

Fresh flower hobby becomes farm enterprise



Jessica Bush holds a morning's work that turned into a bouquet for a weekend wedding.

SIMPSONSVILLE, Ky. – The sun has yet to rise above the tree line that is the eastern border of a small farm where farmers Aral Michalow and Jessica Bush are already busy harvesting their crop. They raise fresh-cut flowers as Phoenix Hill Flower Farm.

Phoenix Hill and other fresh-cut flower farmers begin their season in late March with tulips and will still be cutting blooms until the last frost.

Neither Aral nor Jessica have a horticulture background. Aral was interested in plants, especially hydroponics, but they never intended to become flower farmers after graduating from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.

Their business has bloomed from one level of production to the next. Jessica and Aral's home in the Phoenix Hill area of Louisville became their first garden in 2015 when they planted dahlias.

The dahlias were so prolific they took them to an upscale restaurant where both were employed.

"We were shocked when restaurant customers purchased our flowers right from the hostess stand," Jessica said.

They added tulips the next year and started selling at a local farmers' market but found trying to work full time and sell at a farmers' market was an incredible amount of work.

They were about to quit the flower business when Jessica convinced Aral to attend a Wild Willow Farm workshop, which changed their direction.

"We learned that we could direct sales to florists and not have to spend all our time at the farmers' market," Aral said.

As Jessica described, they are self-taught as flower farmers –or as she put it – guess and check. But they have been overwhelmed by how generous other flower farmers have been in sharing knowledge and experiences.

They spent the winter of 2016 laying out a direct marketing plan. They bought an 11-passenger van with no seats, loaded up their flowers, and hit the streets.

"It was tough, really tough," Aral quickly noted.

They would pull up to a florist and not always receive the warmest reception. But with persistence and an active social media program, they began to add florists and online designers. They learned that once they had built their relationship, their customers were eager to buy local, fresh cut flowers rather than imports. In 2021 the United States imported \$1.75 million in fresh cut flowers.

The good news was they were selling all their flowers. The bad news was they needed more flowers, and the yard was

at total capacity. Then one of their florists offered a green space at a rental property. They just had to take care of the yard, which they turned into more flowers, and the business grew from six customers in 2017 to 12 in 2018 and 2019.

Then Covid-19 hit and both lost their full-time restaurant jobs. The flowers had to become their income. They needed another growing space. Their lucky star was still shining when, as Aral put it, "a friend of a friend of a friend" helped them obtain some land on a former tobacco farm just off Brunerstown Road near Simpsonville. Their first job was to put up a deer fence. They began with a 100 x 100 plot that is now nearly an acre.

As with any flower farmer, the flowers available depend on the season. Phoenix Hill started the season with tulips, daffodils and snapdragons. As spring turns into summer, their favorite dahlias are blooming. They have 1100 plants of 11 different varieties ranging in color from pure white to dark red and bronze. Lisianthus, Ranunculus, Rudbeckia, sunflowers, eucalyptus, native Queen Anne's Lace and other flowers fill their orders from summer to the first frost.

Four days a week, their day begins with a 30-minute drive from Phoenix Hill to be at the farm at 6:30 a.m. and harvest until 11 a.m., with the help of floral assistant Dalton Cummins. They store the flowers in a cooler at their home and process and bundle them out of their kitchen.

In 2020, Jessica began a flower CSA, with customers selecting a five or ten arrangement plan for either a porch

SEE FRESH FLOWER, PAGE 2



IT'S COUNTY FAIR TIME – See a list of county fairs **12.**

INSIDE

EDITORIAL	4	LIVESTOCK DIRECTORY	9
FORAGE DOCTOR	10	CLASSIFIEDS	17



Aral Michalow and Jessica Bush cut flowers for the day's harvest.

Fresh flower hobby becomes farm enterprise

FROM PAGE 1

pick-up or delivery. As the business grew, Jessica became more time conscious and stopped arranging.

"We can be more generous with the flowers and give our customers a large, lovely bouquet they can arrange themselves," Jessica said.

Phoenix Hill has begun offering wedding designs. Jessica laughs about how she has found her creativity with flowers.

"I can't draw or paint, but this is me!" she said.

What's next?

"We have to have our own farm," Aral said matter of factly. The 30-minute drive in both directions has made it difficult to tend the garden, and with no direct water source, they transport water to the farm for their drip-line irrigation.

As Aral and Jessica cut blooms for

the day's harvest, Aral thoughtfully discussed what it means to be a direct market farmer. He noted they must do it all. They spend about 30 percent of their time growing the flowers, which is the fun part, but then it's marketing, accounting, preparing orders, learning more, and building relationships.

"We realized that our customers invest not only in our flowers, but also in us. They are buying not only because we have quality flowers, but we built a relationship with them," he said.

Kentucky Horticulture Council Executive Director Cindy Finneseth said commercial fresh cut flowers increased 20 percent from 2021. An interactive map on the website kyhortcouncil.org/ky-cut-flower-grower-resources/ shows flower farms across the state. The state will celebrate the Kentucky Cut Flower Industry during the month of July.

By Toni Riley
Field Reporter

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Three finalists selected for Kentucky Leopold Conservation award

Three finalists have been selected for the 2023 Kentucky Leopold Conservation Award.

Given in honor of renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold, the prestigious award recognizes farmers, ranchers, and forest-land owners who inspire others with their dedication to land, water, and wildlife habitat management on private, working lands.

In Kentucky, the \$10,000 award is presented annually by Sand County Foundation, American Farmland Trust, Kentucky Agricultural Council, and the Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts.

The finalists are:

- Steve and Melanie Kelley of Bardwell in Carlisle County: The Kelleys utilize no-till practices and plant cover crops to conserve soil and moisture. Their farm features 48 acres of filter strips, and 17 acres of grassed waterways and rock chutes to slow water runoff. Solar panels produce electricity and provide the farm with another source of income. Wildlife and pollinator-friendly habitat has been established on 800 acres.
- Donald Veatch of Campbellsville in

Taylor County: At Donald Veatch's beef cattle and grain farm, establishing buffer strips, and crop rotations, no-till practices and cover crops have reduced soil erosion and improved water quality. Selective harvesting and thinning overgrowth promote the quality of timber in the farm's 125 acres of forests. Planting trees and native grasses has created habitat for wildlife and insect pollinators.

