

## PROFIT THRU PERFORMANCE

# Similar genetics link calves in group sale

Tim White started Profit Thru Performance about seven years ago with his wife, Amy. As seed stock producers, selling bulls at White Farms on the Jessamine-Fayette border, they were trying to add value to their customers' calves, Tim White said.

"They buy our bulls, and we try to help them market their calves." That's the main goal of Profit Thru Performance, which has a June feeder calf sale at Bluegrass Stockyards in Lexington.

Customers do not have to buy every bull from the Whites to participate in the program.

"We just want them to own some of the genetics and prefer to keep it similar. Basically, you buy a bull from us, and you're in the sale," he said.

Members have been bringing anywhere from two head to 200 head to the group sales events, and those calves have been bringing in quite the premium.

White said the sales are different than most group marketing events for a few reasons.

"I'll be honest – we're not doing rocket science. We're putting similar genetics together, all of us vaccinate at the same time frame with two rounds of the same drugs, we wean for 60 days instead of 45."

Calves are taken to the stockyards the day before the sale to be sorted and made uniform for semi-loads, with EID tags put in ears for tracing. White said

SEE **SIMILAR**, PAGE 2



Photos courtesy of Sturgis News

Bread trays were placed on top of corn to give first responders better footing and backboards were shoved around Omer to hold back corn until a rescue tube could be put in place. (Photos by Marcus Wilson and Chad Cullen provided by the Omer family.)

## Union County farmer saved in grain bin rescue

Somewhere buried in the depths of a 35,000 bushels grain bin is a pair of boots – but the man who wore them is safe thanks to Union County's dedicated first responders, dozens of fellow farmers, an electric company and God.

Doug Omer, 53, spent six hours trapped in that grain bin on May 4, and on the following Saturday, he sat down with The Sturgis News and talked about his harrowing experience.

That Wednesday started like many

other days for Omer and his father Mike, 75. The duo went to the bins and started loading a truck with corn. They had done the same thing the day before with Mike on the ground and Doug going into the bin. With the first truck full of grain loaded, the elder Omer headed to Shawneetown to dump the load. Doug laughingly says he climbed out the hatch on the top of the bin and just sat there "spying on his neighbor." More likely, he was

looking over the fields of lush green wheat waving in the breeze, admiring the freshly turned fields or just looking at the homes dotting the landscape along KY 492. Soon, though, he spotted the truck returning for another load, so with a 12 feet piece of one-inch PVC pipe in hand, he ducked back into the bin; he was about 28 feet above the ground.

SEE **UNION**, PAGE 7



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# Similar genetics are key to sale

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they will sell 150 to 200 at one time of similar weight calves, allowing up to 26 producers in the ring during some sales.

It's a precondition sale with another step or two added, White said.

"Everyone has to agree to wean longer and use all the same drugs. We try to use similar genetics as much as we can, and we try to go all the way back to the cow, asking producers to vaccinate them."

They're not asking anyone to do anything that they don't do themselves, White said. And he said what the producers have brought in "has been amazing. It's not mine and Amy's program, it's their program. We just help facilitate it."

There are about 35 members in the group as of now. Each April, the program offers a field trip where producers are able to follow their animals all the way to harvest in order to see the

results.

"When we sell them, we're not done. Producers want to know how they performed in the feedlot and, if we can, how they did when they go to the rail," White said. "At the end of the day, it all goes to the consumer and they've got to have a good experience — something that's healthy and tastes good."

Charles Miller, who farms in Jessamine County, has been involved with Profit Thru Performance since it began. He is a backgrounder and always sells cattle in groups, but has now gotten more involved with the cow-calf side.

"I'll put it this way — I was well-satisfied, given the market conditions. We've always been able to sell at a premium because of the consistencies, like the health program these calves have gone through and the genetics."

White said they started the sales on their own, handling them privately,

SEE **PROFIT**, PAGE 12

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MARKET REPORT: WEEK OF May 9, 2022

Farmers Regional Livestock Market of Glasgow, LLC

Total Receipts: 992

Compared to last week Feeder steers sold 2.00-4.00 higher. Feeder heifers sold 1.00-3.00 higher. Good demand on all classes of feeder cattle. Slaughter cows sold 2.00-4.00 higher. Slaughter bulls sold steady. Supply included: 58% Feeder Cattle (27% Steers, 42% Heifers, 31% Bulls);

23% Slaughter Cattle (87% Cows, 13% Bulls); 18% Replacement Cattle (14% Stock Cows, 62% Bred Cows, 18% Cow-Calf Pairs, 6% Bulls). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs was 43%.

**Steers:** Medium and Large 1-2: 2 Head, 442# 185.00; 14 Head, 452-459# 176.00-186.00; 4 Head, 528#-537# 177.00-183.00; 11 Head, 583-591#, 150.50-164.50; 4 head, 686#, 150.00; 4 Head, 664#, 167.50, value added; 1 Head, 740#, 139.00; 8 Head, 775-792#, 137.00-144.00; 8 Head, 840#, 140.00; 60 Head, 869#, 148.75, value added; 2 Head, 933#, 130.50; 1 head, 1015#, 124.00; 3 Head, 1088#, 124.50. Medium and Large, 2-3: 1 Head, 490#, 155.00;

**Heifers:** Medium and Large 1-2: 2 Head, 297#, 160.00; 23 Head, 355-380#, 159.0-170.50; 23 Head, 355-380#, 150.00-170.50; 44 Head, 450-460#, 154.00-164.00; 27 Head, 506#-539#, 143.00-155.00; 16 Head, 572-581#, 137.50-146.50; 12 Head, 635-645#, 123.00-126.50; 3 Head, 613#, 145.00, value added; 2 Head, 715-745#, 122.00-128.00; 5 Head, 755#, 116.50; 43 Head, 759#, 138.50, value added; 5 Head, 802#, 130.00; 1 Head, 880#, 121.00; 1 Head, 960#, 115.00. Medium and Large, 2-3: 5 Head, 539#, 138.00; 4 head, 585#, 127.00.

**Bulls:** Medium and Large 1-2: 2 Head, 205-230#, 191.50-195.50; 3 Head, 313#, 175.00; 23 Head, 381-385#, 167.00-180.00; 4 head, 400-448#, 170.00-174.00; 20 Head, 451-473#, 168.00-176.50; 20 Head, 517-525#, 161.00-170.00; 32 Head, 579-591#, 145.00-154.00; 4 Head, 620-625#, 135.00-143.00; 17 Head, 653-667#, 138.00-141.00; 6 Head, 739-745#, 123.00-127.50; 11 Head, 762#, 129.00.

