

HOMETOWN NEWS FOR KENTUCKY'S FARM COMMUNITY

SEPTEMBER 1, 2022

270-384-9454

Livestock producers send aid to E. Ky.

As eastern Kentucky families and farms work to survive after historic heavy rains brought flooding, the livestock community banded together at area stockyards. A small fortune was raised and donated to the Fellowship of Christian Farmers, a non-profit now looking for more volunteers to help its mission.

Ashley Martin has a hard time finding the words to describe her town since floods ripped through it. She lives in the small community of Colson in Letcher County, part of eastern Kentucky and central Appalachia that was pelted with historic rains in late July.

"I didn't realize about the town right above us, called Neon. It's totally destroyed. My 9-year-old said it looks like something you'd see in Ukraine, or on the news."

The family woke up Thursday morning, July 28, Martin said, "and our holler was like a river."

The National Weather Service recorded rainfalls July 25-30 that where more than 600 percent of average. Multiple thunderstorms brought in more than four inches an hour at times, causing flash and river flooding.

The catastrophic devastation also led to 39 deaths.

Martin and her husband, Willis, live

SEE LIVESTOCK, PAGE 3

REACHING AG STUDENTS IN CLASSROOMS ACROSS KENTUCKY



Fairgoer Harley McIntyre takes her first taste of sorghum during the Kentucky State Fair provided by sorghum producer Jimmy Elliot.

ONE BITE AT A TIME Sorghum producers increase their consumer base at KSF

LOUISVILLE – The West Hall Lobby of the Kentucky State Fair is the place to purchase Kentucky-made products.

Vendors offer a variety of items, from honey to hand tools. One booth that doesn't provide a great deal of product but makes up for that with enthusiasm is the Kentucky Sorghum Producers.

Danny Townsend, Jimmy Elliot, and Jim Ross are sorghum producers with slightly different production systems. They all have one thing in common –

PRIDE IN AG EDUCATION RET

Welcome back to the ag classroom!

they are passionate about producing sorghum and want people to eat and enjoy this natural sweetener.

"Our main purpose is to educate people and let them taste sorghum, not to sell a product," said Elliot, who lives in the Forkland area of Boyle County.

Ross, who produces sorghum in Boyd County, said some people who come by the booth have never tasted sorghum, and the booth provides a quick sample. All three men agreed it is an acquired taste and hard to

20

describe, but once people try it, they learn to love it.

The men were eager to explain sorghum production and the differences in their operations. Townsend produces nearly 6,000 gallons of sorghum yearly as Townsend's Sorghum Mill in a state-of-the-art production facility. This fully mechanized system has replaced some of the back-breaking labor required to harvest and produce

SEE SORGHUM, PAGE 2

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Sorghum producers increase consumer base at KSF one taste at a time

FROM PAGE 1

sorghum from his 40 acres of cane. Townsend is the fifth generation of his family to raise sorghum. He sells all over the world and especially to chefs. One of his customers is renowned chef Edward Lee, who owns 610 Magnolia, an upscale restaurant in Louisville.

"He loves my sorghum," Townsend said.

Ross and Elliot are much smaller producers. Ross raises eight acres and Elliot six, and they are equally as eager to tell about their production, starting with planting sorghum seed. There are more than 100 varieties of sorghum seeds, each with different harvest dates and sugar content.

Ross said when he started growing sorghum, which was a quick decision when he turned 50, he used plant plugs similar to tobacco transplants and set using a setting machine, again, like a tobacco setter. He said it became difficult to find help, and he began using a planter on his tractor with planting plates for different size seeds.

Elliot plants seeds as well but plants his 6 acres by pushing a single-row planter himself. Elliot has been producing sorghum for more than 40 years, and he and his father helped start a sorghum festival in Springfield. His interest in sorghum declined after his father's death in 1991, but when two granddaughters needed SAE projects for FFA, he was eager to start back. The youngest granddaughter, Katelyn Elliot, now 25 years old, is his business partner, and he proudly noted her sorghum SAE project gained her State FFA Star Agribusiness honors.

The varieties both men raise need 100 days to mature. Ross said the crop is ready to harvest when the cane juice has a Brix measurement of 15-20. This measurement with a refractometer indicates the amount of sugar that is dissolved in the juice. If a producer doesn't have a refractometer, he can squeeze a seed between his thumb and forefinger, and if the seed is in the "milk" stage, the cane is ready for harvest, he added.

The task of removing the seed heads before harvest is slightly different between the two men. Ross uses a machine used to detassle corn, which is driven through the cane four rows at a time and cuts off the heads.

After Ross' explanation, Elliot joked that "some of us are poor farmers" and showed photos of an ingenious cutter he developed himself. He attached a shortened mowing machine blade to a hedge trimmer and mounted it to the front-end bucket loader on his tractor. He cuts one row on each side of an eight-row section, then extends the blade three more times to complete the eight-row block. Both men said planting in blocks is essential for spray lanes to combat the only pest, the sugar cane aphid.

Both men use a piece of machinery resembling a single-row corn picker called a corn binder to cut the cane, which falls to the ground. Elliot picks up his cane and strips the leaves off by hand before extracting the juice

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through a press. Ross allows the cane to lay on the ground for 5-7 days to dry and extracts the liquid with the leaves still attached. Elliot thinks leaving the leaves on gives the sorghum a bitter taste, but Ross good naturally disagrees.

There isn't an exact amount of juice that a cane will produce, but Ross said an old adage is that 100 pounds of stalks produce 40-50 gallons of juice. The extracted liquid is refrigerated until ready to cook. Ross cooks in a 300-gallon steam evaporator, and Elliot cooks in an open 90-gallon kettle using the batch method. Ross will preheat his juice to 165 degrees to pasteurize and eliminate the need to skim chlorophyll foam that comes to the surface as the liquid cooks down.

Ross' sorghum takes about five hours to reach the critical 235-degree temperature and a Brix of 78-80, and Elliot said his process takes six hours. Elliot added that his open kettle could scorch or burn and requires constant monitoring.

Ross uses a bottling machine and Elliot bottles by hand. Ross advertises his sorghum with a road sign on US 23. Elliot sells at farmers' markets and across the country on Etsy.

Regardless of the size of the operation or the production method, these sorghum producers love what they do and want more people to experience the unique, slightly biting taste of Kentucky sorghum.

The producers also took advantage of the annual Kentucky Farm Bureau country ham breakfast held at the state fair, and a small jug of Kentucky sorghum was available at each table, standing ready to share the plate with fresh country ham and biscuits.

By Toni Riley

Field Reporter

FARMERS REGIONAL LIVESTOCK MARKET OF GLASGOW, LLC

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Dairy Sale Every Tuesday at Noon Mike Hatcher 1-800-563-2131 • 270-384-6376 • 270-378-0512 MARKET REPORT: WEEK OF August 22, 2022 Farmers Regional Livestock Market of Glasgow, LLC

Feeder steers and heifers sold 5.00 - 7.00 higher. Feeder bulls sold 2.00 to 4.00 higher. Slaughter cows and bulls sold steady. Supply included: 62% Feeder Cattle (14% Steers, 49% Heifers, 37% Bulls); 29% Slaughter Cattle (83% Cows, 17% Bulls); 9% Replacement Cattle (3% Stock Cows, 79% Bred Cows, 15% Cow-Calf Pairs, 3% Bulls). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs was 17%.

