

THE SEARCH IS ON State vet, deputy positions open

Now that Dr. Katie Flynn will be moving on to another opportunity, the Kentucky State Board of Agriculture has announced a national search for a new state veterinarian. The board met for a special called meeting this month in order to initiate the search and heard directly from Flynn on who it should be looking for.

"This has been a great opportunity and a great learning experience through the last two years," Flynn said, who came on in 2020 as deputy state veterinarian. She was promoted to state vet later that same year.

Flynn said the last year has been very challenging — with tornadoes, floods and high pathogen avian influenza hitting, one after the other. She said that based on the insight she's gained over her two years, the person to fill the role definitely needs institutional knowledge and an ability to interpret legislation and know who to turn to when guidance is needed.

"They need strong leadership and strong administrative (skills), and it needs to be an individual who can look at the enforcement of the state and federal rules and laws," Flynn said.

She also told the board someone is needed with strong emergency response and infrastructure knowledge.

"That has been the biggest challenge I'll be honest — I was not prepared for all of the roles the state vet has in the state of Kentucky (during an emergency), from animal to plant agriculture, and the small animal component."

Knowledge of the incident command system and how it is structured is important, she said, in order to "know who the players are we need to call ... whether it's to get trucks to get bird carcasses out ... or to look at the environmental

SEE **STATE VET**, PAGE 2



A pond on an Owen County farm shows what could be in question for farmers based on the newly rewritten regulations of the Clean Water Act that determine what "waters of the United States" are. Most of the year, this pond dam is tall enough and the water never spills over. But once there is heavy precipitation, the water will come through the spillway, and farmers say the rules are confusing at best on whether bodies like this would be federally regulated.

Muddying the waters? Federal authority boundaries unclear in Clean Water Act rewrite

The Biden administration released a final regulation for the Clean Water Act in an ongoing attempt to rewrite the rules on waterways and wetlands. The part that has most stumped, and has since the act was passed in the 1970s, is the definition of "Waters of the United States," or WOTUS.

WOTUS establishes the scope of federal jurisdiction over these waters, basically determining what a landowner can and cannot do, and what they can do but need a

permit for.

Most farming activities are still exempt from the Clean Water Act's dredged and fill permit requirements, even if taking place in what's deemed as WOTUS. But the rewrite changes part of an exclusion for prior converted cropland, which is confusing at best about which types of streams fall under WOTUS.

"We are still looking to interpret the language in the new rules," said Malissa McAllister with Kentucky

Water Resources Institute. She said the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Kentucky Division of Water will help interpret how it affects the regulation of various types of waterways.

"It's been complex but we need simplicity," Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles says, adding that farmers deserve clarity.

In the newly revised definition of WOTUS, it says prior converted

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PRIDE IN AG EDUCATION - A career as digital
ag engineer instructor 22.

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State veterinarian, deputy positions open

FROM PAGE 1

waste management folks when building your compost piles during the high pathogen avian influenza (outbreak), down to knowing what funding is out there for emergency response.”

Flynn said she's learned first-hand how important response time is in these situations and candidates should have at least the bare minimum of regulation knowledge.

“You don't want to learn at the last minute when dealing with an emergency ... and you have to know the right questions to ask legal counsel. Time does matter when in a quarantine, and trying to depopulate as quickly as possible ...”

She said that the legal side of things isn't “something that's taught in vet school; we don't get a law class. So not having to learn that in the process of an emergency situation” is important.

Flynn also said that a regulatory

background is a necessity and, “when there are limited resources in the state, it is critical, especially when we have so many risk factors ... whether it's a foreign disease or a natural disaster.”

During the meeting, Commissioner Quarles said, “She mentioned a lot of things we're improving on, and we do have a piece of legislation this session that specifically helps beef up the office of state veterinarian when it comes to disasters.”

After the meeting, Quarles said they are working on getting more staff in the state vet's office in order to deal with disasters.

He said the state vet position “is very different from being out in the field as a vet.” It requires a lot of paperwork, he said, and an understanding of how the USDA works with the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

“Whenever there's an outbreak of any kind, it triggers a protocol and we have to follow that by the book.”

The deputy state veterinarian resigned in November. Keith Rogers, KDA chief of staff, said the agency was swamped due to the avian influenza outbreak, deer season and then the holidays, and hadn't had time to begin any search activities.

He said the deputy state vet is appointed by the board at the recommendation of the state vet, and no one could have foreseen the resignation of Flynn, who said she had not been looking for a new job.

“This is a newly-created position with the United States Equestrian Foundation,” Flynn said about her new job overseeing equine health and welfare at their offices in The Kentucky Horse Park.

Flynn, who admitted that her true passion is horses, said it was a hard decision, especially because she feels “we've gone in the right direction in the last two years.”

The ag community has been “greatly

supportive of the office of the veterinarian, but I unfortunately have to resign to take this, or I'd regret it for the rest of my life.”

After the meeting, Quarles said, “It's hard to find someone who has all the ingredients we need to be successful. Katie has done a wonderful job — we'll miss her. I'm happy she's found her dream job, and I don't blame her one bit.”

Dr. Flynn's last day is Feb. 28. Search committee members will be announced today, with the first application submission deadline Jan. 31. However, Rogers said submissions will continue to be accepted until the position is filled.

Quarles said the plan is to “move at an expeditious pace — we know some who are interested, so we want to get the process going. And here's the other thing — we could find a state and deputy vet at the same time.”

By Bobbie Curd
Field Reporter

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Farmers Regional Livestock Market of Glasgow, LLC

Compared to last week dairy feeders were up steadily with great buyer demand for them. Slaughter cows sold steady up by \$2, good demand for slaughter classes. Good buyer participation for fresh milking dairy cows, springer heifers and cows. Supply included: 10% Feeder Cattle (61% Dairy Steers, 28% Bulls, 11% Dairy Heifers); 71% Slaughter Cattle (1% Steers, 94% Cows, 3% Bulls, 3% Dairy Heifers); 19% Replacement Dairy Cattle (7% Fresh/Milking Cows, 7% Bred Cows, 1% Springer Cows, 1% Bred Heifers, 15% Springer Heifers, 11% Open Heifers, 5% Bulls, 28% Baby Bull Calves, 24% Baby Heifer Calves). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs was 41%.

FEEDER CATTLE:

DAIRY STEERS: Large 3: 1 Head, 275#, 85.00; 2 Head, 365-390#, 70.00-82.00; 3 Head, 420-425#, 72.00-96.00; 3 Head, 465-470#, 75.00-90.00; 2 Head, 565#, 68.00-90.00; 2 Head 630#, 68.00-90.00; 2 Head, 633#, 113.00; 1 Head, 650#, 95.00; 2 Head, 765-780#, 80.00-82.00; 1 Head, 820#, 108.00; 2 Head, 855-865#, 76.00-108.00; 1 Head, 955#, 110.00.
BULLS: Medium and Large 1-2: 3 Head, 468-470#, 120.00-134.00; 3 Head, 537#, 121.00. Large 3: 2 Head, 380#, 78.00-86.00; 1 Head, 505#, 70.00; 1 head, 555#, 81.00.
DAIRY HEIFERS: Large 3: 1 Head, 690#, 74.00; 1 Head, 700#, 75.00; 1 Head 795#, 84.00; 1 Head, 820#, 61.00.