**Cows:** Breaker 75-80% 11 Head, 1230-1740, 78.00-83.50; 20 Head, 1240-1680, 84.00-89.00. Boner 80-85% 21 Head, 905-1390#, 82.00-88.00 average; 29 Head, 955-1630#, 90.00-118.00 high; 10 Head, 855-1360#, 77.00-80.00 low. Lean 85-90% 9 Head, 815-1125#, 58.00-65.50, average; 16 Head, 800-1155#, 67.50-79.00, high; 6 Head, 710-1020#, 52.00-55.00, low; 2 Head, 830-980#, 40.50-45.00, very low.

**Bulls:** 1-2: 12 Head, 1235-1905#, 104.00-117.00, average; 4 Head, 1540-2000, 120.00-130.50, high; 3 Head, 1140-2225, 95.00-102.00, low.

**Stock Cows:** Age 2-4: 10 Head, 820-1205, 725.00-1025.00; Age 2-8: 4 Head, 835-935, 750.00-825.00.

**Bred Cows:** Age 2-4: 6 Head, T1, 845-1225, 685.00-1010.00; Age 2-4, T2, 870-1200#, 775.00-1100.00; Age 2-4, T3, 1-5-1285#, 975.00-1325.00; Age 2-8, T1, 1050-1120#, 760.00-875.00; Age 2-8, T2, 1095-1415, 910.00-1160.00; Age 2-8, T2-3, 1065#, 945.00; Age 2-8, T3, 960.00-1205, 1050.00-1200.00; Age 5-8, T1, 125-#, 1125.00; Age 5-8, T2-3, 1115#, 860.00; Age 5-8, T3, 125-, 1125.00.



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# It's my fault



ONE VOICE

Sharon Burton  
Publisher

My intentions to cross-train the job were unfulfilled good intentions, so I've taken the opportunity to learn the one job in the office I didn't know how to do... in my spare time.

Some of you have recently gotten a subscription renewal card that showed an expiration date of a couple months ago. A few have been kind enough to point that out when you sent in your renewal, probably not happy that you were told it was time to renew after your expiration date.

First, let me thank you for your renewal. Second, let me say that it's my fault and third, don't worry, I was not going to cut off your subscription.

For years, I have told people that I could do every job in this office. It was a point of pride for me, trying to show off my years of newspapering experience. In recent years I have had to add that I wasn't familiar with the circulation program we currently use to take care of our readership and make sure we follow postal regulations, which can be quite complicated. Back in the old days I could practically sort the newspapers by zip code by hand and tell you the zip code of every town west of I-75. That was a few years back, however, and so in recent years I've had to add a "but" to my bragging rights. I could do every job in this office but take care of the mailing list.

Well, I've had my opportunity to learn that in recent months because the part-time college student who took care of that stuck a note under my office door one morning stating that she wouldn't be coming back.

My intentions to cross-train the job were unfulfilled good intentions, so I've taken the opportunity to learn the one job in the office I didn't know how to do...in my spare time.

The spare time thing is the problem, but I have really enjoyed working on the program and making changes to improve how we do things, which is why I want to stay involved in every aspect of the business to begin with. That is my strength and my weakness. I enjoy it all, but too much of a good thing is, well, just too much.

So just know that we really appreciate our readers. I am making sure our mailing list is updated and accurate, but it may take me awhile. I will not cut off a valued reader until you have had plenty of opportunity to renew. I am getting things up-to-date so hopefully there won't be any more late notices.

I haven't decided if I will hire someone to handle what is considered the "front office duties" or find someone to handle other duties while I retain that job, but the days are warmer and the sun is calling, so I'm starting to think there are other ways to spend my "spare time." One way or the other, though, we will get it done!

# Session ends will several bills that are good for rural Kentucky

As another session of the Kentucky General Assembly has come to a close, it is time to reflect on the legislation that passed that benefits our farm families and rural communities. It's also a good time to look at bills that did not pass.

So often, as this organization continues to advocate for our agricultural industry, what doesn't become law or regulation is just as important as what does.

Many times, well-meaning lawmakers will introduce a bill that has negative ramifications for those of us on the farm, and it's up to organizations like Kentucky Farm Bureau, and our dedicated members, to keep them updated with correct information.

Fortunately, the majority of our General Assembly members are knowledgeable about the ag industry and the needs of the rural communities across the commonwealth.

And our volunteer members throughout the state always step up to discuss issues from their courthouses to the halls of Frankfort, and on to our nation's capital.

I'm proud to say that KFB's efforts during the 2022 General Assembly session were very successful. First and foremost, with a new budget in place, agriculture will benefit greatly.

Through the efforts of so many of our legislators, we maintained 50 percent of the Master Settlement Agreement Funds to the Agricultural Development Board; \$9 million went to support disaster recovery and relief efforts at the Grain and Forage Center of Excellence located in Princeton; the Kentucky Rural Mental Health and Suicide Prevention program will receive \$500,000 in each fiscal year; and \$1.75 million went to Western Kentucky University for the Kentucky Mesonet in each fiscal year. And those are just a few of the ag-related budgetary successes.

In keeping with our commitment to advocate for rural infrastructure needs, we once again supported legislation that maintained the 22.2 percent allocation of the state gas tax revenue for rural roads.

From a tax perspective, House Bill 8 will establish thresholds for a rate reduction for the state income tax. This bill will also exempt drugs and over-the-counter drugs purchased by a person regularly engaged in the business of farming from sales

SEE SEVERAL, PAGE 6



KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU  
PRESIDENT  
Mark Haney

From a tax perspective, House Bill 8 will establish thresholds for a rate reduction for the state income tax.

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# 'Tis the season



**KENTUCKY  
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Wagoner**

While the farmers are busy in the field, the Kentucky Soybean staff is busy planning ahead for a number of events.

For planting, and for planning! Many of Kentucky's soybean farmers have been put way behind schedule by the excessive rainfall this spring, and as the sun came out and the fields dried up, they've been in high gear trying to get caught up. We remind you, whether you're driving a tractor or a minivan, to share the road so that everyone gets home safely.

While the farmers are busy in the field, the Kentucky Soybean staff is busy planning ahead for a number of events. Our Promotion Board and Association joint summer meeting is coming up in August and will include a tour of the University of Louisville Conn Center for Renewable Energy Research, where the winners of our 2021 Soy Innovation Challenge are hard at work turning soybean hulls into high-value filaments for use in 3D printers and supercapacitors for automotive use.

