



From Purdue University

Fatalities, injuries from ag confined spaces increase by 40 percent nationwide

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. – Last year saw a roughly 40 percent increase in the number of reported cases involving agricultural confined spaces, according to the 2022 Summary of U.S. Agricultural Confined Space-Related Injuries and Fatalities recently released by the Purdue University Agricultural Safety and Health Program in the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering.

The annual, widely used summary documents the previous year's frequency and causes of confined space and grain entrapment incidents in the agricultural

industry and provides a historical analysis of agricultural confined space hazards.

The authors of the summary are Yuan-Hsin Cheng, agricultural safety and health researcher; Mahmoud Nour, postdoctoral researcher in Agricultural and Biological Engineering; Bill Field and Kingsly Ambrose, professors of agricultural and biological engineering; and Edward Sheldon, research associate, Agricultural Safety and Health Program.

In 2022, the summary reported no fewer than 83 cases – 24 fatal and 59 nonfatal cases – involving

agricultural confined spaces. This represents a 40.7% increase over the 59 cases in 2021. The authors explain that there are limitations in data collection as not every case may be reported. As a result, these numbers are approximate.

In addition, of the total number of confinement cases, 42 grain-related entrapments represented a 44.8 percent increase over 2021. This was the highest number of reported grain entrapments in over a decade. According to the

SEE FATALITIES, PAGE 2

Farmers take a stand after unexpected county ordinance

HAWESVILLE, Ky. – Kentucky's farm community learned last week that local ordinances restricting production practices can come from the least expected places, and when they do they require a quick response from an informed farm sector.

The quick action of a group of farmers helped halt the passage of an ordinance in Hancock County that would have placed restrictive limits on poultry production, poultry barn construction, and the storage of poultry litter.

Located in west Kentucky between Daviess and Breckinridge counties, Hancock is a small narrow county with 199 square miles – or 127,400 acres – and has is bordered by the Ohio River. The most recent census lists a population of slightly over 9,000.

The ordinance presented by the Hancock County Fiscal Court for second reading on July 24 began with language that was enough to get the attention of the farm community:

“WHEREAS, in order to protect the citizens and environment of Hancock County, Kentucky, from the dangers and potential dangers caused by poultry production in Hancock County, and in recognition of the fact that poultry production can be a somewhat noxious or offensive use, the Hancock County Fiscal Court has determined that there is a necessity to act to regulate the production of poultry in Hancock County, Kentucky.”

The action came as a surprise because there is currently only one poultry house in Hancock County. As area farmers became aware of the proposal, however, they questioned the long-term ramifications to poultry production if the proposed ordinance passed its second reading.

Wes Poole farms right on the Hancock/Daviess County line. His poultry houses are in Daviess, but he spreads poultry litter on his Hancock County

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RAISING HOPE – Your mental health is important **20.**

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Fatalities and injuries from ag confined spaces on the rise

FROM PAGE 1

authors, grain entrapments are the most common type of agricultural confined space incident.

"In the summary, an issue we try to point out is the role of out-of-condition grain in grain entrapments," Sheldon says. "Many entrapments result from someone entering a bin or structure to break loose clumped, spoiled grain. Keep the grain in good condition to

eliminate the need to enter the bin."

Of 41 non-grain-related cases, incidents involved livestock waste handling facilities, entanglements inside confined spaces, falls from confined space structures and grain dust explosions or fires.

Iowa reported the most agricultural confinement cases, at 24, and grain entrapment cases at nine. One female case was documented, which occurred inside a cotton module builder.

Sheldon says, "As shown in the

annual summary, incidents involving confined spaces in agriculture continue to result in a significant number of injuries and fatalities in agricultural workplaces throughout the country."

He adds, "We strongly encourage farmers and agribusiness employers to recognize the hazards presented by confined spaces such as grain bins, silos and manure storage facilities, and use best management practices and effective training programs to keep their families and employees safe."

Grain bin rescue programs started in Kentucky with Dale Dobson at the Kentucky Department of Agriculture. The first "Turtle Tube" – technology to speed grain rescue – was made on Dobson's farm in 1994.

At least five men were saved in Kentucky during an eight-month period in 2022 by first responders who used the grain bin rescue sleeves.

From Purdue University with local additions by The Farmer's Pride

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Farmers Regional Livestock Market of Glasgow, LLC

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%.

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Farmers take a stand after unexpected county ordinance



FROM PAGE 1

acres. Poole hadn't planned to attend the Fiscal Court meeting but reconsidered after a neighbor contacted him. The neighbor sent Poole a copy of the ordinance, and realizing its severity, attended the meeting.

Poole said that farmers had yet to learn what prompted the ordinance and no one at the meeting supported it.

During the meeting, court members repeatedly said the only reason for the proposed ordinance was to protect some areas of the county – especially those with tourism potential.

