

Soy Wicked Candles - where science meets creativity

CLINTON, Ky. – The Deweese family is a closely-knit one, and, like many multi-generational farm families, many family members live within walking distance of one another.

The Deweese/Williford family “compound” has one house that’s not even occupied full time, and that’s where the magic of Soy Wicked Candles happens.

Nestled in the heart of Hales Farms, located in Hickman County, is what family members call “the old house,” and with good reason. Lynne Hales Deweese said that her grandparents got married and moved into the charming white farmhouse with an uncle. The uncle, she said, was one of 10 boys, each of whom received a land grant of 100 acres for fighting in the war.

“My grandparents lived here when I was growing up,” she said. “Then I lived here after

I married. My parents and I switched houses once, and my husband Randy and I moved to where we are now (still in sight of the old house) back in 2019.”

Hales Farms raises soybeans, corn, and wheat, along with a bumper crop of generations.

“It’s a real family operation,” Lynne said. “We have Randy and myself, brothers, nephews, son, son-in-law, granddaughter, and even a grandson-in-law working with us.” She added that many of their employees have been with the farm for 20-25 years.

Lynne had a lot to say about Soy Wicked Candles, which are made by hand in “the old house.” Soy Wicked is Lynne’s granddaughter, Dallas Williford’s, FFA SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience) project, and it’s a true family affair. It didn’t take long to learn that family is not just the first thing, it’s everything to Lynne Deweese.

“Dallas wanted to make soy candles for her SAE, so we ordered a kit back in November so she could figure out how to make them, and it kind of took off from there,” Lynne said.

Fast forward to the summer of 2023, and the ladies of Hales Farms have a variety of scents – some seasonal and some standard – that are sold locally. “Some friends of ours have a cute little shop called 2 Creative Gals. It’s on the court square in Clinton, and they sell a lot of arts and crafts, handmade gifts (including our candles) and other things,” Lynne said.

Handmade being the key word. Lynne and her daughter, Andrea Williford, fired up the candle-making process as a demonstration, and the care and precision with which these candles are created was quite interesting.

“There are different size wicks for different size con-



The ladies of Soy Wicked include L-R Dallas Williford, Kimberly Schwartz (holding baby Freya), Andrea Williford, and Lynne Deweese.

SEE SOY, PAGE 3

Twilight tour spotlights produce management opportunities

FAIRVIEW, KY. – Christian, Trigg, and Todd counties are a hub for vegetable production, with over 800 farmers listing produce as a farm commodity.

The annual Twilight Tour planned by the local Commercial Horticulture Education Committee provides an occasion for these growers to informally tour farms and discuss opportunities for increased production.

The committee is a six-member advisory group organized through the Christian County Cooperative Service

and assisted by County Agent for Horticulture Kelly Jackson.

This year’s tour, held June 21, featured different management opportunities for produce farmers. The tour featured two growers using grafted rootstock for tomatoes grown in hoop houses and one grower using grafted rootstock for watermelons, a beet variety test plot, and a demonstration on water sampling necessary for compliance with the Food Safety Modernization Act.

Grafting is nothing new to vegetable and fruit production. Grafting apples is centuries old, beginning in Asia as early as 2000 BC and documented in Greece in 800 BC. Grafting, regardless of the plant, connects the upper growing portion of a plant, called a scion, to the lower part or rootstock of another variety. The rootstock portion provides increased vigor and disease resistance, while the scion provides the flavor traits needed for the market.

Grafted tomatoes have a rootstock

that is a stronger and provides a more disease-resistant plant, especially in houses that have been in the same location for several years where diseases can overwinter. The grafted plant is more vigorous and productive.

Jeremiah Sauder guided the 125 attendees to his hoop houses with grafted and traditional tomatoes growing side by side at the first farm on Beeker Road. Sauder’s houses had been in the

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Twilight tour spotlights produce management opportunities

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exact location for several years and were perfect for testing the differences in grafted and nongrafted tomatoes. Sauder's grafted plants were larger in size and more productive.

While at Sauder hoop houses, Brad Bergefurd, a technical agronomist for Brandt and retired extension agronomist for Ohio State University, agreed. Bergefurd works with produce farmers in southern Ohio.

"Tomato growers there have gone to grafted because they got tired of moving their houses and are seeing a tremendous yield increase in plant health and resistance to root nibbling diseases," Bergefurd said.

Bergefurd also discussed scouting hoop houses for two insect predators – spider mites and thripes. Spider mites, Bergefurd said, are fairly easy to spot. Just hold a white piece of paper under a plate and shake the leaves, and little dots – the spider mites – will drop off.

Thripes are much harder to spot, noted Bergefurd, as he tossed out handheld magnifying glasses necessary to

see the tiny insects. Thripes can vector many diseases, especially viral in kind. Once spotted, they can be caught in colored sticky trips where their lacy wings are apparent.

Steve Sauder, Jeremiah's father, discussed a beet variety trial. The elder Sauder showed a small area where he was growing two types of beets of different colors, a standard red and a yellow or golden beet. He noted there is a growing market for the yellow beet.

Neighbor Jason Nolt's tomato hoop houses are new, but he is growing grafts to make management decisions from his own experience rather than someone else's. Nolt grafts his own plants rather than purchasing them. Agent Jackson noted that grafting is tricky, and the local extension office and neighboring counties have offered grafting workshops.

Initial production of Nolt's plants shows grafted tomatoes are more prolific than standard tomatoes. He did note that he is growing grafted tomatoes next to traditional tomatoes for comparison purposes. In an actual production situation, the different tomatoes



Steve Sauder shows the two types he is growing for future production.

would be produced in their own hoop house since growth and ripening appear the at different rates.

Nolt discussed how he heated the hoop house when low temperatures in

March could damage young tomatoes. He pointed out his management of the houses over the winter with barn com-

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Soy Wicked Candles - where science meets creativity



Lynn Deweese is pictured pouring Soy Wicked Candles by hand. After setting the proper size wicks, the melted wax is poured when it reaches 135 degrees. Lynne says that the soy wax is far easier to work with and clean up than paraffin and it burns much cleaner than petroleum-based wax.

FROM PAGE 1

tainers, and not all of the scented oils are the same density, so we have to add the scent oil by weight - not volume," Lynne explained.

While Soy Wicked sources its wicks and fragrance oils from a company in North Carolina, the soy wax is sourced much closer to home - Owensboro Grain.

