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is Dairy Month

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Milk prices take hit after pinnacle year

Longtime dairy producers are used to the ebb and flow of the market, and experts say several factors led to the large price drop that has followed last year's record prices. Although it will be a lean summer, the Kentucky Dairy Development Council's director says he expects that to change come fall and still encourages anyone interested in dairy to jump on board.

HH Barlow has been leading the KDDC for a while now, "but I've been in the business all my life," he says. And the business of being a dairy farmer sure has seen its ups and downs.

Barlow said he recently attended the FFA convention in Lexington and talked to students about the dairy industry.

"Just kind of there to represent, I guess you could say. But unfortunately, it's been really negative lately," he said.

The industry has experienced more than a \$6 drop per hundred-weight of milk, meaning more than a 23 percent drop in what dairy farmers get paid for their milk.

There's a combination of factors in play causing this, Barlow said. Firstly, 2022 had the highest milk price in history, "a great year – very profitable." And the exports last year were the highest, too, but that's also backed off some since the milk supply has gone up.

It's been the perfect storm, Barlow said, "with the processing industry and significant staffing issues. And they've changed the distribution a lot, and it's a problem."

Multiple dairy and bottling plant closures in Alabama, Mississippi and in the Midwest haven't helped, he added.

"Milk price is the thing that affects us all greatly. It can affect cheese ... Price of milk is really, really sensitive to



Photo courtesy of the Kentucky Dairy Development Council

Adam Ping and his family were recently the focus of "Milk Matters," the KFDC newsletter featuring dairy farmers. The family runs their Pulaski County dairy farm together. They are (from left) Angela, Brooklyn, Adam and Haley Ping, and Jaden Back.

over-production and perishable products."

Summer has always been, by far, Barlow said, the lowest milk-price season, with no milk needed for school being the biggest factor. And cows get their spring flush from April to June since they have more to eat, leading to an increase in milk production.

"So, the price also went down because we had a little increase. Manufacturers are taking advantage because there's plenty of milk out there – the way it is," Barlow said.

Another issue continues to be hauling.

"We are still having a significant problem getting milk hauled to market. It just gets tougher and tougher to find them – as the number of dairies decline, fewer and fewer want to drive out of the way to do it," he said.

But, there are also reasons for optimism. The market may be depressed for the next few months, but there are signs for improvement come fall. As far as nationally, Barlow said milk production increases are much less than in the past few years, "so prices will be good in

SEE MILK, PAGE 3



IT'S COUNTY FAIR TIME – See a list of
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Group studying veterinary shortage issue meets in Frankfort

FRANKFORT – A task force charged with finding solutions to Kentucky's large-animal veterinarian shortage met in Frankfort recently at the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

"This shortage of large animal veterinarians is not just a Kentucky issue, it's something we're facing nationwide," Commissioner of Agriculture Dr. Ryan Quarles said. "But in Kentucky, we're one of the few states who are facing the challenge head on by creating this task force to look for solutions. The shortage of veterinarians to treat our agricultural animals is affecting farmers and may soon begin affecting our food supply. This working group brings together the brightest agriculture minds to find solutions to the issues at hand and improve the services farmers need."

Nationwide, a shortage of large animal veterinarians is creating a negative impact as farmers search to find the veterinary care they need for their animals. Large animal veterinarians are essential to the protection of the nation's food supply. Only 5 percent of veterinarians in the U.S. practice on large animals. The other 95 percent have turned to companion animal practices, research, or regulatory. In Kentucky, large animal veterinarians make up an even smaller percentage. Only about 3 percent of veterinarians in the state have dedicated large animal practices.

The Veterinary Shortage Working Group consists of industry stakeholders, including veterinarians, individuals in the educational and medical agricultural field, various livestock associations representatives, Kentucky Farm Bureau, Kentucky Higher Education Assistant Authority, and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

It was formed after the KDA, led by Commissioner Quarles, invited industry stakeholders to participate in two discussion meetings concentrated on the issues surrounding the vet shortage.

The group will look at some of the issues identified during the stakeholder meetings last year that may be creating a vet shortage. Some of the possible reasons for the shortages include:

- Salaries – Large animal veterinarians often make less on average than those in other areas.
- Debt load – The average debt for a graduating veterinarian is more than \$200,000.
- Burnout – Long work hours, strenuous work, and unpredictable schedules have driven many large animal veterinarians from the field to find work in other vet areas.
- Retirements – Almost 40 percent of the large animal veterinarians in Kentucky are within 10 years of retirement.

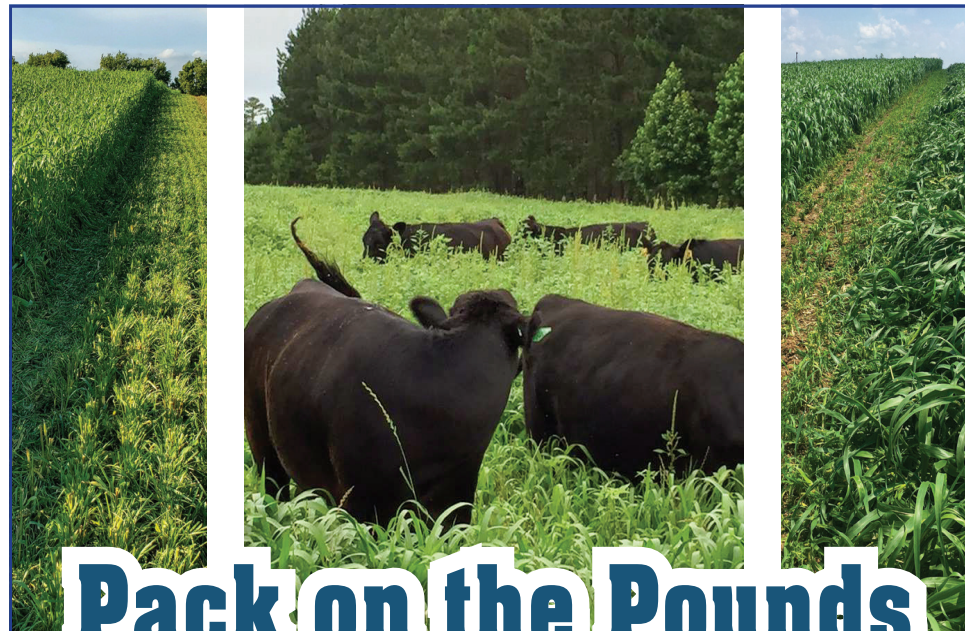
The group's first organizational meeting was in February. During The June meeting, the group heard a presentation from the Farm Journal Foundation, a non-profit foundation dedicated to global food security. The Foundation brings together stakeholders from across the agricultural spectrum - from students, to farmers, to policymakers - to find solutions to some of the biggest challenges facing the food and agricultural chain.

In addition to hearing from the Farm Journal Foundation, the group also formed committees focused on the different aspects of the shortage and had breakout session.

The sessions focused on the many phases of veterinarians, including:

- Developing a strong pipeline of Kentucky students to veterinary school;
- Kentucky's role in assisting students find opportunities in veterinary school;
- Kentucky's role to attract veterinary school graduates to rural and large animal practice; and
- How to keep veterinarians in rural and large animal practice

The working group is expected to meet three more times throughout 2023, with committees meeting taking place in between the group meetings, to further define the solutions, develop action plans, and set benchmarks to measure success. A final report from the group's findings is expected to be available in November.



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Milk prices take hit after pinnacle year

FROM PAGE 1

about six months.”

Barlow says he is straight-forward about the challenges but would still tell anyone interested in dairy farming that it can be done, and done successfully.

Most smaller dairymen can take advantage of dairy market insurance coverage through FSA, which can be a big help in years like this one.