In an article in the Hancock Clarion, when discussing the spreading of poultry litter, Judge Executive Johnny Rob-

erts said, "I'll speak for me now. I don't have any concerns about you all doing that. But I'm putting my feelings aside. We're trying to protect certain areas."

Poole said those in attendance voiced strong opposition to the ordinance because of the "setback and acreage" limits, which would severely restrict the location of poultry houses. Poole said he drew out the parameters on a Google Earth map and noted that building future poultry houses in Hancock County would be virtually impossible.

The future construction of houses for the next generation of farmers brought forth discussion from those assembled. According to the Hancock Clarion, a local farmer said the ordinance, without more changes, would affect second

generation farming, especially with a regulation requiring a minimum of 100 acres for the location of a poultry production facility.

To the credit of the Hancock County Fiscal Court, they listened to their local agriculture community.

"They heard us, and the ordinance was heavily, heavily, revised," Poole stated.

Poole said farmers were scratching their heads over what prompted the ordinance in the first place, but they were highly complementary of the Fiscal Court.

"They were willing to listen and make corrections needed for the good of the agriculture community. They've done the right thing and deserve the credit for it," Poole said.

The proposed ordinance is now back in the county judge executive's office and being revised to meet the needs of the farmers and will be available to the public this week.

In a brief interview with The Farmer's Pride, Judge Roberts again said the

Fiscal Court was only trying to protect some areas of the county because of growth potential and poultry houses may not have been an issue. The court was being proactive instead of reactive, he said, adding that he came away believing those in attendance at last week's meeting were pleased with the decisions and changes to the ordinance.

"So, one thing I'd say about Hancock County, certainly we are a farm community, and we support our farmers," Roberts said.

This lesson in civic engagement from this rural farming community can be taken to heart by all agriculture communities. Poole pointed out that farmers came together to support one another regardless if they had a poultry operation.

"We didn't look at the billboards that separated us – but the need to support each other," he said.

By Toni Riley
Field Reporter

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Kentucky Livestock Coalition is a longterm success story for Kentucky ag



KENTUCKY LIVESTOCK COALITION CHAIRMAN

Caleb Ragland

I guess here in Kentucky we are so used to working together and getting along that I was surprised that so many folks from other states were shocked when I talked about the coalition

I am involved in a number of organizations, from the county level to serving as a member of the Executive Committee of the American Soybean Association. Each organization is unique, but I admit to having a special place in my heart for the Kentucky Livestock Coalition. I think it's fitting that this organization is thriving here in the Commonwealth, where our state motto is "United we stand, divided we fall." I can't imagine an industry in which that motto could be any truer than that of agriculture.

KLC was founded in 2009, because farmers knew they needed to have an entity in place to react quickly to any activist threats. It is managed through the soybean office to this day. Animal agriculture is the soybean farmers' number one customer, consuming 98 percent of domestic soybean meal, and (as you know) many row crop farmers also raise poultry and/or livestock. Our success as soybean farmers can be directly tied to the success of animal agriculture, so it only makes sense to promote animal ag and protect the rights of those farmers who raise our protein.

I guess here in Kentucky we are so used to working together and getting along that I was surprised that so many folks from other states were shocked when I talked about the coalition

KLC is currently composed by member organizations Kentucky Soybean Board, Kentucky Farm Bureau, Kentucky Cattlemen's Association, Kentucky Poultry Federation, Kentucky Pork Producers, Kentucky Dairy Development Council, Kentucky Corn Growers Association, Kentucky Horse Council, Kentucky Sheep and Goat Development Office, Farm Credit Mid-America, and Unit-

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Russian roulette—with missiles, drones, and food

The one certainty about the Ukrainian-Russian war is that there is little certainty.

Even with Russia's recent history of aggression, few predicted outright war. Then, when it came, no one predicted Russia would so badly misplay its opening gambit. And who could have foreseen a former television comedian rallying his out-manned, out-gunned citizenry to meet every bloody challenge and incredibly, reverse the field on the invaders?

Past events suggested that the next big event would also be a surprise but—surprise!—it was just Vladimir Putin being Vladimir Putin: he pulled out of the Black Sea grain deal to keep an estimated 40 million metric tons of 2023 Ukrainian grain from the world's 600 million hungry.

He then sent missiles to destroy much of Odesa's export infrastructure to ensure the world received his mad message.

By itself, however, the closing down of "Odesa shipments," tweeted Andre Sizov, a 27-year veteran of the Black Sea grain trade, "are not a game changer. Ukraine can ship 40+ mmt of grain via other routes." One of the "other" routes Sizov pointed to July 21 was a Ukrainian "Danube port" on the Black Sea's northwestern shore.

Then, surprise, Russian drones bombed that port, Reni, too. The July 24 action took guts because the bombed side of the river is Ukraine; the other side Romania, a NATO ally that, had it been hit, would have likely required a military response by the U.S.-led, 31-nation security group.

