

## KY DAIRY PARTNERS

### Dairy producers share stories, gather for annual meeting

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. – As the world of science continues to understand the DNA makeup of an organism, the agriculture sector is using the developed technology to improve dairy production.

Dairy producers shared their stories during the Kentucky Dairy Partners annual meeting, held recently at the Sloan Convention Center in Bowling Green. Billy Wilcher from Taylor County, Branden Fields from Hart County and Larry Embry from Grayson County served as panelists to talk about the use of genomics in cattle. Genomics provides producers with a better understanding of the genetics in their herd, allowing early prediction of genetic merit and increasing the value of young breeding stock.

Fields started out testing when the program first started. He tested all of his calves so he could have a reliable

comparison. He also testing on his cows to find out why they have lasted so long and why they are producing so much milk.

“Really, the only things I’ve noticed for sure is the cows that lasted in the herd had good DPR’s, and most of them had low semantics,” Fields said.

DPR is the percentage of nonpregnant cows that become pregnant during each 21-day period.

Fields said producers can’t just take the information they obtain and compare it to the calves, they must take that information and go back to other cows.

When Embry started out testing his calves, he found out that one of things he wanted to know was the genetics. He had just started cross-breeding his cows and being able to see and use that information for future reference when breeding his cows helped show which would have the most benefit for the



Photo by Eunice Schlappi

Dairy farmers Larry and Verna Kay Yoder enjoyed ice cream during the Dairy Partners meeting in Bowling Green.

cross-breeding.

Wilcher is using genomics testing with all of his females. His use of the testing is similar to Embry’s in which females will be of a resell value as they get older or the test will show which cows won’t be worth holding onto.

“On the upper end of things, you come across the sex semen and try to balance out what will make you the

most genetic gain,” Wilcher said.

The genomics program has made it easier for farmers to find out which of their cattle would be better for them to breed. In the past farmers just had to pick and choose a cow that looks good to them and it might not be the best choice.

SEE DAIRY, PAGE 3



Photo by Kaitlyn Fowler

(From left) Billy Wilcher, Larry Embry and Branden Fields spoke at the Sloan Convention Center in Bowling Green, about improving dairy cattle through Genomics.

**PRIDE IN AG EDUCATION** – Celebrating women  
in Kentucky agriculture 19.

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# Harvesting cool season annuals for quality

## The Forage Doctor

By Jimmy Henning



Spring is beginning to pop, which means it will soon be time to harvest cool season annual forages. We rely on cool season annuals to make nutritious stored feed as haylage or baleage, but we have to be vigilant if we want to achieve high quality.

Rye is a high risk, high reward option for making silage. Rye can produce high quality silage but only if it is harvested before the head emerges. The stage where the head is still wrapped in the upper leaf at the top of the elongated stem is called 'boot' stage. Rye heads out 7 to 14 days earlier than wheat or oats (Table 1). When headed, rye has higher fiber content compared to wheat, oats, barley, and triticale and the fiber is less digestible, especially compared to wheat.

Rye is the least forgiving of all cool

season forages when cut late. In an Arkansas study, wheat and rye had similar digestibility values on March 24 (79 percent wheat, 80 percent rye) (Figure 1) [Note dates are from Arkansas and are earlier than Kentucky.]

Three weeks later (April 15), rye digestibility had fallen to 54 percent, 14 percentage units lower than wheat on the same date (68 percent). In the span of three weeks, rye lost a third of its digestibility (80 to 54 percent) making it unsuitable for the milking herd or other high performing ruminants. To make quality feed, rye must be harvested before the head emerges. Rye is already starting to elongate its seed stalk as of March 9 in Adair County.

Wheat is later maturing than rye, very winter hardy and a good choice for planting following corn or soybean harvest. Therefore it has wider harvest window for acceptable quality (Figure 1, Table 1). Oats will yield more from a spring planting than wheat, rye or annual ryegrass. Mid-March plantings

SEE **HARVESTING**, PAGE 12



Cool season annuals like the rye above can produce high quality forage for dairy cows when cut before head emergence. For high quality, rye is the most challenging of all cool season annuals because wet weather often delays timely harvest.

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## PRIDE IN AG EDUCATION Classroom Questions

1. This issue's Pride in Ag Education page features women in Kentucky agriculture. Write about two of those women and highlight interesting details about their careers.

