

FARMERS' Quarterly



★ THANK A FARMER EDITION ★



Registration opens for 2022 National Farm Machinery Show

Registration is required to access the event

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The National Farm Machinery Show announced attendee registration is open in preparation for the show February 16-19, 2022. Each year farmers, equipment manufacturers and agribusiness professionals travel

to Louisville to get a first-hand look at the latest equipment, technology and educational seminars at the National Farm Machinery Show.

see *SHOW* page 4

Buy Made in the USA products

By Teresa Pearson
KPI Staff

As we watch food prices climb this year, we realize how important the American farmer is to our economy and to our country as a whole.

Some people are seeing empty shelves along with the high prices, and the main reason is said to be because of the ships sitting in harbors not being unloaded.

The American farmer plays an important role in our food supply, and as we can see from so many goods being shipped here from other countries, American made and American

grown is very important.

Enjoying Thanksgiving dinner with family and friends is a big priority for most Americans, but paying attention to how the meal will impact the budget is also important. Farm Bureau's

36th annual survey shows Thanksgiving dinner cost up 14%. The survey indicates the average cost of this year's classic Thanksgiving feast for 10 is \$53.31, or less than \$6.00 per person. This is a

\$6.41, or 14%, increase from last year's average of \$46.90.

Please take time to thank the Lord for our country and for our American Farmer and try to buy only Made in USA products.



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USDA Farm Service Agency County Committee ballots due December 6

Staff report

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently announced the 2021 Farm Service Agency County Committee Elections are currently taking place, with ballots being mailed. The deadline for returning completed ballots to local FSA offices, or at least to be postmarked, is Dec. 6.

FSA officials said via a news release that the county committee elects local FSA programming by crafting programs and services via a local perspective. The idea is help improve and sustain local operations.

"County committee members are an important component of the operations of FSA and provide a link between the agricultural community and USDA," officials said through a news release.

Farmers elected at the county level serve on county committees. Their experience in the agricultural industry helps the committee to determine commodity prices, develop support, and work with conservation and disaster programs, to enact other FSA programs and services.

"Each committee has from three to 11 elected members who serve three-year terms of office, and at least one seat representing an LAA is up for election each year," according to the USDA.

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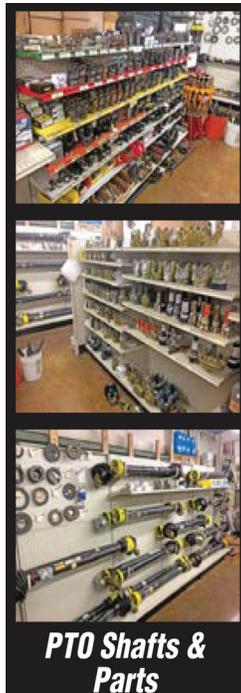
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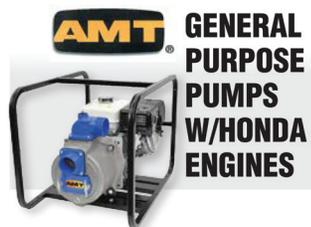
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SHOW

continued from page 1

After introducing voluntary registration in 2020, registration is mandatory for attendees to access the event.

The National Farm Machinery Show spans 1.2 million square feet and features more than 900 booths of the agricultural industry's latest and most comprehensive display of equipment, services and technology. The event features free seminars with topics ranging from market strategies to the future of precision planting.

"We're so excited to welcome everyone back for the 56th National Farm Machinery Show! We know the entire agribusiness industry is ready to come together to see all of the latest innovations in farm machinery and technology. Farming and agriculture are essential industries and it's more important

than ever to stay on top of the latest trends to put food on the tables of millions around the world," said David S. Beck, President and CEO of Kentucky Venues.

This annual event is the largest indoor farm show in the country and the premier winter show within the industry. In an effort to help the show continue to grow and improve the guest experience, Kentucky Venues is requiring registration this year. As part of the registration process, attendees who register in the first week will have a chance to win free parking or Championship Tractor Pull tickets.

As the nation's largest indoor farm show, the National Farm Machinery Show brings an estimated economic impact of \$20.54 million to Louisville annually, filling local hotels and restaurants with attendees from across the country and around the world.

For more information, visit www.farmmachineryshow.org or register online at <https://farmmachineryshow.org/register>.

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Annual UK Equine Career and Opportunity Fair showcases industry professions for college students



Richard Nolen, broodmare manager at Three Chimneys Farm, talks with students during the UK Equine Career and Opportunity Fair.

Photo by Sydney Carter, UK Ag Equine Programs communications and student relations intern.

By: Holly Wiemers

Lexington, Ky., - University of Kentucky Ag Equine Programs recently hosted its annual Career and Opportunity Fair to more than 170 current and future college students from 11 different academic programs. Over 35 employers and 80 recruiters were on hand to share job, internship, volunteer and networking opportunities.

New this year, a prospective student component was added to allow high school students the opportunity to hear from equine degree programs and visit the fair to see the various job and career path options that exist within the industry. Students and their families had the chance to speak with equine programs from UK, Asbury University, Bluegrass Community and Technical College, the

Kentucky Equine Management Internship program, Midway University, Morehead State University and the University of Louisville, who was also the food and beverage sponsor for the event.

"I was very pleased with this year's Career and Opportunity Fair. We returned to an in-person event, expanded the format and participants, and were able to successfully showcase the myriad of opportunities available in the equine industry," said Savannah Robin, equine internship coordinator and event organizer. "Employers had very positive remarks in regard to student engagement, relationship building and professionalism. Students also provided positive feedback in that the fair was a great experience to network and explore future opportunities."

Equine businesses that participated included Ardent Animal Health, Central Kentucky Riding for Hope, Claiborne Farm, Coolmore America, Godolphin LLC, Hagyard Equine Medical Institute, Hooves of Hope Equestrian Center Inc., Justin's Place, Keeneland Association Inc., Kentucky Equine Research, Lane's End Farm, Maker's Mark Secretariat Center, McMahon and Hill Bloodstock LLC, Park Equine Hospital, Paso Fino Horse Association, Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital, Split Rock Jumping Tour, Spy Coast Farm, Taylor Made Sales Agency Inc., The Jockey Club, Three Chimneys Farm, UK Department of Veterinary Science, Wickliffe Pharmaceuticals Inc. and WinStar Farm.

"Emphasis on 'Career and Opportunity' is central to this important annual event," said James MacLeod, professor of veterinary science and director of UK Ag Equine Programs. "The substance and scope of equine-related career paths continue to grow, and this was an exciting convergence of employers, current equine science students, prospective equine science students and educational organizations."