“It’s a subsidized program, not a hand-out. It’s like crop insurance and was included in the Farm Bill,” Barlow said, adding that it covers up to 5 million pounds of milk per year. “It’s had a tremendous impact, and it’s kept me and other farmers in business.”

Dairy farmers wind up being a huge part of their community, Barlow said.

“They really do create the need for so many jobs. We need vets, feed guys,

haulers ... We truly are an economic engine in communities. And I don’t want to see that go away.”

There has been a significant consolidation of dairies happening across the country. “They have to have water, access to feed and have people who are friendly to agriculture. Kentucky has all that, and we have significant interest by some Western dairies about coming out there.”

Barlow has had some push-back on the idea of courting dairies to the area. But, when you think about it, he says, “at the present time, only half of the milk processed in Kentucky is produced here. So ...”

Kentucky has the resources, Barlow said, and the state can be as profitable as anywhere else in milk – or even more so.

“My opinion is they’re going to go

away if we don’t and then we won’t have any milk market. Some people don’t want to hear that, but my goal is to make us one of the top two dairy states in the Southeast. And for a family to be able to successfully make a living doing it.”

Adam Ping and his family run a dairy farm in Pulaski County. All together, they farm more than 200 acres.

“I grew up on my uncles’ dairy farms, so I guess it’s in my blood. We’re milking about 64 right now,” Ping says, with help from his wife and daughter, along with other family and friends who pitch in when needed.

“I’d say the input costs is the biggest struggle,” he said, with feed, fertilizer and fuel costs all rising, and farm machinery also increasing in price. “The price of milk is still pretty good, but the costs are tremendous. And the

interest rates are terrible.”

Ping said for those who had to buy a farm recently, “their payment probably went up about \$1,000. So, if you want to grow, it’s just about impossible right now. Everything’s just too expensive.”

But, like Barlow, Ping would not try to talk anyone out of starting a dairy farm – quite the opposite.

“I’d tell them that I would’ve bought more land starting out instead of waiting. Take a bit more of a risk, I guess I’d say, and work for someone who knows what they’re doing first, see if you want to do it.”

The job is seven days a week for 365 days a year, Ping says, “for the rest of your life ... I haven’t taken a day off since we started. Ain’t no way, and I love it. And I’ll continue to do it for as long as I can.”

By Bobbie Curd
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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Your path is your own



ONE
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While we celebrate June Dairy Month, I am thinking back on the many interviews I have conducted with Kentucky dairy farmers.

I love the stories of producers who have built a successful business by offering value-added products or diversifying into agritourism. I'm always impressed by farmers who use technology and genetics to increase their bottom line.

Too often, however, the dairy story is not a happy one. We've lost a lot of good farmers in the dairy industry, and it is no fault of their own. The market over the years has been brutal, and sometimes producers hold on until they can't hold on anymore. I recall sitting at the kitchen table at a multi-generation family farm and being told the farm that had once been debt-free with covered up in debt because of dairy prices. It's the type of interview you don't forget.

I vividly remember the producer I visited after the company that had been buying his product told him it was no longer wanted. He was an award-winning, top-quality producer, he just happened to be in a part of the state where there weren't other dairies on his truck route so he was no longer worthy their time.

These stories always make me angry, angry at a marketing system that shows little interest in a partnership with the guy on the ground when the guy on the ground is doing everything right.

I've seen great farmers make the tough decision to become managers of people and equipment instead of being able to get their feet in the soil. Get bigger or get out, that's the motto. I understand that the growing global population must be fed on fewer acres and we are meeting that need, but there are costs.

We bought into this notion years ago that we must be part of a global marketplace, and our farmers can compete with the best. If foreign trade agreements fail to look out for our producers, however, it doesn't matter how good you are at what you do, you won't succeed. If the prices you receive for your product won't pay for the inputs, all the innovation in the world is not going to pull you out of that hole.

I appreciate the work our associations do to lobby for fair trade agreements, safety net programs and other legal

SEE YOUR PATH, PAGE 5

Sometimes the numbers do add up

This week (or was it last week?) marks an anniversary for this reporting effort: 30 years ago the first Farm and Food File appeared in three central Illinois newspapers. One of those brave beginners, the Bloomington Pantagraph, continues to publish it weekly.

Thirty years of anything seems like it should be a big deal and yet, on the farm, 30 years is often viewed as just a good start.

My father, after all, farmed for 45 years and his Uncle Honey, who "helped out" on our farm--and occasionally set parts of it ablaze--worked 50 years as, first, a milkman and, later, an absent-minded tractor driver with matches. A Nebraska farmer friend just planted either his 74th or 75th crop.

In truth, the key number in my line of work is making deadline. So far, I'm shooting par on a tough course: In three decades of weekly free-lance columning, I'm 1,560 out of 1,560.

Come to think of it, "He made this deadline, too" might be a good epitaph for my final edition on this good earth.

Like many of life's pleasant curveballs, this writing life was unplanned. In college I was on a slow train--think milk-run slow--for a degree in farm management when an out-of-patience dean handed me a one-way ticket back to the farm.

"Come see me when you're serious about being here," he announced, "and good luck." He spared me his more embarrassing assessment: And good riddance.

Two years later (I mentioned slow, right?), he readmitted me as a married, 23-year-old, mid-year junior. His only condition, however, was a big one: "To stay, I will need to see some great grades from you."

Great grades meant writing, a part-time gig I played in my previous stay at the Big U for dorm buddies who couldn't tell a verb from a Volkswagen. Many happily paid a modest retainer, usually in brewed refreshments, for me to show them the difference.

The return to writing was destiny. Sixteen weeks and four credit hours of A later, the dean wore an optimistic smile and I glimpsed a path to fulfilling work. Eighteen months after that I had a degree, a job in ag journalism, and little idea of how it all happened.

That was 40 years and more than a million words ago. The early years of story chasing--first at Pro Farmer, next at Successful Farming and, later, eight years as a free-lance contributing editor at Farm Journal--built contacts and confidence.

What it didn't build was certainty. Free-lance anything--writing, plumbing, fishing, farming--is a roller coaster: when you work, you work like a fool and when you don't, you worry like a fool that

SEE SOMETIMES, PAGE 5



FOOD
&
FARM
FILE

Alan
Guebert

Thirty years of anything seems like it should be a big deal and yet, on the farm, 30 years is often viewed as just a good start.

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New veterinarian joins KDA



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COMMISSIONER

Ryan
Quarles

The state veterinarian plays a critical role in the health of our animals on farms across the state.

I'm proud to announce that Dr. Steve Velasco III is joining the Kentucky Department of Agriculture as State Veterinarian this month.

The Kentucky State Board of Agriculture conducted a nationwide search for this important position, unanimously selecting Dr. Velasco, of Corpus Christi, Texas.

"I'm excited to join the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, taking on the role as state veterinarian," Dr. Velasco said. "My career has been focused on being an advocate for animal health and public awareness. I look forward to continuing that path as I join the dedicated and professional team at KDA and work with the wonderful animal industry throughout Kentucky."

The state veterinarian plays a critical role in the health of our animals on farms across the state. Dr. Velasco's vast experience in animal agriculture set him apart during the candidate search. That's particularly important in Kentucky, where beef cattle, poultry, and horses are among our top agricultural commodities.

The state veterinarian leads the KDA's Office of State Veterinarian in its statutory and regulatory activities to prevent, control, and eradicate communicable diseases in the agricultural animal health sector.

