

# Gullar Clan The

SERVING GRAVES, FULTON & HICKMAN COUNTY SINCE 2004

### Political Officials Confirmed to Speak at Fancy Farm Picnic

By Kelsey Edwards KPI Editor

Several Kentucky Republicans who are running in the U.S. Senate primary have confirmed their attendance in the political speaking at this year's Fancy Farm Picnic. Daniel Cameron, the former Kentucky **Attorney General** along with Nate Morris a Lexington businessman and

U.S. Rep. Andy Barr have all confirmed that they will be speaking at the event. All three of these Republican candidates have thrown their hat in the ring for the U.S. Senate seat which will replace Mitch McConnell, due to McConnell not running for reelection in 2026. As of now, Pamela Stevenson of Louisville is the only Democratic

State Rep. candidate running in the Senate primary, however, she has confirmed whether she will be in attendance to speak at the Fancy Farm Picnic or not. As for Mitch McConnell, he has acknowledged the invitation, but has yet to confirm whether he will attend.

In addition to Daniel Cameron, Nate Morris, and Andy Barr, there are several other confirmed speakers which include: Kim Holloway–Republican State Rep; Jason Howell-Republican State Sen.; James Comer-Republican U.S. Rep. of the 1st Congressional District; John "Drew" Williams-Democratic candidate who is running for Kentucky's 1st Congressional District.; Russell

Coleman-Republican State Attorney General; and Jonathan Shell-Republican Agriculture Commissioner.

Those who have acknowledged that the invitation was received but have not confirmed whether they will speak or not include Allison Ball-Republican State Auditor and Michael Adams-Republican Secretary of State.

Several of the political officials who have not responded to invitations include Andy Beshear-Democratic Governor, Rand Paul-Republican U.S. Sen.; Jacqueline Coleman-Democratic Lt. Gov., and Mark Metcalf-Republican State Treasurer. As a reminder, the 145th St. Jerome Picnic in Fancy Farm, is set for Saturday, August 2, 2025.



### **FNB BANK ANNOUNCES FIFTH ANNUAL GLOWING GRAVES** HALLOWEEN PARADE

By Brooke Wiles, **FNB VP/Chief Marketing** 

(Mayfield, KY) FNB Bank (FNB) is excited to announce the fifth annual Glowing Graves Halloween Parade will take place in Mayfield on Saturday, October 25th at 6:30 PM. The parade is sponsored by FNB and the Mayfield Rotary Club.

"We've been amazed over the past four years by the continued growth in both parade entries and attendees at the Glowing Graves Halloween Parade," said Brooke Wiles, FNB's Chief Marketing Officer. "Mayfield-Graves County Tourism continues to do an outstanding job leading the Haunted Graves initiative each October. We're proud to support a tradition that brings our community together in such a fun and spirited way."

Registration to participate in the Glowing Graves

Halloween Parade is now underway. Businesses, nonprofits, civic groups, student groups, church groups, local farms and more are encouraged to participate and throw out candy, glow sticks, and other familyfriendly giveaways to community members. The **Registration Form** can be submitted online at: https:// growwithfnb.com/ glowing-graves/. The deadline to submit your completed Registration Form is Wednesday, October 15th, 2025.

The Glowing Graves Halloween Parade is part of a larger initiative that was introduced in Graves County in 2021 called Haunted Graves. The Haunted Graves endeavor will feature various Halloween and Fall-themed events in Mayfield and Graves County throughout the month of October. For parade

questions, please contact Brooke Wiles, Chief Marketing Officer at FNB, at 270-247-1758 or by email at brooke.wiles@ growwithfnb.com. For Haunted Graves details, please contact Jennifer Beck Walker, Mayfield-Graves Tourism Commission Executive Director, at 270-247-6106 or by e-mail at info@ visitmayfieldgraves.

FNB Bank, founded in 1875, is one of the oldest banks in the state of Kentucky with assets exceeding \$700 million. FNB ranks among the highest in the nation in the area of safety and soundness and has earned three consecutive 'Outstanding' ratings for the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) by the FDIC. FNB is a 2021-2024 'Best Places to Work in Kentucky' Small Business Category Award Winner. The bank currently has ten locations located in Graves, McCracken, Calloway, Trigg, and Marshall County. FNB is Member FDIC and an Equal Housing Lender.

# **Stolen Heavy Equipment Reported in Graves**

By Laurna Todd **KPI Writer** 

At approximately 11:30 AM today, a theft involving heavy equipment was reported in the 3400 block of KY Highway 301 in Graves County. According to the report, an unknown individual or individuals stole a Timberjack 450 Skidder, a large piece of logging machinery, from the area. Surveillance and witness accounts indicate that the suspect was operating a white semi-truck hauling a lowboy trailer. The direction of travel after the theft remains unknown at this time. The Timberjack 450 is a distinct piece of equipment used primarily in forestry operations, and its size and purpose make it difficult to move without drawing attention—authorities hope this will aid in locating it quickly. The Graves County Sheriff's Office is actively investigating the case and urges anyone who may have seen suspicious activity in the area, or who has information about the suspect or stolen equipment, to come forward. Tips can be reported by calling the Sheriff's Office at (270) 247-4501. Stolen heavy machinery like this can represent a significant financial loss and a





disruption to local business operations. Community assistance is critical in recovering the equipment and holding those responsible accountable.

The Sheriff's Office may release additional details as the investigation progresses. For now, the public is encouraged to remain vigilant and report any leads or sightings.

# **New MES Principal Attends First SBDM Meeting**

By Kelsey Edwards KPI Editor

The Mayfield Elementary School (MES) SiteBased **Decision Making** Council (SBDM) held its first meeting on Tuesday, July 8, 2025 with Jamie Trice, who is the new principal of MES. Jamie Trice assumed the new principal position role on July 1, 2025. She succeeds former MES principal Heather Dublin,

who was named the

district's supervisor of instruction in January. Trice's Career was launched by MES as she has been a teacher for 20 years now and has been nominated three times for the Distinguished Educator of the Year in the West Kentucky Community and Technical College (WKCTC) Regional Educators Awards. Trice also served as assistant principal of MES from 2015 to 2023 and then moved to the Middle School and served as the assistant principal there.

As she oversees the SBDM council as part of her principal responsibilities, Trice said that teachers and parents will primarily advocate and celebrate the success of students and the council will make vital policy decisions on curriculum, staffing, discipline and general school operations. With students currently on summer break, Trice

took the opportunity to outline new additions to the MES staff, who were hired in the past several months. Those include Kelsey Caldwell and Candice Cochrum who will serve as fourth grade teachers; Aolani Hernandez will serve as a special education instructor; Tiffany Whaley will serve as a STEM teacher; and Nicole Youngblood who will serve as the gifted and talented coordinator. Next, Trice

emphasized the district's registration dates for the forthcoming semester. Trice urged parents to make plans in order to ensure their children are properly enrolled for school. Online registration dates for grades K-12 for the 2025-2026 school year are open. If you already have a student enrolled in K-12 with the Mayfield Independent School district, you can find the "Online Registration" option

in the Infinite Campus Parent Portal app. If you do not currently have a student enrolled in K-12 with the Mayfield **Independent School** district, you will need to use the new student link to register. For more information and registration links, visit www.mayfield. kyschools.us. Parents, guardians or their guardians are the only people authorized to register a student.



#### Congratulations to Boot Barn on their new location and ribbon cutting

They offer a variety of western wear including boots, hats, clothing and much more! They are open seven days a week: Monday to Saturday from 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Boot Barn is located at 3330 James Sanders Blvd., Suite 100. For more information, view their website www.bootbarn.com

# Kentucky Great River Road receives Byway Enchancement Award



The Kentucky Great River Road has been recognized by the National Scenic Byway Foundation with a Byway Enhancement Award for recent improvements made to the byway corridor through the installation of new wayfinding signs!

This project was funded by ARPA funding provided by the Kentucky Department of Tourism and aimed to enhance navigation and visibility along the Kentucky Great River

Road for both residents and visitors.

We would like to thank Chastain Engineering for their planning and design work, Bluegrass Signs for fabricating the signs, and the Kentucky Department of Transportation for handling the installation.

This coordinated effort reflects the continued commitment to improving the Kentucky Great River Road for all who travel it!

# Lifeline Recover Center receives award

Lifeline Recovery Center has been awarded \$188,000 for a multi-phased workforce development program to equip clients for workforce readiness.

The grant, the center's first federal grant award, is one of 25 awarded by the Delta Regional Authority in its eight-state service area.

Lifeline executive director Ashley Miller said the grant will help clients, some of whom have been in jail or homeless, prepare to get jobs through GED, college and entrepreneurial classes on its men's and women's campuses.

"Lifeline is one of
the few residential
treatment programs
that require clients
to work," Miller said.

"This new workforce
readiness program
will provide the
classes they need to
get better jobs, so they
can become more
productive members of
our community after
completing treatment."

Lifeline helps clients seeking sobriety. The Delta River Authority promotes economic development in part of Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee.



# Kelly Channell named CEO of United Way of Western Kentucky

By United Way of Western Kentucky

The United Way of Western Kentucky Board of Directors is proud to announce Kelly Channell as its new Chief Executive Officer, effective immediately. Kelly, a lifelong resident of Western Kentucky, brings deep organizational knowledge, a heart for service and more

than two decades of professional and community leadership to the role.

Kelly served as Chief Operations Officer for United Way of Western Kentucky since 2021, where she helped guide the organization through a period of significant growth and regional expansion, including its transformation from a single-county focus to serving seven counties across Western Kentucky. In her time as COO, she led fundraising efforts, strengthened community partnerships, enhanced donor relations and improved internal operations across the organization.

A proud native of Ballard County, her commitment to the people and progress of Western Kentucky is both personal and longstanding. "Kelly's commitment goes far beyond her professional role—it's rooted in lived experience," said Oscar Harrell, President of the United Way of Western Kentucky Board of Directors. "She knows this region because she's grown up in it,

see UNITED WAY, page 3





Starts Friday July 25th

he Fantastic Four:

First Steps (PG-13)

### KSP Fundraiser Champions Support for Domestic Violence Survivors in Western Kentucky

By: Laurna Todd KPI Writer

The Kentucky State Police (KSP) is launching an impactful fundraiser as part of their commitment to empower survivors of domestic violence and provide crucial assistance to those in need across Western Kentucky.

This initiative seeks to raise essential funds for local domestic violence shelters and outreach organizations, including Lotus in Paducah and the Merryman House in Graves County. The money raised will directly fund vital services such as emergency shelter, nutritious food, counseling, legal advocacy, transportation, and long-term support options for survivors and their children. KSP officers are

dedicated to ensuring not just immediate safety, but also the opportunity for survivors to rebuild their lives with dignity and hope.

Domestic violence has no boundaries—it has huge impacts on families in every corner of the world. This fundraiser hopefully will help survivors to feel that help and will be both available and within reach. Also to know that they are not alone in your struggle.

All proceeds from the fundraiser will go directly to shelters and support centers that are prepared to provide essential guidance and support to survivors throughout their recovery journeys. In tandem with financial contributions, KSP is committed to raising awareness through robust public outreach and education, informing

the community about the signs of abuse and how to seek help.

For anyone in need of assistance, reach out to your local domestic violence shelter or call the 24/7 Kentucky Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-544-2022. All services are offered confidentially and at no cost.

Get involved in this vital cause by donating directly through the KSP website or participating in upcoming events set to be announced throughout Western Kentucky. With your support, KSP aims to expand access to life-saving resources and play a crucial role in breaking the cycle of abuse for countless families in our region. Together, we can make a real difference in the lives of survivors and foster a safer, stronger community.

## Woods promoted to Technical Sergeant in US Air Force

Staff Sergeant Alexandria Woods, has been selected for promotion to Technical Sergeant in the United States Air Force. This year, 7,884 staff sergeants were selected out of 30,776 eligible members, with a promotion rate of 25.62%.

Born and raised in Bardwell, KY, and a proud 2017 graduate of Carlisle County High School, Staff Sergeant Woods has dedicated her career to guiding the next generation of Airmen and Guardians. Since beginning her recruiting journey in 2022, she has helped transform lives throughout the region with her leadership. authenticity, and relentless drive to make a difference.

Her impact has earned her several top-level honors in 2025, including:

- Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year for the 332nd Recruiting Squadron

- Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year for the 369th Recruiting



Group

- United States Air Force Accessions Center Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year

- 332nd Recruiting Squadron Gold Badge Recruiter, the squadron's highest individual recruiting recognition

Staff Sergeant Woods credits her success to the mentorship she's received, the strength of her team, and the constant support of her family and hometown community. As she steps into her new role as a Technical Sergeant, she remains committed to inspiring others, living out the Air Force core values, and being a trusted mentor for those following in her footsteps.

# Kentucky Hoop Barns: Built on honesty, quality and craftmanship

Nestled in the heart of central Kentucky, Kentucky Hoop Barns has been providing reliable, highquality agricultural structures since 1999. Located at 476 Frogg Lane in Raywick, Kentucky, this small vet mighty operation has earned a strong reputation across the region for delivering durable hoop barns with a personal touch.

Founded by the father-and-son duo Paul and Matt Mattingly, Kentucky Hoop Barns began as a simple venture rooted in hard work and dedication. Over

the years, the business has grown steadily, exceeding even their own expectations. Despite its growth, the company remains a two-man operation, with no additional employees—a rarity in today's market.

Matt Mattingly, the General Manager, takes particular pride in meeting new customers and making each sale a meaningful experience. "We just do whatever needs to be done," Matt explains, capturing the hands-on, nononsense approach that defines the business. This level of commitment and

personal attention is what keeps customers coming back.

Kentucky Hoop
Barns specializes in
providing structures
that meet the practical
needs of farmers
and agricultural
professionals, all
while upholding
their founding values
of honesty, quality,
and craftsmanship.
These values aren't
just slogans—they're
the foundation of
every barn they build.

Looking ahead, Kentucky Hoop Barns is excited to take part in the Farm and Machinery Show in Louisville, KY this coming February. The event is an excellent opportunity for the Mattinglys to connect with both new and existing customers, showcase their work, and continue sharing their passion for building.

For more information or to inquire about a new barn, you can contact:
• Paul Mattingly at

- 270-699-1499
   Matt Mattingly at
- 270-699-5484 • Or
- Or email: mpma224@ gmail.com

Kentucky Hoop Barns isn't just a business—it's a family legacy built on trust, one barn at a time.

serves Ballard,

Fulton, Graves,

Marshall and

by improving

Carlisle, Hickman,

McCracken Counties

conditions in the areas

of education, income

and health. For more

the organization, visit

information about

## KSP charge Ballard County inmates with attempted escape and assault

WICKLIFFE, Ky. – Kentucky State Police (KSP) Post 1 has charged a Ballard County Jail inmate after he reportedly attempted to escape the facility and assaulted two corrections employees.

On July 11th at 10:50pm, KSP Post 1 received information from River County 911 advising that Ballard County Sheriff's Office had requested KSP to investigate an incident that occurred at the Ballard County Jail. It was reported that an inmate had attempted to escape and assaulted two deputy jailers in the process of attempting to escape. Troopers responded to the jail and began an investigation.

The preliminary investigation

indicates that Jeremy Lynn entered the control room of the Ballard County Jail, assaulted a corrections employee who was in the control room and attempted to unlock doors from within the control room. Lynn then assaulted a second corrections employee who entered the control room before he was taken back into custody.

Jeremy Lynn,
32 years old of
Lovelaceville, KY
was arrested and
charged with Escape
1st Degree (Attempt)
and two counts of
Assault 3rd Degree
- Inmate Assault
on Correctional
Employee. He remains
lodged at the Ballard
County Jail.

Neither correctional employee required medical attention.

#### UNITED WAY, from page 2

served in it, and cares deeply about its future. Her proven operational leadership, passion for people, and strong vision for regional growth make her the



right person to lead us

forward." Prior to joining United Way, Kelly served as Member Services Director at the Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce and held several leadership roles during her 18-year tenure at the Wickliffe Paper Mill. She holds both a master's and bachelor's degree from Murray State University and is active in the community as a member of the Kiwanis Club of Paducah and as a dance instructor for the American Cancer Society's Dancing with Our Stars event and Dancin' Divas, an

adult dance troupe that helps support the mission of Norton Children's Hospital.

"I'm honored to step into this role," said Kelly. "I've seen the challenges families in our region face, and I'm committed to building on the strong foundation already in place -growing and building new partnerships, reaching more people, and expanding our impact across all seven counties. I'm especially grateful to lead an organization that shows up for its communities and works to create real, lasting change."

United Way of Western Kentucky

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Bluegrass Barrel Reserve, LLC, hereby declares its intention to apply for Distilled Spirits and Wine Storage License, the license for Bluegrass Barrel Reserve, and will be located at 1613 Wisewell Road, Murray, KY 42071. The managing member is William Daniel Steel.

Any person, association, corporation or body politic may protest the granting of the license by writing the Department of Alcohol Beverage Control, 500 Mero St. 2 NE 33, Frankfort, KY 40601 within 30 days of the date of legal publication.

(07-18-25 1x AY)





# WAVE Ag Day set for July 31st

The Annual WAVE Ag Day will be held at Columbus-Belmont State Park on Thursday, July 31 this

Breakfast will begin at 8 am with biscuit

sandwiches provided by CDB.

The program begins at 9:30 am

They will be starting the morning off by meeting sponsors and partners and

recognizing local leaders and contest winners. Then keynote speakers and a fantastic day of socializing.

Everyone is invited and urged to attend.

### OCTC receives 5-year TRIO grant

OWENSBORO, KY On Thursday, July 3, 2025, Owensboro Community & Technical College (OCTC) received notification that the U.S. Department of Education awarded the college a \$1.36 million grant under the Federal TRIO Student Support Services program.

Dr. Scott Williams, OCTC President, commented, "We are very excited to be awarded the funds for continued support of our TRiO program. It is a testament to



**Becky Hodskins** 

the hard work of the TRiO staff and the strength of the program. Their retention and graduation rates are stellar and that only proves that they really are helping students

#### **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Public Service Commission of Kentucky issued an order on March 13, 2025, scheduling a hearing to be held on August 4, 2025, at 9 a.m., Eastern Daylight Time, in the Richard Raff Hearing Room at the offices of the Public Service Commission located at 211 Sower Boulevard in Frankfort, Kentucky, for Case No. 2025-00045. This is an examination of the Electronic Application of Kentucky Utilities Company and Louisville Gas and Electric Company for Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity and Site Compatibility Certificates.

This hearing will be streamed live and may be viewed on the PSC website, psc.ky.gov.

Public comments may be made at the beginning of the hearing. Those wishing to make oral public comments may do so by following the instructions listed on the PSC website, psc.ky.gov.



succeed. While they do have a limited number of students in TRiO, the programming they offer benefits all of our students who are willing to take advantage of it."

The proposed number of student participants from OCTC is 144 annually. OCTC's TRiO project is funded 100% by federal funds.

Becky Hodskins has been Director of OCTC's TRiO Student Support Services since 2017.

TRiO is a program for first-generation, lowincome, and disabled students. The program provides academic advising, tutoring support, career advising. cultural enrichment activities, and assistance in applying or Financial Aid for students in need. "The goal of our program is to assist in reducing barriers that may hinder students from successfully completing classes, graduating, and/ or transferring to a 4-year institution," said Hodskins.

Hodskins and other TRiO representatives are currently working to recruit 70 students to fill the vacancies left by graduates from the spring and summer semesters. Interested students may apply by visiting the web page https://owensboro. kctcs.edu/currentstudents/academicresources/trio.aspx and downloading the

application. For more information on TRiO Student Support Services and the resources they provide, please contact Becky Hodskins at becky.hodskins@ kctcs.edu or by phone 270.686.4613.

# launches impact opportunity, presented by AES US Renewables

**United Way of Western Kentucky** 



From left to right — Meagan Miller, AES Project Manager, Environmental Permitting; Katie Haarsager, AES Stakeholder Relations Manager; Jeremy Evans, AES Development Manager; Betsy Burkeen, Former United Way of Western Kentucky CEO; Johanna Kraus-Darden, AES Development Director; Trevor Hindmarch, AES Manager, Environmental Permitting; Gina Leeper, United Way of Western Kentucky Board Secretary; Brent Housman, United Way of Western Kentucky Board Vice President; Kelly Channell, United Way of Western Kentucky Interim CEO and Chief **Operations Officer.** 

Western Kentucky, - The United Way of Western Kentucky is proud to announce the launch of Impact Opportunity, a regional initiative presented by AES US Renewables.

Through partnerships with local organizations, community leaders, and individuals directly impacted by poverty, **Impact Opportunity** will address barriers to essential needs, including education, affordable housing, healthcare, and economic mobility. This collaborative approach goes beyond analyzing data — it invites those who experience and work with these challenges daily to inform and drive meaningful solutions.

Task force groups will be assembled in Ballard, Carlisle, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, Marshall, and McCracken counties. These groups will include community leaders from government, education, service organizations, and local residents who are familiar with the barriers faced by income constrained individuals and those living in poverty.

The Graves County task force group has already begun this important work. In Graves County, the community champion leader is Georgann Lookofsky, a United Way board member, former board president and one of the original leaders of Impact Poverty. This group has explored the current successes and challenges in the areas of education,

crime, workforce, community health, and substance abuse and will continue learning about additional topics in upcoming meetings. Task forces representing the other counties are being assembled now and will launch over the next few months.

**Impact Opportunity** builds on the foundation of Impact Poverty, a successful program led by the United Way of Paducah-McCracken County from 2010 to 2020. Following the organization's expansion in November 2022 to serve seven counties, it became evident the challenges facing Western Kentucky communities are diverse and

evolving. "Impact Opportunity is both data and community-driven, combining research with the lived experiences of those facing economic hardship," said Kelly Channell, Interim CEO of United Way of Western Kentucky. "By listening to our communities and using data to inform our efforts, we are committed to addressing the systemic challenges that hold our region back."