We're looking forward to a great Kentucky State Fair, with AgLand better than ever. Be on the lookout for an announcement that is SOY cool in the near future!

As this publication hits your mailbox, we're welcoming summer interns Lily Welden and Addi Allen, both of whom study at Murray State University's Hutson School of Ag. We have a great summer of learning activities lined up for them, and they'll be instrumental in the success of many of the board's events.

The Kentucky Livestock Coalition is also working on a big event in the Lexington area for its second annual Meat Me at the Table event in July, all while supporting Beef Month in May and Dairy Month in June. KLC will sponsor the Wild Health Genomes vs. Long Island Ducks baseball game at Wild Health Stadium (formerly Whitaker Park) in Lexington on Saturday, July 16. The Genomes are the newest Atlantic League baseball team, sharing the stadium with the Lexington Legends. Admission is free with the donation of canned goods to God's Pantry Food Bank/Feeding America, and there are rumors of fun, games, prizes and mascot races! I invite you to join in the summer fun, and Meat Me at the Ballgame!

**RAE WAGONER** is the Communication Director for the Kentucky Soybean Association.

# Harvested cattle, slaughtered markets

You don't need to be a vegan to know that livestock and poultry aren't "harvested," the squeaky clean verb that's become fashionable among farm and ranch groups to minimize the end—as in The End—of most animals their members grow.

Soybeans are harvested; pigs are slaughtered. Wheat is harvested; cattle are slaughtered.

It's not a minor point, insists C. Robert Taylor, Eminent Scholar of Agricultural Economics and Public Policy at Auburn University, in his recently released treatise on today's badly broken cattle markets. Taylor telegraphs the paper's theme through its title, "Harvested Cattle, Slaughtered Markets?"

The semantic sarcasm isn't accidental: While U.S. farm and commodity groups spent decades polishing meat's image ("harvesting"), global agbiz spent their time and resources buying up, then dominating—ahem, slaughtering—farm and food sectors like seed, cattle, poultry, and grocery retailing.

Now, one market, cattle, is so near death that both the Senate and House Ag committees recently held widely publicized hearings to push ideas on how to resuscitate it. Two plans were showcased. The first "would create a new U.S. Department of Agriculture office to monitor for anti-competitive practices in the meat and poultry industries," reported the Washington Post on April 27.

The second, labeled "The Cattle Price Discovery and Transparency Act," hopes to establish "minimums for negotiated sales and require clear reporting of marketing contracts to ensure ranchers are getting a fair shake in a highly consolidated cattle market," it continued.

Either or both ideas may have had merit 20 years ago when it was already evident that major meatpackers were tightening their grip on cattle markets. Today, however, both plans are window dressing from late-to-the-party politicians. Neither will have a nickel's worth of impact on prices paid by packers for cattle or for altering any "anti-competitive practices in the meat and poultry industries," says Taylor.

Why? Because, as his readable, 49-page report makes clear, major packers long ago learned how to minimize competition in the live cattle market while maximizing confusion over today's USDA maze of reporting requirements. The data bears witness to their ever-growing prowess at the expense of both cattle growers and consumers.

Over the last two decades, Taylor writes, "Retail beef prices in constant (deflated) dollars have trended strongly upward... from about \$500/cwt (per one hundred pounds) to over \$700/cwt... Grocery store profitability has also trended upward, about doubling in the last three decades..."

"Profitability of independent cattle feeding has trended downward... from an average profit of \$50/head to an average loss of \$50/head."

Moreover, these "Sustained financial losses for independent feeders likely explain, in part or in whole, the loss of 83,000 feedlots with a thousand or fewer head capacity in 25 years and 48,000 in the last decade" alone.

These feedlots' get-out-while-you-can math was pretty simple, offers Taylor. The \$50-per-head loss they faced in just the past decade alone would have totaled a devastating \$1.5 million-per-feeder had they stayed.

Somehow, though, the uber-big feeders escaped similar losses and a similar fate: The number of feedlots with over 50,000 head capacity actually increased from 45 in the late 1990s to 77 today. How?

"Sweetheart deals with large captive feeders"—independent feedlots contractually-tied to one of the big four packers—"may explain, in part or in whole, how they have survived and even (grew) in the last decade... Public-



**FOOD  
&  
FARM  
FILE**

**Alan  
Guebert**

My father, a lifelong dairy farmer, never offered one insight on evaluating cow flesh despite his annual purchase of six to 10 promising, pregnant heifers.



# Harvested cattle, slaughtered markets

FROM PAGE 5

ly available data on costs or returns for giant feedlots are not available to address this question.”

If neither Congressional effort holds little to no hope to even partially repair today's broken cattle market, what might? Taylor offers four “options for further discussion.” All hold some merit, he explains in a May 9 telephone interview, but also, all require a level of government intervention that hasn't been seen in most ag markets for decades.

“The bottom line,” Taylor admits, “is that after decades of watching cattle markets become more

integrated with meatpackers and meat retailers, I don't have a good solution that's politically workable.”

Bottom line? If the experts say it's slaughter, it's slaughter.

**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).

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## Several bills good for ag

FROM PAGE 4

and use tax.

Other beneficial legislation included House Bill 390, which adds the Commissioner of Agriculture as a voting member to the Kentucky Economic Development Partnership Board, and House Bill 315 establishes the Office of Broadband Development and administratively attaches it to the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority. It also appropriates \$300 million for deployment of broadband to underserved areas.

One other bill worth mentioning is Senate Bill 163, which would have allowed the use of KEES funds for student enrollment in a qualified proprietary school program. This legislation was vetoed and since it passed on the last day of the session the veto could not be overturned. We feel as though this bill would have been beneficial to students who choose a different path other than a four-year college, and giving our young people as many options for furthering their education as possible is very important. Our hope is this legislation will resurface again.

Thanks to our members for their dedication to the advocacy process and our legislators who still understand the value of our farms and farm families.

**MARK HANEY** is President of Kentucky Farm Bureau

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# Union County farmer saved in grain bin rescue

FROM PAGE 1

In minutes, his dad asked if he was ready. He replied "yes" and the auger came on. In seconds, though, Doug heard a tingling sound and "I knew I was in trouble," he said. A wave of corn pushed him backwards and began covering him. That tiny sound he heard was corn beginning to collapse around him – there was a hot spot, an area caused by a change in temperature of the grain – and Doug was quickly being swallowed up by corn.

He began beating on the sides of the bin with his pipe, and while his dad heard the noise of Doug's beating, he initially thought it was a mechanical issue with the elevator leg. He shut down the equipment and asked Doug if he was alright.