"The combination of the consistently superior products that we get from our oil supplier and Owensboro Grain allows us to make a consistent and superior product, every time," she said. "Our candles will burn all the way to the edges of the tin, and all the way to the bottom."

Lynne was a florist for 26 years and said she sold her business to become a full-time farmer.

"I started out driving trucks and grain buggies, and I did the bookwork - just anything I could do to take a load off my husband. It wasn't long before I told Randy 'I can do anything these men can do.'" And she did.

As the younger generation became more active in the farm, Lynne said she's glad to

be part of the candle business. She enjoys having a creative outlet, but the best part is being with her daughter Andrea Wiliford and granddaughters, Dallas and Kimberly.

"We make candles, but we're mostly making memories. I'm 71, and this is something that I'm doing with my daughter and my granddaughters. We have made back our initial investment of \$1,000, and we are now paying for our own supplies, but we're not paying ourselves yet. I guess we're getting paid in memories."

As for Dallas, whose SAE and brainchild this is - she's actively involved in the mixing and pouring of Soy Wicked Candles, but her favorite part is the marketing. You can find some of her merchandising and marketing efforts on Facebook @SoyWickedKY. She ran promotions for Mother's Day, graduation, and even Teacher Appreciation Week.

Soy Wicked is pleased to be a certified Kentucky Proud product, and in addition to offering candles in tins, they have a wide variety of scented melts available for those who prefer a wax warmer.

Submitted by the Kentucky Soybean Board

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14% Feeder Cattle (8% Steers, 33% Dairy Steers, 4% Bulls, 55% Dairy Heifers); 65% Slaughter Cattle (0% Heifers, 80% Cows, 19% Bulls, 0% Dairy Heifers); 21% Replacement Dairy Cattle (7% Fresh/Milking Cows, 11% Bred Cows, 4% Bred Heifers, 6% Springer Heifers, 6% Open Heifers, 31% Baby Bull Calves, 35% Baby Heifer Calves). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs was 53%.

FEEDER CATTLE:

STEERS: Medium and Large 1-2: 1 Head, 400#, 129.00; 1 Head 915#, 131.00. Medium and Large, 2-3, 1 Head, 735#, 86.00; 1 Head 935#, 98.00. **DAIRY STEERS:** Large 3, 1 Head, 255#, 126.00; 1 Head, 310#, 130.00; 7 Head, 400-420#, 118.00-126.00; 2 Head, 450-490#, 118.00-126.00; 1 Head 520#, 139.00; 1 Head, 565#, 142.00; 1 Head, 680#, 136.00; 1 Head, 940#, 130.00. Medium and Large 1-2: 1 Head, 260#, 160.00; 1 Head, 905#, 100.00; **DAIRY STEERS:** Large 3: 1 Head, 255#, 126.00; 1 Head, 310#, 130.00; 7 Head, 400-430#, 118.00-126.00; 2 head, 450-490#, 118.00; 1 Head, 520#, 139.00; 1 Head, 565#, 142.00; 1 Head, 680#, 136.00; 1 Head, 940#, 130.00. Small and Medium: 1 Head, 295#, 90.00.

SLAUGHTER CATTLE:

HEIFERS: Select and Choice, 1-2: 1 Head, 1530#, 132.00. **COWS:** Breaker 75%-80%: 4 Head, 1480-1675#, 97.00-99.00. 6 Head, 1235-1640#, 102.00-111.00; 1 Head, 1610#, 84.00. Boner 80-85%: 26 Head, 1235-1790#, 90.00-99.00; 47 Head, 1195-1730#, 100.00-124.00; 4 Head, 1215-1600, 80.00-88.00. Lean 85%-90%: 23 Head, 895-1450#, 90.00-99.00; 13 Head, 805-1295#, 100.00-114.00; 37 Head, 790-1485#, 80.00-89.00; 31 Head, 785-1555, 40.00-79.00. **BULLS:** 22 Head, 1260-2100#, 116.00-128.00; 15 Head, 1320-2245#, 130.00-144.00; 10 Head, 1075-1860, 84.00-115.00. **DAIRY HEIFERS:** 1 Head, 1440, 130.00.

REPLACEMENT DAIRY CATTLE:

FRESH/MILKING COWS: Supreme, Stage O, 2 Head, 2000.00; Approved, Stage O, 3 Head, 1050.00-1500.00; Medium, Stage O, 1 Head, 900.00; Medium, Stage O, 2 Head, 775.00-875.00. **BRED COWS:** Approved, T1, 3 Head, 925.00-1250.00; Approved, T2, 4 Head, 900.00-1325.00; Approved T2-3, 2 Head, 1400.00; Medium, T2, 1 Head, 800.00; Medium, T3, 2 Head, 625.00-800.00; Medium, T3, 1 Head, 900.00; Medium, T3, 1 Head, 825.00. **BRED HEIFER:** Supreme, T2, 1 Head, 1325.00; Approved, T1, 1 Head, 1225.00; Approved, T1, 1 Head, 1225.00; Approved, T1, 1 Head, 950.00; Approved, T2, 1 Head, 1250.00; Medium, T2, 1 Head, 735.00. **SPRINGER HEIFERS:** Supreme, T2-3, 1 Head, 1725.00; Supreme, T2-3, 2 Head, 1600.00; Supreme, T3, 1 Head, 1450.00; Approved, T2-3, 1 Head, 925.00; Approved, T3, 2 Head, 950.00-1000.00.

OPEN HEIFERS: Approved, Stage O, 2 Head, 800.00-850.00; Medium, Stage O, 1 Head, 410.00; Common, Stage O, 1 Head, 285.00; Common, Stage O, 1 Head, 250.00; Common, Stage O, 2 Head, 210.00-250.00.

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

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From the Fourth to the Fair!



KENTUCKY
SOYBEAN
ASSOCIATION
COMMUNICATION
DIRECTOR

Rae
Wagoner

With the July 4th holiday in our rearview mirror and August dead ahead, it's time for many folks to start thinking about the Kentucky State Fair. But then, some of us have been thinking about –and planning for – this big event for months now!

The state fair isn't part of my childhood memory bank as it is for so many of you, but I like to say, "I got there as quickly as I could!" And boy, am I glad that I did. As a staffer for the Kentucky Soybean Board, I could not be prouder of the folks on the fair board who saw the need to return our state fair to its agricultural roots, listened to the commodities and other ag groups, and developed AgLand a few years back.