- Michael W. Wilson of Lawrenceburg in Anderson County: Michael Wilson's Whispering Hills Farm implements conservation practices to reduce soil erosion caused by beef cattle production. Rotational grazing his cattle prevents overgrazing, recycles nutrients, and increases plant regrowth and biodiversity. By equipping soil with greater organic matter, he's making it more resilient to drought and extreme rainfall events.

The finalists were chosen after owners of Kentucky farmland and forests were encouraged to apply (or be nominated) for the award. Applications were reviewed by an independent panel of agricultural and conservation leaders.

The recipient will be recognized at the Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts' Annual Convention on July 11 in Bowling Green.

"As the national sponsor for Sand County Foundation's Leopold Conservation Award, American Farmland Trust celebrates the hard work and dedication of the Kentucky award finalists," said John Piotti, AFT President and CEO. "At AFT we believe that conservation in agriculture requires a focus on the land, the practices and the people and this award recognizes the integral role of all three."

"The Kentucky Agricultural Council is once again honored to recognize private landowners across the state who practice exceptional stewardship and conservation practices. The finalists for 2023 are an exceptional group of individuals," said Drew Graham, Kentucky Agricultural Council Chairman.

"KACD and conservation districts promote the sound management of all our natural resources, and we are excited to recognize these well deserving landowners

in Kentucky," said Allan Bryant, Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts President. "The Association and conservation districts work daily to assist private landowners in their efforts to adopt sound soil and water conservation practices on their land that benefit us all."

"These award finalists are examples of how Aldo Leopold's land ethic is alive and well today. Their dedication to conservation shows how individuals can improve the health of the land while producing food and fiber," said Kevin McAleese, Sand County Foundation President and CEO.

In his influential 1949 book, *A Sand County Almanac*, Leopold called for an ethical relationship between people and the land they own and manage, which he called "an evolutionary possibility and an ecological necessity."

Sand County Foundation presents the Leopold Conservation Award to private landowners in 27 states for extraordinary achievement in voluntary conservation. For more information on the award, visit www.leopoldconservationaward.org.

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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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Ag Development Fund continues investment in ag



KENTUCKY
OFFICE
OF
AGRICULTURE
POLICY

Brian
Lacefield

The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board was established with the mission to diversify the state's agriculture economy and lessen our dependency on tobacco.

In 2000, the Kentucky General Assembly met with discussions of the newly created Master Settlement Agreement funds that Kentucky would begin to receive in perpetuity. During this session, House Bill 611 was passed, whereas 50 percent of the MSA funds would be invested towards diversifying our agriculture industry, leading to the creation of the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund. The remaining portion of funds were to be invested as 25 percent toward health-care initiatives and 25 percent toward early childhood development. The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board was established with the mission to diversify the state's agriculture economy and lessen our dependency on tobacco. This Board continues to be responsible for administering the Kentucky Agricultural Development Funds, with the Office of Agricultural Policy providing key staff support.

Earlier this month, Kentucky received the 2023 MSA payment of over \$118 million. The Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund received \$45 million, with \$29 million going to state level projects and \$16 million going direct into the county accounts. To find out how much your county will receive to invest in agricultural projects, visit kyagr.com/agpolicy and select the County Council link under the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund tab.

The KADF is segmented into three separate accounts: county funds, state funds, and Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation. The first two are directed by the KADB in the form of cost-reimbursement grants and forgivable loans derived from county and/or state funds.

Each county receives an allocated amount from KADF based on their 1999 burley tobacco dependency that is evaluated by the county's Agricultural Development Council. The original HB 611 created a formula that structures a 35/65 percentage split on 35 percent KADF towards county funds and 65 percent towards state funds.

KADB directs KAFC on their policies with loan programs. The third account is the Kentucky Agricultural

SEE AG DEVELOPMENT, PAGE 5

The world's most important food faces uncertain future

Over 50 percent of the food calories eaten daily by the world's 7.9 billion people come directly from grains. In impoverished nations, that percentage is 60 percent and, in the poorest, it tops 80 percent.

The three most important grains, in order of production, are corn, wheat and rice. All are critical elements in global food security, but all are not equal. Corn and wheat each serve both as a foodgrain for people and a feedgrain for animals. Rice, however, is – and has been for millennia – the world's most widespread, most critical foodgrain.

"More than 3.5 billion people get 20 percent or more of their calories from the fluffy grains," reported Science News in September 2021. And both those numbers are "increasing in Asia, Latin America and especially Africa."

As human pressure on rice ratchets up, humans are also ratcheting up assorted problems growing it, reports the May 20 New York Times. In fact, "Rice is in trouble as the earth heats up, threatening the food and livelihood of billions of people."

Today's rapid climate change, notes the Times, is creating never-before-seen problems that will require never-before-seen solutions.

"Sometimes there's not enough rain when the seedlings need water, or too much when the plants need to keep their heads above water," the story explains. "As the sea intrudes, salt ruins the crop. As nights warm, yields go down."

And it's happening now. A study in "China... found that extreme rainfall reduced rice yields over the past 20 years. India limited rice exports... [to ensure] enough to feed its own people. In Pakistan, heat and floods destroyed harvests, while in California... drought led many farmers to fallow their fields."

The May 2023 Rice Outlook, the most recent U.S. Department of Agriculture report examining both the U.S. and world rice markets, reversed dire forecasts of last winter. USDA now foresees a spike in U.S. and global rice production this year, "mostly due to expanded plantings" fueled by earlier, higher price forecasts.

Still, U.S. rice imports "are projected at a near-record 39.0 million cwt" (raw rice is measured in hundredweight, or cwt, by USDA, not bushels) mostly because last year's carryover was 31 percent lower.