Next year's event is scheduled for Sept. 20. More information about this and other opportunities can be found on UK Ag Equine Programs' website: <https://equine.ca.uky.edu/>.

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Fencing School fulfills need for small ruminant producers

By Katie Pratt

Frankfort, Ky.,- No matter the animal, livestock producers know a well-constructed fence is invaluable to successful herd management. To help small ruminant producers learn about sound, secure fencing, the University of Kentucky and Kentucky State University recently hosted a school specifically focused on them.

“All the basics of fencing for small ruminants is the same as fencing for cattle except small ruminants need a different wire type, and if producers use electric fencing, the line has to be lower,” said Chris Teutsch, forage extension specialist in the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment.

Teutsch has held fencing schools for many years with help from industry professionals, but

the previous schools have been specifically focused on larger animals. This is the first Kentucky Fencing School he has hosted dedicated to small ruminants.

The school focused on small ruminants due to the increasing interest in the animals across Kentucky. Small ruminants are attractive to producers, especially those just getting into agriculture, because they don't require a lot of acreage.

“There are a lot of people who buy farms with bad fencing. This school helps ensure producers know what they are doing and that they get their fences built right,” said Ken Andries, associate professor of animal sciences and associate dean for Kentucky State University's College of Agriculture, Community and the Sciences. “Regardless of what animal a person is raising, producers could benefit from a

good fencing school. A well-built fence works and poorly built fences are a problem.”

Cheri Gillette drove 2.5 hours from Woollum in Knox County to attend the Frankfort fencing school. She and her husband have raised cattle for years but plan to get sheep in the spring.

“Some of the fencing on our property is gone. I want to use fencing to keep our animals out of the creek, and I want to learn about how to do it the right way,” she said. “At this school I'm learning ways to make the fence construction process easier and to make the fence last longer.”

UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, through its land-grant mission, reaches across the commonwealth with teaching, research and extension to enhance the lives of Kentuckians.



Knox County producer Cheri Gillette learns how to construct a fence for small ruminants with help from Clay Brewer with Stay-Tuff Fencing as other Kentucky Fencing School participants look on.

Photo by Katie Pratt
UK agricultural communications.

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Grants for farmer-appreciation projects available at KDA

Effort is a part of KDA's new 'Raising Hope' campaign

FRANKFORT – The Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA) is focusing its newest effort on the mental health of the state's agriculture community by providing a number of grant opportunities to groups that create and conduct local projects to show appreciation for farmers and farm families.

“The physical risks farmers face in their day-to-day environment often overshadows the incredible mental stress they face,” Commissioner of Agriculture Dr. Ryan Quarles said. “Sometimes a little appreciation for what you do lets people know what you're doing matters. This is the goal with these grant awards: to raise awareness in our communities about the work farmers do each and every day.”

The grants are funded by part of a \$500,000 grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to KDA this year. The overall scope of the \$500,000 grant will allow KDA to expand on the new campaign – “Raising Hope – Supporting Healthy Lives on Kentucky Farms.” The endeavor focuses strategies on the mental

and physical health of agricultural producers by increasing awareness of the issue, normalizing the discussion of the topic, reducing the stigma of seeking help, and showing farmer appreciation.

A total of \$75,000 of the overall funds is available for small grants, up to \$5,000 each, to be awarded to create and conduct local farmer-appreciation projects. The awarded projects will support community-based farmer appreciation programs that will promote the many contributions of farmer and their families and to appreciate the various challenges farmers face working in agriculture.

Applications are due to agr.marketing@ky.gov by Dec. 10, 2021. Groups interested in applying for a grant, can find more information and the documents to apply at <https://www.kyagr.com/marketing/farmer-appreciation-grant.html>.

The proposed projects will be reviewed by a committee with direct knowledge of the proposed program content through personal operations, education and/or on-the-job field experience, and select the recipients.



Karen Langford, Plant Manager

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By Teresa Pearson
KPI Staff

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Kentucky takes center stage on no-till's 60th anniversary

By Katie Pratt

Lexington, Ky., - No-till, Kentucky farmers and the University of Kentucky have been inextricably linked from the very beginning. In 2022, farmers across the United States will come to Louisville to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Christian County farmer Harry Young's first commercial no-till planting during the National No-Tillage Conference.

The conference is Jan. 4-7, and this is only the second time the conference has been in Kentucky in its 30-year history.

"My dad and UK agronomist Shirley Phillips set out to transform farming across the U.S. and the world into a completely different kind of agriculture," said John Young, son of the late Harry Young. "He

wanted to spread the idea to more and more farmers."

Young said his father was an avid conservationist and was sold on the idea of no-tillage after a trip to Dixon Springs, Illinois led by Reeves Davie, who was the county's agriculture agent with the UK Cooperative Extension Service.

No-till research had been going on for some time before Young's first crop but was largely unsuccessful due to weed control issues. Young used herbicides 2, 4-D and atrazine for weed control and used a modified mule-drawn, two-row planter that he pulled behind a small tractor to put the first crop in the ground.

After his first crop was successful, Phillips set up research plots on Young's farm and Davie scheduled a field day to show

others. The movement to a better way of farming had begun.

No-till was a practice Kentucky producers desperately needed. At the time Harry Young was experimenting with no-tillage, Kentucky farmers were struggling with grain crop production. Soil erosion, caused by conventional tillage on the state's rolling topography, was destroying the state's soils.

"Kentucky was headed for a situation that would have put us out of crop production," said Lloyd Murdock, professor emeritus in the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. "Using no-till, you stop most of the soil erosion. It allowed our farmers the opportunity to continue to be competitive in the national market."

Murdock has conducted no-

till research since joining the UK faculty as a soil scientist in 1970. He was recognized by No-Till Farmer Magazine as a No-till Innovator in 2015. He has extensively researched no-tillage including nitrogen applications, the movement of lime in the soil profile, soil pH problems and compaction. He led a group of UK researchers that developed practices that made no-till wheat possible.

No-tillage has grown dramatically in the past 60 years since Young's first plot of 0.7 acres of corn. According to the 2017 agriculture census, more than 104 million U.S. acres are in no-till production.

Frank Lessiter, editor of No-Till Farmer and founder of the National No-Tillage Conference,

see *NO-TILL* page 11

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NO-TILL*continued from page 10*

remembers traveling to Kentucky to visit with Harry Young during the early days of no-till.

“Harry was very open to sharing what he found with his very public no-till plots, and what worked and what didn’t,” Lessiter said.

