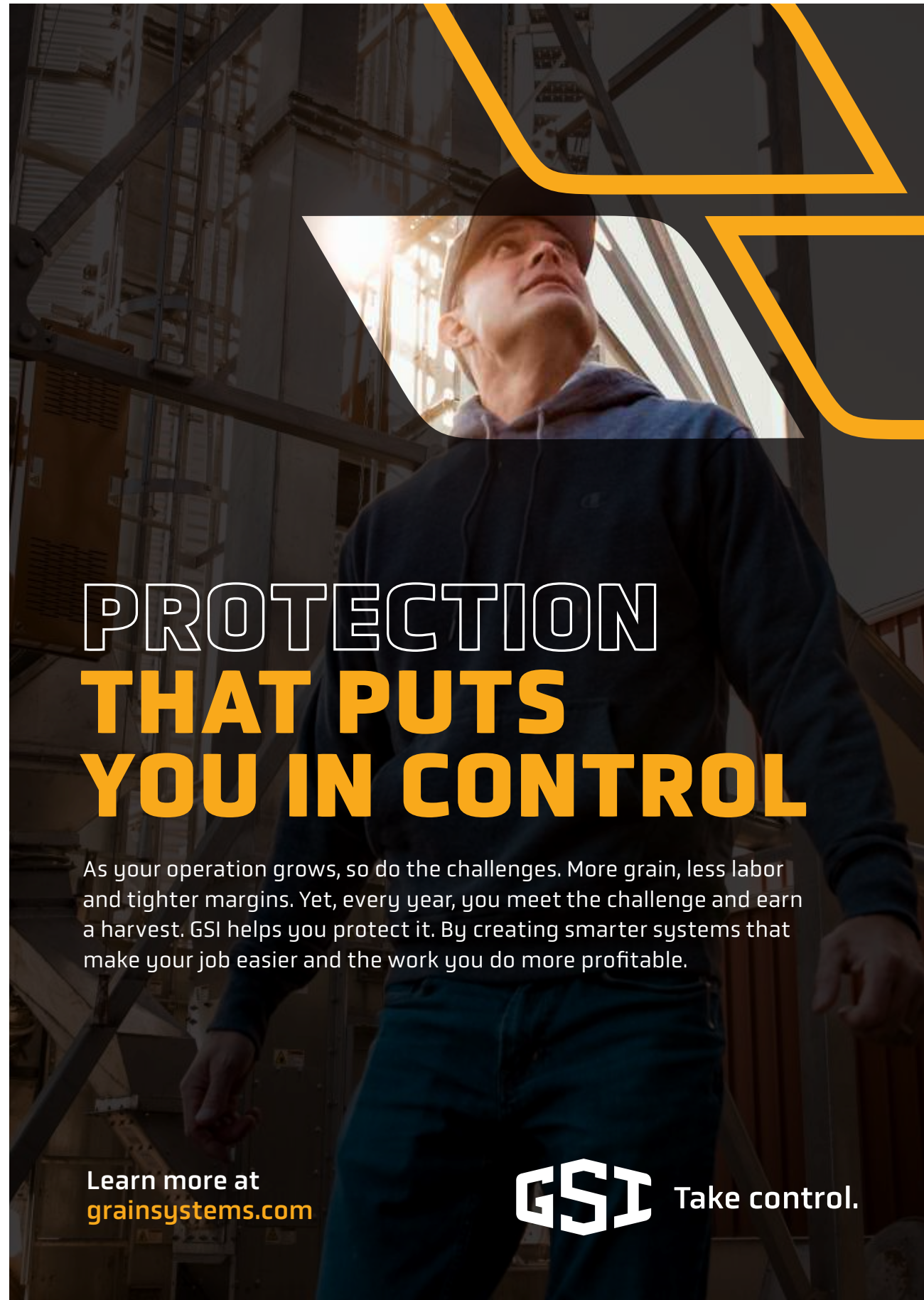
8. Hay feeding areas are going to be rich in nutrients. These are good places to plant summer annuals for hay or baleage

I have one more idea to consider, but only if you can make baleage. Think about using soybeans instead of pearl millet or sorghum-sudangrass for stored forage. Soybeans fix their own nitrogen, and can produce good yields. Plant one to 1.5 bushels of maturity group 3.5 to 4.5 soybeans per acre and be sure to inoculate the seed to ensure good nodulation and nitrogen fixation. Harvest in the pod stage before lower leaves begin to drop. As baleage, forage quality can be good to excellent, but leaf loss and thick stems cause soybean hay to be low quality and difficult to dry down.

Get the latest on baleage production at the 2022 Alfalfa and Stored Forage Conference on Thursday February at the UK Extension office in Bowling

Green. Learn more about the conference by going to <http://forages.ca.uky.edu/events> or by searching for '2022 Kentucky Alfalfa Conference' in your internet browser. Register before February 17 and save \$10.

Nitrogen drives forage production. This is certainly the year to do a better job getting legumes to do what they do very well – fix their own nitrogen. Happy foraging.