2. Think about the women you know in Kentucky agriculture. Maybe your ag teacher, a family member, neighbor, someone your family buys farm products from, owner of a store that sells farm products, etc. Name at least five different careers (not including the women featured on the PAE page) in your community where women are involved. Who are they and what do

you believe are the responsibilities of their job.

3. Look through this issue of the Pride and choose from the articles or advertisements and imagine you are employed in that field. Write about the work you do, the education you received to prepare you for the job, and why you chose that career. For instance, the Kentucky Beekeepers Association ad is below. You could write about being the director of the association or you could write about raising and caring for bees.



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# Harvesting cool season annuals for quality

FROM PAGE 10

of oats in Lexington produced over two tons of dry matter per acre.

Annual ryegrass is the highest quality cool season annual grass and is a great companion forage when grown with wheat or rye. Ryegrass silage can support comparable milk production to alfalfa when harvested at the boot stage. Adding ryegrass to a small grain will improve the forage quality of silage produced because it matures later. Marshall annual ryegrass is readily available and is one of the more winterhardy varieties for Kentucky.

## Summary

Cool season annuals like the small grains and ryegrass can provide high quality feed for ruminants when cut at the boot stage or before. Rye is the earliest to mature and the least forgiving in quality when harvest is delayed



Photo courtesy of Nick Roy

Rye is already starting to elongate its seed stalk, as seen here in a March 9 photograph from Adair County.

SEE **HARVESTING**, PAGE 15



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# Harvesting cool season annuals for quality

## FROM PAGE 12

past boot stage. Annual ryegrass can be added to small grains to improve the leafiness and forage quality of the harvested crop. Good fermentation of silage or baleage requires wilting to the proper moisture and chopping/packing

or baling/wrapping to exclude oxygen. For baleage, use six layers of plastic and keep holes repaired to get and maintain anaerobic conditions needed for fermentation.

Here's hoping your weather for spring harvest is just like you want it! Happy foraging.

Table 1. Relative Differences in Growth Stage Development, Yield and Nutritive Quality of Various Small Grain Species <sup>1</sup>						
Characteristics of commonly used cool season annual grasses						
	Average Date for Growth Stage					
Species	Boot	Headed	Bloom	1/2 Seed	Milk	Soft Dough
Rye	29-Apr	2-May	9-May	17-May	23-May	1-Jun
Wheat	13-May	19-May	23-May	31-May	6-Jun	11-Jun
Triticale	15-May	21-May	26-May	3-Jun	10-Jun	14-Jun
Oat	21-May	28-May	31-May	5-Jun	12-Jun	16-Jun
	Yield Tons of DM per acre					
Rye	2.5	2.8	3.2	3.5	3.9	3.9
Wheat	2.5	2.8	3.5	3.5	3.9	4.2
Triticale	2.8	3.5	3.9	4.2	4.6	4.6
Oat	1.4	1.8	2.1	2.8	2.8	3.2
	Crude Protein %					
Rye	13	11	9	7	6	5
Wheat	10	10	8	9	7	6
Triticale	11	9	8	7	6	5
Oat	12	10	9	9	8	7
	Total Digestible Nutrients %					
Rye	63	52	46	45	47	50
Wheat	60	59	53	54	56	56
Triticale	56	46	46	45	50	52
Oat	65	60	53	53	56	57
<sup>1</sup> Average values of several years' research data from University of Kentucky, Agronomy Department.						

## Stage of Maturity and Dry Matter Digestibility %

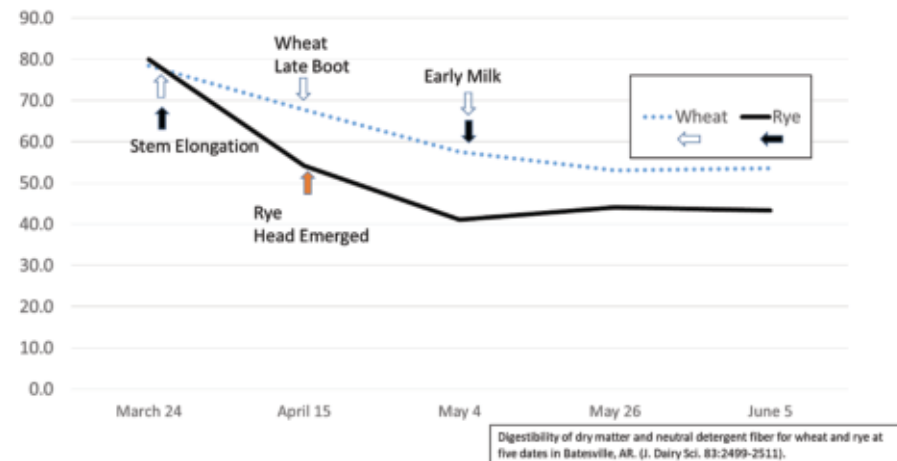


Figure 1. The effect of stage of maturity on dry matter digestibility (%) in wheat and rye. Data from Batesville Arkansas. Stage of maturity is denoted by the arrows for each forage from Kentucky data, and will be a later calendar date, usually than those in Batesville Arkansas which are on the horizontal scale.