Feeder Cattle:

Steers: Medium and Large 1-2: 1 Head, 405#, 189.00; 9 Head, 516#, 187.00; 7 Head, 576#, 174.00; 6 Head, 603#, 180.00; 1 Head, 695#, 141.00; 1 Head, 755#, 166.00; 1 Head, 890#, 144.00; 3 Head, 910-925#, 133.00-140.00. Medium and Large 2-3: 5 Head, 516#, 159.00; 1 Head, 645#, 152.00; 2 Head, 793#, 133.00. Heifers: Medium and Large 1-2: 2 Head 210-230#, 174.00-186.00; 10 Head 316-343#, 163.00-173.00; 22 Head 367-383#, 162.00-173.50; 19 Head 441# 176.50; 11 Head 458#, 170.50; 24 Head, 505-531#, 164.00-174.00; 13 Head 586#, 154.00; 6 Head, 600-635#, 141.00-153.00; 3 Head, 660#, 155.00; 3 Head, 742-745#, 130.00-140.00; 2 Head, 802#, 138.00; 3 Head, 1288#, 110.00. Medium and Large 2-3: 1 Head, 495#, 145.00; 6 Head, 504#, 139.00; 2 Head 667# 137.00.

Bulls: Medium and Large 1-2: 1 Head, 225#, 200.00; 4 Head, 288#, 185.00; 4 Head, 360-368#, 167.00-175.00; 12 Head, 384#, 184.00; 11 Head, 436#, 183.00; 16 Head, 524#, 176.00; 19 Head, 555-591#, 164.50-169.00; 2 Head, 640#, 134.00; 5 Head, 656-666#, 141.00-146.00; 2 Head, 737#, 134.00. Medium and Large 2-3: 6 Head, 443#, 159.00; 6 Head, 452#, 159.00; 5 Head, 517#, 158.00; 2 Head, 562#, 147.00; 3 Head, 706#, 121.50.

Slaughter Cattle:

<u>Cows:</u> Breaker 75-80%: 3 Head, 1415-1580#, 87.50-89.00, Average; 9 Head, 1385-1790#, 90.00-102.00, High. Boner 80-85%: 24 Head, 1010-1325#, 81.00-91.00, Average; 45 Head, 1000-1405#, 92.00-106.00, High; 1 Head, 1200#, 77.00, Low. Lean 85-90%: 6 Head, 685-995#, 62.50-71.00, Average; 27 Head, 810-1150#, 72.50-87.50, High; 3 Head, 775-930#, 57.50-60.00, Low.

<u>Bulls:</u> 1-2: 5 Head, 1180-1475#, 110.00-117.00, Average; 15 Head, 1535-2005#, 121.00-136.00, High; 4 Head, 1015-1485#, 100.50-105.00, Low.

Stock Cows: Medium and Large 1-2: Age 2-8: Stage 0, 1 Head, 905#, 725.00.

Livestock producers send aid to E. Ky.

FROM PAGE 1

with their children, Gavin and Lillie, up on a hill on their 45-acre farm. The floods didn't affect their house.

"But Willis had to take his tractor and make a road to get to the cows because it was completely washed out." They lost their hayfield, all their hay

and a lot of fencing.

They had five Herefords that were beef cows, Martin said, and she and the children named them. She said some people may not understand the attachment others can have for something like a cow, but they were with them every day.

She and Willis discussed it and knew they couldn't winter the cattle. They'd lost 300 bales of hay and their fencing, and they knew they had to let them go — it still tears Martin up to talk about.

"That was something me and my 15-year-old son done together — we went every evening, together, checked on them and fed them, together."

When she looked out the window and could see the cows over on another farm's hill, her husband contacted Kentucky Cattlemen's Association, which referred them to Blue Grass Stockyards.

Eventually, Martin got hold of Jim Akers, the stockyard's COO. She said Jim got hay to them to hold the cattle over until the cattle could get transported.

Akers tells the rest of their story.

"Once things established, where you could get in and out, we picked up her cattle and sold them for her," Akers said. "She just had a handful. She was very appreciative, and we had a couple of guys who wanted to donate some trucking; it just worked out."

Blue Grass Stockyards decided to hop on the idea of fundraising money to send to eastern Kentucky.

"I went around to the different barns when we did the calf sales and people donated animals they wanted sold for flood relief," Akers says. The seven markets Blue Grass Stockyards owns raised over \$80,000.

Other markets across the state also got involved. Craig Taylor, executive officer who serves Kentucky with the Livestock Marketing Association, helped sponsor sales. Taylor said when tornadoes hit western Kentucky in December, he had heard about the Fellowship of Christian Farmers helping out, so they decided to donate the

funds there.

The fellowship is a non-profit, nondenominational ministry that assists in disaster relief, among other objectives, said disaster coordinator Mike Weaver. It focuses more on rural areas that can get overlooked.

Weaver has a degree in forestry and is also a former pastor. He said he worked with veterinarian Ryan Reams, of Beattyville, who helped put contacts together to get the donation sale going.

"We've already made contacts in the area, and we can bring volunteers down to stay at the Jackson senior center," Weaver says. And the \$80,000 Blue Grass Stockyards is getting to the organization will be an amazing help."

Akers said after some research, they realized the fellowship is made up of volunteers and they proactively work in affected area.

"We just felt like it's nice to know the money you work hard for is really helping some people."

Weaver said to get it all done, "we need volunteers. We need more people to get involved, to donate their time and services and to work." There's been a lot of work going on in the area, but he said there's still many more needs.

"Probably will be for a year to come," Weaver says.

Anyone who needs assistance or wants to volunteer can contact him at <u>weaver9598@gmail.com</u>.

Flooding was a 1,000-year event

Matt Dixon, senior meteorologist with the UK Ag Weather Center, went to Letcher County with his wife a couple of weeks ago to help out. He said it's a really sad situation to witness, with some families losing everything.

"You also have to think — this was the second major flood in the past couple of years for part of that region," Dixon said, referring to flooding in early 2021.

Rainfall causing the recent flooding is referred to as "a 1,000-year rain event," he noted. That means there's a .1 percent chance of seeing that amount of rain over a five-day period at any point throughout the year.

Looking ahead, Dixon isn't expecting much precipitation over that way. "Outlooks point toward higher probabilities of above-normal rainfall for the start of September, but confidence isn't too high at this point." Martin said she and her family sure hope not. They went without power for seven days and without water for 15. The children haven't gotten back to school yet, either.

"Only two schools are where you're able to go in now. The two, main elementary and middle schools were destroyed. We have to go in and gut them before we can go back."

Martin is a Head Start teacher. She said children can't receive at-home school through the internet since most of their Chromebooks were destroyed.

And that's why she said she feels silly when she gets emotional over "some cows." Several lost their homes, some lost lives, she said. She's heard stories from parents about children who now sleep in their shoes because they're afraid of the rain.