At the same time, U.S. exports of rice will "increase 21 percent to 74 million (cwt)." The combined "domestic and residual use" in the

SEE THE WORLD'S, PAGE 5



FOOD
&
FARM
FILE

Alan
Guebert

As human pressure on rice ratchets up, humans are also ratcheting up assorted problems growing it, reports the May 20 New York Times.

The Farmer's Pride

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The world's most important food faces uncertain future

FROM PAGE 4

coming year is “projected at a record 154 million cwt, up almost 8 percent from a year earlier.”

While that’s good news for rice-loving Americans, the 2023/24 season-average farm-price for long-grain rice paid to American farmers “is projected to drop 11 percent to \$15 per cwt.”

The unforeseen production increase here, says USDA, will boost global rice production two percent, to a record 520.5 million tons. But that now-rosier, 2023 forecast cannot mask a years-long decline in global stocks, reckons USDA; world stocks are slated to drop “for the third consecutive year.”

The biggest cause for the growing shortfall is extreme weather, notes the Times. But weather isn’t the only problem. The very solutions pushed by Big Ag for 50 years—such as “high-yielding hybrid seeds” and “chemical fertilizers”—are now delivering new, more intractable woes.

“Today, that very system... has created new problems... [like] depleted aquifers, driven up fertilizer use,

reduced the diversity of rice breeds that are planted, and polluted the air with the smoke of burning rice stubble.”

In short, the “rhythm of sunshine and rain that rice depends on” has been “upended.”

Solutions, if found, will take years to implement. Researchers like Dr. Argelia Lorence, an Arkansas State University plant biochemist, tells the Times that rice itself holds the key, the genetic key, to “enable rice plants to survive hot nights, one of the most acute hazards of climate change.”

Maybe. Hopefully.

In the meantime, rice is today’s singing canary to warn farmers and governments alike that climate change is real and carries real consequences.

And not just about how we’ll grow tomorrow’s food, but who may get to eat what we grow.

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.

Ag Development Fund continues investment in ag

FROM PAGE 4

Finance Corporation. The mission of the KAFC Board is to strengthen Kentucky agriculture by providing access to low-interest loan programs through joint partnerships with local lending institutions. KAFC assists beginning farmers, farm families, and agribusinesses in obtaining the necessary capital to establish, maintain, or expand their agricultural operation.

I would like to thank everyone who has taken the time to join us at our County Agricultural Investment Program Administrator Trainings

this year. If you have not yet had the chance to attend and plan to administer a 2023 CAIP, the final virtual training is on June 23. To register, visit kyagr.com/agpolicy and select the Administrator link under the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund tab.

The start of summer is an exciting time for us to travel throughout the state and meet with extension agents, producers, and our other partners in agriculture to experience the impact of KADF investments in action.

I look forward to meeting with you all as the year progresses!

R&T Farms teaches local ag to Kentucky's students

The Dairy Alliance and Discover Dairy’s Adopt a Cow program teaches children locally about agriculture and animal care. Adopt a Cow is free and available to teachers, homeschool teachers, and advisors for after-school programs, library programs, and any agriculture programs.

Once the classroom’s “adopted” calf is born, students receive updates throughout the school year as she grows up to become a dairy cow. An introductory video and kit about the calf and her farm are shared with photos of the calf, activity sheets, a Power-Point presentation, and suggested lesson plans that tie into school standards for math, science, and reading. Participating dairy farmers end the school year by answering questions about dairy farming during a live online chat with the students.

Kentucky students learn about dairy farming from farmer Hope at R&T Farms. R&T Farms, in Magnolia, is owned by third-generation dairy farmers Tommy and Hope Reynolds, along with Ron and Doneva Reynolds. The Reynolds’ family milks 75-100 Holsteins and grows row crops along with a cow-calf beef herd.

Hope has hosted the Adopt a Cow program for Kentucky students since the 2020-2021 school year, virtually bringing students onto the farm to discover what local agriculture looks like.

“We’re happy to share our calves with schools across Kentucky and connect kids to where their milk comes from,” says Hope.

This year, 1,024 Kentucky classrooms registered for Adopt a Cow, representing 34,570 students. Throughout the school year, these students received updates from farmer Hope regarding their calves: Maddie Cakes and Renegade.

The Dairy Alliance’s partnership with Discover Dairy to bring Adopt a Cow to Southeast classrooms continues to be an impactful way to connect students to an agricultural industry they may otherwise never interact with. Showcasing local dairy farmers like Hope plays a key role in the program’s success, as students are eager to connect with someone ready to interact with them as they learn.

Registration for next school year’s Adopt a Cow program is now open.



THE DAIRY ALLIANCE
SENIOR MANAGER OF AGRICULTURE AFFAIRS

DENISE JONES

Throughout the school year, these students received updates from farmer Hope regarding their calves: Maddie Cakes and Renegade.

R & T Farms
Magnolia, Kentucky

Adopt A Cow Live Chat
is brought to you by:

More than \$4.6 million approved at Ag Development Board meeting

The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board approved \$4,689,347 for agricultural diversification and rural development projects across the commonwealth at its monthly board meeting.

"The Kentucky Agriculture Development Board supports Kentucky's diversity, thus supporting the future of Kentucky," said Commissioner of Agriculture and board chair Dr. Ryan Quarles. "The variety of projects awarded grants today showcases the true spirit of agricultural diversity and the board's commitment to making a difference."

County and State Funded Projects

- Auburn University was approved \$64,880 in state funds over a two-year period to aid in the recruitment and support of veterinarians in rural Kentucky. For more information, contact Glen Sellers at sellegl@auburn.edu.

- Daviess County Conservation District was approved \$20,000 in Daviess County funds to aid in the Daviess County Youth Agricultural Production Cost Share Program. For more information, contact Katelyn Cavitt at Katelyn.Cavitt@ky.nacdnet.net.

- Grain Day, Inc. was approved up to \$12,000 in Daviess County funds to support the 2024 Ag Expo. For more information, contact Clint Hardy at chardy@uky.edu.