News of the drones, destruction, and export delays lit global grain markets on fire. Corn, the soy complex, and wheat went up and down and then back up. Some of the move's energy came from continued dryness throughout much of the grain-producing Midwest. Most, however, arrived courtesy of Russia's attacks on Ukrainian ports.

But Russia, noted Sizov, "has much to lose, too" if Ukraine rises to the challenge—as it has for 17 months now—and retaliates by attacking Russian shipping. Right now, "Russia has almost 50 mmt of wheat to ship" to finance its war. Like the Ukrainian grain, it too is waiting for a ride.

Also, any increase in attacks on Russian shipping imperils its economic lifeblood, oil exports. Experts estimate that 43 percent of all exported Russian oil is shipped through the Black Sea, mostly on Greek-flagged tankers. Any move by anyone in that arena carries repercussions—market-wise, political, and military—that few want to

SEE RUSSIAN, PAGE 6



FOOD & FARM FILE

Alan Guebert

News of the drones, destruction, and export delays lit global grain markets on fire.

The Farmer's Pride

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THE FARMER'S PRIDE

Why KCA?



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CATTLEMEN'S
ASSOCIATION
PRESIDENT

Andy
Bishop

We now have over one-third of all producers as members of our association and quite frankly that is uncommon across the country.

Summer has certainly arrived and brought with it some much-needed rainfall! We often forget to thank God for the blessings he gives us every day but certainly give him credit during times like this. Let this be a reminder that he blesses us in so many ways daily and deserves credit for all of those, too.

We recently finished up our 2023 membership year and I am so thankful that over 11,000 of you see the value in being a member of the Kentucky Cattlemen's Association! I remember just a few short years ago we celebrated reaching 10,000 members.

Kentucky went from 38,000 to 32,000 beef producers over the last 10 years, yet our membership is increasing. We now have over one-third of all producers as members of our association and, quite frankly, that is uncommon across the country. This shows the faith that each of you have in this association, and I thank you for that.

So, the question is, why KCA?

I attended my first KCA convention in 2008 and made it a goal to grow as a cattleman and a leader within this organization. Coming from ag education it was easy to make the correlation of being a part of something bigger and at that first convention I could easily see that KCA was just that. The comradery that I witnessed sucked me in immediately.

As I became more involved, I began to see that the association cared deeply about its members and worked hard to find solutions to even the simplest problems its members faced.

The staff at KCA wanted you to know that it cared about you which is a testament to the values of our Executive Vice President Dave Maples.

When your leader genuinely cares and makes it a personal mission to resolve your issues, staff and volunteers follow suit. That alone was enough to make me join and quickly become a proud active member.

Each year I learned more about the programs and participated in the FACTS Tour, the Leadership Program, Young Cattlemen's Conference, Boots on the Hill Legislative Conference, Young Producers Council, Kentucky Junior Cattlemen's, Kentucky Cattlemen's Foundation, Frankfort Legislative Visits, Cattle Industry Long-Range Plan, Kentucky Beef Council, National Cattle Industry Long-Range Plan, Cattlemen's Beef Board, Federation of State Beef Councils, CPH-45 Programming, Educational Events, Convention, Beef Network Programming, Eden Shale Farm, Beef Solutions, Kentucky Cattlemen's Ground Beef, and now a Live-stock Center for Excellence.

Those are big picture items and I have missed many of them.

Among all those things the one I am most proud of are the friendships that I have made across this state and this country. I am humbled to call you all friends and look forward to meeting even more of you as the years go by. My answer to Why KCA? Is why not KCA?

National Pork Producers Council speaks out about the EATS Act

This is an important time in legislative history. Here's what you should be aware of within the pork industry and animal agriculture.

The EATS Act was prompted by California's Proposition 12 and Massachusetts' Question 3, both of which ban the sale of pork from hogs whose mothers (sows) were raised in housing that fails to meet the states' arbitrary standards. It would prevent states like California or Massachusetts from passing laws that seek to regulate agricultural production practices on farms outside of the state.

Why does it matter? The EATS Act restores the long-standing relationship between states and the federal government under the U.S. Constitution's Commerce Clause, which grants Congress the exclusive power to regulate trade between and among the states and restricts states from regulating commerce outside their borders.

NPPC's Take: NPPC supports finding a legislative solution, like the EATS Act, to Proposition 12 to prevent state and local governments from interfering with the production of agricultural products in other states. Without a check on such extraterritorial regulation, pork producers who want to continue selling to California's 40 million consumers, for example, would need to spend between \$1.9 billion and \$3.2 billion to convert existing sow pens to Proposition 12-compliant housing, according to a University of Minnesota study that looked at converting to 16- or 18-square-foot pens, significantly less than the 24-square feet California's initiative requires.

Regarding Proposition 12, our producers are very concerned over the implications this ruling will have on the future of the pork industry.

The ruling demonstrates the allowance of state overreach and will drive up prices for our consumers and put our small to mid-size producers out of business, leading to more consolidation of our industry and fears of food availability and food affordability. Kentucky's agriculture infrastructure leans on small, family farmers.