"The whole thing, it's just sad. And losing the animals honestly did make it really hard for us. But, like I tell my husband, we were a lot more fortunate than most people."

Martin said the kindness shown to them over her "babies" by fellow cattle producers and the stockyard will never be forgotten.

Akers says stockyards have always been "a central point of gathering and, subsequently, sharing of information," with a lot of good people who want to give back when they hear of needs.

Taylor said stockyards in Lee City, Washington County and Paris also participated in donor sales for flood relief. He estimates donations at around \$200,000, including Blue Grass Stockyard's contribution.

"Whether it be the tornado or the flood, the producers and the livestock industry have always stepped up willing to help," he said. "And each stockyard plays an important role to each community — they're good for the community."

By Bobbie Curd Field reporter



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THE FARMER'S PRIDE

PINION

Losing a watchdog

communities.



ONE VOICE

Sharon Burton Publisher

So many

things that

Washington

D. C. and our

hometowns

can have an

incredible

impact on

we farm in

this nation.

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own little

While the loss of reporters at the Louisville Courier-Journal may not appear to make a difference in our farm communities, the loss of reporters covering our state government in recent years affects us all. We are already seeing a new boldness in state officials who push laws that reduce government transparency and attack the public's access to government oversight.

Gannett just recently announced newsroom layoffs that affected a lot of newspapers. It's a pattern we are seeing in

larger cities as well as smaller communities, and it's something I think rural communities should be concerned about.

his column may be trailing away from the tradi-

tional agriculture path, but it's one that has been on my mind of late and one that affects our rural

With fewer eyes on their activity, government is more likely to waste money and hide their actions. Even in small communities, data prove that the growth of "news deserts" leads to higher taxes and more waste.

I see so many newspapers with news staffs that cannot possibly get the job done at a level of which they can be happen in proud. Reporters who aren't being laid off are finding jobs Frankfort, in other fields to get away from the chaos and the stress.

> We can all be angry at the for-profit corporate structures that seem to be sucking the life out of our newsrooms, but the issue is not that simple. The model we have enjoyed for generations that had advertisers paying the bills so readers could get quality news at a discounted price no longer works. You may blame the internet or the millions of ways businesses now have to spend their money in hopes of getting the attention of consumers. In reality, however, we live in a society where people often prefer the small bits of information they can get immediately online and rarely take the time to get the full story.

I consider Kentucky farmers some of the most informed people in the state, and I wonder if you are finding today's access to a plethora of information that's all mixed in with misinformation as frustrating as I do. I always liked that newspapers had the important stuff on the front page and separated out the opinions on clearly identified pages. Lord knows today's tv "news" channels are more opinion than news. Jump on the internet and you find articles that are

SEE LOSING, PAGE 6

Amid challenges, dairy prices continue with positive outlook

he lazy, hazy days of summer are almost gone. If the old wives' tale that for every fog in August there will be a snow in winter holds true, we'll have a lot of snow this winter. Snow is okay but ice storms are a dairyman's worst nightmare.

This summer has been challenging for Kentucky's dairymen. The early summer drought has caused a majority of dairymen to be concerned about quantity and quality of this year's corn silage crop. Thankfully, many farms have been harvesting and storing extra feed in case of a year like this. A very hot summer caused problems for our corn crop and will have implications on feed cost for the next 12 months.

Milk prices have been abnormally high this summer. June set an all-time high of \$28/cwt. This is good news, but I know everyone is aware of the inflation of our input costs. We dairymen are better off this year compared to the last few years. I believe Kentucky's dairymen are cautiously optimistic about our future price projections.

The dairy industry - like all of agriculture - has become globally affected. Eighteen percent of milk produced in the U.S. is exported, therefore what happens in the European Union and Oceania has an impact on our milk price. In 2022 there has been a worldwide drop in production, which has really been beneficial to American prices. The outlook for good prices in the future are very positive.

The 2023 farm bill is of great interest to all dairymen. The Dairymen Margin Coverage Insurance program must be continued. It is an essential safety net for producers. There are ongoing discussions regarding changing the pricing mechanism in the Federal Milk Marketing Order System. KDDC personnel are engaged in these discussions because these reforms can directly affect our pay prices over the next five years. Milk pricing has always been extremely complicated, and we see this as an opportunity to hopefully make pricing more transparent and equitable for our dairymen.

We just finished the State Fair and had a wonderful dairy show. The Kentucky Milk Quality Conference is coming up on

SEE DAIRY, PAGE 6



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KFNTIICK DAIRY DEVELOPMENT COUNCI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

H. **Barlow**

I believe Kentucky's dairymen are cautiously optimistic about our future price projections.

All hats, no cattle and little chance

wo groups – one of South Dakota investors, the other tied to Texas cattle ranchers and feeders – are preparing to spend a collective \$1.8 billion on two meatpacking plants that they say will be so innovative each will pay cattle suppliers more for their cattle and bison than any of today's Big Four packers.

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beans, ipor is ignifibeef mich tariffs of the instrum of the olight bulled by multi-billion dollar companies" – Tyson, Cargill, JBS, and

National Beef – "that aren't run by cattle producers," noted beans, pork, and beef with tariffs of their own. The fight duickly peans, pork, and beef with tariffs of their own. The fight duickly ranks of their own. The fight duickly ranks of their own. The fight duickly reads

Its business plan is to "shore up the supply chain, enhance food security, increase competition, and benefit Texas cattle Talk – and a tariff war – isn't cheap, right? Talk – and a tariff war – isn't cheap, right? Talk – and a tariff war – isn't cheap, right?

would make it the largest "single beef plant currently in operof whom are the backbone fot our food system) as farmers, fishers, of whom are the backbone (of our food system) as farmers, fishers, And, notes the News, the billion-dollar bet, to be known as

the "Western Legacy Development Corporation," will be "the of whom are the backbone (of our food system) as farmers, fishers, first of its kind in North America to use the methane gas from the facility as energy from the plant."

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Put more blood on the floor faster and cheaper than any comlion inpetietourrent Oct. 1, 2020-to-Sept. 30, 2021 fiscal year. That

That is, after all, the most important-and some say, onlyrule in the butchering business. And while it sounds quite lion in the current Oct. 1. 2020-to-Sept. 30, 2021 fiscal year. That ion in the current Oct. 1, 2020-to-Sept. 30, 2021 fiscal year. That the most complex juggling acts in or out of a circus tent.

she isn't Wirking it thilewstyparted isouth for the meat game against put \$1.1 billion on the table to get in the meat game against the world's four largest meatpackers who already are the lowshe isn't working - at least part-time - for China? she isn't working - at least part-time - for China? she isn't working - at least part-time - for China? and sellers on three continents. Is that a bet you'd make?

No way, says long-time packer critic and Kansas rancher Mike Callicrate, the founder of Ranch Foods Direct, an

SEE ALL HATS, PAGE 6



FOOD & FARM FILE

Alan Guebert

While both plans are noteworthy, neither outlines how either facility will implement the First Rule of Meatpacking: Put more blood on the floor faster and cheaper than any competitor.

