

FARMERS' Quarterly

FEBRUARY
2024

★★★ NATIONAL FARM MACHINERY SHOW ISSUE ★★★

50th annual Ag Expo a success

By Alexa Tabor

The 50th Annual Ag Expo recently took place at the Owensboro Convention Center and was considered to be a massive success by the community. This event allowed vendors an opportunity to showcase their business and join in with hundreds of farmers from across Western Kentucky, as well as Southern Indiana. Activities provide participants with a very educational session done throughout the morning during the marketing trade show. However, there were also informational updates which pertained to market and production related topics. These were all in tandem with business networking opportunities for



Motivational speaker, hunter and archer Tim Farmer, who spoke at the recent 50th annual Ag Expo.

Photo from timfarmerspeaking.com

the upcoming season.

For vendors at the Ag Expo, there are bronze, silver, gold and platinum sponsorships

that helped bring attention to their business. The convention provided them the opportunity to promote their product

and gave participants the opportunity to learn. There was also a keynote speaker in attendance to share his story.

Life-long Kentuckian and renowned archer Tim Farmer provided a motivational speech to all in attendance, a thing he has done across the United States. In 1984 Farmer was badly injured in a motorcycle accident, and it left him unable to use his right arm. Despite this, his strong will prevailed, and Farmer continues to do what he loves best. He has won many regional archery competitions shooting against non-disabled shooters and much more. In 1995, Farmer became the host of Kentucky Afield. He has also won multiple local and national broadcasting awards, along with 3 Emmys.

2024 National Farm Machinery Show to showcase most innovative tech in agribusiness

The year of 2024 marks the 60th National Farm Machinery Show in Louisville KY, and it is steadily maintaining its rank as the top 10 in the country. The show, at large, is known for its typical gathering of over 300 thousand participants, and for bringing in the most revenue to the city. This year, the Farm Machinery Show is predicted to amass well over \$24 million, along with the Championship Tractor Pull. According to the Louisville Tourism

see *NFMS*, page 63



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Ryan Bivens of LaRue County (right) is shown accepting the 2023 KSA Top Recruiter award from KSA President Adam Hendricks.

Photo Courtesy of the University of Kentucky

Ryan Bivens of LaRue County is Kentucky Soybean Association Top Recruiter

The Kentucky Soybean Association (KSA) presented its 2023 Top Recruiter Award during the Kentucky Commodity Conference held on January 18. This award is presented to the KSA member who recruited the most members (new or renewal) in the previous year.

Membership is at the very heart of KSA, and reminding fellow farmers of the value and benefits of membership in the association is the responsibility of every member.

Checkoff dollars may not, by law, be used for policy or lobbying efforts, so membership dues are crucial to the success of KSA. Dues enable farmer-leaders to travel to Washington, D.C. under normal circumstances and engage our Congressmen and Senators (as well as crucial staff members) in discussions about the repercussions of pending legislation on important issues including the Farm Bill, infrastructure and transportation, the Renewable Fuel Standard and international trade policy.

In 2023, Ryan Bivens of Hodgenville recruited or renewed the most members, which greatly contributes to furthering the mission of the Kentucky Soybean Association. Many of his recruits are lifetime members. Bivens is pictured here accepting the award and the 2023 Top Recruiter jacket from KSA President Adam Hendricks.

For more information on soybean farming in Kentucky, visit www.kysoy.org

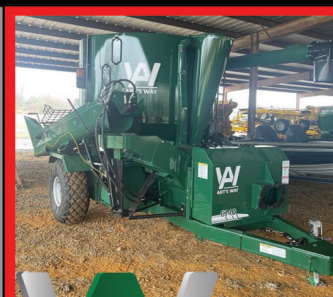
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O'Bryan Grain Farm named state soybean yield Champion L-R, Barry Alexander, Kentucky Soybean Board Chairman, with Jerry O'Bryan and Jason Clouse of O'Bryan Grain Farm and University of Kentucky Soybean Specialist Dr. Carrie Knott. Photo courtesy of the University of Kentucky

O'Bryan Grain Farm wins 2023 Kentucky Soybean Yield Contest

The Kentucky Soybean Board honored its yield and quality contest winners at the Kentucky Commodity Conference on January 18. O'Bryan Grain Farm of Daviess County had the top full-season entry in the state, with 100.80 bushels per acre in an irrigated entry. The O'Bryan operation also came in second in the state in the non-irrigated category, logging 97.18 bushels per acre.

To commemorate this accomplishment, the Kentucky Soybean Board presented Jerry O'Bryan and Jason Clouse with two "100 Bushel Club" jackets, personalized with their farm name

and crop year in addition to the standard trophies and prize money. Second in irrigated full-season beans was MW Thomas Farms of Hardin County with 87.69 bushels/acre.

In non-irrigated full-season soybeans, Greenwell Acres of Union County took top honors with 100.41 bushels/acre. The Greenwell operation also received a pair of 100-Bushel Club jackets.

In double-crop soybeans, Dixon Farms of Graves County won the Irrigated Division with 75.37 bushels per acre, followed by Ken-Maur

see *CONTEST*, page 7

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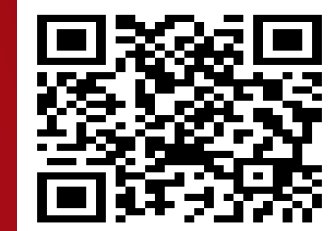
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CONTEST*continued from page 6*

Farms of Daviess County with 64.17. Daviess County's Goetz Brothers were in the winner's circle again this year for Non-Irrigated double-crop soybeans with 88.29 bushels/acre, followed by Jonathan Miller of McLean County with 75.09 bushels/acre. Double-crop beans are sown into the stubble of winter wheat, which is harvested in the spring. This practice gets its name because the farmer gets a "double crop" from the field, as opposed to full-season soybeans, which yield only one crop per year.

District yield contest winners include Paschall Ag Operations of Calloway County, Cole Hamilton Farms of Daviess County, Western Kentucky University in Warren County, and Adams Family Farms of Hardin County.

In the 2023 soybean quality contest, Rogers Farm of Hardin County took first place in Oil content with 20.55 percent, followed by C and T Farms of Daviess County with 20.39 percent. On the Protein side, first place went to Cole Hamilton Farms with 35.60 percent, followed by Greenwell Acres with 34.83 percent.

These contests would not be possible without the county contest supervisors. Clint Hardy was recognized as the supervisor with the state championship entry and the supervisor with the top three average yield and the supervisor with the most entries submitted. Troy Muse, Daniel Carpenter, and Danny Adams each had three or more entries.

For complete yield and quality contest information, visit www.kysoy.org.

The Kentucky Commodity Conference is the annual meeting of soybean, corn and small grain growers in the state. The Kentucky Soybean Yield and Quality Contest is sponsored by the Kentucky Soybean Association, the Kentucky Soybean Board and the University of Kentucky with support from our KSA's Corporate Partners.



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237	10	2.1	94	167	BLACK ONYX 918
241	7	1.0	83	148	DYNAMIC
243	10	0.6	70	124	FIREBALL
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USDA announces appointments to the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced last week the appointment of 26 members to serve on the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board. Twenty-five members will serve three-year terms and one member will serve a one-year term. The term of board members appointed to three-year terms start February 2024 and end February 2027.

Newly appointed members are:

- Arkansas – Caleb Plyler, Hope, Ark.
- Colorado – Sallie R. Miller, Briggsdale, Colo.
- Florida – Sarah K. Childs, Lake Placid, Fla.
- Idaho – Tucker Shaw, Caldwell, Idaho and Gwenna R. Prescott, Carey, Idaho
- Kansas – Marisa Kleysteuber, Garden City, Kan., and Jacquelyne Renae Leffler, Americus, Kan.
- Kentucky – Andy Bishop, Cox's Creek, Ky.
- Missouri – Kalena Bruce, Stockton, Mo.
- Montana – Verna J. Billedeaux, Browning, Mont.
- Nebraska – Gina M. Hudson, Belvidere, Neb., and Bree A. DeNaeyer, Seneca, Neb., and Don V. Cain, Jr., D.V.M., M.S., Broken Bow, Neb.
- North Dakota – Jason Schmidt, Medina, N.D.
- Oklahoma – Cheryl DeVuyst, Morrison, Okla., and Gaye Pfeiffer, Mulhall, Okla.
- South Dakota – David O. Uhrig, Hermosa, S.D.
- Texas – JoJo Carrales, Flatonia, Texas and J. Ryan Moorhouse, Amarillo, Texas and Mark Sustaie, Winnsboro, Texas and Pat McDowell, Wheeler, Texas
- Southwest Unit – Melissa Daniels, Nicasio, Calif.
- Importer Unit – Doug McNicholl, Washington, DC, and Kimberly A.

D'Anella, Wenonah, N.J., and Andrew Banchi, Trevor, Wis., and Matthew Allan, Washington, DC (1-year term)

The board is authorized by the Beef Promotion and Research Act of 1985 and is composed of 99 members representing 34 States and 5 units. Members must be beef producers or importers of beef and beef products nominated by certified producer organizations. More information about the board is available on the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) Cattlemen's Beef Board webpage.

Since 1966, Congress has authorized the development of industry-funded research and promotion boards to provide a framework for agricultural industries to pool their resources and combine efforts to develop new markets, strengthen existing markets and conduct important research and promotion activities. AMS provides oversight of 22 boards, paid for by industry assessments, which helps ensure fiscal accountability and program integrity.

AMS policy is that diversity of the boards, councils and committees it oversees should reflect the diversity of their industries in terms of the experience of members, methods of production and distribution, marketing strategies, and other distinguishing factors, including but not limited to individuals from historically underserved communities, that will bring different perspectives and ideas to the table. Throughout the full nomination process, the industry must conduct extensive outreach, paying particular attention to reaching underserved communities, and consider the diversity of the population served and the knowledge, skills, and abilities of the members to serve a diverse population.



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- 2024 KCBS WORLD INVITATIONALMAY 24 – 26, 2024
- NATIONAL INDOOR RV CENTERS RALLYMAY 31 – JUN 7, 2024
- NATIONAL CUSHMAN OF AMERICAJUN 16 – 22, 2024
- TN BEEF EXPOJUN 25 – 30, 2024
- TN HOLSTEIN SHOW JUL 18 – 20, 2024
- MENDING FENCES RODEO.....OCT 4 – 5, 2024
- HOFFMAN ORIGINAL SEWING & QUILT EXPO.....OCT 3 – 5, 2024
- TRISTAR KENNEL CLUB OCT 8 – 13, 2024
- WC SURPLUS AUCTION.....Nov 19 – 21, 2024
- THE JINGLE BELL ROCK OUT SWINE SHOW..... Nov 29 – 30, 2024

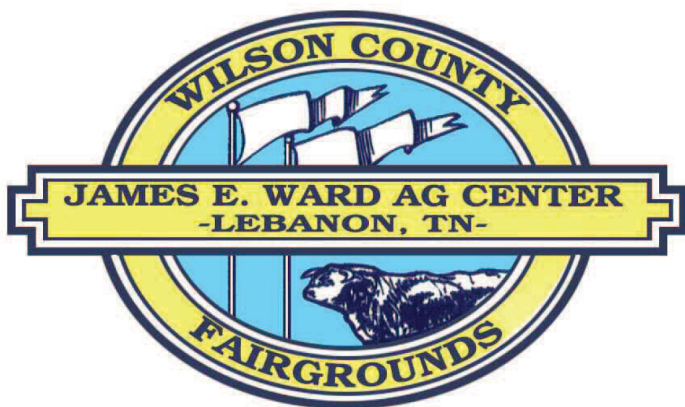
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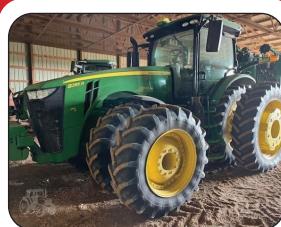
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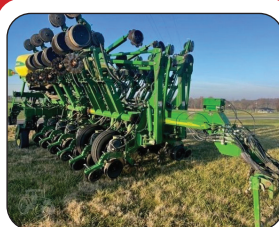
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GCHS remains the only high school equine education facility in the region

Submitted by GCHS

The Graves County Agriculture Department strives to offer an educational experience to students that is unique. While there are many strategies and exercises that can provide a one-of-a-kind opportunity, hands-on application proves to be the most effective and beneficial.

Fifteen years ago, GC schools constructed a barn that would serve as one of the first high school equine facilities in the state of Kentucky. Today, the structure houses Bambi, Ringo and Mose. Bambi, a Sorrel Quarter Horse, and Ringo, a Sorrel Mustang, were graciously donated, while Mose, a

Grulla Quarter Horse, was born at the barn. While there are schools in the Eastern part of the Bluegrass state that house horses, GC is the only school to operate a high school Equine Education Facility in the region!

Abby Lyell, Agriculture Teacher at GCHS expressed, "Almost every one of our Ag pathways has its own facility. Animal Science has the Equine Center. Horticulture studies the Greenhouses. Natural Resources has the Environmental Center, and Ag Power Structure and Technical has the Ag Mechanics Shop. It's through these facilities that we can provide

see EQUINE, page 11

EQUINE*continued from page 10*

our students the opportunity to showcase the things they are learning in class, get their hands dirty, and see that hard work come to fruition.”

You often hear those who love interacting with horses say, “If you have gained the trust of a horse, you have won a friend for life.” Students are able to truly watch this saying come to life as they learn to care for the well-being of these gentle giants.

“Throughout their time at the barn, students learn safe handling procedures, horse riding skills, grooming techniques and hoof maintenance, nutrition, equine first aid, anatomy, and health management, just to name a few! Students partake in unique experiences like assisting with the horse’s dental float procedure,

observing our farrier doing hoof trims, administering wormer, or treating wounds that may come from an accident.”

And it doesn’t stop there. Each week, Equine Science students load up and head to the stables. While they anticipate a list of chores that routinely need to be completed, they often run into unexpected tasks that require a little extra effort. Between Ag classes, the barn manager, Allie Phelps, and Career Apprentice students, the responsibilities are distributed to lighten the load.

“The horses and taking care of the barn are a lot of work. Students are fortunate to experience the life of a livestock owner for a year. The knowledge these students gain from not only the horses but all of our facilities that provide realistic agriculture environments...well, those are lessons that go well beyond the classroom.”

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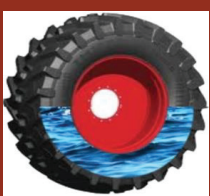
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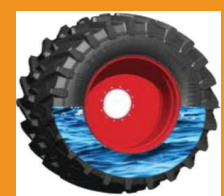
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Representing four generations, Miller's agricultural roots and heritage farming date back to slavery where his ancestors cultivated land in Helena, Arkansas. For Miller, his family's legacy makes him proud, both professionally and personally.

UK alum, fourth-generation Black farmer stays connected through MANRRS

By Christopher Carney

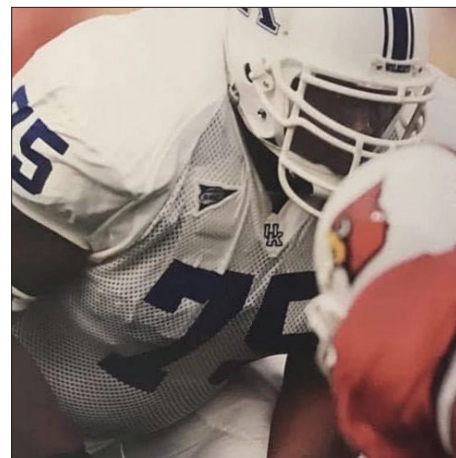
LEXINGTON, Ky.— From the professional gridiron to the fields, Sylvester Miller II is making a difference in agriculture and for minorities thanks to the University of

Kentucky.

Sylvester "Big Kat" Miller playing football for the University of Kentucky. Photo provided by Sylvester Miller.

In 2008, Miller graduated with a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics from the UK Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. Miller was active in the UK Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS) program, encouraging and empowering minorities to pursue degrees in agriculture and related fields.

With 16 years of work in corporate agriculture and valuable experiences gained in UK MANRRS under his belt, Miller feels well-prepared to be successful as the new U.S. crop technology market manager at FMC



see *MANRRS*, page 13

MANRRS

continued from page 12

Corporation. The agricultural sciences company advances farming through innovative and sustainable crop protection technologies.

“Being a UK MANRRS member helped prepare me for the workforce and thinking outside the box,” Miller said. “Attending national conferences, competitions and more helped me be successful in the agriculture industry where the University of Kentucky name is well respected.”

In his role, Miller is helping lead the way for three innovative 3D fungicide and insecticide formulations at FMC – Ethos 3D insecticide/fungicide, Capture 3D insecticide and Xyway 3D fungicide. All part of the 3RIVE 3D® application system, the products are a revolutionary at-plant crop protection delivery platform allowing growers to farm faster and more efficiently.

Family influence

“Due to my family’s history in agriculture during and post-slavery, it makes me proud to work in an industry that was literally built on the blood, sweat and tears of my ancestors,” Miller said. “I’ve always carried a sense of pride in everything I do, including my career, academics and sports.”

Growing up and attending Mount Carmel High School in Chicago, Miller was originally recruited to play college football at UK as an offensive lineman.

Finding agriculture and MANRRS on campus

Upon arriving on campus, Miller didn’t know that agriculture was even a degree option. After speaking with Susan Skees, current undergraduate academic coordinator at Martin-Gatton CAFE, Miller fondly remembered landscaping as a kid, visiting the family farm and realizing that a career in agriculture is, “more than just being a farmer.”

