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By Greg LeNeave
Publisher
KPI Newspaper Group

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Rain helps low river level

By: Mike Mohundro, WSIL
Special to West KY News

NEW MADRID, Mo. (WSIL) -- The recent rainfall has helped drought conditions and river levels across the region.

The rainfall has helped dry vegetation and reduce fires, and has brought river levels out of the low threshold range in many areas in both the Ohio River and Mississippi River. However, the river levels remain fairly low and some areas are still in the low threshold range.

In Mississippi County, the Dorena-Hickman Ferry halted operations due to the low river levels a couple weeks ago and is still remains closed as of September 24.

In Tiptonville on September 24, at 9 a.m., the Mississippi River was at 1.77 feet and rising. This level is down nearly a foot from a week ago.

The river is forecasted to to 2.8 feet on September 30, and slowly drop after for the next week, according to National Water Prediction Service (NWPS).

In New Madrid on September 24, the NWPS has the Mississippi River at -1.77 feet and rising. By September 30, the river level is forecasted to crest above the low threshold at -1 feet. Five of the top low water records were all set within the past three years. The record low was set on October 15, 2023, when the river level dipped down to -6.58 feet.

In Cape Girardeau on September 24, the NWPS has the Mississippi River at 10.61 feet. This is about a foot-and-a-half lower than this time last week. It is expected to stay steady for the next couple of days and then rise to 11.30 feet by October 3.



Recent rains have helped the region overcome much of the recent drought and dry grounds that many folks have been accustomed to over the past few weeks.
Photo courtesy of Mike Mohundro, WSIL

Along the Ohio River, starting at Shawneetown on September 24, the river is just above the low threshold mark and sitting at 15.21 feet, according to the NWPS. This is forecasted to remain fairly steady for the next week.

In Cairo, the NWPS recorded the Ohio River at 10.59 feet on September 24, which is just above the low threshold. By September 29, the river is forecasted to rise to 11 feet.

Drought continues to deepen in Kentucky

BY TOM LATEK, KENTUCKY TODAY

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) – Continued hot and dry conditions have led to the drought situation deepening in Kentucky, according to the weekly U.S Drought Monitor report released on Thursday, including the first area designated as "Extreme Drought" so far this year.

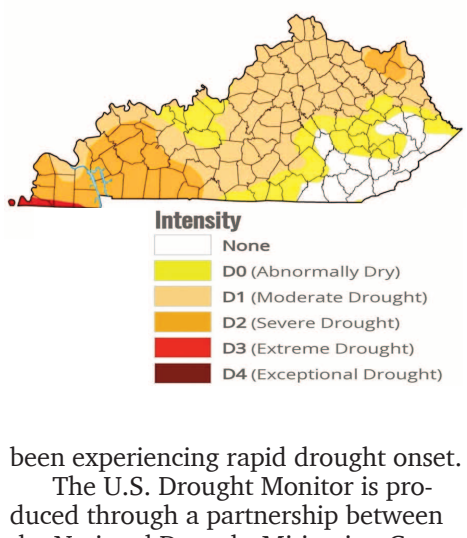
Only 13.28 percent of the state is considered to have no drought, which is down from 15.42 percent last week. Over 18 percent of Kentucky is "Abnormally Dry," or D0 on the scale that goes from D0 up to D4 for "Exceptional Drought." That is down from the 37.82 percent reported last week, but that is because more areas have seen conditions worsen.

Nearly half of Kentucky, 47.46 percent, is now in "Moderate Drought," D1, an increase from the 44.14 percent that was in the previous report. D2, or "Serious Drought," now includes 19.80 percent of the state, up seven and a half times the 2.61 percent last week.

Just under one percent of far Southwestern Kentucky is now designated D3, or "Extreme Drought". This is the first time D3 conditions have occurred in the state since the Drought Monitor issued on September 24, 2024. The D3 area includes all or parts of Calloway, Fulton, Graves and Hickman counties. No area is D4, as of this latest report. See the map that accompanies this story for the drought condition in your county.

"Rapidly worsening impacts, persistent subnormal rainfall and increasingly poor 30 to 90-day SPI values [Standardized Precipitation Index] warranted widespread degradations across the Ohio Valley," said Adam Allgood with the National Weather Service. "Low humidity and warm temperatures maintained high evapotranspirative rates throughout the week, and in addition to meteorological indices such as SPI showing worsening conditions, groundwater and streamflow values continue to fall. Most of the Ohio Valley remained dry though the week."

He also notes that only light rainfall is forecast for the Ohio Valley in the coming week, which, coupled with warmer temperatures, may further exacerbate conditions in areas that have been experiencing rapid drought onset.



The U.S. Drought Monitor is produced through a partnership between the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Reports released each Thursday cover the previous seven days through Tuesday morning.

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Western Kentucky Begins to Lift Burn Bans After Much-Needed Rainfall

By Laurna Todd
KPI Writer

In a welcome turn of events, several counties in western Kentucky are lifting burn restrictions following a series of rainstorms that have significantly eased drought concerns.

Hickman County Fiscal Court announced on Monday the immediate lifting of the county's burn ban. Judge Executive Kenny Wilson noted on social media that "we've received consistent rainfall sufficient to safely lift the burn ban," adding that the decision was made in close consultation with local fire departments. The restriction had been essential to mitigate the significant wildfire risk posed by dry conditions.

Likewise, Ballard County Judge Executive Todd Cooper declared the end of the countywide burn ban after the area benefited from over an inch of rain over consecutive days. Cooper stressed the importance of caution, urging residents to strictly adhere to safety guidelines when burning outdoors, despite the ban being lifted.

As of September 23, Graves County Judge Executive Jessee Perry also announced the lifting of the county's burn ban, citing improved conditions following recent rainfall. Perry reminded residents to remain responsible with outdoor burning practices.

However, Fulton, Carlisle, and Livingston counties have yet to lift their burn bans, maintaining these vital restrictions to safeguard homes, farmlands, and forests from the ongoing threat of fire hazards. Officials emphasized that residents in those counties must continue to follow the bans until further notice.

In addition, residents across the region should be aware that Kentucky's fall forestry burn ban will begin October 1 and continue through December 15. During this period, outdoor burning is prohibited between the hours of 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. to reduce wildfire risk during the dry fall season.

Officials throughout the region are calling on residents to take proactive steps to prevent fires from spiraling out of control. They advise never leaving a fire unattended, keeping water or fire-extinguishing equipment readily available, avoiding burning on windy days, and ensuring that all debris or brush is fully extinguished before departing the area.

"The rain has provided much-needed relief, but the risk of fire is still present," cautioned a regional fire safety coordinator. "Adhering to these guidelines is crucial to prevent accidental fires from spreading and to protect lives and property."

Residents are urged to stay vigilant and monitor local updates closely, as county leaders continue to evaluate conditions and adjust burn restrictions as necessary in the weeks ahead.

United Way of Western Kentucky Launches Retired United to Keep Retirees Engaged and Connected

By:Kelly Channell, CEO

United Way of Western Kentucky is proud to announce the launch of Retired United, a new stewardship group created to help retirees remain actively engaged with their community and the causes they care about.

Recognizing that retirement is not an end but a new chapter, Retired United offers meaningful opportunities for individuals to stay engaged through social, educational and philanthropic activities while having fun and interacting with others in a similar stage of life. Members will be able to give back, stay connected with peers, and continue making a difference in the lives of others throughout Western Kentucky.

Leadership for this initiative is being provided by CJ Gurley, President-Elect of United Way of Western Kentucky and an executive with CSI, who is passionate about building a strong network for retirees in our region. Gurley has set an ambitious goal of recruiting 100 active participants by April 1, 2026 when he will begin his tenure as President of the United Way of Western Kentucky Board of Directors.

The first event, "Start Your Day with United Way," will be held on Wednesday, October 15 at the United Way office, 120 S. 3rd Street, Paducah, KY. This gathering will serve as an introduction to Retired United and an opportunity for retirees to help shape the group's future. Attendees will be asked to share what they hope to gain from participating, which activities interest them most, what times of day work best, and the types of community projects they would like to get involved in.

"United Way has always been about community, and Retired United is a way for us to honor the contributions of those who've supported us throughout their working years while giving them a chance to continue to lead, serve, and stay involved," said CJ, United Way Board of Directors President-Elect.

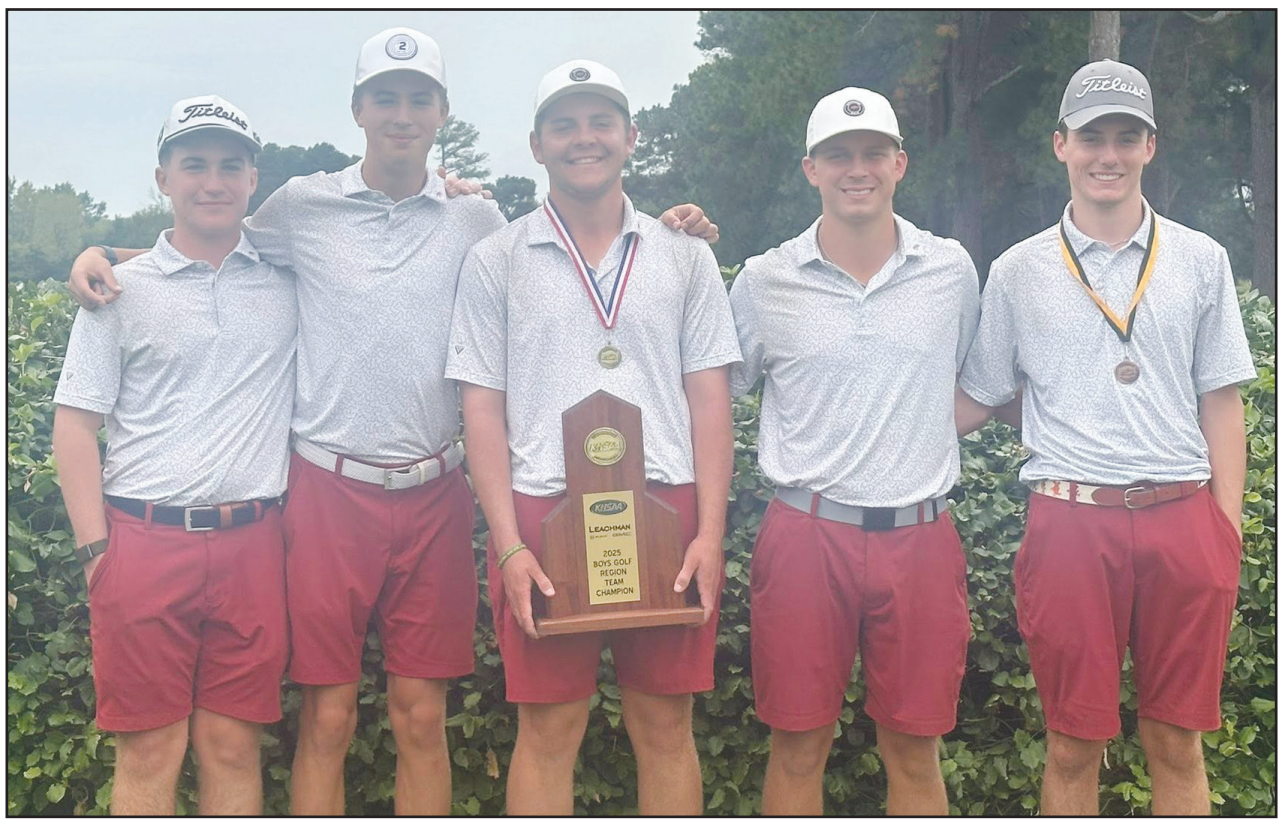
The group will host regular gatherings, volunteer opportunities, and community events, providing a platform for retirees to share their time, talents, and resources. Whether lending a hand at a local partner agency, participating in social outings, taking on a new philanthropic project, or mentoring a young professional, Retired United is built to be both impactful and enjoyable.

Membership in Retired United is open to all retirees who wish to remain engaged in making Western Kentucky a stronger, healthier, and more connected community.

For more information on how to get involved with Retired United, contact Kelly Channell, United Way of Western Kentucky CEO at kelly@unitedwaywky.org or call 270-442-1691.

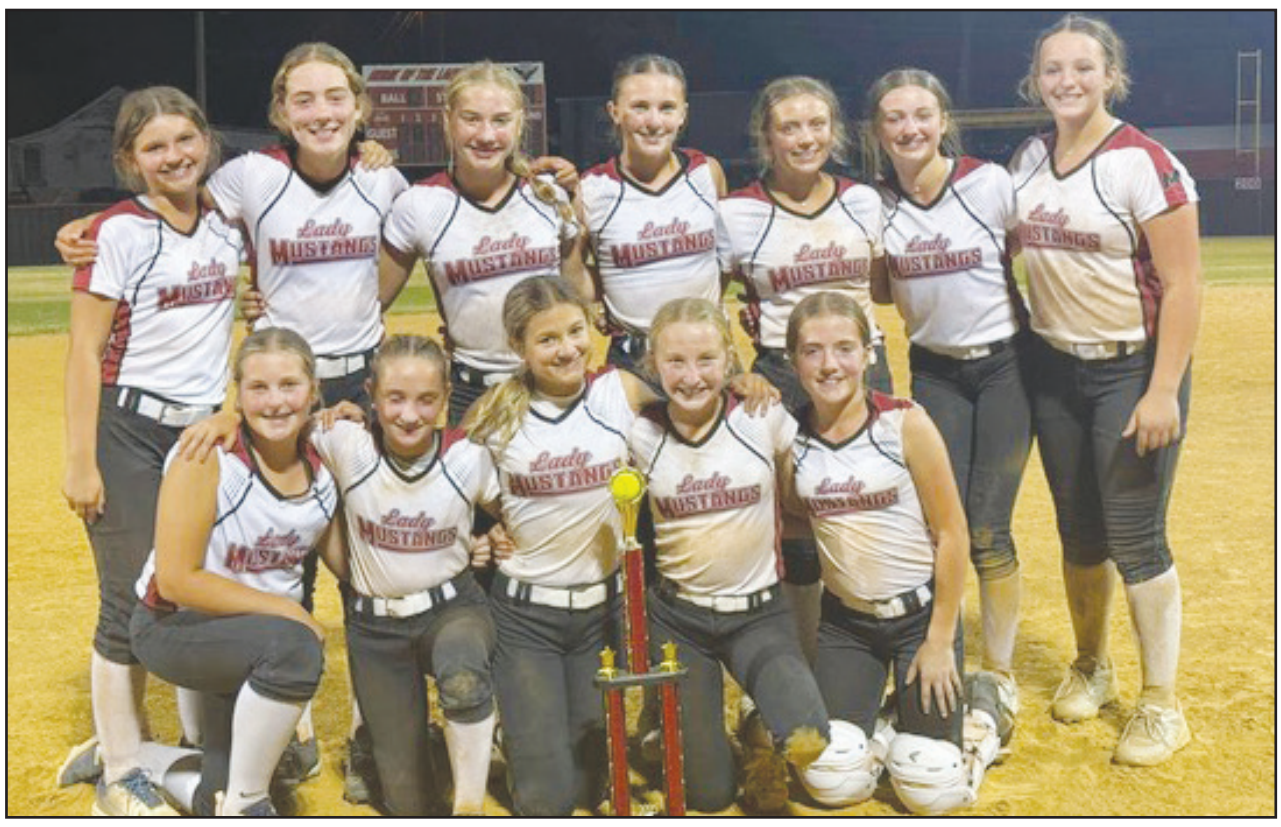


WEST KY SPORTS



3-PEAT CHAMPS! For the third straight year, the McCracken County Mustangs are Region 1 Boys Golf Champions! The team fired a 293 at Murray Country Club to claim the title. Landon Hunt led the way as Individual Champion with a 2-under 70, earning back-to-back titles. Dallas Vinson and Evan Hack tied for 2nd with rounds of 74, Tanner Kight finished 5th with a 75, and Jack Farmery tied for 8th with a 77.

Photo by McCracken Schools

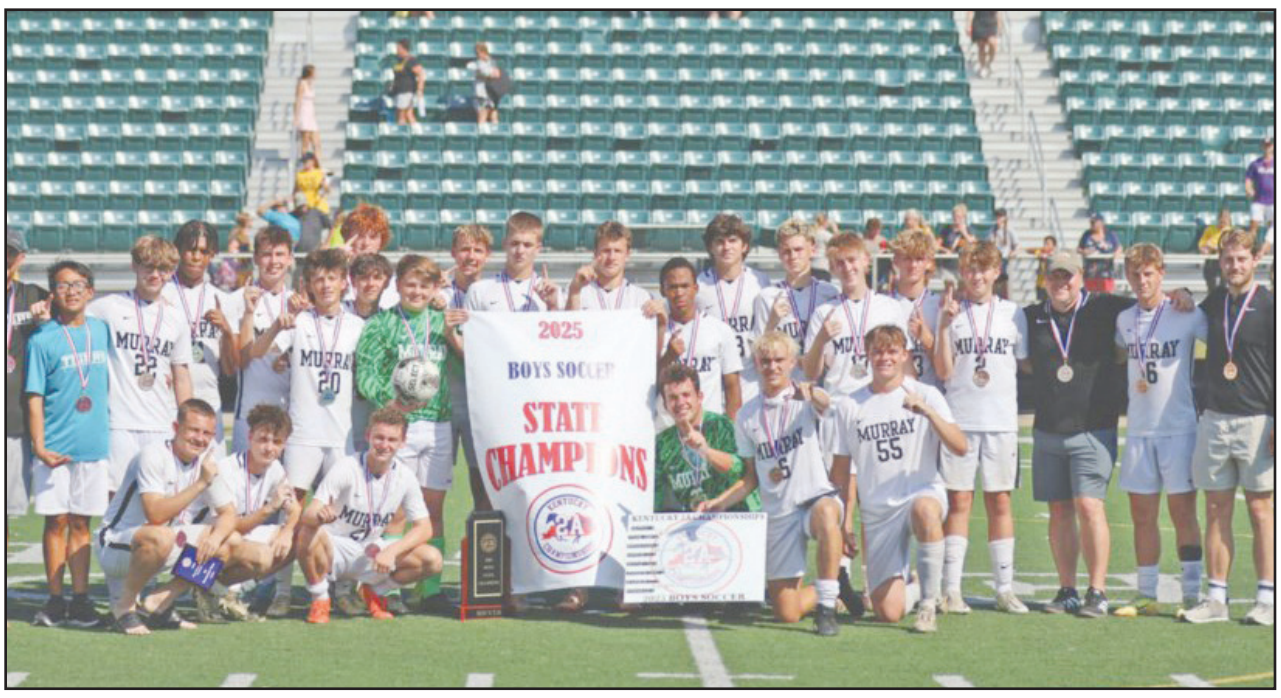


The McCracken County girls battled hard to finish 5-0 and claim the Hickman County Tournament Championship. Pictured back row (from left): Olivia Emmons, Sophie Heflin, Ella McDowell, Ella Meiser, Hadley Clifton, Taylor Pittman, and Macie Crass. Front row (from left): Bella Lamphere, Elayna Hesley, Piper Lafont, Blaiklee Green, and Emma Spears



Championship Sweep! The Marshall County Lady Marshals captured the Region 1 Girls Golf Team Championship, while teammate Trinity Beth claimed the Individual Title. Left Right Assitant Coach Sarah Forsythe, Brooklyn Cunningham, Kelli Roberts, Trinity Beth, CeCelia Ray, Charlee Murphy and Head Coach Aaron Beth

Photo by Marshals Athletics



State Champions!Congratulations to the Murray High School Boys' Soccer team on winning the 2025 Kentucky 2A State Championship. The Murray Independent School District extends its appreciation to the players, coaches, and parents for this outstanding accomplishment. State Champions!