Poultry industry shares food, fun, denowship at state fair here is no place like the Kentucky State Fair. It

friends of agriculture.

A REAL

KENTUCKY POULTRY FEDERATION

PRESIDENT

Dan Flanagan

Then one of my favorite competitions is the poultry t-shirt contest. I love when 4-H members come together to create unique and sometimes funny t-shirts. ebrating our youth with our annual commodity breakfast. We made sure that we served the best and most inexpensive source of protein – eggs – to those at the breakfast. It was my pleasure to again help elected officials and celebrity guests serve the good Kentucky Proud breakfast to an overnot setting the world on fire in exports, they tend flow crowd. Both Kentucky Gov. Andy Besnear and Agriculture Commissioner Dr. Ryan Quarles made positive and encourse the world to operiover Konsutkey Stated Fair

The 118th Kentucky State Fair got started right with cel-

was so good to be back in full swing with so many

The ketting prover of the FFA and 4-H.

We had the opportunity to sponsor and even judge some of the 4-H events this year at the state fair with many new entries in all of the categories. The poultry showmanship contest was held on opening day along with poultry judging. On Friday we kicked off the 4-H avian bowl with challenging questions in a quiz bowl format.

lenging questions in a quiz bowl format. To the field at harvest Then one of my favorite competitions is the poultry t-shirt contest. I love when 4-H members come together to createhorized and avast times funny t-shirts.

I have a fields a have set in order to be successful as an organization, you must have great partnerships. In AgLand, we had the opportunity to partner with the Kentucky Women in Agriculture organization to highlight both organizations and discuss the prominent roles that women play in Kentucky agriculture. This was a unique opportunity for both organizations and I believe more will come.

We also had a lot of fun helping with the cooking stage in partnership with the Kentucky Department of Agriculture. KDA's Sharon Spencer was instrumental in coordinating so many chefs (professional and amateur) throughout the entire fair. We had the opportunity to coordinate with the Military Day and to have a "Put An Egg On It," challenge with our FCCLA chapters.

Finally, back at the commodity tent, we coordinated with a poultry vendor to bring the cooking trailer back to the fairgrounds. All of these opportunities with FFA, 4-H, FCCLA, KDA, Kentucky Women in Agriculture, and our friends at the fair just reinforce our commitment to agriculture, advocacy, and the betterment of our poultry growers and allied members.

If you didn't get the opportunity to stop by the fair this year for great food, fellowship, and agriculture, be sure to add the 2023 Kentucky State Fair to your calendar.

Food, fellowship, fun and the Kentucky State Fair are always the very best in Kentucky agriculture.

Losing a watchdog

FROM PAGE 4

completely false wrapped

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Wheats early

with us!!

AGRĪ ΜΑΧΧ

up to appear to be legitimate reporting.

Newspapers and newspaper people are not perfect, but we are a better society when we have the fourth estate playing an important role in a system of checks and balances and holding up a mirror for our communities.

So many things that happen in Frankfort, Washington D. C. and our own little hometowns can have an incredible impact on the way we farm in this nation. I'm thankful we have our commodity groups and other farm organizations advocating for farmers, but we are quickly losing an important watchdog that helps us all.

If you have a strong newsroom in your local newspaper, I hope you will support them and let them know you appreciate their hard work. For them, it's like a summer with no rain as they wonder if the work they have done this season is wasted.

I'm thankful that I own my own business and my future is not tied to the Gannetts of this world. I'm hoping for brighter days for my fellow journalists, however, and I think it's important that we all think about what democracy looks like without seasoned journalists asking questions nobody else wants to ask and digging for truths that others try to bury.

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All hats, no cattle and little chance

FROM PAGE 5

online, direct-to-consumer beef marketplace. In fact, he adds, "The bet I would make is that the plant will never be built because there just aren't enough cattle to support a new plant that size. Not in South Dakota, not anywhere. This is all talk."

And the Texas cattlemen group that says it will put \$670 million into a new beef packing plant in north Texas? "Same deal, maybe worse," says Callicrate. "Producers aren't mean enough and tough enough to last in meatpacking. It's a brutal business."

Still, it's understandable that ranchers and feeders are tired of being gutted by the Big Four. "But spending \$1 billion or \$700 million to compete with them on their field is crazy."

Crazy, too, is that few in government even mention challenging meatpackers where they might be most vulnerable - in a federal courtroom facing antitrust charges.

Instead, ranchers and feeders get more pie-in-thesky talk while the Big Four continue to carve up markets both here and abroad.

ALAN GUEBERT publishes a weekly column Farm and Food File through the U.S. and Canada. Past columns, events and contact information are posted at farmandfoodfile.com. Contact Alan Guebert by email at agcomm@farmandfoodfile.com.

Dairy events ahead **FROM PAGE 4**

Sept. 13 in Bowling Green.

The annual World Dairy Expo trip, sponsored by KDDC, will take place Oct. 3⁻⁶. Available spots still remain for the Expo, and KDDC would be more than welcoming to interested parties hoping to attend.

Kentucky dairymen are thankful for the many blessings we've had in 2022 and are looking forward to a positive future milking cows. Once again, I would like to thank all of our consumers who purchase our nutritious dairy products and keep us in business.



LIVESTOCK BREEDER DIRECTORY



HERE TODAY, GONE TOMORROW



"In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment." – Psalm 102:25-26

We are often caught up in the ephemeral, worrying about and striving after things that are here today and gone tomorrow. How often do we worry about our cars, our houses, and our bank accounts? Those things are truly ephemeral, here today and gone tomorrow. If you doubt this, just look around you and consider how few cars are on the road which were made 30 or 40 years ago. Houses may last a bit longer than cars, but even houses and buildings, in the grand scheme of things, are transitory, here today and gone tomorrow. The eternal things are invariably intangible things like faith, hope and love. These are things which we can give and receive, but which we cannot possess in the way that one might possess a house or a car. Take the long view and focus on the eternal rather than the ephemeral. "So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." 2 Corinthians 4:18 NIV - Christopher Simon

Apple Sage Pork Chops

- 1 tablespoon flour
- 1 teaspoon dried sage
- 2 tablespoons garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon ground thyme
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 4 boneless center cut pork chops
- 2 tablespoons oil
- 1/2 large onion, thinly sliced
- 2 thinly sliced red apples
- 1 cup unsweetened apple juice
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar (optional)

Wash hands with soap and warm water, scrubbing for at least 20 seconds. Gently clean all produce under cool running water. Mix flour, sage, garlic, thyme, and salt together in a small bowl. Sprinkle 1 1/2 tablespoons of the mixture over both sides of the pork chops. Remember to **wash** hands after handling raw meat. **Heat** oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Sear pork chops for 2 to 3 minutes on each side. Pan will smoke a little. Remove pork chops from the pan and set aside. Reduce heat to medium. To the same skillet, add onion and cook for 2 minutes, or until soft. Add apples, and continue cooking until tender, about 2 minutes. Add apple juice, brown sugar, and remaining spice mixture and stir to dissolve. Return pork chops to the skillet by nestling them in the pan. Bring the liquid to a boil, reduce heat to low, and simmer for 5 minutes or until the pork is cooked through and reaches 145 degrees F on a food thermometer. Refrigerate leftovers within 2 hours.