Specific duties of the state veterinarian include: overseeing all functions of OSV by serving as its executive director; advising the Commissioner of Agriculture on issues involving animal health and other topics as a member of the commissioner's executive team; testifying to legislative committees as requested; serving as a liaison to livestock and poultry organizations and leaders; and representing Kentucky with the U.S. Animal Health Association, the National Institute for Animal Agriculture, Southern Animal Health Association, and other animal health organizations.

Dr. Velasco comes to KDA after serving as a region director of the Texas Animal Health Commission since 2020. He managed and directed regulatory programs along with full-time field and office staff. The role also required him to perform field work, as necessary; manage regional emergency disaster requirements; and provide outreach and educational programs for producers and the public, among other duties.

Dr. Velasco was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas. He grew up participating in 4-H horsemanship and competing in high school rodeos.

Dr. Velasco earned a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree with an emphasis in large animals from Texas A&M University, where he also received a Bachelor of Science degree in veterinary science. He holds a Master of Business Administration from The University of Texas and a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry from the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Dr. Velasco already holds a veterinary license in Kentucky, and he is also licensed in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas. He spent the first six years of his career as a racetrack veterinarian in Arkansas and Louisiana.

In 2000, Dr. Velasco returned to south Texas, where he spent the next 20 years at a large animal ambulatory practice. He also worked in the equine sports medicine and stocker cattle industries; supported 4-H and FFA programs; and provided veterinary services for wildlife.

I'm thrilled that Dr. Velasco has joined our team at KDA, and I look forward to his contributions for the betterment of animal agriculture throughout Kentucky.

Your path is your own

FROM PAGE 4

protections our farmers deserve. It is in the best interest of our nation and world to provide a marketplace that allows quality producers a path to success. They are not looking for hand-outs, they are only looking for opportunity. The nation and the world need their safe food supply.

Farmers are accustomed to good years and bad years, good seasons and bad seasons, good prices and bad prices. Every farmer has to be a "cup half full" kind of person, because it takes a special kind of faith to put a crop in the field in the spring with a confidence that come fall weather and markets will have cooperated and prices will be good. For dairy farmers, there is an optimism that every bad month leads

to a better one and every bad season leads to a better season.

I look at the changes that go on in agriculture, and I am constantly amazed. Diversifying, value-added, expansion, forward contracting, niche marketing, agritourism, retail frontage, farmers' markets, direct to consumer, it goes on and on, and I say good for you.

Not everyone can follow the same path. Go where you need to go, do what you need to do, and don't look back or listen to the naysayers.

The Farmer's Pride supports all of you, whether you grow flowers in your yard or lease thousands of acres from your neighbors to produce row crops.

You make up Kentucky's farm community, and we are your number one fan.

Sometimes the numbers do add

FROM PAGE 4

you'll never work again.

That reality hit hard in early 1993 when the boss at Farm Journal, a magazine that had bought every sentence I had typed for almost a decade, telephoned to fire me. His reason was inarguable; "You can't walk down the middle of the road anymore," he said.

True, nor did I want to because most of agriculture's milk-and-honey middle was being hogged by aggressive corporate newcomers and integrators aiming to dominate livestock, meatpacking, machinery, and crop biotechnology.

Left to compete on the pothole-filled edges were thousands of small- and middle-sized farmers, ranchers, and rural communities struggling to just survive in their now-unrecognizable, increasingly commoditized world.

The swift changes brought story after

story that most ag magazines didn't want to publish because their readerships were rapidly changing, too, and the publishers, like their readers, were struggling to understand Big Ag's growing presence and already outsized influence in both the marketplace and government.

So most just favored stories that favored their now ever-fewer, ever-more influential advertisers over their ever-disappearing readers.

That role reversal, fueled by the rapid rise of the internet, however, made space for others to take up the challenge and there I was with time, an empty bank account, two growing children, and the lovely Catherine to encourage me.

Then you took over and here we are, 1,561 weeks down the road. Give or take a week that is.

Thank you.



Ky Agricultural Finance Corporation approves \$3,177,750 in loans

The Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation approved \$3,177,750 for 18 agricultural loans for projects across the commonwealth at its monthly board meeting.

Agricultural Infrastructure Loan Program

Four Agricultural Infrastructure loans totaling \$875,000 were approved. Loan recipients were in Graves (\$250,000), Hardin (\$250,000), Metcalfe (\$250,000), and Ohio (\$125,000) 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.

Agricultural Processing Loan Program

Two Agricultural Processing loans totaling \$287,500 were approved. Loan recipients were in Bath (\$187,500) and Russell (\$100,000) counties. APLP is designed to provide loan opportunities to companies and individuals in Kentucky interested in adding value to Kentucky-grown agricultural commodities through further processing. Agricultural processors may qualify for financing for acquisition of equipment, construction of new facilities, renovation/expansion of existing facilities and permanent working capital up to 50 percent of the project cost.

Beginning Farmer Loan Program

Twelve Beginning Farmer loans totaling \$2,015,250 were approved. Loan recipients were in Allen

(\$112,500), Anderson (\$63,500), Bourbon (\$175,000), Butler (\$250,000), Garrard (\$125,000), Graves (\$250,000), Hardin (\$52,000), Madison (\$190,000), Mercer (\$175,000), Pulaski (\$148,750), and Shelby (\$223,500 and \$250,000) 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.

For more information on the programs offered by the KAFC, contact Bill McCloskey at Kentucky Office of Agricultural Policy at (502) 382-6093 or email kafc@ky.gov.

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It's County Fair time in Kentucky!

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Bullitt County Fair, Shepherdsville,
June 12-17

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Danville-Boyle County Fair, Danville,
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Murray-Calloway County Fair, Murray,
June 13-17

Breckinridge County Fair, Hardinsburg,
June 14-17, August 12

Nicholas County Fair, Carlisle,
June 14-17

Logan County Fair, Russellville,
June 17-24, June 26-29

Pendleton County Fair, Falmouth,
June 18-24

Bourbon County Fair, Paris,
June 24-July 1

Clark County Fair, Winchester,
June 17-24



Clinton County Fair, Albany,
June 17-24

Lawrenceburg Fair, Lawrenceburg,
June 17-24

Union County Fair, Sturgis, June 19-24

Scott County Fair, Georgetown,
June 20-24

Western Kentucky State Fair, Hopkinsville,
June 23 – July 1

Garrard County Fair, Lancaster, June
26-July 1

Marion County Fair, Lebanon, June 26-July
1

Barren County Fair, Temple Hill, June 27,
July 1, July 7-8

Wayne County Fair, Monticello, June 30 –
July 8

Butler County Fair, Morgantown, July 1-4

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Meatballs in creamy tomato sauce with burrata



Ingredients

- 4 tablespoons butter
- 1 medium shallot diced
- 1 tablespoon minced garlic
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 2 cups milk
- 1 cup shredded fontina cheese
- 1 15-ounce can crushed tomatoes
- 1/2 cup chopped sundried tomatoes
- 1 26-ounce bag frozen cocktail meatballs
- 1 8-ounce container of Burrata
- Salt and pepper
- 24 toasted crostini

Instructions

Preheat oven to 375°.

Melt butter in a large cast-iron skillet over medium heat. Add shallot and sauté until translucent. Add garlic and sauté until soft, season with salt and pepper. Sprinkle flour over shallot mixture, stirring until well combined. Gradually pour in milk, whisking as you go. Bring up to a low simmer as sauce begins to thicken. Add cheese, crushed and sundried tomatoes, stirring until well combined. Gently add in entire bag of meatballs, making sure to completely cover with sauce. Place each of the four Burrata balls on top of the meatballs in sauce. Bake for 15 minutes, or until the sauce is bubbly and the cheese has begun to melt. Remove from oven, garnish with fresh parsley if desired. Serve immediately with toasted crostini.

WHAT I HAVE LEARNED

What did Barabbas do next?