PHOTO BY ALEX LACEY

Glisson Regional Runner-up



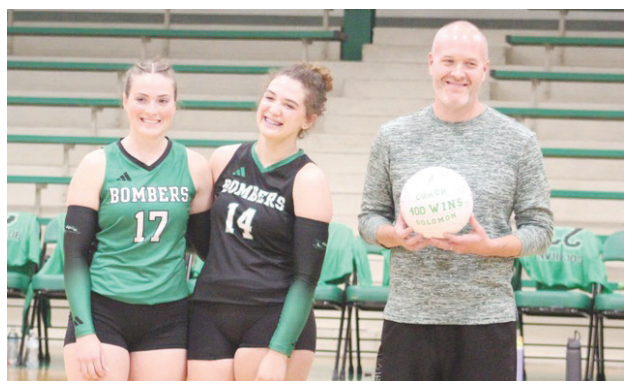
By: Tim Taylor
KPI SPORTS

Ballard Memorial's Madison Glisson entered the 2025 1st Region Girls' Tournament looking to defend her 2024 title. The two-time KHSAA State Champion Trinity Beth was back for her senior year at Marshall County, and it was expected to be a two player chase for the regional crown this season. It played out that way as the two found themselves at the top of the leader board entering the final 9 holes. Beth held the one stroke lead heading into the back 9. Glisson had bogeyed the par 3 on hole 6 and rallied with birdies on hole 8 and 9 to finish the front 9 at one under par. Holes 11 and 12 would be the turning point. Beth birdied both holes while Glisson shot one over to push the Lady Marshal golfers lead to 4 strokes. Glisson showed her normal poise as she birdied holes 13, 14, and 16 and pulled back to within 2 strokes with 3 holes remaining. Glisson could not capitalize on putting more pressure on Beth as Glisson missed a birdie putt on the par 3 17. She ended up with a bogey while Beth two putted from the fringe to par the hole. Beth held a 3 stroke lead heading into the final hole. Glisson parred her final regional tournament hole while Beth drained the birdie to capture the regional title with a 6 under par 66. Glisson had a solid 2 under par 70 and finished 6 strokes ahead of 3rd place finisher Graves County's 8th grader Emlie Miller. Glisson advances to Girls' State First Round at Calvert City Country Club on September 29th. The top 15 individuals in the State First Round will advance to October 7th and 8th KHSAA State Tournament in Bowling Green.

The Bomber boys' golf team hosted their final home match of 2025 at the Ballard County Country Club. Seniors Ike Miller and Lynden Davis participated in their last ever high school match at their home course as Ballard Memorial competed against a team from McCracken County. The Mustangs won the match 154-172 over Ballard Memorial. Miller led the Bomber team with a 3 over par 39 with Davis and Owen Enfinger right on his heels both shooting a 40 and Drew Fickes finished with a 53.



On to State! Congratulations to St. Mary Golfers Liam and Tyler for advancing to the KHSAA State Golf Tournament.



Ballard Memorial volleyball team captains Aubrey Alexander and Hala Ouderkirk presented Lady Bomber volleyball Coach Adam Solomon with a signed volleyball by the 2025 team in recognition of his 400th career varsity coaching win

Photo by Tim Taylor



Senior Night Victory!The Paducah Tilghman Lady Tornado Volleyball team celebrated Senior Night with a 3–0 win over Fulton County. Honored were 2025 seniors Avery Brown, Avery Waufle, and Naarah White.

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Hometown Brother Duo leads new Sports Medicine & Orthopedics practice



Baptist Health Medical Group (BHMG) has expanded orthopedic care in western Kentucky with the launch of its Sports Medicine service line. This specialty will be led by two brothers; Luke Beggs, MD, PhD, and Jake Beggs, PA-C. The Beggs' offer advanced, nonoperative orthopedic and sports medicine care for athletes and active individuals with no referral needed.

Both graduates of Heath High School, the Beggs brothers, are thrilled to bring their expertise home to serve the Paducah community. "This is more than a job, it's a dream realized," said Luke Beggs, MD, PhD, with BHMG Sports Medicine. "My brother, Jake, is an experienced orthopedic PA, and the chance to work together has been a dream of ours for a while now. We're excited to use our unique skills and training to help our friends, family and neighbors stay active and healthy."

Dr. Beggs specializes in diagnosing and treating orthopedic and sports-related conditions, including joint injuries, arthritis, and fractures. He also offers ultrasound-guided injections and platelet-rich plasma (PRP) therapy, an innovative treatment popular among professional athletes. Jake Beggs focuses on sports medicine, athlete recovery, nonsurgical orthopedics and nutritional counseling, ensuring a well-rounded approach to patient care.

"We view every patient as an athlete in the sport of life," said Dr. Beggs. "Our goal is to optimize movement, prevent injuries, and help people regain function so they can keep doing what they love."

They treat conditions such as ankle sprains, knee injuries, tendinitis, stress fractures, and other sports-related issues in both youth and adult athletes.

In addition to injury treatment, the Beggs brothers emphasize exercise as the most effective tool for injury prevention and longevity, especially for aging adults.

"A strong body is a resilient body," said Dr. Beggs. "Exercise is the best way to prevent injuries and maintain mobility, no matter your age."

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 270.415.4825.

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Public Assistance Requested as Western Kentucky Law Enforcement Recovers Stolen Property

By Laurna Todd, KPI Writer

The Livingston County Sheriff's Office is seeking the public's help in an ongoing investigation following the recovery of a stolen vehicle in the Ledbetter community early Sunday morning, September 21, 2025. Deputies reported that the vehicle was located around 2 a.m., and surveillance footage shows two individuals fleeing on foot along Jewell Drive, heading toward the Blankship Road subdivision.

Sheriff's deputies are asking residents in the area to check any home or business security cameras, as video evidence could be crucial to the investigation. Deputy Caleb Kindred is leading the case, and anyone with information or relevant footage is encouraged to email caleb.kindred@livingstonco.ky.gov or contact the Sheriff's Office at (270) 928-2122.

This alert comes amid a series of successful law enforcement operations across Western Kentucky, highlighting the impact of interagency cooperation in combating theft and burglary.

On August 4, 2025, the Hickman County Sheriff's Office received a report of two stolen trailers from a local farm. After a month-long investigation, deputies recovered one trailer on September 19, confirming it belonged to the victim. The investigation revealed that Nathan Son, from Kevil, KY, had stolen both trailers, with an accomplice, Shaun McKinney-Cross, from Paducah, KY, also involved. Son was arrested and charged with first-degree burglary, while Cross remains at large. The trailers were recovered—one in Brookport, IL, and the other in Kevil—and returned to the rightful owner.

Meanwhile, in McCracken County, a surveillance operation led to multiple arrests after detectives observed suspicious activity around storage units. Joshua Owen, Christopher Young, Joseph Abbott, and Natasha Gill were arrested on charges related to burglary, theft, and narcotics.

Sheriff's offices from Hickman, Ballard, Massac, McCracken, and Livingston counties emphasize that crime will not be tolerated. They noted that effective law enforcement often requires teamwork across jurisdictions and that these arrests demonstrate their commitment to keeping communities safe and holding offenders accountable.

Residents are encouraged to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity to local law enforcement. Every tip, photo, or video could play a key role in ongoing investigations.

Law Enforcement Collaboration Leads to Multiple Arrests



By Laurna Todd
KPI Writer

Local law enforcement agencies recently collaborated to recover stolen property and apprehend several suspects, highlighting the importance of community policing and cooperation.

On August 4, 2025, the Hickman County Sheriff's Office received a report of two trailers stolen from a farm in Hickman County. After a month-long investigation, deputies located one of the trailers on September 19 and confirmed it belonged to the victim. The man in possession of the trailer revealed that he had purchased it from Nathan Son of Kevil, KY. Son admitted to stealing both trailers and disclosed the location of the second trailer. An accomplice, Shaun McKinney-Cross of Paducah, KY, was also identified, and warrants were issued for his arrest. Son was arrested and charged with first-degree burglary, while Cross remains at large. Both trailers were recovered—one in Brookport, IL, and the other in Kevil—and returned to their rightful owner.

Meanwhile, a surveillance operation in McCracken County led to the arrest of multiple burglary suspects along with one drug-related arrest. Detectives observed two men tampering with storage units and acting suspiciously on bicycles. Traffic stops, search warrants, and evidence collection resulted in the arrests of Joshua Owen, Christopher Young, Joseph Abbott, and Natasha Gill for burglary, theft, and narcotics offenses.

Sheriff's offices across Western Kentucky, including those from Hickman, Ballard, Massac, and McCracken counties, emphasized that crime will not be tolerated. They noted that investigations often require interagency teamwork to effectively protect the community. These arrests underscore the dedication of law enforcement officers to keeping neighborhoods safe and ensuring that those who break the law are held accountable.

Cooking for a Cause: Smokey D's Hosts St. Jude Benefit

By Laurna Todd, KPI Writer

Smokey D's is usually closed on Sundays, but on September 14 the doors swung open for a special reason—supporting St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

The idea of Sunday fundraisers at the restaurant began years ago as a way to help employees, friends, and family without interfering with regular business hours. "Every now and then if we have someone close to us with a fundraising need, we open up and all proceeds go to their cause," Haley Robertson explained.

This time, the event supported two Smokey D's employees, along with a niece, sister-in-law, and employee's sister, all of whom are participating in the St. Jude Marathon weekend. With their fundraising goals in mind, the restaurant hosted a fish fry that quickly became a community gathering.

Nearly 300 plates—served both dine-in and carry-out—were prepared during the afternoon. Runners pitched in to serve guests, while donations poured in to boost their St. Jude efforts. "We had several of the runners helping with the fry, and the donations added a big push to each of their fundraising goals," Robertson said. "We are very thankful for the community's help."

For Smokey D's, giving back has always been a priority. "The community supports us as a business, so we always strive to show them how much we appreciate their support in return," they added.

The St. Jude event is just one of many Smokey D's has hosted. Over the years, the restaurant has supported school clubs, athletic teams, church youth groups, the local Masons, and countless other causes.

At Smokey D's, the recipe for giving is simple: serve good food, open the doors, and let the community come together for something bigger than a meal.

Murray State University opens Virtual Reality Lab for experiential learning in criminal justice and social work

By: Shawn Touney
MSU

MURRAY, Ky. – Murray State University's Criminal Justice and Social Work department has officially opened a new Virtual Reality (VR) Lab, providing students in these programs with an innovative, hands-on approach to learning. A grand opening was recently held during Family Weekend, offering families and community members the opportunity to see how the department is preparing students for careers that increasingly rely on technology.

The lab uses the WRAP VR system, which places students into highly detailed, real-world scenarios designed to strengthen communication and problem-solving skills. Situations range from traffic stops and domestic violence calls to encounters with individuals experiencing mental illness or substance abuse issues.

"We are excited to open the Virtual Reality Lab, which will help provide another opportunity for our students to have experiential learning, collaborate between the programs, and better prepare them not only for their careers, but for careers that will involve the use of technology," said Dr. Katy Hancock, department chair of criminal justice and social work.

The system emphasizes de-escalation and communication as primary tools, with physical force serving as a last resort. After completing a scenario, students participate in group discussions to reflect on what went well, what challenges they faced and how theoretical knowledge applies to the situation.



"While classroom learning gives students a chance to build theoretical knowledge and critical thought, the WRAP system allows them to apply those concepts in practice," Hancock said. "This immersive experience helps them understand the stress and realities professionals face in the field, and it gives them the opportunity to decide if this is truly the career path they want to pursue."

As mental health and substance abuse concerns continue to grow nationwide, social workers and law enforcement are working together more frequently. The collaboration between Murray State's programs mirrors these real-world partnerships, helping students gain experience with cross-disciplinary teamwork early in their careers.

The Murray State University Police Department will also partner with faculty to run simulations during select events and training sessions, providing their expertise to enhance the scenarios.

Assistant Police Chief, Chris Fike, said the University Police Department is very excited about this partnership.

"This lab will provide our officers with a unique space to practice a wide range of scenarios that enhance decision-making, response times and overall preparedness," Fike said. "The ability to safely experience and repeat these situations allows us to refine our training in ways that traditional methods cannot always replicate. In addition, this partnership offers our campus community, especially students in the criminal justice and social work program, a firsthand look at the types of calls police officers regularly respond to. It creates a valuable bridge between classroom learning and real-world application, helping future professionals better understand the challenges and responsibilities of law enforcement."

Dr. Daniel Hepworth, professor in criminal justice and social work, said the classroom setting limits the scope of hands-on learning opportunities available to students.

"This system allows students to step into the shoes of a professional and experience situations as close to real life as possible within the confines of the building," Hepworth said.

Murray State faculty plan to integrate the VR system into courses, student organizations and open lab sessions where students can participate or observe simulations. The WRAP system also offers the flexibility to add new scenarios annually, ensuring students are continually exposed to evolving challenges in the field.

"This is an amazing system and one that we are thrilled to share with our students," Hancock said. "It will enhance their education immensely by allowing them to practice skills in a safe yet realistic environment."

The department celebrated the grand opening of its new Virtual Reality Lab during Family Weekend on Sept. 5. Guests were invited to explore the state-of-the-art space, experience interactive demonstrations and learn more about the innovative technology shaping the future of education.

To learn more about the Criminal Justice and Social Work department, visit murraystate.edu/coehs.

Murray State University faculty member appointed vice president of global veterinary pathology foundation

MURRAY, Ky. – Dr. Rafaela De Negri, veterinary pathologist and faculty member at Murray State University's Breathitt Veterinary Center, has been named vice president of organizational operations for the Davis-Thompson Foundation, an internationally respected nonprofit leader in veterinary pathology education.

The Davis-Thompson Foundation is renowned for advancing veterinary pathology through education and global outreach. With programs that reach thousands of veterinary professionals worldwide, the foundation's impact is driven by leaders like De Negri, whose innovative contributions have transformed the way pathology is taught and shared across borders.

Since joining the foundation as a board member in 2020, De Negri has taken on key leadership roles, including chair of social media, director of the graphics and webinar committees. She has played a central role in expanding the foundation's global reach through facilitating high-impact educational events, engaging social media initiatives, creative educational advertising, and, notably, she created and directed the foundation's biannual necropsy course, a two-day hands-on workshop designed to help international veterinary graduates develop the necropsy skills necessary to pass the Clinical Proficiency Examination held by the American College of Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)- Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates (ECFVG).



In her new position, De Negri will oversee organizational operations that support the Foundation's mission of advancing veterinary pathology education across the globe.

This appointment reflects both De Negri's excellence as a scholar and educator, and the growing impact of Murray State University's contributions to international collaboration. Her leadership continues to elevate the field of veterinary pathology and showcases the global influence of faculty in advancing veterinary health and education.

"We are so fortunate to have Dr. De Negri here at Murray State University! Dr. De Negri is an amazing professional who always goes above and beyond for our region in providing an unsurpassable level of diagnostic expertise and service," said Dean of the Hutson School of Agriculture Dr. Brian Parr.

De Negri's appointment underscores the University's commitment to promoting excellence in leadership, innovation in education and global engagement. Through her work, she exemplifies the values of Murray State University: stewardship, scholarship and service.

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

For more information about De Negri's work at Murray State or the Davis-Thompson Foundation, please contact the Breathitt Veterinary Center at (270) 886-3959 or visit davisthompsonfoundation.org.

About Murray State University: Since 1922, Murray State University has provided a collaborative, opportunity-rich living and learning community that fosters personal growth and professional success through a high-quality college experience. Students receive support from inspiring faculty and staff and will join a distinctive campus community — the Racer Family. With more than 10,000 students, Murray State prepares the next generation of leaders to join more than 80,000 successful alumni who make a difference in their community, across the country and around the world. We are Racers. The University's main campus is located in Murray, Kentucky, and includes five regional campuses in Ft. Campbell, Henderson, Hopkinsville, Madisonville and Paducah.