As our organization's communications director, I am in touch with other states' commodity staff members, and AgLand is the envy of many. In addition to providing an outstanding educational opportunity for consumers – youth and adult alike – AgLand is just another way that Kentucky's ag groups come together, work together, and actually enjoy BEING together to advocate for our great industry. I hate that the collaborative spirit isn't present everywhere, and it being so prevalent here in the Commonwealth is just another reason I am proud of our Kentucky farm families.

By now, fairgoers know to look for the Kentucky Soybean Board in the grain bin. That big 30-footer is hard to miss, thanks to Conrad American, Bill Clift and his crew who put it up and take it down each year, and our hardcore group of farmer volunteers. We will be showing our Soy Many Uses and other videos in the Soy Cinema this year, and we invite everyone to swing by and see us next month. We've teamed up with our friends at the Kentucky Pork Producers again, and our staff and volunteers will be hard to miss in our hot pink Pork 'n Beans shirts.

We have a great deal of fun at the fair, but it's a lot of long hours and hard work. Seeing a city kid's face light up when he meets Buddy the Bean is going to be great, but what really gets me is having those meaningful conversations with consumers who are worried about GMOs or antibiotics in their meat. Talking to a real live person who understands and can explain how GMOs are a wonderful tool for our food system, and that there are strict withdrawal times for animals that have been treated with antibiotics so that there's no need to "fear your food" is a big relief for

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Climate change delay is climate change denial

Long before presidential campaigns cost a billion dollars and the Capitol Hill press corps obsessed daily over who's up and who's down, Congress worked together to resolve controversial national issues.

For example, from May to September 1972, Democratic and Republican members of the House of Representatives and Senate held 40 meetings to hammer out legislation to address America's growing problem with water pollution. Forty.

Finally, a deal was struck in mid-September and quickly brought to both chambers for a vote Oct. 4. The House passed what became known as the Clean Water Act of 1972 by a wide, bipartisan margin, 366-11. The Senate vote was even more overwhelming, astonishing 74-0.

But President Richard Nixon, a proponent of the original legislation, vetoed the long-in-coming new law because, he said, its total cost would be four times more than his opening proposal. He signed his veto Oct. 17.

Congress wanted no part of Nixon's cheapskate, we'll-do-more-later approach to clean up the nation's water. On Oct. 18–before the White House ink had dried on the veto–the House overrode Nixon's action by a still wide 247-23 bipartisan margin. The Senate agreed with the House and vetoed the veto 52-12. The Clean Water Act became law.

Can anyone but the sunniest Pollyanna see today's House and Senate–or even more impossible, just GOP House members–agreeing on what day of the week it is, let alone complex, perhaps career-costing legislation that tackles crucial issues affecting our nation's, and therefore every citizen's, future? Me neither.

But that reality won't keep House members from wasting more time and taxpayers' money on messaging bills–bills to help their campaigns, not their constituents and not the nation–as their 11 precious days in Washington this month melt away.

Case in point: "Republicans who lead the House Financial Services Committee plan to spend the next few weeks holding hearings and voting on bills designed to send a clear signal: Corporations, in particular big investment managers, should think twice about integrating climate and social goals into their business plans," reported Politico July 10.

The Securities and Exchange Commission has already done the critical thinking here and it stands by its proposal that publicly traded companies should be required to "include certain cli-

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FOOD
&
FARM
FILE

Alan
Guebert

Corporations, in particular big investment managers, should think twice about integrating climate and social goals into their business plans.

The Farmer's Pride

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THE FARMER'S PRIDE

What is AI's role in agriculture?

TEACH KY
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Elwell

AI technologies can help in the early detection and management of plant diseases and pests.

I have heard artificial intelligence referred to as both the devil and a critically important efficiency tool. While I have not entirely decided, and occasionally have visions of the movies Terminator and The Matrix, it hasn't hindered me from giving them a try. Here is my experience:

1) AI does not have an excellent grasp of appropriate agriculture images – this is unsurprising since most people don't know the difference between beef and dairy cows. I asked a service to create a picture of a farmer planting corn with a red tractor, and the results were laughable. Most of the resulting images contained a farmer in the typical overalls and straw hat riding on something that resembled a pedal tractor. I was told that maybe I should have been more specific to reduce errors, but this shows me that we need to spend more time providing "alt text" to our online images so AI has a broader knowledge of what we are asking.

2) AI can quickly search through data and provide a great summary in the format of your choosing. It took the help of someone much younger and tech-savvy than me to encourage its use, but AI can save much time for content creators. The more parameters you provide, the better it does. Look at what it spit out for my headline:

As we journey further into the 21st century, the marriage of technology and agriculture is not only inevitable but also indispensable. A key player that is set to revolutionize this domain is artificial intelligence. Leveraging AI's potential will inevitably bring about new ways of approaching agriculture, enhancing productivity, increasing efficiency, and promoting sustainability.

At the heart of AI's impact on agriculture is the concept of precision farming. This approach is based on the idea that by having precise information about the state of a farm—information that could range from the soil's moisture levels to the predicted weather

patterns—farmers can make more informed decisions. AI-powered drones, satellites, and sensors can collect this data, which can then be processed using machine learning algorithms to provide real-time insights. This allows farmers to understand the exact needs of each plant, optimize irrigation, reduce waste, and increase overall yields.

Moreover, AI technologies can help in the early detection and management of plant diseases and pests. Intelligent image recognition systems can analyze images of crops to detect early signs of disease or pest infestation, enabling timely intervention. Not only can this prevent substantial crop losses, but it also reduces the dependency on harmful pesticides by promoting targeted interventions. Thus, AI contributes towards a more sustainable and environmentally friendly agricultural practice.

AI is also expected to significantly change how we approach crop selection and genetic modification. Advanced machine learning algorithms can analyze vast amounts of genetic data to determine the traits that would make crops more resistant to diseases, drought, and pests or enhance their nutritional value. This would revolutionize crop breeding and pave the way toward a new era of genetically improved crops.

Furthermore, AI can help improve supply chain efficiency. Predictive analytics can forecast market demands, optimize pricing, and prevent food wastage by ensuring that produce gets to the market when it's most needed. Similarly, AI-powered robots could automate labor-intensive tasks like harvesting and weeding, thereby increasing efficiency and freeing human labor for more complex tasks.

In the face of a rapidly growing global population and the alarming effects of climate change on traditional agricultural practices, the role of AI in agriculture becomes even more critical. It is vital to ensuring food security, sustainability, and resilience in a rapidly changing world.