The Jewish people were demanding Jesus' death, but Pilate knew that Jesus had done nothing wrong. He didn't want to condemn Jesus to die on a cross, so he tried to find a way out.

Jewish custom during the Passover allowed Jews to choose one prisoner who would be set free.

The Bible says that Pilate asked the Jews if they wanted to free Jesus or Barabbas.

I noticed scripture didn't say that Pilate asked the Jews to choose any prisoner they wanted. He gave them a choice between two.

Was Pilate trying to manipulate the situation? He wanted the Jewish people to free Jesus, so did he give them an option he was sure they would refuse? Was Barabbas considered the worst of the worst? He is called a "notorious prisoner" in the book of Mark.

Scripture says that Barabbas was a murderer. He is mentioned in all four gospels and Peter refers to him again in the Book of Acts, again calling him a murderer.

Barabbas was set free, and we don't hear from him again. I can't help but wonder what Barabbas did then. Did he run away from there as fast as he could, back to the life he led? Was he curious about the man who was condemned to die when it could have been him? Did he hide in the shadows and watch as Jesus was crucified?

Maybe he wanted to know more about Jesus and he learned about the Messiah. Maybe he realized that God himself chose Barabbas that day to be released from condemnation.

Why him?

I think God wanted us to know that no sin is too great, no soul is too lost, and nobody is beyond the redemption that came when Jesus was placed on that cross.

I wonder if Barabbas said, "It could have been me," or even, "It should have been me."

I wonder if he received the gift of salvation that day, the very gift that became available right before his eyes.

I think the Bible doesn't tell us the rest of the story when it comes to Barabbas because he represents us all, and we all have to finish our story ourselves. Barabbas was set free, and we can be set free, too.

By Sharon

Peanut butter whip with apples

Ingredients

- 4 tablespoons plain Greek yogurt
- 1 tablespoon creamy natural peanut butter
- 1/2 teaspoon honey
- 1 medium apple, cored and sliced into 12 wedges

Instructions

Combine yogurt, peanut butter and honey in a small bowl; whisk with a fork until well blended. Serve immediately, or cover and chill until ready to use. Divide apple wedges between two plates. Spoon 2 tablespoons of peanut butter whip onto each plate.



Moo2U dairy finds unique path to success

ADAIRVILLE, Ky. – Let's face it – it's tough to make a living with a small dairy. Many dairies depend on off-farm income or creatively find a new way to sell a product they love.

Meet Mike Armstrong, who operates Moo2U Dairy. Armstrong will quickly say his way of milking cows and selling milk isn't for everyone. But Armstrong's tenacity, attention to detail, and outgoing personality enabled him to develop a successful delivery service selling raw milk.

While regulations regarding retail sales of raw milk vary from state to state, Kentucky and Tennessee permit the purchase of herd shares. Herd shares allow the consumer to own part of the herd just as a person owns a farm share in a CSA.

Armstrong's story is all too familiar. He grew up on a generation dairy farm in Tennessee. As a youngster in the early 1970s, he stood on a five-gallon bucket to reach the udder and attach the teat cups. The farm crisis of the 1980s took its toll on his family's dairy,

and they stopped milking.

His love for dairying never stopped and he and his brother restarted the family dairy in the late 1990s.

"But the dairy business isn't very forgiving," Armstrong said. Even with 30 acres of tobacco and a farm equipment sales job, the financial constraints again closed the family dairy.

Armstrong couldn't give up milking cows and, in 2007, he purchased his current 104-acre farm in Logan County. With the move to Kentucky, he decided he must focus on his herd's genetics "to make things work."

He switched to Jerseys, whose smaller frame size was more heat tolerant, needed less feed, and left a smaller carbon footprint with 20 percent less manure production than larger dairy breeds. He carefully selected bulls for the 40-cow herd's AI breeding program.

He set a grueling schedule for himself, milking cows twice a day while still selling farm equipment to make ends meet. Again, milk prices were not making the farm sustainable.



Mike Armstrong stands with part of his herd at his farm in Logan County.

"I was selling Grade A milk at the same price my father sold Grade B milk when I was a kid," Armstrong said. An article he read in Hoard's Dairyman said that dairy farmers needed \$23 per hundredweight to break even; his check

said \$11.

He saw dairies all around him closing; high dollar registered cows sold for market price at the sale barn.

SEE MOO2U, PAGE 12

JUNE IS DAIRY MONTH AUCTIONS

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Ag commissioner proclaims June as Dairy Month in Kentucky

Dairy farmers, producers, and industry representatives joined Commissioner of Agriculture Dr. Ryan Quarles Monday to sign a proclamation honoring the dairy industry and proclaiming June as Dairy Month in Kentucky.

"In June, we want to celebrate the hard work and resiliency of Kentucky's dairy farmers," Commissioner Quarles said. "With the constant pressure on our agriculture producers to adapt to change, we can look at our dairy partners as a group who has made those needed changes and continues to provide the wholesome and nutritious dairy products we have always enjoyed. June is the perfect time to celebrate Dairy Month and honor the service and the hard work of the Kentucky dairy farmer."

The dairy cattle industry saw a bump in numbers for 2023. Dairy cows increased by 1,000 head, making 2023 the first Jan. 1 year-over-year increase since 1986. Kentucky's 45,000 dairy cows produce milk – the Official Beverage of Kentucky – along with ice cream, artisan cheeses, and other tasty dairy products. Dairy farmers help provide

Kentucky families with the calcium, protein, vitamins, and minerals they need to lead an active and healthy lifestyle.

On average, each dairy cow produces 6.5 gallons of milk a day, meaning Kentucky dairy cows produce more than 107 million gallons of milk each year. Milk ranks eighth as a Kentucky agriculture product with Kentucky dairy producers receiving more than \$244 billion in cash receipts from sales of dairy products. On average each dairy cow generates more than \$13,700 in economic ripple effect each year. Barren County has the most dairy cows, followed by Adair, Logan, Christian, and Todd counties.

"The Kentucky Dairy Development Council represents all dairy farms within the state of Kentucky, and we salute them in their efforts of bringing wholesome milk to the marketplace," said H.H. Barlow, KDDC executive director. "It is a 24/7/365 day a year endeavor and we are proud of all that they do. We also appreciate all consumers of all dairy products – without them we wouldn't have a market for our prod-



Dairy farmers, producers, and industry representatives joined Commissioner of Agriculture Dr. Ryan Quarles Monday to sign a proclamation honoring the dairy industry and proclaiming June as Dairy Month in Kentucky.

ucts. Have yourself an extra bowl of ice cream to cool off this summer and help us celebrate June Dairy Month."

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture helps Kentucky dairy farmers

and processors find new markets for their products and conducts dairy cattle shows across the state. For more about the department's services to the dairy industry, go to www.kyagr.com.

Kentucky Winter wheat production forecast up from 2022

Kentucky farmers expect to harvest 33.5 million bushels of winter wheat during 2023 according to the

Kentucky field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. The expected crop for 2023 would be up 12% from the previous year. The forecast was based on crop conditions as of June 1 and decreased 1% from the May forecast. Growers expect a yield of

78.0 bushels per acre, down 2.0 bushels from 2022 and down 1.0 bushels from May. Farmers seeded 610,000 acres last fall with 430,000 acres to be harvested for grain. Acres for other uses totaled 180,000 acres and will be used as cover crop for tobacco or cut as silage or hay.

As of June 1 the winter wheat crop in Kentucky was rated in mostly good condition.

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Poison hemlock is highly toxic plant



Poison hemlock is one of the most toxic plants in pastures or hay fields and is common in field margins and idle areas. It establishes from seed, usually germinating in the fall and maturing in late May or early June. Mature plants can be two to six feet or more in height.