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## HOW DO FARMERS USE TECHNOLOGIES TO PRODUCE MORE WITH LESS?

*Based on similar article from United Soybean Board on BestFoodFacts.com*

**A**s Barry Alexander drives a tractor across a soybean field on Cundiff Farms, his eyes are on a computer screen that shows his precise location, the speed of the tractor, exactly how much seed is being planted per acre and more. He can watch the screen closely because the tractor uses autosteer to move across the field in a straight line.

These technologies have become common on farms because of many benefits they provide for farmers, consumers and the environment.

GPS, sensors, and other digital tools and data analytics are called precision ag, or information technology applied to agriculture, said Dr. Chad Lee, an extension specialist for grain crops at the University of Kentucky and director of the Grain and Forage Center of Excellence.

"Farming uses technology rivaling the most digital of industries," Lee said. "Just like many of the cars our readers drive, farm equipment collects data to push up to the cloud so that the manufacturer and farm operator can access that data for their purposes."

Alexander implements precision agriculture on the Trigg County farm because he wanted to protect the natural resources while maximizing production.

"This technology allows more precise placement of the products and natural resources we use to grow our crops," said Alexander. "We used GPS and farm data from soil tests and yield monitors to assign zones to different areas of the farm. This tells us what

type of seed to plant, how far apart to plant the seed, and how much fertilizer to apply to each zone to make the most efficient use of the land."

Alexander said they also use no-till and minimum-till practices to protect the soil and variable rate irrigation to be as precise on water use as they can be. He acknowledged that this technology would not be possible without the computer systems they have today.

"By deploying technology, we can better place the products we're putting in the field so we can do more with less," Alexander said.

Farmers use a variety of technologies that work together to give them detailed information about their soil and crops grown for food ingredients and animal feed, such as soybeans, corn and wheat.

"Automated guidance is analogous to self-driving cars – at least for making parallel passes in the farmer's field. Instantaneous sensors on crop harvesters measure yield, moisture, and quality characteristics every few seconds; and with GPS this data can be georeferenced into a map," Dr. Lee said.

That data is then used to determine the optimum plan for each precise location to grow crops using as few resources as possible.

"With knowledge of how soil nutrients vary spatially across the field, prescription of soil fertility amendments can be developed to apply fertilizer at site-specific or variable rates across the field," Dr. Lee added.

Precision agriculture helps make



Photos courtesy of the Kentucky Soybean Board

farming more sustainable in many ways. By precisely applying fertilizer, seed and crop protection products, these state-of-the-art technologies lessen the environmental impact of farming.

Farmers can also control their costs, which helps them to be economically viable so they can continue to farm. This also helps to keep food costs affordable as it enables growing more food while using less land.



Visit [kyfoodandfarm.info/engage](http://kyfoodandfarm.info/engage) to learn how this cup relates to crop production.



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).

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Soybean Meal 48% Sol	451.10	—	456.00-461.00	434.70	429.70-467.70
Soybean Hulls	210.00	—	—	160.00	—
Corn Distillers Grain Dried	—	215.00	—	—	170.00-215.00
Distillers Grain Modified	—	120.00	—	—	—
Distillers Grain Wet	—	80.00	—	—	—
Corn Condensed Solubles	—	NA	—	—	—
Corn Gluten Feed 20-21 pct	—	—	260.00	—	185.00-200.00
Corn Gluten Meal 60 pct	—	—	670.00	—	615.00-630.00
Cottonseed Meal 41 pct	—	—	385.00-395.00	315.00-320.00	—
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## ONLINE AUCTION

**26th Annual 2022 SPRING FARM EQUIPMENT  
CONSIGNMENT ONLINE AUCTION**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 5 @ 10 A.M.**

**At the Warrick County 4-H Center in Boonville, IN  
LOCATION: One mile east of Boonville, IN on Hwy. 62.**

**COMBINES, TRACTORS, VEHICLES, FARM & INDUSTRIAL  
EQUIPMENT, TRAILERS, ATVs, RIDING MOWERS, NO SMALL ITEMS!!!**

The annual Spring Farm Consignment sale will be an online auction through Hibid.com. In keeping with state guidelines for events, DAS will not have a live auction this year. However, all equipment will be lined up and staged at the Warrick County 4-H Center as usual. We will **NOT** be accepting small items: hand tools, boxed lots, tires or small barn and garage related items that are usually lined up along the barn.

DAS has the right of refusal of any merchandise. Items will be lined up and staged outside in the order they come in. This will also be the order of the online auction. Please call if you have any questions.

DAS will take consignments from Saturday, Feb. 26 through Thursday, March 3 from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**NO CONSIGNMENTS TAKEN ON FRIDAY, MARCH 4 OR ON AUCTION DAY!** Please bring a list and good description of items being consigned. We are keeping everything as normal as possible. Each day, items will be updated and available for the online auction. Items can be viewed at the 4-H Center Friday, March 5 and on auction day, March 6. The staff will be present if you have any questions. For more information, call or look on our website at [dasonlineauctions.hibid.com](http://dasonlineauctions.hibid.com).