“He and the University of Kentucky, led by Shirley Phillips, were instrumental in proving and mapping out the no-till practice so others could follow. The University of Kentucky was known worldwide for its no-till expertise.”

The Youngs’ farming operation, which includes John and his son Alexander, continues today in Christian County. They practice 100% no-till on all the acreage they farm. They will

be joined by John Young’s other son Jeffrey, assistant professor for agribusiness economics at Murray State University, as featured speakers during the national conference.

The conference will also feature a No-Till History Museum that commemorates the first commercial no-till planting on Young Farms and features many other Kentucky no-till milestones.

More information on the National No-Tillage Conference is available on No-Till Farmer’s website <https://www.no-tillfarmer.com/nntc>. Individuals who register for the conference by Nov. 15 can use the promo code NOTILLUK to receive a conference discount.

UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, through its land-grant mission, reaches across the commonwealth with teaching, research and extension to enhance the lives of Kentuckians.



Christian County farmers John and Alexander Young stand in front of the historical marker where Harry Young planted his first commercial crop of no-till corn.

Photo courtesy of No-Till Farmer

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Solar farms are coming to the area

By Teresa Pearson
KPI Staff

According to reports, there will be a solar farm in McCracken County.

The McCracken County Board of Adjustments has approved a conditional use permit for McCracken County Solar. The board had previously voted against the application. Several people spoke during a recent board meeting, including a spokesperson from McCracken County Solar and from Big River Electric Corporation.

McCracken County residents also spoke, some in favor of and others against the approval of the permit.

Those in favor talked about the economic benefits, while those against it said there are environmental concerns and possible issues with the reduction of property value.

Jim Grief, farmer who is in favor of the project, said, "Benefits far outweigh the negative. And people are worried about the environmental effects, but it's actually better for the

environment." Others present disagreed with him.

McCracken County Judge Executive Craig Clymer and Mayor George Bray were also at the meeting.

Both said they support the project because of the economic benefits to the area.

Bringing a solar farm to McCracken County directly affects some large scale economic development projects that could be on the way.

"We have some very large projects that are looking at coming to McCracken County," McCracken County Judge Executive Craig Clymer said.

"We're strong contenders to locating one of them to McCracken County and it will bring a lot of good paying jobs."

Judge-Exec. Clymer stated the measure would protect land that industries might hope to develop, eventually bringing jobs to the county, due to close proximity to transportation via Barkley Regional Airport, railroads, and the Ohio River. Other solar farms are being planned and discussed in other counties around the area.

UK Ag Equine programs students give back to equine community during second annual Equine Week of Service

By Holly Wiemers

Lexington, Ky.,-The University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment's Equine Programs held its second annual Equine Week of Service Oct. 4-9.

Students in the equine leadership program called Wildcat Wranglers created and implemented the Week of Service to give students a chance to give back to the equine industry, an especially important need during the isolation of the pandemic. The Wranglers coordinated volunteers and promoted the service event via social media.

"We had an amazing turnout during the week, with more than 250 shifts being filled and just over 500 hours of time given," said Nick D'Amore, a senior equine major and Wildcat Wrangler who headed up the group's volunteer and outreach committee. "We couldn't be happier, given the success of the event last year, to be able to follow that up and be just as well received this year. It was very rewarding for everyone involved."

The Week of Service helped seven Lexington-area equine organizations, including the African Cemetery No. 2, Kentucky Riding for Hope, Kentucky Equine Adoption Center, Kentucky Horse Park and Mounted Police, Old Friends and Our Mims Retirement Haven.

"My favorite part about the UK Equine Week of Service is seeing how the community comes together. Students, alumni, faculty and staff, and anyone else who participates, has an opportunity to work alongside each other to help create a lasting impact on the organizations," said Margaret Babiarz, an equine senior and head of the marketing and communications group for the week. "Planning the UK Equine Week of Service allowed me to build upon invaluable skills like networking, leadership and communication."

According to Kristen Wilson,

academic coordinator in UK Ag Equine Programs and advisor of the Wildcat Wranglers, the event was successful and hopefully helped equine organizations in their day-to-day functions.

"The UK Equine Week of Service is a great opportunity for our students, faculty, staff and alumni to come together to give back to the local equine industry, and to get away from the classroom and network."

James MacLeod, director of UK Ag Equine Programs, echoed her sentiments, adding that he is glad it has become an annual tradition.

"We can all be proud of everything the students have accomplished. The broad participation and enthusiasm are wonderful, with both the host organizations and the volunteers living the commitment to be the change you wish to see in the world," MacLeod said.

"The leadership role that the Wildcat Wrangler equine ambassador team takes on to plan, coordinate and implement this event is impressive, teaching them many skills that will help them into their future career goals," Wilson said.

This event was also supported by local industry organizations, including Central Equipment for their sponsorship of the bulb planting project at African Cemetery No. 2. Through their generosity, the project was able to plant different flowering bulbs highlighting and memorializing the equine industry horsemen buried there. Each type of bulb planted will correspond to the various equine occupations represented in the cemetery.

To see recaps from the week, visit UK Ag Equine Programs' Instagram or Facebook pages or learn more at <https://equine.ca.uky.edu/>.

UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, through its land-grant mission, reaches across the commonwealth with teaching, research and extension to enhance the lives of Kentuckians.



Wildcat Wranglers and UK equine science and management majors Charles Churchill, a senior, and Olivia Bryant, a junior, were among the group of students that helped plant bulbs at African Cemetery No. 2 as part of the Equine Week of Service.

Photo courtesy of the Wildcat Wranglers

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God said, "I need somebody willing to get up before dawn, milk cows, work all day in the fields, milk cows again, eat supper and then go to town and stay past midnight at a meeting of the school board." So God made a farmer.

"I need somebody with arms strong enough to rustle a calf and yet gentle enough to deliver his own grandchild. Somebody to call hogs, tame cantankerous machinery, come home hungry, have to wait lunch until his wife's done feeding visiting ladies and tell the ladies to be sure and come back real soon -- and mean it." So God made a farmer.

God said, "I need somebody willing to sit up all night with a newborn colt. And watch it die. Then dry his eyes and say, 'Maybe next year.' I need somebody who can shape an ax handle from a persimmon sprout, shoe a horse with a hunk of car tire, who can make harness out of haywire, feed sacks and shoe

Continued on Page 15

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Continued from Page 14

scraps. And who, planting time and harvest season, will finish his forty-hour week by Tuesday noon, then, pain'n from 'tractor back,' put in another seventy-two hours." So God made a farmer.