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# 2023 Beef Expo sales reach \$780,000

FRANKFORT –The 2023 Kentucky Farm Bureau Beef Expo finished with more than \$780,000 in total sales in the 37th edition of the event at the Kentucky Exposition Center during the first weekend of March.

Total sales in 2023 were \$781,410 a decrease of \$147,590 compared to last year's sales, but closer in line to 2021 sales which reached a little more than \$770,000. In addition to total sales being down, the average sale also decreased slightly by \$98 to \$2,427 per lot, with 324 lots auctioned this year, nearly 50 less than 2022.

"Cattle is one of Kentucky's top livestock and the Kentucky Farm Bureau Beef Expo is a place to showcase the fact that this state is still the largest beef cattle state east of the Mississippi River," Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Dr. Ryan

Quarles said. "Cattle numbers are down this year, but that's a trend we're seeing nationwide. Tough weather events and high input costs combined to create a necessary culling of some cattle. But, we're an agricultural state and the resiliency of our farmers will see them bounce back. This show is putting that resiliency and toughness center stage."

Angus cattle brought an average of \$3,232 per lot to lead all breeds. The sale topper was an \$8,000 Hereford female from Matheny Herefords Farm in Mays Lick. The Beef Expo welcomed 15 states and eight breeds this year.

In the junior show, 378 cattle from 14 states passed through the show ring, including 190 from Kentucky. The judging contest attracted 115 participants. The expo's main sponsors were KFB and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.



Photo courtesy B. Todd Bright, Kentucky Farm Bureau

Agriculture Commissioner Dr. Ryan Quarles, center, met with Kentucky Farm Bureau's executive team and breed representatives during the Kentucky Farm Bureau Beef Expo. The group makes up the Beef Expo board. Each of the breed representatives received a check for premiums and awards.

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# PRIDE IN AG EDUCATION – Today's Farm News for Tomorrow's Farm Community

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Learn about more careers in agriculture at [www.kyfoodandfarm.info](http://www.kyfoodandfarm.info).



**Dr. Kristie Guffey** makes a splash with a varied career in agricultural education. Currently the Graduate Coordinator and an Associate Professor at Murray State University, Dr. Guffey has lived and breathed agriculture throughout her life.

As a Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Guffey informs students on everything they need to know regarding their graduate programs. From funding opportunities to just where to be on campus, she helps graduate program students coordinate their studies to maximize their academic potential. Dr. Guffey conducts research in the fields of global preparedness, personality assessments, and cultural intelligence. Ever the advocate for experiencing everything the world has to offer, Dr. Guffey motivates students to travel abroad and has taken part in over 17 study trips around the globe.

Over the past five years, Dr. Guffey has helped guide the next generation of agriculture with her work at Murray State University. When she's not on campus, she's raising her two daughters and instilling a love and appreciation of the world of agriculture.

Dr. Kristie Guffey shows that resilience proves accomplishment in agriculture. In a constantly changing industry, women like Dr. Guffey display brilliance and drive to push the next generation of agriculture into the future!

**Sheldon McKinney** is the Executive Director of the Kentucky FFA Foundation and has held the position for the past eleven years. She says working in Kentucky agriculture has been her dream job and that she found her place after she became a member of her local FFA chapter. It was there that she learned of all the endless opportunities the agricultural industry had in store, thanks to her incredible FFA mentors.

McKinney attended Western Kentucky University and started her career in agriculture, instructing as a high school agriculture teacher in Montgomery County. Eventually, she became more involved with FFA in Kentucky and rose to the position of Executive Director. Since she began in her role, Kentucky FFA has tripled in capacity. By helping members make legacy gifts to their local FFA and communities, Sheldon impacts the lives of individuals for the better every day!

"Always be learning, growing, and building relationships. The agriculture industry and the people who work in it are so connected; it takes all of us working together."