SLAUGHTER CATTLE:

STEERS: 1 Head, 1125#, 81.00 **COWS:** Breaker 75-80%: 32 Head, 1345-2020#, 72.00-83.00, average; 6 Head, 1360-1935#, 84.00-97.00, High; 5 Head, 1380-1805#, 64.00-71.00, Low. Boner 80-85%: 78 Head, 1040-1460#, 70.00-89.00, Average; 12 Head, 1185-1470#, 90.00-100.00 High; 22 Head, 890-1395#, 60.00-69.00, Low; 5 Head, 940-1200#, 55.00-59.00, very low. Lean 85-90%: 18 Head, 865-1260#, 60.00-73.00, Average; 6 Head, 975-1200#, 75.00-83.00, High; 4 Head, 780-945#, 53.00-59.00, Low. **BULLS 1-2:** 2 Head, 1475-1590#, 93.00-105.00, Average; 2 Head, 1535-1850, 116.00-118.00, High; 1 Head, 1520, 60.00, Low. **Dairy Heifers Select and Choice 3:** 5 Head, 1100#, 85.00, Average.

For a full listing visit: <https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/viewReport/2198>

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Cleaning off the boots



ONE VOICE

Sharon
Burton
Publisher

Farmers are an interesting breed. As a general rule, most farmers would rather be in a field or hanging out with livestock than being around other people.

Yet for the most part you won't find a nicer bunch of people to be around than a group of farm folks. They might enjoy a field of cows, but they sure do have a good time when they get together with other farmers.

I know I'm generalizing, but I also think farmers like it when the government stays out of their business. Still, they understand that government policy impacts their lives and they are some of the most informed citizens of their community. Some of the most politically savvy people I know make use of their farm boots in the fields and again in the meeting rooms where things tend to get a little deep, if you know what I mean.

Our former agriculture commissioner/farmer and current congressman, James Comer, is having to clean off his boots in Washington as the chair of the House Oversight and Accountability Committee. That committee is going to take a look at the hundreds of billions of dollars spent "under the guise of pandemic relief."

My, my, will his boots need some shining.

The Washington Post reported \$5.2 trillion was spent to help our nation survive the pandemic. Following a year-long investigation, the Post reported that billions of dollars were misspent or stolen, "but officials aren't exactly sure how much."

Sadly, when it's all said and done, we probably won't be talking about the good things the government did to aid Americans during the pandemic. And there was some good. A lot of small businesses wouldn't have survived without the Payroll Protection Program. Families without a paycheck were given extended unemployment, access to food and leniency on paying utility bills.

But typical of the federal government, for every dollar they spent wisely, they wasted so much more. And when it was time to stop, President Biden put our country in more debt for another round of unneeded free money.

We are all seeing the results of an overzealous federal government when we buy everything from inputs to groceries. Inflation has grown and prices have surged, and it makes you want to use those boots to kick up some dust as you declare, "Who in the world did not see this coming!"

Any new farm bill must navigate unruly House GOP – again

As expected, the 2023 farm bill express is not running on time. In fact, it didn't even leave the station when its chief engineer, Pennsylvania Republican and incoming House Agriculture Committee Chairman Glenn Thompson, said it would. That's no surprise; it's Congress, after all.

Indeed, it would have been a big surprise had it started on the date Thompson had scheduled, Jan. 7. Instead, he and his 221 Republican colleagues were still slugging it out on the House floor before finally putting Californian Kevin McCarthy – four days and 15 ballots later – into the Speaker's office.

One Republican House Ag Committee member, Illinoisan Mary Miller, voted with other "Never Kevin" members to deny McCarthy the Speaker's chair – even as other House members remained glued to theirs – while the drama played out. Miller's "never," however, lasted only 11 of the 15 ballots before she joined other "Only Kevin" Republicans to elect McCarthy.

Ag Boss Thompson was not impressed. He later groused to Politico that he had "no idea" for her "not coming on board" for McCarthy and chided her stubborn Freedom Caucus colleagues on the Republican right for "burning daylight" during the bitter, public brawl.

"Every day is a lifetime," he said, "in a year where you start... behind on the farm bill. So they need to get on board with the team. And we need to go to work."

All other Ag Committee Republicans stood firm with McCarthy throughout the Speaker fight and now stand firm with Chairman Thompson. They want to get to work after what seems like a long-ago House win last November.

But, as Iowan Randy Feenstra told Politico, the lack of Ag Committee news didn't mean there was a lack of work. There is "a lot of stuff that's happening behind the scenes," he opined without offering one example of what, exactly, anyone had been doing.

His immediate Midwestern neighbor, South Dakotan Dusty Johnson—who was prominent in the television coverage during McCarthy's election ordeal—took a dimmer view of the Ag Committee's slow start. "Frankly," he told Politico, "we're probably months behind where we need to be."

He blamed the committee's former chairman, Democrat David Scott of Georgia, for the delay.

"I would say we could have had leadership on the committee in



FOOD
&
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FILE

Alan
Guebert

Johnson's jab ...highlights a growing partisan split on what most ag policy experts long said was the most bipartisan committee in Congress.

SEE ANY NEW PAGE 6

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The holidays are over - let's go to a meeting!



**KENTUCKY
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COMMUNICATION
DIRECTOR

**Rae
Wagoner**

It is my hope that everyone had a blessed holiday season and that you're as ready as I am to go full-throttle into "meeting and eating season."

I will complete my TENTH year of service with the Kentucky Soybean Board and Association later this month, and based on that experience I feel comfortable saying that the Kentucky Commodity Conference on January 19 was a success. I know that we can count on Sharon and Toni to have great coverage of the events and awards in an upcoming issue, so stay tuned.

Looking back on 10 years, I want to take just a minute and reflect on some of the things I've learned. I already knew that the ag community includes the best folks around, so that wasn't news. But oh my goodness, the things we can make with a soybean! Now THAT is exciting.

I grew up in Graves County, and every other year I was surrounded by soybeans. It took finding my dream job to know what in the world happens to this versatile crop post-harvest, and what an education I have received.

I would have never thought that the fuel of the future is here NOW, and that it was growing in the fields around the house.

Biodiesel is America's first advanced biofuel, and now Renewable Diesel (also made with soybean oil) is emerging as a leader in the renewable, sustainable clean fuels space.

Sustainable Aviation Fuel made from soybean oil is poised to revolutionize air travel

and cargo transportation, lowering the carbon emissions of major airlines around the globe.

The video that the Kentucky Soybean Board recently created is called "SOY Many Uses," and while that's a punny way to put it, it's TRUE.

From food to feed to fuel and beyond, soy components really are in just about everything.