God had to have somebody willing to ride the ruts at double speed to get the hay in ahead of the rain clouds and yet stop in mid-field and race to help when he sees the first smoke from a neighbor's place. So God made a farmer.

God said, "I need somebody strong enough to clear trees and heave bails, yet gentle enough to tame lambs and wean pigs and tend the pink-combed pullets, who will stop his mower for an hour to splint the broken leg of a meadow lark. It had to be somebody who'd plow deep and straight and not cut corners. Somebody to seed, weed, feed, breed and rake and disc and plow and plant and tie the fleece and strain the milk and replenish the self-feeder and finish a hard week's work with a five-mile drive to church.

"Somebody who'd bale a family together with the soft strong bonds of sharing, who would laugh and then sigh, and then reply, with smiling eyes, when his son says he wants to spend his life 'doing what dad does.'" So God made a farmer.

Thank You, Farmers!

By Paul Harvey
1978

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Thanksgiving Side Dishes



Green bean casserole is the quintessential Thanksgiving side.

Classic Green Bean Casserole

INGREDIENTS

1 lb. green beans, trimmed
6 tbsp. butter, divided
1 onion, sliced into half moons
8 oz. sliced mushrooms
Kosher salt
Freshly ground black pepper
2 cloves garlic, minced
1/4 c. all-purpose flour
3 c. whole milk
1 1/2 c. French's fried onions

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350°. Prepare an ice bath: In a large pot of boiling water, add green beans and cook until bright green, about 6 minutes. With a slotted spoon or tongs, quickly transfer green beans to ice bath to cool, then drain and transfer to a large bowl.

In a large ovenproof skillet over medium heat, melt 2 tablespoons butter. Add onion and cook, stirring occasionally, until tender, about 5 minutes. Add mushrooms and season with salt and pepper. Cook, stirring often, until mushrooms are golden, about 5 minutes more. Stir in garlic and cook until fragrant, 1 minute, then transfer mixture to green bean bowl.

In same skillet over medium heat, melt remaining 4 tablespoons butter. Whisk in flour and cook until golden, about 2 minutes. Gradually whisk in milk and season with salt and pepper. Bring to a simmer and cook until thickened, about 4 minutes. Remove from heat, then add green bean mixture and toss until even combined.

Bake until warmed through and bubbling, about 30 minutes.

Top with fried onions and bake 5 minutes more.



Perfect Mashed Potatoes

INGREDIENTS

3 lb. mixed potatoes, such as russets & Yukon Golds
Kosher salt

1/2 c. (1 stick) butter, plus 2 tablespoons for garnish

1/2 c. milk
1/2 c. sour cream
Freshly ground black pepper

DIRECTIONS

In a large pot, cover potatoes with water and add a generous pinch of salt. Bring to a boil and cook until totally soft, 16 to 18 minutes. Drain and return potatoes to pot.

Use a potato masher to mash potatoes until smooth.

Meanwhile, in a small saucepan, melt butter and milk until warm.

Pour over warm milk-butter mixture and stir until completely combined and creamy. Add sour cream and stir until combined.

Season mashed potatoes generously with salt and pepper.

Transfer potatoes to a serving bowl and top with remaining two tablespoons butter. Season with more pepper before serving.



Glazed Green Beans

DIRECTIONS

INGREDIENTS

1 tsp. olive oil
1 shallot, finely chopped
1 1/2 c. dry sherry wine
1/2 c. sherry vinegar
2 tbsp. brown sugar
1 tbsp. cold unsalted butter
1 lb. green beans, blanched
Kosher salt and pepper

Heat olive oil in a medium saucepan on medium. Add shallot and cook until tender, 4 to 5 minutes.

Add sherry wine, vinegar, and brown sugar and simmer until syrupy and reduced by 1/2, 15 to 20 minutes.

Whisk in butter, then toss with green beans and 1/2 teaspoon each salt and pepper.

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UK-led project fosters a stronger, connected local food system

By: Katie Pratt

Lexington, Ky.- A University of Kentucky-led research project has helped local and regional food systems become more connected and resilient.

Tim Woods, UK agricultural economist, is a co-lead researcher on a project designed to study the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on local and regional food systems. The project was funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service and included researchers from Colorado State University and Penn State.

The researchers studied pandemic-related impacts to food systems including changes in consumer purchasing behaviors, pandemic responses of different food system sectors, innovations and agency support. The study brought together 17 national communities of practice working with local food systems to evaluate COVID-19 impacts, best practices and innovations, consumer responses and broad local food system development strategies. Prior to this study, no uniform communications platform existed for members from different sectors of local food systems, their potential marketing outlets and government agencies, who support them.

"As our nation continues to build back better, the Local Food Response to COVID-19 project has shown that local and regional food systems are key to healthy communities," said Melissa Bailey, acting deputy administrator for the USDA AMS Transportation and Marketing Program. "Thanks to this network of regional leaders, USDA has been able to partner with researchers and practitioners to understand and advance resilient food systems. Relationships within communities are critical to



Researchers from UK, Colorado State University and Penn State studied the ways local food system sectors were impacted by COVID-19.

Photo by Steve Patton, UK agricultural communications

developing innovative approaches to diverse challenges like nutrition security and marketing channels. We are excited to continue supporting this work and strengthen these relationships in the next phase of this project."

As the pandemic upended everyday life, some sectors of local and regional food systems struggled while others thrived. For example, community-supported agriculture programs and agritourism ventures saw a huge surge in interest, while programs that provided farm-fresh food to schools and restaurants suffered as many of schools and businesses closed for periods at a time due to safety measures.

This project assisted food systems by identifying the unique needs of each sector, finding ways to connect producers to

consumers and connecting producers with available assistance.

"The disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic brought local food system sectors together to share ideas, programs, innovations and impacts to keep the system resilient," said Woods, extension professor in the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. "We now have a network of networks that allow these different sectors and communities of practice to come together on a more regular basis to talk about issues and policies."

Due to the success of this project, the USDA AMS provided a second round of funding to the researchers. Scientists at Colorado State University will serve as the lead on this round of funding, working with UK partners and national

communities of practice to develop strategies for local food system resilience and to strengthen systems for gathering data that reflect performance in this market across the country.

Funding for "Covid 19: Local and Regional Food Systems Covid 19 Rapid Response" was made possible by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service through grant AM200200XXXXC001. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the USDA.

UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, through its land-grant mission, reaches across the commonwealth with teaching, research and extension to enhance the lives of Kentuckians.