After changing his major to agriculture economics, Miller wanted to get more involved and discovered the UK MANRRS program – promoting the advancement of ethnic and cultural groups underrepresented in agricultural and related sciences.

see MANRRS, page 14



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MANRRS

continued from page 13

“UK MANRRS allowed me to develop my network outside of just athletics,” Miller said. “I’m where I’m at in my career because of the opportunities and experiences offered in this program.”

While attending the inaugural Iowa Farmers of Color Conference and the recent National Black Growers Council annual meeting, Miller believes that agricultural diversity is important and needs representation.

“Diversity in agriculture is important because we are a diverse society,” Miller said. “Working in the public and private sector, making policies is important. We need to be at the table. We need to be more visible.”

Finishing the journey

Miller decided to leave college in 2003 and play professional football with stints playing for the Badalona Dracs, Lexington Horseman and Minneapolis Dragons. He later returned to finish his degree and graduated from UK in 2008.

“I enjoyed my journey in life before coming back, but there’s nothing better than walking across that stage and finishing something you started,” Miller said.

Presently, Miller continues to serve UK MANRRS as their current alumni affiliate network president and is on the board of directors. The program remains viable, winning multiple national MANRRS chapter of the year awards and “producing many successful, diverse alums” according to Miller.

Miller still farms, managing property in both Helena, Arkansas and Buchanan, Michigan, continuing his ancestor’s rich and prideful tradition.

Learn more about the UK MANRRS program at <https://diversity.ca.uky.edu/students/uk-manrrs>.

###

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Sylvester Miller speaking to students at a National MANRRS Conference.

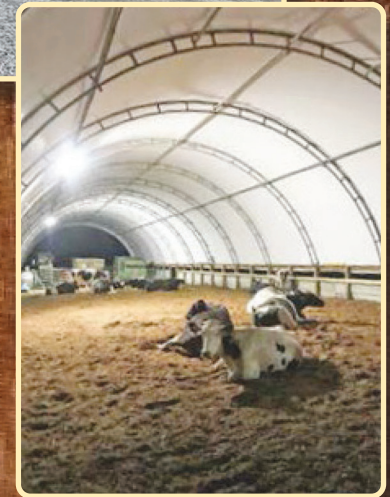
Photo provided by Sylvester Miller



Sylvester Miller graduating from the University of Kentucky. Photo provided by Sylvester Miller.

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Kentucky Soybean Association President Adam Hendricks, left, presented the 2024 KSA Distinguished Service Award to former Ag Commissioner Ryan F. Quarles.

Former Ag Commissioner Ryan F. Quarles honored with Kentucky Soybean Association Distinguished Service Award

The Kentucky Soybean Association (KSA) presented its 2024 Distinguished Service Award during the Kentucky Commodity Conference held on January 18. This award is the highest honor bestowed annually by the organization.

This year's honoree has been an asset to Kentucky's farmers since he was the Kentucky state tractor driving champion in 1997 and 2001. Ryan Quarles became a household name for many Kentuckians in 2010 when he was elected to the House of Representatives, serving the 62nd District.

He was re-elected in 2012 and 2014, then in 2015 turned his sights to the office of Agriculture Commissioner.

Many farmers present at the 2024 Conference recalled the debate held between the candidates, and several have worked closely with Commissioner Quarles through his two terms in the Commissioner's office.

Although he has moved forward into a new role as President of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, the farmer-leaders of the Kentucky Soybean Association were sure to take the opportunity to thank former Commissioner Quarles for his service to the agriculture community by honoring him with the 2024 Distinguished Service Award.

For more information on soybean farming in Kentucky, visit www.kysoy.org.

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KDA's 2024 hemp applications now open

By Alexa Tabor
Farmers' Quarterly Writer

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA) is now hosting an online application portal for hemp licensing, applications and renewal in 2024. The deadline for submitting grower applications and renewals is March 15 of 2024. Currently, new handler or processor applications can be sent in throughout the year. Annual processor or handler renewals must be submitted by December 31 as well. Authorized by state law, KDA will also be conducting a Hemp Licensing Program. The public should also note that under no circumstances can a person handle, broker, grow or process hemp in the state of Kentucky without a license directly from KDA.

During the last application period, there were 170 hemp growers licensed and 71 hemp processors and

handlers. Out of the 170 licenses, only 60 were utilized and 1,500 acres were grown the following year. Nationally, there were 22, 275 thousand acres of hemp planted in 2023.

The deadline for application and additional information is as follows:

- 2024 Grower applications are due by March 15, 2024.

- Grower License renewals are due annually by March 15.

- Processor/Handler License renewals are due annually by December 31.

- KDA is accepting new processor/handler applications year round.

- University research applications are also accepted year round.

- The KDA is hosting an online application on this webpage.

- The online application includes a mapping function that will automatically upload the GPS coordinates and includes the mandatory orientation.



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More reasons to raise chickens

By Teresa Pearson
Farmers' Quarterly Writer

Chickens give flock raisers wholesome, nutritious eggs and meat. But they also give us much more than that. They make us laugh. They are lovable and each hen or rooster has their own personality.

Here are a few reasons why it's great to have a backyard flock:

Wholesome, fresh eggs and meat

One of the most prominent benefits of a backyard flock is that you can produce your own food. Poultry breeds are divided primarily into three groups: egg layers, meat producers and show birds. When cared for properly and fed a nutritionally-complete diet, one bird can produce up to 300 eggs per year or produce quality meat for your family.

Caring for your own flock also gives you flexibility over the production system. When collecting eggs or harvesting meat, flock raisers are filled with the pride of producing their own food and the confidence of knowing the exact origins of the food on the table.

Simple sustainability

Backyard flocks are sometimes referred to as "Pets with benefits." Whether your flock is made of chickens, geese, ducks, turkeys, pheasants or quail, a backyard flock often becomes a part of the family. These new family members are a simple way to self-sufficiently care for your family, yard and garden.

Flocks can be housed in a coop with an outdoor run or allowed to roam free-range, depending on city

ordinances and outdoor space. In either case, the birds strengthen the health of the soil by tilling the earth with their feet and beaks and naturally fertilizing the lawn or garden. Birds also eat bugs, which helps to control the insect population in your yard.

Family education

Played with each day and often called by individual names, a backyard flock is a popular project for the whole family. A backyard flock can teach children and adults alike where their food comes from, help them connect to nature and instill lifelong lessons of dedication and responsibility.

Before purchasing your first chicks, plan the flock-care program with your family. Make sure everyone involved understands how baby chicks grow into egg layers or meat birds. Then, visit your local Purina® retailer to pick-up supplies and select chicks together. Once the chicks arrive, work as a family team to care for the flock – from baby chick care to egg collection.

Backyard entertainment

Almost all flock raisers have tales of their birds' individual personalities and characteristics. Each breed of poultry is unique and, though there are commonalities within the breed, flock raisers can quickly learn their birds' distinct personalities. Getting to know our birds makes caring for them even more enjoyable.

Whether you are watching a flock of hens from your back porch or helping baby chicks settle into their brooder, a backyard flock can provide entertainment through all life stages.

Source: <https://www.purinamills.com/chicken-feed>



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Op-ed from Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell Make an impact in Kentucky agriculture by donating to the "Ag Tag" fund

FRANKFORT, Ky. – Small things can make a lasting impact.

It's one of the things I learned early in life while riding around the farm with my grandfather. We talked about a lot of things in that truck while we worked side by side. I'm not sure if he understood the impact his influence had on my young impressionable mind, but it was there.

I was lucky to work with my parents and grandparents on the farm. My life lessons started with my family but continued when I joined FFA in high school. Both my dad and grandfather were FFA members, so it was natural that I joined as well. I want my kids to join FFA when they get older. It's a program I fully believe creates lifelong bonds and experiences.

The same can be said for 4-H and the experiences it allows kids to have making a lasting impact on their lives. 4-H and FFA are two youth programs that are at the forefront of the future of Kentucky agriculture, providing direction in life for many of our influential young people.

You can make that lasting impact as well, by donating to Kentucky 4-H and Kentucky FFA when you buy or renew your farm license plate, or "Ag Tags" this year. When renewing your plate, you have the opportunity to make a \$10 donation. It's a small amount that can make a huge difference and one of the easiest ways to give back to the community and the future of



agriculture.

The money from the "Ag Tag" donations goes into a fund divided equally among Kentucky 4-H, Kentucky FFA, and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA) to support Kentucky's agriculture youth and other organizations and programs benefiting our farm families.

Last year, Kentucky farmers donated \$735,815.88, the largest amount ever in a single year. From that total, each group received \$245,271.96 to invest back into our communities for youth development and promotional programs.

The KDA uses its share of the Ag Tag funds for various programs

see TAG, page 21

TAG*continued from page 20*

such as the Ag Athlete of the Year awards, the Kentucky Leopold Conservation Award, Kentucky Women in Agriculture, and the University of Kentucky Grain and Forage Center of Excellence.

Half of the 4-H and FFA donations are returned to local councils and chapters, meaning leaders in your community can use those funds to cover the cost of 4-H and FFA camp and other leadership programs for our youth. County 4-H councils use Ag Tag dollars to provide 4-H camp scholarships and travel for life-changing, educational experiences to enable local 4-H youth to grow as leaders and engaged citizens. FFA chapters are free to use the money to meet the greatest needs in their community, such as FFA jackets for students in need or helping cover travel costs to leadership events.

That unselfish willingness to help build and prepare Kentucky's agriculture youth are predominant

features of FFA and 4-H. They are two of the leading youth organizations in Kentucky and the nation. While they work to prepare youth to take on the challenges agriculture faces, KDA works every day to promote Kentucky's farmers, inviting each resident in the commonwealth to realize the importance agriculture plays in the present and in the future. That future is Kentucky's agriculture youth. That's why this year's Ag Tag campaign theme is "Elevating Leaders." Funding from your voluntary donations helps all three organizations fulfill our mission to sustain Kentucky agriculture for generations to come.

In the weeks to come, as many of you head back to your county clerk's office to renew your Ag Tags, I hope you will make the \$10 donation. Our record for Ag Tag collections in a single year is \$735,815.88, which was set last year. Let's try to break that record this year, while at the same time helping to ensure a bright future for Kentucky agriculture.



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Commissioner of Agriculture Jonathan Shell, center, named February as Lamb Month in Kentucky during a proclamation signing Tuesday at the Kentucky Department of Agriculture in Frankfort. Joining Commissioner Shell were members of the Kentucky Sheep and Goat Development Office, sheep producers, and members of the Sunshine Class, a class dedicated to giving special-needs children an opportunity to show animals at the Kentucky State Fair.

Kentucky Department of Agriculture

Commissioner Shell celebrates February as Lamb Month in Kentucky

Celebrate the diversity sheep, lamb offer

FRANKFORT, Ky. – Kentucky sheep and lamb producers joined Commissioner of Agriculture Jonathan Shell today to commemorate February as Lamb Month in Kentucky.

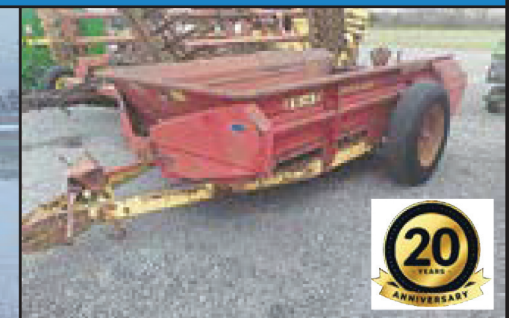
“Sheep add to the diversity of our state’s agricultural landscape and are an excellent livestock option for many Kentucky farms,” Commissioner Shell said. “Lamb is the perfect lean meat for the dinner table because it is packed with protein. But it provides more than meat, sheep are an excellent source of fiber, as well. Their gentle

nature also makes them perfect for livestock shows, including a newer program at the Kentucky State Fair called the Sunshine class. Every day, but this month in particular, we salute the value sheep and lamb add to our farms.”

About 5 million sheep are raised by roughly 80,000 farmers and ranchers across the United States. With more than 12 million acres of agriculture land in Kentucky, the commonwealth is home to 70,000 head of sheep and lamb,

see *LAMB*, page 23

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LAMB*continued from page 22*

ranking it 23rd nationally for sheep inventory. Those 70,000 sheep are spread over more than 4,000 sheep producers who are dedicated to producing high quality products for consumers.

"It's that time of year again to celebrate the ever-growing sheep industry in our beautiful state of Kentucky. Kentucky is tailor made for sheep and we are so proud of the strides our sheep community has made and will continue to make in the future." said Harry Frederick, a sheep producer out of Tompkinsville and president of the Kentucky Sheep and Wool Producers Association. "Celebrate with us by trying something different tonight on your plate!"

Kentucky has a strong tradition of sheep production in the U.S. with the number of head reaching as high as over a million in the mid to late 1940s. Kentucky's sheep industry's numbers declined in the last 40 years, but with the help of the Kentucky Sheep and Wool Producers Association and the American Sheep Industry Association, those numbers are on the rebound. Sheep numbers experienced a 51 percent increase over the past five years. Many producers are retaining breeding stock to increase the number in production.

The Kentucky sheep industry adds more than \$7 million in revenue to Kentucky's agriculture receipts. For 2023, market lambs and sheep stayed steady at 14,000 head, with higher numbers of breeding stock in inventory. The market lambs' inventory was the second highest level on record

"Lamb is the perfect lean meat for the dinner table because it is packed with protein..."

- COMMISSIONER JONATHAN

for Kentucky. With solid markets, an increase in retail demand, growing grazing opportunities in the state, and increased value-added opportunities for wool, this industry is expected to keep growing into the future.

February serves as a reminder of the great versatility and value of sheep and lamb. In addition to being a source of protein, zinc, selenium and B vitamin, it's also a good source of iron and riboflavin. Numerous products and byproducts also come from sheep, including milk, fiber for wool, and lanolin, a natural moisturizer. Across the world, farmers also use sheep to combat noxious weeds on their property, promote healthy forests, and prevent wildfires.

In addition to the value sheep and lamb add to Kentucky farms, they are also perfect for the show ring. Lambs, which are often gentle in personality and movement, create an enthusiasm for the show person, while also teaching valuable lessons used in day-to-day life.

Lambs and sheep are often the animal of choice for those involved in Sunshine classes, which offer an opportunity for individuals with special needs to work in a show ring at the Kentucky State Fair. Working with a mentor, the exhibitor will show the animal and at the end all are presented with a championship banner. The Sunshine classes have been offered at the Kentucky State Fair for the past two years.

To celebrate Lamb Month, the Kentucky Sheep and Goat Development Office offers information on its website about the versatile livestock. The website also offers a buyer's guide for lamb at: <https://www.kysheepandgoat.org/on-your-plate>.

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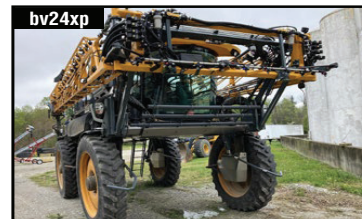
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One farmer's path to Pilgrims

By Denise Cooper
Farmers' Quarterly Writer

MAYFIELD - The poultry processing business known today as Pilgrims, began as Seaboard Farms. Built in Mayfield on a greenfield site in 1990, the business was an extension of the poultry boom that began in Georgia in the 1960-70s. Relatives of Mayfield farmer, Kevin Crider, were living in Georgia at that time. This connection helped Crider to tune into the chicken business at a key time in his life.

After graduating from Symsonia High School, Crider studied overseas and earned an international business degree at University of Madrid, Spain. Little did he know that it would open up the door he needed to be part of the next generation of farming on his great grand daddy's land back in Kentucky.

At the time that Crider graduated with his degree, Seaboard Farms – now known as Pilgrims – was surveying Mayfield to see if it would be a good location for their poultry processing industry. It just so happened that Crider had studied Seaboard Farms while earning his degree. Poultry was the “new” item that Crider could contribute to the generational farm. Today Crider raises pigs and poultry. He said that August (2023) marked 32 years since he received his first chick.

In 1989 Seaboard Farms started exploring the possibility of building an integrated poultry unit in

see *PILGRIMS*, page 26

28th Annual 2024 Spring Farm Auction ONLINE ONLY



Saturday, March 2nd
10 AM CST

Warrick County 4-H Center • Boonville, Indiana

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The annual Spring Farm Consignment sale will be an online auction through Hibid.com. DAS will not have a live auction this year. However, all equipment will be lined up and staged at the Warrick County 4-H Center as usual. We will **not** be accepting small items: hand tools, boxed lots, tires, or small barn and garage related items that are usually lined up along the barn. DAS has the right of refusal of any merchandise. Items will be lined up and staged outside in the order they come in. This will also be the order of the online auction. Please call if you have any questions.

DAS will take consignments from Saturday Feb. 24th through Thursday Feb 29th from 7 AM till 5 PM. **NO CONSIGNMENTS TAKEN ON FRIDAY MARCH 1ST OR ON AUCTION DAY!** Please bring a list and good description of items being consigned. Each day, items will be updated and available for the online auction. Items can be viewed at the 4-H Center Friday March 1ST and on auction day, March 2ND. The staff will be present if you have any questions. For more information, please call or look on our **website at <https://dasonlineauctions.hibid.com/>**.

TERMS: A 10% buyer's premium will be charged to help with the additional cost of an online sale. A credit card is required to sign up to bid through Dasonlineauctions.hibid.com. When the online auction closes, you will receive an invoice by email (about 30 minutes after the conclusion of auction) for items you win. When you pick up your items, you can **pay with cash, check, or credit card (3% charge)**. Indiana 7% state sales tax will be charged (Exemption forms will be available). All items need to be paid for by Monday, March 4th! If items are not paid for on Monday, March 4th, your credit card will be charged. Items can be picked up 1 hour after the auction is completed and invoices are emailed. Sunday March 3rd through Tuesday March 5th from 9AM to 4PM.