The EATS Act protects consumers from legislators influencing what they consume in their own districts or states. Food security is national security.

The Kentucky Pork Producers Association aligns its values with the National Pork Producers Council and Kentucky swine farm families across the Commonwealth.

For more information please go online to nppc.org/prop12

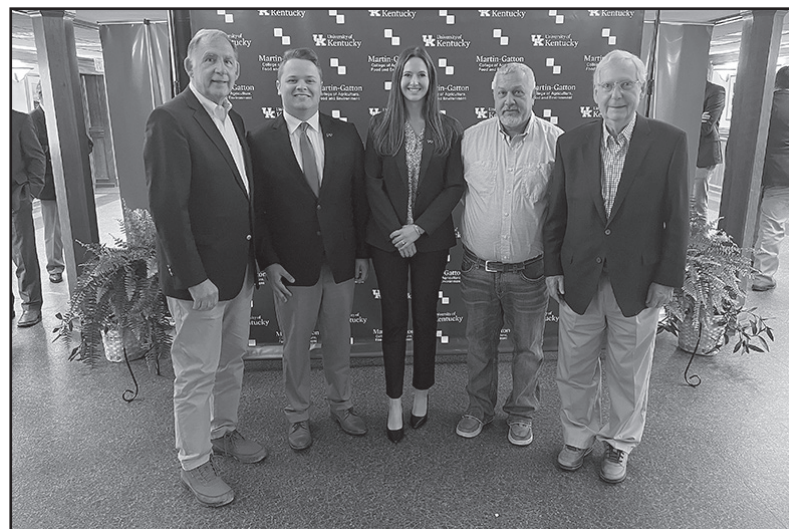


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Emma
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The EATS Act protects consumers from legislators influencing what they consume in their own districts or states. Food security is national security.



Russian roulette—with missiles, drones, and food

FROM PAGE 4

consider.

Five days after the first Putin action, European Union ag ministers met to develop a plan to move the mountain of now-stuck Ukrainian grain through its border-sharing member nations—Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, and Slovakia—and into key markets in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia.

It's not a new idea—it was used to move some of the 2022 Ukrainian crop into the world market—but it's not very popular either.

In fact, two months ago, on June 5, the European Commission, the body that oversees EU trade policy, said it would extend its current rule that allowed the five border nations to “restrict

Ukrainian grain” flowing through their nations. What's more, the Commission allowed the same five to outright ban sales of Ukrainian wheat, corn, rapeseed, and sunflower seeds in their countries.

Any new deal now will be met with quiet derision, not boisterous unity. “The road and rail routes through neighboring countries have stirred anger from local farmers faced with a glut of Ukrainian grain that has driven down prices and hurt their livelihoods,” ABC News reported July 25, 2023.

It's not great for Ukrainian farmers either. Shipping delays and higher transportation costs mean lower farm prices and smaller profits for the already war-weary group.

In the meantime, unsurprisingly, Russia keeps raising the stakes. When EU ag ministers suggested Ukrainian

grain exports might be diverted through Baltic ports in Lithuania, a Russian spokesman said, sure, go ahead and try it.

Be forewarned, he added, “We will continue to counter that.”

What does that mean? The chances are good that not even Vlad the Invader knows, but it's certain that the threat to global commodity markets is far from over.

ALAN GUEBERT publishes a weekly column Farm and Food File through the U.S. and Canada. Past columns, events and contact information are posted at farmandfoodfile.com. Contact Alan Guebert by email at agcomm@farmandfoodfile.com.





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Bacon and Tomato Dip

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 cup fat free sour cream | 4 slices bacon, cooked crisp and crumbled |
| 1 cup low fat mayonnaise | 1 teaspoon garlic powder |
| 2 large tomatoes, diced, reserve excess juice | |

- 1. Combine** all ingredients.
- 2. Add** reserved tomato juice until dip reaches desired consistency.
- 3. Serve** with fresh vegetables or reduced fat crackers.

Yield: 16, 2 tablespoon servings.

Nutrition Analysis: 50 calories; 3 g fat; 1 g saturated fat; 5 mg cholesterol; 160 mg sodium; 6 g carbohydrate; 0 g fiber; 3 g sugar; 1 g protein.

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



Fighting the mountains

Did you ever feel like you were fighting the same battle over and over, with no end in sight and no victory ahead?

I spent some time recently going over in my head where I seem to be in many aspects of my life, and I could visualize myself tugging and sliding as a tried to climb a spot on a mountain only to drop down and start over again.

"Lord, that's how I feel about my life," I prayed. "Why do I keep trying to climb up but stay in the same place over and over again?"

I have learned that when you ask God a question, he shows you the answer. My mind immediately went to Mark 11:23, "For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says."

I literally laughed out loud, because I know God was showing me that I was trying to lean on my own energy and my own abilities to move past the obstacles in my life. And I was getting nowhere.