The initiative will involve indepth research and analysis to uncover the underlying issues contributing to poverty. ALICE, an acronym which stands for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed, is a way of defining our families, neighbors, and colleagues who

work hard, earn above the federal poverty level, but not enough to afford a basic household budget. By collaborating with

United Way of Kentucky, United Way Worldwide, and using ALICE data, United Way will gain valuable insights into the specific challenges faced by Western Kentucky residents.

**AES US Renewables** is dedicated to making a positive impact in the communities where it operates through its social impact programs. These programs, which are tailored to the individual community, focus on four key areas: access to safe, reliable, and affordable energy and essential services; inclusive and substantial economic growth; environmental stewardship; and community resilience. As an innovative energy company, AES is the current developer of the proposed 60 MW McCracken Solar project in the county.

United Way of Western Kentucky expanded its service area in 2022 to serve seven counties and is dedicated to making a meaningful impact by addressing the root causes of poverty. By conducting research, forming partnerships, and engaging with the community, United Way is creating lasting change for individuals and families across the region.

For more information about Impact Opportunity and how to get involved, visit unitedwaywky.org/ impact-opportunity.



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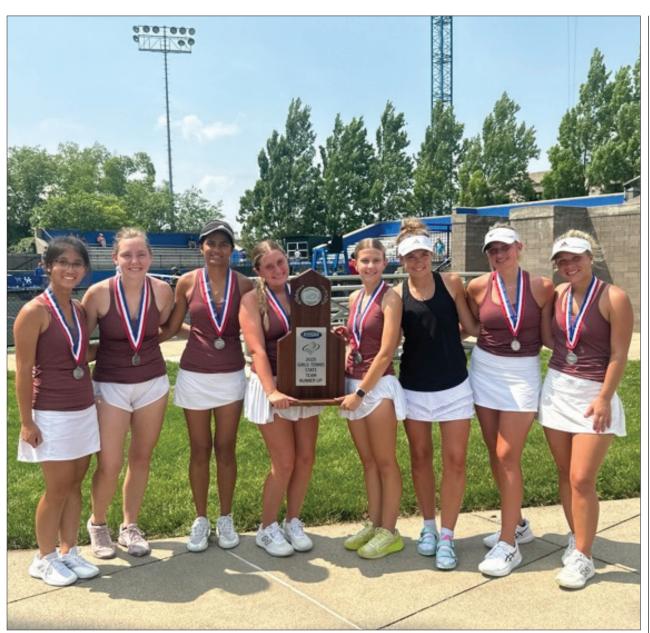
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# WEST KY SPORTS



After finishing as the 2025 state runner-up, the McCracken County girls' tennis team carried momentum into its offseason.

Photo courtesy of McCracken County High School Athletics

# Summer Collegiate Baseball Chiefs rally to defeat Miners

#### Staff Report

PADUCAH —
Paducah battled back
from behind to defeat
Madisonville 9-7 in an
Ohio Valley League
game at Brooks
Stadium on Monday,
July 14.

The Chiefs won after facing a four-run deficit earlier in the matchup.

A solo home run to left field by Pete Britton put Madisonville on the scoreboard first in the top half of the opening inning.

Madisonville extended its early lead

with three runs in the top half of the second inning following RBI singles by Dylan Toler and Coulter Hamilton.

Paducah made the score 4-2 in the bottom half of the second inning when Javin Gauthier hit a solo home run to right field, and Noah Wagster tripled, scoring one run.

The Chiefs took the lead in the bottom half of the fifth inning when Nate Lang doubled, scoring two runs. Lang's double allowed Paducah to move ahead 5-4.

A home run

to left field by Dominic Maldet put Madisonville ahead 7-5 in the top half of the sixth inning.

Paducah went ahead 8-7 in the bottom half of the sixth inning after singles by Gauthier and Brayden Baker.

Connor Priesel started on the mound for the Chiefs. Priesel allowed five hits and four runs over five innings, striking out seven and walking four.

Travis Kellems stepped on the mound first for the Miners. Kellems gave up six hits and five runs over four and two-thirds innings, striking out six and walking four.

Konner Myatt threw three scoreless innings in relief for the Chiefs. Myatt struck out four and walked one.

Paducah connected for 11 hits. Gauthier, Baker, TK Madera and Easton Denning each collected two hits for the Chiefs.

Maldet paced Madisonville at the plate, supplying three runs batted in. Britton and Hamilton each collected two hits for the Miners

# Summer Collegiate Baseball Railroaders double up Flash

#### **Staff Report**

FULTON — Fulton doubled up Henderson 6-3 in an Ohio Valley League game at Lohaus Field on Friday, July 11.

A solo home run to right field by Jacob Lott put Fulton on the scoreboard in the bottom half of the second inning.

The Railroaders scored three runs in the bottom half of the fourth inning on a home run to right field by Zander Smith following a six-pitch at-bat.

Troy Joslin earned the win on the mound for the Railroaders. Joslin gave up three hits and zero runs over seven innings, striking out four and walking two.

Kiefer Parsons took the loss on the mound for the Flash. Parsons pitched four and two-thirds innings, allowing six runs on six hits, striking out seven and walking four.

Another pitcher, Blake Althuisius, threw one scoreless inning in relief for the Railroaders. Althuisius surrendered two hits, striking out two and walking none.

Smith connected for one hit and drove in three runs for the Railroaders. Owen Sullivan led Fulton at the plate, connecting for two hits in four at-bats.

Hunter Vaughn paced Henderson, delivering two hits in four at-bats. Jackson Pruitt and Dane DeWees each drove in one run for the Flash.



Mayfield High School rising senior Mak Hoover attended a Morehead State University Football Camp in June

Courtesy photo

# Double first base introduced into high school baseball

#### Staff Report

LEXINGTON —
Beginning with
the 2027 season, a
double first base will
be required in high
school baseball games
to minimize the risk of
collisions by runners
and fielders.

This rule revision was one of 10 proposed by the NFHS Baseball Rules Committee during its annual meeting held June 8-10 at The Alexander hotel in Indianapolis. The rules changes were accepted by the NFHS Board of Directors.

New language was added to Rule 1-2-9 noting that the double first base must be white and a contrasting solid color. The white portion of the base is located in fair territory while the colored half is located in foul territory, split by the first base foul line. There is to be no

space between the two portions of the double base.

"Adding the double first base is symbolic to the evolution of the sport. It will immediately address running lane violations, and it will further protect the players from the violent collisions that have occurred at first base," said Elliot Hopkins, NFHS director of sports and liaison to the Baseball Rules Committee. "By reducing collisions and enhancing safety, it preserves both the integrity of competition and the well-being of those who play."

Several subsequent rules changes, including Rule 8-2-2a, outline how batterrunners and fielders shall use the double first base. The batterrunner should use the colored base on an initial play at first base unless a fielder is drawn into foul territory to receive a dropped third strike, in which case, the batter-runner would use the white portion of the base. Once the batter-runner reaches first base, the batterrunner must always return to the white base, including when leading off, returning on a pick-off attempt or tagging up on a fly

A batter-runner may use either side of first base on a base-on-balls or on an extra-base hit to the outfield when there is no chance of a play to be made at first base.

Interference is to be called on batter-runners if they only touch the white portion on a force play at first and collide with the fielder. Similarly, it is obstruction if a defensive player only touches the colored portion of the base and collides with the batter-runner.

Rule 2-5-1h was added to note that it is a fair ball if a batted ball hits or bounds over any part of the white portion of the double first base. Alternately, it is a foul ball if a batted ball hits or bounds over any part of the colored portion of the base (Rule 2-16-1h).

Rule 3-4-6 was added to address defensive player meetings as charged conferences. Each team, when on defense, may be granted not more than one player-to-player meeting during an inning. Umpires shall deny any subsequent defensive team requests for that halfinning. Additionally, Rule 2-10-3 was added to define a player-

to-player defensive

meeting as having two or more defensive players.

"A player-to-player defensive meeting is a natural and essential part of the game whether it's strategy, encouragement or clarification, but having multiple meetings in a halfinning adds additional time that lengthens a contest and is not in the best interest of the game," Hopkins said. "A charged conference, however, involves direct coaching intervention with either a coach or a non-playing representative and is intended to provide instruction. The distinction ensures we honor both the flow of the game and the role of coaching."

Two rules changes were approved to bring the Baseball Rules Book in line with all NFHS rules. Language added to Rule 1-4-4 allows a school's name, nickname, logo, mascot and/or player's name to be permitted on a uniform top and/or pants beginning in 2027.

In addition, Rule 1-6-3 states that "no player shall wear any audio (microphone) or video (camera) device during the game."

A complete listing of the baseball rules changes will be available on the NFHS website at www.nfhs. org. Click on "Sports" at the top of the home page and select "Baseball."

According to the 2023-24 NFHS High School Athletics Participation Survey, baseball is the fourthmost popular boys sport with 471,701 boys participating in 16,146 high schools across the nation.



McCracken County attended the Centre College Soccer Team Camp. The Mustangs reached the camp finals and finished runner-up to a team from South Africa. Photo courtesy of McCracken County High School Athletics

# Markezz Hightower, they always call him 'Mr. Touchdown, soon, they may call him 'Mr. Football

By Fletcher Long

Markezz Hightower is among the more versatile players in the KHSAA. The '26 "Mr. Football" candidate rushed for 1,604 yards in 206-carries (7.79-yards per rushing attempt), scored a TD every 10th carry in 5A football, and tallied 138-points to lead the team in scoring. *Hightower contributed* on offense, both rushing and receiving; on defense, where he picked a pass; and on special teams, where he converted six (6) times on two (2) point conversions. Hightower has the skill set to do it all, and that would include winning the coveted "Mr. Football" award at year's end. "They always call him Mr. Touchdown." They may have a new title for him when it is all said

and done this Fall. — HB Lyon, SCOUTING DIRECTOR, "KPGFootball"

Madisonville, KY: — Most seasons we weigh in on Mr. Football candidates. Most seasons the people we weigh in on end up taking home the hardware.

Several years ago we told you about Isaac Dixon from Belfry. At years end, you guys agreed with us about his being the best football player in Kentucky and voted him "Mr. Football."

A year or two later we were extolling the prowess of Daniel Thomas from Bell County. At season's end, that year (2023), he was taking home his "Mr. Football" award.

Last year, it was Boyle County's Montavin Quisenberry taking home the "Mr. Football" hardware. We predicted his getting in the race four years before he won the award.

If you will recall, we wrote he was the top skill player in his class (2025) way back in October of 2021. At the time, "Q," as we dubbed him, had just finished his freshman season at Garrard County. Here is the article.

The point is, we know about what we are talking when it comes to making such predictions. The proof is in the pudding.

We like Markezz Hightower for this year's award. Now that prediction is predicated on a couple of contingencies.

Hightower has been rated three (3) stars by several national recruiting services and has been offered by several FBS level programs

- Friday Night FLETCH

First of all, Hightower has to remain healthy and continue to put up similar numbers to what he has before posted. In '24, Hightower was among the more versatile threats in the offensive backfield in the KHSAA.

As Coach Lyon detailed in his scouting report above set forth; Hightower, as a junior, rushed for 1,604 yards in 206-carries (7.79-yards per rushing attempt). Hightower scored a TD every 10th carry in 5A football (20 rushing TDs), and tallied 138-points (20 TDs rushing, one receiving, and six twopointers) to lead the team in scoring.

Hightower contributed on offense, both rushing and

receiving. On defense, Hightower picked a pass. On special teams, Hightower converted six (6) times on two (2)point conversions.

Hightower is 5'10," and weighs 185. The 4.5-second 40-yard dasher has a 35-inch vertical leap, bench presses 290 lbs., reps the HS rep weight (185-pounds) 15-times, and squats 450 lbs.

Hightower pulls 515 lbs., power cleans 230, and runs a fully automated 11-seconds flat in the 100-meters during track season. Track times are laser-timed. They are painstakingly accurate.

Hightower doesn't have to pull the weight alone. Jayden Travis ('26) is among the very best TEs in the KHSAA and a bone fide All-State candidate (25-receptions in '24). Travion Stafford ('26, 90-tackles, three TFLs) and Kirk LaGrange ('26, 64-tackles, a FR and 4-INTs) will help hold down the defense.

Kadence Price ('27) is a weight room warhorse who is chocked full of power, strength, and explosion while Ryder Sandidge proved among the

better '27s (71-tackles, a FF, three FRs, and a pair of INTs) in the 5A classification a season ago. Don't be fooled, having some talent in the stable ensuring a successful season is an important part of any Mr. Football race.

There was a song once which always reminded me of Markezz Hightower. The song was (and still is) called Mr. Touchdown.

A review of the lyrics may somewhat reveal why it makes me think of Hightower and players like him.

They always call him Mr. Touchdown.

They always call him Mr. Team.

He can run, and kick, and throw.

Give him the ball and just look at him go! Hip, hip, hooray for

He's gonna beat 'em today!

Mr. Touchdown!

So give a great big cheer for the hero of the year!

It's Mr. Touchdown, *U.S.A.!* 

If you read this forum often, you know we put a high price on player value, player versatility, resulting in

a team's enjoying great

success. Give the lyrics above another read and hit the link and enjoy the song.

Surely, we don't have to connect these dots for you. Markezz Hightower is North's "Mr. Touchdown." The Maroons call him Mr. Team.

Hightower can run, kick, and throw. Just give him the ball and just look at Hightower

So give a great big cheer for the hero of the year! It's Mr. Football, KHSAA!

This is Friday Night Fletch, reporting for KPGFootball and KPI Newspaper Group, reminding you to PLAY THROUGH THE WHISTLE!

If you enjoyed this article and wish to gain full-access to the site, then subscribe monthly to Kentucky Prep Gridiron by following the prompts!

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# Fromeyer named 2024-25 KHSAA Officials Supervisor of the Year

**Staff Report** 

LEXINGTON — Each year, the Kentucky High School Athletic Association honors the top officials for the sports in which it licenses officials, as well as a single supervisor of officials from among those sports. Finalists in each sport are selected through a combination of not only on-field performance but also local association activity and leadership, training efforts and the mentoring of newer officials.

In addition to

one official in each sport being named Outstanding Official of the Year, the KHSAA also recognizes the Larry G. Boucher Officials Supervisor of the Year in appreciation of their dedication and service to schools and student-athletes across the state. Winners are selected following consultation with local assigning secretaries, veteran officials' observers, coaches throughout the state and additional staff review.

The Larry G. Boucher Officials Supervisor of

the Year for the 2024-25 school year is Steve Fromeyer of Newport for his outstanding efforts in the sport of football.

With officiating numbers declining at the national level, the KHSAA is always accepting applications from individuals interested in giving back to their community. Officiating remains an avenue to stay active, earn extra spending money and ensure that high school athletics are preserved for the current and future generations.

To get involved as an official, visit khsaaofficials.org.

2024-25 KHSAA **OUTSTANDING** OFFICIALS (Winners *listed first)* 

Field Hockey: Chris Niblock (Louisville), Lauren Bauer (Louisville)

Soccer: Azer Sabanovic (Louisville), Darren Somerville (Irvine)

Girls' Volleyball: Dave Anderson (Grayson), Justin Cason (Lexington)

Football: Hilton Isable (Bowling Green), Jason

Seligman (Covington), Henry Hays (London) Wrestling: Philip Hayes (Louisville), Jason Sedoris

Swimming & Diving: Lesa Boone (Louisville), Allyson Heger (Independence)

(Louisville)

Basketball: Michael Ashurst (Corbin), Nathan Sutton (Greenup), Brian Yankey (Pineville), Michael Stokes (Fort Mitchell)

Boys' Volleyball: Tony Franklin (Franklin), Tim Lynch (Louisville) Girls' Lacrosse: Mary

Cooksey (Louisville),

Matt Sallee (Louisville) Boys' Lacrosse: Andy Cecil (Winchester), Chris Bray (Louisville)

Track & Field: Kenny Morton (Louisville), Mark Roche (Louisville) Softball: Stephanie

Welch (Louisville), Brian Epperson (Murray), Tony Wagner (Villa Hills)

Baseball: Tony Thornsburg (Covington), Adam Hale (Glendale), Darron Hyte (Tamms, Ill.)

Larry G. Boucher Officials Supervisor of the Year (Football): Steve Fromeyer (Newport)

# Gov. Beshear announces Kentucky State Police arrests 197 in statewide drug operation Operation Summer Heat 2.0 removes over \$640,000 total value of drugs off the streets

FRANKFORT, Ky. - Today, Gov. Andy Beshear announced that a New Kentucky Home is being created with fewer illegal drugs on the streets harming our families. The Kentucky State Police completed a successful Operation Summer Heat 2.0, targeting suspected drug networks operating in the commonwealth and leading to 197 arrests.

"Every Kentuckian should be safe and feel safe, and no Kentucky family should feel the pain of losing a loved one to addiction," Gov. Beshear said. "Because of the Kentucky State Police, we are accomplishing both of these goals, and we are thankful for the agency's dedication to every single one of our commonwealth's communities."

All 16 posts participated in **Operation Summer** Heat 2.0, and preliminary results indicate 197 arrests and 490 charges issued, along with the combined seizure of 3,002 grams of fentanyl, 1.176 grams of cocaine, 6,046 grams of methamphetamine, 408 grams of heroin, 600 fentanyl pills, 97 hydrocodone doses, 127 oxycodone doses and 67 doses of hallucinogens. Additionally, troopers confiscated 82 firearms, \$181,381 in cash, and \$200,000 worth of stolen property and also recovered a stolen vehicle. The estimated street value of the drugs collected exceeds \$640,000. The investigation remains active, and more arrests are expected in

"This mission was about more than making arrests, it was about disrupting the criminal enterprises that threatens the safety and health of Kentuckians," KSP Commissioner Phillip Burnett Jr. said. "I am proud of our personnel, who worked tirelessly to take these dangerous drugs off the streets and who will continue working to keep every community safe."

the coming weeks.

Initial arrests by

state police post:

- Post 1. Mayfield: 7 • Post 2, Madisonville:
- Post 3, Bowling Green: 15
- Post 4.
- Elizabethtown: 30
- Post 5,
- Campbellsburg: 10 • Post 6, Dry Ridge: 6
  - Post 7, Richmond: 11
  - Post 8, Morehead: 7
  - Post 9, Pikeville: 30
  - Post 10, Harlan: 4
- Post 11, London: 12
- Post 12, Frankfort: 2
- Post 13, Hazard: 1
- Post 14, Ashland: 16 • Post 15, Columbia:
- Post 16, Henderson:

11

Last year, Operation Summer Heat saw 206 people arrested and nearly \$685,000 worth of drugs removed from Kentucky streets.

The Kentucky State Police encourages the public to share any information related to drug activity by contacting one of its 16 posts or submitting an anonymous tip on the agency's website.

For three straight years, overdose deaths have decreased in



Kentucky. In 2024. the commonwealth saw a 30.2% decline in overdose deaths compared to the prior year.

Earlier this month, the Commonwealth of Kentucky released the 2024 Crime in Kentucky Report. The annual statewide report indicates serious crime rates have decreased by nearly 8%, including an 11.55% decrease in drug/narcotic offenses, a 12.7% decrease in homicide offenses and a 13.78% decrease in sex offenses.

In February, the Governor announced that Kentucky secured another low recidivism rate. Nearly 70% of people released from state custody over the past two years have not been re-incarcerated.

Since taking office, the administration has also awarded more than \$12 million in grant funding to assist state and local law enforcement agencies with enhancing public and officer safety, curbing the sale of illegal drugs and fighting addiction.

Treatment Resources If you or a loved one are struggling

with addiction, the KY HELP Call Center can connect you to treatment by calling 833-8KY-HELP (833-859-4357).

Information about treatment programs all across the commonwealth is available at FindHelpNowKy.org. Information on how to obtain the life-saving drug naloxone, which is used to reverse an opioid overdose, can be found at that website as well as at FindNaloxoneNowKy. org and FindMental HealthNowKy.org.

# Soybean meal fuels #HotGrillsSummer

Summer is here and it's time to fire up the grill. Whether you are team charcoal or team gas, or if you're into smoking your favorite proteins, there's one thing most items you find in the meat case have in common - they got started on soybean meal.

Poultry is the number one protein commodity here in the Bluegrass state, and whether that chicken is marinated and grilled, hibachi'd on the flat top, or skewered for a kabob, soybean meal is the protein that broilers depend on for their protein in all growth stages. In addition to its high protein content, soybean meal contains the amino acids essential for growth.



Feeling more like a burger or a steak? Soybeans factor in the diets of beef cattle, too. Unless your beef is

strictly grass-finished, it was finished on grain, and that means a diet of mostly soybean meal and corn. Some cattle

are supplemented with pelletized soybean hulls in their feed rations.

We can't forget our friends who raise pigs. As

we like to say, pork and (soy) beans go together! Modern commercial hog production also relies on soybean meal for its high protein and complete amino acid profile.

Did you know that animal agriculture is the soybean farmers' number one customer? That's right! About 97 percent of domestic sovbean meal is fed to poultry and livestock, and many farmers raise both row crops AND chickens, cattle, or pigs.

Summer is the best time for outdoor cooking. so it's no surprise that July is National Grilling Month. We hope you'll celebrate accordingly and enjoy #HotGrillSummer

The Kentucky Soybean Board is ALL FIRED UP to make your summer even hotter. Like us on Facebook (@KySoybean) AND post your grilling photo (on your own page) with the hashtag #HotGrillSummer. Be sure to tag us, and we'll enter you for a chance to win a 22-inch Blackstone Culinary 2-Burner Griddle with Hood and Flexfold Legs, perfect for those sizzling summer cookouts or fall tailgating parties! The prize package will also include an assortment of seasonings and a griddle care kit.

Contest ends August 31. No purchase necessary. Contest open to Kentucky residents.