Sheldon McKinney has helped people in agriculture to develop the means to succeed. Her mission of development and progress has been a massive inspiration for the Kentucky agriculture industry and women looking to make an impact in their communities and on Kentucky farms.

**Paulette Akers** is the Director of the Kentucky Division of Conservation and has held that position since 2018. As Director, Akers has supported the Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission and the Agriculture Water Quality Authority. The Division of Conservation also distributes cost-share funds for agricultural best management practices across Kentucky.

Akers became interested in agriculture as a young girl growing up on her grandparent's dairy farm. She loved working with the animals there and later went on to work a summer at the Woodford County Conservation District and at her local feed store for ten years.

After studying biology and earning an M.S. in Applied Ecology from Eastern Kentucky University, she began her professional career at the Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection in the Division of Water. There, Akers worked in the Water Quality and Watershed Management Branches for thirteen years before moving over to Compliance Assistance in 2014. She served as the Assistant Director of the Division of Compliance Assistance until she was appointed Director in 2016.

Paulette Aker's passion for the environment is shown through her encouragement of others to bring new ideas to the table and her professional career by setting an example by advocating for cleaner water throughout the Commonwealth.

**Dr. Antomia "Mia" Farrel** makes a daily impact at the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food, and Environment as the Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. She has served UK and the Cooperative Extension Service in various roles for the past 11 and a half years.

Dr. Farrel became interested in a career in agriculture while she was in her second year at UK. She cites her mentor as her guiding light down the path of agricultural careers by encouraging her to take a course in Agricultural Economics. Since that day, she's had an affinity for agriculture that only continued to grow.

As Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Dr. Farrel's is responsible for promoting awareness of DEI throughout the campus faculty, staff, and students. Through webinars and other media, Dr. Farrel encourages people to have courageous conversations around understanding and awareness. She explores differing and diverse perspectives through her "Cultivation of Inclusion" program.

Dr. Farrel recalls some of her greatest achievements working in the agriculture industry and always looks for ways to give back to her community. Some of these have been serving the Food Systems Leadership Institute, Kentucky FFA, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Bluegrass, and Kentucky Women in Agriculture.

Read about more women in Kentucky agriculture at [kyfoodandfarm.info](http://kyfoodandfarm.info).





We had SOY many great conversations with farmers and consumers alike at the 2023 National Farm Machinery Show!

Promoting the numerous uses for soy and soy components is a big part of the mission of the Kentucky Soybean Board, and we are thankful for the farmer-leaders who so generously volunteer their time to work our exhibits.

To watch our **SOY** educational video, visit [www.kysoy.org](http://www.kysoy.org) or use this QR Code.



Our exhibit showcased SYNLawn Artificial Grass, Impact Gel Saddle Pads, Goodyear Tires, Skechers Shoes, DEWALT Bar and Chain Oil, Biosynthetic Motor Oil, and a wide variety of food items that you might find in your own kitchen. ALL of these items contain soy. It's true. Soy DOES touch every life, every day!





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# Dairy partners gather

FROM PAGE 1

The first thing that Fields looks at when he gets results is the DPR, which is also the first thing Embry looks at, too.

On the other hand, on the production side of things, Embry looks at milk, protein and fat.

"If you have tried to get your girl bred four times and are just now able to 9 times out of 10, she will have a low

DPR," Embry said,

Wilcher does things a touch different compared to the other two.

He will get the Net Merit and DPR then he will make his own index by comparing the two. Net Merit is the genetic contribution of several traits, like milk production, conformation, health and fitness.

By Kaitlyn Fowler  
Field Reporter

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#### MARKET REPORT: WEEK OF March 7, 2023

#### Farmers Regional Livestock Market of Glasgow, LLC

Supply included: 14% Feeder Cattle (93% Dairy Steers, 7% Heifers); 81% Slaughter Cattle (88% Cows, 12% Bulls); 5% Replacement Dairy Cattle (13% Fresh/Milking Cows, 1% Bred Cows, 12% Bred Heifers, 42% Open Heifers, 12% Baby Bull Calves, 20% Baby Heifer Calves). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs was 14%.

**DAIRY STEERS:** Large 3: 1 Head, 290#, 102.00; 8 Head, 320-342# 95.00-119.00; 22 Head, 406-423# 131.00-152.00; 18 Head, 450-493#, 125.00-145.00; 13 Head, 565-595#, 110.00-142.00; 2 Head, 620#, 128.00; 6 Head, 660-668#, 103.00-142.00; 4 Head, 1020#, 108.00.