New soybean disease in Graves Co. could impact KY yields

Staff report

Kentucky's first case of red crown rot emerged in mid-September, according to the University of Kentucky Plant Disease Diagnostic Lab in Princeton. Based on the stage of the current growing season, the disease likely will have its most serious impact on double-crop soybeans, according to plant pathologist Carl Bradley of the UK College of Agriculture, Food, and Environment.

An agronomist recently located and identified the disease in a few Graves County soybean fields. He contacted UK, which confirmed the disease.

Bradley confirmed the disease has caused noticeable damage in the double-crop fields recently investigated. He expects those fields will suffer yield losses and it's probably too late for growers to observe red crown rot symptoms in full-season soybeans, since those fields are nearing harvest.

Calonectria ilicicola is the fungus that causes red crown rot. It infects soybean at their roots, causing root rot and dark red discoloration on the stem

nearest to the soil. On the lower stem and root, red reproductive structures and white fungal growth often appear. Additionally, the fungus produces a toxin, which can accumulate in the leaves. It thereby causes leaf tissue to turn yellow and die, even as the veins in the leaf remain green.

Louisiana and Mississippi soybean producers have battled the disease for years. In that corner of the deep South, the disease has caused yield losses from one-quarter of the crop to nearly one-third. It also emerged in Illinois in 2018.

UK's Bradley believes conducting further research should reveal best practices concerning the disease in Kentucky. He hopes determine yield losses in more of the fields where red crown rot was discovered.

As with so many aspects of farming, there's both good news and bad news. The bad news is that the fungus can survive in soil for years. The good news is that producers in southern states successfully have managed the disease by rotating crops away from soybeans, planting less-susceptible varieties and

delaying planting in infected fields.

Kentucky producers who suspect red crown rot in their fields are asked to contact their county agriculture and natural resources agent with the UK Cooperative Extension Service. Agents

can help in submitting samples for diagnosis at the UK Plant Disease Diagnostic labs in Princeton or Lexington.

To learn more, log on to: <https://kentuckypestnews.wordpress.com/>.



Red crown rot symptoms in soybean stems, roots, and leaves are pictured here from Graves County. University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment plant pathologist Carl Bradley recently brought the malady to the attention of the agriculture community throughout Kentucky.

Photo courtesy of Carl Bradley, UK



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Floods can affect your well water's well-being

(NAPSI)—For over a million families, farmers and business owners, seeing floodwaters receding may just be the beginning of their troubles—but it doesn't have to be.

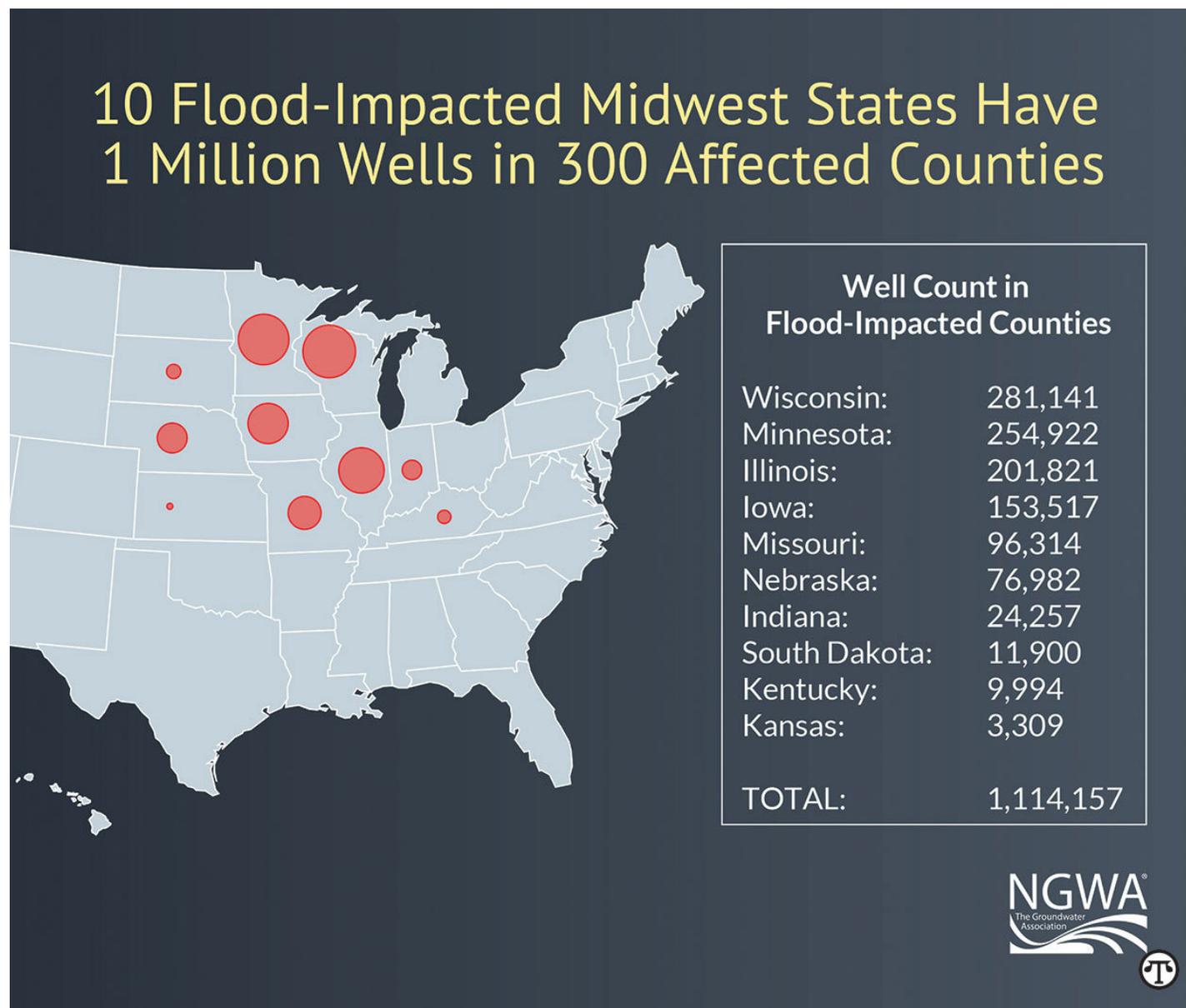
The Problem

The National Ground Water Association (NGWA)—a not-for-profit professional society and trade association—says people who have inground wells in areas affected by flooding need to watch for contaminated water.