Yield: 4 servings. Nutrition Analysis: 310 calories, 10g total fat, 1.5g saturated fat, 50mg cholesterol, 660mg sodium, 35g total carbohydrate, 3g fiber, 25g total sugars, 7g added sugars, 22g protein, 6% DV vitamin D, 2% DV calcium, 6% DV iron, 15% DV potassium.









Chicken and Brussels Sprouts One Pan Meal

2 skinless, boneless chicken breasts (about 1 pound)
1 tablespoon olive oil Salt and pepper to taste 12-14 Brussels sprouts, trimmed and quartered
1 cup sliced fresh mushrooms
1 red bell pepper, diced, about 1 cup

 medium yellow onion, diced, about 1 cup
 cloves garlic, minced
 cup half-and-half
 teaspoon nutmeg
 cup Parmesan cheese

Preheat oven to 425 degrees F. Cut chicken into bite-sized pieces. Heat oil in a heavy, oven-safe skillet or pan over medium heat. Add chicken and sauté 3-4 minutes. Lightly season with salt and pepper. Add vegetables and stir gently to combine. Cook 3-5 minutes until vegetables are tender. Remove from heat. If skillet or pan is not oven-safe, transfer mixture to a baking dish. In a small bowl, combine half-and-half, nutmeg and salt and pepper to taste. **Pour** mixture over chicken and vegetables. **Sprinkle** with Parmesan cheese. **Bake** 25-30 minutes until lightly golden on top. **Serve** hot.

Yield: 6, 1 cup servings

Nutritional Analysis:

220 calories, 9 g fat, 3.5 g saturated fat, 0 g trans fat, 70 mg cholesterol, 340 mg sodium, 11 g carbohydrate, 3 g fiber, 4 g sugars, 23 g protein.

Recipes courtesy of Ky Proud

Fall fencing school registration now open

LEXINGTON – This fall, the University of Kentucky will host two regional fencing schools to help livestock producers learn about the newest and most sound techniques to build fences.

The schools are Nov. 1 at the Marion County Cooperative Extension Office in Lebanon and Nov. 3 at the Clay County Cooperative Extension office in Manchester. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. EDT. Classes throughout the day include fencing construction basics, fencing types, costs, fencing laws and more.

UK forage extension specialist Chris Teutsch started these one-day events in 2018 to help farmers improve their grazing management.

"If you've ever driven through the country, you've probably seen a lot of fences, but not a lot of well-built ones," said Teutsch, a professor at the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. "One of the goals of this school is to teach people basic fence construction. So, they can build a strong, long-lasting fence that will last 25 or 30 years, or if they decide to hire a contractor to build it for them, they will at least know what a well-built fence looks like."

UK specialists and fencing industry experts will teach producers how to install both fixed-knot, woven wire fencing and smooth electrified, high-tensile fencing.

Participants will learn through a combination of classroom sessions and hands-on demonstrations. If producers choose to participate in cost-share programs, they can use the skills learned to construct fences that meet Natural Resources Conservation Service specifications. Each school costs \$30 person and has a 30-participant limit. Organizers urge producers to sign up early. Registration fee includes morning refreshments, a catered lunch, a fencing notebook, safety glasses and hearing protection.

To sign up for the Lebanon school, visit 22FencingLebanon.eventbrite.com.

Those interested in attending the Manchester school can do so at 22GrazingManchester1.eventbrite.com.

Attendees also may send registration and payment to KFGC c/o Krista Lea at N-222C Ag. Science Building North, Lexington KY 40546-0091. The registration deadline is two weeks before each workshop.

This program is a combined effort of the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council, the UK Cooperative Extension Service, UK Master Grazer Program, Kentucky Forage and Grassland Coun-



UK specialists and fencing industry experts will teach producers how to install an array of fences.

cil and industry partners Gallagher USA, Stay-Tuff Fencing and ACI Distributors.

Jordan Strickler, University of Kentucky

'Ag tag' donations reach \$606,223; funds go to FFA, 4-H, KDA

FRANKFORT – Kentucky farmers donated \$606,223.11 to the Ag Tag Program for 2022, bringing the total of donations to more than \$4.3 million since 2016.

"I want to thank everyone who donated to the voluntary 'Ag Tag' program this year. 2022 has been a tough year, but despite that, our agricultural community still saw the benefit of donating to the 'Ag Tag' fund," said Commissioner of Agriculture Dr. Ryan Quarles. "Through the years, the Ag Tag Program has succeeded in providing much-needed funding for promoting agriculture and educating Kentucky's youth on the importance of agriculture in our everyday lives. Your generosity will help ensure Kentucky agriculture has a bright future."

The voluntary donations are divided equally among Kentucky 4-H, Kentucky FFA, and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture. This year, each group will receive \$202,074.37. Since 2016, Kentucky FFA and Kentucky 4-H have received, collectively, more than \$2.9 million from donations made by ag producers renewing their vehicles each year.

The KDA uses its share of the Ag Tag funds for various programs such as the Ag Athlete of the Year awards, the Kentucky Leopold Conservation Award, Kentucky Women in Agriculture, and the University of Kentucky Grain and Forage Center of Excellence.

"The Kentucky FFA Foundation is thrilled with the 2022 Ag Tag campaign. The Ag Tag program has become a vital part of accomplishing our vision of Growing Leaders, Building Communities and Strengthening Agriculture," said Sheldon McKinney, executive director of the Kentucky FFA Foundation. "We give half of the funds given in each county back to the local chapters in that county, so this means a greater impact in each community. We also use Ag Tag donations to fund Ag Achievers grants, which offer much needed technology upgrades to agriculture classrooms across Kentucky, provide travel scholarships to our students competing at National FFA Convention, and provide a great experience for our students at the Kentucky State Fair."

Funds help support 4-H programs in every county, said Melissa Miller, executive director of the Kentucky 4-H Foundation.

"Giving allows local 4-H programs to grow youth as leaders, build their communication skills, and develop them into active, engaged members of their community."

Kentucky motorists who buy or renew farm vehicle license plates, or "ag tags," may make a voluntary donation of up to \$10 to the Ag Tag Fund. Half of the 4-H and FFA funds go back to the county where the tag is purchased, where both organizations use the

funds to support local programming, awards, and scholarships.



Grants awarded through disaster relief fund **KFB country ham auction** raises \$5 million

LOUISVILLE - The 58th Kentucky Farm Bureau Country Ham Breakfast brought in an impressive \$5 million for charity organizations. Additionally, leadership announced that through their KFB for Kentucky Relief Fund, grants have been awarded to Christian Appalachian Project, God's Pantry, and Mountain Cattleman's Association as they work to rebuild Eastern Kentucky after the devastating flooding.

The KFB for Kentucky Relief Fund was set up to raise money to assist with the natural disasters in eastern and western Kentucky. One hundred percent of the money raised by the fund is being used to support organizations providing relief services in affected areas.