# 'Great satisfaction':

#### UK forestry professor chair retires after 47 years of service

By Bailey Vandiver

LEXINGTON, Ky.— Three-time University of Kentucky alumnus Jeffrey Stringer, who dedicated 47 years of his professional career to forestry at the UK Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, is now celebrating his retirement.

Stringer received his bachelor's and master's degrees in forestry and his Ph.D. in plant physiology/ biochemistry/molecular biology, all from UK. He began in the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources (FNR) as a



research assistant in 1978 and held multiple roles before becoming the chair of FNR in 2018.

"I have been fortunate to work in a collaborative environment that has allowed me to improve the forest, its resources and the communities it serves," Stringer said.

Steven Price, professor and interim chair of FNR, said that Stringer's retirement marks the end of an era—not just for UK but for many people across the forestry industry who have worked with Stringer for decades.

"Basically, everybody that works in forestry knows Jeff," Price said. "His name is synonymous with the University of Kentucky's forestry program.'

'An outstanding representative of our

Stringer helped build UK's forestry network in the UK Cooperative Extension Service from the ground up, providing direct service to foresters, landowners and natural resource professionals throughout Kentucky.

His extension work included conducting

logger trainings across Kentucky. During this time, he furthered his education at UK and eventually attained roles as a research specialist in hardwood silviculture and

extension professor. One of Stringer's most enduring contributions is his role in directing the Master Logger Program which began in 1992 in partnership with the Kentucky Forest Industries Association and the Kentucky Division of Forestry. The educational program teaches logging methods to enhance the logger's ability to operate efficiently within the framework of environmental and safety regulations.

"The most gratifying work has been the development of impactful projects and programs," Stringer said. "Whether it is spearheading the Kentucky Master Logger program, cofounding the White Oak Initiative, creating financial benefits for landowners, loggers and forest industries, or creating and transferring

science that protects the environment and the flora and fauna it contains while providing pathways for forest utilization, I have found great satisfaction.'

His research efforts focused on impactful projects such as using tritiated soil water to explore and define rooting patterns in common species found in oakhickory forests, which led to the establishment of biological methodologies for determining leakage at nuclear waste disposal sites. Additional research established methods of protecting water quality during timber harvesting operations, which resulted in improved mandatory best management practices used by loggers throughout Kentucky.

Stringer has received regional, state and national honors for his work, including the title of Fellow from the Society of American Foresters and Extension Forester of the Year from the Forest Landowners Association. His recognition stretches back to his undergraduate days, when he was named Forester of the Year by Zi

Sigma Pi.

"As a student, a faculty member and as a department chair, Jeff has been an outstanding representative of our college," said Scott Smith, Martin-Gatton CAFE dean from 2001 to 2013 and current acting director of The Arboretum, State Botanical Garden of Kentucky. "During my term as dean, he was particularly active and very effective in spreading the word about both the economic and environmental values of Kentucky woodlands.'

A lasting influence When Price was a new faculty member at UK, Stringer's mentorship and support was "a big deal." Stringer helped Price establish early research projects focused on reptiles and amphibians, which allowed Price to start producing scholarship quickly.

More than a decade later, when Stringer retired from his role as chair, he stayed in a postretirement appointment and helped Price step into the interim chair role. More than simply passing the torch, Price

said, Stringer made sure he had the guidance and context he neededexhibiting Stringer's ongoing commitment to the program.

"His influence runs deeper than programming or policy," Price said. "He shaped people's careers, fostered trust across the state and created a model for what long-term extension and academic leadership could look like."

Even as he enjoys his retirement—including spending time with family and devoting time to beloved hobbies like fishing—Stringer hopes to continue his service to the forestry program by assisting with alumni relations and philanthropy.

"Most of all, I am proud of our department and its focus on the land-grant mission of conducting useful science and delivering solutions for the betterment of society," Stringer said.

To learn more about Forestry and Natural Resources at the University of Kentucky, visit https://forestry. ca.uky.edu/.



### **Ag Update**

Submitted by Tom Miller, Ballard County Extension Agent for Ag and Natural Resources

# University of Kentucky Research and Education Center hosts summer commodity field tours in its 100th year

#### By Jennifer Elwell

The University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment and Cooperative Extension Service will offer two field tour events on July 22 at its UK Research and Education Center at Princeton. The Corn, Soybean and Tobacco Field Day will be held on Tuesday morning, and the Beef and Forage Field Day will begin following a shared lunch.

"As the Research and Education Center marks its 100th anniversary this year, we saw this milestone as a meaningful opportunity to welcome more regional farmers to Princeton and highlight the impactful research and extension education taking place at these facilities, said Chad Lee, UK professor and director of the Grain and Forage Center of Excellence, headquartered at UKREC.

Wagons will roll at 8 a.m. CDT for the corn, soybean and tobacco field tour. Morning visitors will hear the grain crops agronomics and economics session. which includes updates on markets, weed science, soybean foliar fungicides, corn fertilization and an economic climate Q&A session. Visitors may also choose a session that covers topics related to tobacco or grain crop soils and Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund, Altria Client Services, Kentucky Corn, Kentucky Soybean Promotion Board, Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council and Kentucky Beef Network are supporting the wagon transportation and a complimentary lunch for all



participants.

Laura Stephenson, vice president for landgrant engagement and Martin-Gatton CAFE dean, will also address the audience.

The afternoon beef and forage tour will include a session at the forage plots for discussions on pests, using red clover to mitigate tall fescue toxicosis, summer annual mixtures and variety trials. Once visitors are transported to the beef facilities, they will be provided information on mineral feeding design, smart scales and winter feeding systems.

Registration will be open from 7 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at 300 Extension Farm Road, off Hopkinsville Street in Princeton, Kentucky. Pre-registration is not required.

Certified crop advisor and pesticide applicator

continuing education credits have been approved for the corn, soybean and tobacco field tour:

Grain Crop Soils / IPM Session

CCA Credits – 1 CEU for Nutrient Management, 1 CEU for Integrated Pest Management

Pesticide Credits – 1 CEU for Category 1a (Agricultural Plant), 1 CEU for Category 10 (Research and Demonstration)
Grain Crop Agronomic
and Economic Talks
CCA Credits – 1.5 CEUs
for Crop Management
Pesticide Credits – 1
CEU for Category 1a
(Agricultural Plant)

Tobacco Session CCA Credits – 1 CEU for Integrated Pest Management, 1 CEU for Crop Management

Pesticide Credits – 1 CEU for Category 1a (Agricultural Plant), 1 CEU for Category 10 (Research and Demonstration)

For more information, call 270-365-7541 or visit https://ukrec.ca.uky.edu/events.

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, LaCenter, 665-9118.

# River Valley AgCredit welcomes Bobby Shaffer

Clinton, KY – River Valley AgCredit is proud to announce the addition of Bobby Shaffer as a Loan Officer at the Clinton office. He brings a strong agriculture background and a commitment to helping farmers build a sustainable future.

A native of Hornbeak, Tennessee, Bobby joins River Valley AgCredit with seven years of industry experience and a deep-rooted connection to agriculture. He holds a bachelor's degree in agriculture science from Murray State University, where he graduated in 2020. His hands-on experience includes five years of row crop operations – working with cotton,

corn, wheat and soybeans. He was previously employed with the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Services as well.

Bobby is a proud graduate of Obion County Central High School (Class of 2015) and an active member of Grace Presbyterian Church in Troy, Tennessee. He resides in Fulton County with his wife, Breannon, and their son, Waylon. In Bobby's spare time he enjoys, reading, studying, hunting, fishing, gardening and billiards.

In his new role, Bobby is excited to assist farmers in building their futures and supporting the next generation of farmers. "What excites me most about this position is the opportunity to make a positive, long-lasting impact in our community while being part of a great team," said Shaffer. "I look forward to delivering exceptional service to our members and building strong, lasting relationships."

River Valley AgCredit is thrilled to welcome Bobby to the team and looks forward to the contributions he will make in supporting Hickman County agriculture community.

If you want more information about this topic, please get in touch with Shea Weaks at (270) 554-2912 or email at sweaks@rvac.com.



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EC3702 '23 Bobcat E88 R2-Series mini excavator



DW7105 '13 John Deere 9560R Scraper Special 4WD



DW7120 '23 Caterpillar 304 mini excavator



DI9146 '22 Chevy Silverado 2500HD Crew Cab pickup



YA0649 '12 Freightliner Cascadia 125 dump truck



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# Uk greenhouse study offers hope for protecting, cleansing waterways

Tiny wetland replicas show big promise for clearing pesticides and "forever chemicals"

By Jordan Strickler

Lexington, Ky.— A University of Kentucky study shows that small-scale wetlands one planted in soil, the other floating on mats — can help clean up a mix of farm runoff, personal care products and other harmful chemicals. Researchers at UK's Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment found that these wetlands can reduce not only "forever chemicals" but also nutrients that fuel algal blooms in Kentucky rivers

This work on mesocosms, published in the Science of Total Environment, forms the centerpiece of an ongoing project led by water resources engineer Tiffany Messer, The Bill Gatton Foundation Endowed Chair and associate professor in the Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering.

A mesocosm is an experimental system that examines the natural environment under controlled conditions.

"Mesocosms are a powerful tool because they let us isolate key variables while still mimicking field conditions," Messer said. "It's an essential step when trying to understand how these systems perform outside the lab."

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NO PASS OUT FEE

— Travis Blevins

— Austin Nicks

Messer's team built 40 waist-high tanks that mimic treatment wetlands, a nature-based alternative to concrete wastewater facilities now serving several Kentucky towns. Emily Nottingham Byers, lead author and postdoctoral scholar at the Kentucky Water Research Institute at the University of Kentucky, stocked half the tanks with marshy soil and bulrush. The remaining tanks held identical vegetation on polyethylene rafts, so the roots dangled freely in the water. Each tank received measured doses of four widely encountered contaminants glyphosate, atrazine, caffeine and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) — along with nitrate to simulate the runoff that flows toward rivers often used as

drinking-water intakes. "Those four contaminants turn up again and again in our stream surveys," said Messer, referring to a 2024 paper that first mapped 77 pollutants across Kentucky watersheds. "We wanted to know whether they would hamper nitrogen removal through microbial processes in a controlled setting, and whether the plants could lock any of the pollutants away in their tissue."

In the first month, soil-based cells had a slight advantage: their submerged root zones and resident microbes effectively eliminated nearly half the nitrate load while also removing PFOS and atrazine by approximately one-third from the water.

As summer heat spurred growth, the floating treatment wetlands overtook their grounded counterparts, cutting nitrate to background levels and trimming 70% of each herbicide.

"The mat systems become living filters," said Messer. "Once the root curtains reach full length, every liter of water that flows through its microbial habitat has an opportunity to be removed from the water."

Plant tissue analysis shed light on where the chemicals ended up. Most of the glyphosate and PFOS built up in stems and leaves above the water, suggesting that simple mowing or pruning each year could help keep those pollutants from reentering the water. Atrazine lodged deeper in the root mass, calling for removal of the entire plant if targets for that herbicide tighten. Caffeine and its metabolite paraxanthine followed a split pattern: half in foliage, half in roots.

Charting the future
Wetlands take up more
space than concrete
basins, so adoption
depends on local
priorities and state cleanwater funding. Some
Kentucky communities
already use wetlands to
treat wastewater, and
Messer hopes to work
with county engineers
to test pilot cells below
existing lagoon systems.

The study offers tips for designing wetlands based on local needs. The soil-filled basins act quickly early in the growing

season, making them a fit for communities that see heavy inflows in spring. However, floating mats were shown to deliver stronger late-summer performance when rivers shrink and contaminant concentrations rise. Managers can also time harvests based on the main chemical they want to remove — trimming leaves for PFOS or removing full plants for atrazine.

Messer stresses that these are treatment systems, not wildlife preserves.

"They're pretty, but they aren't fishing ponds," said Messer. "The goal is to protect aquatic life in the receiving stream by polishing what leaves wastewater outfalls and land use practices."

The team plans on longer trials to pinpoint when wetlands reach saturation and to test whether periodic plant harvest resets their capacity. They also intend to explore low-cost options such as biochar or iron filings placed beneath mats to target sulfate, the lone contaminant that eluded removal in the greenhouse.

BAE is a partnership between Martin-Gatton CAFE and the Stanley and Karen Pigman College of Engineering. To learn more, visit https://bae.ca.uky.edu/.

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of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health.

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### Farmington Elementary Recognized as one of Spotlight Schools

By Laurna Todd KPI Writer

The Kentucky
Department of
Education (KDE) has
announced the selection
of 11 schools as 2025
Spotlight Schools, a
designation honoring
academic excellence,
innovation, and a strong
commitment to student

success. Among these schools is Farmington Elementary School in Graves County, which proudly represents West Kentucky on this esteemed list.

The other selected schools include Beechwood High School, Cold Hill Elementary, Dawson Springs Jr./Sr. High, duPont Manual High School, Farristown Middle School, Graham Brown School, McKee Elementary, Pikeville High School, South Warren Middle School, and B. Muncy Elementary.

As part of this recognition, each school has created a detailed Story Card outlining their strategies, goals, and progress. These resources will be shared on the KDE website, allowing other educators to learn from successful approaches to closing achievement gaps, boosting engagement, and improving instruction.

Farmington Elementary attributes its success to collaborative teaching practices, data-driven instruction, and strong connections with families and the community. The school plans to continue refining its instructional strategies and mentoring nearby schools on effective practices. KDE hopes that the

effective practices. KDE hopes that the Spotlight Schools will inspire districts across the state to adopt innovative methods that lead to lasting educational improvements. With schools like Farmington leading the way, Kentucky education continues to progress one classroom at a time.

# **Local Businesses Support Fire and Rescue Departments**



By Laurna Todd KPI Writer

Fire departments and rescue teams in Graves, Fulton, and Hickman counties are receiving muchneeded assistance from local businesses and community members. These donations not only provide essential supplies but also boost morale and show appreciation for the first responders who serve and protect the region. In Mayfield, Ruler Foods has partnered with the local community to collect and donate cases of bottled water and Powerade to the Mavfield Fire Department. With the

scorching summer temperatures and the physical demands of emergency response, staying hydrated is critical for firefighters working long shifts in full gear. Thanks to community donations and the efforts of Ruler Foods, the departments are staying prepared and energized.

Other businesses across the region are also stepping up. Local convenience stores, civic groups, and small businesses in Fulton and Hickman counties have provided snacks, cooling towels, sunscreen, and even fans to fire and EMS crews. These acts of kindness not only help keep responders safe but

also remind them how valued they are by the communities they serve. I am sure these

donations come

at a perfect time,

especially during

the peak emergency

response season. The support reflects the strong bond between West Kentucky's first responders and the people they protect. From cases of water to words of encouragement, the backing of local businesses plays a vital role in helping our departments continue their mission. Together, the community is proving that small gestures can make a big

difference.

### New School Year Brings Fresh Leadership Across West Kentucky

By Laurna Todd KPI Writer

As students prepare to return to classrooms across Fulton, Hickman, Graves, and Mayfield, several school districts are welcoming new leadership and preparing for a strong start to the year. A special congratulations goes to Ellen Murphy, who has been named Superintendent of the Fulton County School District.

On July 10, the Fulton County Board of Education selected Murphy, a 1993 graduate of Fulton County High School, as their new superintendent. With 25 years of experience in education—including 11 as principal—Murphy brings a strong track record of improving graduation rates,

expanding college and career programs, and strengthening community relationships. She plans to prioritize equity in education, school safety, and increased engagement across the district.

Graves County Schools have finalized their central office team under Superintendent Matthew Madding, including new roles in instructional support, finance, and digital learning. These updates will help guide student achievement and innovation.

In Hickman County, staff changes are ongoing across buildings to ensure every school is ready to support student success.

In Mayfield Independent Schools, Heather Dublin, a proud Mayfield High alumna, has stepped into the role of Supervisor of Instruction. Her goals include improving curriculum, supporting teachers, and enhancing student learning. The district will hold inperson registration on July 17 to prepare for the fall semester.

Many districts are also planning Back-to-School Bashes to bring students and families together before the first day. Fulton County's event will be held on August 1, and Graves County and Mayfield will announce their dates soon via school websites and social media.

These leadership changes reflect a deep commitment to student growth and community partnership across West Kentucky as a promising new school year begins.



# Stephen Tucker Named New Fire Chief of Wingo

By Laurna Todd KPI Writer

Graves County, KY – The Wingo community is proud to announce the appointment of Stephen Tucker as the new Fire Chief of the Wingo Fire Department. A familiar face to many, Tucker has dedicated years to serving the people of Wingo, not only as a firefighter but also as a dependable leader

within the town. With deep roots in the community and a strong passion for public safety, Tucker's appointment brings a renewed sense of energy and commitment to the department. He has already shared plans to focus on improving response times, enhancing firefighter training, and upgrading equipment to better serve Wingo's growing

needs. Residents and fellow firefighters are excited to see how his leadership will shape the future of the department. known for his integrity. hands-on work ethic, and dedication, Tucker is ready to lead the Wingo Fire Department into a new chapter of service and growth. The community wishes him great success in this well-deserved role.



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# Kentucky farmers face growing challenges amid economic and environmental pressures

By Wilbur Jackson KPI Writer

Kentucky's farmers are facing an increasingly difficult landscape as a combination of economic, environmental, and biological threats impact the agricultural industry across the state. From rising input costs and unpredictable weather to the spread of invasive pests and livestock health concerns, producers are being forced to adapt

rapidly to protect their livelihoods.

#### Economic Pressures and Rising Costs

One of the most pressing issues for Kentucky farmers is the rising cost of doing business. Fertilizer, fuel, feed, and equipment prices have soared over the past two years, in part due to global supply chain disruptions and inflation. According to data from the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture,

fertilizer costs alone have increased by more than 60% since 2022, putting a major strain on both small and large operations.

Many farmers are also grappling with fluctuating commodity prices. While corn and soybean prices saw highs in recent years, volatility in global markets and shifting demand have made it difficult for producers to plan or budget long term. For livestock farmers, the cost of feed and veterinary care continues to

climb, eating into already thin profit margins.

#### Weather Extremes and Climate Concerns

Kentucky's changing climate is another major concern. Unpredictable rainfall, extreme heat, and sudden cold snaps have disrupted planting and harvest schedules, damaged crops, and stressed livestock. In 2023.

see **FARMERS**, page A4

# UK Extension launches strike teams

A new response and recovery initiative to weather disasters

By Christopher Carney

LEXINGTON, Ky.— Kentuckians have experienced several recent weatherrelated disasters, causing significant damage to infrastructure and communities across the Commonwealth.

"Kentucky has experienced an increase in 'billion dollar' weather disasters — a total of 92 impacting the area since 1980, with seven of those devastating

events occurring in 2024 alone," said University of Kentucky senior meteorologist Matt Dixon.

Kayla Watts, who was previously an extension agent in Breathitt County, remembers watching the North Fork Kentucky River in Jackson, Kentucky, in 2022 continue to rise as the flooding began to make its way into town.

see **WEATHER**, page A6



UK Cooperative Extension Agent Dora Centers delivers a bucket of cleaning supplies to residents in Eastern Kentucky affected by flooding.

Photo by Martin-Gatton CAFE





SCOTTSVILLE OFFICE 1598 OLD GALLATIN RD 270-618-7800

GAMALIEL OFFICE
203 FOUNTAIN RUN RD
270-457-4776

GLASGOW OFFICE 301 HAPPY VALLEY RD 270-629-2022

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HOMES - TIMBER. GREAT INVESTMENT OPP.
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9 WOODLAND HTS PKWY — CAMPBELLSVILLE, KY BIDDING STARTS TUES - JULY 22ND @ 10 AM BIDDING ENDS THUR- JULY 31ST @ 5:30PM BEAUTIFUL 1970+/- SQFT HOME LARGE 1.16+/- ACRE LOT - GREAT SUBDIVISION FOR MORE INFO CALL AUCTIONEERS: JESSE MUSE 270-670-9333 OR GREG JEFFRIES 270-405-3596

#### **ONLINE ONLY AUCTION**

2294 OLD GALLATIN ROAD — SCOTTSVILLE, KY BIDDING STARTS THURS - JULY 24TH @ 9 AM BIDDING ENDS THURS - JULY 31ST @ 5 PM PREVIEW: MON JULY 28TH @ 4PM - 6PM BEAUTIFUL HOME 3 BEDROOM - SUNROOM - ATTACHED GARAGE - LARGE LOT FOR MORE INFO CALL AUCTIONEERS: MICHAEL WILSON 270-622-0545 OR JOHNNY HOBDY 270-622-8972

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BRICK HOME & 5 +/- ACRES - 4 BEDROOM - 2.5
BATH - OVERSIZED ATTACHED GARAGE
FOR MORE INFO CALL AUCTIONEER:
ZACHARY FRENCH 270-780-7333

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#### **ONLINE ONLY AUCTION**

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BIDDING ENDS TUES - AUGUST 12TH @ 6 PM
OPEN HOUSE: WED AUGUST 6TH @ 4PM - 6PM
BRICK HOME W/BASEMENT - 4 BEDROOM - 2
BATH - BASEMENT - ATTACHED GARAGE
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FRENCH 270-780-7777

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# GSI launches SELECT IS 3i:

# A smarter, stronger enclosed belt conveyor

**By Laurna Todd** FQ Writer

GSI is excited to introduce the newly redesigned Select IS 3i **Enclosed Belt** Conveyor, the latest advancement in its commercial material handling portfolio. Engineered for high performance and durability, the Select IS 3i boasts higher capacity, reduced maintenance, and an extended service life, all within a more compact footprint.

Smarter by Design

Jason Workman from Workman Bins in Mayfield, KY, states, "The Select IS 3i is more than just an upgrade; it is a gamechanger in bulk material transport. With capacities of up to 95,000 bushels per hour, it outperforms traditional spool conveyors while occupying less space. Its self-contained, independent idler system reduces both belt and idler wear, minimizing maintenance and maximizing uptime. Additionally, this design requires smaller structural support, which lowers installation costs and facilitates easier integration into existing operations."