The Bible is filled with bold statements – speak to the mountain and it will be removed – the same spirit that raised Jesus from the dead is inside of you – to him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.

In none of those statements am I the source of the power. Not a one.

God is just waiting for us to hand over our struggles, to make room for him on the mountainside, to let him be the guide. He's just waiting for us to speak, to not doubt, to ask or think, to believe him.

He does not promise that all our problems disappear, but he does promise to show up and show us his glory. From now on, I'm not taking on any mountains by myself. I don't have to make my way over, I just have to be ready to receive his promises.

S/Sharon

Italian Chicken Summer Squash Skillet

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 1 red bell pepper, diced | 3 medium summer squash, sliced crosswise | 1 (8-ounce) can tomato sauce |
| 1 yellow bell pepper, diced | 1 cup whole grain rotini pasta, uncooked | 2 tablespoons dried Italian seasoning |
| 1 sweet onion, diced | 1½ pounds boneless skinless chicken breast | ½ cup shredded Parmesan cheese |
| 2 large tomatoes, diced | Nonstick cooking spray | Salt and pepper, to taste |
| 3-4 garlic cloves, finely diced | | |

Slice squash into ¼ inch pieces. **Combine** all vegetables, with garlic in a bowl. **Set** aside. **Cook** pasta according to package directions. **Cut** chicken into bite size pieces. **Spray** large nonstick skillet with cooking spray; **heat** to medium. **Add** chicken; **cook** 6 minutes or until no longer pink, stirring occasionally. **Add** vegetable mixture to the skillet. **Add** tomato sauce and dried Italian seasoning. **Stir** well. **Increase** heat, **cover** and **bring**

to a boil. **Reduce** heat to medium; **cook** 10 minutes or until summer squash is tender, stirring occasionally. **Stir** cooked pasta into chicken/vegetable mixture. **Sprinkle** with cheese. Season as needed.

Yield: 8 servings

Nutritional Analysis: 200 calories, 4.5 g fat, 2 g saturated fat, 50 mg cholesterol, 300 mg sodium, 19 g carbohydrate, 3 g fiber, 8 g sugars, 20 g protein.



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

Kentucky Soybean Promotion Board meets, elects executive committee

The best thing about the Kentucky Soybean Board is its people. This organization is fortunate to have a number of dedicated, involved farmer-leaders who volunteer their time to further the best interests of all soybean growers – with Kentucky soy at the forefront of those efforts. Those farmer-leaders are tasked with a big job: investing Kentucky's portion of the soybean checkoff.

Did you know that the farmer-created soybean checkoff generates, according to a third-party study, \$12.34 in added value for every dollar invested? The national soy checkoff has been hard at work, increasing inclusion rates for soy and soy components in everything from animal feed and asphalt to tires, shoe treads, chainsaw oil and more. At the state level, the farmer-leaders of the Kentucky Soybean Board invest the Commonwealth's portion of the checkoff into research, education, promotion, and building demand, both domestically and internationally.

The Kentucky Soybean Promotion Board is appointed for a two-year period.

The 2023-2025 Kentucky Soybean Board members include (back row, from left): Jeff King of Corydon, (American Soybean Association Director), Glenn Howell of Fulton, (Ky. Farm Bureau appointee),

Andrea Williford of Clinton, (Kentucky Department of Agriculture appointee), Ryan Bivens of Hodgenville, (United Soybean Board director), Jonathan Reynolds of Clinton, Clay Wells of Clay, and Adam Hendricks of Russellville, (Kentucky Soybean Association appointees), Caleb Ragland of Magnolia, (American Soybean Association Director), Allen Pace of LaCenter, (Kentucky Soybean Association appointee). Seated are Fred L. Sipes of Ekron, (American Soybean Association Director), Barry Alexander of Cadiz, and Brent Gatton of Bremen, (United Soybean Board Directors) and, standing, Larry Thomas of Elizabethtown (Kentucky Farm Bureau appointee).

At their meeting on July 24, the members of the board elected Barry Alexander as chairman for 2023-2024. Fred L. Sipes was elected vice-chairman, and Brent Gatton was elected secretary/treasurer. The Board thanked Larry Thomas for his two years of service as chairman of the organization.

In addition to officer elections, the Board reviewed proposals from national and international partners and made appropriate investments to continue increasing demand for renewable, sustainable U.S. Soy. To learn more about the work of the Kentucky Soybean Board, visit KySoy.org.



The Kentucky Soybean Promotion board recently elected their Executive Committee.

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Kentucky Livestock Coalition is a longterm success story for Kentucky ag

FROM PAGE 4

ed Producers, Inc. The Coalition also includes some farm family members.

The Kentucky Soybean Board has long had a tagline and logo that says, "soybeans and livestock... we're in it together." But really that's true of all our ag organizations, and the spirit of community and working together for the common good of Kentucky's farm families is evident in the workings of the Livestock Coalition. Many of you will recognize our campaign that started a few years back – Meat Me at the Table. While "Meat Me" is a clever play on words, the idea of gathering around the table together as a family unit and speaking with one voice really does define what this organization is

all about. To learn more, visit KyLivestockCoalition.org or follow us on social media.