- Jessamine County FFA Alumni Association, Inc. was approved \$15,000 in Jessamine County funds to aid in the youth cost-share program for both SAE and 4-H projects. For more information, contact Carl Waits

at carl.waits@twc.com.

- JSW Farm Chop Shop, Inc. was approved up to \$1,000,000 in state funds in the form of a participation loan to support the construction and procurement of equipment for beef tripe processing. For more information, contact Jonathan Lett at jlettcpa@gdhco.com.

- Little River Veterinary Clinic, LLC was approved up to \$58,724 in state and Trigg County funds, contingent upon the Trigg County Agricultural Development Council's commitment, to aid in the construction of a large animal handling facility. For more information, contact Dr. Jason Freeman, DVM at lrvccadiz@att.net.

- Logan County Conservation District was approved \$5,400 in Logan County funds to support the purchase of a shared-use material roller. For more information, contact Wesley Wright at wesley.wright@ky.nacdnet.net.

- Meade County Fair, Inc. was approved up to \$5,000 in Meade County funds to support the purchase of digital scales. For more information, contact

David Pace at dpace@bbtel.com.

- Scott County Fiscal Court was approved up to \$250,000 in state and Scott County funds to construct a new farmers' market pavilion. For more information, contact Joe Pat Covington at joe.covington@scottky.gov.

- Woodford County Fiscal Court was approved up to \$50,000 in Woodford County funds to support the expenses of constructing bleachers for their ag facilities. For more information, contact Jeremy Dotson at jeremydotsontrucking@hotmail.com.

County Agricultural Investment Program

CAIP provides Kentucky agricultural producers with cost-share assistance on practices to allow them to improve and diversify their current farm operations. CAIP covers a wide variety of agricultural enterprises in its 11 investment areas, including, but not limited to, bees and honey; equine; forage; beef and dairy cattle; goats and sheep; horticulture; poultry; swine; timber and technology, as well as energy

SEE MORE THAN, PAGE 7

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UK, USDA break ground on new forage research building



U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell joined officials from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service Secretary of Agriculture Thomas Vilsack and the University of Kentucky's College of Agriculture, Food and Environment today in a groundbreaking ceremony for a new \$65.9 million Forage Animal Production Lab on UK's campus.

"Today's groundbreaking for the Forage Animal Production Lab speaks to the heart of what a land-grant institution, like ours, is so distinctively positioned to do – to take basic scientific discovery and apply that knowledge to applications that can be transferred directly to producers," said UK President Eli Capilouto.

The new facility housing the Forage-Animal Production Research Unit is targeted for completion in 2026 and will encompass approximately 52,600 total square feet of office, support and research laboratory space, as well as a collaborative area, headhouse and eight-bay greenhouses.

"I was proud to do my part and help secure \$65.9 million in federal funding to establish this new lab at the University of Kentucky. Thank you, President Capilouto, Dean Cox and Secretary Vilsack for your partnership on this project," McConnell said.

The mission of the Forage-Animal Production Research Unit in Lexington

SEE UK, USDA, PAGE 14

More than \$4.6 million approved at Ag Development Board meeting

FROM PAGE 6

efficiency and production; farm infrastructure and water enhancement; marketing; and value-added production.

Twenty-five CAIPs were approved by the board totaling \$2,962,359:

- Anderson (\$88,998)
- Campbell (\$30,725)*
- Carroll (\$142,424)
- Carter (\$121,471)
- Clark (\$150,000)
- Clinton (\$130,199)
- Daviess (\$100,000)
- Hancock (\$116,008)
- Harrison (\$313,861)
- Henderson (\$60,095)
- Jessamine (\$100,000)
- Marion (\$125,000)
- Martin (\$65,057)
- McLean (\$45,265)
- Meade (\$78,440)
- Mercer (\$204,419)
- Montgomery (\$117,000)*
- Morgan (\$191,900)
- Muhlenberg (\$46,582)
- Nelson (\$116,732)
- Owen (\$300,000)*
- Pike (\$32,106)
- Trimble (\$198,440)
- Union (\$50,000)
- Webster (\$37,637)

Deceased Farm Animal Removal

The Deceased Farm Animal Removal Program serves as a measure to facilitate the coordination of environmentally-sound and cost-effective disposal of deceased livestock for Kentucky

producers.

Three DAR programs were approved by the board totaling \$34,813:

- Harrison (\$7,500)
- Montgomery (\$12,313)
- Nelson (\$15,000)

Next Generation Farmer Program

NextGen addresses the growing need for a specialized program that would benefit producers ages 18 to 40 that have been engaged in an agricultural operation for a minimum of three years.

Two NextGen programs were approved by the board totaling \$55,000:

- Anderson (\$30,000)
- Nelson (\$25,000)

Shared-Use Equipment Program

The Shared-Use Equipment Program assists broad-based community organizations with the purchase of farm equipment. The equipment purchased is made available for producer use in a specific county on a leased basis.

Two Shared-Use Equipment programs were approved by the board totaling \$51,375:

- Christian (\$15,375)
- Hart (\$36,000)

Youth Agricultural Incentives Program

YAIP encourages youth to engage in and explore agricultural opportunities.

Eight YAIPs were approved by the board totaling \$104,796:

- Clark (\$40,000)
- Fayette (\$6,000)
- Harrison (\$5,250)

- Henderson (\$6,000)
- McLean (\$5,000)
- Ohio (\$10,000)
- Trimble (\$20,000)
- Webster (\$12,546)

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One-Pot Creamy Chicken and Broccoli



Ingredients

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

Instructions

Melt butter in large shallow straight-sided oven-safe pan, such as cast iron 3.5 or 4-quart braiser. Add onion and cook just until soft. Add garlic and stir until combined. Stir rice into pot and sauté for one minute. Gradually stir in 2 cups milk, followed by chicken broth. Bring up to a low simmer, stir and cover with lid, stirring occasionally to ensure it doesn't stick or boil over, about 15 minutes, adding additional 1/2 cup of milk if needed. Once rice mixture is cooked, stir in shredded chicken, broccoli florets and seasoning until well combined. Add in half of the cheese and stir until melted. Remove from heat and top with remaining cheese. Place pan in oven and broil for about 5 minutes or until cheese is bubbly and melted. Serve immediately.