## Engineered for Tough Jobs

"Enclosed belt conveyors are ideal for efficiently and gently moving dry bulk materials," says Joe Amaro, Product Manager at GSI. "The 3i's independent idler design not only enhances capacity but also extends the life of key components. It is built to move more material with less wear."

#### Part of a Complete Grain Handling System

With the launch of the Select IS 3i, GSI stands out as one of the few companies offering both spool and independent idler systems. This variety provides producers with the flexibility to choose the right solution for their operations. The 3i complements GSI's trusted grain handling solutions, which include EVO 2X commercial bins, industry-leading dryers, and custom material handling systems.

#### Your Trusted Partner

Workman adds,
"One of the many
things I appreciate
about GSI is their
dedication to
protecting your grain
investment through

innovative technology, robust equipment, and unparalleled support. They ensure that your operation runs smoothly from start to finish."

Workman Bins in Mayfield is a proud authorized dealer of GSI and is available to answer any questions. They emphasize, "Farming is more than a business; it's a tradition. GSI's quality speaks for itself."





FARMERS, from page A1

several counties experienced both drought conditions and flash flooding within the same season. demonstrating the new level of unpredictability in farming.

These climate challenges also increase the risk of crop diseases and reduce soil health.
More farmers are
turning to cover
cropping, no-till
methods, and
advanced irrigation
systems to combat
these issues, but
such solutions often

require significant investment.

#### Pests, Disease, and Livestock Health

In 2024 and into 2025, Kentucky farmers saw a resurgence of pest and disease problems. Most notably, the spread of flesh-eating maggots (myiasis) in livestock has caused alarm across rural communities. These infestations, caused by parasitic fly larvae, can lead to severe infections or even death in animals. The government has responded with large-scale sterile fly releases to combat the problem, but the situation remains a top concern for cattle and sheep producers.

Crop farmers, too, have been hit by

increased pressure from invasive species like the fall armyworm, stink bugs, and herbicideresistant weeds, which require more aggressive and costly control measures.

#### Labor Shortages and Mental Health Struggles

Struggles Adding to these issues is the persistent shortage of agricultural labor. Many Kentucky farms, especially those involved in produce or tobacco production, rely on seasonal workers. However, tighter immigration policies and rural population decline have made labor harder to find and more expensive to secure.

These pressures take a toll on the well-being of farmers themselves. Mental health support in rural areas remains limited, despite rising rates of stress, anxiety, and burnout among farm families.

#### **Looking Ahead**

While Kentucky farmers continue to demonstrate resilience and adaptability, the challenges they face are real and mounting. Addressing these issues will require strong support from state agencies, improved access to resources, and investment in sustainable farming technologies. The future of Kentucky agriculture depends not only on weathering today's storms, but on building longterm solutions for a changing world.







#### 10 reasons to thank a farmer

#10 Americans spend only 10% of their incomes on food.

That's the lowest percentage of any country.

#9 The world's population will grow from 7 million to 9 million by 2050. Farmers will need to double food production to keep pace.

#8 Only 210,000 full-time U.S. farmers produce 80% of our food and fiber.

#7 Most farms are family owned. These families take on exceptional risk and tight margins in order to make ends meet.

#6 For every o\$1 spent on food, farmers receive less than 12¢ for the raw products.

#5 An average U.S. farmer feeds 155 people.

#4 U.S. farmers produce about 40% of the world's corn.

#3 Agriculture provides 24 million jobs.

# 2 Farmers endure drought, heat, rain, wind, snow, hail and tornadoes to bring food to America's tables.

#1 American's enjoy a food that's abundant, affordable & among the world's safest.

# **GrainVue:**

# Your ultimate partner in grain storage management

**By Laurna Todd** FQ Writer

Workman Bins, Inc. in Mayfield, KY, is thrilled to bring farmers GrainVue, a cutting-edge grain monitoring and aeration management system designed to empower farmers like you by safeguarding stored grain and enhancing efficiency. In a world where weather patterns can be unpredictable, GrainVue equips you with the advanced technology necessary to uphold grain quality, prevent spoilage, and curb energy costs.

GrainVue operates through innovative components strategically placed at the top and bottom of your grain bin. At the top, you'll find digital cables that diligently gather vital data on grain moisture, temperature, and inventory levels. You can also add CO2 monitoring to the headspace which can detect spoilage faster than the cables, as well as insect infestations. This essential information is relayed to a cable hub, which effectively communicates with the system's base units.

Down at the bottom of the bin, an automated fan control module takes charge of fan and if equipped heater operation, while a smart weather sensor keeps a watchful eye on outdoor conditions. To ensure optimal airflow within the bin, the plenum sensor monitors air quality. Additionally, the communications gateway, equipped with a built-in cellular connection, transmits all collected data to the cloud, needing just one gateway per bin site. A secondary cable hub then wirelessly relays data to the gateway, ensuring smooth and uninterrupted communication across the entire system.

GrainVue makes aeration management a breeze, eliminating the uncertainty often associated with grain storage. With several aeration modes at your fingertips, you can choose what works best for your situation:

- Remote Control:



Easily operate fans from your mobile device, giving you the flexibility to manage operations from anywhere.

- Automatic: Enjoy hands-free operation as fans automatically kick in when weather conditions align with your target moisture and temperature levels. This mode also helps to rehydrate overly dry soybeans.

- Automatic Heater: In addition to automatic fan operation, lowtemperature heaters engage as needed, ensuring optimal airflow conditions for your grain.

- Smart Drying:
GrainVue takes
precision to the next
level by adjusting fan
usage based on the
specific grain and
weather conditions. It
gently dries your grain
to your desired moisture
target, utilizing fans
only when they are truly
beneficial.

- Smart Storage: This energy-efficient mode autonomously adjusts fan usage to warm or cool grain according to external temperature changes, giving you peace of mind all year round.

With GrainVue,
Workman Bins, Inc. is
dedicated to helping
farmers not only protect
their investments but
also streamline grain
storage management
processes, allowing you
to focus on what you do
best.

Jason Workman, Workman Bins founder, takes pride in collaborating with GSI to offer GrainVue Moisture

and Temperature Monitoring Cables. He understands the significant investments farmers make throughout the seasons to bring crops to harvest. By utilizing this monitoring system, farmers gain a clearer view of the conditions inside their bins, allowing them to avoid costly mistakes like over-drying or underdrying crops. This would take out a lot of the guesswork of grain management, which gives you more peace of mind.

In today's economy, where every dollar matters, GrainVue is designed to save you money in the long run. Plus, our system proactively alerts farmers about excessive energy usage, helping you avoid unnecessary expenses that could contribute to crop spoilage.

So why wait? Join us on this exciting journey towards efficient grain storage and management with GrainVue, and enjoy a seamless farming experience!

#### **UK hosts international study abroad experience**

By Christopher Carney

LEXINGTON, Ky.-The University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, with leadership from UK Ag Equine Programs and the Department of Animal and Food Sciences, recently partnered with France's UniLaSalle inviting a group of their students pursuing an Executive Master's degree in Equine Science and Business (MESB) for a unique study abroad experience.

For 15 days, students engaged with more than 30 groups — ranging from industry groups and nonprofits to horse farms and academic and research units across UK's campus, along with the broader equine community in Central Kentucky.

The goal was to showcase Kentucky's horse industry and UK's land-grant mission, providing the international students valuable lectures, site visits and hands-on learning experiences while visiting the Commonwealth for the first time. Some of the site visits included the Defender Kentucky Three-Day Event, Keeneland and the Kentucky Derby.

"The master's students



from UniLaSalle brought great enthusiasm and curiosity, while the Kentucky norse community warmly welcomed them and excelled in creating insightful, engaging educational experiences,' said Meghan Wulster-Radcliffe, director of strategy for equine initiatives at Martin-Gatton CAFE and lead program organizer.

This year's initiative marked this program's return, which was originally developed and led by Laurie Lawrence, professor in the UK Ag Equine Programs and Department of Animal and Food Sciences at Martin-Gatton CAFE, prior to being placed on hold during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Under the leadership of Wulster-Radcliffe and Eslan, relaunching this year's program welcomed seven master's students, two professors and an innovation development engineer from UniLaSalle. Organizers are planning to expand participation in 2026 and are exploring adding UK student participation starting in 2027.

# Partners, organizations and farms

Additional participants included Alltech, James B. Beam Institute for Kentucky Spirits, Bennie Sargent Quarter Horses, Blue Diamond Stud at Stonereath Farm, Defender Kentucky Three Day Event, Fayette Alliance, Godolphin at Jonabell Farm, Gluck Equine Research Center, Grey Ridge Farm, Hagyard Equine Medical Institute, Hallway Feeds, Jacobi Insurance,

Horse Park, Lakeside Arena, Maine Chance Farm, Mapiecrest Farm, Mill Ridge Farm, Olive Hill Sport Horses, Racing Surface Testing Laboratory, Sports Medicine Research Institute, Spy Coast Farm, Stable Recovery, Three Chimneys Farm, The Jockey Club, UK College of Health Sciences/SMRI, UK Department of Agricultural Economics, UK Forage Extension Program, UK Department of Veterinary Science, United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) and World Equestrian Brands.

Learn more about UK Ag Equine Programs at https://equine.ca.uky. edu and the Department of Animal and Food Sciences at https://afs. ca.uky.edu

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WEATHER, from page A1

"It looked like a wall of water — it was scary because we didn't know how high it would get, and parts of town were evacuated due to the rising river water," said Watts, now a UK area extension director. "Many folks said that they didn't have time to get their possessions. Everything was just gone. We just weren't prepared for something like this."

Along with ongoing damage caused by recent storms this year in Kentucky, this sparked Watts and other extension leaders to begin assessing local and statewide needs to determine what communities and individuals needed to be better prepare, respond and recover.

#### Kentucky Extension Strike Team is formed

The UK Cooperative Extension Service at the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, in collaboration with Kentucky State University, has launched a new initiative to help advance the state's disaster preparedness and recovery capabilities – developing strike teams to better respond and reduce the impact of disasters through research-based education.

Made possible through a partnership and grant from the Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN), this initiative is helping address the pressing need for a more coordinated and effective disaster response in Kentucky and beyond.

"This initiative will allow Extension leaders to learn from established strike team models and, crucially, implement a pilot strike team program within **Kentucky Cooperative** Extension," said Jeff Young, Kentucky Extension strike team project leader and director of urban extension at Martin-Gatton CAFE. "Furthermore, the development of a national toolkit provides a roadmap for other states to build their own resilient disaster response networks."

These specialized strike teams, composed of trained county agents and staff in Kentucky, will provide crucial on-the-ground support to communities impacted by disasters.

Watts, who worked with Young in writing the EDEN grant proposal and is one of the approximately 40 strike team members in Kentucky, believes that organization is key.

"Many people want to help, but it must be streamlined," Watts said. "These strike teams are a readymade, trained group who are ready to help and provide relief. As a strike team member, you are working in coordination with your county's emergency plan. In our trainings, we are now stressing the importance of preparedness, support and recovery."



Training with members of the Nelson County Emergency Management.

Photo provided by Danielle Hagler

Kentucky strike
team member
Danielle Hagler,
Nelson County
Cooperative
Extension Agent for
Family and Consumer
Sciences, adds that
collaboration and
working with
community leaders is
essential.

"Our extension agents that are strike team members all have different passions, skills and talents. Based on everyone's area of expertise, we can all help each other in areas where we need support," Hagler said. "Working with our city officials, first responders and emergency management is also crucial to be better prepared and organized. We all must work together."

Kentucky EDEN is a collaborative multi-

state effort supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture and Cooperative Extension Services across the country to reduce the impact of disasters through researchbased education. The **Kentucky Emergency** Management and the **Kentucky Department** of Public Health are also collaborative partners with the **Kentucky EDEN** project team.

Visit https://anr.
ca.uky.edu/
extensionhelps to
learn more about the
Kentucky EDEN
initiative, along with
education resources
in disaster recovery
and preparedness.

To learn more about the UK Cooperative Extension Service programs, visit https:// extension.ca.uky. edu or contact your local County Extension Office.

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#### **About EDEN**

EDEN is a collaborative network of Cooperative Extension educators across the United States and territories who work to improve the delivery of education and information and the availability of resources related to disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. Historically, this grassroots network has been aligned with the Extension Committee on Organization and Policy (ECOP) and supported by USDA NIFA through the Food and Agricultural **Defense Initiative** (FADI) grant.

EDEN continues to grow programming and service to populations served by 1890 land-grant institutions, Native American tribal councils and populations served by 1994 land-grant institutions, and Hispanic Serving Institutions.

The Extension
Foundation, in
partnership with
Washington State
University and the
Cooperative
Extension System,
supports the
administration of the
FADI-EDEN project.
Learn more about
EDEN at https://
extensiondisaster.net.
###

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Recent storms with heavy rains have caused extensive flooding and damage in Kentucky.

Photo by Martn-Gatton CAFE

# FARM RETIREMENT AUCTION SCOTT MARKERT

MONDAY JULY 28, 2025 · 10:00 AM CST

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After many years of farming in Brown County, Scott has decided to discontinue his row crop operation. He has commissioned Kerr Auction to liquidate those items.















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### Former 4-H state and extension program leader Joe Kurth recently passed away, leaving a legacy of many accomplishments and contributions to youth development in Kentucky and beyond

By Christopher Carney

LEXINGTON, Ky.— "I envision a program in which staff, volunteers, agency partners, funding partners and communities work together for the

ultimate good of each Kentucky child," Joe Kurth said when he was named the new assistant extension director for 4-H Youth Development at the University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of

Agriculture, Food and Environment back in

Until Kurth's recent passing, he dedicated his life to making this vision become a reality — impacting countless people, while being an advocate for Kentucky

4-H youth and programming. spanning 50 years.

Bob O'Brien, Kurth's administrative assistant for seven vears, was "immediately impressed."

"We could tell right away that Joe would be a strong advocate for 4-H," O'Brien said. "He empowered us, and the agents really liked Joe. He knew our worth and value. He encouraged his people and wasn't afraid to advocate for us and our ideas."

Kurth's endless supply of enthusiasm, genuine spirit and compassion for youth, volunteers and extension professionals were just some of his characteristics that helped him build and sustain meaningful relationships. His servant leadership approach helped Kurth and the 4-H team build and grow 4-H's international capacity and membership.

"Dr. Kurth brought a sense of stability and vision to the Kentucky 4-H program," said Chuck Stamper, UK extension special projects coordinator of 4-H Youth Development at Martin-Gatton CAFE. "He always wanted to move the program forward."

For those that knew Kurth best, his character, charisma, integrity and leadership style are what set him apart along with an unforgettable motto. Get on the KY 4-H

bus. Don't get left behind! According to

Stamper, this motto embodied Kurth.

Joyce Belcher, who originally hired and worked with Kurth for approximately 11 years, recalls one of his first team meetings which included the memorable analogy.

"I'll never forget that meeting," Belcher said. "Joe asked us to think of a school bus where he was the driver, and we were the passengers. He asked that we step on the bus with him and that it was his job to know the skills of each person to help the bus move in the right direction. This could involve moving people on the bus around or even letting them off at the next stop. This philosophy really helped people get on board or they could be left behind. We accomplished things that other people said were impossible, believing that everyone has valuable skills to offer."

Kurth's belief in people has extended even further for Belcher, who originally thought she wasn't qualified for a leadership opportunity at a popular destination resort in Kentucky. After seeking Kurth's guidance, Belcher applied for and secured the job, using Kurth's bus school analogy to help motivate her team along the way.

"He was able to reach

down into you and make you believe in what you can do," Belcher said. "I got that job because of Joe. Joe was there to help, and vou could always call on Joe anytime. He was a wonderful man, and he believed in people."

Remembering Joe Kurth

Growing up in Savanna, Illinois, Kurth was a member of the Tip Top Troopers 4-H Club for 10 years.

Kurth served as Area 4-H Youth Specialist for the Missouri Cooperative Extension for five years and then became state 4-H curriculum specialist at the University of Missouri – Columbia from 1981-86. During that time, he created and coordinated the National 4-H Curriculum Network.

Kurth then served as Idaho's 4-H director from 1986-87, which doubled in size during his tenure. He chaired the writing committee and was the principal author for the 4-H International publication "And My World."

He became State 4-H director in Washington State from 1987-93. He chaired the Development Committee for the National 4-H Curriculum Handbook, the precursor of the National 4-H Curriculum System. The statewide 4-H enrollment doubled

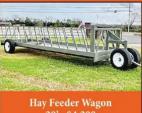
> see KURTH, page A9



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KURTH, **from** page A8

to 75,000 with only 13 full-time 4-H agents serving 40 counties.

Kurth served as the director of 4-H Programs for Iowa from 1993-2003, where participation grew from 73,000 to 130,000. He also served on the National 4-H Name and **Emblem Committee for** three years and served two years on the National 4-H Council Board of Directors.

In 2003, his family moved to Lexington where Kurth accepted the position of assistant director of **UK** Cooperative Extension for 4-H

Youth Development Programs. During this time, he served as National Chair of State 4-H Directors and as National Chair of the States' 4-H International Exchange Programs Board of Directors.

Additional accomplishments included developing the Kentucky 4-H core curriculum, securing **American Camping** Association accreditation for all four state 4-H camping centers, introducing Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) programs, launching the Livestock Volunteer certification/re-

certification and the Horse Volunteer certification, introducing the "4-H: A Capitol Experience" and 4-H Summit and celebrating Kentucky's 4-H Centennial.

In 2008, Kurth also led 4-H'ers in donating their state fair projects to feed the hungry. In 2010. Kurth retired from UK, concluding a career spanning approximately five decades.

He received the Kentucky 4-H Distinguished Leadership Award at the Kentucky Volunteer Forum in 2012 and was inducted into the National 4-H

Rachel Guidugli, a 4-H member during Kurth's leadership and current assistant extension director for 4-H Youth Development shares, "Kentucky 4-H stands on the shoulders of giants, and Dr. Kurth is one of those giants. The positive impact of

Hall of Fame in 2015.

communities, country and world for generations to come."

his contribution will be

felt by young people in

their clubs,

To learn more about the Kentucky 4-H Youth Development, part of the UK Cooperative Extension Service at Martin-Gatton CAFE, visit https://4-h.ca.uky.



Joe Kurth speaking at the 4-H: A Capitol Experience in Frankfort, Kentucky (2010).

Photo provided by Martin-Gatton CAFE



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JD 4520 Tractor, Showing 5,105 Hrs., S/N JD 577 Round Baler, Twine Tie, 540 PTO, w/

/N E00557X300234

JD 1850 Drill, 30', NT, w/JD 1900 Commodity

190 Bu, S/N H01850X672028, S/N H01900T675649 GP 30' Drill

Land Pride FDR1672 Finish Mower, S/N 2060062

Kinze 1100 Grain Cart, Tracks, S/N 105127 CIH 1240 Planter, 31R, 15" Spacing, Martin Floatina

Row Cleaners, NT Coulters, S/N YASO08823 King Cutter 7' Disk

NH TN75S Tractor, 445 Hrs., Open Station,

3 Pt. Sprayer, 36' Booms, Fence Row Nozzles, Hyd. Folding Booms, Pump, 200 Gal Poly Tank Hoelscher 10 Bale Accumulator, S/N 02769 JD 4830 Sprayer, 100' Booms, 1,025 Gal Stainless

Tank, 380/90R46 Tires, Approx 3,500 Hrs., JD 2600

Display, Starfire 3000 Receiver, S/N N04830X003647

Spra Coupe 4660 Sprayer, 2,100 Hrs., 5 Section Control, Auto Steer, Perkins Engine, Allison Auto Trans, 80' Booms, S/N AGCS4660VDN8A2089 2009 CIH 7120 Combine, 2-WD, 4,365/2,984

Chopper, Spreader, Lateral Tilt, 520/42 Duals, AFS Pro 600 Monitor, S/N Y9G206930 JD 6500 Sprayer, 2,312 Hrs., 60' Booms,

1979 Ford F-350 Custom 1 Ton Truck w/Grain

4 Speed, VIN: F37SUEA4043 84" Skid Steer Bucket

72" Skid Steer Bucket 6' Pasture Aerator - 3 Pt. 8' Aerator - 3 Pt.

Pallet Forks - JD Pin Hookup Pallet Forks - Skid Steer Hookup Bale Spear - Skid Steer Hookup Bale Spear - JD Pin Hookup

Bale Spear - Global Hookup 6' Crimper 7' Crimper

6' Box Blade, Double Edge - 3 Pt. 6' Arena Rake - 3 Pt. 7' Arena Rake - 3 Pt.

78" Skid Steer Bucket Unverferth 3750 Seed Tender CIH 4300 30' Field Cultivator

JD 1850 30' Drill w/JD 787 Air Cart 8 Shank Stripper Ripper JD 787 Air Cart 6 Shank Ripper, NT, Shear Bolt

Hesston 565T Round Baler, Twine Tie 2007 JD 8430 Tractor, 6,060 Hrs., Powershift, IIS Front

NH 316 Square Baler JD 9750 Combine, 3,000 Sep. Hrs. Estimated, S/N H09750s685912 JD 635F Platform, S/N 1H00635FHA0737381

JD 9510 Combine, 2-WD, 3,225/2,020 Hrs JD 693 Corn Head JD 922 Platform

66" Skid Steer Rucket 'New

LS 7040 Tractor Work Saver Rock Grapple - Skid Steer Hookup 2015 JD 5085E Tractor, MFWD, 1,802 Hrs.,

12.4-24 Front Tires, 18.4-30 Rear Tires, JD H240 Loader w/Bucket, 2 SCV, 12 Speed, LHR, S/N 1LV5085ELFY441789

2001 JD 5105 Tractor, 2-WD, Canopy, Hrs

JD 522 Loader w/Bucket, 9.5-15 Front Tires, 16.9-28 Rear Tires, 1 SCV, 540 PTO, 12 Speed, S/N LV5105C211559

1982 JD 2940 Tractor, 5,672 Hrs., 2-WD,

Canopy, 10.00-16 Front Tires, 18.4-34 Rear Tires, 2 SCV, 540/1000 PTO, 8 Speed, S/N 411864 2015 JD 6125M Tractor, MFWD, C/H/A, 4,103

14.9-24 Front Tires, 18.4-34 Rear Tires, JD H260 Loader w/Bucket, 3 SCV, 540/1000 PTO, 24

PowrQuad, LHR, S/N 1L06125MCEG815340 Kubota L6060 HSTC Tractor, MFWD, C/H/A, 207 Hrs., 9.5-16 Front Tires, 14.9-26 Rear Tires, Kubota LA1055 Loader w/ Bucket, 1 SCV, 540 PTO.