If you need assistance signing up with Hibid, let us know. We will send you a tutorial.

For pictures and bidding go to: dasonlineauctions.hibid.com

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The percentage of each item of the auction are as follows:

\$1.00 to \$100.00	30%
\$101.00 to \$500.00	20%
\$501.00 to \$2,000.00	15%
\$2,001.00 to \$7000.00	10%
\$7,001.00 on up	7%



PILGRIMS

continued from page 25

Mayfield. Mildred Green (Heath), a first cousin of Crider, was the first employee that Seaboard Farms hired in Kentucky. She manned a storefront in Mayfield with a sign outside that read "Seaboard Farms," and she became the face of the business. At that time, Seaboard was surveying local farmers to see if there was enough interest to support building a chicken plant in Mayfield. Farmers would call in wondering what Seaboard Farms was about and Ms. Green provided answers or otherwise directed their calls.

In 1990, Seaboard constructed a state-of-the-art poultry complex in Mayfield. The poultry industry invited farmers to be part of a new track of production: Seaboard Farms built a feed mill and signed contracts with local landowners and farmers to build contract poultry

farms/barns on the farmer's land. Seaboard Farms would then bring chicks and feed to the farmer who would supply the barn, utilities and labor. When it was time for the chickens to be processed, Seaboard Farms would pick up the chickens, take them to the plant and pay the farmer. The contracts function the same way today.

Seaboard's poultry division has changed names throughout its time in business: in 2001, the poultry division was sold to ConAgra foods, later became Pilgrim's Pride and is currently named, Pilgrims.

According to Pilgrim's website, January 21, 2022, "Pilgrim's Mayfield employs more than 1,500 people and supports 235 family farmers and poultry growers in the area." Pilgrims is an industry leader that provides fresh and frozen food products to the U.S. and more than 100 countries. Globally the company employs over 56,000 people.



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FRIDAY MARCH 1 SHOWS

Show Ring A

10:00 AM Angus
1:00 PM Gelbvieh
2:30 PM Red Poll

Show Ring B

10:00 AM Red Angus
1:00 PM Hereford
4:00 PM Simmental

PEN AREA

9:00 AM Non-Halterd Angus
2:00 PM Pen Heifer Show

SATURDAY MARCH 2 SHOWS

Show Ring A

10:00 AM Shorthorn
Show Ring B
10:00 AM Black Hereford

SATURDAY MARCH 2 SALES

SCALES

9:30 AM Red Poll
11:30 AM Gelbvieh
1:00 PM Shorthorn
4:00 PM Black Hereford

PEN AREA

10:00 AM Red Angus
Noon Angus
2:00 PM Pen Heifer

NEW MARKET HALL

11:00 AM Simmental
1:00 PM Hereford

SATURDAY MARCH 2

8:00 AM Youth Judging Contest
10:00 AM-12 noon Kentucky Junior Heifer Check-In
12 PM-2:00 Junior Heifer Check-In
4:30 PM Kentucky Junior Heifer Show
2:00-5:00 PM Steer and Market Heifer Check-In

SUNDAY MARCH 3

Sunday, MARCH 3 8:00 AM Junior Heifer Show
Sunday, MARCH 3 8:00 AM Junior Steer Show

Show Ring A - Pavilion • Show Ring B - West Hall • Sale Ring Scales - By Livestock Office • Pen Area - Pavilion

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Junior Heifer, Steer, and Market Heifer Jackpot Shows
More information available at www.kybeefexpo.com



Renowned rodeo star Amberley Snyder gives speech to FFA students and public



By **Alexa Tabor**
Farmers' Quarterly Writer

February 21 marks the day when McCracken County Schools will be welcoming renowned rodeo star Amberley Snyder. Snyder will be speaking during the school day specifically for students in Agriculture, and then later on at 5 pm for the public. Tickets are for \$10 and available by visiting the link <https://gofan.co/even>.

Snyder is a nationally ranked barrel racer who experienced a horrific vehicle accident. On January 10th, 2010 Snyder was on her way to the Denver Stock Show and Rodeo. As she was passing through Sinclair, she looked quickly down at her map. Only mere seconds after looking back up, she realized she had faded into the other lane, headed towards a metal beam. In an effort to get back in her lane, Snyder overcorrected. Her truck slid off the road and rolled and she was ejected from the vehicle. She was

slammed into a fence post that broke her back and immediately she lost feeling in her legs.

After five hours of emergency surgery the doctor's prognosis was she would never regain use or feeling below her waist. The top priority for her was not even to walk, but to ride her horses again. Remarkably, after only 4 months after the accident, she was back on her horse. In 2019, Netflix released the film Walk Ride Rodeo, a biopic based on her life that has reached over 350 million worldwide and counting. Along with co-producing the film and performing her own stunts, Snyder co-wrote the song "Ride" for the soundtrack with Emmy-nominated actor and rising musician Max Ehrlich.

"Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference," Amberley Snyder said in her movie Walk, Ride, Rodeo. "I realize, maybe I won't have control over every situation in my life. Maybe I don't get to make every decision. But when I wake up in the morning, I get to decide my attitude."



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Applications are open for Kentucky Proud Farm to Fork dinners

Program aims to raise awareness of locally sourced food

FRANKFORT - Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell invites Kentucky Proud members to apply to participate in the Kentucky Proud® Farm to Fork program for 2024.



“Kentucky Proud® is a national model for promoting local agricultural products,” Commissioner Shell said. “The Farm to Fork Program helps publicize the many outstanding products produced by our farmers and agribusinesses. It’s the perfect way to share a little bit of Kentucky on your table.”

The Kentucky Proud® Farm to Fork Program, administered by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA), works to increase awareness of the local food movement by teaming up with host groups to benefit a charity in their community. These groups can host an event that will highlight local farms, farmers, producers and Kentucky Proud® products. Funding is made possible through a grant from the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund.

The Farm to Fork cost-share grant provides funding to qualifying applicants for those dinners that showcase 100 percent local food products. Farm to Fork reimburses up to \$750 of the approved event’s eligible Kentucky-grown food

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DINNERS*continued from page 28*

products and associated promotional expenditures.

Leslie Lester, of Windy Hill Meats, helped host Wayne County's first Farm to Fork dinner in 2022.

"More than 200 people were in attendance, and it was a night of great food that was all Kentucky Proud, farm-raised items, which led to a lot of conversation about where our food comes from and the hard road past farmers have gone down to create a strong farming community," Lester said. "To be honest, our event was the talk of the town for quite some time."

Lauren Mink, a Clark County Farm Bureau agent, who helped organize a Farm to Fork dinner in Clark County last year, agrees the attention the dinners bring to local farmers and producers is immeasurable.

"This program allows us to bring Kentucky Proud products directly to our community and shines a spotlight on our own county's farmer," Mink said. "We work directly with our local farmers to showcase what they have to offer and in return, hundreds of new people get to experience a product, sometimes for the first time. With the money we get back from the Farm to Fork Program, we donate that directly back into the Farmers' Market. Over the years, the Farm to Fork Program played a huge role in securing a permanent structure for our Farmers' Market, which now serves as our shelter for our Farm to Table dinner."

The Clark County Farm to Fork dinner was just one of 32 held across the state in 2023. More than \$174,000 was donated to charity throughout Kentucky from the 2023 Farm to Fork dinners.

Applications for 2024 Farm to Fork events are due 30 days before the event. Events must take place before Nov. 17. For more information about the Farm to Fork program or to download an application and guidelines, go to www.kyagr.com/marketing/farm-to-fork.html.

For more information about Farm to Fork cost-share grants, contact Alisha Morris, at 502-782-4119 or by email at alisha.morris@ky.gov.



68th Kentucky Angus Sweepstakes

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Flushmate to the Dam of Lot 8



Lot 34 - CF Cadillac 2205



Dam of Lot 10

Sale broadcasted on DV Auctions.

For questions or to request a sale catalog please contact Wes Womack at 270-484-0556

Local soil and water districts awarded over \$2.3 million for water quality initiatives

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indiana State Department of Agriculture and the State Soil Conservation Board awarded \$2,313,287 in matching grant funds to 26 projects within soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs) and soil health organizations through the Clean Water Indiana program.

“Providing farmers and landowners with tools and funding to keep our Indiana waterways clean and their soil structure healthy is key to keeping Indiana agriculture thriving,” said Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. “This funding will allow 48 organizations across 26 projects to improve their local water systems, keep their soil healthy and keep their communities thriving. Last year's increase in Clean Water Indiana funding from the general assembly is already making a lasting impact.”

The Clean Water Indiana program is administered by the state's soil conservation board. The program, led by the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), provides financial assistance to landowners and conservation groups that are working to reduce runoff from non-point sources of water pollution, whether it's on agricultural land, urban areas or eroding streambanks.

Once received, districts can use the funds to partner with other counties or address specific needs within their jurisdiction. Some examples include participating in a cost share program, hiring staff, providing technical assistance, implementing cover crop incentive programs or increasing watershed capacity.

Gene Schmidt is chair of the State Soil Conservation Board and is looking forward to seeing the work done on the grassroots level by the soil and water districts. The Clean Water Indiana Grants Committee is Ray Chattin, Brad Dawson and Jane Hardisty.



Clean Water Indiana (CWI) is managed by ISDA's Division of Soil Conservation and funded by a portion of the state's cigarette tax. Projects can be up to three years in length and grantees could apply for any dollar amount that was necessary to complete the project. Funded projects ranged from \$10,000 to \$300,000. In addition to CWI funds, each grantee is required to produce a match for their project, which can be cash or in-kind. Projects requesting staffing were required to have a 25% match for that component, while all other project areas required a 50% match. Many SWCDs will target producers not currently served by other conservation programs.

Below is the list of awardees, their project titles and overviews.

Cass County SWCD – \$48,600
Administrative Assistant Staff Position, Part-time, for Cass Co. SWCD- Cass County SWCD currently has one employee who was hired to do both administration and outreach. In order to continue to maintain and build current programming and introduce new programming and outreach into the community additional staff support is needed. Funds will be utilized to pay for a part-time administrative assistant.

This new position will allow the Cass Co. SWCD to continue to build momentum and grow to better support the county.

Clark County SWCD – \$23,968
Save Our Soil Initiative- The District will purchase a new 10-ft. no-till drill to assist landowners in improving the quality of their soil and water resources. The drill will be equipped with a small seed box as well as a grain box that will allow it to be used to plant soybeans, legumes and pollinator plots. This drill also offers the capability to fold the tires behind the drill body for ease in hauling on narrow, rural roads. In surveying drill users, the SWCD has found they prefer the larger drill because it requires fewer passes and therefore less time in seeding.

The district currently conducts a no-till drill rental program. This project will help keep sediment out of waterways, keep topsoil in place, improve organic matter, and keep sheet, gully and rill erosion from occurring.

Clinton and Carroll County SWCDs – \$36,000

Bi-County Soil Health Systems Cost-Share Program- The Clinton County SWCD seeks to improve the soil health on agricultural lands

in a two-county area, which will ultimately result in improved water quality in our local streams. The partnering SWCDs will collaborate to develop a cost-share program that will focus on practices that build and maintain soil health such as cover crops, transition to no-till, nutrient management planning, integrated crop management, gypsum application and other practices consistent with conservation cropping systems.

Daviess County SWCD– \$76,957
Education Coordinator Position- The Daviess County SWCD has had a part-time Education Coordinator for over 25 years. This position has done many great things including a 4th grade Farm Fair, education outreach in schools and actively participating with the Washington Stormwater Departments MS4 outreach and rain garden. This position has been an integral part of the success of the district. As agriculture production continues to provide many daily necessities for our ever-growing population, there is an increased need to educate the public on the importance of conserving valuable natural resources. The primary goal of the position will be to increase public awareness and impact a larger area of the county through a variety of education programs.

Decatur, Franklin and Ripley County SWCDs- \$15,750

Keep the Lights On Pollinators: Fireflies, Hummingbirds, Butterflies Oh My! - CWI funds are being used to form a partnership between the Decatur, Franklin and Ripley SWCDs by installing pollinator habitats, replacing invasive shrubs in the community and educating the public on the importance of native pollinator habitats. Through the grant, the districts will provide native pollinator seed to landowners to convert part of their ground to

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native plant gardens.

Additionally, the project will work to replace invasive shrubs on residential property. Homeowners can remove an invasive shrub and replace it with a native pollinator friendly shrub by working with a local nursery. The landowner will be reimbursed for their native shrub by the project. This will help reach small-scale homeowners that might not have the land to install a traditional pollinator habitat.

DeKalb County SWCD- \$100,000

Cedar Creek Stream Stabilization- The DeKalb County SWCD, in partnership with DeKalb County Cedar Creek Drainage Board, City of Auburn and Parks & Recreation Department, Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and Maumee River Basin Commission (MRBC) will utilize CWI funds to complete a stream bank stabilization project on Cedar Creek in Eckhart Park where the creek banks have been eroding and sending sediment downstream. The overall purpose of the project is to restore degraded stream banks and protect the surrounding lands, which will improve water quality and reduce pollutants in Cedar Creek. The project consists of stabilizing approximately 750 linear feet of Cedar Creek.

Elkhart County SWCD- \$150,000

Water Quality of Life- The Storm Water Alliance Management Program, or SWAMP, has been providing Elkhart County farmers with Elkhart County dollars to implement conservation practices including: blind inlets, cover crops, filter strips, grade stabilization structures, grassed waterways and exclusion fencing. The purpose of this grant is to improve the SWAMP program and offer additional funding for our local land users and expand into urban areas.

Fulton County SWCD- \$145,461

The Nature Exploration Conservation Station (NECS)- This grant will allow Fulton County SWCD to add a part-time

District Administrator. The new administrator will be responsible for the operation and management of the SWCD office and the preparation and delivery of conservation education programs. This grant will also add a brand new outdoor mobile classroom that will allow residents of all ages to learn about the local environment, understand and make informed decisions regarding environmental impact and connect residents to technical and financial assistance for implementing conservation practices and technologies.

Gibson and Pike County SWCDs- \$72,000

Gibson County CWI Invasive Technician- The district plans to hire an experienced Invasive Species Technician to address, support and improve non-native invasive education and eradication in Gibson County. The technician's main duty will be re-organizing and running the Pike and Gibson Cisma (Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area). In addition, the invasive species technician will inventory invasive species hotspots in the Cisma as well as assist with field days, workshops and demonstrations promoting soil health and water quality.

Hamilton County SWCD- \$70,900

Hamilton County Invasive - The Hamilton County Invasive Partnership (HIP) is the Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (Cisma) for the county and is fully administered by the SWCD. Created in 2019, HIP has a demonstrated record of successfully implementing educational projects, volunteer workdays and delivering technical assistance.

The project outlined in this grant focuses on delivering the financial resources needed for landowners to initiate invasive species management efforts. This project also includes a series of educational efforts dedicated to specific messages for target audiences in the county.

Johnson County SWCD- \$15,995

Franklin College Invasive Species Internship- Johnson County SWCD requested funds from the Clean Water Indiana (CWI) Program to

provide financial assistance to Franklin College Biology students. This will be accomplished through providing stipends for semester-long internships offered by Johnson County SWCD to help with various projects related to invasive species management and promotion of native species. Internships will be offered in the fall, spring and summer sessions during the Franklin College academic calendar.

In addition to monetary compensation provided by CWI funding, each student will earn a credit hour towards their degree and invaluable professional experience working with natural resource professionals including Johnson County SWCD staff and partnering organizations.

Knox County SWCD- \$73,000

Watershed Planning and Soil Health- The Agricultural Conservation Planning Framework (ACPF) is an ArcGIS toolbox developed by USDA that uses high-resolution geo-spatial data to identify places where conservation practices may be needed to control erosion, reduce runoff, stabilize streambanks and protect water quality. The ACPF identifies and addresses high-risk areas, thus enabling conservation efficiency and effectiveness, but the ACPF is not widely used in Indiana because it requires a degree of skill in ArcGIS and it takes significant time to condition the data layers and run the analysis.

Knox County SWCD's conservation technician and watershed specialist will analyze all 36 of Knox County's 14-digit watersheds using the ACPF. The data generated will be used to promote Farm Bill conservation programs and to guide LARE and IDEM watershed planning and implementation projects. The SWCD will also offer to train staff from other SWCDs and watershed groups so that they can use the ACPF for their watershed projects and other conservation efforts.

LaPorte County SWCD- \$259,570

Native Habitat for Pollinators Stewardship Program- The grant funding will provide:

- Project cost-share (participant reimbursements including land prep

and planting material and native vegetation management),

- Retaining a full-time county conservationist as project lead, technical support and staff/participant educator
- Hiring two seasonal restoration management technicians for its vegetation management/invasive species control efforts, and
- Purchasing necessary equipment for restoration management activities that will all be required to meet its project goals

Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts- \$300,000

Urban Soil Health Program- Urban Soil Health Program (USH) was launched in 2021 to support urban and small-scale producers across Indiana. The program is designed to serve all districts, all conservation partners and all communities. This model ensures that there is equitable access to the program from districts and partners who wish to engage. There is a strong connection with ICP partners and conservation programs. The USH Program cultivates locally led initiatives and provides state-level support and coordination amongst traditional programs.