Pictures of some of our farm families will be displayed on the Soybean Board's grain bin in AgLand during the Kentucky State Fair, and the winning partnership of Pork N Beans will make another appearance. If you attend the fair, be sure to visit AgLand in South Wing A. You can see for yourself the way our ag organizations are working together for the betterment of agriculture, while setting a great example of cooperation.

CALEB RAGLAND is the chairman of the Kentucky Livestock Coalition and secretary of the American Soybean Association.



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Understanding forage carbohydrates for horses



Horses are different. That's all I have got to say. Horses are not just taller (and faster) cows. The differences are especially important when trying to understand how to find the right forage to feed them.

For cattle, basically no forage is too good nutritionally, and forage certainly does not cause metabolic problems just because it is high quality. With cattle, we generalize and say that the higher the quality the better.

Not so with horses. The purpose of this short article is not to do a deep dive into the complexity of carbohydrate metabolism in horses, but to understand why some horse owners want to purchase 'low carb' hay.

To understand this, we can start with the difference in the digestive tract of cattle and horses. Cattle are foregut fermenters. By that we mean that forage is fermented (digested) in the front portion of the gut – rumen to be specific – followed by enzymatic action in the true stomach and small intestine.

In horses, the digestion begins in the stomach followed by the small intestine. Starches and simple sugars are enzymatically digested in the small intestine, releasing glucose into the bloodstream. Microbial fermentation and digestion of fiber occurs in the hindgut (colon and cecum). So horses are hindgut fermenters.

Some horses need to have a diet low in sugar and starch because they have a condition known as



equine metabolic syndrome (EMS) or related metabolic disorders. These horses are characterized by obesity, insulin dysregulation and laminitis. They are genetically pre-disposed to gain weight and

SEE UNDERSTANDING, PAGE 12

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Understanding forage carbohydrates for horses

FROM PAGE 11

are commonly called 'easy keepers.'

This metabolic disruption is more complicated than a tendency to gain weight. With EMS, cells become insensitive to insulin, leading to an overproduction of insulin by the pancreas especially after a meal. These elevated insulin levels may last all day. This condition is similar to Type 2 diabetes in humans. Elevated circulatory insulin resulting from EMS is associated with laminitis.

Laminitis is inflammation of the lamina in the hoof. Laminitis occurs in both cattle and horses, but horses with EMS can actually develop laminitis on high quality pasture. Euthanasia may be necessary with severe cases of laminitis in horses.

Obesity and EMS in horses are partly due to genetics. Once a horse has EMS or is obese, forage composition becomes much more important. Owners of overweight horses, horses with EMS or horses at risk for EMS often want hay low in non-structural carbohydrates. To determine NSC, add the water soluble carbohydrates and starch from the forage analysis. It has been suggested that when the sum of WSC and starch is less than 10 to 12%, the hay can be considered to be appropriate for horses with EMS or at risk for EMS.

We need to take a closer look at the carbohydrate profile of hay and what parameters need to be considered to judge if a hay is suitable for horses prone to obesity or with EMS. First, forages contain a mix of structural and non-structural carbohydrates. The structural carbohydrates in a forage are contained in the cell wall material which is only partially digested in the hindgut. The release of energy from fiber fermentation does not cause the elevation of blood glucose which stimulates the release of insulin into the bloodstream.

Non-structural carbohydrates are estimated by adding the water-soluble carbohydrates and starch reported on forage quality reports. Non-structural carbohydrates contain the simple (glucose, sucrose, fructose) as well as some more complex (sucrose, starch, fructans) carbohydrates. Simple sugars and the glucose produced from starch digestion are absorbed from the small intestine and their absorption significantly affects the release of insulin.

Some hays are generally low in NSC. Forages such as the warm season grasses bermudagrass and teff are generally lower in NSC than cool season grasses like timothy, orchardgrass and perennial ryegrass.

However, mature, first cutting orchardgrass might be low in NSC. The only way to know is get a hay test.

Consider the two hays below. Both are first cutting orchardgrass but differ greatly in NSC. Hay number 1 would have an NSC of 20.3% (WSC plus starch). This forage was cut in early May and had few seedheads. Hay number 2 was still a leafy orchardgrass but cut at a later stage of maturity. The NSC for the second orchardgrass sample was 6.9%, well within the allowable range for metabolically problematic horses. Ryegrass hay on the other hand typically has high levels of NSC and would therefore be a poor choice for horses with metabolic problems.

The only way to know the NSC level in hay is to get it tested.

% NFC	10.4	21.0
% Starch	.9	1.9
% WSC (Water Sol. Carbs.)	9.1	18.4
% ESC (Simple Sugars)	7.9	16.1

Hay number 1 – Partial carbohydrate profile for early cut first cutting orchardgrass with few seed heads.

