

The 2022 Kentucky FFA Convention is a wrap

LEXINGTON – The 2022 Kentucky FFA Convention was back in person full force this year, with members from across the state converging on Lexington for the three-day event June 7-9.

This was the first 100 percent in-person convention in three years, so for many of the students it was a whole new experience.

The convention was a great success, with more than 2,400 people attending the final session on Thursday in Rupp Arena. That final session is always an exciting and emotional time as the officers who have represented FFA well for the past year say their farewells and new officers are announced.

The convention welcomed Gov. Andy Beshear and Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles, both special guests who spoke to attendees. Numerous awards were presented throughout the event, including proficiencies, career development events, impromptu speaking, and leadership development events.

The 2022-23 Kentucky FFA officers are Benjamin Williams, Nelson County, president; Emma Sherman, Scott County, vice president; Madyson Planck, Nicholas County, secretary; Miles Frailey, Webster County, treasurer; Leslie Monhollen, Whitley County, sentinel; Waylon Wood, McCracken County, reporter; Madiline Strain, Simon Kenton, Northern Kentucky state vice president; Danyale Atwell, Edmonson County, Barren River state vice president; Will Bonta, Green County, Lake Cumberland state vice president; Tristen Sexton, East Carter, Big Sandy state vice president; Maggie Goode, Hopkinsville, Pennyryle state vice president; and Casey Montgomery, Spencer County, Capital City state vice president.



The 2022 Kentucky FFA Officer Team

(Front row, from left) Secretary Madyson Planck, Nicholas County; Northern Kentucky State Vice President Madiline Strain, Simon Kenton; Barren River State Vice President Danyale Atwell, Edmonson County; Treasurer Miles Frailey, Webster County; Vice President Emma Sherman, Scott County; Sentinel Leslie Monhollen, Whitley County; (back row) Reporter Waylon Wood, McCracken County; Lake Cumberland State Vice President Will Bonta, Green County; President Benjamin Williams, Nelson County Schools; Capital City State Vice President Casey Montgomery, Spencer County; Big Sandy State Vice President Tristen Sexton, East Carter; and Pennyryle State Vice President Maggie Goode, Hopkinsville.



The 2022 State Star Farmer is Lyndsey Garrett of the Nicholas County FFA Chapter (left), the State Star in Agribusiness is Katherine Woodward of the Logan County FFA Chapter (center), and the State Star in Agricultural Placement is Braden Compton of the Meade County FFA Chapter.



JUNE IS NATIONAL DAIRY MONTH –
We salute Kentucky's dairy producers!

INSIDE

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Concern grows as poison hemlock makes way across state

The spread of poison hemlock, a noxious weed with toxic properties, is growing as an issue in Kentucky.

The concern not only stems from its invasive nature, but the fact that it is one of the most toxic plants in the world. Poison hemlock is well known for accidental deaths of humans and other animals.

Poison hemlock can be easily found in many parts of the state. Native to Europe, poison hemlock is an invasive weed that was introduced as an ornamental in the United States during the 1800s.

According to JD Green, UK Extension weed scientist, cattle, goats and horses are considered to be the most susceptible animals, but other animals can consume it. If ingested, poison symptoms appear within 30 minutes to two hours, depending on several factors including the animal species and quantity consumed. Lethal doses for cattle range between .2 and .5 percent

of the animal's weight. Poison symptoms include nervousness, trembling, muscle weakness, loss of coordination, pupil dilation, coma and eventually death from respiratory failure. If ingested by a pregnant animal, it can cause fetal deformities.

Landowners having problems with poison hemlock may apply a herbicide containing 2,4-D during the vegetative rosette stage of growth for control (November or March). Mechanical removal is also effective. Bush hogging prior to bloom is also effective in preventing seed formation.

The state highway department is required by law to work with property owners with land abutting state highway right-of-ways with poison hemlock. The Kentucky Department of Agriculture provides demonstrations to provide spraying equipment on a limited basis. The application period is available during February each year at www.kyagr.com.



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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.

Goats increasingly used to prevent wildfire by eating the fuel

As the risk of wildfire increases, land managers are increasingly turning to goats to eat plants that fuel the fires, Chris Iovenko reports for National Geographic.

"Deploying goats to clear land of vegetation is an age-old practice, but as wildfires worsen worldwide, places as diverse as Greece, Australia, and other parts of the U.S., such as Arizona and Colorado are embracing the herbivores as important tools for wildfire prevention," especially in steep and rocky terrain, Iovenko writes from southern California, a state that lost over 2 million acres to wildfire last year.