This is particularly likely to be a problem in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota, Wisconsin and any place with broad, sand and gravel valleys and glaciated rolling countryside. These places could be standing in water for several days, risking contamination if the wells aren't properly maintained. Exposure to E. coli, coliform and other pathogenic microbes from human and animal fecal matter in floodwaters is a common health concern following a major flooding event. Floodwater can also carry other contaminants.

“Even slight flooding around a well can potentially carry contaminated water to the wellhead,” explained Chuck Job, NGWA regulatory affairs manager, “and if the wellhead is cracked or faulty in any way, the well and water system could be compromised.”

Adds Bill Alley, NGWA science director, as temperatures rise, well owners should continue to monitor and test their systems. “While frozen ground may not be saturated from storm water, warmer weather may allow floodwaters to infiltrate and contaminate subsurface water during a thaw,” he said.



Similarly, hundreds of thousands of wells were potentially affected during the Atlantic hurricane season in places including North Carolina, Georgia, South Carolina, Florida, Virginia and Alabama.

What To Do

Following a flood, disinfection and wellhead repair may be

common needs among well owners. Well relocation and elevation may also be useful and protective. As always, NGWA recommends water well system professionals be used to assess and service wells.

Learn More

The association also has other resources that may help when

dealing with flooded water wells. These include the best-suggested-practice “Residential Water Well Disinfection Following a Flood Event: Procedures for Water Well System Professionals” and a Water Well Journal article titled “Responding to Flooded Wells.”

You can find these and more at www.WellOwner.org.

Tips for safer farming

Tractor accidents, grain entrapment and injuries from ornery livestock are just some of the dangers agricultural workers face every day. In fact, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health says agriculture is one of the most hazardous industries in the United States.

In 2016, the agricultural industry had a rate of 21.4 deaths per 100,000 workers, and each day agricultural workers experienced 100 non-fatal, lost-work-time injuries.

Agricultural dangers are not limited to North America. In Ireland, farm accidents have increased by 13 percent in the last five years and by 31 percent in the last decade, according to a national survey of farm accidents conducted by the Teagasc National Farm Survey. Furthermore, 97 percent of all farm accident victims required medical treatment.

Farms are dangerous places, and while carelessness can and does contribute to many incidents, accidents also take place during routine, seemingly safe activities. These farm safety guidelines can help lower the risk of injuries.

- *Know farm equipment.* Read and follow all instructions in the equipment operation manuals. In addition, attend local farm safety workshops to learn more about specific equipment and products.

- *Conduct routine safety checks.* Look around buildings and grounds for obvious hazards, such as fire hazards and hazardous materials, including farm chemicals that are not stored correctly.

- *Practice cleanliness.* Maintain clean and neat work areas with tools stored properly and out of the way after use.

- *Be mindful of your clothing and hair.* Many accidents involve

a power take-off system, or PTO, which is a common component of large rotary mowers, tractors and forage choppers. Clothing can easily get caught in an engaged but unguarded PTO stub. It's easy for laces or coveralls to become wrapped around a spinning stub shaft. The PTO driveline and other protrusion points also can be dangerous if people do not pay attention.

- *Use rollover protection structures.* ROPS can be used on tractors and other equipment to prevent injuries. In addition, wear seat belts and employ other safety equipment as advised.

- *Avoid extra passengers.* It can be tempting to take the kids for a spin, but do not allow additional passengers to ride on agricultural equipment.

- *Exercise caution when handling chemicals.* Take extra precautions

when handling any chemicals, including pesticides.

- *Wear protective gear.* Wear appropriate gear and equipment as outlined by NIOSH or the Mine Safety and Health Administration. Make sure the skin, feet, ears, eyes, and hands are protected at all times.

- *Employ lock out/tag out control.* This is a process where one can work on equipment only after every energy source has been controlled, such as hydraulic, pneumatic, mechanical, and electrical, according to Rural Mutual Insurance Company. Turning off equipment and using certain controls or locks on devices can prevent equipment from restarting before it is safe to do so.

Farm safety should be a priority for owners, their families and employees so that agricultural injuries can be reduced.



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Investing in Growth

A Message from American Farm Mortgage & Financial Services



By: Alan Hoskins,
PRESIDENT AND
NATIONAL DIRECTOR
OF SALES
AMERICAN FARM
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In May of this year, my wife Debbie and

I experienced the joy of seeing our youngest child, Sydney, graduate from high school. She is now attending Purdue University and is very much enjoying the opportunity to increase her formal education in the field of biochemistry. It is also allowing her to be exposed to a group of people who have a similar field of interest and learn from the exchanging of thoughts and ideas with other students. I hope this is merely the next step in a lifelong educational process from which she will continue to grow and experience joy in finding ways

to solve problems and help others through her chosen vocation.

How does this relate to farmers and ranchers? Many producers will be using their 2021 profits to upgrade machinery and equipment, irrigation systems, grain systems, etc. Others may make land purchases or improve their homes. If you plan to utilize monies as outlined above, how many dollars will you invest in growing your knowledge level? There are many educational opportunities to help both grain and livestock producers increase their production skills. Are you content with your business acumen? If not, look for educational classes to help you learn more about the financial performance of your operation. What about your skills in managing people? As the market for labor continues to become more competitive, producers who understand how to create a better work environment should expect to experience lower employee turnover. Whether its increased production,

improved financial management or creating a better work environment, these should all translate to higher profits.

If you have hired workers, what volume of 2021 monies will your operation devote to making them more valuable by improving their education? There is an old business axiom that says "what if I invest money in my employees and they leave"? I believe the best answer to that is still, what if you don't help them improve and they stay? What competitive advantages could your operation develop if you offered employees the opportunity to grow their formal knowledge? How could their growth allow you more time to perform other tasks on your farm or ranch learned from your educational investment? An additional benefit to your employees of increased knowledge is their self-satisfaction. Most everyone feels a true sense of appreciation and increased contentment with their job when

employers make tangible investments to help them expand their knowledge and skills.

An observation I have made over time is many people come to a greater appreciation of education as they move through their professional life. As the maturity process occurs, most will see the true privilege knowledge and learning can offer. The passage of time may provide a "rear-view" perspective of life's experiences that enables us to see the true loss of educational opportunities being forgone at earlier points in our journey. It is my firm belief we all should be "life-long learners" in many aspects of our lives. If you are looking for competitive advantages in today's economic marketplace, what is the downside to investing in increased knowledge for both you and your people? In contrast, what is the downside of your competitors increasing their knowledge while you and your people maintain the status quo?