Poison hemlock is a toxic weed commonly found along roadsides and field margins. Many are asking about toxicity of hemlock in hay or silage. Understanding more about the toxicity and life cycle of this plant can help avoid toxicity to livestock and even humans.

Poison hemlock reproduces only by seed, and each plant can produce as many as 35,000 seed. Hemlock may be introduced as a contaminant of cheap seed, but must be listed on the seed tag. Hemlock can germinate throughout the growing season but usually acts like a winter annual by germinating in the fall and flowering the next spring. Hemlock stems elongate and reach maturity in late May and early June, and mature plants can be two to six feet in height.

Hemlock is extremely toxic to all forms of livestock. Symptoms of poisoning can occur rapidly anywhere within 30 minutes to 2 hours depending on the animal, quantity consumed, and

other ecologic factors. Toxicity varies depending on stage of plant growth, location and environment.

Livestock generally avoid it unless forage is scarce but it may be accidentally consumed as a contaminant of hay or silage. Poison hemlock contains 8 piperidine alkaloids; the two major ones are coniine (major alkaloid in the seed) and gamma-coniceine (predominate in green, vegetative growth). These alkaloids cause paralysis of the muscles by acting as a neuromuscular blocking agent. Signs of acute poisoning include:

- Nervousness, trembling, muscle weakness, incoordination
- Salivation (slobbering)
- Initial stimulation or excitement followed by depression
- Dilation of the pupils
- Weak heartbeat
- Musty, mousy odor to breath and in the urine

- Prolapse of the third eyelid across the cornea may cause temporary blindness

- Death by respiratory failure due to paralysis of respiratory muscles

Consumption of poison hemlock for an extended period during the first trimester of pregnancy can cause birth defects in cattle and other livestock.

Toxicity in hay and silage/baleage

The concentrations of toxic alkaloids in hemlock are affected by hay curing and ensiling. The drying process will reduce alkaloid concentrations by two mechanisms: 1) Gamma-coniceine is converted to coniine as hay

The Forage Doctor



By Jimmy Henning

dries, and coniine is 10x less toxic than gamma-coniceine, and 2) Coniine is volatile and will evaporate during hay curing. Even with the decline in alkaloid concentrations in hemlock due to curing, it has been known to poison cattle and horses by its consumption in

SEE TAKE, PAGE 13

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Moo2U dairy separates A1, A2 beta-casein milk



Mike Armstrong separates his cows based on the production of A1 and A2 beta-casein milk. He says people who have digestive issues are more likely to be able to consume A2 milk.

FROM PAGE 9

"I just wasn't going to do that. I had to stop the bleeding; I was losing \$10,000 a month," he said.

A simple conversation with his state dairy inspector set Armstrong on his

new dairy path. The inspector commented that Armstrong's dairy was immaculate, the cleanest he inspected, and he asked Armstrong if he ever considered selling raw milk.

Armstrong researched selling raw milk as well as other ways he could cut

costs. This first approach began in 2015 was a total grass ration, which did not prove successful and caused reproduction issues. Now he rotationally grazes and feeds a ration to balance the cow's nutritional needs.

His most significant cost-cutting measure is only milking once a day. Armstrong's very logical rationale for this outside box management decision is simple.

"We as dairy farmers always feel the pressure to produce more, but when supply is up, prices are down," he said. By milking once a day, Armstrong's feed bill decreased, and more importantly, he currently sells all the 750 gallons he produces each week.

Making sure the cows are meticulously cared for, as the MOO2U website states, is a primary focus for Armstrong.

"I'm not one of those guys that milks his cow in the backyard, strains the milk through a pair of pantyhose and sets the bucket in the creek," Armstrong declared.

The farm health regimen begins with the cow's health, and Armstrong

believes that only milking once a day decreases the amount of stress on the cow's body. He has a strict protocol for the essential health of the udder. Armstrong washes the udder daily with a Dawn antibacterial dish soap solution, water, and follows with hydrogen peroxide. Each teat is dried with the cow's own towel to eliminate the possibility of spreading a potential pathogen. Each teat is stripped, and the milk is checked for color and consistency. After the cow is milked, she receives a post-dip, which sanitizes the teat and keeps it soft. This solution must dry on the teat for 30 minutes. To ensure the cows don't lay down, he feeds all of the herd at the end of milking. His catch word for herd health is diligence.

When he started producing raw milk, he realized his cows produced A2 milk, and his AI bulls were also A2. He began separating the milk into two holding tanks. A2 milk is identical to the traditional A1 except at the 67th link in the casein amino acid chain. According to research, this slight difference makes

SEE LOGAN, PAGE 18

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Take steps to avoid poison hemlock toxicity

FROM PAGE 10

hay.

Although the volatility of the alkaloids does mean that concentrations of some of the toxic ones can decrease in hay, so too does the foul “mouse urine” taste that some of these volatiles impart. This makes poison hemlock in hay much more dangerous than the fresh plants because animals are more likely to eat them. Toxicosis with fresh plants is rare, and usually occurs in animals that are drylotted or starving and then gain access to an overgrown field.

An Oregon study measured coniine and gamma-coniceine concentrations in fresh plants and in ensiled hemlock after 56 days. Ensiling increased coniine concentrations by 66 to 222% while amounts of gamma-coniceine were reduced by 23 to 51%. Interestingly, there was a 10 to 20-fold difference in the initial levels of these toxic alkaloids in the two locations studied.

Avoid the possibility of toxicity by not letting hemlock contaminate stored forages and by controlling hemlock by herbicide application. The best time for control using herbicides is generally when plants are in the younger rosette stages of growth in late February and early March. Herbicide products containing 2,4-D, dicamba+2,4-D (eg. Weedmaster, Brash, Rifle-D, etc.), and aminopyralid (i.e. GrazonNext, DuraCor) are the preferred choices for obtaining effective control. Effectiveness of chemical control can decrease as plants begin to elongate and become more mature.

Poison hemlock can be toxic to humans, but only if consumed. Unlike poison ivy, topical exposure to hemlock is not cause for concern. Some individuals may be overly sensitive and develop symptoms of dermatitis from coming in contact with hemlock. Even though toxicity due to skin contact is not a serious concern, it is prudent to prevent direct skin exposure when handling this plant.

Poison hemlock is one of the most toxic plants we see in pastures and hayfields. Ingestion can cause acute

respiratory failure as well as birth defects in cattle and other livestock. There is considerable variation in the concentration of the toxic alkaloids in plants. Poison hemlock should not be allowed to contaminate hay or silage. To manage hemlock, mow during

stem elongation to reduce seed production and apply herbicidal controls in late February or early March.

Happy foraging.

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Supreme Court ruling limits WOTUS rule

The U.S. Supreme Court recently handed a huge win to landowners, including farmers, in a case involving the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's jurisdiction over Waters of the United States, often referred to as WOTUS.

A 5-4 majority on the court issued an opinion, written by Justice Samuel Alito, that significantly narrowed the definition of adjacent wetlands, saying that to be adjacent and therefore a WOTUS, the wetland must have a continuous surface connection to a relatively permanent body of water connected to a traditional navigable water. The four-justice minority disagreed in an opinion, written by Justice Brett Kavanaugh, saying that a continuous surface connection test is too narrow, and overturns decades of precedent followed by both Republican and Democratic administrations.

The case stems from property owners in Idaho who sought to build a house near Priest Lake in the state's panhandle. According to Associated Press, Chantell and Michael Sackett objected when federal officials identified a soggy

portion of the property as a wetlands that required them to get a permit before filling it with rocks and soil.

President Joe Biden issued a statement voicing his disappointment in the ruling.