S/N KBUL5FHCLM8B50714 1990 JD 4555 Tractor, 7,531 Hrs., 14l-16.1

Front Tires, 460/42 Duals, 3 SCV, 1000 PTO, 16 Speed Quad

Range, Quick Hitch, S/N RW4555H004096 2017 JD 6105E Tractor, 2,489 Hrs., 340/24 Front Tires,

460/34 Rear Tires, JD 540M Loader w/Bucket,

540/1000 PTO, 12 Speed, LHR, S/N 1P06105EEH0010135 2017 JD 2032R Compact Tractor, 264 Hrs.,

Canopy, JD 220R Loader w/Bucket, JD 72D Mower Deck, 14-17.5 NHS Rear Tires, Hydrostat, PTO, S/N 1LV2032REHH101707 Ford 601 Workmaster Tractor 2013 JD 7200R Tractor, 3,398 Hrs., 420/30

Front Tires. 480/46 Rear Duals, 4SCV, 540/1000 PTO, 20 Speed

PowrQuad, 59 GPM Hyd. Pump, 15,000# Hitch S/N 1RW7200RCDA015677

2012 JD 7215R Tractor, 4,528 Hrs., 420/30 480/46 Rear Duals, 4 SCV, 540/1000 PTO,

20 Speed PowrQuad, 43 GPM Hyd. Pump, 15,000# Hitch, S/N 1RW7215RECA007261

1997 JD 7810 Tractor, MFWD, 5,200 Hrs., 18.4-42 Duals, 3 SCV, 540/1000 PTO, 16 Speed

PowrQuad, S/N RW7810H005366 1982 JD 4440 Tractor, 6,257 Hrs., 20.8-38

Duals, JD 158 Loader, Quad Range, S/N 4440H067573RW

1991 JD 4555 Tractor, MFWD, 5,732 Hrs., 380/30 Front

Tires, 18.4-42 Duals, 3 SCV, 1000 PTO, Powershift,

1 Owner, S/N RW4555P007094 2013 CIH 7230 Combine, 4-WD, 5,568/4,231

20.8/42 Duals, Chopper, AFS Pro 700 Monitor,

YDG219903 2011 JD 9570 Combine, 2-WD, 1,925/1,296

30.5-32 Front Tires, Chopper, Contour Master, S/N 1H09570SPB0740889 CIH 4408 Corn Head, 8R, 30", S/N YHH632699 2013 CIH 3408 Corn Head, Knife Rolls, Hyd. Deck Plates, S/N YSD040204 2020 JD 708C Corn Head, Knife Rolls, Hyd.

Plates, Header Height Sensors, Row Sense, S/N 1H00708CCLX810095 AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!

















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# University of Kentucky 2025 Signature Industries Career Fair set for Sept. 25



More than 400 participants from 75 UK majors and academic programs, as well as six other universities, participated in last year's career fair.

Photo by Matt Barton

**By Holly Wiemers** 

LEXINGTON, Ky.— The annual University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment 2025 Kentucky Signature Industries Career Fair returns Sept. 25.

This event, which takes place from 1-4 p.m. ET at the Gatton Student Center on campus, will feature three Kentucky leading industries: agribusiness, distillation and equine. Registration is now open to employers, who are

encouraged to sign up by the Aug. 25 early bird deadline.

"This event will bring together employers from across three very connected industries, and I am excited to see how that opens doors of opportunities for our students," said Savannah Robin, lecturer of career and professional development at Martin-Gatton CAFE and event coorganizer. "Participating in an event like this isn't just about these businesses, companies or farms recruiting for open positions—it's about building awareness and establishing long-lasting relationships with our students that can lead to employment in the future."

More than 400 participants from 75 UK majors and academic programs, as well as six other universities, participated in last year's fair.

"While we are committed year-round to connecting our students with employers, our Signature Industries Career Fair is the best way to create that bridge between them and employers," said Seth DeBolt, director of UK's James B. Beam Institute for Kentucky Spirts.

UK Ag Equine Programs began a standalone career fair in 2009. In 2022, the college's equine and distillation programs joined forces to provide enhanced career opportunities to Kentucky and regional college students for two of the state's most recognized industries. This year, an agribusiness emphasis joins the career fair for job seekers and prospective employers to meet.

"We're excited to continue creating opportunities where our students can connect directly with industry leaders, explore diverse career paths in agribusiness and agricultural economics and gain real-world insight." said Aslihan Spaulding, chair and professor within UK's Department of Agricultural Economics. "The fair also strengthens our alumni network, as former students return to inspire and guide the next generation—building a resilient, collaborative community rooted in agricultural advancement and innovation."

UK alum Anthony

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see CAREER FAIR, page A13

#### CAREER FAIR, from page A12

Koch with Hallway Feeds shaking hands with a student at last vear's career fair. Photo by Matt Barton.

Anthony Koch, Hallway Feeds director of sales and marketing, shared how attending a previous career fair as an employer was beneficial for his businesses and professional network.

"Our representatives were pleasantly surprised at the networking opportunities to meet other industry professionals and pleased with the quality and quantity of young people in attendance." Koch said. "The students were all prepared to

have professional conversations about our company and available positions."

UK students from all majors, as well as alums and the broader community, are invited to attend. Student registration will open Aug. 1. **Employer registration** is now open. Rates are discounted for

government and nonprofit organizations. Early bird pricing for employers ends Aug. 25.

For more information on registering, both as an attendee or employer, visit https://students. ca.uky.edu/kentuckysignature-industriescareer-fair.



Anthony Kock with Hallway Feeds shaking hands with a UK student.

Photo by Martin-Gatton CAFE

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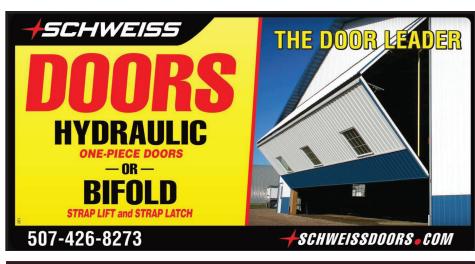


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The Kentucky Department of Agriculture welcomed 12 college interns this summer to work alongside KDA employees gaining insight into the agriculture field. Pictured are, from left, is Davis Miller, Emily Tabor, Taylor Bishop, Shelby Butler, Leslie Monhollen, Dylan Foster, Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell, Mary Brooke Stith, Rachel Cowheard, Abigail Barrett, Callie Hudson, Emily Chunglo, and Sayde Lowe.



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# **KY Dept. of Agriculture** welcomes summer interns

FRANKFORT, Ky. - Twelve college students are interning

this summer at the **Kentucky Department** of Agriculture (KDA) assisting KDA employees and Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture Jonathan

Shell help residents across the state with agricultural needs.

"KDA's internship program offers college students an opportunity to work side-by-side with our employees and agriculture community for a unique experience," Commissioner Shell said. "This mentorship program can help launch careers in ag-related fields by providing a great advantage to those who want to continue in agriculture."

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture's summer internship program has provided opportunities for students to gain first-hand experience. knowledge, and understanding of the governmental process through preprofessional work in various occupational

fields. KDA offers students studying majors both directly and indirectly relating to agriculture. Career paths of current and former interns include, but are not limited to, agriculture, education, computer science, marketing, public relations, and pre-law.

KDA interns work with KDA employees learning the various programs of the departments that make up KDA, allowing them to gain insight into considering a future career within the ag industry and with KDA.

This year's interns have attended livestock shows, proclamations, conferences, and attended interviews with department employees. In addition, interns have worked closely with employees to develop social media promotions, help teach the public about farm safety, and work with the senior's market and the junior chef programs.

This year's interns

- Abigail Barrett, Lexington, attending University of Kentucky
  - Taylor Bishop,

Springfield and Greensburg, attending Morehead State University

- · Shelby Butler, Mount Washington, attending University of Kentucky
- Emily Chunglo, Harrodsburg, attending Western Kentucky University
- · Rachel Cowherd, Campbellsville, attending University of Kentucky
- · Callie Hudson, Versailles, attending University of Tennessee
- Dylan Foster, Florence, attending Morehead State University
- · Sayde Lowe, Murray, attending Murray State University
- Davis Miller, Lexington, attending Wofford College
- · Leslie Monhollen. Williamsburg, attending University of Kentucky
- · Mary Brooke Stith, Brandenburg, attending Murray State University
- · Emily Tabor, Garfield, attending Western Kentucky University





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RECEIVING AND LOAD OUT: Must have a paid receipt for loadout, Sunday, Aug. 17th 12p-5p, Monday, Aug. 18th-Saturday, Aug. 23rd 8a-5p. Buyer is responsible for all shipping logistics and costs. Items not picked up after 30 days after the auction, will incur a daily storage fee. Items not picked up 60 days after the auction will be considered abandoned and will be disposed of

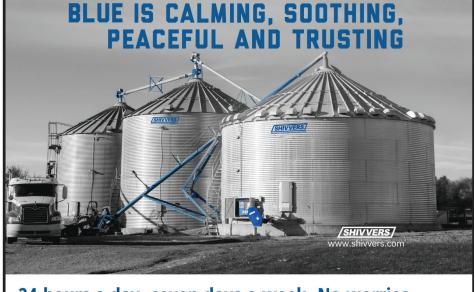
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# Celebrating 100 years of beef research and extension at the University of Kentucky Research and Education Center

Princeton, Ky. — In the mid-1920s, a determined group of Caldwell County residents took a bold leap to reshape agriculture in Western Kentucky. Pooling their resources, they purchased 400 acres of farmland near Princeton and invited the University of Kentucky to establish a forward-thinking experiment "substation" dedicated to crop and livestock research.

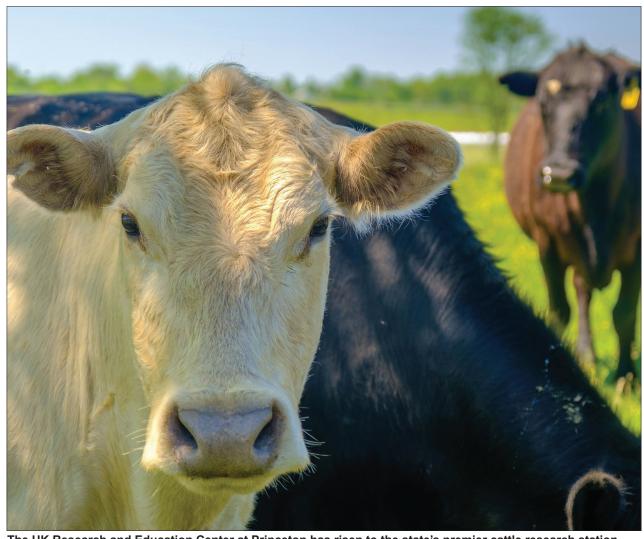
Although tobacco and soil fertility captured headlines at first, the community had something else squarely in its sight: beef cattle. From the very beginning, the promise of bigger, healthier herds fueled a pioneering spirit that would go on to transform the region's farming landscape.

When the West
Kentucky SubExperiment Station
opened in 1925, the very
first facilities included
a dairy barn and
modest paddocks. While
dairying dominated the
early livestock projects,
extension agents and
local producers began
pushing for more
research on beef cattle
management, health
and feeding strategies.

In 1928, the station launched its first beef-centered trial by introducing small groups of yearling steers onto improved pastures. Researchers tracked weight gains and profitability, using fields that were carefully limed and reseeded with clover. The results were dramatic: Cattle on these improved plots gained far more than those on unimproved, weedy pastures. Those findings demonstrated how better grazing practices could bolster beef production in an era when local pastures were often nutrient-

By the early 1930s and 1940s, Princeton had expanded its beef work to include many studies such as feedlot-style "fattening" trials and more partnerships with surrounding producers. Fattening improvements involved better pastures.

Samual Lowry, the facility's first superintendent, stated that "It is my belief that our brightest ray of hope for any marked increase in the agricultural wealth of Kentucky will be found



The UK Research and Education Center at Princeton has risen to the state's premier cattle research station.

Photo by Matt Barton

in further development of our livestock industry, following the development of better pastures, and that the average farmer will of necessity be led to produce better pastures."

In 1961, the station started a purebred Hereford breeding herd, a popular beef breed at the time. Establishing a purebred herd signaled that UKREC would be a source of improved beef genetics and breeding insight for Kentucky producers. The herd allowed researchers to conduct breeding trials, evaluate cow-calf management under Western Kentucky conditions, and raise bulls for testing.

In 1962, almost immediately after the Hereford herd was formed, the facility hosted Kentucky's first performance-tested bull sale. This annual "Princeton Bull Sale" became a celebrated event for the next two decades, where bulls from the station's herd (and later from cooperating breeders) were sold to farmers based on measured performance.

The 1970s and 1980s ushered in a new era of comprehensive beef research. In those years, faculty and staff recognized that a robust, uniform and well-managed herd was

essential for meaningful science.

"Our cattle herd back then was all over the place – different ages, breeds, you name it," said Roy Burris, emeritus faculty in the Beef Center of Excellence.

The turnaround really gained steam in the early 1980s under new leadership and vision. Researchers and farm managers worked to develop a more uniform, well-managed herd (Herefords were being replaced by Black Angus) that would serve as a reliable platform for experiments.

'We essentially rebuilt the herd from the ground up," Burris said. "They shortened the calving season so that calves were born in a tight window, and they introduced performance-based culling to remove poor producers. Over time, the Princeton herd became known for its uniformity and health and surprised a lot of people.'

Expanding research: Preconditioning and nutrition

With a solid herd in place, UKREC expanded into new areas of beef research in the late 20th century. One major focus became "preconditioning" – the process of preparing weaned calves for the next stage of production

through vaccinations, weaning, and nutrition protocols. Kentucky was an early adopter of preconditioning programs (like the state's renowned CPH-45 feeder calf sales) and UKREC provided the science to back them up.

Station experts studied how preconditioning affects calf weight gain and health, demonstrating that calves managed under these protocols brought producers higher returns at market and reduced sickness.

"We proved what our producers suspected – investing in herd health before sales pay off," Burris said.

Burris said.
Nutrition research
also took off. UKREC
researchers investigated
optimal feed programs
for cow-calf operations,
from improved pasture
forages to supplemental
feeding strategies
during winter.

In the 1990s, partnerships with UK's Lexington campus allowed the facility to analyze cattle feed efficiency and growth at a deeper level. Nutritionists in Lexington ran lab tests on forage quality, while UKREC staff conducted feeding trials on-site. This tag-team approach led to advances in using by-product feeds (like distillers' grains from the bourbon industry)

and refining mineral supplementation to prevent deficiencies in Kentucky herds.

Future growth, lasting commitment

In recent years, UKREC has embraced cutting-edge technology, including "smart" ear tags to measure animal behavior and alert herd managers and researchers to animal health concerns and reproductive performance. The herd has also undergone genomic testing to learn more about the genetics of individual animals within the herd.

The unit has also utilized technology to measure individual animal feed and mineral intake, which is a powerful tool in nutrition studies. Animals within the herd have been managed under two different mineral supplementation strategies for over 15 years to study the impact of selenium source on animal performance and reproduction.

Results from this work have been incorporated into industry recommendations to help producers combat selenium deficiency, which is a common challenge in the Commonwealth and region.

"One of the reasons this work has been so impactful is that the amount of selenium that can be fed to livestock is regulated, so producers cannot simply feed more selenium to combat deficiencies, but they can feed a better type of selenium," said Katherine VanValin, assistant professor in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences at UKREC.

While technology assists researchers with collecting cuttingedge data from cattle out on pasture, these technologies also represent future opportunities for Kentucky's beef producers, with a secondary goal of determining how these technologies can be adopted and utilized by producers to improve efficiency on their own operations.

The unit is also the future home of the Beef Extension Education Farm, which will provide a location for producers to see demonstrations of best management practices in a practical environment and participate in hands-on experiential learning opportunities and programs. Efforts are underway to construct facilities to support these efforts and welcome producers back to the farm. A cornerstone for

Kentucky's beef industry After a century of progress, the UK Research and Education Center at Princeton stands as a cornerstone of Kentucky's \$1 billion beef cattle industry. Generations of farmers have attended UKREC field days and carried new ideas home to their pastures. The facility's influence nov extends beyond state lines - other land-grant universities often look to UKREC's beef program as a model for integrating research, extension and producer partnerships.

With its blend of heritage, research and deep ties to the community over the past 100 years, UKREC station is not only celebrating a century of beef cattle research – it's actively building the future of beef, for Kentucky and beyond.

To see the latest UKREC beef research and how the facility is advancing the industry, visit https://ukrec.ca.uky.edu/.

# Soybean farmers promote efficiency and savings at the most local level

Rural bridges are a major component of the initial link in the agricultural supply chain. Farmers utilize rural bridges to transport soybeans and grain from the farm to the local delivery location. The subsequent links in the agricultural supply chain will involve highways and interstates, freight railroads, inland waterways, and ports. All those links are essential to farmer profitability, but if farmers do not have access to wellmaintained rural bridges, the other links in the supply chain fade in importance. If soybeans cannot take the first step in their marketing journey, the following steps will not occur.

Unfortunately, when it comes to rural bridges, the needs are significant, but the resources are limited. A rural bridge can easily cost \$250,000 to \$1 million while the total amount of annual funding to the county from federal, state, and local sources is often around \$500,000 to \$1.5 million. Given how a single rural county can often have 200-400 bridges, the need to address the challenge of maintaining and enhancing rural bridges must be addressed from the cost side of the equation and not just the revenue side. The Soy Transportation Coalition (STC) recently partnered

with a rural county to highlight an innovative concept that will provide significant cost savings while maintaining safety.

In 2024, the STC

partnered with

Buchanan County, Iowa, in the construction of one of the longest railroad flat car bridges in the country. Measuring 135 ft. in length by 28 feet in width, the bridge utilized six retired railroad flat cars in its construction. The final cost to construct the bridge was \$300,000. If the county employed more traditional construction methods for the bridge, the cost would have been approximately \$900,000. The county therefore saved approximately \$600,000 by utilizing the railroad flat car method. Construction of the bridge commenced on May 14 of last year and concluded on August 27 – a significantly shorter "road closed" time than what might have been with a more traditional approach to bridge replacement. Brian Keierleber, **Buchanan County** Engineer and the entire team at the **Buchanan County** Secondary Roads Department have been national leaders in utilizing innovative concepts for bridge and road construction – saving area taxpayers millions of dollars while maintaining safety



and access to the public.

"My first priority as a county engineer is maintaining and improving public safety," Keierleber said. "Other important priorities for our team are to maintain access to the infrastructure network while being a good steward of taxpayer dollars. Unfortunately, the economic reality is that rural counties have a large quantity of rural bridges to maintain and improve while having access to stagnant and, often, declining resources to accomplish this task. The math simply does not add up. It is therefore critical that county engineers and other rural stakeholders explore and promote more cost-effective approaches to repair and replace rural bridges without compromising safety. Necessity is the mother of all invention."

**Buchanan County** assumed the cost of the bridge construction. The STC provided \$15,000 to help offset the costs of pre-engineering and design. The STC also assumed the cost of positioning a video camera to capture the entire process of constructing the bridge. The twominute time lapse video of the bridge construction can be

accessed by using the Bridge Time Lapse QR code.

"Some areas of rural America depend more on rail transportation. Other areas depend more on river transportation. However, all areas of rural America depend on a well-maintained system of roads and bridges," says Mike Koehne, a soybean farmer from Greensburg, Indiana, and chairman of the Soy Transportation Coalition. "The Soy Transportation Coalition is very supportive of these innovative approaches to repairing and replacing rural bridges, but the reality is that many areas of the country are not familiar with them or are hesitant to try anything new. The aim of supporting this project in **Buchanan County is** to promote awareness of these approaches and to encourage their use in rural areas in the future.

The use of railroad flat cars to replace rural bridges has been analyzed and validated by reputable universities and research institutions. **Buchanan County** alone has replaced 34 bridges over the past twenty years utilizing the railroad flat car method. Earlier this vear, the North Carolina Department of Transportation

announced it had replaced 40 bridges via the railroad flat car method in response to the infrastructure damage from Hurricane Helene. The North Carolina Department of Transportation announced the replaced bridges cost one-third of the normal cost of replacement.

The STC's support of this project is a continuation of the organization's earlier 2021 report, "Top 20 Innovations for Rural Bridge Replacement and Repair." Railroad flat car bridges were one of the concepts prominently featured in the report. The Top 20 report, which may be accessed at www. soytransportation.org, includes numerous other bridge replacement and repair concepts that have been implemented in areas throughout rural America and have demonstrated significant cost savings.

"There has clearly been a renewed focus this year on government efficiency and the need to practice good stewardship of taxpaver dollars." explains Mike Steenhoek, executive director of the Soy Transportation Coalition. "The condition of our nation's rural bridges is a problem we

simply cannot spend our way out of. We need to promote ways to make the taxpaver dollar stretch further without compromising safety. The use of railroad flat cars and other innovative approaches is an opportunity to immediately achieve efficiency and costsavings. Soybean farmers look forward to continuing to work with rural stakeholders in making this a reality."