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LOCATION: Located just 4 miles northwest of Hardinsburg, KY off US Hwy 60, turn left onto Skillman Monarch Ln. Auction Banners Posted. Only minutes to Rough River Dam State Park.
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VIEWING: Land & Timber are open for viewing anytime at your leisure.
PREVIEW: Agents will there Sat, Sept 27 from 10 AM to 12 noon CDT for any questions you may have.
PROPERTY OVERVIEW: This well-located property offers excellent home sites, fertile farm ground, trophy hunting habitat - all located on a dead-end road, just minutes from town! Approx. 237 Acres, m/l, of cleared land (Per FSA Office) with the balance in massive woodlands. Beautiful Clover Creek flows through Tract 11, having over a mile of frontage, plus numerous other springs and streams throughout the entire property. Property has blacktop road frontage, county water & electric available. Property has been removed from the CRP Program, recently bush hogged and ready to go to work for YOU!
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Tract #1: 36.1 Acres, m/l.
Tract #2: 52.5 Acres, m/l.
Tract #3: 32.9 Acres, m/l.
Tract #4: 15.8 Acres, m/l, w/ small pond & old barn.
Tract #5: 125.6 Acres, m/l, boarding Bear Run Creek in back.
Tract #6: 103.7 Acres, m/l.
Tract #7: 13.7 Acres, m/l.
Tract #8: 13.5 Acres, m/l, w/ small pond.
Tract #9: 14.1 Acres, m/l, w/ scenic waterfall and cliff view.
Tract #10: 20.7 Acres, m/l.
Tract #11: 78.5 Acres, m/l, a geological phenomenon with cliff / waterfall overhanging and possible cave entrance & over 1 mile of Clover Creek frontage!
Tract #12: 81.4 Acres, m/l, borders Clover Creek & Bushlick Branch.
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See Website for More Photos, New Survey, & 7 Farm Implements Including: Bush Hog, Corn Picker, Silage Wagon & More!
MANNER OF SALE: This is a live auction with absentee bidding available by contacting auctioneer in advance. Tracts of land & tracts of timber will be auctioned on an individual basis & then in any combinations using Golden Rule-Wilson's Computerized Multi-Parcel Selling System allowing anyone to bid on any tract or any combination of tracts at any time. This allows bidders to make or break a combination, ultimately allowing purchasers to bid only on the tract / tracts they want and also allowing individual tract bidders the ability to defend their bid.
TERMS: REAL ESTATE: 10% down day of sale & balance on or before 45 days. 2025 property taxes paid by the Sellers. Possession with deed. TIMBER TERMS: 10% down day of sale & balance on or before 45 days - allowing 18 months for removal of timber down to a 16-inch cut (to be measured no lower than 6 inches above the ground at the stump). A 10% buyer's premium applies to all winning bids. No contingencies. All property is sold in "AS-IS". ALL SALES ARE FINAL!
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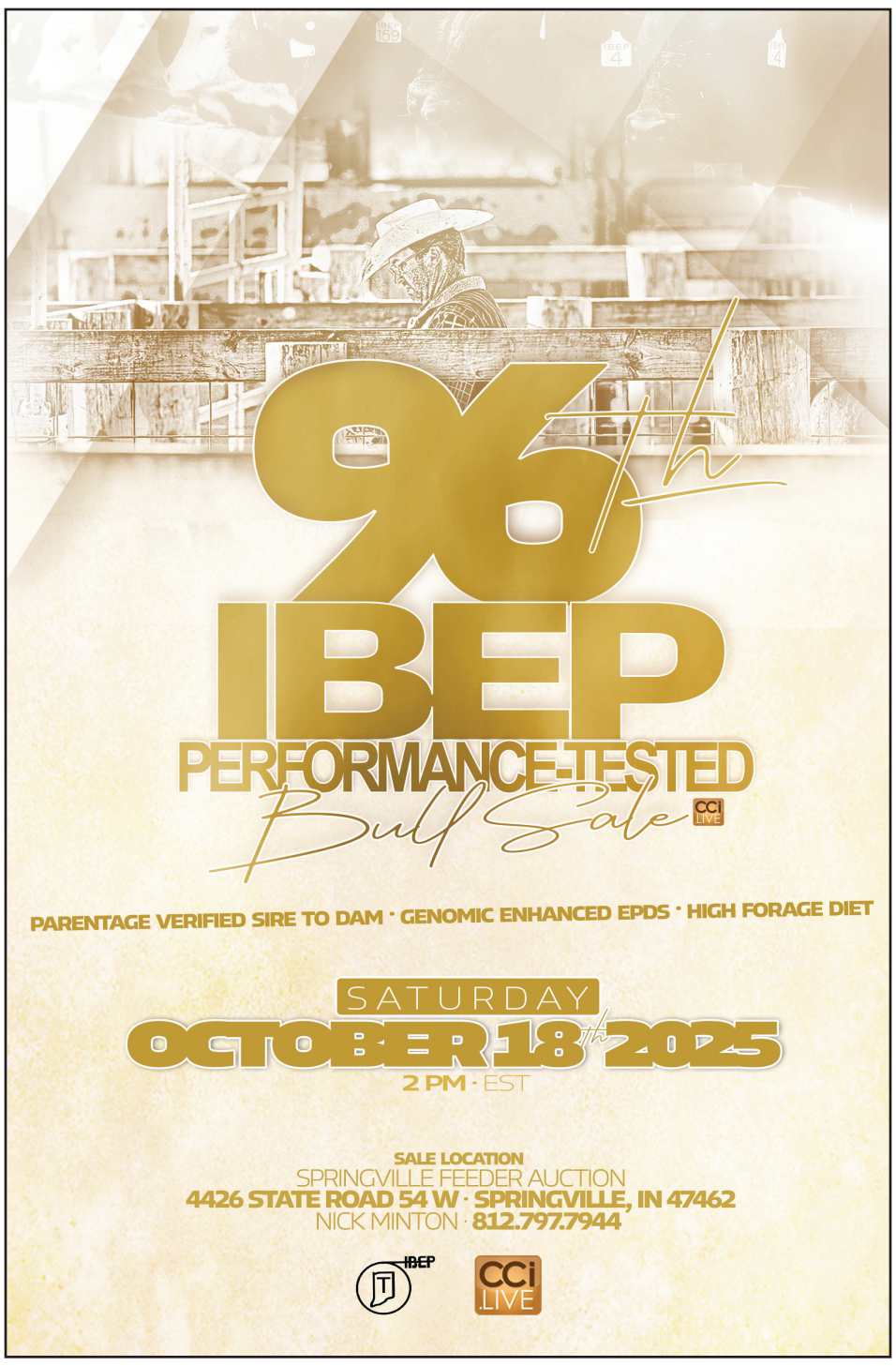


Investing in On-Farm Grain Storage Pays Off for Local Farmers

By: Laurna Todd
KPI Writer

For farmers, harvest is the culmination of months of hard work, but it also brings challenges. Timing, equipment, and labor all affect the efficiency and profitability of bringing grain from field to market. One solution that pays for itself is on-farm grain storage.

Storing grain on the farm gives growers flexibility to sell when market conditions are favorable, often capturing higher prices and additional buyers that may not be available at harvest. But the benefits don't stop there. On-farm storage systems also improve efficiency throughout harvest. Trucks keep moving with receiving systems in place, reducing labor, fuel, and downtime. Bucket elevators and chain loops replace the hassle of moving augers, speeding up grain handling while protecting quality.

For high-value equipment like combines, adequate on-farm storage and drying allows farmers to operate more efficiently, widen the harvest window, and

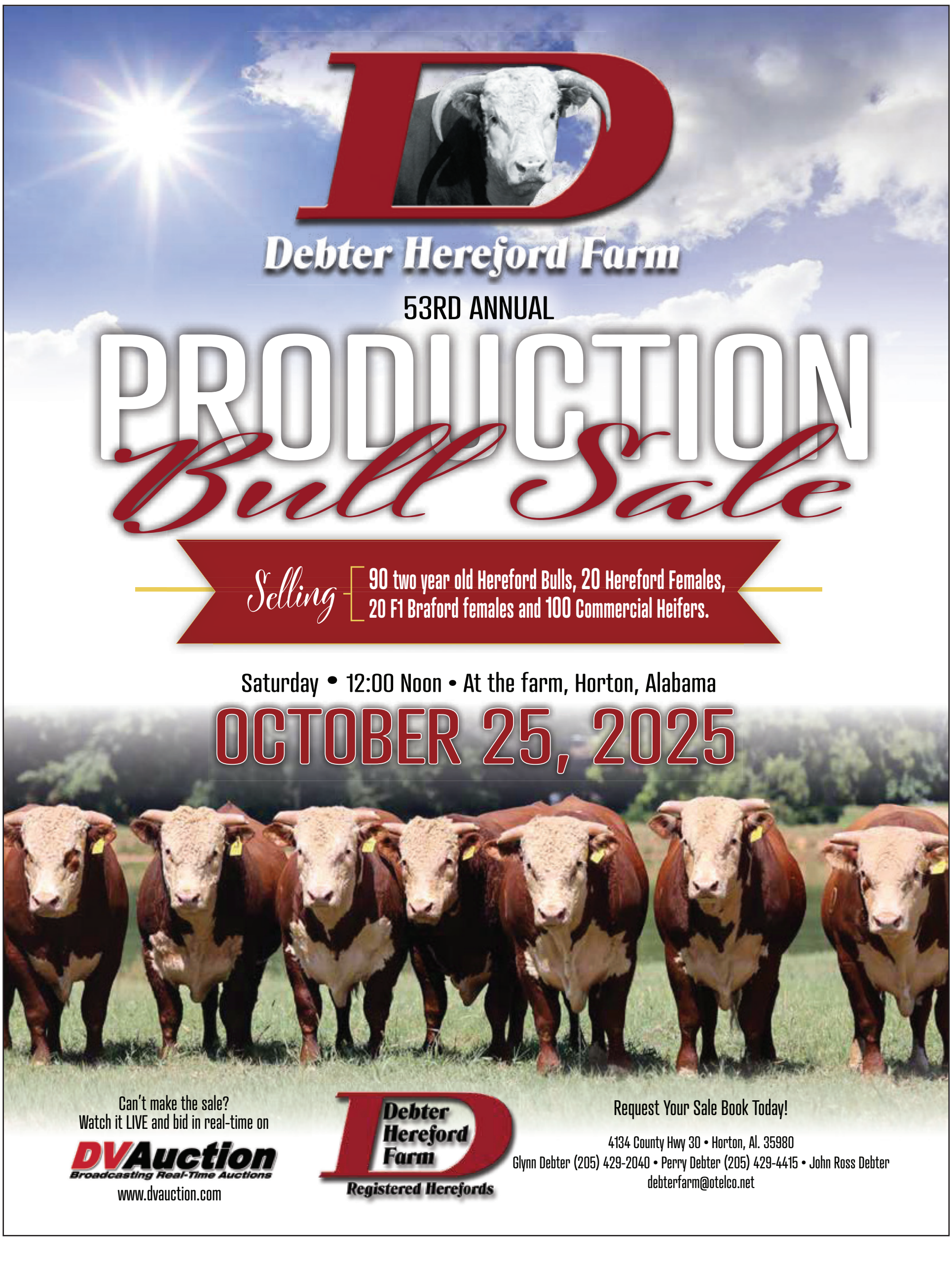


reduce extra labor or machinery expenses. Safety and employee well-being are also improved, as a well-designed system reduces long hours, rushed work, and the risk of mistakes. Plus, it gives farm families more time together during the busy harvest season.

In Western Kentucky, Workman Bins Inc. in Mayfield is a trusted partner for farmers looking to invest in on-farm storage. Jason Workman helps growers determine the right bin size and equipment for their operation, without overspending on unnecessary extras. With a fully stocked inventory of parts, Workman Bins ensures farmers can quickly address maintenance needs and keep operations running smoothly.

GSI grain bins, offered locally through Workman Bins, provide durability, reliability, and industry-leading design, making them a smart long-term investment. By combining quality storage, expert guidance, and local support, on-farm grain systems can improve efficiency, protect your harvest, and pay for themselves over time.

Farmers interested in learning more can contact Jason Workman at Workman Bins Inc, 400 Opportunity Drive, Mayfield, KY, 270-209-0259.



UofL awarded $2.5M to boost pediatric cancer research, treatment

By:TOM LATEK, Kentucky Today

The University of Louisville has been awarded $2.5 million from the Kentucky Pediatric Cancer Research Trust Fund to hire three new researchers who will help develop new therapeutics and conduct clinical trials for the UofL School of Medicine Department of Pediatrics and Norton Children's Cancer Institute.

"This funding is another key resource in UofL and Norton Children's ongoing work to build a cutting-edge pediatric cancer research program," said Michael Ferguson, chief of the Division of Hematology, Oncology and Stem Cell Transplantation in the UofL School of Medicine Department of Pediatrics and chief of Norton Children's Cancer Institute. "This will allow us to develop new pediatric cancer treatments and bring them to families in Kentucky and surrounding states before they are available anywhere else – ensuring children here have first access to the latest approved therapies."

Previous grants funded some of the biggest findings within the UofL



Department of Pediatrics and Norton Children's Cancer Institute. One notable example is CAR T-cell immunotherapy research conducted by the late William Tse. The research involves reprogramming the immune cells of brain cancer patients to kill their own brain cancer cells that have resisted conventional therapy.

They also funded a basic science program that helps researchers better understand how certain chemotherapy drugs impact the heart and what adjustments can be made to prevent those side effects, along with work that is helping children manage pain during cancer treatment. Earlier this year, the Kentucky Pediatric Cancer Research Trust Fund also awarded a grant to help establish the Norton Children's Cancer Institute Resource Center, a space to support patients and families through every step of their cancer journey.

"The partnership between the University of Louisville School of Medicine and Norton Children's creates an unparalleled environment for pediatric cancer care and research in Louisville and beyond," said Jeffrey Bumpous, dean of UofL School of Medicine and executive vice president for health affairs. "Through Norton Children's Cancer Institute, our dually employed faculty are able to offer innovative treatments and clinical trials while advancing research for our most vulnerable cancer patients and training the next generation of physician-scientists."

The new researchers are expected to join UofL in early 2026.

Owensboro pregnancy center receives nearly $10,000 for fatherhood program

BY: TESSA REDMOND, Kentucky Today

Care Net of Owensboro recently expanded its ministry to intentionally serve fathers, and a faith-based group of local men invested $9,505 in the pregnancy resource center to see that program continue to flourish.

10,000 Reasons, a non-entity that meets quarterly to give back to non-profits in Daviess County, heard presentations from three organizations before casting their votes on Aug. 19 to select Care Net Owensboro (CNO) as the winner. Each member brings $100, which goes directly to each quarterly donation recipient.

Latricia Duckworth, executive director of CNO, said it was "providential" to speak to a room full of men about the issue of fatherhood.

"When we first started this program [in July of 2024], we began to look into the statistics that are coming out about fatherlessness in our nation and about the effects of single-parent households on children's wellbeing," Duckworth told Kentucky Today. "We felt compelled…to help the young dads in our community, so we began this project after a year's preparation and then the 10,000 Reasons group have sown into it. This is the first large particular gift toward the fatherhood program, and we are truly grateful for the opportunity to gain that support."

Duckworth said that fatherhood ministry is "vital" in the context of pregnancy help ministry, noting how the involvement of fathers in decision-making processes related to abortion and parenting can impact what a woman chooses to do with her unplanned pregnancy.

In the first year of the program's operation, John Hogue, CNO's fatherhood team lead, and two volunteers provided 250 dad coaching sessions. The video-driven curriculum covers pregnancy, baby care basics, taking care of the postpartum mother, the challenges of parenthood, discipline, teaching manners, navigating tech and providing leadership and consistency as a father, among other topics.

"They'll bring the biblical worldview into the study, and we always ask our clients if we can pray with them at the end of the session, and most all of them will allow him to pray for them," Duckworth said.

And, at some point during the dad coaching sessions, CNO's fatherhood team will share the gospel with participants.

Duckworth said the fatherhood program is a wonderful opportunity for CNO, which has been serving Owensboro families for two decades.

"We've been doing it for 20 years for women, and sometimes dads would come, but there wasn't a particular program for them," Duckworth said. "Now that we have the fatherhood program, we're seeing that some of these young men are really, really engaging and appreciating it."

Secretary Rollins Strengthens SNAP Retailer Stocking Requirements

By: USDA

Recently, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins announced the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is proposing changes to strengthen the stocking requirements for retailers participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). These changes would protect the program, participants, and taxpayers by mitigating fraud, waste, and abuse and ensuring additional healthy food options for recipient families.

"Retailers participating in SNAP need to sell real food, plain and simple. Right now, the bar for stocking food as a SNAP retailer is far too low, allowing people to game the system and leaving vulnerable Americans without healthy food options. These common-sense changes are designed to minimize benefit trafficking and skimming, among other fraudulent activities, while making more nutritious foods available to families who rely on the program," said Secretary Brooke Rollins. "This is another step forward in President Trump's mission to Make America Healthy Again."

Currently, SNAP retailers are required to stock three varieties of food in each of four staple food categories – dairy, protein, grain, and fruits and vegetables – 12 foods total. The proposed rule:

Increases variety requirements to seven per staple food category, more than doubling the food choices available to SNAP participants.

Closes loopholes that allow certain snack foods to count as staple foods, emphasizing the importance of healthy, whole food.

Simplifies how foods are classified, making the standards easier for retailers to understand – and FNS to enforce.

This proposed rule is part of USDA's broader commitment to ensuring federal nutrition programs operate with integrity and respect to the American taxpayer. Low stocking requirements make SNAP more vulnerable to fraud and abuse, permitting retailers that aren't genuinely in the business of selling food to cash in on taxpayer-funded benefits. With nearly 266,000 retailers redeeming $96 billion in SNAP benefits per year, no amount of fraud will be tolerated.

The changes also support the Trump administration's promise to turn the tide on chronic disease and Make America Healthy Again. USDA is actively reorienting SNAP towards better nutrition and emphasizing whole, healthy food for program participants. This includes approving 12 states to exclude certain unhealthy foods from purchase with SNAP benefits.

USDA welcomes comments on the proposed rule from interested parties and the public. The full text of the rule is available on the FNS website. Comments may be submitted September 25 through November 24, 2025, by visiting regulations.gov.

FALL CLEAN-UP DAYS

October 16th, 17th & 18th

DUMPSTER LOCATIONS
TIRES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED THIS FALL

The following is a listing of the dumpster sites for the Fall Clean-up days.