Lawrence County SWCD- \$62,000

Cultivating Future Land Stewards in Lawrence County- The Lawrence County SWCD will hire a contract Conservation Educator to help educate and inspire the next generation of landowners and producers. The Conservation Educator will assemble and implement K-12 educational conservation programs that promote and support the stewardship of natural resources through increased knowledge and understanding of natural resource conservation topics. The focus of this project would be to strengthen local conservation awareness in the school districts and other events in Lawrence County.

Marshall and St. Joseph County SWCDs- \$86,250

Marshall and St. Joseph Counties Landowner Invasive Management Cost Share Program- A cost share program through the districts for

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invasive species removal. The land would be managed by the applicant who would agree to follow set guidelines. Three-year programs would be used for the 10 applications for 10 acres or over of woodlands, and the management plans for under 10 acres could be more flexible, depending upon the ability of the landowner's desires and ability to assist/participate.

Martin, Daviess and Orange County SWCDs- \$135,282

Tri County Invasive Species Specialist - This project will increase invasive species education, outreach and assistance for landowners in three southern Indiana counties, and build district capacity for the Martin County SWCD. The Martin SWCD will use project funds to hire a full time Invasive Species Specialist to cover Martin, Daviess and Orange counties.

The specialist's duties will include, working closely with landowners to control invasive species on private lands. Including providing technical assistance, site visits, written invasive management plans and referrals to partner agencies as needed.

Monroe County SWCD- \$22,000

Controlling Soil Loss - No-till Drill Purchase- Funds will be used to purchase a new no-till drill to fulfill landowner requests for use for planting cover crops, establishing new pasture, inter-seeding for pasture improvements, native grass for prairie establishments and developing native plantings for pollinator habitats. This drill will increase the ability of Monroe County landowners to install and re-seed existing practices in our county such as grassed waterways, pollinator habitats, filter strips, field borders and wildlife corridors. The SWCD hopes to see additional acres of cover crops in smaller fields as well.

Newton County SWCD- \$62,222

Increasing Soil, Water and Natural Resource Education Capacity in Newton County- The purpose of this project is to increase, improve

and sustain high quality soil, water and natural resource education and outreach efforts in Newton County by hiring a full time educator.

An additional staff member will help achieve the district's goals to deliver quality programs, education, technical and administrative efforts to address the SWCD's highest priority resource concerns including surface and ground water quality, soil erosion and loss of health/function and invasive species. This funding will provide a portion of the District Educator salary, support the new employee's travel and account for program support to ensure project success.

Pike County SWCD- \$159,000

Soil Technician and Cover Crop Project- This will be a three-year program to employ a full-time, experienced Soil Conservation Technician, to address, support and improve conservation in Pike County and address soil health and water quality through a cover crop cost-share program.

The technician's main duty will be assisting SWCD staff with advertising the cost-share program, meeting with producers and assisting them on technical aspects of cover crops, and field check tracts enrolled in the cost-share program. In addition, the technician will also help with the district's conservation programs, re-enroll field checks, working closely with the District Conservationist to ensure participants are complying with signed contracts.

Spencer County SWCD- \$10,000

Spencer County Ground Cover Incentive Program- The SWCD desires to promote the further use of cover crops throughout the county and reduce the continued degradation of soil health by offering a cover crop cost share program. Cover crops are the single most cost-effective best management practice the district can promote that reduces sediment runoff, reduces loss of nutrients, protects water quality of our district and downstream communities, reduces the growth of weeds in fields and increases field productivity and yields.

The district will target highly erodible land (HEL) first with this

program, preventing further erosion on already sensitive soils and slopes. More than 60% of the district soils can be classified as HEL.

The Nature Conservancy- \$82,500

Indiana Cover Crop Premium Discount Project- Over 85% of cropland acres carry crop insurance, and linking resilient practices, like cover crops, to crop insurance has the potential to catalyze conservation adoption and keep Indiana as the epicenter of soil health. This project mirrors statewide efforts previously established in both Illinois and Iowa, and it provides eligible participants a \$5/acre premium discount on the following year's crop insurance invoice for every acre of cover crop enrolled and verified in the program.

Farmers participating in the project will be awarded a \$5/acre insurance premium discount from USDA-RMA through normal crop insurance processes. Only acres in cover crops (absent other state or federally incentivized cover crops) will be eligible for the premium discount. Applications reviewed and confirmed by ISDA will be forwarded to the USDA-RMA for processing premium discounts on crop insurance premium invoices for their cash crop. Being a first-time cover crop user is not a requirement but will be given priority for funding. The 2024-2025 Cover Crop Premium Reduction Program will support 30,000 acres of cover crops.

Union and Fayette County SWCDs- \$75,000

Cover Crop and Invasive Incentive Program- Union and Fayette County SWCD are partnering on the Cover Crop and Invasive Incentive Program. This program will provide funding to private landowners and parks to start or continue practicing the planting of cover crops and/or removal of invasive plant species and the reintroduction of native plants.

The program provides funds for cover crops to both counties at \$12,500 per year and invasive species plant removal at \$12,500 per year.

The first portion of invasive funding will go to the parks for tools and invasive plant removal. The second portion will be available to landowners in cash match for removal of invasive species plants on

private land. SICIM will be providing a technician for invasive species reports and assistance with public educational programs. Union and Fayette County SWCD will be hosting educational events on identification and removal of invasive plant species including why removal of invasive species is beneficial to water, soil and natural habitats.

Vermillion and Parke County SWCDs- \$175,000

Bridging Conservation Gaps: Empowering Communities for Sustainable Agriculture- The Vermillion County Soil and Water Conservation District (VCSWCD) and the Parke County Soil and Water Conservation District (PCSWCD) plan to foster sustainable land management practices while improving local ecosystems and agricultural practices.

In Vermillion County, the SWCD recognizes the critical need to ensure safe drinking water for all residents. The district aims to address water quality concerns affecting agricultural and residential areas by initiating a county-wide well water testing program. The SWCD will identify potential contaminants through rigorous testing and provide necessary guidance to mitigate health risks.

Parke County's agricultural legacy is integral to its identity. However, gully and rill erosion present challenges that impact soil health and water quality. To counter this, the SWCD proposes comprehensive strategies to reduce erosion, including effective conservation practices, reforestation and the establishment of protective cover crops.

Warrick County SWCD- \$24,432

No-till drill purchase to facilitate conservation- The Warrick County SWCD will purchase a no-till drill, overall width 9', planting width 8', to include both a standard grain (jumbo grain & small seed) box and a standard grass (fluffy box & small seed) box. The SWCD will also purchase a cultipacker for use with smaller ATVs.

The SWCD sees a large window

see WATER, page 33

WATER*continued from page 32*

of opportunity to assist producers and operators with conservation practices by making this new drill available, thus furthering its business plan goal to increase acres of native grass/forbs plantings. It also furthers the State Soil Conservation Board's business plan goals tying to resource concerns of water quality improvement and soil health/degradation. The purchase of a cultipacker will benefit pollinator plots that are broadcast-planted on a more urban scale. This will ultimately help improve sediment and nutrient reduction on both urban and agricultural lands.

Washington County SWCD- \$30,150

Washington County No-Till Drill Purchase- The Washington County SWCD will purchase a 10 ft. no-till drill with a main seed and grass seed attachment. This drill will benefit land users in the area by providing an affordable and reliable drill for use. This project will address the critical natural resource issues of water quality, erosion control and soil health by helping to reduce sediment loss and increase cover crop adoption on crop acres. This will positively impact soil health by decreasing soil compaction, increasing infiltration, and decreasing runoff of nutrients and sediment to waterbodies.

To see additional details on the grantees and awards, please click here.

###

ABOUT ISDA

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) reports to Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch, Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. Major responsibilities include advocacy for Indiana agriculture at the local, state and federal level, managing soil conservation programs, promoting economic development and agricultural innovation, serving as a regulatory ombudsman for agricultural businesses, and licensing grain firms throughout the state.

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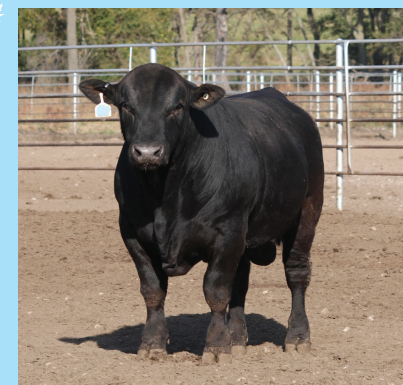
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Commissioner Shell challenges nation's largest banks: *Don't push risky investment strategies onto farmers*

FRANKFORT - Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell joined a multistate coalition challenging the use of ESG (environmental, social, governance) investment strategies by six of the largest financial institutions — Bank of America, Citigroup, Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan Chase, Morgan Stanley, and Wells Fargo. In their letter, the agriculture officers warn of the detrimental impact these risky and politically driven investment strategies will have on the agricultural industry.

These six lending institutions have joined the Net-Zero Banking Alliance (NZBA). NZBA requires

its member banks to commit to radical climate standards such as rapidly reducing emissions. For banks to accomplish this goal, they will require customers to measure and disclose Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions in specific sectors, including agriculture.

The impact of this type of requirement on the agriculture industry and our farmers cannot be understated. In the letter, Commissioner Shell questions how the banks will implement and monitor their respective compliance with the NZBA. If the banks continue to follow through with the standards set forth by NZBA the commitments will cut

America's beef and livestock consumption in half. The requirements would force farmers to transition to inefficient electric farm machinery and shift away from necessary fertilizers.

"Our country's large banks are trying to enforce their radical climate agenda by targeting our local farmers and producers," Commissioner Shell said.

"From increased food prices to higher operational costs, these environmental mandates will have a catastrophic impact on our agriculture industry, burdening the hardworking men and women who help put food on our tables daily."

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DISCUS Academy, training leaders in distilling now hosted by the University of Kentucky

A collaborative effort between the James B. Beam Institute for Kentucky Spirits and the Gatton College of Business and Economics at the University of Kentucky, the DISCUS Academy is an opportunity for stakeholders in the distilled spirits industry to reassess their business leadership skills.

By Grace Sowards

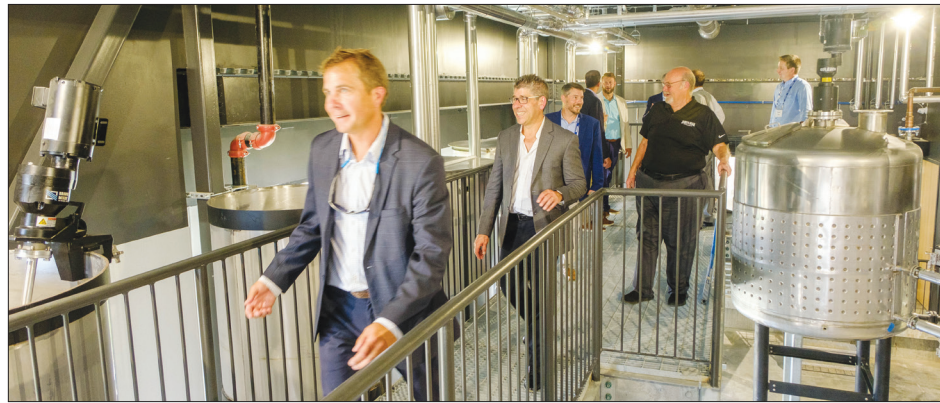
LEXINGTON, Ky.—

The James B. Beam Institute for Kentucky Spirits, housed in the University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, in collaboration with the Gatton College of Business and Economics, is bringing business education for the distilling industry to campus.

The Distilled Spirits Council of the United States (DISCUS) is a group of professionals dedicated to advocating legislative, regulatory and public affairs issues impacting the distilled spirits industry. In 2021, DISCUS developed the DISCUS Academy in partnership with Cornell University to give more people the opportunity to learn what it takes to run a distillery.

“The Institute is grateful for the opportunity to bring more distilling education to the heart of the industry, Lexington,” said Seth DeBolt, director of the Beam Institute. “Understanding more about production and the artisan nature of this work is very important in meeting your consumer where they are.”

DISCUS Academy participants can take courses ala carte or earn a specialty certificate in various subject domain areas of the spirits industry. The Gatton College of Business and



James B. Beam Institute for Kentucky Spirits Director Seth DeBolt leads a tour of the new facility.

Economics offers the leadership development portion of managing organizational culture, strategic planning, competitor analysis, change management and motivation at work.

Hector Martinez, lecturer at the Gatton College of Business and Economics, leads the course Managing Organizational Culture, and has specifically tailored it to the bourbon distillery/spirits industry.

James B. Beam Institute for Kentucky Spirits Director Seth DeBolt leads a tour of the new facility.

“We have an advantage as we are located right here in Lexington, which is in the bourbon capital of the world,” said Martinez. “We create

the course content by going on-site, interviewing, and highlighting real distillery and spirit professionals and their organizations. The course focuses on having students craft a cultural conversation by providing onboarding interactions with newcomers from their first day on the job -- up to 3 months.”

DISCUS Academy students learn from across the United States, and the content is relevant to their industries. Students currently participating in the program are employed by companies including Jägermeister’s, McBride Sisters, Song Dog Spirits, Banff Hospitality Collective, Diageo, Drizly, Hotel Tango Distillery, Campari and Beam Suntory.

“I am thrilled to strengthen our relationship with the James B. Beam Institute for Kentucky Spirits and our partners across campus,” said Brad Patrick, Executive in Residence for the Gatton College of Business and Economics.

“Beyond our support for people in the distilleries and brands, our collaboration that extends to suppliers and vendors is noteworthy. Business education and practices play a critical role in successfully operating a distillery. Our researchers and educators enjoy supporting spirits industry leaders.”

###

The Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment is an Equal Opportunity Organization with respect to education and employment and authorization to provide research, education information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without regard to economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, physical or mental disability or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.



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2015 John Deere 8295R

MFWD, 4,273 Hours, Serial Number 1RW8295RHFP103765, 1500 Front Axle, 5 SCV, 540/1000 PTO No Shaft, 16 Speed Powershift, 4600 Processor, 60 GPM, Hyd Pump, 295 HP

\$169,000



2017 John Deere 6175R

1,633 Hours, Serial Number 1RW6175REHA027678, JD H360 Loader, 3 SCV, 540/1000 PTO, 20 Speed Power Quad, LHR, Quick Hitch, MFWD, 20 Forward Speeds, 420/30 Front Tires, 480/46 Rear Duals

\$162,500



2016 John Deere 1795

Serial Number 1A01795CPFA765243, 16/32 Row Planter, 30"/15" Spacing, No Till Coulters, Clutches, Pnumatic Downforce, Vacuum, Row Cleaners, Variable Rate Drive, 13,000 AC, Fresh Rebuild, 30 in Row Spacing

\$129,500



2015 John Deere S680

Hours 2,687, Serial Number 1H0S68) SCF0775494, Separator Hours 1,755, Stock Number 2285, 4WD, 750/26 Rear Tires, Chopper, PowerCast Tailboard, Contour Master, Straw Chopper Attachment

\$129,500



2018 John Deere 6110M

2,262 Hours, Serial Number 1L06110MTJG924409, MFWD, 24 Speed Trans, 540/1000 PTO, 3 SCV, LHR, 3 Pt with Top Link, C/H/A, JD 620 Loader with Bucket and Joystick, 110 HP

\$98,500



2011 John Deere 9770

STS, Hours 3,065, Serial Number 1H09770SCB0741791, Separator Hours 2,186, Stock Number 2306, 4WD, 520/42 Duals, Chopper, PowerCast Tailboard, Contour Master

\$79,500



2009 John Deere 7230

4,439 Hours, MFWD, Serial Number L07230H600330, Stock Number 2287, C/H/A, 13.6-28 Front Tires, 18.4-38 Rear Tires, Rack and Pinion Rear Axles, 3 SCV, 540/1000 PTO, 24 Speed, LHR, 131 HP

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2010 Case IH 6088

Combine, Serial Number Y9G002971, Straw Chopper Attachment, 4WD, 3,208 Hours, 520/85R42 Duals, 23.1-26 Rear Tires, AFS Pro 600 Monitor, Separator Hours 2,269, Powertrain

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2009 John Deere 9770

STS, Hours 3,486, Serial Number H09770S733132, Separator Hours, 2,042, Stock Number 2199, 4WD, 28L-26 Rear Tires, Contour Master, Chopper, Straw Chopper Attachment

\$64,500



2018 Case IH Farmall 100C

MFWD, Serial Number ZHLF50843, Open Station, 1,429 Hours, CIH L630 Loader w/ Bucket, 380/85R24 Front Tires, 460/85R34 Rear Tires, 2 SCV, 540/1000 PTO, 12 Speed, LHR, Rear Three Point Hitch

\$37,500



2010 Kinze 3660ASD

Serial Number 660334, Stock Number 2200, 16/31 Row Planter, 30"/15", Pneumatic Downforce, Variable Rate Drive, Air Clutches, PTO Drive for Hydraulics, AG Leader Integra, Fixed Row Cleaners, Monitor

\$62,500



2002 John Deere 9750

Serial Number H09750S696292, Combine, 4 WD, Contour Master, Spreader, 20.8R38 Dual Front, 18.4R26 Rear Stock Number 2258

\$32,500



2017 John Deere 6120E

Serial Number 1P06120ECH0010575, 4,059 Hours, MFWD, C/H/A, JD 540M Loader w/ Bucket 320/34 Front Tires, 460/34 Rear Tires, 3 SCV, 540/1000 PTO, 24 Speed, LHR, 3 Rear Remote Hydraulics

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2022 Kubota L4701DT

Serial Number KBUL4CDRENJN6898, 96 Hours, MFWD, Open Station, Kubota LA765 Loader w/Bucket, 8.3-16 Front Tires, 14.9-24 Rear Tires, 540 PTO, 4 Speed, MFWD, Powertrain, 47 HP

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2017 John Deere 5100E

3,240 Hours, Serial Number 1LV5100ETHH402568, MFWD, C/H/A, JE H240 Loader, 3 SCV, 540 PTO, 24 Speed, LHR, MFWD, Rear PTO, 540 PTO Speed, 100 HP Engine

\$44,500



2016 Mahindra MPower 85

Serial Number KNGCY2297, MFWD, C/H/A, 1,081 Hours, w/Mahindra Loader, 12.4-24 Front Tires, 18.4-30 Rear Tires, 2 SCV, 540/1000 PTO, 12 Speed, LHR, 83 HP Engine, 12 Speed

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Farmers elected to Kentucky Soybean Association Board



Danny Farris



Aaron Hale



Michael Williford

The following men were elected by farmers in their respective areas to serve as Directors on the Kentucky Soybean Association Board at the organization's annual meeting in January.