**HEIFERS:** 2 Head, 635#, 110.00. Medium 3: 3 Head, 432#, 104.00; 2 Head, 478#, 90.00; Large 3: 6 Head, 577#, 127.00.

**COWS:** Breaker 75-80%: 1 Head, 1600#, 92.00, Average; 10 Head, 1160-1700#, 97.00-112.00, High. Boner 80-85%: 70 Head, 900-1015#, 75.00-99.00, Average; 41 Head, 1050-1750#, 95.00-118.00, High; 10 Head, 920-1550#, 61.00-74.00, Low; 1 Head, 1125#, 94.00, Very Low. Lean 85-90: 11 Head, 805-1165#, 58.00-92.00, Average; 2 Head, 825-930#, 76.00-77.00, High; 2 Head, 900#, 58.00-60.00, Low.

**BULLS:** 16 Head, 1322-2230#, 111.00-126.00, Average; 2 Head, 1800-1896#, 130.00-140.00, High; 2 Head, 1200-1645#, 94.00-99.00, Low.

**FRESH/MILKING COWS:** Supreme, O Stage, 1 Head, 1125#, 1875.00; Approved, O Stage, 1100-1510#, 1375.00-1800.00; Approved, O Stage, 900-988#, 850.00-975.00, Jersey.

**BRED COWS:** Approved, Stage T3, 1 Head, 1100#, 1425.00.

**BRED HEIFERS:** Approved, Stage O, 4 Head, 285#, 285.00; Approved, Stage O, 9 Head, 300-350#, 385.00-435.00, Jersey; Approved, Stage O, 8 Head, 525-580#, 460.00-585.00; Approved, Stage O, 2 Head, 500#, 500.00 Jersey; Approved, Stage O, 5 Head, 600#, 585.00; Approved, Stage O, 3 Head, 700#, 760.00, Medium, Stage O, 2 Head, 250#, 211.00, Jersey; Medium, Stage O, 2 Head, 300#, 320.00, Jersey. .

**BABY BULL CALVES:** 4 Head, 60-80#, 80.00-150.00; 1 Head, 60#, 170.00, Beef Cross; 5 Head, 75#, 80.00-110.00, Crossbred.

**BABY HEIFER CALVES:** 4 Head, 45#, 40.00; 2 Head, 45#, 30.00, Beef Cross; 2 Head, 25-45#, 20.00-50.00, Jersey; 6 Head, 50-60#, 60.00-70.00; 2 Head, 50-65#, 150.00-160.00, Beef Cross; 1 Head, 50#, 130.00, Crossbred.

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

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# Legacy of Paul Hall



KENTUCKY  
4H  
FOUNDATION  
  
EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR

Melissa  
G.  
Miller

He will  
forever be  
missed but  
not forgotten  
because of  
this lasting  
legacy.

Stop a moment and close your eyes. Picture your legacy. What does it look like?

Across rural towns and county seats, 4-H has left a legacy of service by inspiring youth through its pledge to use their head, heart, hands, and health in service of others. Regardless of the activity, sometimes it's planting trees or cleaning up a creek, other times it's sewing blankets for the local nursing homes or organizing a food drive, 4-H gives youth opportunities to build their own legacy of service. No 4-H'er is a better example of this than the late Paul Hall.

A native of Pendleton County, Paul has lived in Williamsburg, Ohio with his family for the last 40 years. He passed away on Feb. 18 at the age of 65. His life left a legacy on Kentucky 4-H and thousands of 4-H'ers across the commonwealth. He will forever be missed but not forgotten because of this lasting legacy.

Paul Hall was a lifetime 4-H'er who made an impact on everyone around him. An entrepreneur with forethought, innovation and passion to spare, he began many of the programs 4-H'ers and the Foundation are invested in today. During his year as Kentucky 4-H president, from 1975-76, he began the discussions for the formation of the State Teen Council, a leadership program that has trained and grown thousands of leaders in Kentucky. Paul's daughter describes him best:

"The thing that made Dad different was his incredible desire to see youth develop into true leaders in organizations such as 4-H, FFA, and FCCLA. He went above and beyond to help youth from the ground up, sacrificing his time, his money, and his attention to make sure youth always had opportunities to make their best better. We are grateful Dad's hands never stopped serving and his heart always stayed loyal to the organization that changed his life so many years ago."