For residents of Ledbetter, Smithland, Grand Rivers, Lake City and Tiline the dumpsters will be located at the Convenience Center on the Cutoff Road.

For residents of Burna, Hampton, Carrsville, Lola, Salem and Joy the dumpsters will be located at the Old Riding Club @ 1795 U.S. 60 East; between Burna and Salem.

Hours of Operation at Each Location

Thursday October 16th	8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Friday October 17th	8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Saturday October 18th	8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

WHITE GOODS PICKUP
(Sponsored by the Livingston County Conservation District)

Thursday October 16th
Pick up items East side of County:
Hampton,Burna, Salem, Carrsville, Joy, etc.

Friday October 17th
Pick up items West side of County:
Tiline, Smithland, Ledbetter, Grand Rivers, etc.

To make arrangements for white goods (washers, dryers, stoves, refrigerators, etc) and other large items to be picked up at your homes please call the Judge Executive's Office at 928-2105.

Trash will be accepted at the Convenience Center located on the Cutoff Road and the Old Riding Club located between Burna and Salem
October 16th, 17th & 18th.
FREE OF CHARGE.

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FRIDAY
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SATURDAY
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Ag Update

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

Our Trees Need Some Water

After a very wet spring our rainfall really dropped off. We went from having to mow the yard every 3 or 4 days to now mowing the yard every 3 of 4 weeks. It has been hard on our field crops, cattle pastures and hay fields. It has also been hard on your lawn and the plants around your house.

We think about watering our annual and perennial flowers when we see them wilting, but we often never think about watering our trees and shrubs. The University of Kentucky Extension Service has a new publication "How Dry Seasons Affect Woody Plants" (ID-89). Just type 'UK ID-89" and it should be the first choice that pops up.

According to the Mesonet site near Bandana our last rainfall of more than an inch occurred on July 7th. We ended up with just 2.5 inches for the month of July. In August, we only received 0.9 inches. In September, we have only had 0.4 tenths of an inch so far.

All growing plants are under water stress. For your trees and shrubs, water stress leads to more problems with insects and diseases. For example, my dogwoods started their decline after the ice storm in 2009. I know it has been over 15 years, but they went from good healthy trees to problems with dogwood borers as the decline has gone on. They then suffered from dogwood anthracnose in these wetter springs that we have been having. This drought may have finished them off.

Rarely will one stress by itself kill a tree or shrub but multiple events in succeeding years can really speed the decline. The publication lists the trees that do poorly under drought stress they include Japanese Maple, Sugar Maple, Dogwood, Beech, Norway Spruce, White Pine and Hemlock. These trees should be the first that you look to water along with any new plantings or sentimental trees that you don't want to lose. Take a water hose and turn it on to a slow flow and place it away from the trunk in the drip line and let it run for several hours then move it to a new spot. A deep good watering is much better than many shallow waterings. You want the water to get down in the soil profile to more of the roots.

Some trees that hold up well under drought stress are included in the publications and they include our oaks, hickories, hackberry, some pines, reb bud and many others. So, until we get some much needed rainfall, your trees could use your help.

Saving energy during peak times

By: Gibson Electric Membership Corporation



Does your home buzz with activity in the early morning or right after dinner? That's not just your routine — it's part of a bigger picture. These are what we call "peak times," when everyone's flipping on lights, brewing coffee, cooking meals and unwinding with electronics. And while it might seem like business as usual, this surge in energy use puts a real strain on our power grid.

September marks the final month of our summer period (June-September), when electricity demand is typically highest between 1 and 7 p.m. That's when air conditioners are running full blast, appliances are in use and families are returning home for the day. As we transition into fall, it's a great time to be mindful of how and when we use electricity.

Gibson Electric Membership Corporation works around the clock to ensure that electricity flows to your home whenever you need it. Behind the scenes, an enormous and intricate system is at work — one of the most complex machines in the world: the U.S. power grid. The grid is made up of three major interconnections that span the country, each managing supply and demand through regional authorities to keep the lights on and our economy running smoothly.

Electricity comes from a diverse mix of sources — hydropower, natural gas, coal, solar, wind and more. Once energy is generated, it travels through high-voltage transmission lines to local utilities like Gibson Electric, which then deliver it to your home or business through distribution power lines.

When electricity demand surges during peak times, it's more expensive to generate or purchase power. If supply can't keep up, the risk of outages increases. That's why using less energy during peak hours to ease strain on the grid is more important than ever.

So how can you "beat the peak?" Start by adjusting your thermostat a few degrees during peak hours. Smart thermostats can automate this for you. Delay using energy-hungry appliances like ovens, clothes dryers and dishwashers until later in the evening. If you have an electric vehicle, charging it overnight instead of right after you get home can also help.

Looking ahead, our winter period runs from December through March, with peak hours typically between 4 and 10 a.m. While these peak times are based on typical seasonal patterns, weather in the South can be unpredictable. Sudden cold snaps or heat waves can shift demand unexpectedly, so staying flexible and energy-aware is always a good idea.

Small actions taken by many households can lead to big results. When we all work together to reduce energy use during peak times, we protect our power grid, help control cooperative costs and ensure reliable electricity for our communities.

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Weather Preparedness Week Tips

*sponsored by **J & M Construction***

To prepare for severe weather, create an emergency plan for your family, build a supply kit with essentials like food, water, and batteries, secure your home by trimming trees and closing windows, and stay informed by signing up for emergency alerts and monitoring local weather. Prepare for specific weather types by understanding the risks and taking appropriate action, such as protecting pipes from freezing in winter or moving valuables for storms.

Before a Storm

Make a plan:
Decide on a safe meeting place for your family and a safe room in your home.

Gather Supplies:
Assemble an emergency kit with water, non-perishable food, a battery-powered radio, and backup power for your phone.

Prepare Your Home:
Trim trees and branches, secure loose objects, and consider reinforcing your home if you live in a high-risk area.

Know Your Alerts:
Learn the difference between a weather "watch" (conditions are favorable) and a "warning" (danger is imminent).

Stay Informed:
Sign up for emergency alerts from your local government to receive updates on severe weather.

During a Storm

Seek Shelter:
Go to your designated safe room if a warning is issued for severe weather like a tornado or thunderstorm.

Monitor Conditions:
Continue to monitor local news and your emergency radio for weather updates and instructions from authorities.

Prevent Freezing Pipes:
If pipes freeze during winter weather, remove insulation and wrap pipes in rags.

Stay Safe with Heating:
If using a kerosene heater, ensure proper ventilation and keep it at least three feet from flammable objects.

After a Storm

Check for Frostbite and Hypothermia:
In winter, watch for signs of frostbite (loss of feeling and a pale appearance) or hypothermia (shivering, disorientation).

Be Cautious on Icy Walkways:
Walk carefully on snowy or icy surfaces to prevent falls.

Conserve Fuel:
Keep your residence cooler than normal to conserve fuel if power is out.

Listen to Authorities:
Follow instructions from local authorities regarding driving or other activities during or after severe weather.

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CITY OF CORYDON: ORDINANCE NO. 2025-07

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CORYDON, KENTUCKY PROVIDING FOR THE LEVY AND COLLECTION OF AD VALOREM TAXES FOR THE 2025 TAX YEAR

WHEREAS, KRS 92.280 AUTHORIZES THE CITY OF CORYDON TO LEVY AND COLLECT A TAX ON REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY; AND

WHEREAS, KRS 92.280 FURTHER AUTHORIZES THE USE OF REVENUE FOR SUCH PURPOSES AS SHALL BE PROVIDED BY THE LEGISLATIVE BODY OF THE CITY OF CORYDON; AND

WHEREAS, KRS 132.285 AUTHORIZES THE CITY TO ADOPT THE HENDERSON COUNTY ASSESSMENT FOR ALL REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY SITUATED WITHIN THE CITY AS THE BASIS OF ALL AD VALOREM TAX LEVIES ORDERED BY THE CITY COUNCIL; AND

WHEREAS, THE AD VALOREM TAX SHALL BE ON THE FAIR MARKET VALUE OF ALL LANDS, IMPROVEMENTS, PERSONAL PROPERTY, TANGIBLE AND INTANGIBLE, HELD OR OWNED BY ANY PERSON, FIRM, COMPANY, CORPORATION, OR ASSOCIATION IN HIS, HERS, THEIRS, OR ITS NAME, OR AS FIDUCIARY OR AGENT AND SUBJECT TO TAXATION UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF KENTUCKY, INCLUDING ALL PROPERTY, EXCEPT THE PROPERTY COVERED BY SECTION III OF THIS ORDINANCE, AND FRANCHISE HERETOFORE, AND HEREINAFTER ASSESSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL, RAILROAD COMMISSION, STATE TAX COMMISSION, AND STATE BOARD OF VALUATION AND ASSESSMENT ARE HEREBY LEVIED AND DIRECTED TO BE COLLECTED FOR THE YEAR 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CORYDON, AND THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY:

SECTION I ALL TAXES, EXCEPT AD VALOREM TAXES ON MOTOR VEHICLES, ARE DUE UPON RECEIPT.

SECTION II (A) ALL CITY TAXES, EXCEPT AD VALOREM TAXES ON MOTOR VEHICLES, SHALL BECOME DELINQUENT ON JANUARY 1, 2026.

(B) ANY TAXES NOT PAID BY THE DATE WHEN THEY BECOME DELINQUENT SHALL BE SUBJECT TO A PENALTY OF 20% ON THE TAXES DUE AND UNPAID. ALL AD VALOREM TAXES WHICH REMAIN UNPAID ON JANUARY 1SR OF THE YEAR IN WHICH THE TAXES BECOME DUE SHALL BE CHARGED 6% ANNUM INTEREST FROM JANUARY 1SR UNTIL PAID.

SECTION III (A) THE PROPERTY ASSESSMENT FOR THE CITY FOR THE YEAR 2025 PROVIDED BY THE HENDERSON COUNTY PROPERTY VALUATION ADMINISTRATOR HAS BEEN CERTIFIED AS:

(1) REAL ESTATE	19,258,028
(2) TANGIBLE PROPERTY	356,663
(3) MOTOR VEHICLES	4,248,124
(4) WATERCRAFT	66,664
TOTAL TAXABLE PROPERTY	23,929,479

(B) THERE IS LEVIED FOR THE YEAR 2025 THE GENERAL AD VALOR EM TAX RATE PER $100 VALUATION ON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY FOR THE GENERAL FUND, THE FOLLOWING:

(1) REAL ESTATE	.078
(2) TANGIBLE PROPERTY	.1570
(3) MOTOR VEHICLES	.1570 (15.70 CENTS)
(4) WATERCRAFT	.1570 (15.70 CENTS)

SECTION IV THE AD VALOREM TAX IS LEVIED FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF CORYDON, FOR STREET CLEANING AND STREET IMPROVEMENTS, CONSTRUCTION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF STREETS, AS WELL AS THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE CITY OF CORYDON, AND SHALL BE KNOWN AS THE GENERAL FUND FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING ALL LEGAL CLAIMS ARISING AGAINST THE CITY OF CORYDON.

SECTION V THE CITY CLERK OF CORYDON IS HEREBY DESIGNATED AS TAX COLLECTOR OF AND FOR THE CITY OF CORYDON, KENTUCKY.

SECTION VI THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING ENACTMENT AND PUBLICATION AS PRESCRIBED BY LAW. ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH ARE REPEALED AND SUPERSEDED TO THE EXTENT OF SUCH CONFLICT.

Ronda Smith 9/18/25
RONDA SMITH, MAYOR DATE

ATTEST:
Katie M. Sauer 9/18/25
CLERK DATE

INTRODUCED: AUGUST 21, 2025
FIRST READING: AUGUST 21, 2025.

COUNCILMEMBER KAREN MCGILL MOTIONS TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 2025-07. AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CORYDON, KENTUCKY PROVIDING FOR THE LEVY AND COLLECTION OF AD VALOREM TAXES FOR THE 2025 YEAR.

SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER JERRY HOGE.

VOICE VOTE, ALL IN FAVOR SAY"AYE"

ROLL CALL: RENAE BROWN-AYE, JAYLA GISH-AYE, JERRY HOGE-AYE, JACK HORTON-AYE, KAREN MCGILL-AYE, DANIEL RATHMANN-AYE

THE MOTION CARRIES.

SECOND READING: SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER KAREN MCGILL MOTIONS TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 2025-07. AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CORYDON, KENTUCKY PROVIDING FOR THE LEVY AND COLLECTION OF AD VALOREM TAXES FOR THE 2025 YEAR.

SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER JERRY HOGE.

VOICE VOTE, ALL IN FAVOR SAY"AYE"

ROLL CALL: RENAE BROWN-AYE, JAYLA GISH-ABSENT, JERRY HOGE-AYE, JACK HORTON-AYE, KAREN MCGILL-AYE, DANIEL RATHMANN-AYE

THE MOTION CARRIES.

List of SEC schedules through 2029

The Southeastern Conference announced league matchups for the next four years, including designating three annual — not permanent — opponents for each of its 16 teams

The Southeastern Conference announced league matchups for the next four years Tuesday, including designating three annual — not permanent — opponents for each of its 16 teams. Here are each school's three annuals and its opponents through 2029:

Alabama Crimson Tide
Annuals: Auburn, Mississippi State, Tennessee.
2026 home: Auburn, Georgia, South Carolina, Texas A&M. 2026 away: Kentucky, LSU, Mississippi State, Tennessee, Vanderbilt.
2027 home: Florida, Mississippi State, Missouri, Tennessee, Texas. 2027 away: Arkansas, Auburn, Oklahoma, Ole Miss.
2028 home: Auburn, Kentucky, LSU, Vanderbilt. 2028 away: Georgia, Mississippi State, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas A&M.
2029 home: Arkansas, Oklahoma, Ole Miss, Mississippi State, Tennessee.
2029 away: Auburn, Florida, Missouri, Texas.

Arkansas Razorbacks
Annuals: LSU, Missouri, Texas.
2026 home: Georgia, LSU, Missouri, South Carolina, Tennessee. 2026 away: Auburn, Texas, Texas A&M, Vanderbilt.
2027 home: Alabama, Kentucky, Ole Miss, Texas. 2027 away: Florida, LSU, Missouri, Mississippi State, Oklahoma.
2028 home: Auburn, LSU, Missouri, Texas A&M, Vanderbilt. 2028 away: Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas.
2029 home: Florida, Oklahoma, Mississippi State, Texas. 2029 away: Alabama, Kentucky, LSU, Missouri, Ole Miss.

Auburn Tigers
Annuals: Alabama, Georgia, Vanderbilt.
2026 home: Arkansas, Florida, LSU, Vanderbilt. 2026 away: Alabama, Georgia, Ole Miss, Tennessee, Texas A&M.
2027 home: Alabama, Georgia, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas A&M.
2027 away: Kentucky, Missouri, Texas, Vanderbilt.
2028 home: Mississippi State, Ole Miss, Tennessee, Vanderbilt. 2028 away: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, LSU.
2029 home: Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Missouri, Texas. 2029 away: Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas A&M, Vanderbilt.

Florida Gators
Annuals: Georgia (neutral site), Kentucky, South Carolina.
2026 home: Oklahoma, Ole Miss, South Carolina, Vanderbilt. 2026 away: Auburn, Kentucky, Missouri, Texas. 2026 neutral: Georgia (Atlanta).
2027 home: Arkansas, Kentucky, LSU, Texas A&M. 2027 away: Alabama, South Carolina, Mississippi State, Tennessee. 2027 neutral: Georgia (Tampa, Florida).
2028 home: Auburn, Missouri, Texas, South Carolina. 2028 away: Kentucky, Oklahoma, Ole Miss, Vanderbilt. 2028 neutral: Georgia (Jacksonville, Florida).
2029 home: Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi State, Tennessee. 2029 away: Arkansas, LSU, South Carolina, Texas A&M. 2029 neutral: Georgia (Jacksonville, Florida).

Georgia Bulldogs
Annuals: Auburn, Florida (neutral), South Carolina.
2026 home: Auburn, Missouri, Oklahoma, Vanderbilt. 2026 away: Alabama, Arkansas, Ole Miss, South Carolina. 2026 neutral: Florida (Atlanta).
2027 home: LSU, Mississippi State, South Carolina, Tennessee. 2027 away: Auburn, Kentucky, Texas, Texas A&M. 2027 neutral: Florida (Tampa, Florida).
2028 home: Alabama, Arkansas, Auburn, Ole Miss. 2028 away: Missouri, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Vanderbilt. 2028 neutral: Florida (Jacksonville, Florida).
2029 home: Kentucky, South Carolina, Texas, Texas A&M. 2029 away: Auburn, LSU, Mississippi State, Tennessee. 2029 neutral: Florida (Jacksonville, Florida).

Kentucky Wildcats
Annuals: Florida, South Carolina, Tennessee.
2026 home: Alabama, Florida, LSU, Vanderbilt. 2026 away: Missouri, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas A&M.
2027 home: Auburn, Georgia, Mississippi State, South Carolina, Tennessee. 2027 away: Arkansas, Florida, Ole Miss, Texas.
2028 home: Florida, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas A&M. 2028 away: Alabama, LSU, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vanderbilt.
2029 home: Arkansas, Ole Miss, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas. 2029 away: Auburn, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi State.

LSU Tigers
Annuals: Arkansas, Ole Miss, Texas A&M.
2026 home: Alabama, Mississippi State, Texas, Texas A&M. 2026 away: Arkansas, Auburn, Kentucky, Ole Miss, Tennessee.
2027 home: Arkansas, Missouri, Ole Miss, Oklahoma, Vanderbilt. 2027 away: Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Texas A&M.
2028 home: Auburn, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas A&M. 2028 away: Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi State, Ole Miss, Texas.
2029 home: Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Ole Miss, South Carolina. 2029 away: Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas A&M, Vanderbilt.