"Grazing is the most widespread vegetation management we have in California," Lynn Huntsinger, professor of rangeland ecology and management at the University of California, Berkeley, told Iovenko.

"Prior to fire seasons in the past, land managers traditionally relied on herbicide and human labor to thin plants and brush to reduce fuel load, the amount of flammable material that can burn in a fire," Iovenko writes. "But access to mountain terrain in southern

California can be challenging, and such traditional clearing practices can leave behind seeds that germinate the next year."

"When goats eat the seed, it goes through their digestive tract, and it becomes nonviable. It doesn't grow after it comes out the other end, which is really amazing," said Alissa Cope, owner of Sage Environmental Group, one of about a dozen goat suppliers in southern California.

"One of the oldest domesticated animals, goats are adventurous and curious eaters with iron-clad stomachs," Iovenko notes. "They can eat plants toxic to other kinds of livestock. They also are hardy and can climb steep hillsides and terrain inaccessible to other animals." But they also need goatherds because "Goats are like an indiscriminate brush cutter; they will chew on any vegetation that they like," Jutta C. Burger, science program director for the California Invasive Plant Council, told Iovenko.

One of their big targets is black mustard, an invasive plant that "out-competes native vegetation because it

grows profusely and its roots generate biochemicals that stop the seeds of other plants from germinating," Iovenko reports. "Its growing season makes it

a particular menace: It thrives in the spring and can grow to eight feet high, only to die and turn to dangerous tinder by early summer."



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An experience of a lifetime



ONE VOICE

Sharon Burton
Publisher

I just officially ended my term as a member of the Kentucky FFA Foundation board of directors. Let me tell you, it was an experience of a lifetime.

When I went on the board nine years ago, the foundation was just growing into an important role to help fund existing programs and create new programs to benefit youth involved in FFA. I'm sure there were some who were involved then who had a clear vision of the future, but I've been astounded to watch as the foundation's reach has impacted thousands of students across Kentucky.

For the past several years this foundation has been able to generate more than \$1 million annually for Kentucky FFA. Those funds are invested in programs to directly benefit our youth.

There is great leadership on the board, and the foundation's staff is second to none. Executive Director Sheldon McKinney was new to the role when I met her; today I'm confident she is considered a leader among the nation's nonprofits.

I've truly enjoyed being part of the foundation board and am honored to have worked alongside so many of Kentucky's leaders in the private and public sector. I have learned from them and honestly believe I have received more than I have given just by listening to and learning from the great minds at the table.

I love to hear former agriculture commissioner Billy Ray Smith and Tony Brannon, dean of the Murray State University Hutson School of Agriculture, talk about throwing a few dollars in a pot to reach a goal for the foundation during the early years. The goal was nowhere near the goal the organization now reaches annually.

The reason this organization is a success, of course, is because of the incredible support of Kentucky's agriculture community – businesses, organizations, families, alumni... FFA has had a positive impact on so many people and those people happily give back by supporting the next generation of leaders.

Thank you to the Kentucky FFA Foundation for allowing me to serve. If any of our readers are not yet involved in this organization and investing in our future leaders through FFA, I encourage you to contact Sheldon today. She will find the perfect fit for you, whether it be a small, one-time donation or an estate donation in the future. She can be reached at 606-782-4620 or sheldon.mckinney@kyffa.org.

I'm sure there were some who were involved then who had a clear vision of the future, but I've been astounded to watch as the foundation's reach has impacted thousands of students across Kentucky.

Celebrate June Dairy Month

“ICE CREAM SEASON IS HERE!” There's no better way to celebrate June Dairy Month. I've never met anyone who didn't like ice cream. My 9-month-old grandson, Jack, was just introduced to ice cream at the dairy ball game in Lexington Tuesday night. I was holding him while his mom gave him a spoonful. He nearly leaped out of my arms to get the second bite. Proof positive ice cream is the best! My wife and I are blessed to have 15 grandchildren and they all love dairy. Pounds of cheese, quarts of yogurt, gallons of milk, cartons of ice cream, containers of whipped cream and cream cheese, as well, fill the refrigerator shelves.

Thank you, thank you to all the dairy farmers who do the work and shepherd the cows to provide the milk that all those wonderful products are made from. And thank you to the processors who turn nutritious milk into healthy food for all the consumers.

This June dairy month is significantly different in that the farm milk price is at an all time high. This is welcome news for dairy farmers.

Unfortunately, the high prices are tempered by the extraordinary inflation. Feed costs, fuel costs, labor costs, fertilizer costs and supply chain issues are eating up the lion's share of the increase in the milk price.