However, the journey has its challenges. Data privacy, technological disparities between

regions, and farmers' need to acquire new technical skills must be addressed. Moreover, the ethical implications of AI-driven genetic modifications and the risk of job displacement due to automation are significant concerns that society needs to grapple with.

Despite these challenges, the potential benefits of AI in agriculture are too significant to be ignored. With the right policies, investments, and societal acceptance, AI could transform agriculture into a more productive, sustainable, and resilient sector.

The intersection of AI and agriculture holds great promise and potential challenges. As we move forward, a balanced, ethical, and inclusive approach is necessary to ensure that the benefits of AI are harnessed in a way that promotes increased productivity, environmental sustainability, and social equity. The future of agriculture is undoubtedly intertwined with the future of AI, and the time to explore this exciting frontier is now.

It took ChatGPT milliseconds to produce the above article, and it just took me a few minutes more to read and make a few edits. I usually spend several hours researching, organizing my thoughts, and typing them out. Then comes the agonizing editing process.

Many see AI as threatening human jobs, but I see opportunities. The technologies listed here will require knowledgeable technicians to make it work for us. I still needed to read the article and check for accuracy and appropriate tone before sharing it, and I would not ask it to write an article I know nothing about. Since writing is not my natural talent, I can easily defer this task to focus on more meaningful things.

My next big task is amping up the promotion of agriculture careers, and technologies such as AI will now be part of the discussion I will have with students, educators, and job providers. Agriculture is evolving. Let's be prepared.

JENNIFER ELWELL is the Executive Director of the Kentucky Agriculture and Environment in the Classroom and administers the Kentucky Agricultural Council.

Letters to the Editor

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

Climate change delay is climate change denial

FROM PAGE 4

mate-related disclosures” that “are reasonably likely to have a material impact on their business” to both shareholders and the consuming public.

Climate deniers—the few who are left—despise any disclosure proposal and claim it will drive up the cost of goods and services while presenting an unfair, if unflattering, portrait of any business forced to come clean.

Farm groups like the American Farm Bureau Federation have joined the deniers’ chorus, suggesting a farmer’s “obligations through their regulated customers could be enormous.” AFBF does admit, however, that it doesn’t know how that might happen since “farmers and ranchers are not public companies and therefore not ‘registrants’

that are required to report directly to the SEC.”

Moreover, since no SEC disclosure rule is in place, cost estimates at this fluid stage are just a guess.

Still, few climate-skeptic politicians have risen to defend climate deniers’ claims—and not because it’s really bad science but because it’s really bad politics. Polls consistently indicate that 75 percent of all Americans believe climate change is real while only 10 percent claim it isn’t. Even the most rockheaded, anti-climate-change politician can noodle out that voter math.

Climate deniers can too, so many have a new tactic: drop denial and pivot to delay. Do everything to stall any action that might mitigate climate change.

Like, say, call the House Financial Services Committee to order in the middle of July to waste time—your

time, their time, and the little time left to take meaningful action against climate change—to, if not get their way, keep the other 75 percent of the public from getting what they want and their children and grandchildren need.

Today, the science over climate change, like the science over dirty water in the early 1970s, isn’t even part of the debate; it’s a done deal and most everyone agrees.

Everyone except Congress, that is.

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.

From the Fourth to the Fair!

FROM PAGE 4

many consumers who are at the mercy of a flood of (often incorrect or downright false) information. Being able to tap a farmer-volunteer on the shoulder for their firsthand perspective on questions or issues and putting that farmer in a face-to-face conversation with a consumer who may have never MET a farmer before is a priceless opportunity.

In addition to having candid conversations with consumers and playing a spirited and educational game of Pork ‘n Beango (see what we did there?), our exhibit will also again have photos of Kentucky farm families affixed to the side of the bin. Consumers LOVE to see the people who raise their food, feed and fuel. We are always looking for high-quality photos of Kentucky farm families to add to our collection, so if you have one of your family that you’d like to submit, email it to rwagoner@kysoy.org along with the names (left to right) of the people in the photo, farm name and location. This portion of the exhibit features farm families affiliated with the organizations that make up the Kentucky Livestock Coalition, so you don’t have to be a soybean growing family to participate.

Between the exhibits, the concerts, the livestock shows, and let’s not forget the fair food, there’s something for everyone at the Kentucky State Fair. For more information, visit KyStateFair.org. The event is set for August 17-27 at the Kentucky Expo Center in Louisville, and we hope you’ll stop by and see us in AgLand while you’re there!

RAE WAGONER is the communication director for the Kentucky Soybean Association.

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Twilight tour spotlights produce management opportunities

FROM PAGE 1

post and a cover crop.

Another management decision Nolt made was growing grafted watermelons for the first time this year. He believes he will quickly recoup the \$2.35 per plant cost.

Grafted watermelons make less vine, meaning less space, plastic, and drip irrigation. The grafted watermelons are predicted to yield equal or better than traditional plants, but Nolt will have to wait until harvest to measure the production.

Dr. Avinash Tope and John Thomas of Kentucky State University demonstrated the necessary water sampling techniques and discussed E. coli lev-

els acceptable for produce farmers to comply with the FSMA standard for agricultural water which go into effect in 2024.

Agent Jackson said to his knowledge, there is no other advisory group established the same as the Horticulture Education Committee. The group sets their own needs and plans programs with the help of Jackson. The Twilight Tour is unique in its informal nature, allowing participants to connect with other producers and discuss the tour's highlights and production concerns, from rain levels to pest control.

By Toni Riley
Field reporter



Twilight tour participants compared grafted and traditional tomatoes in the hoop houses of Jason Nolt



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Zucchini Corn Fritters



2 cups all-purpose flour
 ½ cup sugar
 1 tablespoon baking powder
 ½ teaspoon cumin
 ½ teaspoon salt
 freshly ground black pepper to taste
 1 cup milk
 ¼ cup butter, melted and slightly cooled
 2 large eggs, beaten
 2 cups grated zucchini
 1 ½ cups fresh corn, kernels cut from cob
 1 cup finely shredded Cheddar cheese
 1 quart oil for frying, or as needed

Directions

Whisk flour, sugar, baking powder, cumin, salt, and pepper together in a large bowl.

Whisk milk, melted butter, and eggs, together in a small bowl; pour into flour mixture and whisk to combine. Stir in zucchini, corn, and Cheddar until well combined.