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Kentucky Coal Association names Tucker Davis as new president

LEXINGTON, KY— After an extensive search, the Kentucky Coal Association has named Tucker Davis as its incoming President. Davis, a former Trump Administration official at the U.S. Department of the Interior, is a native of the Appalachian coalfields and brings over a decade of experience in public affairs, public policy and issue advocacy.

“For a kid that grew up in the head of a holler, it is a dream come true to be able to represent an industry that has been a driving force of prosperity not just in the Commonwealth, but all around the world,” said Davis. “I am honored

and humbled to lead the Kentucky Coal Association and look forward to working with policymakers and community leaders in ensuring a prosperous, productive future for our miners and our industry.”

“Tucker has a passion for Kentucky coal and Kentucky coal miners, and understands the importance of coal in providing low-cost, reliable and resilient energy,” said KCA Chairman Heath Lovell. “We are very excited to have someone with his deep industry knowledge and proven track record lead our organization into the future.”

Prior to joining KCA, Davis

served as a political appointee in the Trump Administration at the U.S. Department of the Interior and most recently managed Winsome Sears’ successful campaign for Lt. Governor of Virginia. Davis has also worked for several issue advocacy organizations including Americans for Prosperity and the National Mining Association’s Count on Coal Campaign. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism from Radford University and currently serves on the Board of Trustees of the Appalachian School of Law in his hometown of Grundy, VA.



Tucker Davis

“We are very excited to have someone with his deep industry knowledge and proven track record lead our organization into the future.”

- KCA CHAIRMAN HEATH LOVELL



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Todd Austin

Four ways to have a festive and safe holiday season

By the We Can Do This COVID-19 Public Education Campaign

(NAPSI)—Entering the second holiday season of the COVID-19 pandemic, Kentuckians are eager to reconnect with family and friends and return to treasured holiday traditions. Some simple steps can keep family and friends healthy through their fall and winter celebrations.

“Every family has unique traditions and they are eager to enjoy time with loved ones this year, especially if they skipped or changed their holiday plans due to COVID-19 in 2020,” said Dr. Kristina Bryant, pediatric infectious disease specialist at Norton Children’s Infectious Diseases and hospital epidemiologist at Norton Children’s Hospital in Louisville.

“With a little care and planning, it is possible to enjoy these special holiday traditions while making sure everyone stays healthy.”

As generations gather to celebrate, the No. 1 way to avoid spreading COVID-19, including to grandparents, young children and others who may be vulnerable, is to make sure everyone who is eligible gets vaccinated against COVID-19. Children ages 5-11 are the most recent group eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine. Learn more at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.

People can take these additional steps to ensure they safely enjoy family, friends and special connections they may have missed recently, even as people from different households and different parts of the country gather.

Assess travel plans. Consider delaying travel until you’re fully

vaccinated. Remember, masks that cover your nose and mouth are required for everyone on planes, buses, trains and other public transportation. If you’re unvaccinated, plan to get tested one to three days before your trip within the United States and three to five days after you return. Plan to self-quarantine for seven days, even if the test is negative. If you travel by car, be aware that you and your travel companions could be exposed to the virus on stops for gas, food and bathroom breaks. Remember to wear a mask, wash your hands frequently and maintain social distancing at these locations. If traveling internationally, especially to places where vaccination rates are low and COVID-19 is spreading, visit the CDC’s website for recommendations on international

travel.

Get tested. If you’ve been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19, or if you’re not feeling well before the holidays, especially if you have COVID-19 symptoms, get tested. Tests are widely available at pharmacies and doctors’ offices. Getting tested can provide security, knowing that you won’t infect your friends and relatives and everyone can enjoy a stress-free holiday. If in doubt, consider staying home and joining festivities virtually. This will allow you to enjoy the fun while staying safe.

Pay attention to ventilation. When celebrating with your families, try to avoid crowded, poorly ventilated spaces. Consider moving celebrations

see *HOLIDAY* page 27

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HOLIDAY

continued from page 27

outdoors, especially if you are planning a large get-together. Have a cookout or roast marshmallows. If you attend family festivities indoors where some guests may not be vaccinated, wear a well-fitting mask over your nose and mouth, remembering that you should never put a mask on a child under the age of 2. The CDC also recommends mask-wearing in public indoor settings regardless of vaccination status.

Consider your health status. If you or someone in your household has a health condition or someone is taking medications that weaken the immune system, you should take extra precautions, even if you are fully vaccinated. The CDC recommends that those with weakened immune systems

follow similar guidelines for unvaccinated people, like such as mask-wearing and social distancing.

The winter holidays are a time to reconnect and celebrate with

people we care about. There are many ways to make this year's festivities a time to remember. Following these safety measures can allow Kentuckians to gather together and practice traditions

that make the holidays so special. Safe practices are key and the most effective way to ensure a joyful holiday is to get vaccinated.

For more information and to find a vaccine, visit www.vaccines.gov.



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Kentucky Soybean Board marks 800 Biodiesel Course graduates

Biodiesel is an important use for soybean oil. So important, in fact, that studies show this renewable, sustainable advanced biofuel contributes 13 percent to the selling price of every bushel of soybeans that farmers sell here in the United States. For reference, Kentucky soybean farmers grew 101,200,000 bushels in 2020.

Through an online course developed by the National Biodiesel Board, the Kentucky Soybean Board has been educating diesel tech students about soy biodiesel since 2013, and this semester marks a major milestone. “I can’t believe we have had 800 people – mostly students, and also their teachers – take this course,” said Keith Tapp, a farmer-leader from Sebree who serves as Kentucky’s representative to the National Biodiesel Board. “I remember when soy biodiesel first got started. We were growing soybeans for the meal to feed livestock and poultry, and the oil was pretty much a byproduct. The United Soybean Board invested farmer checkoff dollars into finding a practical use for the oil, and now here we are, 30 years later, still benefitting from a great return on that investment.” Tapp said that the renewable, sustainable nature of biodiesel, along with its cleaner-burning nature, is right in line with the attention that is currently being paid to environmental concerns. He added that because of the versatile nature of soybean oil and the push by manufacturers to transition from petroleum

oil to more sustainable inputs, demand for soybean oil has skyrocketed.

“These students are the fleet managers and service advisors of the future,” he said, “and many of them are already turning wrenches in addition to attending classes. It’s important that they know about biodiesel and the benefits it can bring, both to a diesel engine and to the environment.” Tapp recently presented certificates and flashlights to students at both Gateway Community and Technical Collage and Ashland Community and Technical College. He thinks it’s important that the students hear directly from a farmer whenever possible. “Our staff knows a lot about biodiesel, and they do a great job talking about it,” Tapp said. “But there is something about being able to relate biodiesel back to my farm, and talk about how I use it in my farm equipment, and how much money biodiesel contributes to my operation’s bottom line that really drives the point home.”