I've never lived in times like these when input prices double in just a few months. These inflationary times provoke this question, “How do we plan for the future?” Predicting prices of anything six months to a year from now is impossible.

There are some positive factors regarding a continuation of high milk prices. The U.S. inventory of dairy heifers is the lowest it has been since 2009. Worldwide milk production is down, particularly in the major milk production areas of the European Union and New Zealand. For six months in a row, U.S. milk production is down compared to the previous year. Dairy product exports are setting records. Demand is great for dairy protein around the world. Therefore, milk price outlook is excellent. Who knows about input costs and where they are headed? Future inflation is impossible to predict.

Kentucky dairy farmers will contribute over \$200 million to our state's ag economy in farm milk sales in 2022. Every dairy farm is an economic engine in the community where it exists. The jobs we create such as truck drivers and feed suppliers are often overlooked.

The loss of dairy farms nationwide and in Kentucky is a

SEE **CELEBRATE**, PAGE 6



KENTUCKY DAIRY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

H. Barlow

Every dairy farm is an economic engine in the community where it exists.

The Farmer's Pride

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New company combines agriculture, technology



**KENTUCKY
DEPARTMENT
OF
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COMMISSIONER**

**Dr. Ryan
Quarles**

When they think of agriculture technology and innovation, we want them to think of Kentucky.

Recently, I was pleased to announce the formation of the Bluegrass Ag Tech Development Corp. at the annual Alltech ONE Conference in Lexington.

This agriculture-focused company will combine agriculture and technology to make the agriculture communities throughout Kentucky more productive, more efficient, and more connected. This partnership in agribusiness includes Alltech, the University of Kentucky, the Lexington mayor's office, and our Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

When people think of software development, they think of Silicon Valley. When they think of advancements in healthcare, they think of Boston. When they think of agriculture technology and innovation, we want them to think of Kentucky.

I see Kentucky's world dominance in the horse industry, expanding bourbon production, genetic progress in poultry, and sustainability advancements in no-till farming as appealing selling points for attracting agribusinesses. Kentucky offers traditional business incentives from the state along with agriculture resources such as funding, networking, and marketing support for startups.

Lexington Mayor Linda Gorton's proposed budget includes \$1 million to kick start the new corporation.

"Advancement of ag tech as an economic development initiative has been a key focus of my first term," Mayor Gorton said. "Good, high-paying jobs will grow out of this public-private partnership."

The UK College of Agriculture, Food, and Environment sees this effort as a complement to the college's education, research, and outreach missions.

"A vibrant ag tech hub will provide more opportunities to develop new research collaborations and innovations, while also providing more opportunities for UK graduates to stay in Kentucky and work in these new agriculture-based companies," said CAFE Dean Dr. Nancy Cox. "With a presence in all 120 Kentucky counties, the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service provides education and technical assistance that helps producers across the state benefit from new ag tech innovation."

Alltech's leadership sees a myriad of opportunities for Kentucky to grow as global leaders in agri-food innovation. Headquartered in central Kentucky since 1980, Alltech is one of

THE FARMER'S PRIDE

Don't be a chicken - literally

Cautious: This is a chicken-and-egg story.

Late this winter, as our Covid pandemic was waning, many bird species—and especially chickens—were suffering their own terrible pandemic, the spread of "highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)," noted, FERN, the Food and Environmental Reporting Network May 31.

How terrible? Since January, 38 million chickens have died in the U.S. either because of HPAI outbreaks or the culling of flocks where it was found.

Three out of four of those losses, or 29 million birds, were egg-laying hens, explains the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Laying hens—and turkeys—are highly susceptible to HPAI. Those losses, in fact, are behind wholesale egg prices nearly doubling in the past six months, not inflation.

Worldwide it's estimated that more than 77 million birds, "have been culled to curb the spread of the virus," noted the journal Nature May 26. "Another 400,000 non-poultry birds, such as wild birds, have also died in 2,600 outbreaks — twice the number reported during the last major wave, in 2016–17."

While it's been terminal for millions of birds, most U.S. poultry farmers have or will receive USDA money to mitigate their losses. On May 27, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack announced \$400 million will be added to an initial \$400 million to both help fight the spread of HPAI and reimburse flock owners for losses.

Now it's Mother Nature's turn. Since the pathogen thrives in cold weather and withers in warm, growers and the government are hopeful its spread will soon run its course. Preliminary flock numbers from May suggest that's what's happening.