Danny Farris of Roundhill, who raises soybeans, corn and was chosen by his fellow farmers in the Mammoth Cave Area – which includes Allen, Barren, Butler, Edmonson, Hart, Logan, Metcalf, Monroe, Simpson, and Warren Counties – to fill the vacancy left by the retirement of Andy Alford.

Aaron Hale raises soybeans and

see **BOARD**, page 33

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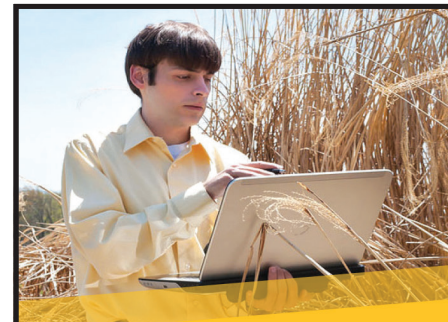


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BOARD*continued from page 32*

corn near Springfield, and was chosen by his fellow farmers in the Lincoln Trail Area – which includes Breckenridge, Grayson, Hardin, LaRue, Marion, Meade, Nelson and Washington Counties – to fill the vacancy left by the retirement of Houston Howlett.

Michael Williford of Clinton raises soybeans, corn and wheat in addition to operating a contract hog operation in Clinton. Williford was elected to fill the seat left vacant by the retirement of his wife, Andrea Williford, in the Purchase area, which is composed of Ballard, Calloway, Carlisle, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, McCracken and Marshall Counties.

In addition, Conner Raymond of Cromwell was elected by the sitting KSA board members to an at-large industry seat left vacant by the retirement of Mark Wilson. Raymond, who raises soybeans, corn, and cattle addition to his full-time job with Hurt Seed Company, was previously involved with the Association board as the University of Kentucky's designee when he was employed as a grain crops extension associate, based at the University of Kentucky Research and Education Center at Princeton.

Terms on the KSA board are three years each, and organizational bylaws allow a farmer-leader to serve three

**Danny Farris**

consecutive terms. The farmer-leaders of the Kentucky Soybean Association serve on a volunteer basis and address legislative and policy issues to ensure a growing and profitable soybean industry.

Membership in the Kentucky Soybean Association is voluntary and affords members a wide variety of perks, including seed coupons and vehicle discounts. The most important benefit, however, is representation in Frankfort and in Washington, D.C.

For more information on soybean farming in Kentucky, visit www.kysoy.org. If you are a farmer, landowner, or other interested party, we encourage you to join our Association at that same website.

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Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

Poison Hemlock - A Growing Concern

Submitted by Tom Miller
Extension Agent for Ag and Natural Resources

By J. D. Green
Weed Science Extension Specialist

Poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) has become widespread throughout most of Kentucky. Although this plant is often seen along roadways, fence rows, and other non-cropland sites, it has expanded out into grazed

pasture lands and hay fields. It has also become an increasing concern in residential locations when it is observed in areas that are not frequently mowed, such as vacant and abandoned lots. The concern not only stems from its invasive

nature, but the fact that it is one of the most toxic plants in the world. Throughout history, the toxicity of poison hemlock is well known for accidental deaths of humans and other animals.

Description

Poison hemlock is classified as a biennial that reproduces only by seed. It is capable, however, of completing its lifecycle as a winter annual in Kentucky if it germinates during the fall months. New plants emerge in the fall or late winter forming a cluster of leaves that are arranged as a rosette on the ground (Figure 1). The individual leaves are shiny green and triangular in appearance. Although poison hemlock is most noticeable in late May and June during the flowering stage of growth, the vegetative growth stage is readily observed during the cooler months of the year (Figure 2) with its parsley-like leaves which are highly dissected or fern-like.

Figure 1. Poison hemlock rosette (Photo: JD Green, UK).

Figure 2. Poison hemlock plants growing along a fence line in late December (Photo: JD Green, UK).

Figure 3. Mature poison hemlock

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Green River Post

HEMLOCK

continued from page 41

plant. (Photo: JD Green, UK)

Toxicity

The risk of exposure to poison hemlock toxicity is primarily through ingestion. Just small amounts of ingestion can result in possible death to all mammals. The principal toxin in poison hemlock is coniine and a few other toxic alkaloids, which are present in all parts of the plant, including the seeds and roots. A well-known case of human toxicity was the death of Socrates, a Greek philosopher, who was sentenced to death in 399 BC by ingestion of a poison hemlock potion.

If consumed, all classes of livestock are known to be affected by poison hemlock. Cattle, horses, and goats are considered to be the most susceptible domestic animals although other animals can be affected as well. Symptoms

of poisoning can occur rapidly anywhere within 30 minutes to 2 hours depending on the animal, quantity consumed, and other factors. Initial symptoms can include nervousness, trembling, muscular weakness and loss of coordination, dilation of pupils, coma, and eventually death from respiratory paralysis. Lethal doses for cattle are considered to be in the range of 0.2 to 0.5% of the animal's body weight. Poison hemlock is also known to cause fetal deformation when pregnant animals consume the plant.

Fortunately, most animals tend to avoid grazing poison hemlock if other forage is readily available. However, animals may be more prone to consume green plants during the late winter and early spring when other forage species are more limited. Toxicity may be somewhat reduced in dried plants, but the potential for toxicity still exists, particularly when a

sufficient quantity is consumed in dried hay. Therefore, extreme caution should be considered before feeding animals hay known to contain large quantities of poison hemlock. Also, animals may be attracted to consume poison hemlock when plants are treated with an herbicide.

Control

The principal strategy for poison hemlock control is to prevent seed production, which can be a challenge since a fully mature plant is capable of producing 35,000 to 40,000 new seeds. Once plants have produced flowers it is generally too late to utilize herbicide control methods. Whereas, mechanical control efforts (if feasible) such as mowing or cutting down individual plants should be initiated just before peak flower production to avoid or reduce the amount of new seed being produced.

As an overall strategy, make

note of areas known to contain populations of poison hemlock and begin to look for emergence of new plants in the fall and during the winter months. Throughout the fall (October/November) or early spring (late February/March) is the best time of year for herbicide treatment. Herbicide products containing 2,4-D can be effective when applied to smaller, actively growing plants that are still in the younger rosette stage of growth. As plant rosettes become more mature, premixtures of products containing 2,4-D + dicamba, 2,4-D + triclopyr, or aminopyralid are needed for best results. Spot treatments with products containing 2,4-D, triclopyr, or glyphosate can also be used depending on the location. Always consult product labels for approved sites of application and for precautions that should be considered when applying herbicides.



AGCO launches FarmerCore to bring the dealer experience directly to the farm

DULUTH, Ga.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--AGCO (NYSE: AGCO), a global leader in the design, manufacture and distribution of agricultural machinery and precision ag technology, today announced the launch of FarmerCore, a transformative global initiative to deliver a next-generation farmer and dealer experience. The launch of the new end-to-end distribution model is a significant milestone in advancing AGCO's Farmer-First strategy and solidifying its commitment to helping farmers across the globe become more profitable, productive and sustainable.

FarmerCore revolutionizes sales and service using tools that put dealers in closer proximity – onsite and online – to farmers. From product research to in-season uptime, the program develops and integrates digital and physical elements across the purchasing journey and product ownership lifecycle to create a leading on-farm offering.

“AGCO's strategy remains focused on putting the farmer at the center of everything we do,” said Eric Hansotia, Chairman, President and CEO of AGCO. “The FarmerCore initiative further solidifies our pledge to prioritize farmers, blending physical and digital experiences to build brand loyalty and deepen customer engagement. Ultimately, we're going to bring our entire business to the farmer through digital tools, service trucks, local parts access and more in partnership with AGCO's global dealer network.”

FarmerCore is built on three pillars: the on-farm mindset, smart network coverage and digital engagement. The on-farm mindset positions dealers to meet

customers' needs at every stage of the ownership journey. Smart network coverage de-emphasizes the one-size-fits all outlet approach, moving toward a hub-and-spoke model that adds “light” retail outlets, service centers and parts-

fleets, alternative format outlets (e.g., parts-only stores) and digital tools to enhance customer support. In fact, the FarmerCore model has proven successful at the regional level through AgRevolution, an AGCO-owned, full-line agricultural

enables greater engagement across our region and helps us deliver exceptional customer outcomes and value. I am excited at the unlimited potential this innovative, farmer-first model will deliver to AGCO's dealer network and farmers around the world.”

With FarmerCore, mobile assets bring buying and servicing to the farm. While dealership locations will continue to anchor farmer support in local communities, mobile and digital channels allow farmers to engage on their terms.

FarmerCore will be implemented in close partnership with AGCO's global dealer network and will become a leader in ag machinery support, across every aspect of the ownership lifecycle. The program launches globally this year in select North and South America dealer organizations, with continued expansion throughout 2024.

About AGCO

AGCO (NYSE: AGCO) is a global leader in the design, manufacture and distribution of agricultural machinery and precision ag technology. AGCO delivers customer value through its differentiated brand portfolio including core brands like Fendt®, GSI®, Massey Ferguson®, Precision Planting® and Valtra®. Powered by Fuse® smart farming solutions, AGCO's full line of equipment and services helps farmers sustainably feed our world. Founded in 1990 and headquartered in Duluth, Georgia, USA, AGCO had net sales of approximately \$12.7 billion in 2022. For more information, visit www.AGCOcorp.com. For company news, information, and events, please follow us on X: @AGCOCorp. For financial news on X, please follow the hashtag #AGCOIR.



only locations. Digital engagement gives farmers 24/7 online access to sales and support, including online parts purchasing, dealer digital storefronts, online configurators and more.

Many AGCO dealerships already deploy aspects of the FarmerCore program, including mobile service

equipment dealer serving farmers in Kentucky, Illinois and Indiana.

“We provide farmers with an outstanding on-farm experience that spans the entire ownership journey,” said Stacy Anthony, CEO of AgRevolution. “Our farmer-first mentality, combined with implementing FarmerCore's assets,

Indiana Grown Symposium welcomes all

INDIANAPOLIS - Indiana Grown, the Indiana State Department of Agriculture's local marketing initiative, will be hosting a day-long conference focused on educational seminars for Indiana Grown members, Indiana agritourism operators and food based businesses.

The event is March 19, 2024, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Hendricks County Fairgrounds (1900 E. Main St., Danville, IN 46122). Registration is \$45 and includes a continental breakfast and lunch. Interested businesses and Indiana Grown members can register for the event at indianagrown.org.

Organizations and businesses interested in being trade show vendors or a sponsors can find those opportunities at indianagrown.org.

"This event is a great resource to all those who are interested in agriculture and agritourism," said Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. "This symposium offers a wide range of informational sessions and networking to everyone involved in agriculture who might be looking to become an agricultural destination."

Attendees will also have the opportunity to speak with and learn from industry professionals on a multitude of topics, such as social media, farm finances, operator liabilities, hiring and training employees, succession planning, event planning, zoning and insurance, building relationships with distributors, determining your product pricing and more. There will also be a panel discussion and a trade show opportunity for attendees to meet with vendors.

New to 2024, businesses do not have to be an Indiana Grown



member to attend.

Attendees could include small agribusinesses looking to expand their products into new markets, agribusinesses interested in social media and marketing expertise, agritourism operations who would like to expand their on-farm attractions, creating a memorable guest experience, farm to table events and much more.

"Indiana Grown is thrilled to be hosting our third Indiana Grown Symposium and to be opening this event to all business owners looking for support as they continue to expand their businesses," said Caroline Patrick, Indiana Grown Director. "This is a great opportunity to connect with experts from over 30 different business and agritourism topics, interact with Indiana Grown members and learn what the Indiana Grown program has to offer. This is a one-of-a-kind event for Hoosier businesses, and we are so excited to gather our members for continued learning and networking."

Featured speakers include:

- Lt. Governor Crouch, Secretary of Agriculture and

Rural Development

- Don Lamb, ISDA Director
- Suzi Spahr, NAFDMA (Indianapolis)
- Krista Stillwell, Stillwell + Co (Frankfort)
- Terry & Courtney Engstrand, White Oaks Bison Farm (Rochester)
- Dr. Cheryl Miller, Indiana Board of Animal Health
- Polly Dobbs, Dobbs & Foltz (Peru)
- Dr. Ariana Torres, Purdue University
- Sharon Pattee, Indiana Department of Health
- Brianna Schroeder, Janzen Ag Law (Indianapolis)
- Kirsty Kikly, Redbud Farms (Spiceland)
- Spencer Guinn, Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development (KY)
- Janice Lee & Dave Hosick, Indiana Department of Homeland Security
- Jim Cockrum, Silent Jim – E-Commerce (Greenwood)
- Ruth Ann Roney, Tuttle's Orchard (Greenfield)
- Anna Whelchel, Indiana State Fairgrounds and Event Center
- Chef Jeff Bricker, Ivy Tech Community College
- Jessica Pontius, Daniel's

Vinyard (McCordsville)

- Allie Rieth, American Dairy Association of Indiana
 - Dana Dull, Dull's Tree Farm (Thorntown)
 - Beth & Tim Sheets, Heritage Farm & Events (Flora)
 - Jordan Pierce, Stuckey Farm Orchard and Cider Mill (Sheridan)
 - Liz Brownlee, Partners in food and farming (Columbus)
 - Craig Lindauer, Lindauer and Sons Dairy Farm (Ferdinand)
- Including representatives from:
- Indiana State Department of Agriculture
 - Indiana Farm Bureau
 - Indiana Small Business Development Corporation
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Leads

- RJL Solutions (Terre Haute)
- Indiana Grown for Schools
- FEMI
- Fairs and Festivals
- Farm Service Agency
- Optiviz Media
- Indiana Produce Safety

###

ABOUT INDIANA GROWN

Indiana Grown is administered by the Indiana State Department of Agriculture in partnership with the lieutenant governor's office. The initiative educates consumers on the importance of buying Indiana Grown products, helps Indiana farmers and producers sell more products and supports Indiana businesses in their efforts to process more Indiana Grown products. Indiana Grown members and partners include farmers, producers, processors and artisans, as well as retailers, grocers, hospitals and restaurants.

For more information, visit indianagrown.org.



AGCO's display at 2024 National Farm Machinery Show to highlight new and award-winning solutions

DULUTH, GA - AGCO Corporation (NYSE: AGCO), a global leader in the design, manufacture, and distribution of agricultural machinery and precision ag technology, will exhibit a wide array of farmer-focused precision ag solutions at the National Farm Equipment Show on February 14-17 in Louisville, Kentucky. The display will be highlighted by the Louisville debut of two new AE50 Award winners, the Fendt® 200 Vario® Series tractor and the Massey Ferguson® R Series sprayer, as well as the new 30-foot Fendt Momentum® planter. AGCO will be co-exhibiting with its AgRevolution™ dealership in booth 7801 in Hall B.

“AGCO and AgRevolution are proud to be in Louisville again,” said Stacy Anthony, AgRevolution CEO. “National Farm Machinery Show is always a great opportunity for us to connect with farmers and families who are interested in the latest precision ag solutions, and

our booth will be filled with them! We'll have new and award-winning machinery from one end of the booth to the other, and our product experts are excited to share them with attendees.”

Massey Ferguson's New 500R Series Sprayer offers a straightforward, dependable and accessible applicator and rounds out the brand's full product portfolio. The AE50 Award-winning sprayer offers a wide range of customizations so farmers can design the sprayer to fit their operation and budget with room to grow for a scalable, long-term equipment solution. The sprayer's balance of technology and an intuitive layout allows farmers to feel confident as they take control over spraying applications through every step of the growing cycle.

Another 2024 AE50 Award winner, the Fendt 200 Vario Series Tractor brings all the features Fendt operators know and love to a smaller, more agile machine. With models from 94 to 114 rated

horsepower, and a wide array of implements, the 200 Vario can be custom configured for the job and is ideal for operations requiring a high level of maneuverability, including orchards and vineyards.

Launched only months ago, Fendt's 30-foot Momentum Planter brings the most agronomically advanced planting system in the world to smaller operations. Equipped with SmartFrame™ technology, a Vertical Contouring Toolbar, Load Logic™, and the industry's highest capacity for seed, and both liquid and dry fertilizer, the Momentum planter can provide a 5-bushel/acre yield advantage over the competition.