"I'm in big trouble," Doug says he told his dad. By that time corn was up almost to Doug's shoulders, and although he had tried to send a text for help to his nephew, that 10:49 a.m. text wouldn't go through.

Doug shouted for his father to call 911 and "get Logan." Logan Gough, Doug's nephew, was a few dozen feet

away in the house near the bins. Mike did both.

Seconds later, tied off with a rope, Logan came into the bin, but by that time, Doug noted that he was having difficulty breathing. Logan began scooping corn away from Doug's chest and finally, Doug had some relief from the pressure caused by the corn. With that relief from the pressure of the grain, Logan stuck the shovel in the corn to hold it back and the two waited for more help to arrive.

"I told Logan, you're in this for the long haul," Doug recalls, and Logan said, "I know." As they waited, Doug called his wife Samantha, who also rushed to the scene. Although some media outlets reported that two men were trapped in the bin, that wasn't the case; Logan went in willingly to help Doug and remained with him nearly four hours while first responders worked to free the trapped farmer.

First responders from throughout the county began arriving at Omer Farms. Marcus Wilson and Chad Cullen were among the first to arrive. They made their way up the outside steps to the top

of the bin to assess the situation.

They were soon joined by Whispering Meadows fire chief Dale Pierce, who came into the bin with rescue equipment. Three others soon joined Pierce, shoving backboards into the corn to hold it back off Omer.

Outside the bin, men were shuttling equipment up and down the steps, but the vibration was causing the corn to shift. Fortunately, Rodney Robinson, a Kentucky Utilities employee, had heard the call and he and his co-workers responded to the scene in bucket trucks.

It was decided it was safest to lift equipment to the top of the bin in those buckets – whether it was the grain bin rescue tube, water, oxygen or other equipment – the buckets went up and down throughout the day as they worked to keep first responders, Omer and Gough alive.

Initially, the work was made more difficult because the first responders were sinking into the corn as they tried to walk. Soon plastic bread trays from Alps and Food Giant were brought in to create a walkway of sorts on top of the corn.

As the rescue efforts continued, Omer said he began losing feeling in his feet and legs and he needed oxygen. A paramedic was sent in, and Omer recalls that man dangling by ropes upside down above him to start an IV.

"He got it on the first stick," Omer laughed, "hanging upside down."

Five years ago, Union County Farm Bureau bought two grain bin rescue tubes for county rescue units. They were used for the first time on an actual emergency to save Omer, and Omer says he would definitely chip in on

SEE FARMER, PAGE 12

## MAY IS BEEF MONTH AUCTIONS

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THE FARMER'S PRIDE

# BBQ Country Style Ribs

10 country style pork ribs  
2 teaspoons minced garlic  
1 medium lemon, thinly sliced  
1 (18 ounce) bottle barbeque sauce



Preheat the oven to 250 degrees F Place ribs in a single layer in a shallow baking pan or roaster; salt if desired. Spread garlic on ribs, then arrange lemon slices on top.

Bake in the preheated oven until tender, about 2 hours. Drain any grease and liquid. Pour barbeque sauce over ribs.

Reduce oven temperature to 225 degrees F and cook ribs until sauce bakes into meat, about 1 hour.

## Foil pouch grilled green beans

aluminum foil  
½ pound fresh green beans, trimmed  
½ tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil  
kosher salt to taste  
ground black pepper to taste  
1 tablespoon water

Preheat an outdoor grill for medium heat and lightly oil the grate. Layer 2 sheets of aluminum foil on a work surface.

Toss together green beans and olive oil in a bowl until coated; season with salt and pepper. Place mixture on top of the prepared sheets of foil. Add water, and bring the edges of the foil over the vegetables, sealing to create a pouch.

Place the foil pouch on the preheated grill and cook until beans are tender, about 15 minutes.

## Bananas Foster on the grill



½ banana  
2 tablespoons coffee-flavored liqueur (such as Kahlua®)  
1 tablespoon butter  
1 tablespoon brown sugar  
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

Preheat grill for medium heat.

Place banana, coffee-flavored liqueur, butter, brown sugar, and ground cinnamon on a large section of heavy aluminum foil. Bring up 2 sides of foil to touch and fold down twice to seal. Double fold ends of packet to securely seal.

Place packet on preheated grill and cook until heated through, about 5 minutes.

## What's wrong with being happy?

A friend sitting next to me in church one Sunday commented, "Larry, if you turn around and look at the people here this morning, it looks as if they all have stomach aches, toothaches, facing a prison term or are here under duress."

I didn't have to turn around and look. I noticed it when I walked into the sanctuary. Someone once said to me that "Of all the groups of people in the world, Christians seem to be the most unhappy. They seem to be joyless and miserable. If being a Christian is so terrible, why don't they give up their faith and try something else?"

Some Christians are like a person with a headache: They don't want relief, but it hurts to keep it. Can we expect others to want to become Christians if we appear to be miserable and hopeless? Things are bad without Christ. Why invite Him into our lives if things will only get worse?

"Blessed - or happy - are the people whose God is the Lord." To experience the fullness that the Lord has to give us requires that we surrender our lives to Him and become dependent on Him for everything. Some who profess to be people of God do not experience the blessings of God - or are not happy in their Christian faith - because they try to live the "half-life." Half a "conversion" is like half a lifeboat: it won't save you!

Happiness, or God's best blessings, will not come to the half-hearted Christian. Caleb had the secret: "I wholly followed the Lord." What a difference it will make. Try it!

*Prayer:* Help us, Lord, to "give it up" and surrender all that we are and all that we have to You and enjoy life! Help us to show our joy in You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

*Scripture For Today:* Blessed is the people of whom this is true; blessed is the people whose God is the Lord. Psalm 144:15b



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# Buttercup in hay and baleage

## The Forage Doctor

By Jimmy Henning



Kentucky pastures have exploded with the signature yellow flower of buttercup. Buttercup is the common name for a group of species from the genus *Ranunculus*. Buttercups are sometimes classified as short-lived perennials but often grow as winter annuals. Four species of buttercups may be found in Kentucky: bulbous buttercup (*Ranunculus bulbosus*), creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), tall buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), and small flower buttercup (*Ranunculus abortivus*). Each of these species have somewhat similar flower heads but differ in their leaf characteristics. New seed are produced during the time petals are showy. Waiting until after flowers appear can be too late to implement control tactics. This is one reason buttercups can survive year to year.

ly weed. They can also be toxic. Grazing or mowing will release a powerful vesicant which causes blistering of the skin, mouth, and digestive system on contact. The blistering agent is detoxified rapidly by drying, such that it is not generally a problem in hay. Limited research in Europe indicates that it is detoxified in baleage as well.