Still, the HPAI outbreak this year wasn't as widespread or costly as the one in 2016/17. In that avian pandemic, "Some 43 million laying hens and pullets"—immature hens—"died along with 7.4 million turkeys," reports FERN.

It's a remarkable statement about the American food system that almost 80 million chickens and nearly 10 million turkeys can be destroyed in eight years to limit two devastating avian pandemics without most of us even noticing.

Equally remarkable is why: 80 million chickens is truly just a drop in the proverbial ocean that is the poultry industry in the United States.

For example, according to USDA's monthly poultry data, there were 366 million egg-laying chickens in the U.S. on May 1. Most produced "table" eggs and 62.5 million produced "broiler-type hatching eggs" that, once peeping, will be in frying pans in under eight weeks. (Their brief lives is the key reason most broiler flocks remain HPAI-free.)

As such, the recent outbreak of avian flu claimed the lives of 8 percent of the average monthly egg-laying flock this winter.

But even if a flock avoided an outbreak, a laying hen's life is nothing to cluck about. According to USDA, the "rate of lay per day," or productivity, per every 100 laying hens is 79.4 eggs. That efficiency (American hens laid 628 million dozen, or 7.5 billion, table eggs in April) carries a high cost: the average layer is "spent"—to use USDA lingo—in just 118 weeks.

And spent in the hen world means spent. In its recent annual Poultry-Production and Value Summary, USDA reported that 151.6 million chickens — almost all egg-layers—were "lost" in 2021, defined as "Includes rendered, died, destroyed, composted, or disappeared for any reason except sold during the 12-month period."

USDA also noted that 180.1 million laying hens weighing 1 billion pounds were "sold for slaughter" for just \$14.9 million, or a bony 14-cents per pound.

Meanwhile, over in the broiler chicken world—a world dominated by Tyson Foods, Pilgrim's Pride, and Sanderson Farms—fortunes are being made. USDA reports that the value of 2021 U.S. broiler production was \$31.5 billion, up a whopping "48 percent from 2020" while the number of birds marketed, 9.1 billion, was virtually unchanged from the year before.

So, what came first—the chicken or the egg? You decide, but given the business structure of both sectors, it's likely your tax dollars are going into each enterprise.



**FOOD
&
FARM
FILE**

**Alan
Guebert**

.....the recent outbreak of avian flu claimed the lives of 8 percent of the average monthly egg-laying flock this winter.

New company combines agriculture, technology

FROM PAGE 5

the world's top five animal health and nutrition companies.

"In 2017, my father, Dr. Pearse Lyons, penned an op-ed for The Lexington Herald-Leader, challenging our region to harness the energy of its traditions and expertise within agriculture, food and beverage," said Dr. Mark Lyons, president and CEO of Alltech. "For the past few years, we have been working behind the scenes in collaboration with the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, city of Lexington, University of Kentucky, and others to make that vision a reality."

The Bluegrass Ag Tech Development Corp. is a huge step forward in creating an agriculture ecosystem for innovation and technology that builds upon the best attributes that Kentucky has to offer.

DR. RYAN QUARLES is the Commissioner of Agriculture in Kentucky.

Celebrate June Dairy Month

FROM PAGE 4

major concern in the future. Our statewide organization, KDDC, is working diligently to improve the success of our producers with a variety of improvement programs. Many challenges await our dairy industry, but we see some potential for growth in Kentucky's dairy industry, because we have the all-important necessity of abundant water. The western dairymen in California, Texas, and other states are seeing shortages in cutbacks in their water supply. Kentucky is receiving inquiries about dairies moving from the west to here. Kentucky appears to be the only state in the Southeast that welcomes these new opportunities.

Thank you to everyone who recognizes June Dairy Month and especially Mr. and Mrs. Consumer. It is our pleasure to produce the milk, but we wouldn't survive without your purchase of our milk products.

As July 4 approaches, let's take a moment to celebrate our freedom and truly pray to Jesus Christ to heal our land from all the troubles that are apparent in every direction.

Thank you God for our Dairy Industry, and let's eat lots of ice cream to celebrate.

H BARLOW is the Executive Director of the Kentucky Dairy Development Council.



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Impact of inflation on agriculture gets attention of state legislature

Farmers are feeling the impact of high prices and limited products in the marketplace at a time when they are preparing crops for the year. On June 9, the Interim Joint Committee on Agriculture got updates on the impact of inflation on Kentucky's agricultural industry. Above, committee co-chair Rep. Richard Heath, R-Mayfield, comments during the discussion.