Paul was a founding sponsor and lifetime committee member of the Kentucky 4-H Achievement Program. This program recognizes 4-H participants who have outstanding accomplishments; incentivizes youth to increase their knowledge, skills and abilities; and have already left a legacy of service in their own communities. Paul was most passionate about the Emerald Award, the highest level of achievement any 4-H'er can receive. Every year, four youth are selected for the Emerald Award and hon-

SEE **LEGACY**, PAGE 5

# It takes guts to fix our abusive illegal ag labor system



FOOD  
&  
FARM  
FILE

Alan  
Guebert

That's the  
hidden-in-  
plain-sight,  
all too  
common  
side of  
today's  
global food  
system: it  
operates on  
the ragged  
edge of the  
law.

Less than a month after the revelation that a Wisconsin-based contractor, Packers Sanitation Services, Inc., had illegally hired at least 102 teenagers between ages 13 and 17 to clean some of the nation's most profitable industrial meatpacking plants, one middle school child at the center of the story has, according to a March 3 Washington Post account, "watched her whole life unravel":

- "First, she lost the job that burned and blistered her skin but paid her \$19 per hour."
- "Then the county judge sent her stepfather to jail for driving her to work each night, a violation of child labor laws."
- "Her mother also faces jail time for securing the fake papers that got the child the job in the first place."
- Meanwhile, PSSI, the company that hired her and other children, "has faced no criminal charges, despite evidence that it failed to take basic steps to verify the age of its young employees." It did, however, "quickly resolve" any charges it faced by "paying a \$1.5 million civil fine."

That's the hidden-in-plain-sight, all too common side of today's global food system: it operates on the ragged edge of the law. Most giant meatpackers, despite their folksy corporate slogans and farm-friendly images, live on this edge.

For example, since 2020, two of the biggest, Tyson Foods and JBS, have paid nearly \$800 million to settle either federal or civil suits for alleged labor and market violations.

Those costly settlements, however, haven't hurt Big Meat's ability to secure lucrative government contracts. Since 2017, JBS has been awarded nearly \$500 million from the U.S. Department of Agriculture – \$400 million in meat contracts and \$90 million under the Trump Administration's China trade aid.

This latest revelation about underage, illegal immigrant cleaning crews only spotlights meatpacking's worst kept secret. Federal labor experts estimate that 73 percent of all U.S. agbiz employees are immigrants and that half are "undocumented," or in the U.S. illegally.

As such, it's likely that half-maybe more-of the food purchased by Americans is picked, packed, milked, slaughtered, boxed, and/or delivered by undocumented, and sometimes, underage workers.

That's one of the darker aspects of America's "cheapest, safest food supply in the world" equation: Some of the biggest, richest ag companies anywhere often rely on powerless, illegal immigrant

SEE **IT TAKES**, PAGE 5

## The Farmer's Pride

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# It takes guts to fix our abusive illegal ag labor system

FROM PAGE 4

labor to do food's dirty work because, as agbiz often claims, "No American will do it."

If true, the biggest part of the cure lies in the near-total control Big AgBiz holds over wages, benefits, harsh and/or dangerous working conditions, harassment, bullying, poor training, favoritism, and other worksite shortfalls.

This corrupt-at-its-core system continues because we—both agbiz and everyday Americans—personally benefit from the abuse of desperate immigrant workers seeking to remain in the U.S. to somehow earn enough money to pay off debts that brought them and family members to the Promised Land, America.

That's exactly what happened to one of the middle-schoolers caught in the raid of the JBS Grand Island, NE beef plant.

Like most 13-year-olds, she wanted a job to buy "nice clothes and an iPhone 13" so she lied about her age and was hired by JBS's cleaning contractor "to scour blood and beef fat from the slippery 'kill floor,' using high-pressure hoses, scalding water and industrial foams and acids..."

PCCI, the contractor; JBS, the plant owner; and Blackstone, the \$100-billion private equity fund that owns PCCI, all denied hiring underage workers.

But clearly they do, as proven by the 102 underage teenagers found cleaning slaughtering plants in eight states by U.S. Department of Labor in raids last October.

And so do we every time we buy a ribeye, pork loin, chicken breast, carrot, strawberry, head of lettuce, or too-many-to-list other supermarket items that traveled a crooked, extra-legal path to our local meatcase or grocery shelf.

Which 13-year-old child, mother, grandfather, sister, or son was abused, underpaid, threatened, hurt, or fired so I could pay pennies less for that meat or vegetable?

If our politicians won't fix this corrupt system, then our shame—and courage—should.

**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](mailto:agcomm@farmandfoodfile.com).

## Legacy of Paul Hall

FROM PAGE 4

ored during the Foundation's annual Emerald Gala.