% NFC	13.7	14.9
% Starch	.2	.2
% WSC (Water Sol. Carbs.)	6.2	6.7
% ESC (Simple Sugars)	5.9	6.5

Hay number 2 - Partial carbohydrate profile for mature, fully headed first cutting orchardgrass.

Confounding all of this to me is that lush green pasture can be extremely high in NSC. Most of the focus on carbohydrate management for metabolic horses centers on hay, but clearly limiting access to lush pasture would also be part of a sound management scheme to limit intake of readily digestible carbohydrates.

If this seems confusing to you, you are not alone. I call Dr. Laurie Lawrence, our pre-eminent horse nutritionist at UK at least once a year for my 'carbohydrate lesson.' She reminds me that it is easy to become too focused on low carbohydrate hay. Only a small percentage of horses actually have metabolic conditions like insulin resistance. Providing a well-balanced diet in the form of pasture and hay is the first step. Feeding a mature grass hay may be a good thing for older, less active horses because it is lower in energy and it keeps the horse busy chewing. As Dr. Lawrence is prone to say, a bored horse is up to no good. Always get a forage test for your hay, and insist on one from your hay suppliers. You cannot manage your feeding without it.

Happy foraging.

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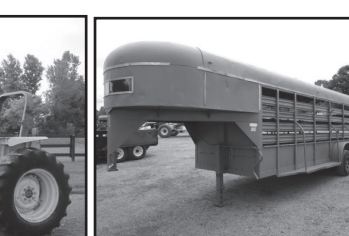
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Right-to-repair advocates and foes get U.S. House hearing

Both sides of the right-to-repair debate voiced their arguments during a hearing by a subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee, reports Philip Gruber of Lancaster Farming.

Farmers and consumers who need to fix their equipment have met a myriad of obstacles. "Manufacturers frustrate or limit third-party repair, steering business to themselves while driving up customer costs, speakers said," Gruber writes. "Repair concerns go beyond agriculture. . . including cars, dishwashers, electric wheelchairs and smartphones. Advocates want Congress to pass legislation enshrining a right to repair."

Manufacturers argued that releasing needed repair data is a cybersecurity and safety concern. Devlin Hartline, a legal fellow at the Hudson Institute, "argued that right-to-repair proposals would weaken manufacturers' intellectual-property rights,

such as the right to exclude competition for patented products." Brenna Goth of Bloomberg Law reports, "Opponents, from John Deere equipment dealers to groups representing Samsung and Apple, have said authorized repair programs benefit consumer safety." Manufacturers don't openly address the revenue stream that consumer right-to-repair laws could erase from their books.

Gruber reports, "American courts have supported owners' ability to repair their belongings since before the Civil War, and the Copyright Office has repeatedly said that diagnosis, repair and maintenance don't infringe on copyright protections, Aaron Perzanowski, a University of Michigan law professor told the committee. . . . Paul Roberts, founder of Secure Repairs, a group of cybersecurity and IT professionals who support the right to repair, added

that there's no evidence that schematics, service manuals, diagnostic software and replacement parts increase a machine's vulnerability to cyberattacks." Roberts said: "A diagnostic routine that identifies a failed component or reveals the operating temperature of a device doesn't provide access to the kinds of sensitive data that hackers are interested in."

Despite manufacturers' lobbying, the movement has gained traction. "Colorado, Massachusetts, Minnesota and New York have passed right-to-repair laws of varying scope. Colorado's applies specifically to tractors," Goth reports. "Proposals in at least 23 states would require electronics companies like Apple or other manufacturers to make reasonably available the tools, parts, and information needed for people to fix the products themselves or through an independent repair shop."

This year, the American Farm Bureau Federation signed memoranda of understanding with Agco, Claas, CNH Industrial Brands, John Deere and Kubota, "manufacturers that represent three-quarters of the domestic farm-machinery market," Gruber notes. "The agreements establish farmers' and independent repair shops' access to manuals and tools for diagnostics and repair. . . . Such agreements can be helpful if they cover a large share of the market and prevent manufacturers from quitting whenever they want. Not all agreements meet those targets, Perzanowski said." He told Gruber: "Oftentimes, frankly, I think they're designed to generate good PR and to confuse arguments around the need for legislation, so I think we have to look at them with some skepticism."

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rjci.blogspot.com

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KADB approves more than \$2.9 million for projects

The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board approved \$2,956,072 for agricultural diversification and rural development projects across the commonwealth at its monthly board meeting.

"The grants awarded today by the Kentucky Agriculture Development Board will help Kentucky continue to diversify its agricultural outputs," said Commissioner of Agriculture and board chair Dr. Ryan Quarles. "The board's diversification focus is important in encouraging a variety of pursuits for our agricultural community."