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THE FARMER'S PRIDE

One Pot Creamy Chicken and Broccoli



2 tablespoons butter
1 small onion, diced
1 tablespoon minced garlic
1 cup long-grain rice
2 1/2 cups milk
1 cup chicken broth
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper
1/4 teaspoon smoked paprika
2 cups shredded chicken, cooked
2 cups broccoli florets
2 cups shredded cheddar cheese, divided

Melt butter in large shallow straight-sided oven-safe pan, such as cast iron 3.5 or 4-quart braiser. Add onion and cook just until soft. Add garlic and stir until combined. Stir rice into pot and sauté for one minute. Gradually stir in 2 cups milk, followed by chicken broth. Bring up to a low simmer, stir and cover with lid, stirring occasionally to ensure it doesn't stick or boil over, about 15 minutes, adding

additional 1/2 cup of milk if needed. Once rice mixture is cooked, stir in shredded chicken, broccoli florets and seasoning until well combined. Add in half of the cheese and stir until melted. Remove from heat and top with remaining cheese. Place pan in oven and broil for about 5 minutes or until cheese is bubbly and melted. Serve immediately.

Recipes courtesy of The Dairy Alliance

Cheesy Stuffed Meatball Cups

8- ounce block Mozzarella cheese divided
1 pound ground beef
1 egg
1 cup Panko style bread crumbs
1/2 Parmesan cheese grated
1 tablespoon garlic minced
1 tablespoon Italian seasoning
1 teaspoon onion powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon black pepper
2 tablespoons butter
2 tablespoons olive oil
1 package thin-crust refrigerated pizza dough 11-ounce
3/4 cup prepared jar marinara sauce
Garnish: fresh chopped parsley



Preheat oven to 350°

Cut block of mozzarella in half. Using a box grater, shred one half of cheese; set aside. Cut the other half into twelve cubes; set aside. In a large mixing bowl, combine ground beef and next eight ingredients. Combine until all ingredients are thoroughly incorporated. Shape mixture into 12 (3-inch) balls. Press 1 cheese cube into center of ball, sealing it inside. Repeat for remaining 11 meatballs.

Heat butter and olive oil in heavy bottom skillet or cast-iron pan over medium heat. Gently place meatballs into pan, just to brown on each side, about 1 minute on each side. Once brown, remove and place on paper town lined

baking sheet or plate to drain off excess fat.

Spray 12 regular size muffin cups with cooking spray. Unroll pizza dough per package directions. Using a 3-inch round cutter, cutout 12 rounds of pizza dough and press each firmly into bottom of each cup well. Dough will not cover sides completely. Place 1/2 tablespoon of marinara sauce in each muffin cup, top with 1 meatball, another 1/2 tablespoon of sauce and sprinkle of shredded mozzarella cheese. Repeat for remaining 11 meatballs. Bake on middle rack for 25-30 minutes, or until cheese is bubbly and browned. Remove from oven and garnish with fresh parsley. Serve immediately.



Nothing New

Some years ago, a group of Navy scientists began to work on ways to change the direction of major storms. If they were able to do this, they reasoned they could direct them to do great damage to the enemy.

Furthermore, they thought, if they could direct the storms to disrupt the enemy, they would be able to control clouds and form high seas and waves. Also, they believed if they could create low, solid overcast clouds, they would be able to conceal troop movements.

But God used the weather to His advantage long before the military ever entertained the idea. A great story of God using the weather to accomplish His purpose is the story of Jonah.

One day the Lord said to Jonah, "Go to Nineveh." But he refused to listen to God and decided to go to Tarshish. However, he never got there. The Lord had a plan for Jonah, and, to accomplish His plan He needed a hurricane. So, He "turned" one loose, and the crew of Jonah's ship became frightened.

Jonah looked at them and said, "It's all my fault. Go ahead and throw me overboard." When they did, the sea stopped raging and became calm. But there's more.

God then ordered a great fish to get involved in His plan. Soon, the great fish swallowed Jonah and took him for a ride. Finally, the great fish spewed him out, and he went to Nineveh. God does not put up with disobedience. If He has to, He'll get all of nature to help Him accomplish His plan.

The Psalmist reminds us that "lightning and hail, snow and clouds, and stormy winds...do His bidding."

Prayer: Lord, we only fool ourselves if we think we can escape from Your plan. If wind and weather obey You, so should we! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Today's Bible Verse: Fire and hail, snow and clouds, wind and weather that obey him. Psalm 148:8

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Unsung Heroes: Tom Keene

The Forage Doctor



By Jimmy Henning

Frequently those in the background make a program function and excel. These people make countless contributions but are seldom seen, the 'unsung heroes.' Tom Keene is one of these people. This column is the second in a series of columns that highlight the key people who make the University of Kentucky forage program go. You might even say that Tom is an undercover unsung hero because his role has recently changed from forages to industrial hemp extension and applied research.