"The Supreme Court's disappointing decision in Sackett v. EPA will take our country backwards. It puts our Nation's wetlands – and the rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds connected to them – at risk of pollution and destruction, jeopardizing the sources of clean water that millions of American families, farmers, and businesses rely on," Biden

'This sensible ruling preserves protections for our nation's valuable water resources while providing clarity to farmers and others about the process of determining federal jurisdiction over wetlands.'

Tom Haag

National Corn Growers Association President

said in the statement.

Kentucky's farm organizations have been battling EPA's broad definition of waterways and argued that vague regulations could cause farmers problems because of ponds or even water puddles.

Travis Cushman, American Farm Bureau Federation Deputy General Counsel, said the ruling confirms that the EPA clearly overstepped its authority under the Clean Water Act.

"The interpretation the Supreme Court adopted was the same one that we've been advocating for," Cushman

said. "Basically, it means that farms and ranches should now be able to have much greater clarity on where jurisdiction begins and ends, what features in their lands are safe to farm on. Beforehand, the EPA could essentially claim jurisdiction over almost anything, and now that ability of the EPA is much, much, more limited to things that the Clean Water Act actually contemplates as waters."

The National Corn Growers Association applauded the decision.

"This sensible ruling preserves protections for our nation's valuable water resources while providing clarity to farmers and others about the process of determining federal jurisdiction over wetlands," said NCGA President Tom Haag. "This is a great day for corn growers."

In the decision, the court narrowed the scope of the Clean Water Act's jurisdiction by clearly rejecting the vague "significant nexus test," the Biden administration's WOTUS rule.

EPA is now expected to issue a revised WOTUS rule.

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KENTUCKY GRAIN PRICES							National Weekly Ethanol Plant Report	
<u>LOUISVILLE AREA:</u> Louisville & Bagdad; <u>PENNYRILE AREA:</u> Allensville, Auburn, Franklin, Hopkinsville & Pembroke; <u>BLUEGRASS AREA:</u> Bardstown, Lexington & Winchester; <u>GREEN RIVER:</u> Caneyville & Livermore; <u>NORTHERN KENTUCKY AREA:</u> Silver Grove at Cincinnati; <u>PURCHASE AREA:</u> Clinton & Mayfield. Opening bids at elevators and processing plants.							5/29/2023-6/2/2023 Indiana Ohio Illinois Iowa	
<div>6/5/2023 4:00 pm est</div> <div>Bids for next day</div> <div>Cash Bids</div> <div>Corn #2 Yellow</div> <div>Corn #2 White</div> <div>Soybeans #1 Y</div> <div>Wheat #2 SRW</div> <div>Barley</div>							Yellow Corn Spot Bid 5.93-5.24	
							Dried Distillers Grain (\$/ton) 10% moisture 207.00-245.00	
							Modified Wet Distillers (\$/ton) 55-60% moisture 100.00-115.00	
							Kentucky Weekly Cattle Receipts as reported at local markets:	
<div>New Crop Delivery Contract</div> <div>Corn #2 Yellow</div> <div>Corn #2 White</div> <div>Soybeans #1 Y</div> <div>Wheat #2 SRW</div> <div>Barley</div>							05/15/23 17,237	
							05/22/23 15,806	
							05/30/23 15,629	
							06/05/23 11,606	
Louisville							Pennyrile	
Purchase							Bluegrass	
Green River							Northern KY	
5.75-6.22							6.08-6.28	
NA							6.28	
5.57							6.17	
13.35-13.40							13.75	
5.64-5.99							5.94	
13.30							13.55	
5.94							5.49	
NA							NA	
NA							NA	
5.02							5.02-5.22	
10.95							5.70	
5.57-6.09							4.87	
11.20-11.35							5.17	
5.64-5.99							NA	
11.43							NA	
5.94							NA	
10.95							NA	
11.30							NA	
5.49							NA	

Weekly Feed Ingredient Price Wholesale prices, \$ per ton Rail or Truck FOB Location	Owensboro Grain 6/5/2023	Commonwealth Agri-Energy Hopkinsville 6/5/2023	St. Louis Weekly Feed Region 6/02/2023	Memphis Weekly Feed Region 6/02/2023	Corn Belt Weekly Feed Region 6/02/2023	Daily Direct Hog Prices LM_HG218 6/5/2023 Barrows & Gilts Purchased Swine Receipts: 3,722 Base Price: \$77.00-\$90.00 Wt. Avg. \$81.09 Compared to prior day, wt. avg. base prices were down \$4.85 5 Day Rolling Average: \$84.52	FOR DAILY LIVESTOCK AND GRAIN MARKET REPORTS CALL FARMLOT 1-800-327-6568 1-502-573-0553
Soybean Meal 48% Sol	419.00	—	402.80-427.80	417.80-437.80	395.80-427.80		
Soybean Hulls	200.00	—	170.00-195.00	170.00-195.00	150.00-200.00		
Corn Distillers Grain Dried	—	245.00	210.00-232.00	—	190.00-245.00		
Distillers Grain Modified	—	146.00	—	—	—		
Distillers Grain Wet	—	90.00	—	—	—		
Corn Condensed Solubles	—	NA	—	—	—		
Corn Gluten Feed 20-21 pct	—	—	215.00	165.00-180.00	150.00-180.00		
Corn Gluten Meal 60 pct	—	—	640.00	520.00-540.00	520.00-560.00		
Cottonseed Meal 41 pct	—	—	405.00-410.00	360.00-365.00	410.00-415.00		
Whole Cottonseed	—	—	—	—	—		
Wheat Middlings	—	—	—	—	—		



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859-314-7211

BLUEGRASS STOCKYARDS OF RICHMOND, LLC

Logan Co. farmer sells shares to raw milk market

FROM PAGE 12

A2 milk easier to digest.

Armstrong has his own antidotal research to back up the A2 digestibility. A teller at Armstrong’s bank could never drink milk. He gave her his A1, but she saw no improvement. However, when she tried his A2, she did not experience her previous digestive issues.

It’s taken six years for Armstrong to develop a thriving raw milk business. He is tenacious in marketing his product. He started by going to as many as six farmers’ markets a week to get his name out. Word of mouth helped bring customers to the local markets, but Armstrong needed more distribution.

“I knew Nashville was a key market, but I also knew people from Nashville wouldn’t drive up here to pick up milk,” he said.

He needed to provide a benefit, and that benefit was delivery. With that in mind, he developed an extensive sales and delivery system, which his stepson manages during the week. He delivers 125 pre-sold gallons to Richland Park Farmers’ Market on Saturdays.

Long-time customer Joanne Luquer loves

Moo2U A2 milk.

“Not only did I discover I could drink milk again, but I love knowing where my milk comes from and who produces it,” Luquer commented.

Raw milk consumption is highly controversial, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention consider it one of the riskiest foods available. If raw milk is not handled properly, it can be contaminated with harmful germs that are not eliminated through pasteurization. Farmers like Armstrong sell shares to cattle as a way to allow consumers to take ownership in the cows and share the responsibility if they choose to consume the product.

Armstrong knows that safely handling and storing his product is essential. He is constantly researching and striving for improvement. It’s not one single thing that makes his product safe, it’s many little things done correctly every single day, he said.

“There isn’t one thing I can do to change my milk – there’s a million. It’s my job to do all I can to keep it going.”

By Toni Riley
Field Reporter



While selling shares allows dairy producers to sell raw milk in Kentucky and Tennessee, there was a concern that crossing a state line could cause Mike Armstrong problems, so Tennessee inspectors worked with Moo2U Dairy on labeling that further protects the business.