County and State Funded Projects

- City of Morgantown was approved \$10,000 in Butler County funds and \$240,000 in state funds to support the construction of a new farmers' market pavilion. For more information, contact Allie Lee at a.lee@morgantownky.gov.

- Hallstead Farms, LLC was approved up to \$30,000 in matching county and state funds to aid in the construction of an on-farm retail store. For more information, contact Amanda Hall at amandahall129@gmail.com.

- Kentucky Young Farmer Association was approved up to \$21,814 in state funds to support the purchase of equipment for a pilot welding training program. For more information, contact Rachel Wilson at rachel.wilson@kctcs.edu.

- Locals Food Hub & Pizza Pub, LLC was approved up to \$200,000 in matching county and state funds to support the pur-

chase of equipment to create a large-scale value-added processing program. For more information, contact Birch Bragg at birch@localsfoodhub.com.

- Tri-County Livestock Exchange, Inc. was approved up to \$6,640 in Henry County funds to upgrade the existing working facilities. For more information, contact Larry Congleton at congletonlivestock@gmail.com.

County Agricultural Investment Program

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

Sixteen CAIPs were approved by the board totaling \$2,236,597:

- Barren (\$280,000)
- Clark (\$20,000)*
- Edmonson (\$85,000)
- Elliott (\$154,982)
- Fulton (\$60,000)
- Grayson (\$100,000)*
- Greenup (\$177,208)
- Laurel (\$126,000)

- Lincoln (\$247,000)
- Livingston (\$51,230)
- Marion (\$38,904)*
- Nicholas (\$260,785)
- Pendleton (\$217,099)
- Perry (\$57,593)
- Taylor (\$191,144)
- Warren (\$169,652)

Deceased Farm Animal Removal

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

Five DAR programs were approved by the board totaling \$62,500:

- Fayette (\$2,500)
- Hart (\$15,000)
- Lincoln (\$15,000)
- Marion (\$15,000)
- Taylor (\$15,000)

Shared-Use Equipment Program

The Shared-Use Equipment Program assists broad-based community organiza-

tions with the purchase of farm equipment. The equipment purchased is made available for producer use in a specific county on a leased basis.

Five Shared-Use Equipment programs were approved by the board totaling \$83,171:

- Barren (\$19,425 and \$19,425)
- Clark (\$25,121)
- Hart (\$15,675)
- Marion (\$3,525)

Youth Agricultural Incentives Program

YAIP encourages youth to engage in and explore agricultural opportunities.

Three YAIPs were approved by the board totaling \$65,350:

- Barren (\$20,000)
- Taylor (\$15,350)
- Warren (\$30,000)

All application periods and deadlines for CAIP and YAIP will be advertised locally.

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NEWSPAPER**

Farm Bill may offer more mental-health help for farmers

Extreme weather is hard on everyone, but farmers may be some of the most vulnerable to its often brutal impact, which can affect their mental health. This year's Farm Bill could bring additional funding and resources for mental-health care for farm families and workers. "Experts say they have witnessed a rise in farmers struggling with anxiety and depression as climate impacts have worsened in recent years," reports Mélissa Godin of Ambrook Research. "The farmer crisis hotline run by Farm Aid, for instance, has seen a significant increase of calls from farmers during natural disasters linked to climate change." Caitlin Arnold-Stephano, a farmer and a Farm Aid program manager, told Godin, "When climate disaster strikes, or an ongoing

disaster such as drought is occurring, the toll on farmer mental health is high. Often a disaster can push a farmer over the already-thin margin or edge that existed."

The 2018 Farm Bill was the first with contained "direct funding toward farmers' mental health, by providing grants for the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network, which connects farmers, ranchers and agricultural workers with mental-health-assistance programs and resources," Godin notes. "Advocates hope that the 2023 Farm Bill will offer even more support. Bipartisan legislation, led by Sens. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa) and Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.), would reauthorize the FRSAN to establish helplines, provide suicide prevention training for farm advocates and create support groups

for farmers and farm workers. The bill would increase funding for the program, authorizing \$15 million per year for the program for the next five years, up from \$10 million allocated in the last Farm Bill."

Farmers have long faced unrecognized and untreated mental-health problems. "The rate of suicide among farmers has historically been three and a half times higher compared to the general population, according to the National Rural Health Association," Godin reports. "Many farmers, however, struggle to access mental health services, often not readily accessible in rural areas. And when services are available, they are not always tailored to farmers' needs. Traditional mental health services can be alienating to farmers, who

sometimes come from communities where mental health is highly stigmatized. . . . Unless the federal government takes action to address the root causes of farmers' distress — the economic precarity, the lack of support, the increasingly unpredictable weather — many experts are concerned farmers will continue to struggle."

Greg Mruk, executive director of New York FarmNet, an organization that offers financial and emotional counseling to farmers, told Godin: "More than anything, farmers want to be given a chance to be part of the solution, a chance to figure it out. Let's not be of the 'sky is falling' mindset. We need to take a proactive approach."

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