"Here at Kentucky Farm Bureau, we are proud to serve our fellow Kentuckians. From hosting this morning's charity auction to responding to natural disasters in eastern and western Kentucky, our people proudly show up and help. We are grateful for all those within the commonwealth and others from around the country who have been generous in contributing to the relief fund," said Mark Haney, president of Kentucky Farm Bureau. "In addition to the work being done by Kentucky Farm Bureau Insurance and our county Farm Bureaus, we have been on the ground with our members in Eastern Kentucky who will depend on local organizations for months and years to come as the communities rebuild. We are proud to invest in the work these organizations are doing as another way to help our

fellow Kentuckians in need."

During the live auction, business leaders and individuals bid enthusiastically for a chance to take home the prized ham. The grand champion country ham, weighing in at 17.25 pounds, was produced by Ronny and Beth Drennan of Broadbent Country Hams in Cadiz.

Eventually, Central Bank and Joe and Kelly Craft, former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, combined their bids and will each donate \$2.5 million to charity.

"Central Bank will donate proceeds to UK Athletics, UK Health Care, UK's Gatton College of Business and Economics, Transylvania University, St. Elizabeth Hospital, and the Kentucky Derby Museum.

The Crafts plan to use charitable donations to support Kentucky families and communities throughout the state via organizations that are helping ongoing recovery and relief from the devastating natural disasters over the past year in Kentucky.

This year's grand champion ham was presented to breakfast attendees by Miss Kentucky 2022, Hannah Edelen. The riveting auction was accompanied by a breakfast of Kentucky Proud food, with the attendees totaling nearly 1,600 people.

Gov. Andy Beshear, Sen. Mitch McConnell, Sen. Rand Paul, Commissioner of Agriculture Ryan Quarles, and Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer were among those who gave speeches to the sellout crowd.



Representatives from Central Bank join Joe and Kelly Craft, representatives from Kentucky Farm Bureau and Miss Kentucky Hannah Edelen after the KFB annual country ham breakfast during the Kentucky State Fair.

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Jim Gerrish is an internationally known grazing lands educator, consultant, and writer providing service to farmers and ranchers for more than two decades. Before becoming a private con-sultant, Jim was director of the Forage Systems Research Center in Missouri where he co-founded the much-copied grazing school management workshop. Jim has over 22 years of beef-forage systems research and outreach, has written a regular monthly column in The Stockman Grass-Farmer magazine for over 20 years, has authored three books on grazing and ranch management. Jim is also a graduate of the University of Kentucky.

Ray Archuleta is a Certified Professional Soil Scientist with the Soil Science Society of America and has over 30 years experience as a Soil Conservationist, Water Quality Specialist, and Conservation Agronomist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Ray received his AS degree in Livestock Science from Northern New Mexico College and a BS degree in Agricultural Biology. Ray founded Understanding Ag, LLC, and Soil Health Acade-

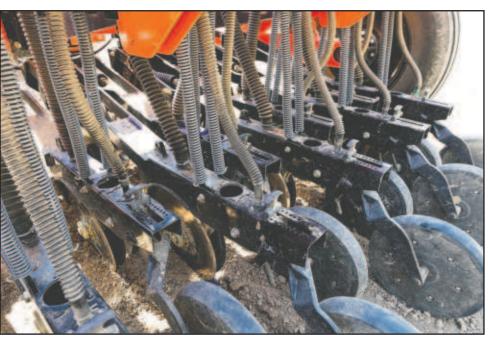


my, to teach how to improve soil function on a national scale. Ray also owns and operates a 150-acre farm near Seymour, Missouri that he operates along with his wife and family.



Co-Sponsored by UK College of Agriculture and the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council

Forage Establishment - The best ways to get to do it over!



Fall is the best time to seed perennial cool season grasses. No till seeders have a complicated array of seed tubes that are easily clogged by spider webs or sprouted seed. Clearing these tubes before starting is a good way to lower the chances of having to do the seeding over. Other important details include seeder operation, seed depth and rate, variety, weeds and soil fertility. Short-cutting these steps during establishment will greatly increase the chances of getting to 'do it over.'

Have you ever heard the saying "You never have time to do it right, but you always find time to do it over?"

My father said it to me often. You can imagine the context. In (my) defense, it is human nature to be in a hurry and to skip steps that seem to be less than absolutely necessary. Few processes on the farm provide as much temptation for this 'skip a step' thinking as forage establishment.

With a tip of the hat to my dad, here are my top ways to get to 'do' forage establishment over. I have made every mistake below, so consider this autobiographical.

Assume the last user left it set right for you. For rental equipment, it is better to assume that the settings are completely wrong. One county went so far as to stencil this warning in big block letters on the side of the drill, "NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR SETTINGS!"

Don't check the tubes for blockages and sprouted old seed. Drills have multiple tubes and compartments that seem to just right for a spider to build webs and for leftover seed to sprout. Make sure all passages are clear before seeding.

Don't read the manual (for the seed-

er). From spinner seeders to expensive no-till drills to cultipacker-type seeders, all can be successful when operated correctly. Improperly set equipment is one of the most common causes of doing it over.

Don't check the seed depth and placement. News flash - most forage crops have small seeds. Small seeds need shallow placement. For some seeds, this is not more than ¼ inch (like crabgrass). Forage seeds benefit from being pressed into the soil as with a cultipacker or even cattle hooves. Rainfall or freeze-thaw cycles can be adequate for seed-soil contact with clover in frost seedings but not for grasses.

For forages with very small seeds like crabgrass and teff, no-till drills tend to place the seed too deep unless you have exceptional depth control and are very familiar with the drill. For these forages, doing some sort of tillage to expose bare dirt followed by broadcasting and rolling will generally be more successful.

Ignore weeds. The most successful seedings are where weed problems are addressed before and after seeding. Some weeds, like johnsongrass are such problem weeds that may take a multi-year approach to clean up a field, especially if it is going back into a grass. Preventing seed production of toxic tall fescue is critical for establishment of endophyte-free or novel tall fescues. New seedings are especially vulnerable to weed competition after seeding when seedlings are newly emerged and not fully established.

Not addressing fertility needs. Soil fertility is one variable you completely control, so get a soil test and apply the critical amendments. Your extension agent can help you interpret a soil test report and develop a fertilizer strategy.

Ignoring the calendar. Hitting the right calendar window for seeding is complicated. There are generally accepted windows for seeding grasses and legumes but year to year variation in weather, access to equipment and frankly just available time can be factors making you consider planting outside the optimum dates.

Seeding outside of the recommended dates means you are choosing the greater risk of seeding failure with the 100



percent chance of failure if you don't seed at all.

Fall is the best time to seed cool season grasses, but ideally legumes should be added later (like a frost seeding in February). Grasses like tall fescue and orchardgrass require 7 to 10 days of moist conditions to emerge. Legumes germinate and emerge faster than grasses and are more competitive for light. Legumes have taproots, which give them an advantage over grasses when moisture is limiting.