Established in 2007, the Soy Transportation Coalition is composed of fourteen state soybean boards, the American Soybean Association, and the United Sovbean Board. The goal of the organization is to position the soybean industry to benefit from a transportation system that delivers cost effective, reliable. and competitive service.

The Kentucky Sovbean Promotion Board is a voting member of this innovative - and necessary – coalition. Kentucky farmers were represented until mid-June by Allen Pace of Ballard County and Dan Pirtle of Graves County. These volunteer farmer-leaders were succeeded by Matt Moss of Fulton County and Mako **Nesler of Graves** County.



## Soybean interns attend US Soybean Export Council Retreat

Kentucky Soybean Board summer interns Braeden Coomer (left) and Libby Alexander joined interns from several other **Qualified State** Soybean Boards for a program designed to introduce them to elements of the sovbean business beyond their respective state lines.

The retreat was sponsored by the U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC) at its Chesterfield, Missouri headquarters, and included a trip to the nearby Bayer Innovation Experience, located inside the Bayer Crop Science Research Center.

The interns were

fascinated by the numerous growth chambers inside the Bayer facility, each set to simulate climates in different parts of the world. Plants in various growth stages and with a wide variety of traits are grown in these specially designed chambers, all to see how they respond to different

environments and stressors.

Other simulators have been designed to show side-by-side trials of plants purposely infested with diseases or pests, and it's easy for visitors to see what treatments or traits help the plant to resist damage and which ones are ineffective.

The group also toured an Archer Daniels Midland (ADM) riverport facility and were interested to see up close how barges lock through to head downriver to their destination – the Port of New Orleans. This facility accepts both whole beans and soybean meal and can receive cargo from

trucks and railcars. "They can load two barges at once, where most facilities can only do one at a time," said intern Braeden Coomer.

In addition to the tours, the interns enjoyed presentations from USSEC that show where the

> see RETREAT. page A18







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soybeans from the states they represent are utilized. Of Kentucky's whole beans, a little less than half are crushed and used here in the Commonwealth, while the remainder are shipped out of state. Of the soybeans that leave our borders, about 90

percent make their way downriver to be exported through the Gulf of Mexico.

Coomer attends
Murray State
University's Hutson
School of Agriculture
and is majoring in Ag
Business, while
Alexander is an Ag
Communication
major at Tarleton
State University in
Stephenville, Texas.





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### Johnstone to lead Coop. Extension's efforts in building health partnerships

By Christopher Carney

LEXINGTON, Ky.—
The University of
Kentucky Cooperative
Extension Service has
hired Chlodys Johnstone
as the new assistant dean
for extension health
partnerships at
the Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment,
effective July 1.

"Chlodys Johnstone brings a unique blend of clinical expertise, educational leadership and extensive experience serving Kentuckians to this new role," said Laura Stephenson, vice president for land-grant engagement and Martin-Gatton CAFE dean. "Her experience building cross-sector partnerships and advancing community health will be instrumental as we strengthen Extension's ability to serve Kentuckians through

innovative health initiatives."

In this role, Johnstone will champion building and sustaining partnerships with on-campus departments and units, external institutions, government entities and private, public-sector organizations to engage Extension's resources, optimizing health solutions for people, animals and ecosystems in Kentucky.

"As an educator and clinician dedicated to serving Kentuckians, I can imagine no better place to promote health and prevent disease than the Cooperative Extension Service at the University of Kentucky, which is deeply rooted in communities across our Commonwealth," Johnstone said. "This role commitment aligns perfectly with the land-grant mission to

improve the lives of residents across Kentucky."

Beginning in 2022, Johnstone served as the associate director of education and quality services at UK HealthCare Barnstable Brown Diabetes Center. She helped manage and promote nationally certified Diabetes Self-Management **Education and Support** Services and the **Diabetes Prevention** Program, maintained diabetes technology training contract services and expanded community outreach efforts. These efforts included innovative programming in collaboration with Extension, Martin-Gatton CAFE and the UK College of Education to enhance community outreach efforts and improve chronic disease management.

Previously, Johnstone provided direct patient care as a physician assistant and served as the adult endocrine advanced practice provider at UK HealthCare, leading teams and designing processes and procedures to improve patient outcomes.

Johnstone also has prior experience as a physician assistant at UK HealthCare Division of Hospital Medicine and East Side Family Medicine and as a middle school science teacher at Jefferson County Public Schools.

Johnstone has two degrees from the University of Kentucky: a master's degree in physician assistant studies and a bachelor's degree in plant and social science. She also has a Master of Arts in teaching from the University of Louisville.

To learn more about Extension at Martin-Gatton CAFE, visit https://extension. ca.uky.edu.

###

Writer: Christopher. Carney@uky.edu

University of
Kentucky alum and
former trustee Carol
Martin "Bill"
Gatton bestowed a
transformational \$100
million gift to the UK
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
through The Bill Gatton
Foundation. It is the
largest gift to the
university in its history.

The Bill Gatton
Foundation gift includes
four pillars which are
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Initiatives for Student
Success; HigginsNeyland Companion
Animal Program; 21st
Century Capital Projects
and New Initiatives
Fund; and Faculty
Research and

Innovation/Research Challenge Trust Fund Program.

The Faculty Research and Innovation/ Research Challenge Trust Fund Program includes four grand challenges: Developing a Structural Framework and Action Plan for a Climate Resiliency Hub Serving Kentucky and Beyond; Growing Graduates from the Group Up; University of Kentucky One Health Complex; and Synergizing Extension Health Partnerships.



**Chlodys Johnstone** 

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# Join me at the Kentucky State Fair this year

By Kentucky **Agriculture** Commissioner **Jonathan Shell** 

The 121st Kentucky State Fair is just a couple of weeks away! I want you to join me Aug. 14-24 and experience the sights, sounds, and smells that make the State Fair one of the best times of the vear. It's the perfect showcase of Kentucky's agricultural spirit and everything Kentucky has to offer.

Farming is a way of life for many in Kentucky, but its impact is vital for every resident. It's why I'm dedicated to ensuring a bright future for Kentucky agriculture. That future is showcased during the

fair as hundreds of thousands of people make their way out each year.

As a member of the State Fair Board, I can assure you lots of behind-the-scenes actions take place to make the fair a showcase for our state. Planned renovations, being furnished by a \$200 million appropriation for the State Fair by our General Assembly, will create an even better experience for fairgoers in the coming years.

Changes on a smaller scale were also a part of last year's AgLand, which brings together more than an acre of agriculture exhibits in the South Wing highlighting Kentucky's farm and

field heritage, including the future of farming and agribusiness. Those changes, which included more interactive and immersive exhibits, will return this year after earning a firstplace award from the International Association of Fairs and Exposition. AgLand is also where you'll find Kentucky 4-H, Kentucky FFA, and other ag exhibits reaching a broad and diverse audience.

At the State Fair, you will see why we're Kentucky Proud of our agriculture industry. Kentucky's leading youth livestock exhibitors compete for the highest honors of the show season. Kentucky's commodity

\$56,487

groups serve delicious meals at the Great Kentucky Cookout

Tent. The agricultural displays highlight the best our Kentucky farmers have to offer.

Creating an inclusive experience for all our residents will, once again, be highlighted this year as we offer the Sunshine Class on Aug. 20. Now in its fourth year, the event creates an opportunity for people with special needs to get hands-on experience with the agriculture industry by showing livestock in a show ring. We are hoping for an even larger

class of participants this year as we pair the Sunshine Class experience with Sensory Awareness Day at the State Fair. The day offers minimal music and lights for fairgoers with sensory process needs.

As always, your **Kentucky Department** of Agriculture will be on the job at the fair. Our employees meet the public and talk about the ways agriculture affects everyday lives. We help manage the livestock shows and agricultural exhibits. We also help livestock producers and exhibitors protect their investments in their animals.

We want you to leave the fair with fond memories that

will last a lifetime. We encourage everyone to come out and experience the Kentucky State Fair! It's a celebration of our agriculture, heritage, and community. There's something for everyone to enjoy. Don't miss this annual tradition!

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# ummer (learance



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# Flesh-Eating maggots threaten livestock in Kentucky

A Growing Concern for Farmers

By Wilbur Jackson KPI Writer

In recent months, livestock farmers across Kentucky have been battling a troubling outbreak of flesh-eating maggots, a condition medically known as mviasis. This parasitic infestation, caused by fly larvae, is affecting cattle, sheep, goats, and other farm animals, raising alarm among agricultural communities and veterinarians alike. The situation is particularly dire during the warm and humid summer months, which provide ideal breeding conditions for the flies responsible for the maggots.

Myiasis occurs when certain species of flies—most notably screwworms and blowflieslay their eggs in open wounds or moist areas on an animal's body. Once the eggs hatch, the larvae burrow into the flesh, feeding on living tissue and causing severe pain, infection, and in some cases, death. Although Kentucky has not historically been a hotspot for these aggressive parasitic flies, recent changes in weather patterns and increased livestock movement may be contributing to the spread.

Local veterinarians are reporting a sharp increase in



cases this summer, with some counties seeing double the normal rate of infections. Dr. Karen Mills, a veterinarian in central Kentucky, explained, "We're seeing animals come in with rapidly progressing infestations. If not treated quickly, these maggots can do extensive damage in a matter of hours."

The presence of flesh-eating maggots poses not only an animal welfare issue but also an economic threat to Kentucky's agriculture sector. Livestock producers may face

costly treatments, reduced meat and dairy output, and even the loss of animals. A single infected cow can cost a farmer hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars in veterinary bills, labor, and decreased productivity.

Prevention is currently the best defense. Farmers are being urged to inspect their animals daily, especially for open wounds or signs of distress such as excessive licking, agitation, or a foul odor. Prompt cleaning and treatment of any cuts or abrasions can help prevent fly attraction. Additionally, fly control measures—such as insecticidal sprays, fly traps, and proper sanitation of barns and pastures—can reduce the fly population and limit the risk of infestation.

State agricultural officials have also stepped in, offering workshops and guidance on myiasis prevention and treatment. There is growing concern that if the infestation continues to spread unchecked, it could jeopardize livestock health across the region. Some experts are calling for increased surveillance and even potential quarantine measures in the most affected counties.

"This is a wake-up call," said Dr. Mills. "Farmers must stay vigilant. These maggots don't wait—they spread fast and silently."

As Kentucky navigates this livestock health crisis, coordination between farmers, veterinarians, and state officials will be crucial. While flesh-eating maggots may seem like something out of a horror story, they are a very real threat—and without prompt and proactive measures, the damage could become widespread and long-lasting.





# Farming in Western Kentucky: Strength, Tradition, and Innovation

By Wilbur Jackson KPI Writer

Western Kentucky has long been a cornerstone of the state's agricultural economy, known for its fertile soil, diverse crop production, and strong farming heritage. From the gently rolling fields of corn and soybeans to the expansive pastures dotted with cattle, the region blends tradition with modern practices to sustain one of the most productive agricultural zones in the southeastern United States.

Row crop farming dominates much

of the region, with corn, sovbeans, and wheat being the primary commodities. Western Kentucky's rich loam soil and favorable rainfall make it ideal for high-yield crop production. Many family farms have been passed down through generations, with younger farmers incorporating GPSguided machinery, drone surveillance, and conservation tillage to increase efficiency and sustainability.

Livestock farming, particularly beef cattle and poultry, also plays a key role. Cattle graze across large pastures in counties like Graves, Christian.

and Calloway, while large poultry operations contribute significantly to the state's overall meat and egg production.

The region is also home to a growing number of niche and specialty farms producing hemp, sweet potatoes, and artisanal goods like honey, cheese, and organic produce. These smaller operations are helping diversify the economy and meet the rising demand for locally grown products.

Despite its strengths, farmers in western Kentucky face challenges, including fluctuating market prices. unpredictable weather, and more recently, pest threats such as flesheating maggots. However, with strong community support, university-led agricultural research, and increasing access to technology, the region is well-positioned to adapt and thrive.

Farming in western Kentucky is more than an occupation—it's a way of life built on hard work, family values, and a deep connection to the land. As the industry evolves, western Kentucky farmers continue to lead with resilience and innovation.





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# Government deploys billions of sterile flies in Kentucky to combat maggot issue

By Wilbur Jackson KPI Writer

In an unprecedented move to combat the rising threat of flesh eating maggots ravaging Kentucky livestock, federal and state agricultural agencies have launched a large-scale aerial release of sterile flies across the most heavily affected regions. The bold strategy, backed by emergency funding and scientific research, aims to break the reproductive cycle of screwworms and blowflies—parasitic flies responsible for myiasis, the flesh-eating condition plaguing farm animals.

The program, overseen by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in partnership with the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, involves the weekly release of billions of sterile male flies over rural areas using specially outfitted aircraft. The sterile flies

are bred in government labs, irradiated to prevent reproduction, and then released to mate with wild female flies. Since no viable offspring result from these pairings, the overall fly population is expected to decline rapidly.

expected to decline rapidly "This technique has worked before in places like the southern United States and Central America," said Dr. Linda Cartwright, an entomologist with the USDA. "We're applying decades of research in insect population control to this urgent outbreak in Kentucky."

The operation began last month after an alarming surge in livestock myiasis cases in at least 32 counties. Farmers reported severe infestations in cattle, sheep, and goats, with some animals dying from infections caused by maggot-infested wounds. The infestation prompted emergency meetings and

intense lobbying from agricultural groups, urging swift and decisive government action.

By introducing sterile males into the environment in massive numbers, the government hopes to outcompete fertile males, thereby collapsing the population from within. The effort has been dubbed "Operation Flyshield" and is being hailed as one of the most ambitious sterile insect technique (SIT) deployments ever undertaken in the continental U.S.

Still, the plan is not without controversy. Some farmers and residents have expressed concern about the idea of releasing billions of insects into the environment, even if they are sterile.

Experts insist the method is both safe and environmentally friendly. Unlike chemical insecticides, which can harm beneficial insects and contaminate water supplies, SIT is speciesspecific and poses no risk to humans, wildlife, or

The cost of the operation is estimated at over \$45 million, a price tag that federal officials argue is small compared to the potential economic fallout of an uncontrolled maggot outbreak. Livestock losses from myiasis in Kentucky have already reached an estimated \$120 million this year alone.

Dr. Cartwright remains optimistic. "We've already seen early signs of success in pilot areas. Fly populations are dropping. If we stay the course, we can beat this."

As Operation Flyshield continues over the coming weeks, Kentucky farmers—and the nation's agricultural community—will be watching closely to see whether this swarm of sterile flies can stop a microscopic enemy with devastating consequences.





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#### • BALLARD •

Robert Scott Sr., age 87, passed away at his residence on Tuesday, July 8, 2025, in O'Fallon, Missouri. He was born in Ballard County. Graveside services were held on Saturday, July 12, 2025, at Pleasant Hill Cemetery beginning with Brother Glen Dunn officiating.

Gladys Lopez Fraser, age 88, of Wickliffe, KY, walked into her heavenly home and in the presence of her Lord and Savior became healthy again, on July 14, 2025. A funeral mass was held Thursday, July 17, 2025 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in LaCenter with Fr. Jude Okeoma officiating. Burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

#### • CALLOWAY •

Steven Alan Reinke, 69, of Murray, Kentucky, formerly of Detroit, Michigan, passed away on Thursday, July 10, 2025 at Ray and Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center in Paducah, Kentucky. No services are planned at this time.

William Bryant Hornbuckle, 74, of Murray, passed away peacefully at his home on Sunday, July 6, 2025. A private family graveside service with military honors will be held at Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West in Hopkinsville.

Willard Glenn Brake Sr., age 95, of Murray, Kentucky, passed away on Thursday, July 10, 2025, at his home. A funeral service was held Monday, July 14, 2025, at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Pastor Robert Mann officiating, and burial in the Murray City Cemetery.

Taylor Brianne Brooks, a beloved mother, wife, daughter, sister, and friend, passed away on Monday, July 7, 2025, at the age of 31. A funeral service was held Monday, July 14, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. at Gum Springs Baptist Church in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee. Bro. Chad Clanton officiating, and burial in the Gum Springs Baptist Church Cemetery.

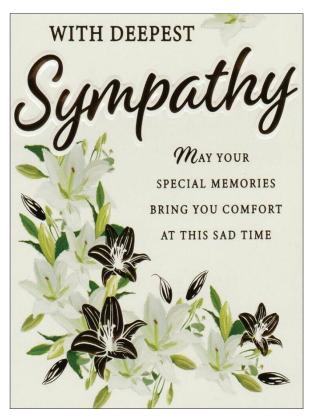
**Ted Franklin Billington** of Lexington, Kentucky, formerly of Murray, Kentucky, passed away peacefully on July 10, 2025, at the age of 86. Visitation will be held on Friday, July 18, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home and Cremation Services followed by a graveside service at 12:30 p.m. at the Murray City Cemetery.

**Thomas W. Allen**, 67 of Murray, KY passed away Monday, July 14, 2025 at his home. Arrangements are incomplete at this time at the Blalock-Coleman Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Murray, KY.

#### • CARDWELL •

Lester Theodore Thomas, Sr., 89, of Princeton, KY, passed away Sunday, July 6, 2025, at Princeton Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Graveside funeral services will be Saturday, July 19, 11 AM, at Cedar Grove Cemetery, with burial to follow. Friends may visit with the family on Saturday, July 19th, from 9:00 until 10:30 AM in the chapel of Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Services.

Joan Adelle Moore, of Fredonia passed away at Rivercrest Place in Paducah, Kentucky, on July 10, 2025, just a day after she celebrated her 88th birthday. Friends and family are invited to gather in remembrance of Joan at Fredonia



Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 303 Cassidy Ave., Fredonia, KY 42411. A Celebration of Life will be held on July 19, 2025, at 2:00 PM, followed by a reception in the activities building for family and friends to share life memories.

Jeannie Kay Varble, passed away in Princeton, KY. Born in Evansville, IN. A memorial visitation will be held from 10:00 am until 12:00 pm Saturday, July 19, 2025 at River of Life Church in Henderson, KY. A memorial service will be held at 12:00 pm Saturday, July 19, 2025 at River of Life Church, 725 Washington Street, Henderson, KY 42420.

Wanda Ruth Rowland Cooke, 79, of the Flat Rock community near Fredonia, Kentucky, passed away peacefully on July 9, 2025 in Murray, Kentucky. Funeral services were held on Tuesday, July 15, 2025 at 11:00 AM at Morgan's Funeral Home with Bro. Jeff Boone officiating. Burial in Asher Cemetery.

Jacqueline "Jacqui" Prowell Morris, age 64, of Hopkinsville and formerly of Marion, KY, passed away at Tri Star Skyline Hospital in Nashville, TN, at 4:00 pm Tuesday July 8, 2025. Funeral services were Sunday, July 13, 2025, at 2:00 PM at Morgan's Funeral Home with Bro. Dean Ray and Bro. Mark Faughn officiating. Burial in Rowland Cemetery in Caldwell County.

#### • CARLISLE •

David "Rocky" Duane Dubrock, age 91, of Arlington, Kentucky, went home to his savior on Monday, July 7, 2025. Funeral services will be held at 1:00 pm on Friday, July 11, 2025 at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Arlington. Burial will follow at Arlington Cemetery.

#### • CHRISTIAN •

**David Bryan Moss**, age 70, of Pembroke, passed away on Thursday, July 10, 2025, at Centennial Medical Center in Nashville. Funeral Services were Tuesday, July 15, 2025, at Maddux Fuqua Hinton Funeral Home with Bro. Robert Webb officiating and burial in Rosedale Cemetery.

Troy Hayden Guier, age 90, of Hopkinsville, passed away Monday, July 7, 2025, at Jennie Stuart Medical Center. Funeral Services were Monday, July 14, 2025, at Maddux-Fuqua-Hinton Funeral Home and burial in Green Hill Memorial Gardens. Lawrence Browder Frederick, age 97, of Trenton, Ky. died at Spring Meadows Health and Rehabilitation on Sunday, July 6, 2025. A celebration of life service will be held on Friday, July 18, at 1 p.m. at Trenton Presbyterian Church. He will be laid to rest in Edgewood Cemetery in Trenton. Maddux-Fuqua-Hinton Funeral Home of Hopkinsville has been entrusted the cremation and burial.

Jeannine B. "Nanny" Allen, 87, of Hopkinsville, Kentucky died at 11:15 a.m., Friday, July 11, 2025 at her residence in Hopkinsville, Kentucky. Funeral services were Wednesday, July 16, 2025 at Hughart, Beard & Giles Funeral Home with Chaplain Reed Shepherd officiating. Burial will follow in Pennington Cemetery.

Bentley Ray Cornelius, 62, of Hopkinsville, KY died at 7:45 a.m. Tuesday, July 8, 2025 at his residence. Memorial services will be 6:00 p.m. Monday, July 21, 2025 at Hughart, Beard & Giles Funeral Home. Burial will follow in Riverside Cemetery. Visitation will be Monday from 4:00 p.m. until the funeral hour. Hughart, Beard & Giles Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Rev. David Wayne Parks, 84, Kenwood Drive, Hopkinsville, KY, passed away on Saturday, July 12, 2025, at Bradford Heights Nursing and Rehabilitation. Funeral services were held Wednesday, July 16, 2025 at Lamb Funeral Home with Rev. Leon Parker officiating. Burial in McKnight Cemetery.

Robert Denvil Eli, 84, of Henderson, KY died at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 8, 2025 in Henderson, KY. Funeral Services were Friday, July 11, 2025 at Dogwood Funerals & Cremations of Crofton with Bro. Butch McKnight officiating. Burial in Macedonia Cemetery.