You'll see soybean farmers at the upcoming National Farm Machinery Show sporting their Skechers loafers and tennis shoes, along with buttons that say "ask me about my shoes!"

Please, friends. Please ask these farmers about their shoes! You'll find that the soles are made with rubber that uses renewable, sustainable soybean oil rather than petroleum. We have talked about tires made from soybean oil, and the same Goodyear technology that you find where the rubber meets the road is now available in shoe form.

Industrial applications for soybean oil are everywhere. There's soy in asphalt, in concrete enhancers, in lubricants and even chainsaw bar and chain oil. Soy oil is used in grease pads for your fifth-wheel, and even in a rejuvenator for old asphalt shingles. There's a QR code with this column, and if you haven't seen the SOY Many Uses video, I hope you'll take a look.

Finally, if you are not a member of the Kentucky Soybean Association, there's no better time than Meeting and Eating Season to join, or renew. Pay your dues at Murray State University Soybean Promotion Day, one of our Intensive Soybean Management Workshops, or

the National Farm Machinery Show and we'll enter you in one of our drawings to WIN either a pair of soy-soled Skechers or a case of those nifty soy-based grease pads.

In closing, I want to extend a personal thank you to each person who has influenced me, helped me, or just been a friendly face over the past (almost) ten years that I've been with Kentucky Soybean. From the Bean Team and beyond, I have found some of the best friends I could have ever imagined, and my Kentucky agriculture family is truly one of my greatest blessings. I plan on celebrating BIG on January 28. It has been a decade very well spent, and I can only hope that I have returned some measure of value to the farmers that our office serves. It has been my honor, and as far as I'm concerned, you're stuck with me.

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



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Any new farm bill must navigate unruly House – again

FROM PAGE 4

the last two years be a little more aggressive in their timeline.”

Johnson's jab at now Ranking Member Scott highlights a growing partisan split on what most ag policy experts long said was the most bipartisan committee in Congress. While that may have been true 20 years ago, the last two farm bill fights have highlighted deep fissures between Republican and Democratic members and House and Senate farm bill writers.

The sticking point on both centered on the farm bill's most expensive and expansive “title,” food assistance programs like SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) and WIC (Women, Infants, and Children program). U.S. Department of Agriculture food programs account for 80 percent of all farm bill spending. Forty-one million Americans – 92 percent who live below the federal poverty line – receive, on average, \$5.45 per day in aid.

Republicans, both on the ag committees and off, have tried to contain—and even cut—the spending, labeling it “out of control.” Those efforts, however, have only succeeded in delaying the last two farm bills.

Despite that dismal record, GOP fiscal hawks—especially the “Never Kevin” faction—are urging House ag members to cut food aid programs in the 2023 farm bill. Seasoned veterans of past farm bill fights are

publicly warning them not to take up that sure-to-lose fight again.

“Every year, people say, ‘Oh, let’s just get the nutrition (food aid) title out of the bill,’” Mary Kay Thatcher, a 31-year, Capitol Hill lobbyist for the American Farm Bureau Federation, told an ag trade association in Chicago earlier this month.

“But if we want agriculture to be successful in any farm bill,” Thatcher urged her agbiz audience, “please put a stop to that...”

That's rock-solid advice for the now-ascendent boat-rockers of the Republican right. There's no evidence, however, they will follow it.

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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.

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Only Love Can Conquer Hate

*“So in everything, do to others
what you would have them do to
you, for this sums up the Law and
the Prophets.”*
Matthew 7:12 NIV

That love is the antidote to hatred is a message that bears repeating. Every major religion has made this point in one way or another, and yet it is a lesson that some never learn. Buddha put it this way: “Hatred does not cease by hatred, but only by love. This is the eternal rule.” Jesus said something similar five centuries later: “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:44-45 NIV) Likewise in the Koran we hear these words: “Good and evil cannot be equal. Respond to evil with what is best, then the one you are in a feud with will be like a close friend.” (41:34) This is a hard lesson for us to learn, as we often think that the person who harmed us deserves to be harmed. But the path of revenge just leads to ever-growing cycles of violence and hatred. The only way to stop the cycle of hatred and turn the tide is with love. Now more than ever, what the world needs is more love and less hate. Do your part to sow the seeds of love wherever you can, and especially when you are contending with hatred or animosity.
—Christopher Simon



Hot and Sweet Frittata

- | | |
|--|---|
| 3 tablespoons olive oil, divided | 1 pound ground turkey sausage |
| 1 ½ cups peeled and cubed sweet potatoes | ½ cup shredded mozzarella cheese |
| 1 ½ cups diced sweet and hot peppers, or bell peppers | 12 medium eggs, beaten |
| | ¼ teaspoon salt |
| | ½ teaspoon black pepper |
| | ½ teaspoon crushed red pepper |

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. **Add** 2 tablespoons of olive oil to a large nonstick skillet, and **heat** to medium. **Add** sweet potatoes and diced peppers. **Cook** uncovered until fork tender, about 10 minutes. **Remove** from skillet. **Add** 1 tablespoon of olive oil to skillet. **Add** turkey sausage, and **cook** 5 to 7 minutes until cooked through. **Drain** off fat, if needed. Generously **grease** an 8-by-8-inch baking dish. **Add** the sausage, peppers, and potatoes. **Sprinkle** with

cheese. In a bowl, **crack** eggs and lightly **beat**. **Add** salt, black pepper, and crushed red pepper to egg mixture. **Pour** eggs over peppers and potatoes. **Bake** uncovered for 25 to 30 minutes or until the mixture is set.

Yield: 8 servings

Nutritional Analysis:
290 calories, 18 g fat, 5 g saturated fat, 295 mg cholesterol, 610 mg sodium, 8 g carbohydrate, 1 g fiber, 3 g sugars, 0 g added sugars, 23 g protein.

Zippy Corn Chowder

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1 medium onion, chopped | and chopped | 3 cups fresh or frozen whole kernel corn |
| 1 green pepper, chopped | 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard | 4 green onions, chopped |
| 1 tablespoon butter | 1 teaspoon basil | 2 cups skim milk, divided |
| 1 (14.5 ounce) can low-sodium chicken broth | ½ teaspoon paprika | 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour |
| 2 large red potatoes, cubed | ½ teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes | 1 teaspoon salt (optional) |
| 1 jalapeno pepper, seeded | | |

In a large saucepan, **sauté** onion and green pepper in butter until tender. **Add** broth and cubed potatoes. Bring to a **boil**. **Reduce** heat; **cover** and **simmer** for 15 minutes or until potatoes are almost tender. **Stir in** jalapeno, mustard, basil, paprika and red pepper flakes. **Add** corn, green onions and 1½ cups of milk. Bring to a **boil**. In a separate bowl, **combine** all-purpose flour and remaining ½ cup

milk, **stirring** until smooth. Gradually **add** mixture to soup. Bring to a **boil**. **Cook** and **stir** for 2 minutes or until thickened and bubbly.