Death of livestock due to buttercup is rare – A review of University of Kentucky Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory records over the last 13 years found no cases of livestock deaths attributable to buttercup ingestion. If other forage is available, grazing livestock will usually avoid buttercup because the leaves, flowers, and stems have a sharp, acrid taste.

Most buttercup plants emerge from seed during the fall or late winter months. Therefore, pasture management that maintains thick stands and promotes growth of more desirable plants during these months is one of the best methods to help compete against the emergence and growth of

SEE **BUTTERCUP**, PAGE 11



## Nutrient Management Planning in Kentucky

- ✓ **CAP\* 102 – Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan for confined livestock operations**
- ✓ **CAP\* 104 – Nutrient Management for cropland**
- ✓ **CAP\* 114 – Integrated Pest Management**

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

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## MAY IS BEEF MONTH



## CHIMICHURRI-MARINATED STRIP FILETS

A homemade Chimichurri sauce is used as a marinade for Strip Steaks.

**INGREDIENTS:** 4 beef Strip Filets, cut 1 inch thick (about 4 to 6 ounces each)

**Chimichurri Sauce:** 2 cloves garlic • 1/2 cup packed fresh cilantro • 1/2 cup packed fresh parsley • 1/4 cup olive oil 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice • 1/2 teaspoon salt • 1/2 teaspoon freshly grated lemon peel • 1/4 teaspoon crushed red pepper

**COOKING:** Prepare Chimichurri Sauce. Place garlic in food processor container. Cover; process until finely chopped. Add remaining sauce ingredients. Cover; process until well blended. Remove and refrigerate 1/4 cup sauce for serving. Place beef Strip Filets and remaining sauce in food-safe plastic bag; turn steaks to coat. Close bag securely and marinate in refrigerator 15 minutes to 2 hours.

Remove filets from marinade; discard marinade. Pat steaks dry with paper towels. Place filets on grid over medium, ash-covered coals. Grill, covered, 11 to 14 minutes (over medium heat on preheated gas grill, 11 to 15 minutes) for medium rare (145°F) to medium (160°F) doneness, turning occasionally.

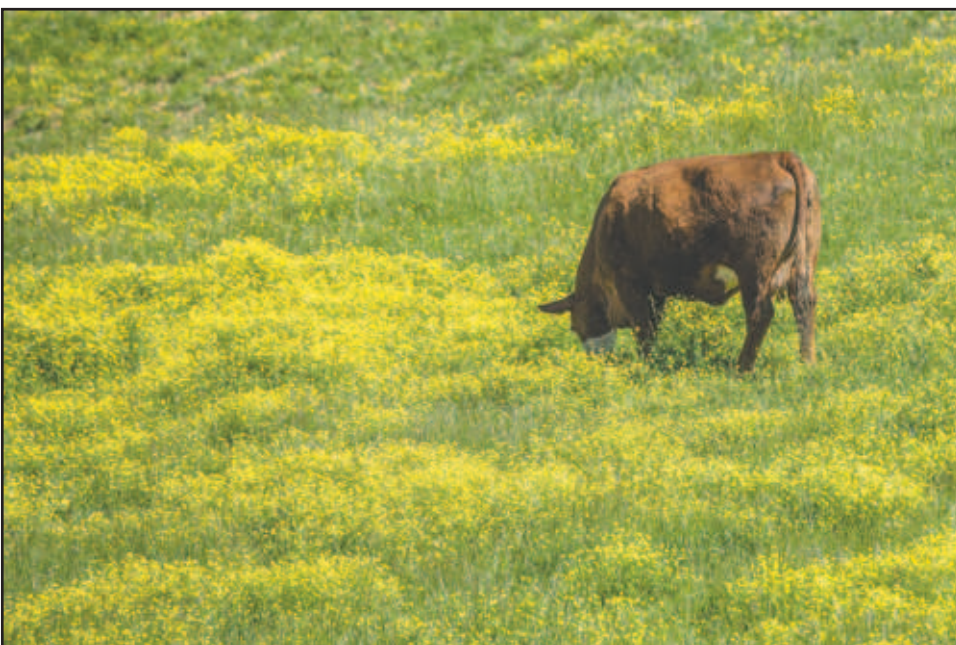
Serve filets with reserved Chimichurri Sauce.

#ky**BEEF**story



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Buttercup is a troublesome weed of hay and pasture fields and can be toxic if grazed. Harvesting for hay or baleage serves to detoxify this weed such that feeding risks are low. Buttercup can easily be controlled chemically. Management options include not overgrazing and thickening up the existing forage stand. Buttercup is a persistent problem in overgrazed pastures or hay feeding areas.

## Buttercup in hay and baleage

FROM PAGE 10

this plant. Mowing fields or clipping plants close to the ground in the early spring before buttercup plants can produce flowers may help reduce the amount of new seed produced, but mowing alone will not totally eliminate seed production.

### Chemical Options

Herbicides registered for use on grass pastures that contain 2,4-D will effectively control buttercup. For optimum results apply herbicide in the early spring (February - March) before flowers are observed and when buttercup plants are still small and actively growing. For best herbicide activity wait until daytime air temperatures are greater than 500 F for two or three consecutive days. Consult the herbicide label for further information on grazing restrictions, precautions, or other possible limitations.

Applying broadleaf herbicides like 2,4-D will damage clover. However, buttercup is able to germinate and grow because of insufficient ground cover of desirable forage species. In these cases, clover stands are likely not that thick or need rejuvenating.

### Management Options

To prevent or inhibit buttercup germination in the fall, manage grass pastures to retain residual heights of three or four inches. Realistically speaking,

pastures used for overwintering, hay feeding or calving will always be overgrazed and therefore will be prime spots for buttercup and other winter weeds encroachment. Overseeding these pastures in early spring with forages that establish aggressively (like red clover or ryegrasses) will add some desirable forage species to the spring flush of growth even though they will not eliminate buttercup emerging at the same time. Follow up with an early spring mowing to clip the buttercup and release the desirable species.

Cover up bare ground. Fall applications of nitrogen will produce taller grass (shading the ground) and will stimulate existing grasses to thicken up or tiller out the following spring. Timely mowing in the spring followed by nitrogen application can reduce buttercup seed production and will stimulate spring forage growth that helps shade the lower growing buttercup.