Bessie Mae Radford Ladd, 86, Hopkinsville, passed away on Friday, July 11, 2025, in Hopkinsville, KY. Funeral Service will be Friday, July 18, 2025 Gamble Funeral Home Hopkinsville, KY 42240.

Martha Louis Brewer passed away June 8, 2025. She was 72 years and 10 days old at the time of her passing. Funeral Service at Durrett Avenue Baptist Church will be Saturday, June 14, 2025 at 12:00 PM at 1918 Church Street Hopkinsville, KY 42240. Visitation at 11 am. Burial at Cave Springs Cemetery.

#### • CRITTENDEN •

**Brad Lee Jones**, 59, of Marion, KY passed away July 8, 2025 at Baptist Health Madisonville. Services were Sunday July 13, 2025 at Gilbert Funeral Home in Marion, KY.

#### • GRAVES •

**David Schreiner**, 70, of Mayfield, Kentucky, passed away peacefully on July 12, 2025, surrounded by the love of his family. No Services will be held but his memory is always with us.

Vivian Fisher, age 95 and a resident of Mayfield, passed away at 9:40 A.M. Monday, July 14, 2025 at the Green Acres Healthcare Facility in Mayfield. A private graveside service will be held at the Highland Park Cemetery at a later date. The Brown Funeral Home in Mayfield is in charge of arrangements.

#### **FUNERAL NOTICES** continued

Coreta Joyce Reed, age 88 of Mayfield, KY passed away on Sunday, July 13, 2025 at 5:21 PM at her residence. Graveside Services will be held on Tuesday, July 15, 2025 at 2:00 PM at the Highland Park Cemetery with Rev. David Lee officiating.

Anne LaDean (Bell) Bruce, age 86, of Mayfield, KY passed away at 7:57 AM Sunday, July 13, 2025 at Mercy Health - Lourdes in Paducah. Graveside services were Wednesday, July 16, 2025 at the Highland Park Cemetery in Mayfield.

Dianna L. Crittendon, age 72, a resident of Wingo, passed away at 9:50 P.M. Wednesday, July 9, 2025 at the Lourdes Hospital in Paducah. Memorial services will be held at 11:00 A.M. Saturday, July 12, 2025 at the Brown Funeral Home in Mayfield with Rev. David Doran officiating.

James E. Byrd, age 73, of Mayfield passed away on Sunday, July 13, 2025 at Baptist Health in Paducah, KY. Funeral services were Thursday, July 17, 2025 at Byrn Funeral Home in Mayfield, KY. Rev. Ronnie Stinson, Jr. officiating. Interment at Trinity Cemetery.

**Don "Doodle" Hendley**, age 85, of Mayfield passed away on Tuesday, July 8, 2025 at Murray-Calloway County Hospital in Murray, KY. Funeral serviceswere Saturday, July 12, 2025 at Byrn Funeral Home in Mayfield, KY. Rev. Brad Morris officiating. Interment at Highland Park Cemetery.

**D.J. Paul**, age 55, of Mayfield passed away on Monday, July 7, 2025 at his residence. Graveside services were Thursday, July 10, 2025 at Highland Park Cemetery. Al Chandler officiating.

#### • HENDERSON •

**Dorothy Irene Murch**, 89, of Henderson, passed away Sunday, July 13, 2025 at Redbanks Nursing Home. Funeral services were Thursday, July 17 at Tomblinson Funeral Home in Henderson with Pastor David Petrie officiating. Burial at Cedar Grove Cemetery in Tilden.

Susan Annette (Ligon) Spainhoward, 70, left this world on July 11, 2025, at 1:17 a.m., at St. Anthony's Hospice in Henderson, Ky. Services were Tuesday, July 15, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Tomblinson Funeral Home in Hendersone officiated by Brothers Paul Davis and Hal Branson. Burial will follow at Roselawn Memorial Gardens.

Larry Donn (LD) Frasier, 68 of Eddyville, KY and formerly of Sebree passed away Friday July 11, 2025 at his home under the care of Pennyroyal Hospice. Services were Thursday July 17, 2025 at Tomblinson Funeral Home Sebree Chapel. Brother Johnny McCurry officiating

**Delora Martine (Sweeney) Gates**, 89 of Hanson, KY passed away Thursday July 10, 2025 at Baptist Health Deaconess Madisonville. Services will be Private. Burial will be in Hanson Cemetery.

**Givens Bradford Dixon** was taken by his Lord and Savior to his father's house on July 9, 2025. Memorial services will be held on Saturday, July 19, 2025, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 2:00 PM.

#### • HICKMAN •

Annie Helen Morris Turner, age 98 of Clinton passed away 2:27am Monday, July 14, 2025 at her residence. Funeral Services was held Wednesday, July 16, 2025 at Brown Funeral Home in Clinton with Rev. Bob Risner officiating. Burial in the Clinton Cemetery.

Angela Denise Brown Steichen, affectionately known as "Uma" by her grandchildren, age 67 of the Fulgham community, passed away Friday, July 11, 2025 at her residence. A memorial service will be held at a later date at the Mt. Pleasant Methodist Church and will be announced from the Brown Funeral Home in Clinton.

#### · HOPKINS ·

Thula Mae Brooks, 97, of Madisonville, KY passed away on July 10, 2025 at Ridgewood Terrace Nursing Home. Graveside services were held on Thursday, July 17, 2025 at 12:00PM at Oakwood Cemetery in Earlington, KY with Kenneth Blevins officiating.

Sandra Lou Gipson, 60 of Madisonville passed away Sunday July 13, 2025 at home surrounded by her family. Services will be held Friday July 18 at 1pm at Bandy Funeral Home in Nortonville with Bro. Wally Cobb officiating. Visitation will be held from 11-1 pm. Burial will be in New Salem Cemetery, Nortonville.

Patricia Sue Duncan Blake, 81, of Graham, KY, passed away on Friday, July 11, 2025, at Madisonville Health and Rehab in Madisonville, KY. A graveside service was held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, July 15, 2025, at Odd Fellows Cemetery with Bro. Danny Lutz officiating. Harris Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

**Jackie J. Murphy**, 56, of Dawson Springs, KY, passed away on Thursday, July 10, 2025, at her home. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Harris Funeral Home was entrusted with care..

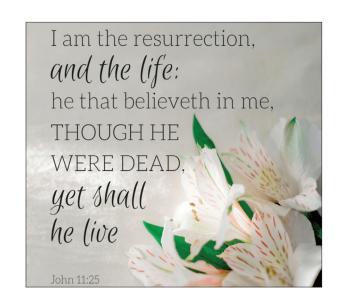
Michael "Mike" Lee Morgan, 67, of Nebo, KY, passed away on Wednesday, July 9, 2025, at his home from complications with his multiple sclerosis. A memorial service was held at 6 p.m. on Monday, July 14, 2025, in the chapel of Harris Funeral Home with Bro. Billy Parrish officiating. Burial will be held at a later date in Union Cemetery in Nebo.

James Thomas "Tommy" Oldham, 76, of Madisonville, KY, passed away on Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at Ridgewood Terrace Health and Rehab in Madisonville, KY. A funeral service was held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 12, 2025, in the chapel of Harris Funeral Home in Madisonville with Pastor Gene Rickard officiating. Burial at Slaughters Cemetery in Slaughters, KY.

#### • LIVINGSTON •

William Gerald Butler of Salem, Kentucky, passed away peacefully at the age of 84, surrounded by his loving family. Funeral services was held at Boyd Funeral Directors in Salem, KY. Monday, July 14, 2025.

Lester Theodore Thomas, Sr., 89, of Princeton, KY, passed away Sunday, July 6, 2025, at Princeton Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Graveside funeral services will be Saturday, July 19, 11 AM, at Cedar Grove Cemetery, with burial to follow.



Barbara Fay Connor, age 90 of Grand Rivers Ky, passed away on Tuesday, July 8, 2025 at Baptist Health in Paducah. Funeral service was held Friday July 11, 2025 with Rev. Mike Wimberley officiating and Rev. Richard Martin assisting and the burial in Dycusburg Cemetery.

#### · LYON ·

Thomas William Joyce Sr., age 75 of Eddyville Ky, passed away on Thursday, July 10, 2025 at his home in Eddyville. The family has chosen to have a memorial service at a later time.

#### MCCRACKEN

**Debra "Debbie" Pryor**, age 72, passed away peacefully into her Saviors loving arms on Saturday, July 12, 2025. surrounded by her family. Funeral Service was held Wednesday, July 16, 2025, at Spring Bayou Baptist Church with Rev. Ryan Baker and Rev. Elic Whited officiating. Interment will follow at Spring Bayou Baptist Church Cemetery.

Nancy Jo Wetherington Shetler met face to face with her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, at 4:50 pm on Saturday, July 12, 2025 with her loving family surrounding her. A private family celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Terry Hill, 76, of Paducah, Kentucky passed away at 5:50 p.m. Thursday, July 10, 2025 at Providence Pointe of Paducah. Memorial visitation was held on Wednesday, July 16, 2025 from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah.

Aubrey Wayne Richards passed away peacefully at his residence on Wednesday, July 9, 2025, at the age of 78 in Paducah, Kentucky. A Memorial Mass was held Monday, July 14, 2025, at St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church with Rev. Gary Clark officiating. Burial at Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

**David Randall Hall**, 58, of Paducah, passed away on July 8, 2025, at Baptist Health Hospital in Paducah. There will be no services. Milner & Orr Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Paducah is in charge of all arrangements.

Anna Katherine "Kathy" Kaufman, a resident of Paducah, Kentucky, and a cherished member of the community, passed away peacefully on July 8, 2025, at the age of 60. Memorial services were Saturday, July 12, 2025 at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah with Rev. Rob Ison officiating.

#### **FUNERAL NOTICES** continued

Kimberly Ann Cole, 61, passed away on Monday, July 7, 2025, at Norton's Womens and Children Hospital in Louisville, Kentucky. Final resting place Brook Hill Paducah LLC Paducah, KY 42001.

Martha Louise Speed Shelton passed away on July 7, 2025 at her home in Lone Oak, Kentucky. She was 93 years old. A memorial service was held Wednesday, July 9, 2025 at the Lone Oak Chapel of Milner & Orr Funeral Home, with Rev. Mike Rothwell officiating. A private graveside service will be held at a later date

Bettye Tichenor Swoope, 82, of Paducah, Kentucky, passed away on Sunday, July 6, 2025, at Baptist Health Hospital, Paducah. Graveside Services were held Saturday, July 12, 2025 at Maplelawn Park Cemetery.

Marjorie E. (Wesner) Cox, 97, died peacefully on Friday, July 12, 2025 at Western Baptist Hospital in Paducah, Kentucky. There will be no funeral as the family prefers to remember their loved ones alive.

Mary R. Nichols, age 67, of Paducah, Kentucky, passed away at 9:03 p.m. on Friday, July 11, 2025, at the Ray & Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center in Paducah. In accordance with Mary's wishes, cremation will take place, and no services are scheduled at this time.

**Dorothy J. Reeves**, 95, of Paducah went home to be with the Lord on Thursday, July 10, 2025, at her residence. Graveside services will be at 11:30am on Saturday, July 26, 2025, at Woodlawn Memorial Gardens with the Rev. Dennis Lawrence officiating.

Marilyn Marie Helton, 70, of Paducah, KY passed away Sunday, July 06, 2025, at her home. Marilyn Marie Helton wishes were to be cremated with services at a later date.

**Keith Anthony Ramos**, 71, of Reidland, passed away at 7:50 PM on Sunday, July 6, 2025 at his residence. Memorial services were Tuesday, July 15, 2025 at Oaklawn Baptist Church in Paducah.

Jaylon Ryan Brewer of Paducah, passed away on Thursday, July 10, 2025, at Norton Children's Hospital in Louisville, KY. Jaylon was born on May 14, 2025, the son of Braydon and Megan Brewer. A funeral service was held Tuesday, July 15, 2025, at 12:00 PM at Keeling & Goodman Funeral Home.

Juanita G. Richardson, 100 years, of Greenville, Kentucky, was called home to meet her Savior on Friday, July 11, 2025, at Owensboro Health Regional Hospital in Owensboro, Kentucky. Born in Paducah, Kentucky, Funeral services were Tuesday, July 15, 2025 at the Life Celebration Center of Filbeck-Cann, Benton, Kentucky 42025 with Bro. Ray Gilliland officiating. Burial in Bethel Church Cemetery.

#### • MARSHALL •

Mildred "Millie" Hendrickson, 84, of Benton, Kentucky, passed away on Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at the Ray and Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center in Paducah. A memorial service was held Saturday, July 12, 2025, at the Life Celebration Center of Filbeck Cann with Rev. Samantha Hall officiating.

**Jody Kleet Lee**, 72, of Benton, Kentucky, passed away on Sunday, July 6, 2025, at Baptist Health of Paducah. Milner & Orr Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Paducah is in charge of arrangements.

#### • TRIGG •

Charles "Charlie" Hooks, age 75, of Cadiz, Kentucky, a Between the Rivers native, passed away on Friday, July 11, 2025, at Jennie Stuart Medical Center in Hopkinsville, Kentucky. A graveside memorial service will be held at a later date at Cumberland Cemetery in Land Between the Lakes.

#### · UNION ·

Roger Dale Coffman, 69, of Morganfield, Ky., died in his sleep Thursday, July 10, at the home he shared with his dear friend Teresa Jenkins (TJ) in Dixon, Ky. A graveside service will precede burial in Mt. Washington Cemetery in Mt. Washington, Ky., at 2 p.m. Thursday. Whitsell Funeral Homein charge of arrangements.

Brenda Stone Albizzati passed away at her home on July 13, 2025 from complications from a long battle with Parkinson's disease. Funeral service were Wednesday, July 16, 2025 at Northside Baptist Church in Morganfield, KY. Rev. Scott Wright officiating.

**Cora Lee Howard** age 96 of Morganfield, KY passed away on Saturday July 12, 2025 at the Morganfield Nursing & Rehab Center. Funeral will be Friday July 18, 2025 at Whitsell Funeral Home in Morganfield, KY. Rev. Jerry Chesser will officiate. Visitation will be 10AM- 1PM on Friday at the funeral home. Burial will be in Boxville Cemetery in Boxville, KY.

William "Bill" Stone, 81 of Sturgis passed away Sunday, July 13, 2025 at Deaconess Henderson Hospital in Henderson. Cremation was chosen and there will be no services at this time.

#### • WEBSTER •

Mary Lou Forbes, 87 of Slaughters passed away on Friday, July 11, 2025 at Shemwells Nursing Home in Providence. Funeral services were Tuesday, July 15, 2025 at 1:00 PM at Vanover Funeral Home in Clay with Brother Len Young officiating. Burial in Bethlehem Cemetery in Madisonville.

Thomas A. Chandler, 78 of Dixon passed away Wednesday, July 9, 2025 at Cypress Grove in Newburgh, IN under the care of Heart to Heart Hospice with his devoted son Tim at his side. Funeral services were Wednesday, July 16, 2025 at 1:00 PM at Vanover Funeral Home in Clay with Blake Beaver officiating. Burial in Chandler Cemetery outside of Dixon. Military Rites at the the gravesite.

Reverend David Ray Townsend, 84, went to be with our Lord on July 12, 2025. He was born on July 1, 1941 to the late Buford Ray Townsend and Ruby Edith Townsend. Funeral services were Thursday July 17th, 2025 at 11am at Townsend Funeral Home in Dixon, KY. Rev. Nick Duvall officiating. Burial in Slaughters Cemetery in Slaughters, KY.

Pansy Sue Mitchell Hoover Evans, 86, of Poole, KY went home to be with the Lord on Thursday July 10th, 2025 in her home surrounded by her family. Funeral services were Wednesday at 11am at Townsend Funeral Home in Dixon, KY. Rev. J.W. Haire officiating. Burial in Townsend Cemetery in Dixon, KY.

Evadene Hibbs,94, of Providence, KY passed away on Thursday July 10, 2025, at Shemwell's Healthcare in Providence. Funeral services were held on Monday July 14, 2025, at 2:00PM in the Lucille Melton Memorial Chapel at Lewis Funeral Home LLC with Pastor Tim Rigdon and Pastor Terry Rigsby officiating with burial in the White Oak Cemetery near Clay.

## We are sorry for your loss

Wherever a beautiful soul has been, there is a trail of beautiful memories. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.



# VICTORIOUS Jeving ... in a troubled world

# This one thing serves you will throughout life

By Teresa LeNeave Leneave2@comcast.net

Television (even cartoons) teach kids that it's funny to have an attitude. Movies teach kids it's okay to have an attitude. And, parents teach them it's okay to be disrespectful when a bad attitude is ignored. Then, we pretend we don't know why kids struggle with good attitudes.

When kids are toddlers, everything is cute. I know. I think everything my grandchildren do is cute. When they pout, I even think that is cute. I guess, kids have been pretty much the same since the beginning of time because the Bible has so much to say about honoring your mother, your father, and your elders. The Bible is very explicit, and to the point, when

talking about honor. I don't think anyone could read what the Bible says about honoring parents and not understand it.

What does it mean to honor your father and mother ... to have a good attitude?

To honor your father and mother means to revere (respect), prize and value. Do we as adult revere, prize, and value our parents? Or, do we think they are adults and we have our own lives to live? ... Never forget your children watch what you do and will probably treat you just like you treat your parents.

Honor, to me, is something that stems from an inward attitude and it always values the position of the other.

Those who honor their parents are blessed according to Jeremiah 35:18-



19. In Jeremiah, the blessing extended from generation to generation. I believe it still does today.

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother which is the first commandment with a promise, so that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth"

(Ephesians 6:1-3).

In my opinion, we have to teach our children / grandchildren well, because this world is trying very hard to teach them wrong. When it really comes down to learning, kids learn from watching. What do they see in us? Do they hear me talk respectful? Do they see me be kind or hateful? What they

all, it didn't look

see, they learn.

Why is it important to teach honor to children? One simple statement answers that question: Because it serves them well throughout life. After a child is mature and on their own, the ability to show honor and respect will serve them well in honoring authorities who are above them such as

experience with God.

Let me ask you

something. Do you

presence of God to

have to feel the

employer, teachers, pastors, even the President. Ask any school teacher how important honor and respect is. Ask any employer who their most valuable employees are. Honor trickles into every vein of your life and it leaks into the life of following generations.



Even though it's only July, the deer hunters are getting prepared for another season. While it may be several weeks until the season opens, there is much to do to be ready for opening day especially if you hunt with bow and arrow. Right now, I'm checking trail cameras, hanging tree stands and trying to figure out where the deer are likely to be early in the season. And it is not always where one might think.

I am reminded of an Alabama hunt several years ago. I was with a friend on a piece of property that was owned by a rancher who not only raised cattle but managed for quality deer. It really was a beautiful place and just riding around caused me to get extremely excited about the possibilities. That afternoon would be our first hunt, so the rancher "carried us" (that's Alabama vernacular for drove us) to the stands we

would hunt. As we passed through the pasture he pointed to one lone cedar tree about 200 yards from a wood line and said, "Somebody needs to sit right there." My partner and I silently wondered where exactly he was talking about. And then he said, "See that blue milk crate? Sit on it and lean up against that cedar tree." Now this was not exactly the place where either of us imagined we would spend our time hunting. After

like or feel like it had any possibility whatsoever of producing anything but shade for an afternoon nap. I was expecting my tree stand to be labeled Lone Wolf or something, but this one said Mayfield Dairy. After debating on which one of us would have this honor, my friend drew the short straw and jumped out of the truck (boy was I relieved!). That evening he killed a giant 11 pointer and another buck with an even wider rack that next morning. Who would've ever "thunk" it? The moral of the story: It is better to take the word of the rancher than go to with what feels good or looks good. Period! I wished we would focus more on that same truth in our

know He is there? Or are you satisfied with His simple word that says, "I will never leave you or forsake you?" Do you need to see some manifestation of His workings to believe He is at work? Or can you simply believe His word when He says, "I am working all things for your good?" On Sunday morning as you sit in church, do you base the quality of your experience on

any emotions

questions will

expose the depth

of your faith. Is

what you may have felt or seen? Or do you understand that true faith simply believes His word, sometimes without whatsoever? Your answers to these

God's word good enough? Or does it need to be scotched up with something that appeals to the senses. I hope you are someone who will simply take God at His word and get out of the truck even when it seems He is placing you on a milk crate.

Gary Miller has written Outdoor Truths articles for 21 years. He has also written five books which include compilations of his articles and a father/ son devotional. He also speaks at wild-game dinners and men's events for churches and associations. Stay updated on Outdoor Truths each week by subscribing at Outdoortruths.org

## Heroes without capes or superpowers

By William F Holland Jr. billyhollandministries.com

We hear a lot about heroes these days. Accomplished athletes are admired as idols for throwing around a ball, while actors in blockbuster movies portray individuals who can fly and use their incredible powers to save the universe. However, in the real world, it's encouraging to know there are humble and hardly noticed genuine heroes all around us. Without a desire to be praised or even recognized, there are selfless good Samaritans who are willing to sacrifice their lives so that others can live, a testament to John 15:13. The following story is an example of these heavenly secret agents.

Irena Sendler was a Polish nurse and social worker who worked in the Warsaw health department during World War II. In a

short window of time between 1942 and 1943, she, along with a small band of co-workers, led a courageous effort within the Warsaw ghetto to secretly smuggle at least 2.500 Jewish babies and children away from facing the certainty of the German concentration camps. She and her small team of helpers were members of Zegota, an underground organization established in 1940 by the Polish government for the purpose of rescuing Polish Jews. The team was given permission by the Nazis to enter the ghetto to help segregate the city's 380,000 Jews, and this was the window of opportunity that helped with the dangerous undercover plan to secretly smuggle babies and young children to safety.