Yield: 8, 1 cup servings

Nutritional Analysis: 190 calories, 2.5 g fat, 1 g saturated fat, 5 mg cholesterol, 350 mg sodium, 34 g carbohydrate, 4 g fiber, 10 g sugar, 7 g protein



Buying Kentucky Proud is easy. Look for the label at your grocery store, farmers' market, or roadside stand.

Recipes courtesy of Ky Proud

Federal authority boundaries unclear in Clean Water Act rewrite

FROM PAGE 1

cropland under the Clean Water Act encompasses all areas designated by the USDA, and areas not designated are not eligible for the exclusion. It says the exclusion for prior converted croplands "only covers wetlands and does not exclude other types of aquatic resources (e.g., tributaries, ponds, ditches) ..."

If a landowner is not covered by one of the exclusions, the next step is to determine if the water is WOTUS. The categories falling under WOTUS include "intrastate lakes and ponds, streams or wetlands ... that meet either the relatively permanent standards, or the significant nexus standard." The nexus standard refers to scientific testing to establish a connection between smaller bodies of water to larger, navigable ones.

"It appears that an ephemeral stream is no longer a WOTUS, but an intermittent one may be?" McAlister said. "We are not sure exactly what the 'relatively permanent standard' means."

Fact sheets released by the EPA and

Department of the Army on the rule changes say, "Waterbodies that meet this standard are relatively permanent, standing or continuously flowing waters connected to traditional navigable waters ... also includes waters with a continuous surface connection to such relatively permanent waters or traditional navigable waters ..."

In a release, American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall said farmers "deserve rules that don't require a team of attorneys and consultants to identify 'navigable waters' on their land."

Kyle Kelly with Kentucky Farm Bureau agrees. Markets are tough and tight right now, he says, and every penny a farmer spends to determine a rule "is money out of their pocket to grow more fuel, food and fiber — what we depend on them for."

Quarles says farmers should not "have to succumb to the administrative burdens of a rule that's already too complex and misunderstood. We should not be forced to hire lawyers, hydrologists, consultants to see what

falls under WOTUS."

The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture also issued a release quoting CEO Ted McKinney. He said the new WOTUS rule is "a statement of federal overreach that ignores states' authority to regulate intrastate water quality and the Clean Water Act's statutory mandate for cooperative federalism."

The EPA said the new rule was considered based on relevant Supreme Court case law "and the agencies' technical expertise after more than 45 years of implementing the longstanding pre-2015 'waters of the United States' framework."

McKinney also said, "... although we recognize EPA's attempt at clarifying through a roster of exemptions, its rule ignores the voices of nearly all in American agriculture who have long been seeking clarity on this issue, especially regarding the debate over what is and is not a navigable water."

NASDA's release also pointed to the regulation being rewritten before the expected ruling this year from Sackett

v. EPA, a Supreme Court case questioning the Clean Water Act's jurisdiction. Many expect yet another rule change after that decision is handed down.

Kelly says the rule rewrite "has become a political football, with a new rule issued with every new administration, so it's difficult to do business when that's the regulatory frame you're working with." He says it's not only hard on farmers, but on the folks who have to enforce it.

Commissioner Quarles says, "We've been assured, years ago, that ag would not be affected by any additional clarification of WOTUS rules — doesn't seem to be the case So far, I think it's a colossal waste of time to reinvent the wheel ... And as an attorney I understand that words matter, so we need to get it right."

He says, "Why muddy the water when we know SCOTUS will review it in the near future?"

The rule will be effective 60 days after it is published in the Federal Register.

By Bobbie Curd
Field reporter

Joey Benningfield Seed Specialist

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Winter annual weeds - the clover nightmare

The Forage Doctor



By Jimmy Henning

Winter annual pasture weeds like buttercup, chickweed, henbit and purple deadnettle are common pasture and hayfield problems. They are most prominent in March and April, but believe me they are present now. If you wonder if you have them, use the pictures with this article for tips on how to identify them.

These weeds are generally a problem every year, but overgrazing and droughts that have damaged our cool season forage base have left the door open for these problem plants to proliferate even more than usual.

These weeds are easily controlled with products like 2,4D and other broadleaf herbicides if we can catch a three day period where the afternoon temperatures are in the 50's and we don't get too cold overnight. Refer to

UKY publication AGR-207 'Broadleaf weeds of Kentucky pastures' for more information on the management and control of these and other problem plants.

The problem that many are trying to solve is how to manage these winter weeds and overseed clover in the same field. In the last issue of the Pride, I talked about the basics of clover frost seeding. Weather vagaries aside, late January and February are the usual times for frost seeding. Even if you could find a time soon with favorable temperatures for good herbicide activity, these chemicals have enough soil activity to interfere with clover germination for a month or more after application.

Even if you spray the day you read this, we will likely be out of frost seeding weather when the herbicide residual activity fades. Paradoxically, if you go ahead and frost seed, you have no remedy for the winter annual weeds because the herbicides that kill the

SEE **WINTER**, PAGE 11



Deadnettle



Henbit



Chickweed



Buttercup

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Mix of organic, inorganic selenium may increase beef cow fertility

Fertility is a driving factor for a sustainable and profitable cow-calf enterprise. Selenium plays a significant role in fertility, and in states like Kentucky and Tennessee, producers must supplement because their soil is selenium deficient. In an ongoing study at the [University of Kentucky](#), researchers are pitting the industry-standard inorganic selenium against a 50/50 mix of inorganic and organic selenium to determine the most productive option.

“Selenium is an essential micronutrient that is incorporated into selenoproteins. These act as antioxidants, basically getting rid of free radicals, protecting the integrity of cells which allow them to function better,” said Phillip Bridges, associate professor in the [UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Department of Animal and Food Sciences](#).

“Animals can use organic or inorganic forms, but we typically supplement using an inorganic form. With this work, we are finding that the form of selenium supplemented can affect a variety of reproductive processes.

For the study, Bridges supplemented sodium selenite as the inorganic form versus a 50/50 mix of sodium selenite and a yeast-derived organic form. They found animals that got the mixed form had increased progesterone levels by days six and seven of the estrous cycle and then throughout pregnancy. Bridges said the early increase in progesterone is perhaps the most intriguing part of the study.

“We’ve known for decades that increased early luteal phase progesterone stimulates uterine development, length of the conceptus and indicators of fertility,” Bridges said.

To start the study, animals received no selenium supplementation for 45 days. Bridges said the animals were not selenium-deficient after the 45 days, but levels did significantly decrease. For the next 45 days, he supplied the industry-standard inorganic selenium. The next 90 days, cattle received either inorganic



or a mix of inorganic and organic selenium before researchers bred the animals and examined blood and tissues for differences.

Bridges said that by day 17 after breeding, he noticed an altered abundance of progesterone and interferon-tau-induced gene transcripts in the endometrium and an overall increase in conceptus length. He said scientists believe larger conceptuses may help ensure continued establishment and progression of a pregnancy.

Although the work is ongoing, Bridges believes

using the 50/50 blend of organic and inorganic selenium will improve fertility at the production level. The grant-funded work will continue through early 2024.