Blue Grass Stockyards Lexington, KY May 30, 2023 Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 40 hd. 526# 241.00 blk-mixed 40 hd. 639# 224.25 blk-mixed 115 hd. 973# 196.40 blk-bwf 53 hd. 1018#190.60 blk Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 151 hd. 661# 225.90 blk	KY-TN Livestock Auction Guthrie, KY June 1, 2023 Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 48 hd. 686# 235.00 blk Feeder Bulls: Medium & Large 1-2 23 hd. 493# 237.50 blk-bwf Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 26 hd. 437# 240.00 blk-bwf 40 hd. 490# 226.00 blk-bwf 27 hd. 546# 213.50 blk-bwf 23 hd. 627# 205.50 blk-bwf	Blue Grass South Stanford, KY June 1, 2023 Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 65 hd. 812# 215.00 blk 63 hd. 826# 210.40 charx 57 hd. 875# 210.00 blk-red 120 hd. 904# 213.00 blk 54 hd. 1008#197.40 blk-charx Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 77 hd. 685# 227.00 blk 77 hd. 708# 217.70 blk 76 hd. 720# 209.50 blk-charx 76 hd. 727# 213.00 charx-blk 76 hd. 730# 220.00 blk 71 hd. 749# 213.90 charx 69 hd. 784# 206.00 blk	Paris Stockyards Paris, KY June 1, 2023 Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 84 hd. 544# 238.00 blk 82 hd. 666# 235.00 blk 50 hd. 695# 228.00 blk
Lake Cumberland Livestock Somerset, KY. June 3, 2023 Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 61 hd. 965# 194.25 charx-red 59 hd. 967# 199.75 blk-bwf 42 hd. 1174#184.10 blk-charx 47 hd. 1204#177.00 blk-bwf Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 64 hd. 834# 193.50 mixed 55 hd. 957# 180.00 mixed	Mid-KY Livestock Market Upton, KY May 30, 2023 Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 23 hd. 596# 230.00 mixed 27 hd. 874# 196.25 blk Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 22 hd. 520# 217.00 blk 20 hd. 648# 214.25 blk	United Producers Owenton Owenton, KY May 31, 2023 Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 57 hd. 927# 204.00 blk 59 hd. 817# 209.50 blk	Blue Grass of Campbellsville Campbellsville, KY May 31 & June 3, 2023 Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 36 hd. 739# 223.75 blk-bwf 32 hd. 765# 223.00 blk-charx 45 hd. 821# 213.25 blk-charx 60 hd. 879# 206.75 blk-charx Holstein Steers: Large 3 20 hd. 352# 199.00 20 hd. 356# 199.00 Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 58 hd. 577# 218.75 blk-red 160 hd. 667# 225.85 blk-charx 64 hd. 821# 198.85 blk-charx
	Blue Grass Maysville Maysville, KY May 30, 2023 Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 62 hd. 936# 195.75 blk		Blue Grass of Richmond Richmond, KY June 2, 2023 Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 55 hd. 981# 199.50 charx-red

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Producers Livestock Sheep and Goat Auction, San Angelo, Texas May 30, 2023

Compared to last week slaughter lambs steady. Slaughter ewes 5.00-10.00 higher. Feeder lambs not well tested. Nannies firm to 5.00 higher; kids weak to 5.00 lower. Trading and demand moderate.

SLAUGHTER LAMBS WOOLED & SHORN: Choice and Prime 1-2 57-58 lbs 220.00-227.00; 60 lbs 224.00; 75-79 lbs 192.00-276.00; 83 lbs 200.00; 91-98 lbs 170.00-196.00; 103 lbs 176.00-232.00. Choice and Prime 2-3 115-143 lbs 160.00-168.00; 160 lbs 165.00. Choice 1-2 54-59 lbs 214.00-217.00; 69 lbs 202.00; 82 lbs 162.00. HAIR BREEDS: Choice and Prime 1-2 48-49 lbs 228.00-240.00; 52-59 lbs 220.00-244.00; 60-69 lbs 210.00-247.00; 70-79 lbs 194.00-227.00; 80-89 lbs 188.00-210.00; 90-98 lbs 170.00-204.00; 100-110 lbs 170.00-198.00 116 lbs 201.00 Choice and Prime 2-3 111-126 lbs 190.00-196.00. Choice 1-2 41-47 lbs 200.00-218.00; 50-58 lbs 200.00-222.00; 60-68 lbs 186.00-210.00; 75-79 lbs 180.00-210.00; 81-89 lbs 160.00-182.00; 107 lbs 170.00.

SLAUGHTER GOATS KIDS: Selection 1 44-49 lbs 296.00-310.00; 52-58 lbs 295.00-330.00; 60-69 lbs 296.00-333.00; 72-79 lbs 294.00-317.00; 81-89 lbs 294.00-325.00; 90-97 lbs 286.00-314.00. Selection 1-2 43-49 lbs 260.00-295.00; 50-59 lbs 260.00-298.00; 60-69 lbs 260.00-292.00; 70-75 lbs 250.00-292.00; 83 lbs 270.00; 95 lbs 270.00. Selection 2 40-49 lbs 202.00-255.00; 51-58 lbs 220.00-250.00; 68 lbs 240.00; 73 lbs 235.00.

New Holland Sheep and Goat Auction New Holland, Pa. June 5, 2023

No comparison due to federal holiday last week. Buyer demand for both sheep and goats sales was moderate. Supply for the goat sale was light to moderate. Supply for the sheep sale was moderate.

SLAUGHTER LAMBS WOOLED & SHORN: Choice and Prime 1-3 55-58 lbs 257.00-262.00; 85 lbs 280.00; 105 lbs 290.00. Choice 1-3 43 lbs 230.00; 53-58 lbs 207.00-235.00; 65-69 lbs 207.00-235.00; 70-79 lbs 220.00-265.00; 80-89 lbs 230.00-260.00; 90-99 lbs 247.00-275.00; 100-134 lbs 217.00-275.00. Good and Choice 1-2 53 lbs 170.00; 60-66 lbs 200.00-207.00; 110 lbs 195.00. HAIR BREEDS: Choice 1-3 52-59 lbs 205.00-225.00; 60-63 lbs 190.00-225.00; 72-79 lbs 237.00-250.00; 81-84 lbs 260.00-265.00; 90-95 lbs 250.00-295.00; 105-126 lbs 245.00-280.00. Good and Choice 1-2 70-78 lbs 170.00-220.00; 85-86 lbs 175.00-240.00; 93 lbs 218.00.

SLAUGHTER GOATS KIDS: Selection 1 20 lbs 55.00; 30 lbs 50.00-60.00; 40-49 lbs 50.00-150.00; 50-59 lbs 165.00-185.00; 60-69 lbs 205.00-255.00. 70 lbs 300.00; 80 lbs 270.00. Selection 2 60-69 lbs 145.00-170.00; 70-79 lbs 165.00-225.00.00.

United Producers Inc. Graded Sheep/Goat Sale - Owenton, Ky. June 2, 2023

Total Receipts: 382 hd. Graded: 334 hd. Compared to last sale lamb prices were down sharply in all weight classes, kid prices stayed steady with little to no change. Demand was still good on both goats and sheep.

SLAUGHTER LAMBS WOOLED: Choice and Prime 1-2 78 lbs 185.00; 100 lbs 205.00. Good and Choice 2-3 218 lbs 65.00.

HAIR BREEDS: Choice and Prime 1-2 54 lbs 165.00; 63 lbs 215.00; 85 lbs 200.00.

Choice 2 53 lbs 195.00; 67 lbs 160.00; 106 lbs 120.00. Good and Choice 2-3 49 lbs 165.00; 57 lbs 177.50; 64-69 lbs 160.00-175.00; 100 lbs 90.00.