The Zegota used every idea possible to rescue

the innocent, which included hiding them in toolboxes and under gurneys, sneaking them into ambulances, taking them through sewer pipes or other underground passageways, wheeling them out in suitcases, and leading them out through an old courtyard which led to the non-Jewish areas. Irena carefully recorded the names of the children on cigarette papers and sealed them in glass bottles, which she buried in a colleague's flower garden. After the war, the jars were dug up and the lists handed over to Jewish representatives. Attempts were made to reunite the children with their families, but sadly, most of the parents had perished in the Treblinka death camp.

Irena was arrested in October 1943 and taken to Gestapo

headquarters where she was interrogated to surrender information about the leaders of Zegota. She endured severe beatings which included her legs and feet being broken. With orders to be executed. (with what many consider to be a miracle from Heaven), a secret deal was made at the last minute between Zegota and her would-be executioner, and she was released. Irena was later found unconscious along the side of the road and had to use crutches for the rest of her life as a result of her injuries.

One of the 2500 names placed in the jars was Michal Glowinski, who became a professor of literature. He said, "I fondly think about her and owe my life to her." Elzbieta Ficowska was another name who came forward to say how eternally grateful she was for

the heroic actions of the Zegota team. In her case, she had been smuggled out of the ghetto inside a large toolbox when she was just five months old.

Unlike the German industrialist Oskar Schindler, who saved more than 1,000 Jews by employing them at his Krakow factory and is widely recognized thanks to an award-winning book and film, Mrs. Sendler's story remained relatively unknown until a few years ago when it was discovered in America by a group of Kansas school children who wrote a play about it called "Life in a Jar." Word spread very quickly, and now the world is aware of her and her team saving many defenseless victims of the Nazi ideology. When interviewed, Irena sternly insisted she did nothing special and is quoted as saying, "I was brought up to believe that a person must

be rescued when drowning, regardless of religion and nationality. The thought of being considered a hero irritates me greatly as I continue to have pangs within my conscience that I did so little. My emotions are overshadowed by the fact that my faithful co-workers, who also constantly risked their lives, did not live long enough to share their sorrow for those they could not save." She spent her last years in a Warsaw nursing home and passed away in 2008. "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others" Philippians 2:3-4.

## **SOBER-MINDED**

Bro. Brandon G. Bramlett Bandana Baptist Church

I couldn't see straight. My mind was swirling like a rollercoaster. Time came to a standstill. but I couldn't stand still at all. In a moment of youthful genius, I popped a big ol' pinch of chewing tobacco into my lip after my friend asked. "You ever had Copenhagen?"

Refusing to look like a wimp, I cleared my throat and said, "Had it? I love this stuff."

Plot twist: it did not love me back. Within minutes, I looked less like Clint Eastwood and more like a nauseated

youngster who swore off carnival rides forever. Nicotine surged into my bloodstream. and I couldn't think or speak clearly. I saw stars like Bugs Bunny

and promptly plummeted off the back of my friend's four-wheeler. That was the first time I experienced any kind of intoxication, and it taught me a valuable lesson: when your mind is fuzzy, your body follows.

The Scripture also teaches this invaluable lesson: a clouded mind leads to a careless soul. That is why the Bible repeatedly commands believers to be "sober-minded" (Titus 2:2; 2 Tim. 4:5; 1 Peter 1:13). And this means much more than abstaining from alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs. Biblical sobriety is about keeping your mind alert, clear, and free from spiritual intoxication. When intoxicated, a person is out of touch with reality—and when we are spiritually inebriated, we become out of touch with what is holy.

One sip from the bottle of lies sold by sin, Satan, and society is all it takes to start

seeing double. A few breaths of the smoke of worldliness makes it impossible to walk a straight line on the path of righteousness. The potent pills of constant distractions can impair your conscience, making you desensitized to sin and numb to spiritual danger. For this reason, Paul warned, "Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning" (1 Cor. 15:34a). Soulintoxication fogs your senses and leads to sin, and the antidote is snapping out of it through

sober-mindedness. **Spiritual** 

drunkenness also hinders your readiness for Christ's return. Thus, Paul exhorted: "So then let us not sleep. as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober (1 Thess. 5:6). Peter likewise warned that the devil targets Christians who are half-awake, bleary-eyed, and mind-numbed (1 Peter 5:8). He even stated that spiritual inebriation stifles our prayers: "Therefore be selfcontrolled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers" (1 Peter

4:7b). Hence, being sober-minded is indispensable for conflict against Satan and communion with the Son.

Do not wait until you are spiritually slumped over to learn this lesson the hard way. Resist spiritual sedatives and let God renew your mina through His word (Rom. 12:2). Don't allow spiritual toxins to captivate your mind—let Christ take your thoughts captive (2 Cor. 10:5). Be sober-minded because sin is seductive, Satan is stalking, and the Savior is soon to return.

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## Commissioner Shell joins 11 State Ag Leaders to express strong support for USDA's National Farm Security Action Plan

FRANKFORT. Kv. - Commissioner of Agriculture Jonathan Shell, along with 11 of his fellow agriculture leaders from across the country serving on the America First Agriculture Commissioner Council, has penned a letter of support for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) newly announced National Farm Security Action Plan. In their joint letter, these State Departments of Agriculture voiced unified backing for this vital Plan that will protect America's farmland and strengthen national security.

Agriculture
commissioners,
secretaries, and directors
from the following
states signed the letter:
Arkansas, Georgia,
Kentucky, Idaho, Indiana,
Iowa, Mississippi,
Nebraska, Oklahoma,
South Carolina,
Tennessee, and Texas.

"American farmland is a strategic asset," the letter states. "It sustains our food supply, powers rural economies, and contributes directly to the health and sovereignty of our nation."

With rising concerns
over increasing foreign
interest in U.S. farmland
— particularly near
military installations and
critical infrastructure
— and after years of
subsequent inaction

from the previous administration, the Plan takes decisive steps to safeguard agricultural land ownership and address supply chain vulnerabilities. The National Farm Security Action Plan specifically aims to tighten reporting and enforcement under the Agricultural Foreign Investment and Disclosure Act (AFIDA), enhance penalties for noncompliance, and strengthen USDA oversight to ensure America retains control over its critical food systems.

The Plan also secures various facets of American agriculture beyond protecting farmland. It evaluates all USDA programs — including rural development, research, and nutrition—to ensure they put America First. Additional measures focus on securing supply chains protecting plant and animal health from invasive species and foreign animal diseases and calling upon State partners in government to pursue similar measures.

"The USDA's leadership in developing this comprehensive Plan, and working across other federal Departments, shows a clear commitment to putting American farmers and ranchers first," Commissioner Shell said. "Protecting our

farmland and food systems from foreign influence and biosecurity threats is critical not only to our agricultural economy but to the national security of the United States. I'm proud to join colleagues from across the nation in supporting this important work."

The letter highlights the crucial role the USDA plays as a "load-bearing wall" in the nation's security, coordinating with federal, state, and local partners, as well as the intelligence community, to secure the integrity of food systems and critical agricultural infrastructure.

State agriculture leaders emphasized the importance of transparency and close collaboration with stakeholders — including farmers, ranchers, and tribal communities — to safeguard America's agricultural productivity and preserve farmland for future generations.

The Kentucky
Department of
Agriculture remains
dedicated to supporting
policies and programs
that protect Kentucky
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secure, and resilient
agricultural sector for the
Commonwealth and the
nation.

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Matt Sween, UC Davis, Animal
Science Department

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Safety First: Stay away from any downed power lines or damaged electrical

equipment. • Do not approach or attempt to retrieve the drone. Power lines may still be energized and extremely dangerous.

· If you see smoke, sparks, or fire, call 911 immediately.

Our crews responded and worked to restore power as quickly and safely as possible. We appreciate the patience of our consumermembers during this brief outage.

As always, if you have urgent concerns or need assistance, please contact us at 270-442-7321 or online at jpenergy. com. Thank you again for your patience and for allowing us to serve your community.

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up-to-date information.

JPEC is a non-profit, member-owned rural electric cooperative headquartered in Paducah, KY. The Cooperative provides electric service to more than 30,000 consumermembers and maintains more than 2,900 miles of line in all or portions of six counties: Ballard, Carlisle, McCracken, Graves, Marshall and Livingston. JPEC is one of 24 rural electric distribution cooperatives in Kentucky, which together provide electricity for 1.5 million Kentuckians in 117 of Kentucky's 120 counties.



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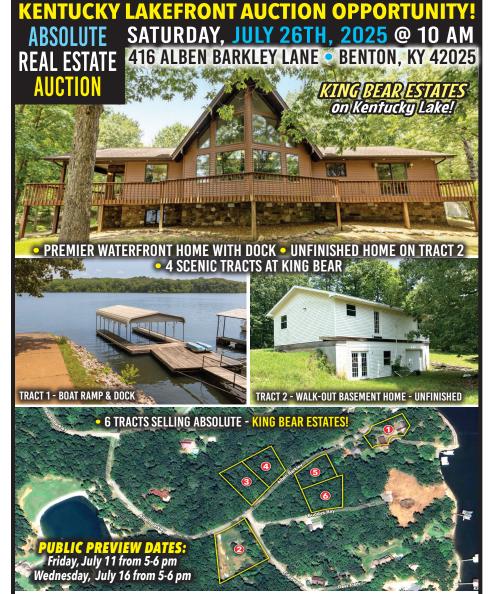
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**HOMES - FARMLAND** 

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MICHAEL HARRIS



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TRACT 2 DETAILS – 384 Alben Barkley Lane offers a home with a walkout basement, currently under construction and ready for you to finish to suit your style and needs. The layout includes 3 bedrooms and 1 bathroom, providing a great foundation for a customized lake retreat or income-producing investment. Situated on a spacious **1.84-acre lot,** this property presents a unique opportunity to create your ideal getaway in a desirable location.

TRACTS 3 - 6 DETAILS: Excellent Building Lots - Tract 3: 0.59 Acre - Lot #38 - Tract 4: 0.55 Acre -Lot #39 - Tract 5: 0.54 Acre - Lot #55 - Tract 6: 0.64 Acre - Lot #56 - Steps away from Kentucky Lake access-perfect for boating, fishing, and recreation!

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A customer with an armload of berries files out of the roadside farmstand at McGlasson Farms. The farm is in its sixth generation of operation along the Ohio River in Boone County.

## **Sixth generation at McGlasson Farms** put the 'u' back in fruit picking

By Chris Aldridge Kentucky Ag News

TAYLORSPORT. Ky. - In the 1860s, Henry McGlasson moved west from Virginia and built a small log cabin on the south bank of the Ohio River a couple of miles downstream from Cincinnati.

The original cabin still remains inside a farmhouse, which has been expanded,

remodeled, and up until last year, occupied by Henry's great grandson. The sixth generation of the McGlasson family is still farming 120 acres of rich bottomland soil in Boone County between the river and the Cincinnati/ Northern Kentucky International Airport.

"We've lived and farmed this land for 150-plus years," said Jack McGlasson, a landscape architect by day who coowns and operates McGlasson Farms with his brother, who tends the farm fulltime.

"For the longest time, like when I was a kid, my great grandparents and my grandparents

see GENERATION, page B13







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took almost all the produce to Cincinnati and sold it at some of the farmers' markets," Jack said. "There was a really big one downtown for decades.... We loaded up a big flatbed truck with racks and ... my great uncle would sell the stuff up there.

"My parents took over about 2000, and they quit going to the markets because of our roadside stand, which they built in the late (19)60s," he added. "With all the people moving into the area, lots of suburban development, the roadside market got so busy that we just didn't need to go to the farmers' markets anymore."

When Jack and his brother took charge of McGlasson Farms, they began inviting people to visit the farm and pick their own fresh produce. The farm once offered a u-pick option for strawberries, apples, and tomatoes.

"We really started (u-pick) back with the strawberries," Jack said. "The second year, we did the apples, and people loved it."

Blueberry pickers

are currently flocking to the farm's 2-acre patch under netting, which keeps the birds away. Blackberries, which are native to Kentucky and the state's official fruit, are beginning to mature into a dark purple for picking in an adjacent 1-acre

"We've had a great growth in business here, especially the last five-plus years of getting into more u-pick opportunities," Jack said. "It's really exploded.

"In July, we start u-pick peaches," he added. "Then starting in September, we do u-pick apples. We've

got a whole (4-acre) apple orchard on the hillside, plus pumpkins and apple cider."

Apples were and still are McGlasson Farms' signature crop with two orchards totaling 10

"A lot of people will come just in the fall," Jack said. "That's like their one big trip out, and kids love it. It's an experience.

"We don't do a whole lot of specific agritourism, like wagon rides or stuff like that, but that's a potential idea. People are always asking if they can have a wedding or a birthday party down here, so I think there's a lot (of potential business) on the table."

McGlasson Farms is expanding its popular 2-3 acre strawberry patch and resuming its CSA (communitysupported agriculture), which allows people to buy a share of the farm's bountiful vegetable harvest.

"My brother grows sweet corn, tomatoes, bell peppers, green beans, cucumbers, and squash," Jack said. "I've got red and white potatoes, and he does sweet potatoes. Kind of the whole gamut.

"Occasionally, if

we have surplus, we'll go to another farmers' market (in northern Kentucky or suburban Cincinnati)," he added. "There were a couple that we liked going to, but really, we have enough business here (at the farmstand)."

Jack said his great-great-greatgrandfather Henry continues to bless the farm by choosing its current location.

"We're five minutes off the Interstate (75)," Jack added. "You can be in Cincinnati in 20 minutes, so we're really not out in the middle of nowhere."



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# Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corp. approves more than \$3.1 million in loans

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

FRANKFORT

— The Kentucky
Agricultural Finance
Corp. (KAFC) approved
16 agricultural loans
totaling \$3,123,625 for

projects across the Commonwealth today at its monthly board meeting.

Agricultural Infrastructure Loan Program (AILP)
Three Agricultural
Infrastructure loans
totaling up to \$650,000

were approved. Loan

recipients were in

Laurel (\$250,000), Monroe (\$150,000), and Todd (\$250,000) counties.

**KAFC** participates with lenders to provide financing to producers making capital expenditures for agricultural projects through the AILP. Eligible projects include permanent farm structures with attached equipment that improves the profitability of farming operations. Producers may be eligible for up to \$250,000 not to exceed 50 percent of the project.

Agricultural Processing Loan Program (APLP) One Agricultural Processing loan for \$150,000 was approved in Gallatin County.

APLP is designed to provide loan opportunities to companies and individuals in Kentucky interested in adding value to Kentuckygrown agricultural commodities through further processing. Agricultural processors may qualify for financing for acquisition of equipment, construction of new facilities, renovation/ expansion of existing facilities and permanent working capital up to 50 percent of the project cost.

Beginning Farmer Loan Program (BFLP)

Twelve Beginning Farmer loans totaling up to \$2,323,625 were approved. Loan recipients were in Anderson (\$87,500 and \$174,375), Bourbon (\$250,000), Garrard (\$247,500), Hart (\$70,500), Lincoln (\$225,000), Logan (\$250,000), Marshall (\$250,000), McLean (\$250,000), Monroe (\$250,000), Nelson (\$56,250), and Rockcastle (\$212,500) counties.

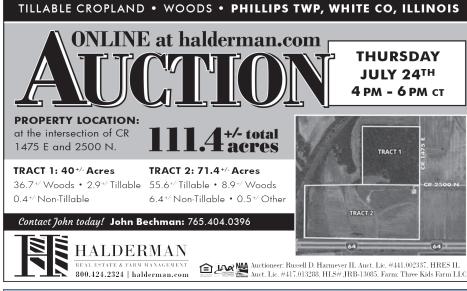
The BFLP is designed to assist individuals with some farming

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 KAFC participation loans, contact your lender or Bill McCloskey at Kentucky Office of Agricultural Policy at (502) 382-6093 or email kafc@ky.gov.

###

The Kentucky Office of Agricultural Policy (KOAP), a division within the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, provides staff support to the Kentucky Agricultural **Finance Corporation** (KAFC) and the Kentucky Agricultural **Development Fund** (KADF). The KADF is administered by the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board. **KOAP** ensures Kentucky is being good stewards of dollars from the 1998 Tobacco Settlement Agreement by overseeing the boards' investments into diversifying and supporting Kentucky agriculture.





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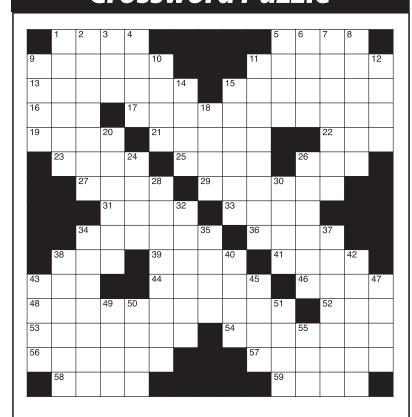
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## **Crossword Puzzle**



#### **CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Resorts
- 5. One point south of southwest
- 9. Musical performances
- 11. Matched
- 13. Four-footed animal part
- 15. Express severe disapproval of 41. Thrust a knife into
- 16. Type of leaf
- 17. Preparatory
- 19. Walk heavily
- 21. Succulent plants
- 22. Rectangle of grass
- 23. Lump in yarn
- 25. Too
- 26. Foot (Latin)
- 27. Afflicts
- 29. Smoothed
- 31. Mind (Greek)

- 33. Tampa ballclub
- 34. Semitic language
- 36. Sheltered sides
- 38. Ocean
- 39. Electronic point of sale
- 43. 12th month (abbr.)
- 44. Ringworm
- 46. Father of Aoris (Greek myth.)
- 48. Fighting back
- 52. Cease to exist
- 53. Insects in adult stage
- 54. Freestanding sculpture
- 56. Caps 57. Repents
- 58. Brown and Wallace are two
- 59. Moved quickly

### **CLUES DOWN**

1.	Goes bad	
2	Vard structure	_

- 3. They \_
- 4. Marine invertebrate
- 5. European river
- 6. Office supplies firm
- 7. Physically abused
- 8. Service stations in Australia
- 9. Kills 10. Liquid body substances
- 12. Brave or noble act
- 14. Sicilian city

PUZZLE SOLUTION

- 15. Conqueror
- 18. Elected officials 20. Type of "pig"
- 24. Drop of viscous substance

- 26. Monetary unit of Spain
- 28. Guarantees
- 30. Coloring materials
- 32. Reddish browns
- 34. Square measure
- 35. Will not 37. Canned fish
- 38. Appeared
- 40. Six (Spanish)
- 42. Took off
- 11. Particular to a given individual 43. Negligible amount
  - 45. Posts in a Greek temple
  - 47. Witnesses
  - 49. Phil \_\_\_, former CIA
  - 50. Places to park
  - 51. Guns
  - 55. Dance to pop music

	S	Р	Α	S						S	W	В	S	
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## **Coloring Fun**



## **Word Search**

WORD SEARCH **STAY COOL** 

D C

HCREF Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

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#### **WORDS**

AIRFLOW CAPACITY COIL CONDENSATE CONDENSER COOL DAMPER DIFFUSER DUCTWORK EFFICIENCY EVAPORATOR FAN FILTER HANDLER HEAT PUMP HUMIDITY HVAC REFRIGERANT SYSTEM TEMPERATURE THERMOSTAT VAPOR

**VENTS** 

ZONES

## Sudoku Puzzle

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## **How it Works:**

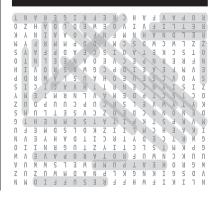
Sudoku puzzles are fomatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle! Good Luck!

							3	
			8	1			5	6
8	3						4	2
6			3			4		
	8	7			2			
			7				6	
5								
			2			1		
7			1	4				5

## Sudoku Answers

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9	G	6	3	_	8	abla	۷	2
Ļ	3	8	L	2	7	G	9	6

### **Word Search Answers**





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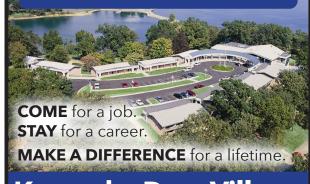
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O Neal Trailer 6 x 12 with dovetail and loading ramp. \$2,100. 270-366-4249. (tfn)

REDUCED Steel 5 x 10 tilt trailer. Newly painted. \$450. 270-331-2527.

2024 Homesteader Cargo Trailer, black aluminum 8 x 16 in Salem, Ky area. \$7,200.00. Call 812-483-1116. (tfn)

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\$1,299 per month SIN-GLE FAMILY 3 BR, 1 Bath, Living Room, Kitchen, Utility Room. Central Heat & Air. Storage Shed. Located in CALVERT CITY. 1 month security deposit. 1 year lease. 270-709-0955

## REAL ESTATE

2909 James Sanders BlvdPaducah, KY 42001 Commercial/Industrial MLS Number 124836 • 7,560 sq. ft. The price is \$25.74 psf annually Located in Western Kentucky's largest business districts this location is prime for retail, restaurant, or service company. With 4060 net leasable square feet. Contact Carla Bridges @ RE-MAX at 270-559-8425

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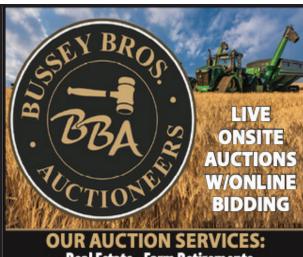
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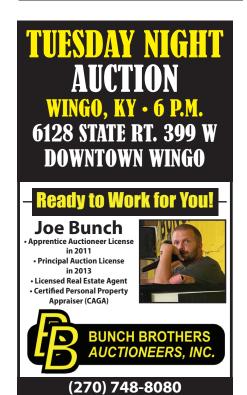


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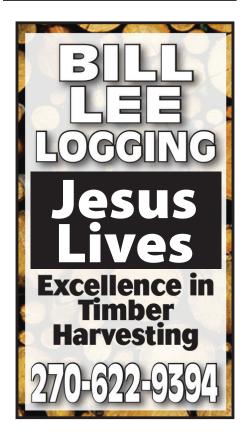
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