Heat oil in a deep fryer or large saucepan to 350 degrees F. Working in batches, drop tablespoonfuls of batter into hot oil. Fry until crisp and brown, about 4 minutes per batch, turning halfway through with tongs. Drain on a paper towel-lined plate.

Caprese Salad with Grilled Flank Steak

2 medium tomatoes, diced
 1 (4 ounce) ball fresh mozzarella, cut into 1-inch cubes
 ¼ cup coarsely chopped fresh basil
 2 cloves garlic, minced, divided
 4 - 1 tablespoons olive oil, divided
 1 pound flank steak
 salt and ground black pepper to taste
 1 (6.5 ounce) bag butter lettuce mix
 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar, or to taste

Directions

Mix tomatoes, mozzarella, basil, 1 clove minced garlic, and 1 tablespoon olive oil in a bowl; toss to coat. Cover bowl and refrigerate.

Preheat an outdoor grill for medium-high heat and lightly oil the grate.

Place steak in a large resealable bag; add 1 clove minced garlic, 1 tablespoon olive oil, salt, and pepper. Seal the bag and distribute the oil mixture over the steak.

When the grill is preheated, cook steak to your desired degree of doneness, about 5 minutes per side for medium. An instant-read thermometer inserted into the center should read 140 degrees F.

Let stand for 5 minutes before thinly slicing across the grain. Divide lettuce onto 4 serving plates. Drizzle 1 1/2 teaspoons each balsamic vinegar and olive oil onto each lettuce portion. Divide steak and tomato mixture evenly between the salads. Serve beef mixture over macaroni.



Religion and politics

Christians often like to use the phrase that “we took God out of school” back when school-sponsored prayer was removed by the Supreme Court in 1962.

Since then, the courts have ruled on numerous cases about what is and what isn’t appropriate to allow or encourage in a school setting.

The argument has gone way beyond the school walls, however, and business owners have been faced with expensive lawsuits as they battle for their right to display or follow their faith as they see fit.

The trend toward “fighting for my rights” by hampering the rights of others has become a national pasttime, and somewhere along the way we have lost the ability to agree to disagree.

I understand the desire to not want to pressure children to say they believe a certain faith or make them follow a religious belief in a public school setting. Parents have a right and obligation to lead their children in the way they should go – not the public schools.

Somewhere through the chaos, however, we have become so sensitive to differing views that we have failed to teach an entire generation how to respect the views of others while standing up for what they believe.

I think it all started when we “took God out of school.” We started teaching children that they shouldn’t talk about their spiritual beliefs. Now those children have grown up.

We have tons of popular sayings about never talking about religion or politics. If there are two things I love to talk about, it would be religion and politics.

I have friends I strongly disagree with on both fronts. I still make business decisions daily based on my faith and belief in Jesus Christ. I really don’t see why we can’t “live and let live” without feeling the need to file a lawsuit or making a decision to never speak about certain subjects.

I wonder what our nation would be like today if, instead of making rules that basically ended conversations about matters of faith, we had made a decision to speak openly about different faiths.

Would there be less fear if our children could talk openly about what they are being taught and how they feel about it. Could they see another child like themselves with a different belief and realize that it’s nothing to fear?

I’ve always believed open conversations about religion are a good thing. I can’t help but notice that there is only one name that truly gets people riled up, and that is the name of Jesus. Jesus is really the one people wanted to take out of the schools. It’s the name above all names. When people talk about Jesus, there’s a spiritual awakening. It’s a name that won’t be denied.

By Sharon

Young Leader Program Celebrates 40 Years, Accepts Applications Through August 7

The American Soybean Association's longest-running leadership program, Young Leaders was founded in 1984 and continues to set the bar for leadership training in agriculture, identifying and training new, innovative and engaged growers to serve as the voice of the American farmer. Participants commit to attend two training sessions. The first will be held November 27-30 at Corteva headquarters in Johnston, Iowa, while the second is in conjunction with the annual Commodity Classic trade show and conference. The 2024 Commodity Classic is slated for February 29-March 2 in Houston, Texas, and the Young Leaders training will take place February 27-March 1.

Young Leaders not only enhances participants' skills through leadership, communications, and issues-based training, but also builds a strong peer network, generating increased success in their businesses and communities. Many graduates of this training program will assume leadership roles with their state and national soybean associations. Young Leader seminars feature intense coursework designed to enhance leadership skills for the benefit of not only soy but also the entire agricultural industry. Training, open to all ages 21 and up, is interactive and includes evening group activities. Young Leaders are expected to be active supporters of agriculture and participate fully in all training aspects and evening activities. This program includes spouses/significant others, giving both

partners skills to help them succeed.

For those readers familiar with Kentucky soybean leadership, you'll see several names in the list below that are either currently serving our industry or have left their mark. Young Leaders are selected with the expectation that they will, at some point, become active in leadership and display their new (or newly improved) leadership skills.

Kentucky's deadline for applications is Monday, August 7, and interviews will be conducted shortly thereafter. The application may be found online at SoyGrowers.com under the Education & Resources tab. Information is submitted securely online. If you have any questions about this program, feel free to reach out by phone at (270) 365-7214 or ask any of the past Young Leaders on the list below.

Past Kentucky Young Leaders include:

1984 – Dan M. Hardaway
1985 – Philip H. Beyke
1986 – Bob S. White
1987 – John F. Burns
1988 – Timothy D. Hughes
1989 – Richard Wynn White
1990 – Rod Kuegel
1991 – Steve Stanley
1992 – Dave Watson
1993 – Tripp Furches
1994 – Homer Lee Richardson
1995 – Thomas F. Folz

1996 – Monty Parrish
1997 – James Spinks
1998 – Michael Burchett
1999 – Chad Konow
2000 – Darren Luttrell
2001 – Clint Voils
2002 – Aaron Reding
2003 – Houston Whitaker
2004 – Ryan Bivens
2005 – Bill Clift
2006 – Chad Sullivan
2007 – Jed Clark
2008 – Sam Hancock
2009 – Ron Davis
2010 – Chad Thorn
2011 – Mike Brookshire

2012 – Caleb Ragland
2013 – Joanna Payne Carraway
2014 – Quint Pottinger
2015 – Brennan Gilkison
2015 – Andy Alford
2016 – Ben Furnish
2016 – Adam Hendricks
2017 – Kyle Bugg
2018 – Clay Wells
2019 – Anna Reding
2019 – Tyler Cvitkovic
2020 – Houston Howlett
2021 – Collin Cooper
2022 – Daniel Adams
2022 – Matt Gajdzik
2023 – Catlin Young

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July storms can bring leafhoppers to alfalfa



Yellowing in alfalfa can be caused by many things, including potato leafhopper damage shown above. A leafhopper nymph can be seen in the upper left. Other reasons for alfalfa yellowing include root and crown rots, saturated soils, leaf disease, low soil pH, and deficiencies of boron, potassium or sulfur.