New Aftermarket Kits designed to add even greater efficiencies and effectiveness to AGCO equipment will be on display. SimpleBale™ retrofits onto new and existing Massey Ferguson 1800 Series Small Square Balers and delivers improved bale consistency, increased operational efficiency,

and higher reliability than non-equipped balers. The upgrade's interface provides guidance that simplifies operation and maintenance, such as a flake-by-flake indicator that provides immediate feedback so operators can adjust ground speed without waiting on a bale to tie. And Fendt's IDEAL Air Blaster kit provides in-cab, one-button removal of debris from the combine's feederhouse, eliminating the time-consuming (and dirty) chore of climbing from the cab to manually clear debris, reducing maintenance, and improving visibility.

AGCO's booth will feature a spectrum of many other innovative exhibits from across its product lines, including Fendt's IDEAL® 10T combine, Rogator® 900 Series adjustable-height applicator, and several of its cutting-edge tractor models. Massey Ferguson

see AGCO page 45

AGCO*continued from page 44*

will also bring members of its new S Series tractors, compact utility equipment (CUE), hay balers, and a Gleaner® S9 combine. High school students can also learn about the exciting AGCO Agriculture Service Technician Associate Degree program from Parkland College representatives in the booth. This dealer-sponsored program provides Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degrees to students who complete instruction specific to AGCO-branded equipment and cutting-edge precision ag technologies at Parkland College.

To learn more about AGCO's innovative brands or AgRevolution, stop by booth 7801 at the 2024 National Farm Machinery Show on February 14-17, or visit AGCOcorp.com or AgRev.com. To learn more about our AGCO technical curriculum, AGCO

NexTech schools, and scholarship opportunities go to agtechnician.com.

About AGCO

AGCO (NYSE:AGCO) is a global leader in the design, manufacture, and distribution of agricultural machinery and precision ag technology. AGCO delivers customer value through its differentiated brand portfolio, including core brands like Fendt®, GSI®, Massey Ferguson®, Precision Planting®, and Valtra®. Powered by Fuse® smart farming solutions, AGCO's full line of equipment and services help farmers sustainably feed our world.

Founded in 1990 and headquartered in Duluth, Georgia, USA, AGCO had net sales of approximately \$14.4 billion in 2023.

For more information, visit www.AGCOcorp.com. For company news, information, and events, please follow us on Twitter: @AGCOCorp.

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USDA launches pilot to help more processors access high-value beef grading

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack recently announced a pilot program to allow more cattle producers and meat processors to access better markets through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) official beef quality grading and certification. The Remote Grading Pilot for Beef, developed by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), matches simple technology with robust data management and program oversight to allow a USDA grader to assess beef carcass characteristics and assign the official quality grade from a remote location, reducing costs and location as barriers to participation in voluntary grading services.

Secretary Vilsack announced the new pilot during a panelist discussion with livestock producers and independent meat processing business owners in conjunction with the National Western Stock Show in Denver, Colo. In addition to the pilot, Secretary Vilsack highlighted USDA programs in the West that create economic prosperity for farms, ranches and rural communities by supporting on-farm conservation, bolstering new markets, creating jobs, and keeping farming and ranching viable for the next generation. Today's announcement builds on USDA's comprehensive approach to increase competition in agricultural markets, create a fairer playing field for small- and mid-size farmers and ranchers, and provide producers more options to market their products.

"On average, a beef carcass that grades as USDA Prime is valued at hundreds of dollars more than an ungraded carcass, but costs for this voluntary USDA service often prevents smaller scale processors and the farmers and ranchers they



serve from using this valuable marketing tool," Secretary Vilsack said. "This remote grading pilot opens the door for additional packers and processors to receive grading and certification services allowing them to access new, better, and more diverse marketing opportunities."

Consumers as well as buyers and sellers of beef rely on USDA quality grades, including Prime, Choice, and Select, as a clear and standardized way to indicate quality. Everyone involved in the beef supply chain, from cattle producers to beef consumers, benefit from the greater efficiency permitted by the application of official U.S. grade standards.

USDA offers these services to packers and processors on a user-fee basis. While over 90% of America's fed beef supply is officially graded by USDA, most users are large beef packing operations. USDA's meat grading and certification services are significantly underutilized by small, independent processors, in

see *BEEF*, page 47

BEEF*continued from page 46*

large part due to the expense of paying for a highly trained USDA grader to travel to their facility to perform service in-person for a relatively small number of cattle that may not require a full day of the graders' work. Experience with remote grading so far has shown it dramatically reduces travel-related expenses, which makes the service more accessible to smaller processors.

In this pilot, trained plant employees capture specific images of the live animal and beef carcass. These images are submitted electronically to a USDA grader already stationed elsewhere in the U.S., likely located in another rural community, who reviews the images and accompanying plant records and product data, assigns the USDA Quality Grade and applicable carcass certification programs, and communicates the official grade back to the plant to be applied to the carcass. Plants can then use this information in their retail marketing and transmit carcass performance information back to producers.

The pilot will build on lessons-learned during AMS' feasibility study of a "remote grading" process conducted during the second half of 2023. AMS will expand its testing by engaging a larger and more diverse number of beef packers to participate in the development of this procedure. Through the pilot, AMS will gather additional information on actual cost and the level of in-person surveillance needed to ensure program consistency and integrity to formalize this innovative service option as part of the USDA Quality Grading Service.

The Remote Grading Pilot for Beef is limited to domestic beef slaughter facilities operating under federal inspection and producing product that meets the eligibility criteria for the USDA grading program.


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Winter safety tips for the farm



By Teresa Pearson
KPI Staff

Even in the wintertime, a farmer's work is never finished. The work doesn't stop when the temps are in the single digits. Winter can bring extreme temperatures and unpredictable weather conditions that can change on short notice. When you are working outside in the cold bitter weather, use these tips to stay safe and healthy on the farm.

Dress in layers. While working throughout the day you may warm up and can shed a layer. OSHA recommends at least 3 layers, including a base layer such as thermal wear to keep moisture away from the body and an outer layer that is rain and wind

protectant.

Wear gloves appropriate for the task you are performing, whether that be light gloves, or work gloves. Ideally, find gloves with good insulation and flexibility. Frostbite can occur in as little as 15 minutes on exposed skin.

Remember almost half of your body heat is lost through your head. Cover it up, wearing a hat, especially a sock hat in the winter can keep you much warmer.

Keep your feet warm and dry. Wear insulated and waterproof boots. Make sure boots have proper traction to avoid slips and falls. You can also add hand and foot warmers for extra warmth.

Take breaks when you need to. Go inside and warm up, maybe drink a warm beverage. Drink

a lot of water to stay hydrated. Eat foods that are high in protein which will give your body more energy to keep warm throughout the day.

Frostbite, hypothermia and other cold stress situations occur by driving down the skin temperature, and eventually the internal body temperature. When the body is unable to warm itself, serious cold-related illnesses and permanent tissue damage may result. Symptoms of cold stress can include shivering, confusion, slurred speech, heart rate/breathing slow, and loss of consciousness.

Remember to stay safe, don't take risks with your health during the bitter cold winter temps.

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Proper vegetable garden planning for disease prevention

By Tom Miller

Ballard County Extension Agent for Ag and Natural Resources

Source: Kim Leonberger, Plant Pathology Extension Associate and Emily Pfeufer, Former University of Kentucky Extension Plant Pathologist

Warmer temperatures mean spring is right around the corner, and gardeners everywhere are ready to get plants in the ground. However, prior to planting, growers should develop a plan for this year's vegetable garden. A thoughtful approach to garden layout and preparation can influence disease pressure as well as the overall success of the crop. Here are few areas to consider to get ahead of diseases as you make your vegetable garden plans.

Planting Site

The best vegetable garden sites are sunny with adequate moisture and fertile, well-drained soil. Avoid low spots, which can worsen soilborne diseases, and shady locations, which can worsen foliar diseases. Prior to planting, it is advisable to draw a planting map. This allows consideration into site limitations and succession planting. Scale models of the garden space can be drawn on graph paper, or simple maps may be made using a virtual spreadsheet (Figure 1). Choose perennial locations carefully to make tilling more convenient. Taller crops, such as sweet corn or tomatoes, should be planted on the north or west side of the garden to avoid shading shorter plants. Retain these maps from year to year and refer when planning next season.

Figure 1: An example of a garden map made in Microsoft Excel. (Image: Kim Leonberger, UK)

Crop Rotation

If the same garden site is used each year, avoid planting the same or closely related crops in an identical place each year. A three-year rotation is recommended, however, even a year or two out of a certain plant family can be beneficial. Crop rotation prevents disease-causing pathogens from building up in soil. Multiple vegetable crops are closely related and are prone to many of the same disease issues. Closely related crops are listed below.

- Tomatoes, Peppers, Potatoes, and Eggplant
- Cucumbers, Pumpkins, Squash, Watermelons, and Muskmelons
- Peas, Broad Beans, Snap beans, and Lima Beans
- Cabbage, Cauliflower, Kale, Collards, Brussels Sprouts, Broccoli, Kohlrabi, Turnips, Rutabaga, Chinese Cabbage, and Mustard
- Lettuce, Endive, and Salsify
- Chives, Garlic, Leeks, Onions, and Shallots
- Beets, Swiss Chard, and Spinach
- Carrots, Parsley, Celery, Celeriac, and Parsnip

Gardening Apps

Tech-savvy gardeners may enjoy utilizing one of the many mobile applications available for both Android and Apple platforms. Apps can be used to map out vegetable gardens and maintain records from year to year. Several apps

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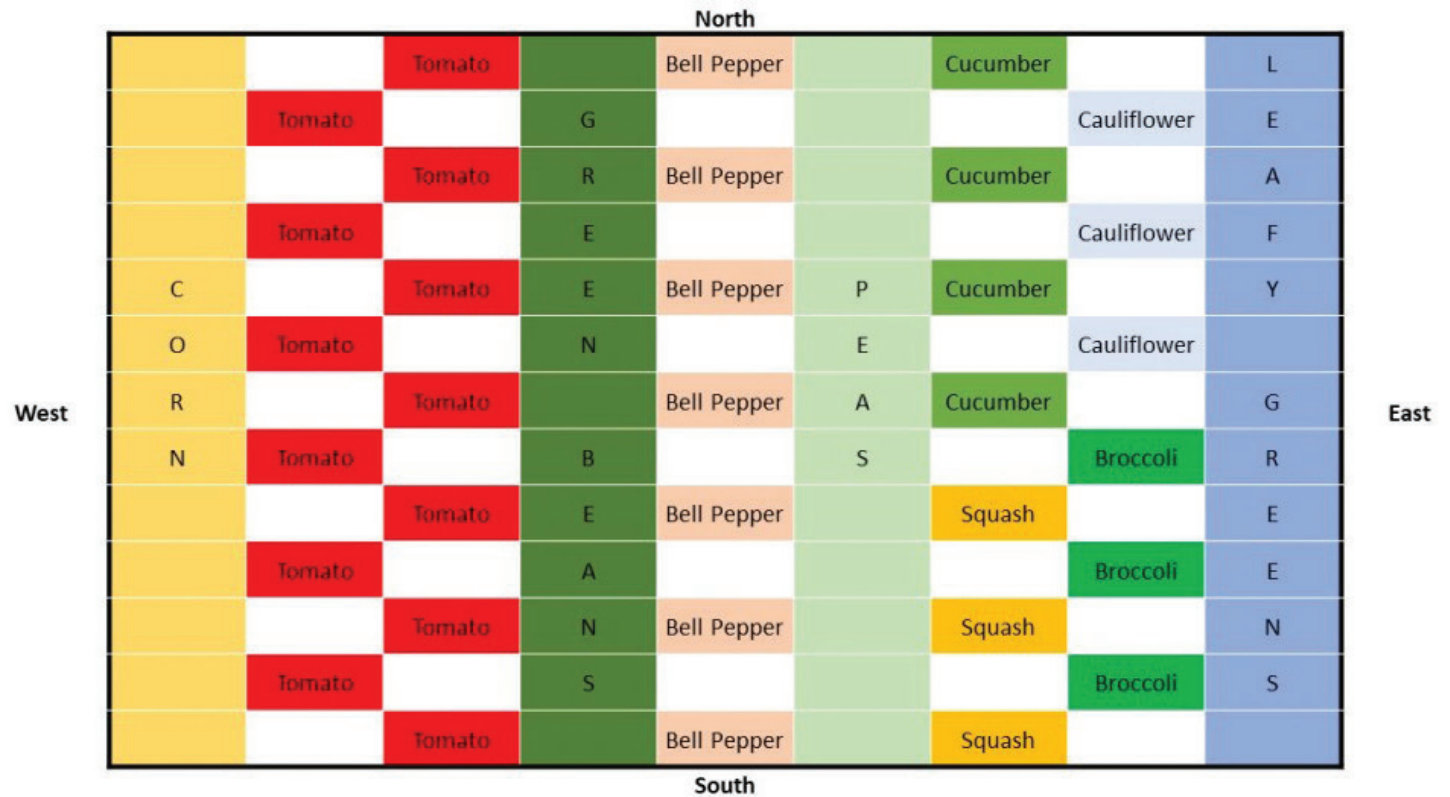
PLANNING

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allow users to enter information about cultivar, planting date, and plant growth. Some apps provide an estimated date for harvest from this information. A few apps have been designed to diagnose common disease and insect issues. However, diagnosis of plant problems can be a challenging task, even with the assistance of an app. Thus, if plant problems arise in the garden, reach out to a local County Extension Agent for assistance.

Keep Records

Each garden season is like a school year, with lessons to be learned. Whether by app or a physical garden journal, keep track of disease and pest issues as they occur, to help develop strategies to prevent or manage these issues. Also include varieties grown, how they performed, and common weather patterns.



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17th annual Pastures Please!! event set for March 5

By Jordan Strickler

Georgetown, Ky.— Amid Kentucky's winter season, equine enthusiasts and farm operators are already shifting their focus to the upcoming springtime pastures. The University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service (CES) effort is set to present "Pastures Please!!" March 5 in Georgetown. The event is

see PLEASE!, page 53



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dedicated to the latest insights in equine pasture management.

"We want to help producers best utilize the resources they have on hand to manage their particular farming operation more sustainably and profitably," said Beau Neal, Woodford County agriculture and natural resources agent. "Many of the topics discussed each year can be put into practice and be beneficial to these farms in more ways than one."

This year, UK Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment experts will cover a range of topics, including the strategic use of herbicides in effective weed control, rescuing pastures for short-term use and strategies for fertilizing pastures.

"County agents have worked hard developing a program, addressing what could impact pastures in the upcoming grazing season," said Bob Coleman, Animal and Food Science associate professor. "While the conditions change from year-to-year, county agents are observing what their clients need regarding their pastures. It continues to be a strong educational resource for horse owners."

Pastures Please!! was initiated

in 2007. It was developed by CES agents to deliver relevant and actionable information to horse owners.

The program takes place from 5:30 to 8:00 PM EST at the Scott County Cooperative Extension office. Attendees can register for this complimentary session at www.tinyurl.com/pasturesplease or contact the Scott County office by email at scott.ext@uky.edu or phone at (502) 863-0984 for further details. The Scott County extension office is located at 1130 Cincinnati Road in Georgetown.

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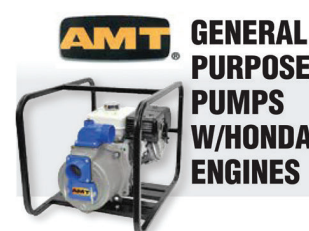
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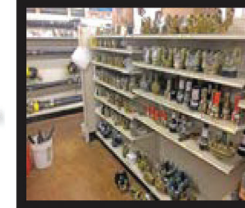
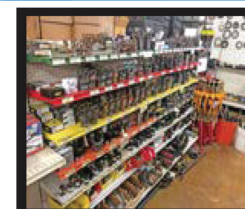
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Understanding Commodity Wages

By Tom Miller

Ballard County Extension Agent for Ag and Natural Resources

I recently read an article by Kayla Brashears, a Ky Farm Business Management Specialist out of Hopkinsville, about Commodity Wages. I will admit I had never heard of this concept but thought it might be an interesting way to keep good labor on your farm. Reliable farm help is a big problem for almost every farmer in the area so I have copied the article here for you to think about.

When it comes to paying employees, agriculture producers have a unique flexibility in compensation options that is not available to all employers. Commodity wages are a way to compensate employees without the obligation of many payroll taxes. This can be extremely useful in a situation in which a family member is working for the farming operation; an employee is transitioning into an owner/manager role, or other creative possibilities. Commodity wages compensate by transferring the ownership of a commodity, such as corn, soybeans, wheat, livestock, etc. to an employee. The employee then has the opportunity to market the commodity and generate a wage.