“If you’re in an area where you have to supplement selenium, it appears the mixed form should increase fertility,” he said. “If you’re in a state like Kentucky, Tennessee or other cow-calf states, this is a great benefit to those beef cattle producers in terms of sustainability and profitability.”

By Aimee Nielson
University of Kentucky

Winter annual weeds - the clover nightmare

FROM PAGE 10

weeds will kill the clover. [Note – we have all been anticipating the release of the herbicide ‘Proclova’ from Corteva that will kill broadleaf weeds but not kill white clover (it will kill red clover). This release has been expected for a year or more, and is not available at the time of this writing.]

One possible solution involves using light tillage to set the winter annual weeds back. This tillage will also help to increase the success of clover overseeding. Let’s walk through this scenario.

Many types of tillage instruments can

work in this method, but it is easiest to use chain drags, sometimes called chain harrows. These implements are like a heavy metal mesh blanket with teeth that extend downward. Pulling this tool across a pasture will remove the dead thatch between clumps of grass, exposing bare dirt. These patches of bare dirt are where clover seed have the best chance of germinating and producing forage next year.

This light tillage can be managed so that it uproots the small winter weeds, but results will vary with the heaviness of the chain drag and the number of passes made across the field. In other words, the more aggressive the

dragging, the greater the likelihood of disrupting the emerging stands of winter annual weeds. If you undertake this procedure, do a lot of walking and looking to assess when fields have had enough tillage.

Fields need to be dry so the dragging will fracture the soil surface leaving a loose layer of particles. Soon after sod disruption, spread clover so that their small seeds can fall into the loosened soil surface. Rain, cattle traffic and/or cultipacking (rolling with a heavy corrugated roller) will bring the seed in better contact with the soil. These seeds will germinate with warmer temperatures in spring.

Make no mistake, using tillage to manage weeds does not kill these plants, only set them back. What this method does do is to give clover a fighting chance to get established in spite of the presence of emerging winter annual weeds.

Sometimes there is just no easy way to manage forages. Overseeding clover and managing winter annual weeds is one of those ‘no easy fix’ problems. Using light tillage can both set back the winter annual weeds and provide a good place for broadcast clover seed to germinate and grow.

Happy foraging.

KAFC approves more than \$2 million in loans

FRANKFORT – The Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation approved \$2,163,022 for 11 agricultural loans for projects across the commonwealth at its monthly board meeting on Jan. 13.

Agricultural Infrastructure Loan Program

Three Agricultural Infrastructure loans totaling \$566,305 were approved. Loan recipients were in Hardin (\$250,000), Lincoln (\$97,500), and Shelby (\$218,805) counties. KAFC participates with lenders to provide financing to producers making capital expenditures for agricultural projects through the AILP. Eligible projects include permanent farm structures with attached equipment that improves the profitability of farming operations. Producers may be

eligible for up to \$250,000 not to exceed 50 percent of the project.

Beginning Farmer Loan Program

Eight Beginning Farmer loans totaling \$1,596,717 were approved. Loan recipients were in Calloway (\$250,000), Christian (\$250,000), Clark (\$134,000), Franklin (\$250,000), Henry (\$86,467), Union (\$250,000), and Wayne (\$185,000 and \$191,250) counties. The BFLP is designed to assist individuals with some farming experience who desire to develop, expand, or buy into a farming operation. Beginning farmers may qualify for financing to purchase livestock, equipment, or agriculture facilities; to secure permanent working capital; for the purchase of farm real estate; or to invest in a partnership or LLC.

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Farm Bureau, Deere forge agreement on equipment repair

The American Farm Bureau Federation and John Deere announced a memorandum of understanding that will allow farmers to repair their own equipment.

At the 2023 American Farm Bureau Federation Convention in San Juan, Puerto Rico, AFBF and John Deere announced the agreement they say ensures farmers' and ranchers' right to repair their own farm equipment. AFBF President Zippy Duvall says the effort follows years of work by AFBF.

"This is an issue that has been a priority for us for several years and has taken a lot of work to get to this point. And as you use equipment, we all know at some point in time, there's going to be problems with it. And we did have problems with having the opportunity to repair our equipment where we wanted to, or even repair it on the farm," Duvall said.

David Gilmore of John Deere said the agreement will help farmers get equipment back in the field quickly following a breakdown.

"Machinery and equipment and the products that our customers invest in are a large investment," Gilmore said. "And the opportunity for them to maximize the uptime of that equipment and minimize downtime is an important area of focus for our organization and for the industry."

Duvall said the agreement ensures that farmers can repair their equipment and have access to the diagnostic tools

and product guides so that they can find the problems and find solutions for them.

"And this is the beginning of a process that we think is going to be real healthy for our farmers and for the company because what it does is it sets up an opportunity for our farmers to really work with John Deere on a personal basis," Duvall said.

AFBF hopes the memorandum of agreement will serve as a model for other manufacturers and said those discussions have already begun.

Kevin O'Reilly, Right to Repair campaign director at the Public Interest Research Group, a progressive advocacy organization, said the agreement could be difficult to enforce. He told Patience Haggin of The Wall Street Journal that lawmakers "should continue pushing right-to-repair legislation until every farmer in every state with every brand of equipment can fix every problem with every tractor."

Haggin writes that some farm groups and consumer advocacy groups have accused Deere and other manufacturers of using proprietary software and equipment to restrict repair work to their own dealers, limiting options for farmers. Deere has said it has provided repair manuals enabling private repairs but has opposed what the company says are attempts by farmers to modify software that controls machinery operations, Haggin reports.



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Bruce and Jeremy Benson receive UK Wheat Service Award

LEXINGTON — Webster County grain farmers Bruce and Jeremy Benson have been named the 2023 University of Kentucky Wheat Science Group's Service Award recipients. Group members give the award during their annual winter meeting to honor producers and industry representatives for their research collaborations and support.

Bruce Benson won the Kentucky Wheat Production Contest in 2003 and 2004, prompting Bill Bruening, research specialist with the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Department of Plant and Soil Science, to contact him in 2005 about hosting a UK wheat variety trial on Benson's farm. This marked the start of a long and fruitful relationship between the UK wheat research community and Benson Farms.

"The Bensons' collaborated with the UK Wheat Variety Trial Program, hosting research trials for the years 2005-2008 and 2019-present," Bruening said. "They have gone out of their way to accommodate our research needs and put forth a remarkable effort to ensure the successful management of these trials."

In addition to wheat, the father-son duo raise cattle. The Bensons spoke highly of wheat as a forage crop and demonstrated their wheat forage harvesting operation to Bruening, which resulted in establishing the UK Wheat Variety Forage Trial in 2006.

The ongoing forage trial is the largest wheat variety forage trial in the United States. The trial demonstrates that forage yield potential significantly varies between wheat varieties, and the results of the experiments enable growers across the nation with both grain and livestock production operations to choose varieties with high grain and forage yield potential.