**TERMS:** Since we are an online auction, a 10% buyer's premium will be charged to help with the additional cost of an online sale. A credit card is required to sign up to bid through Hibid.com. When the online auction closes, you will receive an invoice by email (about 30 minutes after the conclusion of the auction) for items you win. When you pick up your items, you can pay with **cash, check, or credit card (3% charge)**. Indiana state sales tax will be charged. Items must be paid for by Monday, March 8. If items are not paid for by Monday, March 7, **if items are not paid for by Monday, March 7, your credit card will be charged.** Items can be picked up starting Sunday, March 6 through Tuesday, March 8 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

If you need assistance signing up with Hibid, let us know. We will send you a tutorial. For pictures and bidding, go to: [dasonlineauctions.hibid.com](http://dasonlineauctions.hibid.com).

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## STATE AVERAGES

Steers (M&L 1-2)	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Prior Week</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
350-400 lbs	177.91		160.80
400-450 lbs	172.68		159.95
450-500 lbs	171.38		150.34
500-550 lbs	159.00		153.26
550-600 lbs	159.69		143.84
600-650 lbs	151.35		141.08
650-700 lbs	146.45		132.72
700-750 lbs	143.48		129.31
750-800 lbs	142.27		128.67
800-850 lbs	142.60		125.23
850-900 lbs	139.05		124.14
Heifers (M&L 1-2)			
300-350 lbs	145.41		130.70
350-400 lbs	144.34		132.49
400-450 lbs	141.87		127.80
450-500 lbs	139.71		126.88
500-550 lbs	140.96		122.66
550-600 lbs	137.11		122.46
600-650 lbs	134.61		118.68
650-700 lbs	130.02		118.38
700-750 lbs	131.69		115.46
750-800 lbs	128.81		118.58

## WEEKLY COW SUMMARY

Slaughter Cows	<u>Average</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>
Breakers	49.00-68.50	57.00-85.00	40.00-55.00
Boners	47.50-64.50	54.00-77.50	30.00-59.00
Lean	30.00-62.00	45.00-64.00	29.00-52.00
Slaughter Bulls			
Yield Grade 1&2	80.00-98.00	92.00-108.00	60.00-87.00

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JACKSON PURCHASE FARM MACHINERY

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*Only Farm Related Items Will Be Accepted!! Please No HAND TOOLS, Worn Tires,  
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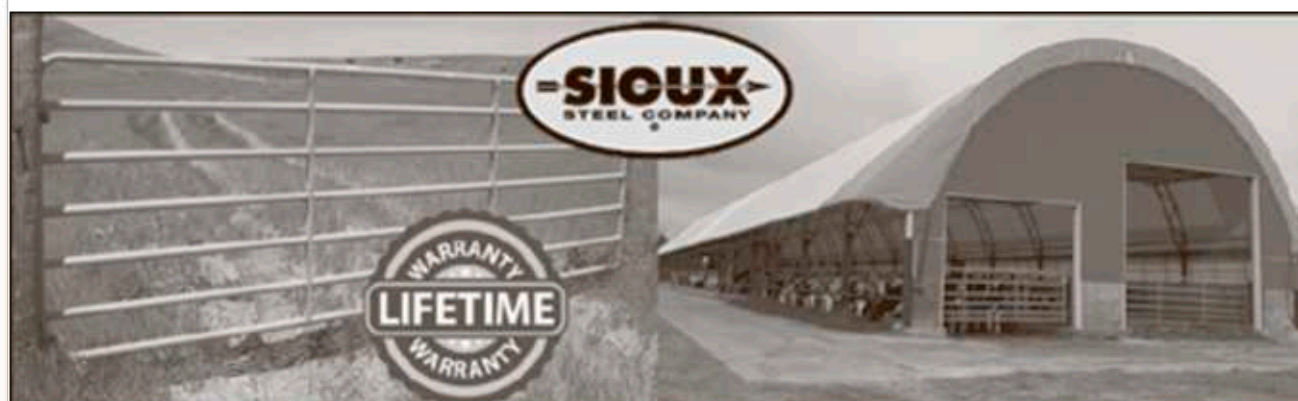


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The five-session virtual interactive series will address three paths to land access: leasing, purchasing and receiving land through inheritance or gift. It uses a skills-based approach that focuses on what people need to be able to do, not just on what they need to know. The series will be offered 6:30-8:30 p.m. ET Monday evenings Feb. 21 through March 21.

Purdue Extension Educators and industry professionals will present on a variety of topics including:

- Financial readiness.
- Paths to land access.
- Finding farmland.
- Assessing farmland suitability.

The registration fee is \$50. Individuals can sign up online. For more information, or if you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this program, contact Kathryn Weiss at 219-285-8620 ext. 2800 or weiss44@purdue.edu.

The curriculum was created by the American Farmland Trust, supported by a four-year Educational Enhancement grant from the USDA Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development program. The program is sponsored by Farm Credit Mid-America.

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