This route of compensation is appealing to some farm producers for several reasons:

- When paid properly, commodity wages are exempt from Social Security and Medicare tax for both the employer and employee portion.
- Commodity wages are exempt from federal unemployment taxes.
- The producer is not required to withhold any federal income tax.
- Although the employer is not required to withhold federal income tax, the employee is required to PAY federal income tax on the full amount.
- The exemptions above can lessen the administrative burden on employers in regards to payroll reporting throughout the year.
- The employee has the opportunity to create more income by marketing their ownership of the commodity effectively.

see WAGES, page 55

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Kubota B1550 w/Ldr., Mid Mower
Kubota B7100HST
(3) Kubota B8200 4x4 w/Mid Mower (Clean 1-owner triplets from same family)
Kubota BX22 4x4 w/Ldr., Backhoe, 947 Hrs

COMPACT TRACTORS:

Kubota BX2380 4x4 w/Ldr., Mower, 214 Hrs!
Kubota L305DT 4x4
Kubota L3130
Kubota L3410HST 4x4 w/Ldr.
Kubota L3300 4x4 w/Ldr., 72" Mid Mower
Kubota L3400DT 4x4 w/258 Hrs (New Ldr. & Backhoe Available)
Kubota L3710 4x4 w/Cab, Ldr.
Kubota L4310
MF GC1720 4x4 w/Ldr., Backhoe, Mid Mower, 136 Hrs!
NH Boomer 41 4x4 w/Ldr.
NH Boomer 54D 4x4 w/Cab, 933 Hrs
NH Boomer 3050 4x4 w/Cab, Ldr.
NH T222DA 4x4 w/Mower, 577 Hrs
Power King w/Ldr, Scarfier, Blade
Rural King RK24 HST 4x4 w/Ldr., 328 Hrs

CONSTRUCTION:

Bobcat 811 Backhoe Attachment
Ford 555D Ldr. Backhoe
JD 310A Ldr. Backhoe
JD 330G Skid Steer w/Cab
JD 350 Dozer w/6 Way Blade
Komatsu WB140 4x4 Ldr. Backhoe
Modern Mfg 6" Pull Hyd Dirt Pan
NH L555 Skid Steer
Vermeer BC625 Chipper

UTV's, LAWN & GARDEN:

Bobcat Pioneer 1200 UTV
Cub Cadet M60 Tank 60" ZTR
Exmark Lazer S 60" ZTR (2019)
Hustler FasTrak 60" ZTR w/25HP Kaw
JD 275 Riding Mower
JD 4x2 Gator
JD Gator XUV 625i w/Dump Bed, 497 Hrs
JD GT245 54" Riding Mower
JD X475 Riding Mower w/62" Deck, 144 Hrs
Kawasaki Mule 3000 UTV
Kubota RTV1100 4x4 w/Cab, 634 Hrs
Kubota RTV-XG850 Sidekick (2022 model; Works but has noisy trans.)
Kubota ZD331 60" Diesel ZTR
Kubota ZD331 72" Diesel ZTR
Piaggio Porter Ape 50
Scag 52" Stand-On w/23HP Kaw-2017
Scag 61" Stand-On w/25HP Kaw-2017
Scag 61" ZTR w/35HP Vanguard

IMPLEMENTS:

84" Grapple Bucket
850 Gallon Stainless Steel Nursery Tank on Tandem-Axle Trailer
96" Snow Pusher Box
Agrotk Skid Steer PH Digger w/3 Augers
BBI Fertilize Spreader
Better-Bilt 2500 Liquid Manure Tank w/Injectors
Brillion 14' Transport Cultipacker
Brillion 22' Harrigator
Brillion 5-Shank Disc Chisel
Brillion PDT-16 16' Transport Cultipacker LIKE BRAND NEW!
Brillion SS-8 8' Seeder
Burch 13 9" Wheel Disc
Bush Hog 120-09 Rear Blade
Bush Hog 146 12" Off-Set Disc
Bush Hog 2308 8' 3pt. Rotary Mower
Bush Hog 2615L 15' Flex Wing Rotary Mower
Case-IH 420 3X Plow
Case-IH 5400 20' 15-Row x 15" Spacing Drill w/Brush Auger
Century 750 Gallon Sprayer
Deutz Allis 1500 5-Shank Disc Chisel
DMI 13-Shank Anhydrous Applicator
Dunham 16' Harrigator
Enorossi BFS180 6' 3pt. Sickle Bar Mower (unused)
E-Z Flow 10' Lime Spreader w/Grass Seed
Galfre GS520 4-Spinner Tedder (unused)
Hesston 3710 2-Spinner Tedder
Hesston 530 Round Baler
Hoelscher 10 Bale Accumulator
IH 5100 18X Drill w/Grass Seed
IH 5100 21X Drill w/Grass Seed
IH 5100 21X Drill w/Harrow
IH 8' Lime Spreader
Industrias America 10' Pull-Type Box Blade
Industrias America 180 6-Way Blade
JD 1508 15' 1000RPM Batwing Rotary Mower
JD 1560 15' No-Till Drill
JD 7000 4-Row 36" No-Till Planter w/Dry Fertilizer
JD 8250 14x7" Drill w/Grass Seed, Fertilizer
JD 8300 21X Grain Drill w/Grass Seed
JD FBB 16X Drill w/Grass Seed, Fertilizer

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JD HX15 15' Batwing Rotary Mower
JD MX15 10' Folding Rotary Mower
Kubota RA1042T Rotary Rake
Kuhn 15 Bale On-Edge Grapple
Kuhn VB2160 Round Baler
Land Pride RTR1266 66" Rototiller
Landoll 3-Shank Ripper w/30" Spacing
Marliss 10' No-Till Drill w/Grass Seed
MF 3pt Disc
Minos 6' Rototiller
MTD 31T Log Splitter w/8 hp B&S
NH 256 Rake
NH 256 Rake w/Dolley Wheel
NH 320 Square Baler
NH 4655 Pull-Type Sickle Mower
NH 472 7' Haybine
NH 570 Baler
NH H6750 Disc Mower
NH Roll Belt 460 Baler w/Net, Crop
NH 3622 Manure Spreader w/2 Beaters
Noble 9-Shank Disc Chisel w/Harrow
Oswalt 300 Hay Cruncher Mixer Feed Wagon
Pequea 80P Manure Spreader
Pow'R Kraft PK-ATBH7 7' Towable Backhoe
Shaver 10' Skid Steer Mt Post Driver
Sitrex DM6 Disc Mower
Skid Steer 68" Rockhound
Thomas Skid Steer Blade
Tye 10' No-Till Drill w/Grass Seed
Wolverine 72" Skid Steer Rototiller
Woods 9204 17' Turf Batwing Finishing Mower
Woods DS96 8' Pull Rotary Mower
Woods TSR44 Rototiller

CALL FARM ITEMS:

MF 1135 w/Cab, Duals
MF 2805 w/Cab, Duals, 2698 Hrs
White 2-110 w/Cab, 4264 Hrs

MARSHALL HAY FARM CLOSEOUT (LIKE NEW PIECES):

NH Workmaster 70 4x4 w/Ldr., 572 Hrs!
NH Workmaster 65 w/700 Hrs!
NH H7329 9' Discbine
EnRossi 4 Spinner Tedder
NH ProCart 819 8 Wheel Rake
NH B5060 Baler w/Hyd Tension
(2) EZ Trail Bale Baskets

JDK FARM CLOSEOUT (SEVERAL NICE 1-OWNER ITEMS):

JD 4840 w/Cab, 7865 Hrs
18.4x38 10 Bolt Duals
JD 4430 w/Cab, 5834 Hrs

JDK FARM CLOSEOUT (SEVERAL NICE 1-OWNER ITEMS):

18.4x38 T Rail Duals
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DMI 12500 5 Shank Disc Ripper
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Great Plains 1500 15' No Till Drill
Stoltzfus 50 Red Hawk Tandem Lime Spreader
Blue Jet 11 Shank 28 Applicator
Dion LS785TD 800 Gallon Sprayer
Gleaner R50 Combine w/2397 Hrs
Deutz Allis 20' Grain Head
Deutz Allis 6R 30' Corn Head
Martin 20' Header Cart
EZ Trail 510 Grain Cart w/Tarp
(2) Kill. 350 Beds w/Sides on Kill.
10T Gears
Ford F750 Grain Truck w/Hoist
Westfield 51'x8' Swing Away Auger

AS-IS SALVAGE ITEMS:

Bobcat M444 Skid Steer
Cases: CC on Steel; DC3; LA; S; SC3
Exmark 52' Vantage Stand On
Ford 5000 Diesel SOS
IH 6 Cylinder Diesel Engine
JD 70
Kubota BX23S 4x4 w/Ldr., Backhoe (BURNT)
Kubota M100XDC 4x4 w/Cab, Low Hours, 1 Owner (CAB FIRE)
Kubota RTV1100 4x4 w/Cab (Runs but not moving)
MF 1805 4x4
Scag 61' Zero Turn
Zetor 4341 w/Cab; 7211 (Runs); 9520 w/Cab; Zebra 3522

ITEMS WITH REASONABLE RESERVE SUBJECT TO PRIOR SALE:

Allied 8' Double Auger SnowBlower
Champion 720A Series IV Grader
Ford 1720
Ford 7000 Diesel w/Cab
Hesston 830 Round Baler
Hitachi 160LC Excavator
IH 140 w/Cultivator
IH 181 Flat Fold Rotary Hoe
IH 490 30' Disc
IH 674 Gas
JD 310B Ldr. Backhoe w/Cab
JD 310D 4x4 Ldr. Backhoe w/Cab
JD 320 Skid Steer
JD 320E Skid Steer w/Cab
JD 4410 4x4 w/Cab, Front Blade
JD 500A Ldr. Backhoe

ITEMS WITH REASONABLE RESERVE SUBJECT TO PRIOR SALE:

JD 5095M 4x4 w/Cab
JD 7630 4x4 w/Cab
JD 825 Flat Fold Cultivator
JD 9500 Combine
Kubota BX1880 4x4 w/Ldr., Mower, 650 Hrs
Kubota BX2380 4x4 w/Mower, Ldr Valve, 189 Hrs!
Kubota BX23S (2022) 4x4 w/Ldr, Hoe, Mid Mower, 6 Hrs!
Kubota L2501 (2022) 4x4 w/Ldr, Backhoe, 7 Hrs!
Kubota LA1953 Loader (Off of M100X)
Kubota M4050DT
Kubota M4D-071Deluxe (2022) 4x4 w/Cab, Ldr., 748 Hrs
Kubota M5-111 4x4 w/Cab, Ldr.
Kubota M5640SU
Kubota M7060 4x4 w/Cab, Ldr.
Kubota M9960 4x4 w/Cab
Kubota RTV1100 4x4 w/Cab
Kubota SSV75 Skid Steer (2021) w/Cab, Pilot, 275 Hrs!
Leyland 272 w/Cab, Loader
MF 1547 4x4 w/Cab
Moffett M5000 Forklift
NC Tandem-Axle Lime Spreader
NH 195 Tandem Manure Spreader
NH Boomer 54D 4x4 w/Cab
NH Roll Belt 460 Round Baler w/Net, Crop
NH TN65 w/Ldr.
NH TS100 w/Ditcher
NH TS110 4x4 w/Cab
NH Workmaster 50
Orsi River 651LX 4' Ditchbank Flail Mower
Toro Z Master 4000 60" ZTR w/41 Hrs!
Woods 9000 Backhoe Attachment
Woods RD9204 17' Turf Batwing

RESERVE ITEMS LOCATED AT MARYSVILLE, OH LOCATION:

Ferris ISX3300 w/72" Deck, 119 Hrs!
Jacobsen HR5111 4x4 w/11' Mowers
Kubota L4310
Kubota LX2610 (2021) 4x4 w/Cab, Ldr., 145 Hrs!
Kubota RTV500 4x4
Mahindra 2670PST 4x4 w/Cab, Ldr, 164 Hrs!
NH Rustler 115 4x4
VW Vanagon



JDK Farm Closeout



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WAGES

continued from page 54

• Some farms may consider this method of compensation a good way for an employee to “buy-in” to the success of the crop.

Similar to most things in life, this route of compensation has some disadvantages as well:

• Producers should expect extra scrutiny by the IRS in the event of an audit if they pay commodity wages. To ensure proper use of commodity compensation, there are a few record-keeping details important to address (discussed in the next section).

• Although an employee can create income by marketing their commodity, conditions beyond their control, like weather and market changes, can cause them to have a downswing and collect a smaller wage.

• There are instances in which family members and employees should receive traditional wages for Social Security credits.

If a producer has decided commodity wages are a good fit for their operation, there are a few important record-keeping steps:

• The producer should record the sale of the commodity in their books. An offsetting transaction is a wage expense, resulting in a net-zero transaction to the producer.

• The farm and employee should take extra care that the transaction does not appear as cash equivalent by immediately paying out the sold commodity. For a true commodity wage, the recipient must absorb market risk. A delay of at least two weeks between delivery and commodity sale/payment to the employee is a safe hedge.

• The producer should report the amount of the commodity wage on the W2. A tax preparer, payroll expert, or a KFBM specialist can help with this, especially because FICA exempt wages report differently than regular wages.

Understanding how to utilize commodity wages can be a great way for a producer to compensate their employees. It is important to understand how to document commodity wages correctly. A tax professional, payroll expert, or a KFBM specialist can help you understand how commodity wages can benefit your operation.

Programs of the Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service serve all people regardless of race, age, sex, color, religion, disability or national origin. For additional information, contact the Ballard County Extension Office, 110 Broadway, La Center, 665-91

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Gov. Beshear joins Tyson Foods for Grand opening of \$355M facility in Bowling Green

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. -Gov. Beshear joined local officials and leaders from Tyson Foods for the grand opening of the company's new, state-of-the-art food production facility at Bowling Green's Kentucky Transpark. The \$355 million plant will create nearly 450 full-time jobs and is among the largest investment, job-creation projects announced in Warren County.

"The economic success we've seen in Warren County in the last several years has been impressive," said Gov. Beshear. "Tyson Foods has played a key role in Bowling Green's economy for years, and today's grand opening marks an exciting next chapter in the company's long history serving the commonwealth. I want to thank Tyson Foods and its leadership for their continued belief in this great state and look forward to their continued success in Kentucky."

Spanning 400,000 square feet, the facility is dedicated to producing popular Tyson Foods brands – Jimmy Dean and Wright Brand bacon – as well as bacon for food service. The plant is expected to output over two million pounds of bacon products each week, meeting escalating demand in retail and food service. Equipped with industry-leading technology, the advanced production facility features high-tech robotics for increased efficiency and workforce safety.

The nearly 450 new jobs created by the project will contribute to the local economy and workforce

see *TYSON*, page 58



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 <p>by15cy</p> <p>JOHN DEERE 40 HC "Over The Top Restoration" Good Tag \$11,500</p>	 <p>bv74bf</p> <p>Massey Harris 333 Diesel "Diesel w/ P/S & 3pt WOW" New Tires - \$11,500</p>	 <p>bw60tj</p> <p>1957 OLIVER SUPER 99 "Something Cool" Factory Cab - \$16,500</p>	 <p>bx32yz</p> <p>1974 MINNEAPOLIS MOLINE G1355 3,282 hrs. L.P. Gas, Factory A/C, Dual Hydraulics, 540 PTO \$12,000</p>

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TYSON

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development. Tyson Foods has partnered with Western Kentucky University and Southcentral Kentucky Community and Technical College (SKYCTC) to establish training programs that will equip the workforce with the skills needed in modern food production.

“We are excited to partner with the state of Kentucky to create jobs, improve workforce skills and contribute to the community of Bowling Green and Warren County,” said Donnie King, president and CEO of Tyson Foods. “We are grateful for the partnerships that made our advanced new food production facility possible.”

Tyson Foods Inc. is one of the world’s largest food companies and a recognized leader in protein

production. Founded in 1935 by John W. Tyson and grown under four generations of family leadership, the company has a broad portfolio of products and

sustainable and affordable, meeting customers’ needs worldwide. Headquartered in Springdale, Arkansas, the company employs approximately 139,000 team

opening of Tyson Foods’ state-of-the-art facility is a landmark event for Warren County. It’s a symbol of economic growth and community development, promising a brighter future for our residents.”

Bowling Green Mayor Todd Alcott noted the economic impact this project will bring to the area: “Tyson Foods’ decision to build this advanced facility here is a significant vote of confidence in our community. This plant not only brings new jobs but also reinforces Bowling Green’s reputation as a desirable location for leading global companies.”

Ron Bunch, president and CEO of the Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce, expressed his enthusiasm for the project: “The grand opening of Tyson Foods’ facility is a landmark moment for Bowling Green. It’s more than just a new building; it’s a beacon

State-of-the-art facility will create nearly 450 full-time jobs and will produce bacon for Jimmy Dean and Wright Brand labels

brands, including Tyson, Jimmy Dean, Hillshire Farm, Ball Park, Wright Brand, Aidells, ibp and State Fair. Tyson Foods innovates continually to make protein more

members.

Warren County Judge/ Executive Doug Gorman expressed his excitement for the project becoming operational: “The

see TYSON, page 59

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TYSON

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of economic transformation and a testament to our community's potential for growth and innovation."

Tyson Foods' investment and job creation build on the best four-year period for economic growth in state history.

Since the beginning of his administration, Gov. Beshear has announced more than 1,000 private-sector new-location and expansion projects totaling nearly \$29.3 billion in announced investments, creating more than 51,700 jobs. This is the highest investment figure secured during the tenure of any governor in the commonwealth's history.

The robust job creation has been accompanied by rising wages across the commonwealth. The average incentivized hourly wage in 2022 and 2023 topped \$26 in consecutive years for the first time.

Gov. Beshear has announced some of the largest economic development projects in state history, which have solidified Kentucky as the electric vehicle battery production capital of the United States: Ford Motor Co. and SK On's transformative \$5.8 billion, 5,000-job BlueOval SK Battery Park in Hardin County; AESC's \$2 billion, 2,000-job gigafactory project in Warren County; Toyota's \$591 million investment in Scott County; and INFAC North America's \$53

million investment in Taylor County, among others.

The Governor's administration also secured the largest General Fund budget surplus and Rainy Day Fund, as well as the most jobs filled in state history. Last year, Kentucky set the record for the longest period with the lowest unemployment rates in state history.

Kentucky also secured rating increases from major credit rating agencies Fitch Ratings and S&P Global Ratings, and Moody's Investors Service upgraded Kentucky's credit outlook from stable to positive.

Site Selection magazine placed Kentucky first in the South Central region and top 5 nationally in its 2023 Prosperity Cup ranking, which recognizes state-level economic development agencies for their success in landing capital investment projects.