No matter how you go about it, controlling buttercup is not a 'once and done' project. Nor will one method work alone – chemical control alone with leave bare ground unless there is a strategy to replant or fill in that area. However, we can manage pastures to reduce buttercup incidence and improve your pasture productivity at the same time.

Happy foraging.



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# Profit Thru Performance sale adds genetics to common link

FROM PAGE 2

“but it got to be too much for us.”

Jim Akers, COO at Bluegrass Stockyards in Lexington, said they have been doing more and more of these group-type events.

“It’s become popular, but I’m not going to say it’s a ground-swell yet,” he said.

The industry continues to demand cattle with a story, Akers added.

“The buyer wants to know more about them, they

want some history and like having the data.”

Beau Neal, ag Extension agent for Fayette County, says there’s not a whole lot of groups around like Profit Thru Performance.

“There’s really no downside. It encourages producers to do the things they should be doing. And we want to know that Kentucky cattle can hold up, that we’ve done things the right way, so it should be rock solid.”

Akers said the Profit Thru Performance calves have sold extremely well, even when the market was tough.

“It’s a great situation for us, but it’s more work,” he said, since the cattle have to be in the day before to be weighed and graded. It’s more paperwork for the stockyards and more people required for the technological part of the deal, he said, but worth it.

“We’re like Tim – we’re constantly looking for added layers of value we can bring to our customers.. We have to be willing to stretch and bring technology into the yards, or they will find a different way to sell.”

By Bobbie Curd  
Field reporter

## Farmer praises local responders for saving his life

FROM PAGE 7

another one if the county needs it.

Both tubes, which stop the flow of grain toward the trapped individual, were brought to the accident scene. The four-piece unit was slipped down over Omer with emergency personnel working to get it all the way down his body.

Once the tube is in place, a three-inch auger is used to pull the corn out of the tube and away from the victim so he can be pulled out. Omer said as the rescuers worked to get the tubes in place, he heard one of them say they had just had (another) training on using the rescue tube last week.

Throughout the rescue, first responders toyed with a number of ways to get Omer out of the bin—they even considered cutting a hole in the side of the bin, but because corn dust can combust, they quickly set that idea aside; their best option, Omer said, was the tubes.

“The last three hours I was really hurting; I told Dale (Pierce), I’m exhausted,” recalls Omer, but Pierce steadily continued to work and assure Omer they were going to get him out.

Finally, with the first tube was in place, it was determined the second tube was needed as well due to Omer’s size. About four hours into the rescue, Logan was taken out of the bin and the men continued to work to get Doug free.

At about 4:30 p.m., word came that Doug had been pulled out of the tube and was coming out of the bin. With the help of four first responders, he made his way out of the bin and down the winding stairs—two men in front of him, two men behind him to steady him. He was met by EMS, who put him on a stretcher and put him in an ambulance. From there he was driven to the Air Evac helicopter sitting about 30 feet away. He was taken to Deaconess Midway to the trauma unit where he spent about four hours before being released.

The helicopter “came in hot,” Omer says, with police closing the streets

around the hospital so the chopper could make a quick landing. Gough, was taken to Deaconess Henderson where he was examined and released.

By Saturday, Omer was up and moving around, but he said he was bruised, sore and still had some swelling in his legs. He couldn’t say enough times what an excellent job the county’s first responders did.

“When they were trained, they really listened,” Omer said as he praised their calmness and patience in a deadly situation. He noted they didn’t hesitate to come into the bin to his rescue and never once did they show fear for their own safety. Omer also boasted on his nephew, Logan, saying, “I don’t know that I would have made it without him.”

In total there were dozens, possibly hundreds of people at the scene—many farmers and family friends offering equipment, batteries and other necessities.

Sturgis Fire and Rescue, Henshaw Fire Department, Deaconess EMS, Union County Sheriff’s Office, Uniontown Water Rescue, Morganfield Rescue, Air Evac, Union County EMA all responded, and a life was saved that Wednesday.

First responders may have pulled Omer right out of his boots, but someday, when that bin is empty, those boots may just find their way back on the feet they came off of, thanks to the training and dedication of Union County’s first responders.

Asked at the end of this interview when he would go back into the bin, Omer laughed and said, “When it’s empty.”

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**BLUEGRASS AREA:** Bardstown, Lexington & Winchester; **GREEN RIVER:** Caneyville & Livermore;  
**NORTHERN KENTUCKY AREA:** Silver Grove at Cincinnati; **PURCHASE AREA:** Clinton & Mayfield.  
 Opening bids at elevators and processing plants.

**Eastern Cornbelt Ethanol  
 Plant Report  
 05/06/2022  
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Yellow Corn Spot Bid 7.86-8.63

Dried Distillers Grain (\$/ton)  
10% moisture 270.00-300.00Modified Wet Distillers (\$/ton)  
50-55% moisture 135.00
**Kentucky Weekly Cattle  
 Receipts as reported at local  
 markets:**

04/16/22	17,348
04/23/22	21,555
04/30/22	23,043
05/07/22	18,193

<b>05/06/2021 4:00 pm est Bids for next day Cash Bids</b>	<b>Louisville</b>	<b>Pennyrile</b>	<b>Purchase</b>	<b>Bluegrass</b>	<b>Green River</b>	<b>Northern KY</b>
Corn #2 Yellow	7.97-8.00	7.60-7.70	7.85	NA	7.46	8.10
Corn #2 White		8.45				
Soybeans #1 Y	16.08	16.22	16.42-16.47	NA	16.47	16.87
Wheat #2 SRW	NA	10.34-10.39	NA	NA	NA	NA
Barley						
<b>New Crop Delivery Contract</b>						
Corn #2 Yellow	6.99	6.91-7.06	6.91-6.96	NA	7.09	7.15
Corn #2 White		7.81				
Soybeans #1 Y	14.09	14.31-14.36	14.51-14.66	NA	14.51	14.80
Wheat #2 SRW	10.03	10.24-10.34	10.40	NA	10.52	10.47
Barley						