"Growers from the Ohio Valley Region have similar soil

types and benefit from data collected from their farm," Bruening said. "Research trials require precise chemical and fertilizer applications and the Bensons do a remarkable job hitting the trial's predetermined tramlines precisely in the center every year. We have never lost any plot

due to over or under-spray applications and always feel good about releasing quality data from this location to the public."

By Jordan Strickler

University of Kentucky Ag Communications



Jeremy (left) and Bruce Benson.

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Blue Grass South – Stanford, Jan. 16

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Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
4	350-392	379	192.50-197.50	195.05
1	445	445	181.00	181.00
1	405	405	205.00	205.00
2	530-545	538	187.00-190.00	188.48
4	555-595	576	169.00-184.00	177.70
9	670-695	687	145.00-163.00	155.66
16	716	716	168.00	168.00
2	765	765	161.00	161.00

STEERS - Medium and Large 2-3 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	330	330	160.00	160.00

HEIFERS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
4	280-290	283	150.00-167.50	163.01
1	250	250	172.50	172.50
1	310	310	145.00	145.00
3	365-390	375	158.00-161.00	159.69
4	353-360	355	173.00	173.00
10	400-447	431	145.00-160.00	150.73
6	452-490	465	157.00-162.00	160.02
18	462	462	170.00	170.00
7	510-530	520	150.00-156.00	153.55

KY-TN Livestock Market – Guthrie, Jan. 12

FEEDER CATTLE

STEERS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	295	295	175.00	175.00
2	348	348	197.50	197.50
12	408-449	436	172.00-184.00	182.01
18	519-525	519	173.00-190.00	189.05
24	537	537	194.50	194.50
5	560	560	196.00	196.00
19	625	625	175.00	175.00
18	663	663	181.00	181.00
11	715	715	164.00	164.00
8	783-788	784	156.00-164.00	161.99
2	830	830	151.00	151.00
3	870-895	887	138.00-146.00	140.62
3	913-925	917	127.00-135.00	129.69
1	1160	1160	125.00	125.00

Cattleman's Livestock – Bowling Green, Jan. 9

FEEDER CATTLE

STEERS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2	443	443	190.00	190.00
1	500	500	182.50	182.50
1	560	560	174.50	174.50
2	733	733	155.00	155.00
1	940	940	144.00	144.00
1	1040	1040	133.00	133.00

STEERS - Medium and Large 2-3 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
3	372	372	141.00	141.00
2	470	470	133.00	133.00
1	565	565	140.00	140.00
1	610	610	141.00	141.00
1	670	670	120.00	120.00

HEIFERS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	345	345	161.00	161.00
3	418	418	158.00	158.00
5	458	458	151.00	151.00
8	509-515	511	139.50-150.00	146.03
10	563	563	155.00	155.00

Blue Grass – Lexington, Jan. 9

FEEDER CATTLE

STEERS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2	295	295	214.00	214.00
6	324-340	327	190.00-200.00	198.27
1	300	300	212.00	212.00
10	355-385	368	180.00-204.00	197.21
16	400-447	419	180.00-203.00	193.51
13	405-436	413	207.50-213.00	209.86
21	450-481	464	179.00-198.00	191.72
1	460	460	204.00	204.00
12	500-547	522	174.00-190.00	183.71
22	507-530	527	191.00-194.50	193.92
29	550-586	574	176.00-185.00	178.85
8	601-646	624	150.00-166.00	153.65
21	615-626	617	169.00-176.00	174.08
8	680-690	682	140.00-160.00	155.24
9	661	661	169.50	169.50
6	735-736	736	144.00-157.00	154.17
75	734	734	178.75	178.75

Kentuckiana Livestock – Owensboro, Jan. 9

FEEDER CATTLE

STEERS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2	373	373	191.00	191.00
12	410-445	439	189.00-191.00	190.69
5	527	527	178.00	178.00
9	567	567	181.00	181.00
12	651	651	160.00	160.00
7	790	790	156.00	156.00
12	855	855	161.00	161.00

STEERS - Medium and Large 2-3 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	440	440	160.00	160.00
4	520-542	537	154.00-160.00	158.55
9	594-595	594	160.00-161.00	160.33
5	674	674	150.00	150.00
4	730	730	147.00	147.00

Blue Grass – Campbellsville, Jan. 14

FEEDER CATTLE

STEERS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2	342	342	210.00	210.00
1	370	370	204.00	204.00
9	400-440	426	193.00-215.00	197.24
8	548	548	174.00	174.00
6	567-598	585	170.00-178.00	173.37
1	610	610	165.00	165.00
18	654	654	170.00	170.00
4	748	748	155.00	155.00

STEERS - Medium and Large 2-3 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
5	405-445	427	165.00-180.00	169.10
5	542	542	140.00	140.00
1	600	600	155.00	155.00

STEERS - Large 1 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	370	370	161.00	161.00
1	670	670	135.00	135.00

Farmers Regional – Glasgow, Jan. 12

FEEDER CATTLE

STEERS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	300	300	172.50	172.50
1	345	345	201.00	201.00
1	390	390	177.50	177.50
3	385-390	388	205.00-210.00	206.65
3	430-435	433	179.00-189.00	184.66
5	400	400	213.00	213.00
1	475	475	173.00	173.00
18	450-466	463	213.00	213.00
16	502-533	520	175.00-189.00	176.97
1	535	535	193.00	193.00
14	555-596	587	168.50-184.50	179.65
1	595	595	188.00	188.00
24	602-648	643	160.00-173.00	171.20
41	601-632	624	177.00-180.50	177.82
9	663-696	678	158.00-173.00	167.94
18	673	673	178.00	178.00
21	705-745	729	150.00-164.00	157.50
8	767-770	767	155.00-165.00	163.75
14	803	803	157.00-160.00	159.36

Lake Cumberland – Somerset, Jan. 14

FEEDER CATTLE

STEERS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	220	220	167.50	167.50
1	305	305	175.00	175.00
3	307-320	311	210.00-217.50	214.93
8	352-395	380	193.00-205.00	198.30
5	360-395	369	222.50-230.00	225.18
6	430-435	433	188.00-199.00	193.85
15	410-447	440	210.00-221.00	212.87
13	450-485	464	187.00-197.50	190.89
6	476-485	480	205.00-213.00	209.48
29	500-545	529	180.00-199.00	189.86
7	520-533	527	200.00-212.50	203.84
80	560-599	587	172.00-189.00	183.21
41	557-560	557	191.00-195.50	195.39
6	605-635	623	160.00-177.00	171.09
16	600-631	619	179.50-184.00	180.54
33	650-695	666	165.00-171.00	169.33
14	705-740	721	150.00-166.00	159.83
9	754-780	761	153.00-164.50	163.02
7	868	868	155.00	155.00
1	900	900	134.00	134.00
1	960	960	132.00	132.00



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Dairy Market News – Jan. 9 – Jan. 13

CME GROUP CASH MARKETS (1/13)
BUTTER: Grade AA closed at \$2.4250. The weekly average for Grade AA is \$2.4270 (+0.0464).