The Forage Doctor

By Jimmy Henning



The storms in early July gave our pastures and hayfields a needed boost. Besides rain, thunderstorms can also bring potato leafhoppers to Kentucky. These insects infest alfalfa, initially resulting in a characteristic v-shaped yellowing in the leaves. If the infestation continues and is heavy enough, whole-plant yellowing and severe stunting occurs.

Leafhoppers are not the only cause of yellowing in alfalfa. Since alfalfa is the highest yielding, highest quality forage in Kentucky, when it gets 'the yellows,' there is reason for concern. Here are a few causes.

Root and Crown Rots

Root rot diseases such as phytophthora root rot and aphanomyces root rot will cause stunting and yellowing of alfalfa. In severe cases, plant death can occur.

Planting resistant varieties is the best way to minimize problems with root rots. As stands age, alfalfa plants will naturally have an increasing amount of crown rot. Crown and root rots are worse in poorly drained soils.

Saturated Soils

Wet conditions and poorly drained areas in a field can cause alfalfa to yellow. In these areas, roots become starved for oxygen which especially hinders the natural nitrogen fixation in alfalfa. The alfalfa plant will become nitrogen deficient and develop an overall yellow color. Alfalfa in wet-natured areas is more prone to crown and root rots.

Leaf Disease

Several leaf diseases can cause yellow spotting on leaves, often with a dark margin. These diseases are worse in times of high humidity and are most common on lower leaves. Leaf diseases will weaken the alfalfa plant, but usually alfalfa outgrows

SEE JULY, PAGE 14



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Corn, Soybean, Tobacco Field Day is July 25 in Princeton

The U.S. Department of Agriculture reported that corn and soybean crops contributed nearly \$3 billion to Kentucky's economy in 2022. Tobacco contributed another \$2.4 billion. To support the state's corn, soybean and tobacco producers, the University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment will offer the 2023 Corn, Soybean and Tobacco Field Day July 25 at the college's Research and Education Center farm in Princeton.

The field day will begin with sign-in at 7:30 a.m. CDT and tours begin at 8 a.m. UK Cooperative Extension specialists will lead tours and discussions that will allow attendees to customize their field day experience and get the most relevant information for their production systems.

Topics and tours include

- corn diseases
- comparing wheat, barley and rye cover crops before corn
- evaluating biological nitrogen fixation for corn
- battling problematic weeds
- corn and soybean outlook
- spraying for caterpillars in soybeans
- red crown rot of soybeans—a new disease in Kentucky
- flea beetle management
- old and new tobacco varieties

- potassium chloride use in tobacco
 - effect of fungicides on cigar wrapper leaf production
 - UKREC tobacco barn construction update
 - understanding the new “non-certified pesticide applicator” category
- Lunch sponsors include Kentucky Corn Promotion Council, Kentucky Soybean Board and Altria Client Services. Organizers encourage preregistration for meal planning and any last-minute announcements. Register here <https://tinyurl.com/2wj9ea8n>.

Each tour will have its own set of continuing education units for pesticide applicators and Certified Crop Advisors:

- Grain crops IPM stop: CCA 1 PM; Pesticide: one hour, category four,
- Grain crops management stop: CCA: 1 CM, pesticide one hour, category 10
- Tobacco stop: CCA 0.5 CM, 0.5 PM, pesticide one hour, category 1A

The UK Research and Education Center Farm address is 1205 Hopkinsville St. in Princeton. For more information, contact Colette Laurent, UK extension grain crops coordinator, 270-365-7541, extension 21321.

By Aimee Nielson
University of Kentucky



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July storms can bring leafhoppers to alfalfa

FROM PAGE 10

these problems.

Low pH

Soils with acid pH can cause alfalfa to yellow due to poor nodulation and nitrogen fixation by roots. Alfalfa will appear yellow and stunted overall because it is nitrogen deficient. Soil pH for alfalfa should be 6.5 or above.

Potato Leafhopper

Without a doubt, the most common cause of yellowing in alfalfa is due to feeding damage of the potato leafhopper. A problem of second and later cuttings, this small insect feeds by inserting its piercing/sucking mouthpart into the midvein of alfalfa leaves. The yellowing is due to toxic effects of the insect's saliva injected into the

leaf. Leafhopper damage is characterized by V-shaped yellowing at the leaf tip. Leafhopper feeding will cause stunting and yield loss if numbers are high. These insects can have two or three generations in a season. Cutting will drive the leafhoppers from the field, but the regrowth should be scouted to make sure that the field is not re-infested. Insecticides are effective for leafhopper control, and treatment thresholds are based on plant height. For more information on potato leafhopper, see ENTFACT 115 Potato Leafhopper (<https://entomology.ca.uky.edu/ef115>).

Boron Deficiency

A common cause for stunting and discoloration in alfalfa is boron deficiency. Boron deficiency causes yellowing or purpling in the tops of the plants. Boron is commonly deficient in Kentucky soils and may require addition of 1.5 to 2 pounds of boron per

acre every other year.

Potassium Deficiency

Alfalfa is a heavy user of potassium, removing 50 pounds or more K2O per ton of forage produced. A deficiency of potassium causes yellow spotting of the margins of leaves and the symptoms are more pronounced on older leaves. Potassium deficiency shows up in the older leaves because it is a mobile element within the plant and will be translocated from older to newer growth. Potassium is an important element in the development of plant resistance to diseases such as leaf spot and root rots.

Sulfur Deficiency

There has been much debate about whether sulfur levels limit crop production in Kentucky because of the long-term deposition of this nutrient resulting from

burning high sulfur coal. A tissue test is the best way to determine if alfalfa is deficient in sulfur. Sulfur deficiency in alfalfa will cause yellowing of the young leaves at the top of the plant.