<b>Weekly Feed Ingredient Price</b> Wholesale prices, \$ per ton Rail or Truck FOB Location	<b>Owensboro Grain</b>	<b>Commonwealth Agri-Energy Hopkinsville</b>	<b>St. Louis Weekly Feed Region</b>	<b>Memphis Weekly Feed Region</b>	<b>Corn Belt Feedstuffs Region</b>	<b>Daily Direct Hog Prices LM_HG218 04/25/2022</b> Barrows & Gilts Purchased Swine Receipts: 3,896 Base Price: \$95.00- \$111.00	<b>FOR DAILY LIVESTOCK AND GRAIN MARKET REPORTS</b>
	<b>05/09/2022</b>	<b>05/09/2022</b>	<b>05/06/2022</b>	<b>05/06/2022</b>	<b>05/06/2022</b>		
Soybean Meal 48% Sol	442.80	—	411.60-463.40	433.60-463.40	428.60-461.40		
Soybean Hulls	220.00	—	—	155.00	—		
Corn Distillers Grain Dried	—	275.00	—	—	270.00-300.00	Wt. Avg. \$102.29	
Distillers Grain Modified	—	154.00	—	—	—		
Distillers Grain Wet	—	104.00	—	—	—		
Corn Condensed Solubles	—	NA	—	—	—	Compared to prior day, wt. avg. base prices were 6.12 lower.	
Corn Gluten Feed 20-21 pct	—	—	305.00	—	200.00-275.00		
Corn Gluten Meal 60 pct	—	—	780.00	—	630.00-740.00		
Cottonseed Meal 41 pct	—	—	455.00-460.00	355.00	460.00-465.00		
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**USDA ESTIMATED DAILY LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER**

	CATTLE	CALVES	HOGS	SHEEP
Friday 05/06/2022 (est)	121,000	1,000	457,000	5,000
Week Ago (est)	118,000	1,000	446,000	4,000
Year Ago (act)	111,000	1,000	461,000	7,000
Week to Date (est)	608,000	7,000	2,379,000	35,000
Same Pd Lt Week (est)	616,000	7,000	2,349,000	35,000
Same Pd Lt Yr (act)	582,000	6,000	2,385,000	38,000

**National Daily Direct Slaughter Cattle**

**Negotiated Purchases 05/06/2022**  
Live Bids FOB- weighed average weights & prices

**Steers:**

80%-up Choice 1406.9 lbs 142.73

**Heifers**

80%-up Choice 1243.2 lbs 138.38

**05/06/2022 USDA Carlot Meat Summary**, Compared to Previous Day Prices in dollars per hundred weight: Boxed beef cutout prices trended down on Choice and Select carcasses.

**NATIONAL BOXED BEEF CUTOUT LM\_XB403** Estimated composite cutout value of Choice 1-3 600-900 lbs carcasses down 0.74 at 254.44; Select 1-3 600-900 lbs carcasses down 0.75 at 245.06; based on 46 loads of choice cuts, 14 loads of select cuts, 9 loads of trimmings, and 12 loads of ground beef. Choice/Select Spread 9.38

**CARCASS PRICE EQUIVALENT INDEX VALUE NW\_LS410**[https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/nw\\_ls410.txt](https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/nw_ls410.txt). Estimated carcass price equivalent value of Choice 1-3 600-900 lbs carcasses down 0.74 at 227.27; Select 1-3 600-900 lbs carcasses down 0.76 at 215.93.

Current index reflects the equivalent of 134,369 head of cattle.

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<b>Blue Grass South</b> Stanford, KY May 5, 2022 <b>Feeder Steers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 67 hd. 732# 162.00 blk-charx 43 hd. 740# 161.00 blk 63 hd. 847# 160.30 blk 55 hd. 853# 156.50 blk 60 hd. 862# 157.75 blk 62 hd. 867# 159.25 blk 61 hd. 882# 149.95 blk-charx 59 hd. 889# 153.25 blk 57 hd. 891# 149.75 blk-charx 60 hd. 917# 154.75 blk 104 hd. 1023# 129.95 mixed <b>Feeder Heifers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 82 hd. 647# 158.90 blk 60 hd. 657# 154.00 blk-charx 25 hd. 704# 140.50 blk 72 hd. 722# 146.80 blk 67 hd. 853# 134.30 blk	<b>KY-TN Livestock Auction</b> Guthrie, KY May 5, 2022 <b>Feeder Steers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 44 hd. 546# 175.50 bwf 51 hd. 623# 164.00 bwf 23 hd. 693# 146.00 bwf <b>Feeder Bulls:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 24 hd. 486# 177.00 bwf 31 hd. 560# 154.50 bwf 20 hd. 624# 148.00 bwf <b>Feeder Heifers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 24 hd. 432# 166.50 bwf 28 hd. 489# 154.50 bwf 30 hd. 555# 154.00 bwf	<b>Blue Grass Stockyards</b> Lexington, KY May 3, 2022 <b>Feeder Steers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 42 hd. 668# 177.50 blk 70 hd. 698# 169.00 blk 70 hd. 714# 158.40 mixed 67 hd. 732# 168.25 blk 21 hd. 744# 165.00 blk 151 hd. 834# 156.00 blk 20 hd. 849# 147.00 blk-charx <b>Feeder Heifers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 40 hd. 600# 157.00 blk 27 hd. 614# 154.50 blk 40 hd. 695# 147.75 blk-charx 64 hd. 814# 140.95 blk	<b>Paris Stockyards</b> Paris, KY May 5, 2022 <b>Feeder Steers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 23 hd. 574# 206.50 blk 28 hd. 669# 169.00 blk 20 hd. 702# 167.25 blk 67 hd. 778# 155.50 blk-charx <b>Feeder Heifers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 31 hd. 589# 168.60 blk 39 hd. 751# 147.00 charx 67 hd. 808# 140.00 blk-charx 43 hd. 893# 134.00 blk-charx
<b>Russell County Stockyards</b> Russell Springs, KY May 4, 2022 <b>Feeder Steers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 134 hd. 816# 155.85 blk	<b>Washington Co. Livestock</b> Springfield, KY May 2, 2022 <b>Feeder Steers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 23 hd. 739# 159.75 blk <b>Holstein Steers:</b> Large 3 63 hd. 837# 128.90	<b>Farmers Livestock</b> Glasgow, KY May 2, 2022 <b>Feeder Bulls:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 33 hd. 434# 170.00 blk 25 hd. 525# 166.50 blk <b>Feeder Heifers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 20 hd. 442# 157.00 blk	<b>Blue Grass of Richmond</b> Richmond, KY May 6, 2022 <b>Feeder Steers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 61 hd. 478# 201.00 blk-red 81 hd. 486# 200.00 blk 85 hd. 611# 189.95 blk 60 hd. 834# 148.00 mixed <b>Feeder Heifers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 42 hd. 651# 149.50 blk-bwf
<b>Blue Grass of Campbellsville</b> Campbellsville, KY May 4 & 7, 2022 <b>Feeder Steers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 23 hd. 529# 193.50 blk 101 hd. 530# 199.50 blk 96 hd. 567# 200.00 blk 84 hd. 621# 189.85 blk <b>Holstein Steers:</b> Large 3 20 hd. 541# 136.75	<b>United Producers Owenton</b> Owenton, KY May 4, 2022 <b>Feeder Steers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 21 hd. 613# 177.00 blk 37 hd. 688# 161.50 blk 20 hd. 707# 175.50 blk 100 hd. 805# 152.90 blk-charx 23 hd. 862# 144.00 blk 29 hd. 873# 143.00 blk-charx <b>Feeder Heifers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 24 hd. 624# 156.00 blk	<b>Blue Grass Maysville</b> Maysville, KY May 3, 2022 <b>Feeder Steers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 78 hd. 653# 171.00 blk 53 hd. 705# 160.25 blk-charx 55 hd. 914# 148.95 blk <b>Feeder Heifers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 25 hd. 654# 144.75 blk-charx 41 hd. 695# 150.50 blk-bwf 31 hd. 809# 137.00 blk-bwf	<b>Blue Grass of Albany</b> Albany, KY May 4, 2022 <b>Feeder Heifers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 28 hd. 552# 162.50 red-blk
<b>Mid-KY Livestock Market</b> Upton, KY May 3, 2022 <b>Feeder Steers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 21 hd. 617# 168.00 blk <b>Feeder Heifers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 67 hd. 755# 142.00 blk	<b>Christian Co. Livestock Auction</b> Hopkinsville, KY May 4, 2022 <b>Feeder Steers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 65 hd. 800# 149.25 blk	<b>Cattlemen's Livestock</b> Bowling Green, KY May 2, 2022 <b>Feeder Steers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 23 hd. 881# 143.25 blk	<b>Blue Grass East</b> Mt. Sterling, KY May 4, 2022 <b>Feeder Steers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2 60 hd. 884# 151.00 blk