SLAUGHTER GOATS KIDS: Selection 2 50 lbs 260.00. Selection 2-3 55 lbs 150.00 pygmies.

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USDA extends application deadline for revenue loss programs to July 14

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is extending the deadline for the Emergency Relief Program Phase Two and Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program to July 14 to give producers more time to apply for assistance. The original deadline was June 2.

Additionally, USDA's Farm Service Agency is partnering with nine organizations to provide educational and technical assistance to agricultural producers and provide assistance in completing an ERP Phase Two application. The extended deadline will give producers more time to work with these partner organizations and apply for assistance.

"Farm Service Agency recognizes that there is a learning curve for producers applying for our new revenue-based programs and we want to make sure producers have the time they need to apply for assistance," said FSA Administrator Zach Ducheneaux. "Partnering with these organizations through cooperative agreements provides additional educational and technical assistance to producers who may need help with the Emergency Relief Program Phase Two application process. The deadline extension gives producers more time to locate and work with these organizations to complete their program application."

Cooperative Agreements for ERP Phase Two Application Assistance

Through cooperative agreements with FSA, the following organizations are providing free assistance to producers across the United States and territories.

- Alabama State Association of Cooperatives
- Farmers Legal Action Group, INC.
- Flower Hill Institute
- Intertribal Agriculture Council, Inc.
- North South Institute
- Renewing the Countryside II
- Rural Advancement Foundation International - USA
- Rural Coalition
- Texas Small Farmers and Ranchers CBO

Depending on a producer's location, these nine partners can provide assistance either by phone or through online meeting software like Zoom or Microsoft Teams.

There is never a charge for technical assistance provided by FSA employees or cooperative agreement recipients. These organizations will assist producers with completing the application and any follow-up future insurance coverage requirements. Producers who receive ERP payments are statutorily required to purchase crop insurance or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program coverage for the next two available crop years. These organizations will not collect producer records, complete or sign the application form, or act on the producer's behalf in any way throughout this process.

Find more information on FSA cooperative agreements and contact information for the nine organizations please visit fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/cooperative-agreements/index.

Eligibility

To be eligible for ERP Phase Two, producers must have suffered a decrease in allowable gross revenue in 2020 or 2021 due to necessary expenses related to losses of eligible crops from a qualifying natural disaster event. Assistance will be primarily to producers of crops that were not covered by Federal Crop Insurance or NAP, since crops covered by Federal Crop Insurance and NAP were included in the assistance under ERP Phase One.

To be eligible for PARP, an agricultural producer must have been in the business of farming during at least part of the 2020 calendar year and had a 15% or greater decrease in allowable gross revenue for the 2020 calendar year, as compared to a baseline year.

FSA offers an online ERP tool and PARP tool that can help producers determine what is considered allowable gross revenue for each respective program.

Producers should contact their local FSA office to make an appointment to apply for ERP Phase Two and PARP assistance. Producers should also keep in mind that July 15 is a major deadline to complete acreage reports for most crops.

FSA encourages producers to complete the ERP Phase Two application, PARP application and acreage reporting during the same office visit.



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KyCorn CONNECTION

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

Corn Growers Applaud Court WOTUS Decision

The U.S. Supreme Court recently handed a huge win to landowners, including farmers, in a case involving the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's jurisdiction over Waters of the United States, often referred to as WOTUS.

The National Corn Growers Association applauded the decision.

"This sensible ruling preserves protections for our nation's valuable water resources while providing clarity to farmers and others about the process of determining federal jurisdiction over wetlands," said NCGA President Tom Haag. "This is a great day for corn growers."

In the decision, the court narrowed the scope of the Clean Water Act's jurisdiction by clearly rejecting the vague "significant nexus test," upending the Biden administration's overreaching WOTUS rule.



A 5-4 majority on the court issued an opinion, written by Justice Samuel Alito, that significantly narrowed the definition of adjacent wetlands, saying that to be adjacent and therefore a WOTUS, the wetland must have a continuous surface connection to a relatively permanent body of water connected to a traditional navigable water. The four-justice minority disagreed in an opinion, written by Justice Brett Kavanaugh, saying that a continuous surface connection test is too narrow, and overturns decades of precedent followed by both Republi-

can and Democratic administrations.

NCGA, which has long said that EPA's broad definition of WOTUS creates pervasive uncertainty and confusion for the agricultural community and farmers trying to manage land they own and operate, has spoken out forcefully on the issue and joined other agricultural groups in filing an amicus brief as the Supreme Court considered the case.

EPA is now expected to issue a revised WOTUS rule, since its current rule relies heavily on the significant nexus test.



Months of Corn Grower Advocacy Leads to Action on Mexico's Corn Ban

The U.S. Trade Representative's recent announcement that it has requested dispute settlement consultations against Mexico over its decree banning biotech corn used for human consumption came after months of intense advocacy by Kentucky corn grower leaders who joined the National Corn Growers Association and corn growers across the country in calling for action.

The concern by U.S. farmers stems from a 2020 decree by Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador that sought to ban imports of biotech corn beginning in January 2024. Mexico issued a revised decree in February of this year that banned biotech corn for human consumption, effective immediately, and left the door open for a future ban on all biotech corn.

Since Mexico is a top market for corn and the number one agricultural export from the U.S., Kentucky Corn has been working with the National Corn Growers Association, our state congressional delegation, state and national media and with officials at USTR and USDA to hold Mexico accountable for its commitments under the U.S.-Canada-Mexico Agreement.

Now, thanks to USTR's actions, if initial consultations don't yield a successful outcome, a group of objective experts will be empaneled to hear the case and make final a determination based on the commitments both parties signed as part of USMCA.

To join our advocacy efforts on this and other issues, visit kycorn.org or text COB to 52886.

Exporting Kentucky Corn Through U.S. Beef and Pork

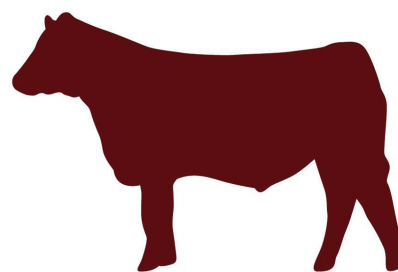
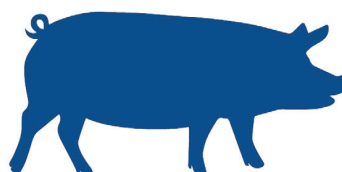
While most of the corn produced in Kentucky stays in the state to be processed for feed, bourbon, food, or ethanol, exports are still a critical factor in the economic success of Kentucky's corn farmers. By working with the U.S. Meat Export Federation, a portion of Kentucky corn moves globally through meat.



In 2022, the market value of beef and pork exports to

Kentucky Corn = \$52.15 million

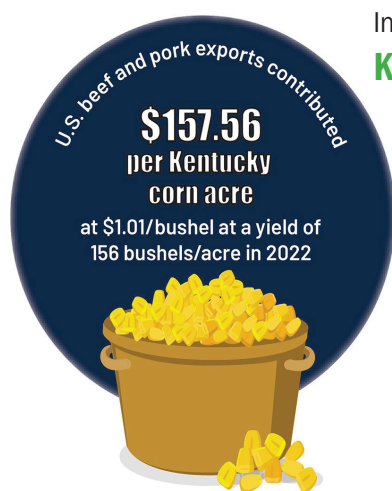
Based on an average price of \$6.75 and consumption of 7.72 million bushels.



In 2022, the market value of beef and pork exports to

Kentucky DDGS = \$18.66 million

Corn consumed by beef and pork exports at average DDGS price (76,476 tons x \$244 per ton)



In 2022 beef and pork exports contributed

15% of bushel value = \$1.01

at an average price of \$6.75 per bushel