WHAT I HAVE LEARNED

*Your path is
your own*

Years ago I was asked to speak to a group about a topic I had been covering in The Farmer's Pride. When I arrived at the event, I realized the top expert on the subject was in the audience. He was the person I relied on as I learned about and reported on the subject. It was very intimidating to have him in the room.

I thought about that recently when I was reading John 1:26. John the Baptist had been asked if he was the Messiah and he responded, "I baptize with water, but right here in the crowd is someone you do not recognize. Though his ministry follows mine, I'm not even worthy to be his slave and untie the straps of his sandal."

Did John know that Jesus was the Messiah at that point? The Bible says his mother did, but it's not clear that John knew who he was speaking of at this point. John did know, however, that the Messiah was in the crowd as he preached. I imagine that would be beyond intimidating.

John knew what God had called him to do, so he just kept doing it. He didn't have to be the smartest man in the crowd, he just had to be obedient to God's call.

I think a lot of times we can become insecure in our own knowledge when we compare ourselves with others. Some people try to hide their lack of skill or imperfections while others try to build themselves up by putting others down. Neither changes things.

If you are doing what you are called to do, it doesn't matter what others know or don't know. You will grow in your knowledge and you will learn which direction to take as you travel on your journey. You don't have to be the smartest or the best at something, you just need to be dedicated to being the best you can be.

John's journey led the way for Jesus; that was what he was supposed to do. Our journeys can provide amazing discoveries for us and create opportunity and knowledge for the next generation. We all have our own path to take. Don't look outside and compare yourself to others when deciding your future. Your purpose may be different, and your path is your own.

By Sharon

Banana Bread Overnight Oats

Ingredients

- 1 cup plain kefir
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 cup old-fashioned rolled oats
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans, divided
- 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon all-spice
- 2 tablespoons maple syrup, divided
- 2 small ripe bananas, sliced

Instructions

In medium mixing bowl or plastic container with lid, combine kefir, milk and oats; stir until well combined. Add in remaining ingredients reserving about 2 tablespoons of the nuts and 1 tablespoon of the maple syrup for garnishing. Cover and refrigerate overnight or at least 8 hours. When ready to serve, place approximately half the banana slices in the bottom of serving glasses or bowls, divide oat mixture evenly between them. Top with remaining banana slices, pecans and drizzle of maple syrup.

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Buttercup in hay and baleage

The Forage Doctor



By Jimmy Henning

I have been known to stop and take pictures when I see something that demonstrates a principle. This month, I passed a small paddock, probably used to overwinter a horse, which was covered in buttercup. Not surprising you say. But in the middle of the paddock was a round pen that had NOT been grazed over the winter, and it was full of headed out tall fescue. This scene perfectly illustrates the point that keeping thick and growing vegetation on a pasture is a good non-chemical suppression for buttercup.

Coincidentally, I had counseled a farmer who wanted to control buttercup without herbicide. I certainly could recite our usual recommendation. But there is nothing like seeing your recommendation played out in real time as I drove down the road.

Let's talk a little more about this common springtime Kentucky weed. Buttercup is the common name for a group

of species from the genus *Ranunculus*. Buttercups are sometimes classified as short-lived perennials, but often grow as winter annuals. Four species of buttercups that may be found in Kentucky: bulbous buttercup (*Ranunculus bulbosus*), creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), tall buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), and small flower buttercup (*Ranunculus abortivus*). Each of these species have somewhat similar flower heads but differ in their leaf characteristics. New seed are produced during the time petals are showy. Applying herbicides after flowers appear can be too late; some seed may already be viable. This is one reason buttercups can survive year to year.

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

Death of livestock due to buttercup is rare - A review of University of Kentucky Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory records over the last 13 years found no



Buttercup is a troublesome weed of hay and pasture fields and can be toxic if grazed. Keeping good grass cover on a pasture can suppress buttercup, as seen in this picture where the ungrazed area in the round pen is almost free of buttercup while the outer pasture area is covered. Buttercup is a persistent problem in overgrazed pastures or hay feeding areas.

cases of livestock deaths attributable to buttercup ingestion. If other forage is available, grazing livestock will usually avoid buttercup because the leaves, flowers, and stems have a sharp, acrid taste.

Most buttercup plants emerge from seed during the fall or late winter months. Therefore, pasture management that maintain thick stands and promote growth of more desirable plants during these months is one

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

SEE BUTTERCUP, PAGE 15

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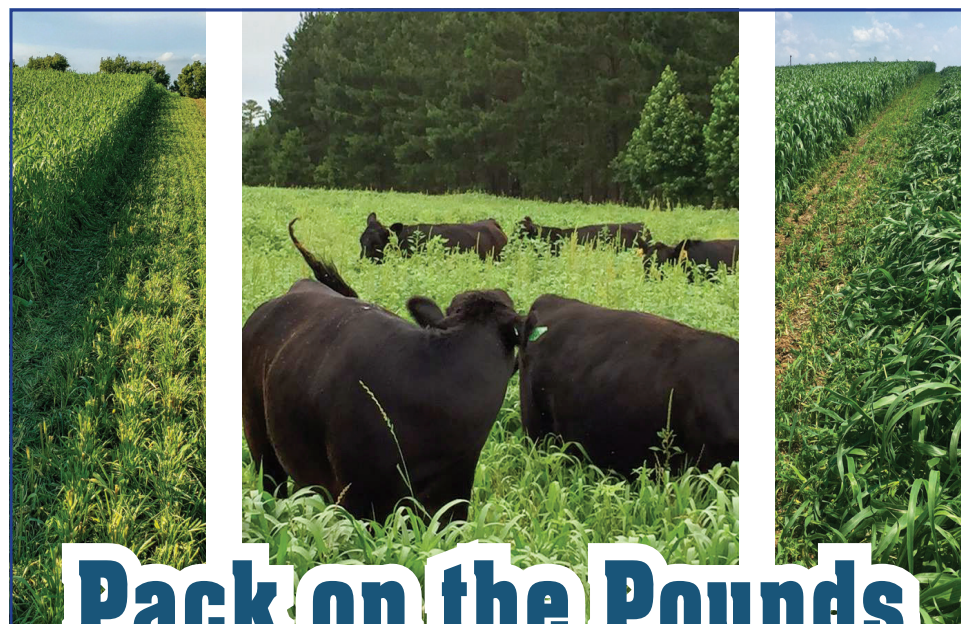
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Henry County Fair, New Castle,
June 6-10, July 6-8