Tom has been working in the Plant and Soil Science Department at UK since 2005 with prior careers in horse farm management and the hay brokerage business. These skills have been tremendous assets for his extension work at UK.

Tom's initial role when he was hired at UK was to develop a hay production



When UK's Tom Keene talks about hay, such as at this Hardin County Hay Day, even the cows listen. Keene, who is now providing support to industrial hemp production, has spent the majority of his career working in hay quality, production and marketing. He has been a big part of the success and accomplishments of the UK forage group and is one of our 'unsung heroes.'

and marketing program. His extension work in this area helped many Kentucky producers develop their hay production and marketing skills. Tom

was often called upon by county agents to deliver classroom and field day programs in this area.

Soon after Tom started at UK, he was

instrumental in the development of the successful UK Horse Pasture Evalua-

SEE **UNSUNG**, PAGE 11

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Unsung Heroes: Tom Keene

FROM PAGE 10

tion Program and served as the project coordinator for a number of years. This program received the 2008 Outstanding Project Award by the Kentucky Association of Extension Specialists.

When David Ditsch retired from the Robinson Center for Appalachian Resource Sustainability, Tom stepped up to fill the void in forage extension expertise in eastern Kentucky. His expertise and customer service mindset quickly made him a go to asset for agents and farmers in eastern Kentucky.

After assuming eastern Kentucky forage responsibilities from David Ditsch,

he became the key support for the outstanding Small Ruminant Grazing Conference for six years. In addition, Tom also assumed the coordinator role for the eastern Kentucky hay contest. During that time, the number of samples grew five-fold to over 500 samples. This one initiative led to an increased appreciation among eastern Kentucky producers in the value of improved hay quality for their own livestock and when marketing hay for off-farm sales.

Tom is outstanding in all that he does, epitomizing the word professional. He is always prepared for an event or day, well organized and eager. He is that rare combination of initiative,

knowledge and flexibility that makes him invaluable in the college. Even in adverse conditions, he always has a smile on his face and is able to look on the bright side. When interacting with the public, he is always courteous and engaging, representing the college well. Finally, he is always on time, often using the phrase "Early is on time, on time is late and late is unacceptable."

It was no surprise that when the college needed someone to step up and support the emerging program on industrial hemp production, Tom was willing to step up. Even though this meant he had to set aside his official role with forages, he seamlessly

shifted to the challenging role in hemp extension. Tom has been the key support staff for Dr. David Williams and now Dr. Pearce, helping with applied research trials as well as extension programming.

Even after assuming his new role, farmers and agents still reach out to Tom to tap his expertise on hay and hay marketing. Tom's key role in the growth and success of several key college projects, including horse pasture evaluation, hay production, forage extension and now hemp make him one of my 'unsung heroes.' Join with me in recognizing another unsung hero, Tom Keene.

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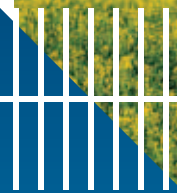
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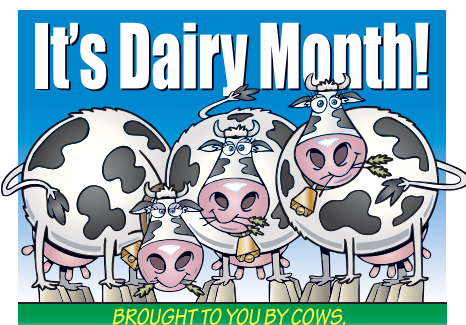
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June 15 -18