Gov. Beshear announced a "Supply Kentucky" initiative with the goal of boosting job growth, reducing costs and providing more security in the supply chains of our Kentucky companies.

To encourage investment and job growth in the community, the Kentucky Economic Development Finance Authority in October 2021 preliminarily approved an incentive agreement with the company under the Kentucky Business Investment program.

Additionally, KEDFA approved Tyson Foods for further incentives

through the Kentucky Enterprise Initiative Act (KEIA). KEIA allows approved companies to recoup Kentucky sales and use tax on construction costs, building fixtures, equipment used in research and development and electronic processing.

By meeting its annual targets over the agreement term, the company can be eligible to keep a portion of the new tax revenue it generates. The company may claim eligible incentives against its income tax liability and/or wage assessments.

In addition, Tyson Foods can receive resources from Kentucky's

workforce service providers. Those include no-cost recruitment and job placement services, reduced-cost customized training and job-training incentives.

For more information on Tyson Foods, visit TysonFoods.com.

A detailed community profile for Warren County can be viewed here.

Information on Kentucky's economic development efforts and programs is available at CED.ky.gov. Fans of the Cabinet for Economic Development can also join the discussion at facebook.com/CEDkygov, on Twitter @CEDkygov, Instagram @CEDkygov and LinkedIn.

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Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corp. approves \$4,489,399 in loans

Financing bolsters beef, forage, poultry, and grain farmers across the commonwealth

FRANKFORT, Ky. – The Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corp. (KAFC) approved \$4,480,399 for 23 agricultural loans for projects across the commonwealth at its monthly board meeting.

Agricultural Infrastructure Loan Program (AILP)

Five Agricultural Infrastructure loans totaling \$708,502 were approved. Loan recipients were in Boyle (\$48,622), Daviess (\$206,000), Grayson (\$70,000), Hardin (\$250,000), and McLean (\$133,880) counties. KAFC participates with lenders to provide financing to producers making capital expenditures for agricultural projects through the AILP. Eligible projects include permanent farm structures with attached equipment that improves the profitability of farming operations. Producers may be eligible for up to \$150,000 not to exceed 50 percent of the project.

Beginning Farmer Loan Program (BFLP)

Eighteen Beginning Farmer loans totaling up to \$3,771,897 were approved. Loan recipients were in Breckinridge (\$135,000), Carlisle (\$250,000), Fulton (\$250,000), Grayson (\$125,000), Green (\$250,000 and \$250,000), Hancock (\$136,497), Hart (\$250,000), Henry (\$250,000), Hopkins (\$250,000), LaRue (\$250,000), McLean (\$192,500 and \$250,000), Nelson (\$32,900 and \$150,000), Ohio (\$250,000), Union (\$250,000), and Webster (\$250,000) counties. The BFLP is designed to assist individuals with some farming experience who desire to develop, expand, or buy into a farming operation. Beginning farmers may qualify for financing to purchase livestock, equipment, or agriculture facilities; to secure permanent working capital; for the purchase of farm real estate; or to invest in a partnership or LLC.

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

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2018 Kuhn Krause 8005-40, 40' Excelerator, Hyd. Angle Adj., Rolling Bskts., Frt. 18 3/8", Rear 18 1/8" **\$85,000**



2019 McFarlane IC5140, 40' Incite VT Tool, 20.75" Frt., 20.25" Rear, Hyd. Angle Blades, Chopper Reel **\$67,500**



2013 Case IH RMX340, 31', 7.5" Spacing, Rigid Gang, Hyd Fore/Aft, Front 21" Rear, 21.5", Original Blades **\$47,500**



2018 Great Plains 3500TM, 35' Turbo Max, Hyd. Gang Angle, Rolling Harrow & HD Reel, New Blades & Bearings **\$82,500**



2019 Kuhn Knight VS127 Vertical Mixer, 540 PTO, 270 Cu. Ft., Right Hand Discharge, 36" Conveyor **\$31,500**



1990 Case IH 9150, 6,000 Hrs., Bareback, 3 Remotes, Powershift, Bar Axles, 18.4R42, Hub Duals **\$39,500**



2016 Case IH Magnum 280, 661 Hrs., Luxury Cab, Susp. Axle, 19 Spd. PS, Hi Cap Pump, 4 Remotes, Weights **\$280,000**



2014 Case IH Puma 130, CVT, 3,339 Hrs., L765 NSL Ldr. w/87" Bucket, 3 Rem., 540/1000 PTO, Joystick **\$89,500**



2022 Case IH Farmall 70A, 75 Hrs., ROPS, 8x8 Trans. w/Mech Shuttle, 2 Rem., Joystick, 72" SSQT. **\$37,500**



2014 Case IH Farmall 50C, 923 Hrs., Hydro, L360 Ldr. w/72" Bkt., 1 Remote, Live 3rd Function For Grapple **\$29,500**



2019 NH T8.350, 1,749 Hrs., 18 Spd. FPS, Hi Cap Pump, 5 Rems., Pro 700 w/Full Guidance **\$215,000**



2010 Versatile 250, 3,110 Hrs., 4 Rear Remotes, Super Steer, 22 Frt. Wts, PS, Triple PTO **\$99,500**



2022 Kubota M5-111HDC12-1, 347 Hrs., 3 Rems., 12 Spd. w/Hyd. Shuttle, LA1854 Ldr., 84" Bkt. **\$75,000**



2016 MF 4710, 535 Hrs., 12x12 w/Pwr. Shuttle, 2 Remotes, MF 931X Ldr. w/Eura QA 84" Bkt. **\$44,500**



1983 Hesston 666, 4,855 Hrs., L330 Ldr. w/61" Pin On, Joystick, 1 Rem., New Rear Rims/Tires **\$9,500**



2020 Case IH 7250, 1,126/871 Hrs., Luxury Cab, Leather, Ext. Wear Cone, Chopper, Full Guidance **\$359,500**



2018 JD S780, 1,604/1,172 Hrs., 4-WD, Ext. Wear Clean Grain, Power Bin Ext. Covers, PC Tailboard **\$285,000**



2015 JD S680, 2,374/1,606 Hrs., PRWD, PC Tailboard, ProDrive, Pwr. Fold Bin Ext., 650/85R38's **\$169,500**



2009 JD 9770 STS, 3,505/2,416 Hrs., 4-WD, 520/85R42's, Full Guidance w/2630 Display & 3000 Rec. **\$99,500**

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NFMS *continued from page 1*

department and other entities, it is also ranked currently as number 6 on the city's largest events for making a massive economic impact within the region.

The National Farm Machinery show and what it is today came from humble beginnings, starting out in 1963 as the University of Kentucky sponsored an electricity demonstration and exhibit for farmers in Lexington. However, this first show paved the road for what has now evolved into a nationwide show, promoting some of the most innovative technology and new product launches in agriculture.

All technology on display will be available to agribusiness professionals. There will also be insights into alternative energy and solutions to the challenges facing today's agribusiness and farming industry. The venue will be stocked with a variety of vendors,

balers, sprayers, and much more, promoting the powerful advancements in agriculture. While attending, farmers from across the country will have access to the latest technological advancements that are crucial for the upcoming season. At this year's event, there will be free seminars, practical farm and research insight, an agronomy roundtable, and a 2024 global market and weather outlook.

The event is slated for February 14 through the 17. While admission is free and open to the public, parking is currently \$12 per vehicle. For more information, visit farmmachineryshow.org.

The Championship Tractor Pull sponsored by Farm Credit Mid-America will start daily at 7 p.m. There will be an extra performance on Saturday at noon, and tickets for admission will start at \$10, as well as \$12 for parking.

National Farm Machinery Show ranks in the top 10 for largest dollar generator in Louisville

LOUISVILLE, Ky. – The National Farm Machinery Show and its over 300,000 attendees will take over Louisville this month during the largest indoor farm trade show in the county. The annual show, coming up on its 58th year, ranks in the top 10 for 2024 events bringing in the most dollars to the city.

According to Louisville Tourism, the National Farm Machinery Show and its counterpart, the Championship Tractor Pull, rank 6th on its list of events in Louisville with the largest estimated economic impact. The show is poised to pull in over \$24.2 million. Along with that, the show is one of a handful of Louisville events that creates heavy hotel room occupancy, which reaches more than 90% during the show.

"We are proud to be among the top events in Louisville, ranked with events like the Kentucky Derby and the PGA Tour," said David S. Beck, President & CEO of Kentucky Venues. "While our trade show is

all about bringing the best in the field together, we take great pride in knowing the National Farm Machinery Show is also positively impacting Louisville and the Commonwealth."

The National Farm Machinery Show and the Championship Tractor Pull take place at the Kentucky Exposition Center and Freedom Hall where the venue will fill with tractors, balers, sprayers, and more. The event runs February 14-17, 2024.

Additional Notes

Admission is free and open to the public. Parking is \$12 per vehicle. Next year's show is February 12-15, 2025. For more information, visit farmmachineryshow.org.

The Championship Tractor Pull sponsored by Farm Credit Mid-America happens daily at 7 p.m. from February 14-17, 2024. There is an extra performance on Saturday at noon. Tickets begin at \$10 plus \$12 for parking. Find more information and purchase tickets at champpull.org.

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Murray State University continues to receive support for the exploration and development of a School of Veterinary Medicine



Murray State University continues to receive support from various legislators, governmental entities, communities, industry representatives, organizations and individuals as the institution pursues the development of a School of Veterinary Medicine.

By Shawn Touney

MURRAY, Ky. – Murray State University continues to receive support from various legislators, governmental entities, communities, industry representatives, organizations and individuals as the institution pursues the development of a School of Veterinary Medicine.

On August 25, 2023, the Murray State University Board of Regents adopted a resolution of support to create a task force and begin a feasibility study to examine the statewide shortage of veterinarians and work toward the development of a School of Veterinary Medicine at Murray State University.

The state of Kentucky currently does not have a School of Veterinary Medicine, and approximately 70 students from Kentucky are accepted each year to out-of-state veterinary schools. In the United States, there are only 32 veterinary colleges accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA).

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), there are 86,300 veterinarians in the United States and this occupation is expected to grow by over 19% by 2031. The BLS also reports a total of 122,800 veterinarian technologists/technicians are working today and the field is expected to grow by 20%

by 2031.

Soon after Murray State's Board of Regents adopted a resolution of support, a School of Veterinary Medicine Task Force comprised of leading agricultural professionals convened. A feasibility study completed last fall indicated many benefits of a new School of Veterinary Medicine at Murray State University. The feasibility study can be viewed at <https://bit.ly/3OmHZej>.

House Bill 400, available at <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/24rs/hb400.html>, was introduced by House Agriculture Committee Chair Richard Heath on January 29, 2024 with 52 co-sponsors. This bill provides the authorizing language for a School of Veterinary Medicine at Murray State University.

Murray State's Hutson School of Agriculture has the largest estimated pre-veterinary medicine/veterinary technology enrollment of any university in Kentucky, and is just one of three programs in Kentucky that is fully accredited by the AVMA.

Murray State students are provided valuable hands-on learning opportunities that prepare them for success upon graduation. The University's A. Carman Animal Health Technology Center, located

see *VETERINARY*, page 65

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VETERINARY*continued from page 64*

on Murray State's West Farm in Calloway County, offers state-of-the-art equipment and supplies to prepare students for a career in the field of veterinary medicine.

The Breathitt Veterinary Center at Murray State University, under the direction of the Hutson School of Agriculture, is located in Christian County, Kentucky and is a nationally preeminent animal disease diagnostic laboratory dedicated to protecting the invaluable assets of Kentucky's equine, livestock and poultry industries. The center is the only Level 1 Laboratory Status designated by the USDA National Animal Health Laboratory system and one of only 60 laboratories in the United States (one of 23 laboratories with Level 1 status). The center serves as an important teaching and learning facility for Murray State students.

"We are very grateful to all of our legislators, governmental entities, communities, industry representatives, organizations and individuals for their support of a new School of Veterinary Medicine as we continue to advance this key educational and workforce opportunity," Murray State President Dr. Bob Jackson said. "The momentum we are seeing with this initiative is not possible without their assistance as we best serve our students, our region, the Commonwealth and beyond."

"Murray State University's Hutson School of Agriculture has a long history of preparing students for successful careers, including careers in the veterinary field," Murray State University Hutson School of Agriculture Dean Dr. Brian Parr said. "The development of a new School of Veterinary Medicine is the next logical step to serve our students while addressing a key statewide need that will be of great benefit. We are very appreciative of all individuals who have been instrumental in lending their support and involvement on behalf of this initiative."

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Actions of Top Producers



By Alan Hoskins
President and
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On October 16, 2001, the “Good to Great” book by Jim Collins was released. Based upon information from “The New York Times” website, the book has sold over 4,000,000 copies. The website stated its popularity extended “well beyond the business world and included football coaches, pastors and school principals”. Based upon personal conversations, readers also included multiple farmers and ranchers. It is my opinion the popularity of the book is also rooted in the desire of many, to be more accomplished tomorrow than today.

Over the years, multiple producers have asked me, “How am I doing”? This is a somewhat generic and innocuous question. However, that query typically leads to some of my favorite conversations with producers. I have found that the question is very indicative of someone who is desiring to move from ‘good to great’, the title of the book by Mr. Collins.

In November, I attended the American Bankers Association Ag Lenders Conference in Oklahoma City, OK. During the opening session, a presentation furnished information relative to some of the common characteristics possessed by top producers. The term “top producer” was based upon FINBIN data maintained by the University of Minnesota’s Center for Farm Financial Management. This information dates back to 1996 and covers operations in 12 states. As those in attendance learned, there are a number of consistent characteristics displayed by

individuals within this group. Some of these traits are shown below:

They participate in continuing education. Simply stated, they are “lifelong learners” and do not reply on what worked well yesterday being “good enough” for today.

They use more marketing tools. This allows them to effectively manage risk within their business.

They are early adapters of technology. Please note, this does not necessarily mean they are on the “bleeding edge” of technological implementation, but they look at opportunities for improvement earlier than most.

As you will note, none of the three items above indicate the respective farmer or rancher relies solely upon his or her own present knowledge. They seem willing to ask others to help them grow and improve.

While the following were not included in the presented information, I have historically also observed these behaviors in successful farmers and ranchers:

Their financial statements are utilized in managing their operation throughout the year as opposed to being completed, given to the lender, accountant, etc. and forgotten.

They understand the importance of work-life balance.

They have an executable business plan that defines their goals. They are cognizant these can, and will, change as new opportunities are presented.

There is certainly not a “one size fits all” pattern or single formula to achieve success.

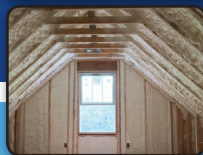
Additionally, the term is measured differently by the owners of each farm or ranch. These individuals are unique, have different strengths, weaknesses and goals. However, a strong commitment to expending the effort necessary to learn and implement new practices and procedures seems to be present in top producers.

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Larry Thomas honored with KY Soybean Association's Eddie Voils Leadership Award



Larry Thomas, right, is shown accepting the 2023 Eddie Voils Leadership Award from KSA President Adam Hendricks (left).

Photo Courtesy of the University of Kentucky

The Kentucky Soybean Association (KSA) presented its 2023 Eddie Voils Leadership Award during the Kentucky Commodity Conference held on January 18.

“This year’s award winner has long been a member of the Kentucky Soybean Association,” said KSA President Adam Hendricks, who presented the award on behalf of the Voils family. “As a lifetime member, he has earned this award through dedication to service in a wide variety of ways. Larry Thomas was elected to the KSA board to represent his fellow farmers in 2011 and served the maximum of three, three-year terms there. He got right to work, recruiting other farmers into Association membership. He made such an effort that he was KSA’s top recruiter for five years in a row, from 2011 through 2015. Larry was elected to leadership and served as KSA President for 2018

and 2019, and he has served on the Checkoff board as one of Kentucky Farm Bureau’s two appointees since 2013. Larry soon rose to leadership in that organization, as well, serving as Chairman from July 2021 to July 2023.”

“Larry’s volunteerism ranges from recruiting members to working at the National Farm Machinery Show, and calling on legislators in Frankfort and Washington, D.C.,” Hendricks continued. “He spends a great deal of time attending water quality meetings on behalf of Kentucky’s soybean farmers and has hosted school groups, members of the media, and university researchers at BLT Farms.”

The farmer-leaders of the Kentucky Soybean Association appreciate Larry Thomas’ dedication to serving this organization.

For more information on soybean farming in Kentucky, visit www.kysoy.org.



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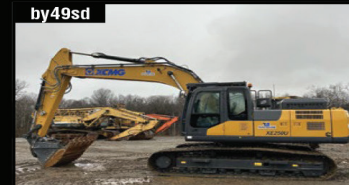
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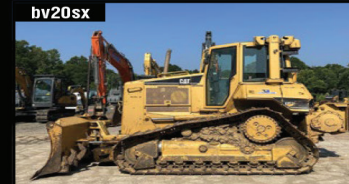
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2018 CATERPILLAR D4K2 XL, Stk# 2837, 2,284 Hrs., A/C, Hystat, Tier 4, 109 in Wide PAT Blade. . . \$108,000



by49sj
2010 CATERPILLAR D5K LGP, Stk# 2798, 3,285 Hrs., OROPS, Hystat, 126 in PAT Blade, Counterweight \$79,000



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2005 CATERPILLAR D6N XL, Stk# 2656, 6,135.10 Hrs., A/C, Powershift w/ Diff Steering, 128 in PAT \$106,000

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