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June 8-18

Green County Fair, Greensburg,
June 9-17

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June 10-17

Ballard County Fair, LaCenter,
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June 12-17

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June 12-24

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UK, USDA break ground on new forage research building

FROM PAGE 7

ton is to improve the productivity, sustainability and competitiveness of forage-based enterprises that raise beef cattle, horses, sheep and goats — particularly operators of small- to medium-sized farms.

“Agricultural research bolsters economic growth and enhances food quality and safety all while combatting the climate crisis,” said Vilsack. “Today’s groundbreaking builds on more than two decades of partnership with the University of Kentucky, while demonstrating USDA’s latest commitment to pushing the boundaries of what is possible for agriculture, and to creating profitable and sustainable systems, rooted in science, that will advance

farmers’ production for years to come.”

The completion of a the new building will usher in important design upgrades and functionality, more opportunities for collaboration, and an expanded research capacity to support forage-based farm enterprises in Kentucky and other Transition Zone states.

The new building will be staffed by six ARS scientists and seven UK researchers, along with laboratory technicians and administrative personnel. Research conducted there, among other projects, will include developing sustainable forage systems to ensure the performance and health of beef cattle and small ruminants such as sheep and goats; minimizing the incidence of tall fescue toxicosis and evaluating the potential of natural antibiotic alterna-

tives to improve nitrogen efficiency and reduce enteric methane emissions by cattle.

“This new facility will ensure continued innovative research for grazing-related industries,” said Nancy Cox, vice president for Land-grant Engagement and dean of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. “We are grateful to Leader McConnell for taking our partnership with ARS to a new level.”

The Agricultural Research Service is the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s chief scientific in-house research agency. Daily, ARS focuses on solutions to agricultural problems affecting America.

“This work and these efforts, of course, also would not be possible without partners like those in the U.S.

Department of Agriculture, represented by Secretary Vilsack and the members of his team who are with us today,” Capilouto said. “Senator McConnell has been our steady and steadfast partner in our mission to transform and advance this state – from cancer care to translational science, from the scourge of opioid misuse to the agricultural innovations we are celebrating today, he has pushed and supported us to do and be more for the state we all serve. The bottom line is this: the \$65.9 million that is making this lab a reality would not have happened without Sen. McConnell’s strong support and unyielding leadership.”

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Buttercup in hay and baleage

FROM PAGE 10

Chemical Options

Herbicides registered for use on grass pastures that contain 2,4-D will effectively control buttercup. For optimum results apply herbicide in the early spring (February - March) before flowers are observed and when buttercup plants are still small and actively growing. For best herbicide activity wait until daytime air temperatures are greater than 50 degrees F for two or three consecutive days. Consult the herbicide label for further information on grazing restrictions, precautions, or

other possible limitations. Applying broadleaf herbicides like 2,4-D will damage clover. However, buttercup is able to germinate and grow because of insufficient ground cover of desirable forage species. In these cases, clover stands are likely not that thick or need rejuvenating. **Management Options** To prevent or inhibit buttercup germination in the fall, manage grass pastures to retain residual heights of three or four inches. Realistically speaking, pastures used for overwintering, hay feeding or calving will always be overgrazed and therefore will be prime

spots for buttercup and other winter weeds encroachment. Overseeding these pastures in early spring with forages that establish aggressively (like red clover or ryegrasses) will add some desirable forage species to the spring flush of growth even though they will not eliminate buttercup emerging at the same time. Follow up with an early spring mowing to clip the buttercup and release the desirable species. Cover up bare ground. Fall applications of nitrogen will produce taller grass (shading the ground) and will stimulate existing grasses to thicken up or tiller out the following spring. Time-

ly mowing in the spring followed by nitrogen application can reduce buttercup seed production and will stimulate spring forage growth that helps shade the lower growing buttercup. No matter how go about it, controlling buttercup is not a ‘once and done’ project. Chemical control will work but will kill clover. Keeping a good thick stand of grass will suppress it, but the cows have to be somewhere. However, we can manage pastures to reduce buttercup incidence and improve your pasture productivity at the same time. Happy foraging.