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June 13 -18

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June 13 - 18

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June 18 - 25

Nicholas County Fair
June 18 - 25

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June 20 - 25

Union County Fair
June 20 - 25

Logan County Fair
June 21 - 25

McCracken County Fair
June 21 - 25

Bourbon County Fair
June 24 - July 2

Western Kentucky State Fair
June 24 - July 2



Casey County Fair
June 25, July 23-30

Clark County Fair
June 25 - July 2

Jefferson County 4-H Fair
June 25

Marion County Fair
June 27 - July 2

Franklin-Simpson County Fair
June 27 - 30, Aug. 4, October 22

Barren County Fair
June 28 - July 2, July 8&9

Garrard County Fair
June 28 - July 2

Henderson County Fair
July 1-2, 15 - 23

Wayne County Fair
July 2 - 9

Hart County Fair
July 4 - 9

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05/31/2021 4:00 pm est Bids for next day Cash Bids Corn #2 Yellow Corn #2 White Soybeans #1 Y Wheat #2 SRW Barley	Louisville	Pennyrile	Purchase	Bluegrass	Green River	Northern KY	Dried Distillers Grain (\$/ton) 10% moisture 245.00-273.00	
	7.72-7.83	7.29-7.39 8.14	7.54	NA	7.42	NA	Modified Wet Distillers (\$/ton) 50-55% moisture 130.00	
	16.96 NA	16.73 11.15	17.09-17.23 NA	NA NA	17.18 NA	NA NA		
New Crop Delivery Contract							Kentucky Weekly Cattle Receipts as reported at local markets:	
Corn #2 Yellow	6.88	6.82-6.97	6.82-6.87	NA	7.02	NA	05/07/22	18,193
Corn #2 White		7.72					05/14/22	18,357
Soybeans #1 Y	14.49	14.65-14.75	14.90-15.10	NA	14.90	NA	05/21/22	18,799
Wheat #2 SRW	9.85	11.00-11.15	10.18	NA	10.32	NA	05/28/22	16,085
Barley								
Weekly Feed Ingredient Price Wholesale prices, \$ per ton Rail or Truck FOB Location	Owensboro Grain 05/31/2022	Commonwealth Agri-Energy Hopkinsville 05/31/2022	St. Louis Weekly Feed Region 05/27/2022	Memphis Weekly Feed Region 05/27/2022	Corn Belt Feedstuffs Region 05/27/2022	Daily Direct Hog Prices LM_HG218 05/31/2022 Barrows & Gilts Purchased Swine Receipts: 4,580 Base Price: \$100.00-\$116.50	FOR DAILY LIVESTOCK AND GRAIN MARKET REPORTS	
Soybean Meal 48% Sol	442.90	—	438.30-440.30	452.30-472.30	432.30-477.30	\$100.00-\$116.50		
Soybean Hulls	220.00	—	—	155.00	—			
Corn Distillers Grain Dried	—	275.00	—	—	245.00-395.00	Wt. Avg. \$109.46		
Distillers Grain Modified	—	154.00	—	—	—			
Distillers Grain Wet	—	104.00	—	—	—			
Corn Condensed Solubles	—	NA	—	—	—	Compared to prior day, wt. avg. base prices were 0.42 higher.	CALL FARMLOT	
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Cottonseed Meal 41 pct	—	—	385.00-395.00	400.00	390.00-400.00			
Whole Cottonseed	—	—	—	450.00	—	5 Day Rolling Average: \$111.80	1-502-573-0553	
Wheat Middlings	—	—	NA	—	—			

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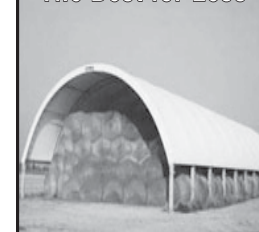
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New entity formed to push agri-food startups in Kentucky

FRANKFORT – (KT) – Building upon Kentucky's signature agriculture, food, and beverage industries, a new entity has been formed to cultivate an innovation ecosystem for entrepreneurs and startups in the agri-food sector, in hopes of making the state the ag tech capital of the country.

The Bluegrass Ag Tech Development Corp.'s board of directors include representatives of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, City of Lexington, University of Kentucky, and Alltech.

Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture Ryan Quarles stated, "When we think of software development, we think of Silicon Valley. When we think of advancements in healthcare, we think of Boston. We believe that Kentucky can step up to the challenges facing our agriculture communities and become the agriculture hub of technology and innovation in the United States."

Quarles cited Kentucky's world dominance in the horse industry, expanding bourbon production, genetic progress in poultry, and sustainability advancements in no-till farming as selling points for attracting agribusinesses. Kentucky offers traditional business incentives from the state, along with agriculture resources such as funding, networking, and marketing support for startups.

Lexington Mayor Linda Gorton calls this an opportunity to make the Lexington and Fayette County area a thriving Ag Tech center, saying her proposed budget includes \$1 million to kickstart the Bluegrass Ag Tech Development Corporation.

"Advancement of ag-tech as an economic development initiative has been a key focus of my first term," she said. "Good, high-paying jobs will grow out of this public private partnership."

University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Dean Nancy Cox said this effort is a complement to the college's education, research, and outreach missions.