Legumes are more tolerant of drier and warmer conditions after emergence than the fibrous-rooted cool season grasses. So spring seedings favor legumes. The cooler, and typically



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USDA announces ARPA funding for underserved producers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced recently up to \$550 million in funding to support projects that enable underserved producers to access land, capital, and markets, and train the next, diverse generation of agricultural professionals. These investments are made through funding provided in the American Rescue Plan Act.

USDA also has provided \$75 million for partnership agreements with 20 organizations that will deliver technical assistance and support for underserved producers, including veterans, limited resources producers, beginning farmers and ranchers, and/ or producers living in high poverty areas on topics ranging from business development to heirs' property. USDA also received applications for at least another \$25 million in partnership agreements for technical assistance and will announce awardees by fall.

The funding will include up to \$300 million for "Increasing Land, Capital and Market Access" projects aimed at helping underserved producers. This notice of funding opportunity is seeking partner organizations for projects that increase access to land, capital, and markets. Projects should be innovative and help move underserved producers from surviving to thriving. Projects must focus on strengthening land access with at least one of the following related areas of concern: capital access concerns that affect the ability to access land; market access concerns that affect the ability to access land; or a combination of one or more of land, capital, and market access concerns. The deadline for applications is Oct. 28. The notice of funding opportunity will be available at grants.gov in the coming days.

Another \$250 million will fund a program to create career development opportunities for at minority-serving institutions. Eligible applicants are 1890 land-grant institutions, 1994 land-grant institutions, Alaska Native-serving institutions, Native Hawaiian-serving institutions, certified Hispanic-serving institutions and Insular Area institutions of higher education located in the U.S. territories. The deadline for applications is Oct. 25.

Forage Establishment – The best ways to get to do it over!

FROM PAGE 11

wetter conditions of fall are the best for cool season grass establishment. Legumes drilled into a firm, moist seedbed can emerge in two to three days.

Using cheap seed. Uncertified or common seed is never worth the risk when seeding a perennial forage crop. Do your homework on what is available from your preferred vendor and check those products against the extensive test data available from UK Forages web site (forages.ca.uky.edu or just google UKY Forage Varieties). Blends or mixes can be good buys, but only if the tag confirms you are getting proven varieties. Careful attention to these forage establishment principles will greatly lower your risk of getting to 'do it over.'

Updated market reports are not currently available. We will publish them when they become available.

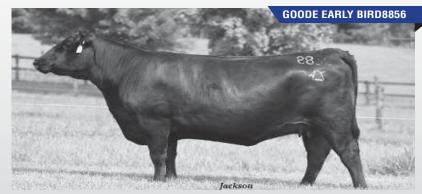
Happy foraging.

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Scenes from the Kentucky State Fair

AgLand offered fun for all ages with games, animals and educational materials, along with some free popcorn and other giveaways throughout the Kentucky State Fair.

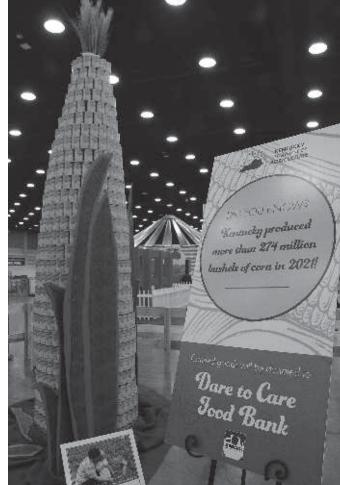
Shown far right, cans of corn were displayed in the shape of an ear of corn and helped educate fairgoers about corn production as well as food banks.

On the facing page, Esdon Cox (left) said his tractor broke down as he was pulling Emery Cox and Clayton Jones around on opening day. They were in the West Wing with Coleman Crest Dairy, from Loretto.

(Center) KySoy's Rae Wagoner was wearing Skechers that were made with soybean oil instead of petroleum in the rubber of the soles. The shoes can be identified by the GoodYear logo on them.

(Far right) Fairgoers enjoyed the Pork and Beango game by searching for answers to questions on a card provided by the Kentucky Pork Producers Association and Kentucky Soybean Board.





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Championship Drive celebrates youth livestock exhibitors

LOUISVILLE — The fifth annual Championship Drive, presented by Farm Credit Mid-America, was held at the 2022 Kentucky State Fair last week, rewarding exhibitors for the months of work poured into their show animals.

The Championship Drive, presented by Farm Credit Mid-America, recognizes the best of the best from 525 exhibitors and nearly 900 entries. 4-H and FFA members work all year with the hopes of being crowned as a class winner. After shifting from the Sale of Champions to the Championship Drive in 2018, more students are able to showcase their market goats, sheep, swine and steers.

CHAMPIONSHIP DRIVE WINNERS:

MARKET CHAMPIONS

Grand Champion Hog - Mason Williams, Kenton County 4-H, Piner

Reserve Champion Hog - Malley Sipes, Meade County 4-H, Flaherty

3rd Overall Hog - Mitchell Webster, Campbell County FFA, California

4th Overall Hog- Mitchell Webster, Campbell County FFA, California

5th Overall Hog- Holland Hobbs, Meade County 4-H, Flaherty

Grand Champion Goat - Phoenix Stacy, Greenup County 4-H, Greenup

Reserve Champion Goat - Madison Goecke, Bracken County FFA, Augusta 3rd Overall Goat - Sydney Alsip, Boone County 4-H,

Verona 4th Overall Goat - Isabella Godman, Bracken County 4-H, Brooksville

5th Overall Goat- Phoenix Stacy, Greenup County 4-H, Greenup

Grand Champion Lamb- Ty Jones, Allen County-Scottsville FFA, Scottsville

Reserve Champion Lamb- Emily Myers, Meade County FFA, Brandenburg 3rd Overall Lamb - Raquel Lopez, Grayson County FFA, Leitchfield 4th Overall Lamb - Ty Jones, Allen County-Scottsville FFA, Scottsville 5th Overall Lamb - Raquel Lopez, Grayson County FFA, Leitchfield

Grand Champion Steer- Laura Ann Pettit, Fleming County FFA, Flemingsburg

Reserve Champion Steer- Addison Arnett, Montgomery County 4-H, Mount Sterling

3rd Overall Steer- Mary Brooke Stith, Meade County

FFA, Brandenburg 4th Overall Steer- Paisley Cooke, Robertson County FFA, Germantown 5th Overall Steer- Laura Ann Pettit, Fleming County FFA, Flemingsburg

BREEDING CHAMPIONS

Grand Champion Gilt: Holland Hobbs, Meade **County 4-H, Flaherty**

Reserve Champion Gilt: Chance Hager, Meade County 4-H, Flaherty

3rd Overall Gilt: Mitchell Webster, Campbell County FFA, California

4th Overall Gilt: Madison Compton, Meade County FFA, Brandenburg

5th Overall Gilt: Kaylen Greene, Pendleton County FFA, Falmouth

Grand Champion Wether Dam: Isabella Godman, Bracken County 4-H, Brooksville

Reserve Champion Wether Dam: Charlee Flach, Mercer County FFA, Harrodsburg

3rd Overall Wether Dam: Logan Hollen, Grant County FFA, Crittenden

4th Overall Wether Dam: Sydney Alsip, Boone

SEE CHAMPION, PAGE 17



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Championship Drive

FROM PAGE 16

County 4-H, Verona 5th Overall Wether Dams: Sydney Alsip, Boone County 4-H, Verona