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							Indiana Ohio Illinois Iowa	
5/22/2023 4:00 pm est Bids for next day Cash Bids Corn #2 Yellow Corn #2 White Soybeans #1 Y Wheat #2 SRW Barley							Yellow Corn Spot Bid 5.55-4.96	
							Dried Distillers Grain (\$/ton) 10% moisture 215.00-255.00	
							Modified Wet Distillers (\$/ton) 55-60% moisture 107.00-122.00	
							Kentucky Weekly Cattle Receipts as reported at local markets:	
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Corn #2 Yellow Corn #2 White Soybeans #1 Y Wheat #2 SRW Barley							4.79	4.74-4.94
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Weekly Feed Ingredient Price Wholesale prices, \$ per ton Rail or Truck FOB Location	Owensboro Grain 5/22/2023	Commonwealth Agri-Energy Hopkinsville 5/22/2023	St. Louis Weekly Feed Region 5/19/2023	Memphis Weekly Feed Region 5/19/2023	Corn Belt Feedstuffs Region 5/19/2023	Daily Direct Hog Prices LM_HG218 5/22/2023 Barrows & Gilts Purchased Swine Receipts: 4,986 Base Price: \$74.00-\$89.00 Wt. Avg. \$79.94 Compared to prior day, wt. avg. base prices were 0.84 higher. 5 Day Rolling Average: \$81.95	FOR DAILY LIVESTOCK AND GRAIN MARKET REPORTS CALL FARMLOT 1-800-327-6568 1-502-573-0553
Soybean Meal 48% Sol	422.20	—	411.10-439.10	429.10-449.10	396.10-439.10		
Soybean Hulls	200.00	—	170.00-195.00	170.00-195.00	150.00-200.00		
Corn Distillers Grain Dried	—	245.00	243.00-260.00	—	215.00-255.00		
Distillers Grain Modified	—	146.00	—	—	—		
Distillers Grain Wet	—	90.00	—	—	—		
Corn Condensed Solubles	—	NA	—	—	—		
Corn Gluten Feed 20-21 pct	—	—	235.00-250.00	160.00-180.00	150.00-200.00		
Corn Gluten Meal 60 pct	—	—	730.00	560.00-565.00	520.00-565.00		
Cottonseed Meal 41 pct	—	—	405.00-420.00	365.00-390.00	410.00-425.00		
Whole Cottonseed	—	—	—	—	—		
Wheat Middlings	—	—	—	—	—		

Blue Grass Stockyards Lexington, KY May 15 & 16, 2023 Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 22 hd. 651# 222.00 blk 66 hd. 795# 203.95 mixed 47 hd. 828# 198.50 blk-charx 62 hd. 880# 197.75 blk 56 hd. 900# 195.60 blk 57 hd. 974# 181.25 blk-mixed 56 hd. 1006#182.90 blk Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 79 hd. 514# 222.00 bwf-mixed 26 hd. 565# 194.00 blk-charx 78 hd. 660# 199.35 mixed 71 hd. 778# 194.75 blk-charx	Washington Co. Livestock Springfield, KY May 15, 2023 Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 75 hd. 703# 210.50 blk 19 hd. 817# 199.50 blk 48 hd. 995# 178.75 blk Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 23 hd. 348# 227.50 blk 35 hd. 721# 185.25 blk-red 69 hd. 766# 190.50 blk	Blue Grass South Stanford, KY May 18, 2023 Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 73 hd. 766# 215.75 blk 63 hd. 787# 195.50 mixed 63 hd. 807# 202.40 blk 129 hd. 848# 204.20 blk 60 hd. 901# 192.95 blk-charx 56 hd. 904# 187.25 blk-charx 56 hd. 974# 186.85 blk 47 hd. 1089#181.00 blk Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 81 hd. 657# 215.25 blk-bwf 75 hd. 756# 187.50 mixed 67 hd. 821# 188.50 blk-charx 68 hd. 832# 193.00 blk	Paris Stockyards Paris, KY May 18, 2023 Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 20 hd. 632# 223.50 blk 59 hd. 688# 229.50 blk 60 hd. 883# 196.25 blk Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 44 hd. 569# 213.00 mixed 88 hd. 586# 225.00 blk 81 hd. 647# 218.00 blk 53 hd. 669# 197.50 blk-bwf 28 hd. 684# 185.50 blk-charx 40 hd. 712# 192.50 blk 56 hd. 735# 189.59 blk
Farmers Livestock Glasgow, KY May 15, 2023 Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 62 hd. 752# 195.00 mixed Feeder Bulls: Medium & Large 1-2 21 hd. 360# 243.00 blk 26 hd. 459# 232.00 blk Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 20 hd. 391# 220.00 blk 20 hd. 522# 202.50 blk	KY-TN Livestock Auction Guthrie, KY May 18, 2023 Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 26 hd. 635# 220.00 blk-bwf 74 hd. 706# 216.90 mixed Feeder Bulls: Medium & Large 1-2 39 hd. 490# 220.75 blk-bwf 23 hd. 620# 206.00 blk-bwf Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 22 hd. 426# 223.00 blk-bwf 32 hd. 488# 212.00 blk-bwf 32 hd. 540# 206.00 blk-bwf 22 hd. 626# 192.00 blk-bwf	Blue Grass of Richmond Richmond, KY May 19, 2023 Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 50 hd. 660# 233.00 blk-charx 120 hd. 891# 202.70 blk 118 hd. 964# 192.50 blk	Blue Grass of Campbellsville Campbellsville, KY May 17, 2023 Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 22 hd. 657# 238.00 blk-bwf Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 23 hd. 502# 220.50 blk-bwf 20 hd. 512# 215.50 blk-bwf 83 hd. 587# 224.00 blk-bwf 46 hd. 618# 212.00 blk-bwf 59 hd. 630# 215.50 blk-bwf
Blue Grass East Mt. Sterling, KY May 17, 2023 Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 88 hd. 575# 221.25 blk 75 hd. 644# 205.50 mixed 69 hd. 695# 210.00 blk	Mid-KY Livestock Market Upton, KY May 16, 2023 Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 20 hd. 619# 221.00 mixed 38 hd. 684# 218.00 blk 20 hd. 733# 211.00 blk 24 hd. 836# 193.50 blk Feeder Bulls: Medium & Large 1-2 20 hd. 557# 214.00 blk Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 27 hd. 457# 220.00 blk 20 hd. 507# 206.00 blk 30 hd. 563# 199.50 blk 45 hd. 650# 203.75 mixed 21 hd. 677# 187.50 mixed 24 hd. 730# 191.00 blk	Russell County Stockyards Russell Springs, KY May 17, 2023 Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 65 hd. 826# 194.00 blk-red-charx 62 hd. 880# 195.25 blk-bwf-charx Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 20 hd. 657# 216.50 blk 68 hd. 775# 193.25 blk-bwf 72 hd. 785# 190.25 blk-bwf	Blue Grass of Albany Albany, KY May 17, 2023 Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 21 hd. 397# 271.00 blk Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 32 hd. 976# 156.25 blk
Lake Cumberland Livestock Somerset, KY. May 20, 2023 Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 94 hd. 562# 220.50 mixed		United Producers Bowling Green Bowling Green, KY May 16, 2023 Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 20 hd. 513# 210.00 blk	United Producers Owenton Owenton, KY May 17, 2023 Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 60 hd. 896# 193.50 blk



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Producers Livestock Sheep and Goat Auction, San Angelo, Texas May 16, 2023

Compared to last week slaughter lambs firm to 20.00 higher with most advance on lambs under 70 lbs. Slaughter ewes steady. Feeder lambs not well tested. Nannies steady; kids 10.00-20.00 lower. Trading and demand moderate.