CHEESE: Barrels closed at \$1.7075 and 40# blocks at \$2.0000. The weekly average for barrels is \$1.7715 (+0.0452) and blocks, \$2.1300 (+0.1287).

NONFAT DRY MILK: Grade A closed at \$1.2550. The weekly average for Grade A is

BUTTER HIGHLIGHTS: Cream remains abundant throughout the country, and contacts in the West report volumes are being offered at below flat market multiples this week. Meanwhile in the Northeast, some stakeholders say multiples are moving higher. Butter makers are utilizing available cream to run active production schedules. In the East and Central regions, butter makers are focusing their production on upcoming spring holiday demand. Demand for butter is steady to higher in the West, as purchasers are booking contracted loads for Q1 of 2023. In the East, demand remains subdued following the end of year holidays. Retail buyers in the Central region are focusing on buying what is necessary, though food service demand is gradually increasing. Spot butter inventories are limited, in the West, and unsalted butter is tighter than salted. In the East, stakeholders

say butter inventories are seasonally light to comfortable. Bulk butter overages range from 3 to 15 cents above the market, across all regions.

CHEESE HIGHLIGHTS: National Milk Day was January 11th and, fittingly, cheesemakers across all regions reported plentiful volumes for production. In the Midwest, contacts report some firmer sub-Class prices than last week's \$7 under, though milk remains available as low as \$10 under Class. In the Northeast and West, cheesemakers are using available volumes of milk to run busy production schedules. Some plant managers in these two regions say labor shortages and delayed deliveries of production supplies are preventing them from operating at or near capacity. In the Northeast food service demand is steady and strong demand is present from retail customers who are replenishing their stocks following the recent holidays. Contacts in the West report steady to lighter demand from both retail and food service customers. In the Midwest, some cheesemakers report current bullish market swings are not reflective of recent demand tones, as sales have softened in recent weeks. In the Northeast and West, stakeholders say cheese is available for spot purchasing. In the Midwest, cheese inventories are expected to grow, and some process cheesemakers are concerned about near term inventory growth.

FLUID MILK: Milk output is stable to incrementally higher this week in most areas of the nation. California has experienced notable rainfall this week, but disruptions at the farm and processing level were somewhat minimal at midweek. Bottling orders have steadied after the return-to-school bump of the previous weeks. Cheese and other types of balancing plant contacts say milk is widely available for all uses. Discounted milk spots in the Midwest were reported as low as \$10 under Class for the third week in a row. Condensed skim availability is noted as steady to increasing. Near term, contacts expect condensed skim to be generally available. Cream is widely available, despite some reportedly slight increases in multiples week to week. Class II manufacturers are not as busy as some contacts expected them to be. Contacts say there are some upcoming seasonal specialties, particularly for soft serve manufacturers, that could create more interest from the ice cream sector for cream loads. F.O.B. cream multiples are 1.10-1.20 in the East, 1.10-1.24 in the Midwest, and .90-1.20 in the West.

DRY PRODUCTS: Generally, most dairy powder commodity markets are under some bearish pressure this week. Low/medium heat nonfat dry milk (NDM) prices slid lower in all regions this week. Demand has yet to pick up, while production continues on apace, with

plentiful condensed skim availability. Dry buttermilk prices shifted lower in all regions. Buttermilk inventories are overshadowing demand. Dry whole milk prices also decreased, although most drying is based on contractual commitments. Dry whey prices were mixed, as regional price ranges contracted this week. Southeast Asia's limited purchasing continues to promote a bearish undertone across the whey complex. Whey protein concentrate 34% prices moved lower, as a result of the aforementioned market bear. Lactose prices were steady to lower, as some processors have plentiful stocks. Casein prices were unchanged, as contacts' expectations of potentially lower prices in Q1 have yet to be realized.

ORGANIC DAIRY MARKET NEWS: The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) reported November 2022 estimated fluid product sales. The U.S. sale of total organic milk products was 230 million pounds, down 4.9 percent from November 2021, and down 1.2 percent year-to-date. Organic whole milk sales, 111 million pounds, were down 1.9 percent compared to a year earlier, but up 2.7 percent year-to-date. Reduced fat milk (2%) sales were 76 million pounds, down 6.3 percent from the previous year and down 2.8 percent year-to-

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Kentucky Daily Grain Bids

AMS Livestock, Poultry and Grain Market News
KY Dept. of Ag Market News

Grain Report, Jan. 13

Futures Settlements

Exchange	Commodity	Closing Settlement Prices (¢/bu) as of 1/13/2023						
CBOT	Corn	675.00 (Mar 23)	673.75 (May 23)	663.75 (Jul 23)	614.25 (Sep 23)	598.50 (Dec 23)	605.25 (Mar 24)	608.00 (May 24)
CBOT	Soybeans	1538.25 (Jan 23)	1527.75 (Mar 23)	1527.25 (May 23)	1525.00 (Jul 23)	1489.75 (Aug 23)	1425.25 (Sep 23)	1393.00 (Nov 23)
CBOT	Wheat	743.75 (Mar 23)	752.00 (May 23)	753.75 (Jul 23)	760.75 (Sep 23)	774.75 (Dec 23)	784.00 (Mar 24)	785.75 (May 24)
CBOT	White Oats	364.00 (Mar 23)	358.75 (May 23)	359.25 (Jul 23)	358.00 (Sep 23)	361.50 (Dec 23)	353.75 (Mar 24)	370.25 (May 24)
KCBT	Wheat	843.75 (Mar 23)	840.25 (May 23)	835.00 (Jul 23)	837.00 (Sep 23)	843.25 (Dec 23)	843.75 (Mar 24)	837.25 (May 24)
MGE	Wheat	912.25 (Mar 23)	906.00 (May 23)	900.75 (Jul 23)	882.25 (Sep 23)	887.25 (Dec 23)	890.50 (Mar 24)	880.00 (May 24)

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Region/Location	Sale Type	Basis (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price(\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average	Year Ago	Freight	Delivery
Pennyrile	Bid	65.00H	UNCH	7.4000	UP 0.0400	7.4000	6.6625	DLVD-T	Current
Pennyrile	Bid	65.00H	UNCH	7.4000	UP 0.0400	7.4000		DLVD-T	Jan - Mar

Barge Loading Elevators - Conventional

Region/Location	Sale Type	Basis (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price(\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average	Year Ago	Freight	Delivery
Ohio River - Lower KY	Bid	0.00Z	UNCH	5.9850	UP 0.0250	5.9850	5.7825	DLVD-T	Sep - Nov
Purchase	Bid	210.00H to 235.00H	DN 10.00-UNCH	8.8500-9.1000	DN 0.0600-UP 0.0400	8.9750	6.8525	DLVD-T	Current
Purchase	Bid	210.00H to 245.00H	DN 10.00-UNCH	8.8500-9.2000	DN 0.0600-UP 0.0400	9.0250		DLVD-T	Jan - Mar
Purchase	Bid	30.00Z	UNCH	6.2850	UP 0.0250	6.2850	5.7325	DLVD-T	Sep - Nov

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Ag Career Profiles: Digital Agriculture Engineer/Instructor

I first met Dr. Christina Tucker, then Christina Lyvers, as a University of Kentucky student studying Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering. She was an instrumental member of the UK quarter-scale tractor team, where they would often take home top honors during the national competition. As a “thank you” for funding assistance, the team would help the Kentucky Corn Growers at their roasted corn booth during the Kentucky State Fair. This Marion County farm kid left quite an impression on me, and it has been fun watching her professional journey.