Mississippi State Bulldogs
Annuals: Alabama, Ole Miss, Vanderbilt.
2026 home: Alabama, Auburn, Missouri, Oklahoma, Vanderbilt. 2026 away: LSU, Ole Miss, South Carolina, Texas.
2027 home: Arkansas, Florida, Ole Miss, Texas A&M. 2027 away: Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Vanderbilt.
2028 home: Alabama, LSU, South Carolina, Texas, Vanderbilt. 2028 away: Auburn, Missouri, Oklahoma, Ole Miss.
2029 home: Georgia, Kentucky, Ole Miss, Tennessee. 2029 away: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Texas A&M, Vanderbilt.

Missouri Tigers
Annuals: Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas A&M.
2026 home: Florida, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Texas, Texas A&M. 2026 away: Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi State, Ole Miss.
2027 home: Arkansas, Auburn, Tennessee, Vanderbilt. 2027 away: Alabama, LSU, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas A&M.
2028 home: Georgia, Mississippi State, Oklahoma, Ole Miss, Texas A&M. 2028 away: Arkansas, Florida, Kentucky, Texas.
2029 home: Alabama, Arkansas, LSU, South Carolina. 2029 away: Auburn, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas A&M, Vanderbilt.

Oklahoma Sooners
Annuals: Missouri, Ole Miss, Texas (neutral).
2026 home: Kentucky, Ole Miss, South Carolina, Texas A&M. 2026 away: Florida, Georgia, Mississippi State, Missouri. 2026 neutral: Texas (Dallas).
2027 home: Alabama, Arkansas, Missouri, Tennessee. 2027 away: Auburn, LSU, Ole Miss, Vanderbilt. 2027 neutral: Texas (Dallas).
2028 home: Florida, Georgia, Mississippi State, Ole Miss. 2028 away: Kentucky, Missouri, South Carolina, Texas A&M. 2028 neutral: Texas (Dallas).
2029 home: Auburn, LSU, Missouri, Vanderbilt. 2029 away: Alabama, Arkansas, Ole Miss, Tennessee. 2029 neutral: Texas (Dallas).

Ole Miss Rebels
Annuals: LSU, Mississippi State, Oklahoma.
2026 home: Auburn, Georgia, LSU, Mississippi State, Missouri. 2026 away: Florida, Oklahoma, Texas, Vanderbilt.
2027 home: Alabama, Kentucky, Oklahoma, South Carolina. 2027 away: Arkansas, LSU, Mississippi State, Tennessee, Texas A&M.
2028 home: Florida, LSU, Mississippi State, Texas, Vanderbilt. 2028 away: Auburn, Georgia, Missouri, Oklahoma.
2029 home: Auburn, LSU, Missouri, Vanderbilt. 2029 away: Alabama, Kentucky, LSU, Mississippi State, South Carolina.

South Carolina Gamecocks
Annuals: Florida, Georgia, Kentucky.
2026 home: Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi State, Tennessee, Texas A&M. 2026 away: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Oklahoma.
2027 home: Florida, LSU, Missouri, Texas. 2027 away: Auburn, Georgia, Kentucky, Ole Miss, Vanderbilt.
2028 home: Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Oklahoma. 2028 away: Florida, Mississippi State, Tennessee, Texas A&M.
2029 home: Auburn, Florida, Ole Miss, Vanderbilt. 2029 away: Georgia, Kentucky, LSU, Missouri, Texas.

Tennessee Volunteers
Annuals: Alabama, Kentucky, Vanderbilt.
2026 home: Alabama, Auburn, Kentucky, LSU, Texas. 2026 away: Arkansas, South Carolina, Texas A&M, Vanderbilt.
2027 home: Florida, Mississippi State, Ole Miss, Vanderbilt. 2027 away: Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Missouri, Oklahoma.
2028 home: Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, South Carolina, Texas A&M.
2028 away: Auburn, LSU, Texas, Vanderbilt.
2029 home: Georgia, Missouri, Oklahoma, Vanderbilt. 2029 away: Alabama, Florida, Kentucky, Mississippi State, Ole Miss.



Texas Longhorns
Annuals: Arkansas, Oklahoma (neutral), Texas A&M.
2026 home: Arkansas, Florida, Mississippi State, Ole Miss. 2026 away: LSU, Missouri, Tennessee, Texas A&M. 2026 neutral: Oklahoma (Dallas).
2027 home: Auburn, Georgia, Kentucky, Texas A&M. 2027 away: Alabama, Arkansas, South Carolina, Vanderbilt. 2027 neutral: Oklahoma (Dallas).
2028 home: Arkansas, LSU, Missouri, Tennessee. 2028 away: Florida, Mississippi State, Ole Miss, Texas A&M. 2027 neutral: Oklahoma (Dallas).
2029 home: Alabama, South Carolina, Texas A&M, Vanderbilt. 2029 away: Arkansas, Auburn, Georgia, Kentucky. 2028 neutral: Oklahoma (Dallas).

Texas A&M Aggies
Annuals: LSU, Missouri, Texas.
2026 home: Arkansas, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas. 2026 away: Alabama, LSU, Missouri, Oklahoma, South Carolina.
2027 home: Georgia, LSU, Missouri, Ole Miss, Vanderbilt. 2027 away: Auburn, Florida, Mississippi State, Texas.
2028 home: Alabama, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas. 2028 away: Arkansas, LSU, Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee.
2029 home: Auburn, Florida, LSU, Mississippi State, Missouri. 2029 away: Georgia, Ole Miss, Texas, Vanderbilt.

Vanderbilt Commodores
Annuals: Auburn, Mississippi State, Tennessee.
2026 home: Alabama, Arkansas, Ole Miss, Tennessee. 2026 away: Auburn, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi State.
2027 home: Auburn, Mississippi State, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas.
2027 away: LSU, Missouri, Tennessee, Texas A&M.
2028 home: Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee. 2028 away: Alabama, Arkansas, Auburn, Mississippi State, Ole Miss.
2029 home: Auburn, LSU, Mississippi State, Missouri, Texas A&M. 2029 away: Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas.

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WHY NEWSPAPERS ARE VITAL TO PRESERVING OUR HISTORY

By Laurna Todd
KPI Writer

In today's fast-paced digital age, it can feel like everything lives online. Social media is full of photos, announcements, and memories—but much of it disappears in the endless scroll. That is why newspapers remain one of the most important tools for preserving history. As the saying goes, "If it's not in print, it didn't happen."

Submitting life's milestones—birth announcements, anniversaries, community events, or a child's big win on the ball field—to your local newspaper ensures these special moments are documented in a permanent, lasting way. Unlike social media posts that can be lost or deleted, newspapers create a trusted and accessible record for generations to revisit.

Kentucky Publishing Inc. understands the importance of preservation. Its newspapers are archived and searchable on platforms like Ancestry and Newspapers.com, allowing families to uncover names, events, and memories that might otherwise fade with time. Imagine a great-grandchild decades from now reading about your family's celebrations, achievements, or community involvement—all preserved thanks to the printed word.

While technology is a powerful tool, it cannot replace the timeless reliability of print. Not everyone is online, but newspapers are accessible to all and carefully archived for the future. From sporting events and school accomplishments to engagements and retirements, newspapers honor the stories that define a community.

Teresa Salonimer, a well-known Ballard County resident, frequently shares old newspaper clippings to illustrate their importance. She explained, "When I post an article or picture from our local newspaper, I am giving you more than the history of our community. I am sharing the lifeblood and character of the individuals who paved our way. From baby showers to little league games, revivals to family reunions, these experiences become part of who we are and what we value."

Recently, Teresa shared a decades-old article about an auto accident involving a Wickliffe resident's mother. The resident, Shelby Pillow, said, "I'm so glad Teresa looks through these old papers. Otherwise, I would have never seen this write-up about my mom. This is why we don't need to forget our local newspapers. Yes, we have the internet, but it's just not the same. Support your local newspapers!"

Newspapers don't just report history—they become history. By submitting your important moments, you help ensure your family's story is remembered for years to come.

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Protect yourself from local scams

By Laurna Todd
KPI Writer

The Livingston County Sheriff's Office and Mayfield Police Department are alerting residents about two scams currently circulating in the region. Both aim to trick residents into giving personal information or money, but law enforcement emphasizes these messages are fraudulent.

In Livingston County, scammers are sending texts claiming to be from the Kentucky State Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). The messages warn of outstanding traffic tickets and threaten enforcement actions such as suspended registrations, loss of driving privileges, and credit impacts if payment is not made by a certain date. Victims are directed to a suspicious website link to pay fines. The Sheriff's Office advises: do not click links, do not provide personal information, and do not make any payments. Legitimate DMV notices come through verified official channels only.

Meanwhile, in Mayfield, police have reported a phone scam targeting elderly residents. Callers claim to be from the Public Defender's Office, stating a family member is in trouble—injured, hospitalized, or facing criminal charges—and demand immediate payment for bond or court fees. Authorities emphasize that no public defender or prosecutor would request payment in this way. This scam is designed to create fear and urgency, pressuring victims to send money without verification.

If you receive a suspicious text or call:

Do not provide personal information or money.

Verify the situation by contacting the family member directly or another trusted relative.

Call local law enforcement for guidance.

Residents in Livingston County can report scams to the Sheriff's Office. Those in Mayfield can contact the Mayfield Police Department. Staying alert, verifying information, and seeking help are the best ways to protect yourself and the community from fraud.

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Recognizing Scams: How to spot and avoid fraud

By Wilbur Jackson
KPI Writer

In an increasingly digital world, scams have become more sophisticated and harder to detect. From fake emails to phone calls and social media tricks, scammers are constantly evolving their methods to deceive people and steal money, personal information, or both. Recognizing scams is the first and most important step to protecting yourself and others from falling victim. Here's what you need to know.

Common Types of Scams

Scams can come in many forms, but some of the most common include:

Phishing Emails and Texts – These messages often appear to come from legitimate organizations like banks, delivery services, or government agencies. They usually contain a link or attachment and urge you to act quickly—whether to "verify your account" or "claim a prize."

Phone Scams – Scammers may pose as IRS agents, tech support, or even loved ones in distress. They often use threats or emotional manipulation to pressure you into sending money or revealing personal details.

Online Shopping Scams – Fake websites and ads on social media promise unbelievable deals or hard-to-find items. After payment is made, the product either never arrives or is vastly different from what was advertised.

Romance Scams – Con artists create fake profiles on dating sites and apps, building emotional connections with victims before asking for money under false pretenses.

Investment Scams – These often promise high returns with little risk. They might involve cryptocurrency, real estate, or startup investments. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Warning Signs of a Scam

Being able to recognize the red flags of a scam can save you from a great deal of trouble. Here are some key warning signs:

Unsolicited Contact – If someone contacts you out of the blue and asks for personal information or money, be skeptical.

Too Good to Be True – Scammers rely on the lure of easy money, prizes, or miracle products to hook their victims.

Urgency or Threats – Scams often involve a sense of urgency. You might be told your account will be closed or that you'll be arrested if you don't act immediately.

Requests for Payment via Gift Cards or Crypto – Legitimate businesses or government agencies will never ask for payment through gift cards, wire transfers, or untraceable crypto wallets.

Grammar and Spelling Errors – Many scam messages are poorly written, which can be a giveaway.

Strange URLs or Email Addresses – Always double-check the sender's email or website address for slight misspellings or odd domain names.

How to Protect Yourself

Knowledge is your best defense against scams. Here are several tips to help you stay safe:

Slow Down – Scammers want you to act without thinking. Take a moment to verify what you're being told.

Don't Share Personal Info – Never give out sensitive information like your Social Security number, passwords, or bank details unless you're certain of who you're dealing with.

Verify Through Official Channels – If you're unsure about a request, contact the company or agency directly using contact information from their official website—not what's provided in a suspicious message.

Use Strong Passwords and Two-Factor Authentication – These can help prevent scammers from accessing your accounts even if they get hold of your login details.

Report Scams – If you're targeted by a scam, report it to local authorities or national agencies like the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) in the U.S. This can help prevent others from being scammed.

Final Thoughts

Scams are an unfortunate part of modern life, but they don't have to catch you off guard. By staying informed, questioning suspicious requests, and learning the signs, you can recognize and avoid scams more effectively. Always trust your instincts—if something doesn't feel right, it probably isn't. Sharing what you learn with friends and family can also help create a more scam-aware community.

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• BALLARD •

Mary Bender, age 73, passed away at her home in Barlow on Thursday, September 18, 2025. There are no services scheduled at this time.

James Aubrey Hunter, 95, passed away September 15, 2025, at Calvert City Convalescent Center. Funeral Service were held Thursday, September 18, 2025 at Woodlawn Memorial Gardens Chapel in Paducah, KY with Russ Crosswhite officiating. Interment at Woodlawn Memorial Gardens in Paducah, KY.

• CALDWELL •

Joycelyn Faye Green Jones, age 95, passed away peacefully on September 21, 2025 at Princeton Nursing and Rehabiliaition Center. Funeral services will be held on 2:30 p.m. Sunday, September 28, 2025 at Morgan's Funeral Home in Princeton, KY with Rev. Trent Duncan officiating. Burial will follow in Fredonia Cemetery in Caldwell County. Visitation will be from 12:00 to 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, September 28, 2025 at Morgan's Funeral Home.

Marion Ivy Phelps passed away on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at the home of his daughter in Crestwood, KY. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 27, 2025, at Morgan's Funeral Home with Bro. Curtis Franklin officiating. Burial will follow in Rowland Cemetery in Fredonia.

Sue Lynn Gardner, age 75, of Princeton, KY, passed away on September 15, 2025, in Paducah, KY. Funeral services wereFriday, September 19, 2025 at Morgan's Funeral Home with Bro. Roger Mitchell officiating. Burial at Meeks Cemetery in Caldwell County.

• CALLOWAY •

Chastity Dawn Leigh, 49, of Sharpe passed away at 8:00 AM on Friday, September 19, 2025 at her residence. Memorial services will begin at 12:00 Noon on Sunday, September 28, 2025 at Hughes Funeral Home in Paducah.

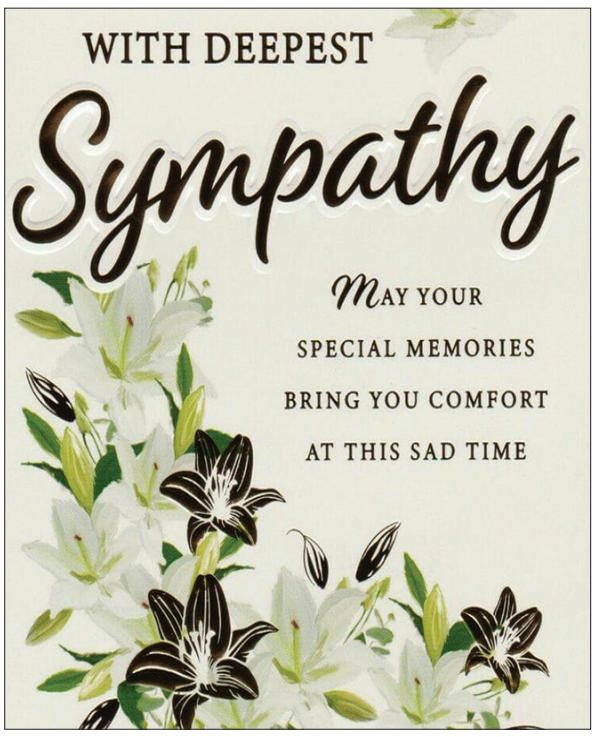
Kathryn A. Stout, 80, of Benton, KY, passed away on Friday, September 19, 2025 at Spring Creek Healthcare in Murray. Arrangements are currently incomplete at Imes Funeral Home & Crematory, downtown Murray.

Mary Jane Jackson, 86, of Hendersonville, TN, formerly of Murray, KY, passed away on Friday, September 19, 2025 at Clarendale at Indian Lake in Hendersonville, TN. A private family burial will be held at Oakwood Cemetery in Clinton, KY.

Charlotte A. Huffine, 91, of Hazel, KY, passed away on Wednesday, September 17, 2025 at the Anna Mae Owen Residential Hospice House. Mrs. Huffine will be laid to rest at Tupman Cemetery in Evansville, IN at a later date.

Lloyd "Peanut" Ray Long, Sr., age 65, of Murray, Kentucky, passed away on Saturday, September 20, 2025, at the Ray and Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center at Mercy Health in Paducah, Kentucky. A funeral service was held Wednesday, September 24, 2025, at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services with Bro. Brett Miles officiating. Burial in the Murray City Cemetery.

Virginia A. Houston, age 82, of Murray, Kentucky, passed away on Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at the Anna Mae Owen Residential Hospice House. A memorial



graveside was held on Thursday, September 25, 2025, at Murray Memorial Gardens. Bro. Brett Miles officiating.

• CHRISTIAN •

Roberta Louise Comperry Schmidt, a former resident of Hopkinsville, KY, and a beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend, passed away peacefully on Monday, September 15, 2025, at the age of 99 in Tucker, GA. Arrangements were handled by Goodwin Funeral Home on Sunday, September 21, 2025. Graveside service at East End Cemetery, where she will be laid to rest with her first husband.

Philip Henry Wagenbaugh, Jr., 66, of Hopkinsville, KY.passed away on Sept. 19, 2025. There will be no services. King's Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Alyene Garrett Schick, 102, of Radcliff, Kentucky and formerly of Hopkinsville, Kentucky died at 5:25 a.m., Monday, September 15, 2025 at the Carl M. Brasher Radcliff Veterans Center in Radcliff, Kentucky. Graveside services was held Thursday, September 18, 2025 at Riverside Cemetery with Rev. Ward Carver officiating. Hughart, Beard & Giles Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Carl D. Ruddell, 89, of Hopkinsville, KY died at 9:20 p.m. Monday, September 15, 2025 at his residence. Graveside services were Friday, September 19, 2025 at Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West with Rev. Dan Huck officiating.

Roger L. Rector, 63, Lowell Way, Hopkinsville, KY, passed away Saturday, September 20, 2025 at his home in Hopkinsville, KY. Funeral services were Wednesday , September 24, 2025 at Lamb Funeral Home with Melvin Felts officiating. Burial in Riverside Cemetery.