"A vibrant ag tech hub will provide more opportunities to develop new research collaborations and innovations, while also providing more opportunities for UK graduates to stay in Kentucky and work in these new agriculture-based companies," Cox noted. "With a presence in all 120 Kentucky counties, the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service provides education and technical assistance that helps producers across the state benefit from new ag tech innovation."

Dr. Mark Lyons, president and CEO of Alltech, said,

"With the formation of the Bluegrass Ag Tech Development Corporation, we are taking a significant step forward in creating an ecosystem for agri-food inno-

vation that builds upon Kentucky's best attributes."

The board's next step is to begin the search for an executive director.

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House Passes Water Resources Development Act of 2022

On June 8, the House of Representatives passed the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2022 (H.R. 7776) by a vote of 384 yeas to 37 nays. This is the most amount of nay votes on a House-passed WRDA bill since 1990 (350 yeas to 55 nays). The bill was taken up on suspension of the rules, so no amendments to the bill were allowed.

The inland waterways 75% general revenues/25% Inland Waterways Trust Fund (IWTF) cost-share adjustment was not included in the House version of the bill. The Senate Environment & Public Works (EPW) Committee marked up and unanimously passed by voice vote its version of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2022 on May 4 that included the cost-share change provision.

The Senate has hotlined its WRDA bill, meaning it only takes one Senator to object to the bill to stop the piece of legislation from being passed by unanimous consent. This is the same process that the Senate has taken with the last two WRDA bills. In 2018 and 2020, the Senate did not pass a WRDA bill off the Senate floor, but still began negotiations with the House which ultimately led to both bills being signed into law.

WCI will continue to advocate for inclusion of the cost-share adjustment during conference negotiations between the House and Senate that is expected to begin this summer.

Creating Jobs by Rebuilding Our Inland Waterways Infrastructure

By Paul Rohde, Midwest Area Vice President, Waterways Council, Inc.

Kentucky is known for our horses, bourbon, and bluegrass, but a well-kept secret to Kentucky's economic success is on our rivers – 1,590 miles of navigable waterways, ranking us fourth in the Nation. Our comprehensive river system moves a host of commodities and products to domestic and international destinations. It's an economic generator most of the country isn't aware of.

Barges have many advantages over other surface modes of transportation. It's the most energy-efficient, lowest-cost, safest, and most environmentally friendly. Kentucky's rivers move 108 million tons a year of products, valued at almost \$12 billion. Nearly 110,000 Kentucky jobs generating about \$6 billion in personal income come from our inland waterways. Also, \$12 billion in gross state product, and \$30.7 billion in total output.

Our capacity to moving this tonnage via rivers keeps 2.7 million trucks off the road, saving between \$7-\$9 billion annually. Reducing highway congestion also decreases auto-related crashes, greenhouse gas emissions, and wear and tear on roads and bridges.

With all the benefits, the challenge of using rivers is the infrastructure those barges rely on. Thirteen lock sites in Kentucky, part of the national system of 176, help pass traffic through. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers maintains them, but has historically been under-funded to address the upkeep challenges of 1930s-era infrastructure. Emergency lock closures have been a growing occurrence in recent history.

Thankfully, that trend is shifting in a positive direction, recently.



McAlpine Lock near Louisville got a new chamber in 2009. Olmsted Locks and Dam opened in 2018, replacing two ancient relics. Kentucky Lock is undergoing construction that will more than double its capacity. But, 70 percent of the Nation's locks are well past their 50-year design life.

Kentucky is lucky to have Senators and Representatives who have been champions for our rivers. They understand it's a key part of our country's supply chain. Over 60 percent of agriculture exports move on our Nation's inland waterways. Rivers provide a competitive edge in the global market, as a growing world population provides market opportunities.

The recent Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act provided \$2.5 billion for locks and dams to further the rebuilding of infrastructure that keeps barges moving. It's the single-biggest commitment to locks since Roosevelt's New Deal.

This work will create thousands of jobs for America's building trades, constructing a new generation

of locks and dams to ensure our waterways can move products well into the future. The investment will also likely spur other river and landside facilities, creating even more jobs in addition to the building trades, to operate those new facilities.

The crisis in Ukraine is another example of the importance maintaining our system. That region will continue to experience issues that will have global reverberations in the food supply chain. With rising food prices, the economic and political implications will be felt worldwide. In 2008, high food prices sparked riots in Haiti, South America, and South Asia, not to mention spurring the "Arab Spring", where entire countries turned over power.

Ukraine's largest markets, Africa and the Middle East, will be looking for other grain providers. Kentucky's farmers can answer that call and the rivers can deliver it. Utilizing our waterways more efficiently makes not just good economic and environmental sense, but good policy.