SLAUGHTER LAMBS WOOLED & SHORN: Choice and Prime 1-2 43-48 lbs 238.00-246.00; 55-57 lbs 232.00-250.00; 61-69 lbs 210.00-244.00; 70-78 lbs 191.00-261.00; 80-88 lbs 194.00-204.00; 95 lbs 177.00; 108 lbs 180.00. Choice and Prime 2-3 140-148 lbs 170.00-172.00; 170 lbs 130.00. Choice 1-2 57 lbs 212.00; 65 lbs 199.00; 70 lbs 183.00. HAIR BREEDS: Choice and Prime 1-2 14 lbs 236.00; 42-49 lbs 223.00-246.00; 50-58 lbs 224.00-249.00; 60-69 lbs 206.00-246.00; 70-78 lbs 193.00-221.00; 80-89 lbs 184.00-198.00; 90-94 lbs 170.00-185.00; 101-106 lbs 164.00-178.00. Choice and Prime 2-3 120-130 lbs 152.00-166.00. Choice 1-2 40-41 lbs 204.00-210.00; 57-59 lbs 200.00-216.00; 60-69 lbs 188.00-207.00; 70-79 lbs 180.00-196.00; 80-89 lbs 164.00-180.00; 93 lbs 151.00; 100-108 lbs 150.00-168.00.

SLAUGHTER GOATS KIDS: Selection 1 45-49 lbs 320.00-354.00; 50-59 lbs 320.00-350.00; 60-69 lbs 310.00-338.00; 70-74 lbs 304.00-337.00; 80-88 lbs 270.00-320.00; 97 lbs 293.00; 106 lbs 277.00. Selection 1-2 40-49 lbs 250.00-320.00; 50-58 lbs 280.00-317.00; 60-69 lbs 250.00-323.00; 71 lbs 295.00-305.00; 90-95 lbs 250.00-255.00. Selection 2 40-48 lbs 215.00-250.00; 51-58 lbs 230.00-255.00; 63-69 lbs 210.00-225.00.

New Holland Sheep and Goat Auction New Holland, Pa. May 22, 2023

Compared to last week, all classes of slaughter lambs sold strong. Ewes sold weak. Hair ewes sold strong. Buyer demand was moderate on a moderate supply for the slaughter sheep sale. Slaughter kid goats sold weak. Nannies/does sold steady. Bucks/billies sold steady. Wethers sold weak on a light comparison. Buyer demand was moderate on a moderate supply for the slaughter goat sale.

SLAUGHTER LAMBS WOOLED & SHORN: Choice and Prime 1-3 45 lbs 300.00; 55 lbs 285.00; 60-65 lbs 265.00. Choice 1-3 30-36 lbs 175.00; 43-49 lbs 200.00-250.00; 52-59 lbs 210.00-250.00; 60-69 lbs 200.00-237.00; 70-78 lbs 217.00-245.00; 80-89 lbs 215.00-245.00; 92-99 lbs 227.00-265.00; 100-115 lbs 210.00-262.00; 120-135 lbs 150.00-190.00; 180 lbs 160.00. Good and Choice 1-2 58 lbs 205.00; 60 lbs 185.00; 93-95 lbs 175.00-205.00; 103-113 lbs 150.00-210.00. HAIR BREEDS: Choice and Prime 1-3 70 lbs 240.00. Choice 1-3 42-48 lbs 195.00-210.00; 50-58 lbs 205.00-225.00; 61-69 lbs 210.00-225.00; 71-79 lbs 192.00-225.00; 80-89 lbs 217.00-232.00; 93-95 lbs 205.00-225.00; 100-120 lbs 190.00-220.00. Good and Choice 1-2 50-57 lbs 165.00-195.00; 61-64 lbs 185.00-200.00. 75 lbs 170.00-175.00.

SLAUGHTER GOATS KIDS: Selection 1 15 lbs 45.00; 20-29 lbs 35.00-45; 30-39 lbs 40.00-60.00; 40-49 lbs 80.00-125.00; 50-59 lbs 170.00-225.00; 60-69 lbs 225.00-260.00. Selection 2 20 lbs 20.00; 30 lbs 15.00-45.00; 40-49 lbs 90.00-95.00; 50 lbs 175.00; 70 lbs 200.00; 80 lbs 205.00. Selection 3 30 lbs 25.00; 40 lbs 60.00; 50-59 lbs 70.00-95.00.

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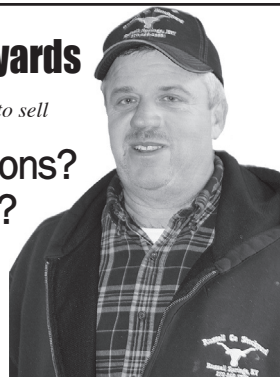
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2023 DAIRY FACTS Kentucky

- **90%** of all milk produced in **2022** was used and consumed in the form of fluid milk

The total amount of milk produced in 2022 equaled **107** million gallons.

The **top three** milk producing counties in Kentucky:

1. Barren
2. Adair
3. Logan

Kentucky is home to about **45,000** dairy cows. Dairy cows produced an average of **7.5** gallons of milk per day.

Kentucky has **370** dairy farms and a typical dairy farm has a herd of about **122** milking cows.

The average value of a day's milk per cow was about **\$17.81**. In 2022, a dairy cow in Kentucky cost about **\$1,420**.

*All facts are based on 2022 USDA and AGI data.



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