Additionally, Paul started the Conrad Feltner Endowment, the first endowment with the Kentucky 4-H Foundation. Expanding on his philanthropic vision, he and his wife, Jill, started an endowment called the "Expand Your Horizons College Scholarship Fund." This endowment allows the Foundation to award two college upperclassmen with a \$1,000

scholarship; this is the first of its kind at the Foundation.

As we remember our good friend we ask you to think about what your legacy will be. Will it be the Paul Hall way of giving back to those who blessed you? I hope that one day I can say I have left my mark on an organization that helped me to thrive and make my best better, too.

**MELISSA G. MILLER** is the Executive Director of the Kentucky 4H Foundation

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:** Letters to the editor are welcomed. Letters must include the author's name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Letters should be no longer than 500 words and will be edited for clarity.

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BRIDGE VIEW ANGUS



# Two dairy grants now available

The grant application period is now open for two new grant opportunities through the Southeast Dairy Business Innovation Initiative.

The Farm Infrastructure Improvement Grant will provide funds for projects that increase milking parlor throughput to reduce labor costs, improve animal comfort to increase production, and facilitate milk marketing efficiencies by expanding storage and ease of transportation of raw milk.

Applicants can apply for up to \$100,000 in reimbursable funds through this grant program. \$3.2 million in award funding will be available in this category and around 32 grant awards will be funded

under this call. Applicants must provide a cash match of 25 percent on eligible expenses.

Find more information on eligibility and how to apply at: <https://tiny.utk.edu/farm-infrastructure>.

The Precision Technology Investment Grant will support the use of new and existing technologies that help farmers track and manage key farm metrics to maximize the impact of inputs like labor, feed, and fertilizer and improve farm efficiency.

Applicants may apply for up to \$200,000 in funding from this grant program. \$2.13 million in award funding will be available in this category and at least 10 grant awards will be made. Applicants must provide a

cash match of 25 percent of eligible project expenses.

Find more information on eligibility and how to apply at: [tiny.utk.edu/precision-technology-grant](https://tiny.utk.edu/precision-technology-grant).

Applicants may apply to either the Precision Technology and Management Grant or the Farm Infrastructure Improvement Grant in a calendar year, but not both. Both grants are due 5 p.m. ET on June 2.

SDBII personnel hosted an hour-long information session on Thursday, March 2. A recording of the information session will be shared. Producers can register at [tiny.utk.edu/SDBII-Farm-Grant-Registration](https://tiny.utk.edu/SDBII-Farm-Grant-Registration)

## Heath's bill to restrict foreign land ownership passes House Floor

FRANKFORT – During day 22 of this year's legislative session of the Kentucky General Assembly, members convened to entertain votes on several pieces of legislation, including HB 500, a measure that will ban entities of certain governments from acquiring land in the Commonwealth.

HB 500, sponsored by the chair of the House Agriculture Committee State Representative Richard Heath, prohibits purchasing, leasing, or acquiring agricultural land by individuals associated with foreign countries deemed by the federal government as a threat to the United States.

"Today, my colleagues and I in the House of Representatives have fulfilled our duty to maintain the security of the land in one of our most vital industries," said Rep. Heath. "This measure goes a great length to protect Kentuckians in all corners of the commonwealth and helps secure our food chain at

the base level."

Section 126.1 of the Code of Federal Regulations highlights the countries affected by this bill. However, the bill does specify that countries that have existing operations in Kentucky will have the ability to continue to expand their business. There are a total of 24

countries in question, with the top eight listed in section 126.1 being Belarus, Burma, China, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Syria, and Venezuela.

The measure passed the House Floor with a 85-9 vote, and is now headed to the Senate for consideration.

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# Senate committee advances firearms bill

FRANKFORT — The Senate Veterans, Military Affairs, and Public Protection Cabinet advanced a bill that would prohibit Kentucky law enforcement personnel from enforcing federal firearms bans.

The bill's primary sponsor, Rep. Josh Bray, R-Mount Vernon, said the bill passed out of the House earlier this year.

"The concept behind it's pretty simple," Bray said. "It says going forward no state tax dollars or state manpower will be allocated towards the enforcement of federal firearms ban regulations after Jan. 1, 2021."

The measure passed out of committee on a 7-2 vote, but not before some debate, including two opponents who spoke during a public comment period.

Sen. Karen Berg, D-Louisville, compared gun violence to the opioid crisis and asked why Kentucky wouldn't take a similar approach to mitigating the problem by reducing the prevalence of guns.