• CRITTENDEN •

Sharon J. Lynch, 60, of Marion, Kentucky passed away on Sunday September 14, 2025 in Buda, Texas. Funeral services were Sept. 22 with the Rev. Howard Jones officiating.

Barbara Gilbert of Fulton, Kentucky passed away Monday, September 15, 2025, at Fulton Nursing and Rehab. She was 93 years old. Visitation will be held on Saturday, September 27, 2025, from 10AM till 12 noon in our funeral chapel. There will be no public graveside service.

Richard Keith Hart, 71 passed away on Sept. 16, 2025. Visitation was held on Saturday, September 20, 2025 and services were Sunday, September 21, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. at Gilbert Funeral Home in Marion, Kentucky with interment in Pleasant Hill Cemetery.

• FULTON •

Michael "Mike" Dan Neeley, Sr, age 76, of Fulton, KY passed away Sunday, September 21, 2025, at his residence. There will be no services held at the funeral home and private family services will be held.

Ruby Sharp, age 96, of Fulton, KY went to be with her Lord and Savior Sunday, at 10:27AM September 14, 2025, at the Obion County Nursing Home in Union City, TN surrounded by her loving family. Graveside services were Tuesday, September 16, 2025, in the Liberty Cemetery.

Marvin Charles Cauthorn, JR, age 77 of So. Fulton, TN, passed away Friday, September 19, 2025 at his residence. Funeral services for Marvin will be held Saturday, September 27, 2025 at 12:00 noon at the Brown Funeral Home in Clinton with Rev. Cory Holt officiating. Burial will follow in the Clinton Cemetery with military honors. Visitation will be held on Friday, September 26, 2025 from 5:00 – 7:00 PM and after 9:00 AM on Saturday, September 27, 2025 at the Brown Funeral Home in Clinton.

• GRAVES •

Peggy Tyler Tribble, age 89 of Fulton, Ky passed away on Friday, September 19, 2025 at the Waters of Union City. Funeral Services will be held at 1:00 PM Saturday, September 27, 2025 at the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church in Fulton, KY with Rev. Jesse Johnson officiating. Burial will follow in the New Bethel Cemetery. Friends are invited to call from 11:00 AM until 1:00PM Saturday, September 27, 2025 at the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church. The Brown Funeral Home in Mayfield, KY is in charge of the arrangements.

L. Wayne Wheeler peacefully passed away September 20, 2025, at the age of 93. Services for Wayne Wheeler will be held at Brown Funeral Home in Mayfield on September 27, 2025, with visitation at 11am and funeral service at 1pm with graveside burial following at Highland Park Cemetery. Rev. Ronnie Stinson, SR. will officiate the services.

Donald Louis Courtney age 82 of Mayfield passed away at 8:10 AM Friday September 19, 2025 at the Southgate Nursing Home in Metropolis, IL. Graveside services were Monday September 22, 2025 at the St. Denis Cemetery with Father Sinoj Pynadath officiating. Military Graveside Rites were conducted by American Legion Post #26.

Sylvia J. Waddell, age 78 and a resident of Boaz, passed away at 11:15 A.M. Tuesday, September 16, 2025 at Lakeway Rehab Facility in Benton, KY. Funeral services were held Friday, September 19, 2025 at the Brown Funeral Home in Mayfield with Rev. Keith Allred officiating. Interment in the North Mt. Zion Cemetery.

Leila A. Myatt Woodson, age 74, passed away at the Ray & Kay Eckstein Hospice Center on Monday, September 15, 2025. Funeral Services were Thursday, September 18, 2025 at the Brown Funeral Home in Mayfield, Ky with Rev. Bryant Kerns and Rev. Keith Allred officiating. Burial in the Poyner's Chapel Cemetery.

FUNERAL NOTICES continued

FUNERAL NOTICES continued

William Jason Phelps, age 47, of Chicago, Illinois, formerly of Mayfield, passed away peacefully on September 14, 2025 following a six-year journey with cancer. A graveside service to honor Jason's life and service were held on September 25, 2025 at New Home Baptist Church Mayfield Kentucky. Military honors were rendered at the graveside.

Larry A. Foy, age 73, of Cuba, KY passed away on Friday, September 19, 2025 at his residence. Funeral services were Wednesday, September 24, 2025 at Byrn Funeral Home in Mayfield, KY. Rev. Steve Peal officiating. Interment at Lynnville Baptist Church Cemetery.

Betty Lou Gills, age 89, of Lynnville passed away on Thursday, September 18, 2025 at her residence. A private funeral service for Mrs. Betty Lou Gills will be held at a later date. Rev. Al Chandler will officiate. Interment will follow at Old Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery.

Alan Daryl Thomas, age 68, of Mayfield passed away on Tuesday, September 16, 2025 at Ray & Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center in Paducah, KY. A private memorial service for Mr. Alan Daryl Thomas will be held at a later date.

• HENDERSON •

Monte Peck, 86, recognized for his dedication to family and education, peacefully passed away on September 12, 2025, in Henderson, Kentucky. Memorial services will be held at 12:00 p.m. Friday, September 26, 2025, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah with Pastor, Jenny White officiating. Private burial will be held at Maplelawn Park Cemetery.

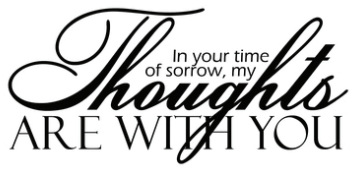
Bruce Stanley Farmer, 71, of Henderson, passed away on Friday, September 19, 2025, at the Lucy Smith King Care Center. Bruce's Life Celebration was held Thursday, September 25. Service was on Friday, September 26th, 2025, at Benton-Glunt & Tapp Funeral Home in Henderson with Reverend Mary Wrye officiating. Burial at Fairmont Cemetery in Henderson.

Anna Gilmore, age 97, of Henderson, KY, passed away on Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at North Park Nursing Home in Evansville, IN, under the care of Gentiva Hospice. There will be no services at this time and inurnment will be at Roselawn Memorial Gardens in Henderson, KY.

Robert E. "Robbie" Tomblin, age 68, of Henderson, KY, passed away at 2:03 a.m. on Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at the Linda E. White Hospice House in Evansville, IN. The funeral service was held Saturday, September 20, 2024, at the funeral home with Reverend Greg Shannon officiating. Burial at Baskett Cemetery in Baskett, KY.

Joyce Spurlin Grossman, age 72, of Henderson, KY, passed away on September 15, 2025, at the Lucy Smith King Care Center under the care of St. Anthony's Hospice. The funeral service was held Wednesday at the funeral home with Reverend Frank Nally officiating. Burial at Roselawn Memorial Gardens in Henderson, KY.

Richard David Bellew, 86, of Henderson, Kentucky, passed away on Friday, September 19, 2025. Services were Wednesday, September 24, 2025, at Rudy-Rowland Funeral Home. Linda Fambrough officiating. Burial in Fairmont Cemetery with full military rites performed by American Legion Worsham Post No. 40.



Rebecca A. "Becky" Middleton, 78, of Lexington, Tennessee, died on Thursday, September 18, 2025, at Henderson County Community Hospital in Lexington, Tennessee. A graveside service will be held at Baskett Cemetery in Baskett, Kentucky, on Friday, September 26, 2025, at 1 p.m. with Pastor Greg Shannon officiating.

Jerry Glenn Green, 82, of Henderson, Kentucky, passed away Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at Deaconess Henderson Hospital. Services were Tuesday, September 23, 2025, at Rudy-Rowland Funeral Home. The Reverend Tim Shockley officiating. Burial in Roselawn Memorial Gardens will full military rites performed by American Legion Worsham Post No. 40.

William "Bill" Shelton, 73, of Henderson, Kentucky, passed away Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at his home. Private family services will be at a later date.

Glenn Travis Grayson, 75, of Henderson, Kentucky, formerly of Owensboro, Kentucky, passed away on Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at his home. Services were Monday, September 22, 2025, at Rudy-Rowland Funeral Home. Father Richard Meredith officiating. Burial in Mater Dolorosa Cemetery in Owensboro, Kentucky.

• HOPKINS •

Sue Boyd Winstead Scott, 95, of Madisonville, KY passed away Monday, September 22, 2025, at Baptist Health Deaconess in Madisonville. A private graveside service for immediate family will be held at a later date.

Raymond Arthur Finch Jr., 76, of Sebree, KY passed away Friday, September 20, 2025, at his residence. Memorial services will be held at a later date.

Sherry Lynn Todd, 62, of Earlington, KY, passed away on September 19, 2025, at Madisonville Health & Rehab in Madisonville, KY. Funeral services were Tuesday, September 23, 2025, at Reid Walters Funeral Home in Earlington, KY. Bro. Dennis Mayfield officiating and burial at Oakwood Cemetery in Earlington.

Betty June Duke McGregor, 84, of Madisonville, KY, passed away on Thursday, September 18, 2025, at her home. A funeral service was held Monday, September 22, 2025, in the chapel of Harris Funeral Home with Pastor Eddie Fleming officiating.

Mary Jane Rager Walker, 70, of Madisonville, KY, passed away on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at Madisonville Health and Rehab in Madisonville. A celebration of life was held fon Monday, September 22, 2025, in the chapel of Harris Funeral Home. Burial will be held at a later date.

Wanda Jean Adkins Beeny, 84, of Madisonville, KY, passed away on Tuesday, September 16, 2025, in Henderson, KY. A funeral service was held Saturday, September 20, 2025, in the chapel of Harris Funeral Home with Pastor Kellan Lamb officiating. Burial at Silent Run Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery.

• LIVINGSTON •

Derek Russell, 43, of Tiline passed away on Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at Deaconess Midtown Hospital in Evansville, IN. Funeral services will be at 12:00pm on Friday, September 26, 2025, at the Smith Funeral Chapel with the Rev. Andrew Sexton officiating. Burial will follow at Paradise Cemetery.

Ronnie Jean Nanney, 83, of Ledbetter passed away on Sunday, September 14, 2025, at the Ray & Kay Eckstein Hopsice Care Center in Paducah. Celebration of life service was held on Thursday at Lindsey Funeral Home with Grant Payne officiating.

• MCCRACKEN •

Donald Edward Richardson, 84, of Paducah passed away on Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at his residence. He will be cremated per his wishes.

June Kaufman, age 88, of Paducah, Kentucky, passed away at 4:20 am on Friday, September 19, 2025, at the Ray & Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center. Services were held on Monday, September 22, 2025 at the St. John Catholic Church with Rev. Bruce Fogle officiating. Burial at the St. John Cemetery.

Randy "Kit" Atkinson, known affectionately as Kit to his family and friends, passed away on Thursday, September 18, 2025, at Baptist Health in Paducah, Kentucky. A funeral service will be held at 11:00 AM on Friday, September 26, 2025, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah with Rev. Garrett Burns officiating. Burial at Palestine Cemetery in West Paducah, Kentucky.

Anna Lois Burnett, 95, of Paducah, Kentucky, passed away at her home on Wednesday, September 17, 2025. A Funeral Service was held on Sunday, September 21, 2025, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Lone Oak, with Rev. Bob Martin officiating. Burial at Lowes Cemetery in Lowes, Kentucky.

Jessie Belle Johnston Ferren, age 92, of Paducah, Kentucky, passed away on Wednesday morning, September 17, 2025, at Baptist Health Deaconess Madisonville. Funeral services were Wednesday, September 24, 2025, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah with Rev Tod Hawkins officiating. Burial at Oak Grove Cemetery in Ledbetter, Kentucky.

Phyllis Persha, 76, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and friend, passed away on September 15, 2025. Phyllis was surrounded by her loved ones when she passed peacefully in her sleep. A funeral service was held Saturday, September 20, 2025 at the Milner and Orr Funeral Home of Paducah with Rev. Mark Delaney officiating.

Catherine Leone (Holman) Phelps, age 83, of Paducah and formerly of Mayfield, KY passed away at 7:53 PM Saturday, September 20, 2025 at the Parkview Nursing & Rehab Center in Paducah. Private family services for Catherine will be held at a later date.

Baby Ailen Daniela Geronimo-Herrera passed away on Friday, September 12, 2025, at Vanderbilt Hospital in Nashville, Tennessee. A Funeral Mass was held Monday, September 15, 2025, at the Works of Mercy Chapel at St. Thomas More Catholic Church with Rev. Basilio Az Cuc officiating.

FUNERAL NOTICES continued

FUNERAL NOTICES continued

• **MARSHALL** •

Lillian Ruth Oakley Dees, age 101, of Calvert City, KY, died on September 21, 2025 at Calvert City Nursing and Rehab in Calvert City, Kentucky. There will be no funeral service. Lillian will be buried at Dees Cemetery in Calvert City, KY during a private family ceremony.

Randy Jay Sauders, 62 of Benton, Kentucky passed away on Wednesday, September 17, 2025 at Murray-Calloway Co. Hospital. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Eddie Ray Stevenson, 78, of Calvert City passed away on Tuesday, September 16, 2025 at his home. A graveside service will be held at 11:00 AM on Wednesday, September 17, 2025 at Fooks Cemetery with Bro. Jeremy Short officiating.

Bonnie Suits, 77 of Calvert City, Kentucky passed away on Monday, September 15, 2025 at Marshall Co. Hospital in Benton, Kentucky. A funeral service was held Wednesday, September 17, 2025 at Collier Funeral Home with Pastor Billy Herron officiating. Interment at Wilson Cemetery, Benton, KY.

Nancy Maupin, 87 of Benton, Kentucky passed away on Monday, September 15, 2025 at her home. A funeral service was held Friday, September 19, 2025 at Collier Funeral Home with Bro. Joel Frizzell and Brian York officiating. Interment at Edwards Cemetery, Benton, KY.

Irene Davis Arant, 88, of Benton, Kentucky, passed away on September 20, 2025, at Calvert City Convalescent Center. Funeral services were Wednesday, September 24, 2025, at the Life Celebration Center of Filbeck-Cann with Pastor Bob Cain Officiating. Burial at Fooks Cemetery.

Michael Burd, 74, of Benton, Kentucky passed away on Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at his place of residence. There will be a private burial held at a later date.

• **TRIGG** •

Leslie Dawn Somers, age 47, of Cadiz, KY, passed away on Thursday, September 18, 2025, at Deaconess Gateway Hospital in Newburgh, IN. There will be no services at this time.

Donald Ray Blakeley, 74, of Cadiz passed away Sept. 21, 2025. Funeral Services will be held Friday, September 26, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. at King's Funeral Home with Rev. Ronnie Sivells officiating. Burial will follow in the Cerulean Cemetery. Visitation will be from 11:00-1:00 on Friday, September 26, 2025 at King's Funeral Home.

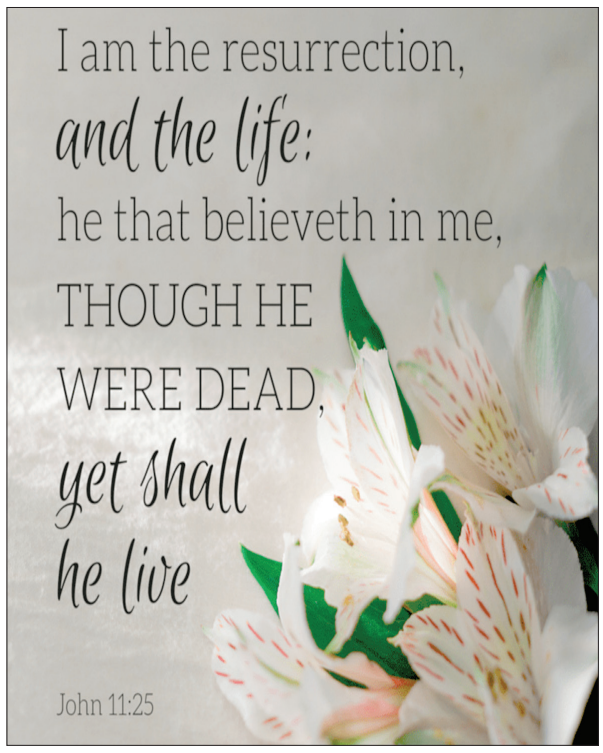
• **UNION** •

Mary Elizabeth "Lizzie" Curry Brown age 102, of Sturgis passed away Monday September 22, 2025 at her residence. Funeral service will be held Friday, Sept. 26 2025 at Whitsell Funeral Home in Sturgis, KY. Rev. Ken Grant will officiate. Visitation will be 10 AM until service time at the funeral home. Burial in Pythian Ridge Cemetery in Sturgis, KY.

Tom W. Hite, age 72 of Morganfield, KY died Saturday, Sept 13, 2025 at his home. Funeral service was held Friday September 19, 2025 at Whitsell Funeral Home in Morganfield, KY.

• **WEBSTER** •

Glenn Edward Pritchett, 72 of Clay passed away Wednesday, September 17, 2025 at Lucy Smith King Care Center in Henderson. Funeral services were Saturday, September 20, 2025 at 2:30 PM at Vanover Funeral Home in Clay with Brother Danny Hinchee and Opie Parish officiating. Burial in Oak Grove Cemetery in Blackford.



MSGT Michael D. Bourland United States Army retired, 70, of Adams, TN formerly of Clay, KY passed away on Monday September 15,23025, at Tennova Health Care Campus in Clarksville, TN. A celebration of life service was held on Friday September 19, 2025, at the Community of Hope First Church of Nazarene with Pastor Jeremy Duranceau officiating.

Andrea Lynn Wilson 58, of Clay, KY passed away on Sunday September 21st, 2025 at Deaconess Gateway in Newburgh, IN. Cremation was chosen and memorial services will be held at a later date. Townsend Funeral Home in Dixon, KY is handling arrangements.

Joyce Marilyn Whitlow passed away peacefully on September 17, 2025 at the age of 77. A celebration was held by her family of her remarkable life at Denton Shelter House, Henderson, KY. on Monday September 22nd, 2025.

To place a full obituary, including a photo, call 270-442-7389 for details and pricing. Obituaries and funeral notices should be received by 9 a.m. Wednesday for inclusion in that week's paper.