In summary, yellowing in alfalfa should cause you to look further into the cause or causes. The most common cause of overall yellowing in alfalfa is usually potato leafhopper but can include many others including root and crown diseases, nutrient deficiencies and low soil pH. If you are experiencing yellowing in your alfalfa and want to know more about the cause, your local county extension agent can help. It may be necessary to request a diagnosis by submitting a sample to the UK Plant Disease Diagnostic Laboratory in Lexington, which is a free service. For more information about yellowing in alfalfa, Google 'Possible Causes of Yellowing Alfalfa UKY.'

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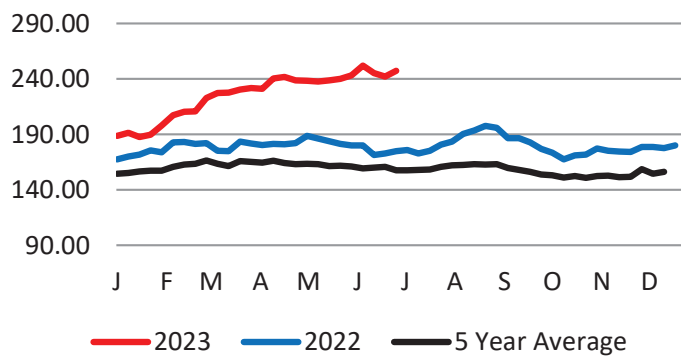
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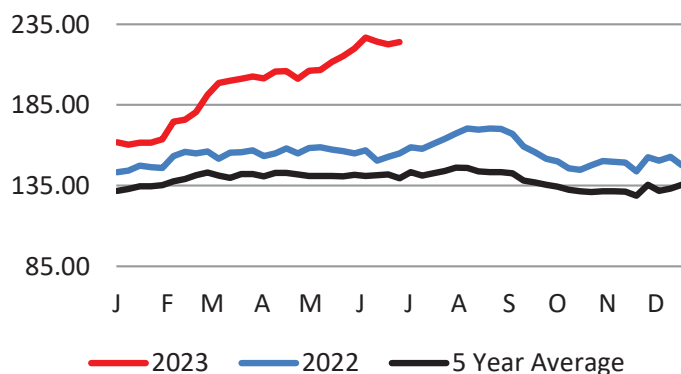
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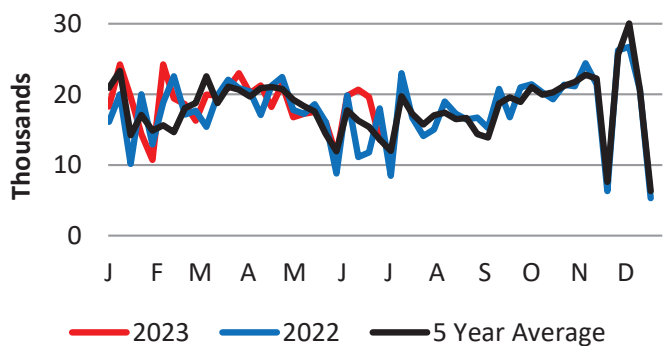
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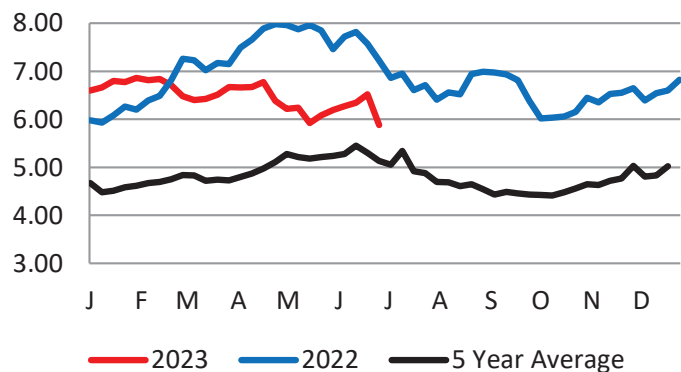
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Tomato #2	20 lbs	32.00-47.00	39.26
Tomato small/canner	20 lbs	17.50-52.50	26.02
Asparagus	.5 lbs	3.00-3.00	3.00
Cabbage	hd.	1.50-2.10	1.74
Cauliflower	hd.	1.60-3.00	1.95
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Blue Grass Stockyards Lexington, KY June 26 & 27, 2023 Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 21 hd. 495# 253.50 blk 42 hd. 590# 258.00 blk 66 hd. 795# 228.00 blk 57 hd. 833# 229.00 blk 66 hd. 873# 225.95 blk-charx 58 hd. 924# 219.50 blk-charx 51 hd. 956# 218.10 blk 53 hd. 992# 212.90 charx-red Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 20 hd. 541# 223.50 blk 76 hd. 676# 217.75 mixed 79 hd. 687# 200.50 mixed	KY-TN Livestock Auction Guthrie, KY June 29, 2023 Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 77 hd. 680# 255.75 blk 37 hd. 762# 226.00 blk Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 20 hd. 489# 217.00 blk 38 hd. 626# 206.00 blk	Blue Grass South Stanford, KY June 26 & 29, 2023 Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 61 hd. 839# 230.00 charx 63 hd. 848# 229.30 charx 41 hd. 853# 224.50 blk-red 57 hd. 864# 228.90 blk-charx 60 hd. 895# 224.50 blk-charx 59 hd. 900# 229.90 blk-charx 52 hd. 905# 228.80 blk 58 hd. 931# 226.00 blk-charx 60 hd. 944# 212.90 blk 59 hd. 972# 219.95 blk-charx Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 75 hd. 713# 226.00 blk 73 hd. 722# 228.70 blk	Paris Stockyards Paris, KY June 29, 2023 Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 135 hd. 744# 224.20 blk
Blue Grass East Mt. Sterling, KY June 28, 2023 Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 70 hd. 732# 250.00 blk Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 82 hd. 724# 219.75 blk-bwf	Washington Co. Livestock Springfield, KY June 26, 2023 Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 27 hd. 633# 256.50 blk 60 hd. 784# 224.75 blk 61 hd. 829# 222.25 blk 57 hd. 906# 210.20 blk-charx Holstein Steers: Large 3 59 hd. 921# 162.70 Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 20 hd. 490# 239.50 blk 26 hd. 601# 220.00 blk 48 hd. 749# 207.00 blk 66 hd. 755# 212.10 blk	Farmers Livestock Glasgow, KY June 26, 2023 Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 37 hd. 618# 246.00 blk Feeder Bulls: Medium & Large 1-2 22 hd. 385# 245.00 blk 23 hd. 456# 242.00 blk 23 hd. 528# 229.00 blk Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 29 hd. 449# 227.50 blk 26 hd. 516# 214.00 blk	Blue Grass of Richmond Richmond, KY June 30, 2023 Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 54 hd. 884# 225.00 blk 59 hd. 895# 230.80 blk-charx-red 55 hd. 951# 219.75 blk 56 hd. 959# 229.40 blk-charx 45 hd. 1069# 203.50 blk-charx-red
Russell County Stockyards Russell Springs, KY June 28, 2023 Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 70 hd. 841# 223.60 blk Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 20 hd. 696# 197.50 blk	Blue Grass of Albany Albany, KY June 28, 2023 Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 20 hd. 633# 255.00 blk Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 40 hd. 635# 229.80 blk	United Producers Owenton Owenton, KY June 28, 2023 Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 20 hd. 812# 222.50 blk	Mid-KY Livestock Market Upton, KY June 27, 2023 Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 20 hd. 508# 249.00 blk-charx 31 hd. 728# 227.50 mixed Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 28 hd. 475# 229.00 blk 22 hd. 509# 221.00 blk 20 hd. 677# 203.00 mixed
			United Producers Bowling Green Bowling Green, KY June 27, 2023 Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 41 hd. 532# 239.00 blk