"Why, in this case, when we have a tremendous, extraordinarily costly epidemic of gun violence in this state are you advocating for more guns rather than less? That seems antithetical to what we are doing with the opioid crisis," she said.

Bray said he doesn't equate the opioid crisis with gun violence, arguing that the opioid crisis stems from addiction while gun violence results from a lack of respect for

human life.

He also pointed to the example of the pistol brace ban to convey his point of view.

"The federal government has ...reexamined an existing interpretation to make this firearm accessory illegal," he said. "Without a single legislative vote cast, they've just determined that something that was legal for years is now illegal – just through a (regulation) interpretation."

Bray added that he's concerned about people with disabilities and those who want to use firearms for protection of their families.

The bill now heads to the Senate.



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## Talk Less, Listen More

We immediately recognize when someone gives us a long and drawn-out explanation for why they did something that they are probably making excuses and giving us a rationalization that even they don't believe.

And when we find ourselves giving long explanations or talking at length we usually know, if we're being honest, that we're trying to get our way through subterfuge or worse. The truth is almost always simple; lies require many words. Keep it simple: say less and listen more. The most important things can invariably be said in few words. "I love you" and "I'm sorry" are good examples of things which should be always near to our lips and hearts.

There is an apocryphal story of Saint Francis telling his followers to go forth and preach the gospel, "with words if necessary," indicating that words are usually not necessary to set a good example. "My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry." James 1:19 NIV  
-Christopher Simon



## Mozzarella Basil Chicken with Roasted Grape Tomatoes

**4** (4 ounce) boneless chicken breast halves  
**½ cup** lite balsamic vinaigrette dressing

**12** large fresh basil leaves  
**2 ounces** low-fat skim mozzarella cheese, cut into four slices

**2 ½ cups** grape tomatoes, halved  
**4 tablespoons** shredded Parmesan cheese

**Place** chicken breasts into a 1 gallon zip close plastic bag. **Pour** ¼ cup of dressing over chicken. **Marinate** in refrigerator for 30 minutes. **Preheat** oven to 400 degrees F. **Remove** chicken breasts from marinade. **Discard** bag and marinade. Make a deep **slice** into one long side of each chicken breast half, being careful not to cut through to the opposite side. **Fill** each chicken breast pocket with 2 basil leaves, 1 slice of mozzarella cheese, and two grape tomato halves. **Place** chicken on one side of rimmed baking sheet sprayed with nonstick spray;

add tomatoes to the other side of baking sheet. **Sprinkle** each breast half with 1 tablespoon of Parmesan cheese. **Bake** 30 minutes or until chicken reaches an internal temperature of 165 degrees F. **Cut** remaining basil leaves into thin slices and toss with remaining dressing and roasted tomatoes. **Serve** chicken topped with tomato mixture.

**Yield:** 4 servings

**Nutritional Analysis:** 220 calories, 6 g fat, 3 g saturated fat, 85 mg cholesterol, 720 mg sodium, 10 g carbohydrate, 1 g fiber, 5 g sugar, 31 g protein.



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<http://plateitup.ca.uky.edu>

## Blueberry Cream Cheese Pound Cake

**1 (8 ounce)** package fat free cream cheese  
**½ cup** canola oil  
**1 (18 ounce)** package yellow butter cake mix

**1 (5 ounce)** package instant vanilla pudding mix  
**2 large** egg whites  
**2 large** eggs

**2 teaspoons** vanilla extract  
**2 cups** fresh blueberries

**1. Preheat** oven to 325° F.

**2. Lightly spray** Bundt pan with nonstick cooking spray and dust with flour.

**3. Combine** cream cheese and oil in a medium bowl; beat with mixer at high speed until smooth and creamy.

**4. Add** cake mix, pudding mix, egg whites, eggs, and vanilla extract. Beat at medium speed until blended.

**5. Fold** in berries.

**6. Spoon** batter into prepared pan.

**7. Bake** 60 minutes or until wooden toothpick inserted in center comes out clean.

**8. Cool** cake in pan for 20 minutes. Remove from pan and cool completely.

**Yield:** 16 slices.

**Nutrition Analysis:** 260 calories; 10g fat; 1.5g saturated fat; 0g trans fat; 30 mg cholesterol; 390mg sodium; 38g carbohydrate; 1g fiber; 23g sugar; 4g protein.

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Recipes courtesy of Ky Proud





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