Area SUPPORT GROUPS: Tornado survivor, Gambling, Celebrate Recovery, AA, NA, Grief

Tornado Survivor Support Group
Stronger Together! You are not alone. Join us on the 4th Thursday of each month, 5 p.m. at the Graves County Baptist Association, 1400 KY-303, Mayfield, KY. Call 270-247-7947 for more information.

GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS
Kentucky Council on Problem Gambling, Inc.
KYCPG.org
On this website, visitors may learn about gambling addiction, determine whether they or someone they know may have a gambling problem, and obtain referral information to counselors or Gamblers Anonymous.
Connect with Gamblers Anonymous via phone:
Lexington Hotline Number: 855-2CALLGA (855-222-5542)
Louisville Hotline Number: 855-2CALLGA (855-222-5542)

GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS - ZOOM MTGS
THURSDAY
Lexington, KY
6:30 p.m. EST, Zoom
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7097833052
SUNDAY
Lexington, KY
6:30 PM EST, Zoom
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7097833052

CELEBRATE RECOVERY
• Grace United Methodist Church, Celebrate Recovery on Hwy 60 in LaCenter, Thursdays 7 p.m.

• Benton Campus, Celebrate Recovery 1001 Main Street, Benton, Tuesdays, 6 p.m.

• Murray Campus, Celebrate Recovery 915 Arcadia Cir., Murray, Thursdays, 6 p.m.

• Bardwell Campus, Celebrate Recovery Marris Valley Church St., Hwy 1181, Fridays, 6 p.m.

• New Life Community Church in Bardwell, Celebrate Recovery, 6:30 p.m.,Fridays. For all hurts, habits and hang ups. Celebrate Recovery is a safe place to find community and freedom from the issues that are controlling our life. Everyone welcome.

• Clinton First Baptist Church, Celebrate Recovery Mondays, 6p

• Grace Life Church, Celebrate Recovery Graves County, Sunday Nights, 6:30 p.m.

• **Paducah Brown St. Club: Clean Living NA**, Mon., Tue., Fri. 6 p.m.

• **AA Meetings**, Tuesday nights at 6 p.m. at 1st Baptist Church, 5th & Olive in LaCenter.

• **AA Meetings**, Friday nights at 6 p.m. New Covenant Community Church on Coffee Dr. in LaCenter.

• **Arlington City Hall, AA Meetings**, Tue. & Fri. 6 p.m.

• **First United Methodist Church, AA** Meetings, Mondays, 8 p.m.

• **Turning Point Recovery Center,** Paducah, (270) 444-3621
AA Meetings: Sun. 9 a.m., Sat., 9 a.m.
NA Meetings: Sun-Noon and 6 p.m., Mon-Noon and 6 p.m., Tue-6 p.m., Wed-Noon, Thur-6 p.m., Fri-Noon, Sat-Noon and 6 p.m.

• **A Recovery Support Group called OVERCOMERS.**
Christian Fellowship Ministries, 1343 US Hwy 68 East Benton, KY. Meeting are Tuesdays 6- 8 p.m. - Call to confirm meeting beforehand Jada McWilliams
270-205-5294
270-527-8369

Grief Share
Grieving the death of a loved one? Join us: Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Trace Creek Baptist Church; 3577 State Route 131 Mayfield, KY. This is a 13 week course, but you are welcome to join in at any time. $20 includes workbook
Monica L Rogers, facilitator, 270-705-2421
www.griefshare.org

Grief Support Group presented by Mercy Health Hospice, meets every Thursday at 3 p.m., at Mayfield First United Methodist Church's Outreach Building at 316 South 8th St., Mayfield. Contact phone 270-415-3636 for information.

• **Sober Hearts Ministry** Friday at 7:00 p.m. at First Baptist Church in Barlow, KY
SoberHeartsFamilyMinistry@outlook.com Facebook - Sober Hearts Family Ministry - Text – (270)445-1008.

VICTORIOUS *Living* ...in a troubled world

Deeply rooted emotions can heal

By Teresa LeNeave
Leneave2@comcast.net



If you listen to any news channel, you'll often hear our society is falling apart at the seams; coming unraveled. If it is, what part do we have in the unraveling? Experts tell us social fitness is an anchor for American's unrest and for a failing society. I believe in social fitness and believe it does ward off distress and loneliness, but real peace and rest come from God. From Jesus Christ. From a soul that leans on Someone bigger than it is.

Social fitness will never equipment you for the shocking news of murder. It will never equip you for school shootings; mall shootings; the loss of a child; or, any senseless murder.

We've seen and heard a lot of disturbing news in the past two weeks, but God is still above it all. America has lost a true warrior for God, but fear and anger is not the answer. Faith is. During this time, I thought of how hate destroys and forgiveness redeems.

I recently saw a 2010 movie called, Amish Grace. It's based on a true story about the aftermath of a school shooting in a Pennsylvania Amish community. To me, it is a thought-provoking depiction of what forgiveness looks like. There's a one liner in the movie that I thought was so profound. When a reporter questioned one of the Amish elders about whether his forgiveness was real, he said, "Forgiveness comes from an open heart and it comes without conditions, or it does not come at all."

That really struck a chord with me. I've had to forgive a lot of people in my life, as I am sure you have, but "without conditions" is a hard thing to come to terms with. We want to hold onto our anger and resentment when we've been badly hurt or senselessly destroyed.

I've heard preachers say, "Forgiveness is easy. You just do it because that's the right thing to do". I don't agree with that because, to me, it's a fact we do have to forgive if we want to be forgiven, but it's not like breathing. It's not easy. The pain and mental image of murder will take God's grace and love to give us forgiving strength.

I will say without hesitation, forgiveness is the only way to heal after something terrible has happened to someone you love. Healing is really what forgiveness is about. A line in the movie said, "If we hold onto anger and resentment toward the perpetrator, then it is only ourselves who are being punished". That is so true. Forgiveness is a core belief in Christianity, but I believe it is for the purpose of healing our own soul. Our own spirit. God is wise like that.

Blaming God does not help. Blaming a person does not help. The Holy Spirit is our helper and that alone comes from God. Forgiveness always brings soul-healing and sustains peace when you have more questions than answers. Deeply rooted emotions can heal and I believe healing is sustainable through the Holy Spirit, who is our Helper.



OUTDOOR *Truths*

The Steadied Mind

My deer season opens in few days. I'll be sitting in my truck instead of my tree stand. I'll be heading to North Carolina to speak at a sportsmen's dinner. When I booked this event, I didn't give one thought to it being opening day. Because in Tennessee and North Carolina, the temps will probably reach the 80's. And I prefer to hunt in camo instead of speedos. This was not always the case. (not the speedo part) In my early years of deer hunting, every day of the season held endless possibilities. And every day I stayed home, that was the day I thought the big one was going to come through. So, I would find a way to go early and often. This was great until I found myself lingering a little longer on the pillow during the best part of the season. I had hunted so hard during September and October that when November came around, I stayed home on the days I should have been in the woods. Today, a lot of things are different. The trail camera helps me determine if an early hunt is even needed, and the internet tells me what days each year are the best to be in the woods. And most of all, I've simply learned to believe that my situation is not an exception, but the rule. That is, no matter how much I feel that I need to do a certain thing, I will most likely follow what the charts say instead of my feelings. The charts have no emotions. They don't even have thoughts. They just have truth. And I can decide whether I want to trust my emotions, thoughts, or truth. And that's why I'll probably not go to the woods very much until the end of October. But let's flesh out these emotions, thoughts, and truth. Because they are extremely important for our spiritual lives. You see, our thoughts and emotions are tied together. What we think shapes how we feel. And how we feel shapes what we think. Negative thoughts fuel discouragement, while discouragement feeds more negative thoughts. The same is true for positivity and hope. These are cyclical. If we are not anchored in something good and steady, we will live our lives on some roller coaster of anxiety and uncertainty. And what then should steady us? The truth about God and His ways. These truths remind us that He is good, and that He takes responsibility for our provision, protection, and purpose. And when we are certain about these things, our thoughts and emotions no longer control us.

My friends, let's choose joy today

By William F Holland Jr.
billyhollandministries.com

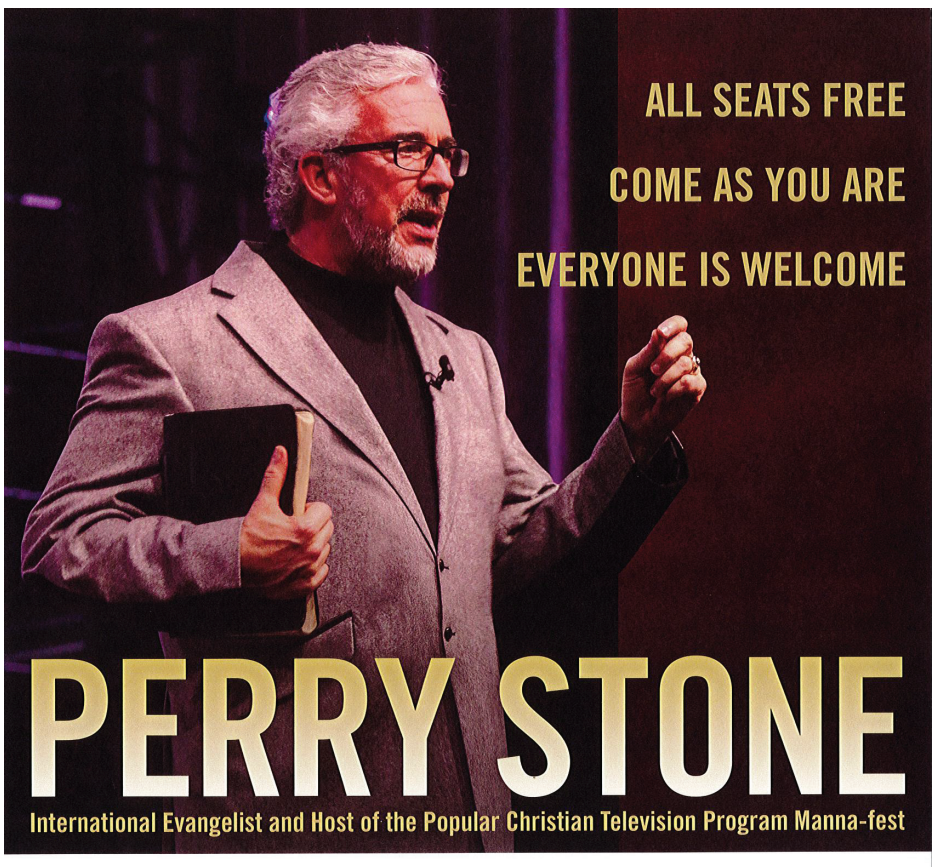
I'm honored to have the opportunity to share my heart each week. The messages lately have given us some things to think about, as God's word brings us into a reverential fear and awareness of His presence. Many different types of people read faith columns, including some who are not openly religious, but are curious spectators. I respect your caution and where you are in your journey, and hope you will consider the Bible passages. For those who confess Christ as their Lord, our walks are at different levels of passion as the spiritual fires burn at various degrees within us. Some of you watch the news and browse the internet to see what's happening in the world, while others have decided that listening to the tsunami of opinions, speculations, and conspiracy theories is taking a toll on their blood pressure and are determined to step away to keep their minds and their conscience as clear and clean as possible. Which, by the way, I sincerely respect you. Whatever the case, we realize that wherever we are, absorbing negative knowledge weighs heavily on our emotions and well-being.

Yes, truth seekers are relentless because they want to know what's going on, and that's good, right? They do not want to be deceived, and I can perfectly relate to this way of thinking. However, we seldom consider that much of what we hear is not accurate. Misinformation has become like a plague, and among the many reasons people spew rumors, we can agree that careless gossip comes from a lack of concern and the absence of integrity. The root of slander includes being offended, which is directly associated with falling into a snare trap of hatred and misery. People are paid for their videos, as the general goal is to gain popularity and hopefully go viral. But politics is like the old cycle of he says, she says. We do not positively know what they are saying is true, and we also do not know if it is, or at least a portion of it. So what's the answer? Ephesians 4:29-32 is a great place to start.

I know some of you are thinking that we should be like a watchman on the walls, sounding the alarm, and blowing the trumpet to warn the people of danger. I understand, and considered myself as God's messenger, but here is the key: Standing for truth is one thing, but spreading things that might be tainted with deception is another. Besides, if we spend more time dwelling on how evil the world is, we are becoming lopsided in our responsibility to allow God's light to shine within us. We are filled with light because Christ is greater than sin, but we decide how much of His light is released. He is not focused or depressed about rampant wickedness, and neither should we. The inspiration here is that God knows all about it, and one day soon, He will create new heavens and a new earth. It's easy to be consumed with discouragement, but it takes faith to climb out of this snare trap and stand firmly in what God has promised. Pause a moment to read Philippians 4:8; it's a step to renewing the mind and living in peace.

Our point this week is that we all need a large daily dose of hope. The more darkness we listen to and absorb, the more unsteady and powerless we become. In Nehemiah chapter eight, Ezra the priest spoke refreshing words of the Lord to the people, and as they were weeping, he encouraged them to enjoy God's goodness and reminded them that the joy of the Lord was their strength. The enemy of our souls has a simple but devastating scheme to distract God's people from His truth, which makes them physically, mentally, and spiritually free. This freedom is a divine spiritual contentment that passes natural understanding. Psalm 62:5-6, "Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him. Truly, he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken." So, let us "choose" joy today! Joy is a fruit of the Spirit, the nature and character of a spirit-filled life, and the heart of our personal relationship with Jesus. When we are worried, upset, angry, and disheartened, we drift into depression and hopelessness. Can you see Satan's strategy? How can we represent God when we are filled with doubt, fear, and confusion? Allow Psalm 42:11 and Romans 15:4-6 to fill your heart with confidence and hope.

Dr. Holland is a Christian minister, author, and community outreach chaplain. Ask for a free download of his song, "Intentions of the Heart" at psalmz103@gmail.com



Sunday, September 28, 2025
Covenant Community Church
1055 North Main Street • Madisonville, KY 42431
Service Time: Sunday at 9:00 am, 10:45 am & 6:00 pm
(270) 821-2049 • https://www.covenantcc.net/

www.PerryStone.org

WAITING WITHOUT WITHERING

Bro. Brandon G. Bramlett
Bandana Baptist Church

True love waits, but it might nearly kill you. In 2016, a man named Alexander Cirk determined to see his online girlfriend five-thousand miles away in China. He booked a flight and sent his sweetheart photos of his ticket and dreamed of embracing her. But when he arrived, he embraced no one—his darling was nowhere to be found.

Assuming she was running late, Cirk waited for her in the airport. And he waited for ten days until, according to NBC News, "authorities reportedly took a frail-looking Cirk to a local hospital for treatment." When his girlfriend was eventually tracked down, she thought he was joking about the trip! Two lessons arise from this: (1) be careful with online dating—you might end up in the hospital and in the hole, and (2) waiting is incredibly difficult. And the latter lesson is one that the Lord teaches us throughout His word.

We are commanded in Psalm 27:14, "Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!" We must wait with patience—for answers to prayer (Ps. 40:1), for God's guidance (Prov. 3:5-6), for deliverance from tribulations (Ps. 37:7), for the provision of our needs (Ps. 33:20), for justice to be done (Rom. 12:19), and for the fulfillment of His plan and promises (Ps. 138:8). And waiting is particularly challenging because we are conditioned against it. We can microwave our supper, send a text or e-mail instantaneously, and receive packages from Amazon in two days. But there is no fast-forward button on God's plan (Eccl. 3:11).

But although waiting is hard, it is also holy. Waiting provides an opportunity to stretch out our faith across time. Waiting expresses trust in God's goodness and wisdom, as waiting essentially says, "God knows better than I do. My life and times are in His hands" (cf. Ps. 31:15). And thankfully, we do not have to wither while waiting, for God promises to strengthen us: "But they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint" (Isa. 40:31).

Jacob of old waited fourteen years for Rachel, but it "seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her" (Gen. 29:20). And when we believe that God and His good plan are worth waiting for, how long we must wait will matter very little. As the Puritan George Swinnock wisely stated, "To lengthen my patience is the best way to shorten my troubles." That is, the more we resolve to wait and trust in the Lord's perfect timing, the less we will think about how long our suffering must last. Waiting is worthwhile, so let us take our eyes off of our clocks and calendars and fix them upon our Creator whose timing is always perfectly precise.