The program is offered annually to diesel technician programs in the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, and farmer-leaders give the presentations whenever possible. In addition to framed certificates and logo flashlights, the Board also furnishes each program that has the required number of students complete the course with a passing grade a check made out to Snap-On Tools so that they can purchase tools to augment their programs.



Kentucky soybean farmer Keith Tapp (standing) answered questions about biodiesel at Gateway Community and Technical College.

Photo submitted



Kentucky soybean farmer Keith Tapp (left) presented certificates to diesel tech students at Ashland Community and Technical College. At right is instructor Shannon McCarty, whose classes have completed the biodiesel training course since its inception in 2013.

Photo submitted

UK KATS to host Drone Pilot Certification Workshop

By Katie Pratt

Princeton, Ky., - The Kentucky Agriculture Training School will host its first Drone Pilot Certification

Workshop to help producers prepare to become a certified remote pilot with the Federal Aviation Administration.

The workshop is Dec. 20-21 at the University of Kentucky Research and Education Center in Princeton.

“The KATS program has received numerous requests for unmanned aerial systems (i.e. drones) training,” said Josh McGrath, soil scientist in the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. “In response, we have worked with professionals to develop focused training on precision ag topics. This initial event will prepare attendees for the Part 107 Remote Pilot Certificate

test. We will be following up with training focused on applied field techniques and uses for aerial image acquisition and analysis.”

Drones have many potential applications in agricultural production systems and becoming a FAA certified remote pilot is the only legal way a person can operate a drone for commercial use. During the intensive, two-day training, Mandy Briggs, assistant chief flight instructor with Parkland College’s Institute of Aviation, will help participants get the skills they need to receive their certification. Briggs’ students have an over 99% success rate on the exam.

The cost to attend the UK workshop is \$400. Certified Crop Advisors will receive 12 continuing education units in precision agriculture for completing the workshop.

After the training, participants will take their certification exam at an FAA testing center on Dec. 22 or Dec. 23. The exam costs an additional \$175 and is due when the exam is scheduled.

Space is limited. Individuals who wish to register for the workshop, should contact Lori Rogers, KATS coordinator, at lori.rogers@uky.edu or 270-365-7541, ext. 21317.

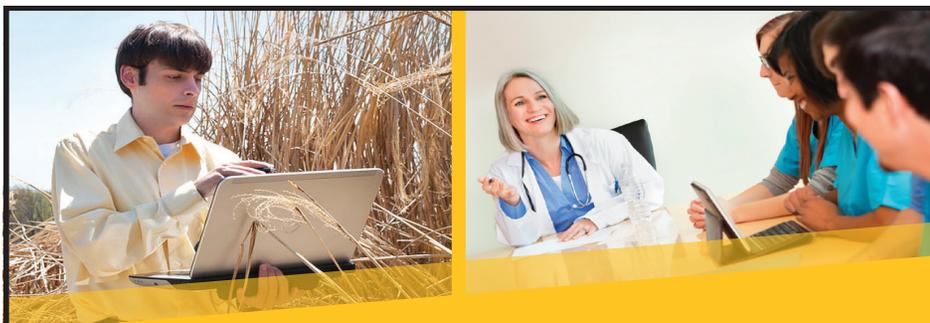
More information about the requirements for the FAA exam is available at https://www.faa.gov/uas/commercial_operators/become_a_drone_pilot/.

UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, through its land-grant mission, reaches across the commonwealth with teaching, research and extension to enhance the lives of Kentuckians.



The workshop will help participants prepare to become FAA-certified remote pilots.

Photo by Matt Barton, UK agricultural communications.



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Turkey producers benefiting from higher prices this year

(AP) — Minnesota farmers who grow about 45 million turkeys annually will benefit from higher prices this year, according to agriculture experts.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture says the price of turkeys has steadily increased as demand has risen following a year in which there were fewer family gatherings and restaurant traffic was down due to the coronavirus pandemic.

“USDA is actually predicting this year to be a record high price for turkeys,” said Tim Petry, a livestock marketing economist with the North Dakota State University Extension Service. “From a price standpoint, these are the best prices they’ve seen for a number of years. So you know, that’s good news for producers.”

The good news on prices is tempered somewhat by rising costs to raise the birds on more than 500

farms in Minnesota, Minnesota Public Radio News reported.

Higher prices for corn and soybeans to feed the turkeys is cutting in to profits, growers said.

“Those are our two biggest ingredients and those prices were substantially higher than last year or past years,” said Jessica Westbrook, the president of the Minnesota Turkey Growers Association. “Consumers will see the increase, but the producer doesn’t necessarily get to take that home. We just have to pay more to grow the turkeys.”

While turkey prices are up 17 cents a pound from last year, Petry said consumers are still likely to find bargains as many stores sell turkeys below cost.

“A lot of times they do loss leader turkeys to lure customers in to buy the more expensive markup items that go along with the meal,” he said.

2022 KY Dept. of Ag internship application period now open

FRANKFORT – Agriculture Commissioner Dr. Ryan Quarles encourages Kentucky college students seeking a career in agriculture or government to apply for positions in the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's (KDA's) internship program for the 2022 summer.

"Our KDA interns gain the unique opportunity to work alongside department employees and serve the citizens of the commonwealth," Commissioner Quarles said. "Our past interns used their experiences at the department to launch careers in agriculture or an ag-related field. If you are a college student with an interest in an agricultural career, we encourage you to apply."

In addition to agriculture, KDA interns may work in education, computer science, marketing, communications, pre-law, and other fields. Internships, dependent upon workplace situations due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, will run from June to August.

Applicants must be currently enrolled in a college, university, or vocational-technical program. Applicants can be enrolled in either undergraduate or graduate school.

To apply, download and complete the application on the KDA's website at kyagr.com/marketing/internship-program.html. Applicants must provide a résumé, cover letter, and three references. Applications and attachments must be emailed to Mark.White@ky.gov or mailed to:

Mark White
Division of Human Resources
Kentucky Department of
Agriculture
107 Corporate Drive
Frankfort, KY 40601

Applications must be postmarked no later than Dec. 13.

For more information, go to kyagr.com/marketing/internship-program.html or contact Mark White at (502) 782-0291 or Mark.White@ky.gov.

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