Tucker is currently an Agricultural and Biological Engineering instructor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, as well as the Assistant Director of Education for the Center for Digital AG (CDA) and The Artificial Intelligence for Future Agricultural Resilience, Management, and Sustainability Institute (AIFARMS). Working in education as both an instructor and educational director for the Centers, her job includes a variety of responsibilities. This is her favorite part of her job because “it helps keep the job exciting and reduce burnout.”

“I teach an Intro to AutoCAD class

and a class called Humanities in the Food Web,” Tucker said. “The Humanities in the Food Web class is especially interesting as it attracts students from across campus. The class explores how we feed our growing global appetite for food, fuel, and fiber without becoming trapped in a web of unintended consequences.”

“The other half of my job is with CDA and AIFARMS. I am the program coordinator for a recently launched Master of Engineering in Digital Agriculture. I help organize the marketing, admission of students, and advising students for class registration. I also organize a research experience for undergrads and an AI Foundry Short Course for graduate students. I am also leading a team that is developing digital ag materials and activities for K-12 students.”

According to the University of Illinois’ website, the Center for Digital Agriculture helps researchers, educators, farmers, and industries keep pace with the ways technology is transforming how we feed and support a growing global population. They are researching everything from the nature of the data itself—its collection, storage, transmis-

sion, and analysis—to how the data might be used to optimize areas from precision agriculture to food manufacturing to water use and treatment.

Tucker grew up on a beef and tobacco farm but was exposed to the University of Kentucky’s Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering as several of her relatives had completed the program. She said the course of study was a great combination of her love of agriculture and problem-solving, and she knew she wanted to help farmers solve problems.

Tucker took on many leadership and project management experiences while at UK, and she served as team captain of the multidisciplinary quarter-scale tractor team for two years.

“During the summer between my junior and senior year of college, I attended the International Conference for the American Society of Ag and Biological Engineers. I listened to faculty and graduate students present their research, which sparked my interest in pursuing graduate degrees focused on animal welfare and livestock systems. While working on my Ph.D. at the University of Illinois, I was a teaching assistant for several classes. This experience sparked my interest in education.

“After finishing my doctorate, the opportunities with the Agricultural and Biological Engineering department and the Center of Digital Agriculture were posted, and I submitted my application. I felt these two positions were a nice combination of my desire to make an impact in agriculture, help solve problems and work in education. While I’m not directly working with farmers, I’m helping to train people who will be directly helping solve problems in agriculture.”

When asked what skills are needed to accomplish her tasks, she responded with good communication skills and time management.

“Part of good communication is learning how to communicate about projects across multidisciplinary teams,



Dr. Christina Tucker
Assistant Director of Education for the Center for Digital AG and AIFARMS
Instructor - Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

so everyone is on the same page and accomplishes the project goals together. Knowing how to research to find credible sources of information has also been important for me to develop new class materials and work on projects within CDA/AIFARMS that I am unfamiliar with. The public speaking skills I gained during my FFA days are also valuable for my job.”

If she knew she would end up in this career, she believes she would have explored taking electives centered around leadership and business classes to help round out her skills.

Her advice to a young person looking at this career is to get a variety of work experiences during undergrad.

“I would suggest working in a lab doing research during the semester or summer to see if graduate school is a good fit for you and working at least one summer in an internship in the industry.”

By Jennifer Elwell
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- Soybeans are a high value U.S. agricultural export. More than 50 percent of soy grown in the United States last year was exported, and that is why soybean farmers are so excited about the dredging project underway in the Lower Mississippi River. This project will add 13 cents to the price that farmers will receive per bushel of soybeans.



www.kysoy.org

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kycorn CONNECTION

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

Corn Growers Applaud USDA Undersecretary for Stand on Biotech Corn Trade with Mexico

Urges Quick Action to Resolve Trade Impasse

As President Biden wraps up meetings with his counterparts in Mexico and Canada, NCGA is praising a key administration official for taking a tough stand on the trade impasse and encouraging quick action to resolve the issue.

Secretary Tom Vilsack indicated on Monday that there would be no compromise on Mexico's proposal to ban biotech corn. The secretary's statement came as Biden met with Mexico's President Andrés Manuel López Obrador.

The National Corn Growers Association weighed in on the developments.

"We appreciate Secretary Vilsack for taking a firm stand on this issue," said NCGA President Tom Haag. "We would encourage the Biden administration to

keep this issue front and center and push for a quick resolution, as farmers have already made their purchasing decisions for the 2023 crop year. We also continue to urge the Biden administration to file a dispute under the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement."

Talks between the two countries started in the fall of last year, as NCGA and state corn grower groups encouraged the Biden administration to act to prevent López Obrador from moving forward with a promise to ban shipments of biotech corn beginning in early 2024.

In December, Haag, along with the presidents of 23 state corn grower



groups, sent a letter to President Biden calling for him to take additional steps to address the pending decree by Mexico that would block imports of biotech corn.

Mexico is a major purchaser of U.S. corn, and 90 percent of corn grown in this country is biotech corn.

NCGA has argued that the decree is a violation of USMCA.

KyCorn Thanks Jeff Rice for 25 Years of Service

After providing more than 25 years of service to Kentucky's corn growers, Jeff Rice of Daviess County is stepping off the Board of Directors as an industry representative to, in his words, "allow for fresh ideas."

Rice was encouraged to serve by many of KyCGA's leaders. He had been working for Miles Farm Supply for ten years when he accepted the nomination in 1997, and he has been elected by the membership every year since. In 2011, Rice founded Rice Agri-Marketing and continued serving on the board, representing industry partners.

"I have loved being on the board, and I've received a lot more than I've given in terms of relationships and knowledge," remarked Rice. "I've made many lifelong friends."

In addition to his service with KyCGA, Rice has provided leadership to the Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts, among other farm organizations, and was a founding member of the Kentucky Agriculture and Environment in the Classroom.

Rice hopes to continue serving Kentucky's corn growers and the farm community through his business and on committees.

"God gives us a calling, and mine was to put people together to support agriculture," Rice said. "We are blessed with so many good people in agriculture."

Rice will be recognized at the Kentucky Commodity Conference on January 19, in Bowling Green.

kycorn.org

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Join us for an open house discussion on national priorities for reauthorizing the Farm Bill. Representatives from the National Corn Growers Association will be at the booth for questions our farmers may have.

**February 16-19
Booth #2317**



Rice has served on the Kentucky Corn Growers Board of Directors as an industry representative since January of 1997.