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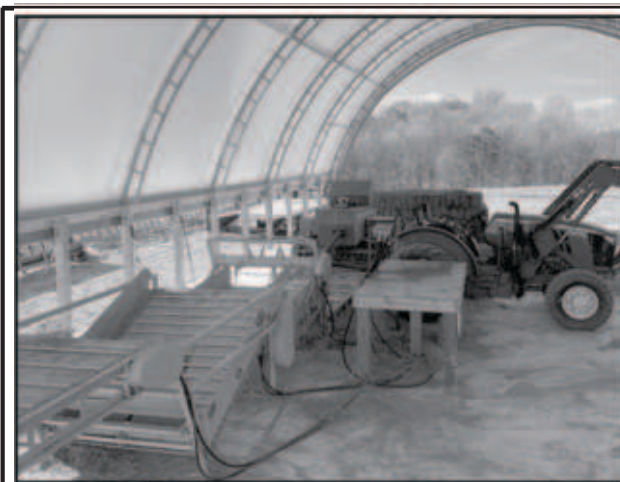


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# kycorn CONNECTION

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

The **2021 Corn Science Research Report** published by the University of Kentucky is now available to review online at [kycorn.org](http://kycorn.org). Much of this research is supported by Kentucky corn checkoff contributions.

## National Corn Yield Contest Early Entry Deadline is June 30

Kentucky's farmers are encouraged to enter the National Corn Yield Contest (NCYC) to help generate a pool of collective knowledge and contribute to the advances that will continue to keep U.S. farmers meeting growing demands for feed, fuel and fiber sustainably for generations to come.

Enter by June 30 to save with a special \$75 early entry rate. Entry will remain open at the full rate of \$110 through August 17, 2022. All harvest forms will be due by November 30. Contest winners will be announced on December 14.

Winners will receive national recognition in publications, such as the NCYC Corn Yield Guide, as well as other awards from participating sponsoring seed, chemical and crop protection companies. All winners will be honored at Commodity Classic in Orlando, Florida.

Enter the 2022 Contest online at [ncga.com/ncyc](http://ncga.com/ncyc).

## kycorn.org

**Contact Us**  
800-326-0906

### Leadership

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## Take Your Farming Profession to New Heights

Since 2009, The CORE Farmer Program has been a major component in Kentucky Corn Growers Association's effort to empower farmers with knowledge, friendships and understanding. The program concept completely aligns with KyCGA's mission to "develop and enhance a sustainable environment for Kentucky corn growers". Its two-year curriculum is designed to achieve three main objectives:

**Deliver classroom-style instructional learning** – we tap into our own, local experts, and we bring experts in from around the country to present on topics that matter for a farm's bottom line. The educational goal of the program is to sharpen participants' ability to make decisions in the field, in the office, in the machine shed and elsewhere on the farm.

**Expand participants' peer network** – in most situations, the best way to get better is to be challenged. Perhaps, more important, the best way to avoid a mistake is to receive advice from trusted colleagues. Both of these concepts require strong, trusted,

competent peers. We fold a strong networking component into the CORE Farmer Program because the career-lasting relationships are where the real learning comes from. We want this program to foster those healthy professional relationships, and it makes the learning sessions more fun!

**Gain perspective from other business endeavors and learn by seeing** – we know that learning expands outside of classrooms, especially in farming. So, travel is part of this program, although we are careful not to overdo the travel to respect the time you need to spend on the farm. Previous classes have traveled to Illinois to visit with Gregg Sauder, to Georgia to visit with Randy Dowdy and Missouri to see Greenseeker in its infancy. Some classes chose to travel to areas outside of corn production to learn cropping systems and processing/marketing processes for other crops: cotton, sugar cane, blueberries, olives, peanuts, and many others around the country – the visits created more great opportunities to compare notes and apply tactics to their operations.

After completing the program,

opportunities for professional growth continue. Graduates have enjoyed international travel, primarily on a self-pay basis, through CORE's alumni program. The program has organized learning expeditions to Europe and Panama, and multiple visits to Argentina. These travels have opened their eyes to global competition, introduced new learning partners, expanded their scope of contacts, and made many close friends. And, CORE alumni have hosted the international farmers who hosted us in return.

**We are currently enrolling participants for the sixth class of the CORE Farmer Program.** You can find details at [www.kycorn.org](http://www.kycorn.org). A simple one-page application, containing a commitment statement, is required to apply. To complete the program, participants can expect to spend about 15 nights from home over a two-year period. The timing of learning sessions will not conflict with the busy times on a grain farm. Most expenses will be covered by the program. Please apply as soon as possible to take part in this unique opportunity.