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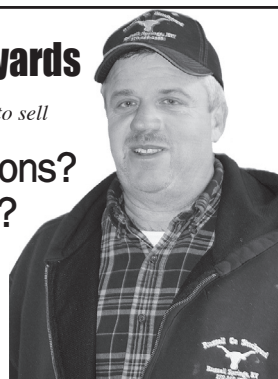
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It's County Fair time in Kentucky!

Franklin County Fair, Frankfort, July 15, July 18-22

Nelson County Fair, Bardstown, July 17-22

Harrison County Fair, Cynthiana, July 17-22

Henderson County Fair, Henderson, July 17-22

Tollesboro Fair, Tollesboro, July 14-22

Daviess County Lions Fair, Philpot, July 19-22

Crittenden County Fair, Marion, July 22, 29, August 4-5

Meade County Fair, Brandenburg, July 22-29

Grant County Fair, Williamstown, July 24-29

Mercer County Fair, Harrodsburg, July 24-29

Southern Kentucky Fair, Bowling Green, July 24-29

Hopkins County Fair, Madisonville, July 25-29

LaRue County Fair, Hodgenville, July 27-28

Madison County Fair, Richmond, July 28-Aug. 5

Cumberland County Fair, Burkesville, July 29, Aug 5, 11

Germantown Fair, Germantown, July 29 – 31, Aug. 5

Adair County Fair, Columbia, July 30



Oldham County Fair, LaGrange, Aug. 1-5

Hancock County Fair, Hawesville, Aug. 2-5

Monroe County Fair, Tompkinsville, Aug. 5 - 12

Boone County Fair, Burlington, Aug. 7-12

Morgan County Fair, West Liberty, Aug. 8 -11

Brodhead Little Worlds Fair, Brodhead, Aug. 15-19

Boyd County Fair, Ashland, Aug. 18-26

Estill County Fair, Irvine, Aug. 22-26

Rowan County Fair, Morehead, Aug. 23-26

Alexandria Fair, Alexandria, Aug. 30- Sept. 4

Edmonson County Fair, Brownsville, Sept. 5-9

Robertson County Fair, Mt. Olivet, Sept. 6, 15-16



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KyCorn CONNECTION

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

The Corn Shack is Serving up Sweet Corn and Corn Facts

Through a new sponsorship, KyCorn is promoting corn with the help of The Corn Shack, a business venture of Jim Bob Outland and his family.

The Corn Growers knew the Outlands could serve delicious corn and help promote the industry after a 2022 Kentucky State Fair trial run. The sweet corn project at the fair has been a huge success since 1999.



Above: The Corn Shack made it's first appearance of 2023 at the Western Kentucky State Fair in Hopkinsville.



Left: The Outland Family crew (Trace Hasting, Molly, Missy, Jim Bob, Maddox, Will, and Hannah Outland) served roasted sweet corn during last year's Kentucky State Fair.

Outland and his family are friends and fellow church members of team member Jennifer Elwell, who quickly suggested them for the opportunity. According to Elwell, Outland was born and raised around farming in Christian County and is an enthusiastic entrepreneur. KyCorn Programs Director Adam Andrews has been thrilled with how they have run the operation and engaged customers.

"The Outland family members are the ideal spokespersons for this initiative," remarked Andrews. "Jim Bob and his kids spend time in planting tractors and combines each year on family members' farms. They know how to explain modern corn farming practices, environmental priori-

ties and the strong economic impact of farming to city families. There is also a trust factor. Immediately when Jim Bob and his family engage in conversation, the positive vibes flow out of them. His passion for farming, magnetic personality and overall good nature will prove very effective for purveying the messages we want consumers to hear about farming and farm families."

For Outland, The Corn Shack allows him to share his entrepreneurial spirit with his children, involving them in planning and decision-making.

Look for The Corn Shack serving Gallrein Farms sweet corn under the Great Kentucky Proud Cookout Tent during this year's State Fair!



More Kentucky State Fair Fun

In addition to serving sweet corn, KyCorn is creating a promotional exhibit in AgLand (South Wing C) that will showcase all the cool facts about corn. KyCorn is also teaming up once again with the Kentucky Department of Agriculture to distribute Kentucky Proud popcorn to thousands of fair visitors. We hope to see you there!

KyCorn.org

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Promotion Council Chair

Corn Growers Urge Advocates and Allies to Ask Congress to Advance Farm Bill

The National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) launched a campaign last week that encourages advocates and allies to contact their congressional delegation about the importance of passing a bipartisan, comprehensive farm bill in 2023 that will support and protect the corn industry.

NCGA president, Tom Haag, noted the importance of this opportunity and the need for corn growers to send a strong, unified message to Capitol Hill.

"Farm bills only come around every five years. Sandwiched between legal jargon and formalities is language that directly affects the operations and livelihoods of corn growers," said Haag. "This bill funds programs that help us stay in business in the tough years; support our continued stewardship and conservation of the land; explore new foreign markets; and advance innovative research. The stakes are high. We need a comprehensive, bipartisan bill that will protect and bolster corn, America's crop."

NCGA has been working diligently since the implementation of the last farm bill to thoughtfully develop recommendations for the 2023 farm bill by surveying membership, processing input from Action Teams and grower leaders, and analyzing the political environment. You can find more information about NCGA's farm bill priorities and take action by visiting www.ncga.com.