Grand Champion Breeding Ewe: Wyatt Acey, Boyle County FFA, Perryville

Reserve Champion Breeding Ewe: Caroline Groth, Locust Trace FFA, Lexington

3rd Overall Breeding Ewe: Sara Grace Mattingly, New Covenant FFA, Murray

4th Overall Breeding Ewe: Clark Coyle, Boyle County FFA, Danville

5th Overall Breeding Ewe: Jacklyn Duzan, Robertson County FFA, Germantown

Grand Champion Heifer: Josie Phillips, Mason County FFA, Maysville

Reserve Champion Heifer: Makayla Massey, South Laurel FFA, London

3rd Overall Heifer: Josie Phillips, Mason County FFA, Maysville

4th Overall Heifer: Grant Taylor, Clark County 4-H, Winchester

www.RedBarnandAssociates.com

5th Overall Heifer: Quinton Ray, Bracken County 4-H, Brooksville

NOVICE CHAMPIONS

Grand Champion Novice Hog: Nolan Hobbs, Meade County, Flaherty Reserve Champion Novice Hog: Presley Compton, Meade County, Bradenburg

Grand Champion Novice Goat: Addison Cooke, Bracken County, Germantown

Reserve Champion Novice Goat: Nicholas County, Ewing

Grand Champion Novice Lamb: Emma Mullikin, Mason County, Maysville

Reserve Champion Novice Lamb: Collins Lynn Tate, Breckinridge County, Hardinsburg

COMMISSIONER AWARDS

Award to the Champion Showman.

Swine: Cade Dupin, Breckinridge County FFA, Breckinridge

Market Sheep: Caroline Mattingly, New Covenant FFA, Murray

Breeding Sheep: Ty Jones, Allen County-Scottsville FFA, Scottsville

Goat: Caroline Mattingly, New Covenant FFA, Murray Breeding Heifers: Josie Phillips, Mason County FFA, Maysville

Market Steers: Laura Ann Pettit, Fleming County FFA, Flemingsburg

Call

PRIDE IN AG EDUCATION Classroom Questions

 Write about at least one difference in production techniques used by two different sorghum producers.

2. Why was the flooding that affected eastern Kentucky called a 1,000-year event?

What is agriculture's share of the overall U.S. economy?

 List at least three different breeds of beef cattle named somewhere in this issue.

5. How much of the U.S. household budget was spent on food in 2020?

6. What is the Championship Drive?

7. What is "Pork 'N Beango?"

8. What did livestock producers do to help people in eastern Kentucky?

If you sold a ham for \$250,000, your price was what percentage of the price a ham sold for at the state fair?

10. Who is Ray Archuleta?

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Bonus: Name at least two people who are named in this issue who plan to run for Kentucky governor in 2023.

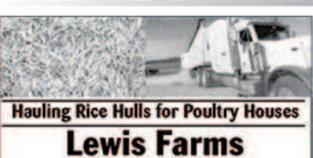
Bonus: Why is Jimmy Henning telling forage producers how to re-establish forage seeding?

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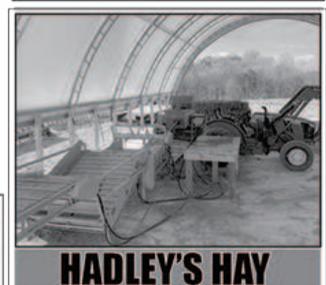
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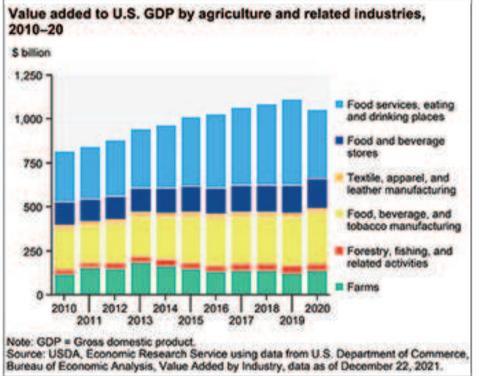






THE US AGRICULTURE & FOOD ECONOMY

Compiled by TeachKyAg (teachkyag.org) from USDA Economic Research Service Reports (ers.usda.gov) updated 2/24/22.

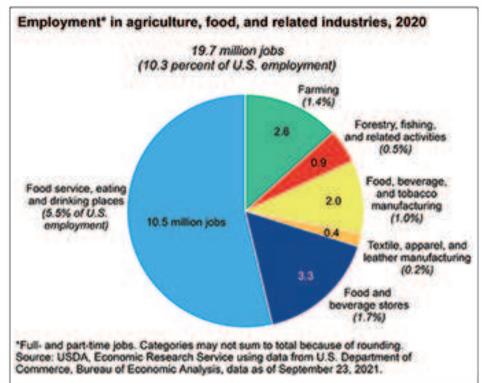


What is agriculture's share of the overall U.S. economy?

Agriculture, food, and related industries contributed \$1.055 trillion to the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) in 2020, a 5.0-percent share. The output of America's farms contributed \$134.7 billion of this sum about 0.6 percent of GDP. The overall contribution of agriculture to GDP is larger than 0.6 percent because sectors related to agriculture rely on agricultural inputs in order to contribute added value to the economy. Sectors related to agriculture include: food and beverage manufacturing; food and beverage stores; food service and eating and drinking places; textiles, apparel, and leather products; and forestry and fishing.

Food accounted for 11.9 percent of U.S. households' expenditures in 2020

With an 11.9-percent share, food ranked third—behind housing (34.9 percent) and transportation (16 percent)—among the expenditures of the average U.S. household in 2020. Compared with 2019, shares for food, transportation, entertainment/ alcoholic beverages, apparel, education/ reading, and "other" categories of spending fell slightly in 2020, and shares for housing, personal insurance/ pensions, health-care, and savings rose slightly.



Agriculture and its related industries provide 10.3% of U.S. employment

In 2020, 19.7 million full- and part-time jobs were related to the agricultural and food sectors—10.3 percent of total U.S. employment. Direct on-farm employment accounted for about 2.6 million of these jobs, or 1.4 percent of U.S. employment. Employment in agriculture- and foodrelated industries supported another 17.1 million jobs. Of this, food service, eating and drinking places accounted for the largest share—10.5 million jobs—and food/beverage stores supported 3.3 million jobs. The remaining agriculture-related industries together added another 3.3 million jobs.

Meat and poultry plants employed about a third of U.S. food and beverage manufacturing employees in 2019

In 2019, the U.S. food and beverage manufacturing sector employed 1.7 million people, or just over 1.1 percent of all U.S. nonfarm employment. In thousands of food and beverage manufacturing plants located throughout the country, these employees were engaged in transforming raw agricultural materials into products for intermediate or final consumption. Meat and poultry plants employed the largest percentage of food and beverage manufacturing workers, followed by bakeries, and beverage plants.