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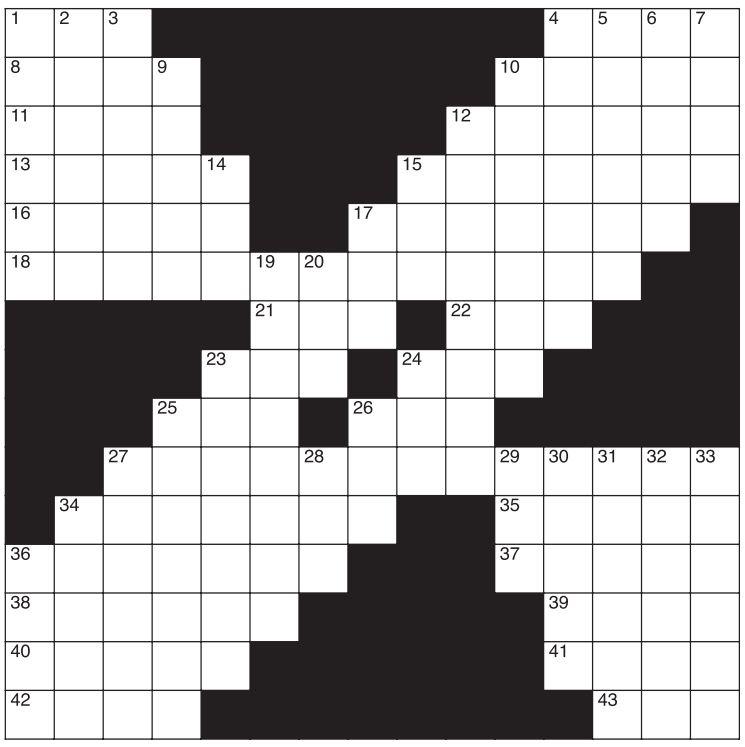

CLUES ACROSS

1. Gas usage measurement
4. Muslim mystic
8. Towards the mouth or oral region
10. Monday (Spanish)
11. Frame for a coffin
12. Rub out
13. John __, English educator l467-l5l9
15. Small round particle
16. Chilean seaport
17. News service
18. Pay for dinner
21. Glamorous city
22. Subway rodent
23. "The Raven" author
24. Buddhist festival
25. Cost, insurance and freight (abbr.)
26. Indigenous person of Thailand
27. "The Blonde Bombshell"
34. Series-ending episodes
35. Bluish greens
36. Aquatic mammal
37. Unit of measurement
38. Eye membranes
39. Indian god of dissolution
40. People of Scotland
41. Leak slowly through
42. Rock icon Turner
43. Midway between south and southeast

CLUES DOWN

1. Large hat covering
2. "From what is earlier" (Latin)
3. Celtic
4. Retirement region
5. A way to change posture
6. Touches
7. A small island
9. Rubbish
10. A citizen of Laos
12. A place to dance
14. 19th letter of Greek alphabet
15. Mild expression of surprise
17. 17th letter of Greek alphabet
19. Descriptions
20. Men's fashion accessory
23. Thieves of the sea
24. Prohibit
25. Card game
26. French and Belgian river
27. Underling
28. Downwind
29. Type of medication
30. German city
31. Animal disease
32. Martini ingredients
33. Get away from
34. Stuffed (French)
36. Type of precipitation

PUZZLE SOLUTION

M	P	G									S	U	F	I
O	R	A	D							L	U	N	E	S
B	I	E	R						C	A	N	C	E	L
C	O	L	E	T				G	L	O	B	U	L	E
A	R	I	C	A			R	E	U	T	E	R	S	
P	I	C	K	U	P	T	H	E	B	I	L	L		
					R	I	O		R	A	T			
				P	O	E		B	O	N				
			C	I	F		L	A	O					
		M	A	R	I	L	Y	N	M	O	N	R	O	E
	F	I	N	A	L	E	S			T	E	A	L	S
M	A	N	A	T	E	E				C	U	B	I	C
I	R	I	S	E	S						S	I	V	A
S	C	O	T	S							S	E	E	P
T	I	N	A									S	S	E

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Word Search

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O	Y	G	C	O	M	P	A	N	I	O	N	S	H	I	P	F	P	Y	V
H	S	U	I	B	I	L	H	H	T	R	O	F	M	O	C	S	H	U	P
U	E	L	F	T	D	K	C	Y	O	B	S	N	A	E	E	T	K	Y	K
H	O	V	F	R	N	Y	Y	F	M	H	F	H	M	I	A	G	D	T	U
N	S	O	O	B	O	K	M	N	A	E	H	V	R	P	S	L	P	I	I
G	O	L	S	L	B	O	I	R	C	P	O	O	M	M	T	S	U	R	T
U	V	I	A	S	M	T	I	N	V	E	M	E	M	F	O	C	R	T	O
O	S	T	T	U	E	N	U	N	D	E	R	S	T	A	N	D	I	N	G
Y	S	H	S	A	G	N	K	A	M	N	D	P	Y	N	O	M	R	A	H
D	S	K	L	L	C	H	R	R	F	E	E	T	C	E	P	S	E	R	B
B	E	D	O	C	A	I	T	E	P	F	T	S	I	F	O	E	D	C	U
Y	N	G	Y	D	A	T	N	E	H	V	E	O	S	V	G	H	I	N	S
F	E	V	A	T	M	Y	N	U	R	T	M	C	S	E	E	C	G	U	U
C	V	K	L	V	H	D	O	O	M	T	E	Y	T	S	E	N	O	H	P
F	I	S	T	L	A	D	F	E	M	M	H	G	L	I	I	G	B	G	P
G	G	D	Y	B	R	S	A	I	C	U	O	C	O	R	O	B	R	K	O
M	R	D	L	L	V	R	M	N	T	M	O	C	A	T	E	N	F	K	R
M	O	E	S	I	M	M	P	V	K	N	F	C	D	K	Y	Y	H	H	T
L	F	B	D	Y	P	U	V	O	N	O	I	T	C	E	N	N	O	C	L

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

WORDS

AFFECTION
BOND
CARING
COMFORT
COMMUNICATION
COMPANIONSHIP
CONNECTION
DEPENDABLE
EMPATHY
FORGIVENESS
FUN
HARMONY
HONESTY
KINDNESS
LAUGHTER
LOVE
LOYALTY
MEMORIES
RESPECT
SHARING
SUPPORT
TOGETHERNESS
TRUST
UNDERSTANDING

Answers on Classified Page

Sudoku Puzzle

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! **Answers on Classified Page.**

4					3			
		1						3
			2	8				1
	6			2			5	
							6	
5		9			6	7		
9					5	2		
			8					7
			3	1	2			4

Word Scramble

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to friendship.

N S I I V E T

Answer: Pack

Guess Who?

GUESS WHO?

I am an actress born in California on September 27, 2002. I began my acting career at age 8, appearing in episodes of a soap opera and "CSI: New York." Later, I was cast in the comedy series "Richie Rich." My fame grew when I took on the roles of a macabre daughter in a TV series as well as in the sequel to a famous ghost movie.

Answer: Jenna Ortega

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Sudoku Answers

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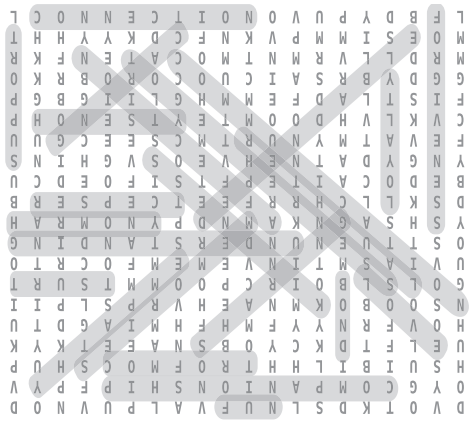
7	3	1	9	6	8	4	5	2
6	8	2	5	4	7	3	1	9
2	1	7	6	3	4	9	8	5
9	6	3	8	7	5	2	4	1
8	5	4	1	2	9	7	6	3
1	4	9	7	8	2	5	3	6
3	2	8	4	5	6	1	9	7
5	7	6	3	9	1	8	2	4

Word Search Answers



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Friday Night Lights: Upcoming High School Football Games in Western KY

By Wilbur Jackson
KPI Writer

As autumn sweeps across Western Kentucky, the excitement of high school football season is in full swing. With just a few weeks left in the regular season, local teams are battling not only for regional pride but also for playoff positioning. From powerhouse programs to emerging underdogs, this week's matchups promise intense action, passionate crowds, and plenty of Friday night drama.

Key Matchups to Watch

1. Mayfield Cardinals vs. Paducah Tilghman Blue Tornado

Arguably the most anticipated matchup of the week, this historic rivalry has deep roots and high stakes. Mayfield (6-1), known for its strong playoff tradition and disciplined play, will face a talented Paducah Tilghman squad (5-2) that's hungry to upset the Cardinals. Expect a physical battle in the trenches and a packed stadium. This game could help determine seeding in the 2A playoffs.

2. Bowling Green Purples vs. South Warren Spartans

Bowling Green (5-2) takes on South Warren (6-1) in a Class 5A clash that could preview a playoff rematch. South Warren's defense has been rock solid all season, but the Purples' explosive offense—led by senior quarterback Chase Petty—will put that to the test. With district dominance on the line, this Friday night battle should be one of the most electric in the state.

3. Owensboro Red Devils vs. Daviess County Panthers

This Owensboro rivalry always draws a crowd, and this year's matchup is shaping up to be a classic. The Red Devils (7-0) are undefeated and one of the top-ranked teams in Class 5A, while Daviess County (4-3) hopes to pull off a home-field upset. The Panthers' passing attack could test Owensboro's secondary, but the Red Devils' speed and depth may be too much to handle.

4. Hopkinsville Tigers vs. Christian County Colonels

In a game loaded with local bragging rights, Hopkinsville (3-4) will meet Christian County (2-5) in what could be a turning point for both programs. While neither team has had a dominant season, the rivalry remains fierce, and a win here could boost morale heading into the final stretch.

Teams on the Rise

Several programs in Western Kentucky are showing strong improvement this season:

Graves County Eagles (5-2): After a slow start, the Eagles have found their rhythm with a balanced offensive attack and a young defense that's gaining confidence weekly. Their upcoming matchup with Marshall County could be a trap game if they look ahead to the playoffs.

McCracken County Mustangs (4-3): McCracken's tough schedule has sharpened their skills. With a young core and a growing defense, the Mustangs are building momentum and could be a dark horse in Class 6A.

Caldwell County Tigers (5-2): The Tigers have been quietly putting together a strong season in Class 2A. With solid quarterback play and a gritty defense, they could make noise in the postseason.

Playoff Implications

As the season winds down, every game now carries playoff implications. Seeding, home-field advantage, and even playoff eligibility are on the line. Coaches are tightening up schemes, players are battling through injuries, and every possession matters more than ever.

District titles are still up for grabs, and in many cases, this week's games will help determine who earns a top seed in the bracket. Fans should expect hard-fought contests and playoff-like intensity, even though the postseason hasn't officially started yet.

Final Thoughts

Western Kentucky high school football continues to be a source of pride, tradition, and excitement for communities across the region. Whether you're in Mayfield, Owensboro, Bowling Green, or any of the dozens of towns with a team, there's no better time to support your local athletes than right now.

Grab your jacket, head to the stadium, and enjoy the lights, the sounds, and the spirit of Friday night football—it's more than just a game; it's a way of life in Western Kentucky.



SEPTEMBER 2025 A Section
A Special Supplement to
KPI Newspaper Group

FARMERS' Quarterly

FALL HARVEST & LIVESTOCK

Driskill honored at Farmer Appreciation Day

By Laurna Todd
KPI Writer

The Third Annual Farmer Appreciation Day was celebrated on September 17, 2025, at Murray State University. This event brought together farmers, students, and agricultural leaders from across the region. It was hosted by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture in partnership with the Raising Hope program and Murray State's Hutson School of Agriculture. The event recognized the essential role of farmers while promoting health, safety, and career opportunities in agriculture.

The day was filled with activities that highlighted the importance of both physical and mental health in rural communities. Participants had access to free health screenings, farm safety demonstrations, and opportunities to connect with careers in agriculture. A complimentary lunch was provided to thank farm families for their dedication.

see **DRISKILL,** page A3



Brooke, Ginger, and Jill at their First Love Farms in Hickman, Kentucky.

Photo submitted

A family legacy blooms at First Love Farms

By Gibson Electric Membership Corporation

For third- and fourth-generation farmers Ginger Atkins, Jill George and Brooke Coffey, memories flourish where flowers grow — on the family farm that's blossomed into a community haven.

Sisters Ginger and Jill grew up on their parents' farm in Hickman, Kentucky, and continued operations after their father, Doyle Wayne George, passed away in 2009. They've continued growing corn and soybeans like their father, but with Jill's daughter, Brooke, they added you-pick flower rows in 2023. With no idea what to expect, they welcomed 190 visitors on their first day.

"That's the spark that encouraged us," Brooke said.

Rooted in family

The new addition deserved a name. First Love Farms, inspired by the "First Love" silverware pattern featuring delicate roses and handed down to each woman in their family for four generations, was born.It's a heartfelt tribute to Sue Werner, the family matriarch who passed away in 2021.

"Everybody knew Mom," Jill said. "She worked at the bank, was an avid gardener, loved her yard and always had a smile on her face. She kept a row of zinnias in her (vegetable) garden."

Now they watch with delight as people from Western Kentucky, West Tennessee and beyond stroll through their rows of zinnias, sunflowers, daisies and more. Jill, who

see **FAMILY,** page A2

River Valley AgCredit welcomes Heather Pace

Kevil, KY – River Valley AgCredit is proud to announce the addition of Heather Pace as a Mortgage Loan Originator at the Kevil office. With over two decades of experience in the banking industry and a deep-rooted passion in home lending, Heather brings a wealth of knowledge, dedication, and community spirit to her new role.

Heather has called Ballard County her home since 2011, previously being a native of Melber, Kentucky. With Heather's 23 years in the banking industry, 19 of those have focused on helping families achieve their dreams of homeownership.

"What excites me the most about this position is the opportunity to return to a field I am truly passionate about," Heather shared. "Helping people secure financing to buy their first home or build their dream home is incredibly rewarding. That's where memories are made."

Heather and her

see **PACE,** page A2

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FAMILY,
from page A1

lives on the farm, often sees guests enjoying quiet moments at sunrise, while watching butterflies, hummingbirds and yellow finches dance through the blooms.

Celebrate and create

Patrons begin their visit at a flat-bed trailer, where they choose a jar or small bucket, fill it with water and grab scissors. Then, they wander the rows to cut and create their own bouquets. Payment is simple — cash or Venmo.

"It's all on the honor system, and it's worked really well," Brooke said.

With photography passes available, families can capture precious memories of engagements, weddings, gender reveals and more. Colorfully painted wooden butterflies dot the landscape, perfect for kids and families to snap photos. Jill's friendly dog, Mo, is always nearby, happy to entertain visitors in exchange for a few head scratches.

From June to October, the farm transforms with the seasons, starting with daisies in late spring and ending with pumpkins in the fall. The on-site pavilion is available to rent for birthday parties, office retreats or a relaxing day with friends.

An unexpected but joyful benefit of hosting events has been partnering with local talent to offer art, flower arranging and yoga classes.

"It's fun to see people channel their creative side at First Love," Brooke said, with Ginger adding that the flowers are "catnip to children" and perfect for passing on their passion for God's creation.

"Sharing something that we love doing is really rewarding," Brooke said.

Plan your visit

Whether you're looking to pick a bouquet, snap a photo or soak in the beauty, First Love Farms welcomes you to make your own memories among the blooms.

First Love Farms is located at 3105 KY-125, Hickman, KY 42050.

Find them on Facebook and Instagram or visit firstlovefarms.com for more information.



Heather Pace

PACE,
from page A1

husband Corey, a lifelong Ballard County resident, are co-owners of Pace Family Farms alongside his parents, Mike and Marie Pace. The couple has two children, Hudson and Audrey. Their son Hudson passed away in 2023 after a courageous battle with leukemia. Their daughter Audrey, a vibrant 7th grader at Ballard Memorial Middle School, is active in volleyball, softball, and the 4-H Leadership team.

Heather is a 1993 honor graduate of Northside Baptist Christian School in Mayfield, KY, and holds an Associate of Arts degree from WKCTC. She is a graduate of the Kentucky Bankers Association Banking School.

Heather has been a member of Rickman Road Missionary Baptist Church since 1998. She is a dedicated member to her community as she volunteers with Ballard County 4H, Ballard Bullets Athletics, where she has served as treasurer since 2017. She was recently elected to the Ballard County Middle School SBDM Committee for the 2025-2026 school year.

In her free time, Heather enjoys cheering on UK basketball, supporting local school sports, reading, and spending quality time with her family. Especially watching and playing volleyball with Audrey.

River Valley AgCredit is thrilled to welcome Heather to the team and looks forward to the positive impact she will have on the lives of our borrowers and the broader 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.

DRISKILL,
from page A1

Several local Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapters participated in the celebration, including those from Fulton County and Graves County. The Graves County FFA Chapter sent five student representatives who shared how their chapter used a Raising Hope grant the previous year to raise mental health awareness in agriculture. They also distributed challenge coins to farmers who are champions of mental health support within the farming community.

River Valley Ag joined the event alongside numerous farmers and agriculture-related businesses, creating valuable networking opportunities for both students and professionals.

One of the highlights of the day was the presentation of awards, including the prestigious "Farmer of the Year." Dr. Dwayne Driskill, professor emeritus at Murray State, received recognition for his decades of service in agricultural safety. Since launching the Ag Safety course in 1994, Dr. Driskill has impacted more than 1,200 students and over 7,000 individuals through hands-on safety education.

Farmer Appreciation Day has quickly become an important annual tradition. By honoring farmers and fostering connections between students and the industry, the event strengthens Kentucky agriculture for generations to come.





Fulton County FFA students Abryona Tucker, left, and Cara Capps.

Photo submitted



Graves County FFA students, Maddox Stamper and Bryce Collier, at Farmer Appreciation Day.

Photo submitted



Commissioner of Ag Jonathan Shell, Keith Lowry with student at Farmer Appreciation Day

Photo submitted

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From Soil to Technology:

Carlisle County students go 'All in for Ag'



By Reese Eddleman & Abree Warren

September 15-19, 2025 was the first ever Kentucky "All in for Ag" week across the state, an initiative organized by Agriculture Commissioner, Jonathan Shell and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture. Carlisle County FFA celebrated the initiative by hosting the first Ag Day for Carlisle County School District on September 17th. Students from kindergarten through 12th grade came together to learn and explore the importance of agriculture in everyday life. The event featured hands-on activities, interactive learning stations, and opportunities to connect with both animals and technology all led by CCHS FFA members.

One of the main focuses of the day was Ag Safety, where students learned about the importance of staying safe around farm equipment. They were shown how to operate machinery properly including ATVs and tractors. Presenters also emphasized the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and explained why specialized gear is essential for safety.

The Ag Applied session gave students the chance to see agriculture in action. To keep students engaged, presenters used edible foods to represent the different soil layers. This creative activity turned a classroom lesson into a sweet treat.

At the Soil Science station, students worked with the Carlisle County Soil Conservation District to discover how vital healthy soil is for growing crops. They learned about the nutrients that make it possible to produce the food we eat everyday.

The Petting Zoo was a favorite stop for many. Children and teachers alike enjoyed interacting with the animals, from donkeys and cows to ducks, rabbits and chickens. This station served as a reminder of the care and responsibility that goes into raising livestock.

The Plant Science station taught students how to care for plants. Each participant was given a zinnia seed, which they potted and took home. They also learned why watering on specific schedules is important and how plants depend on sunlight intake to thrive.

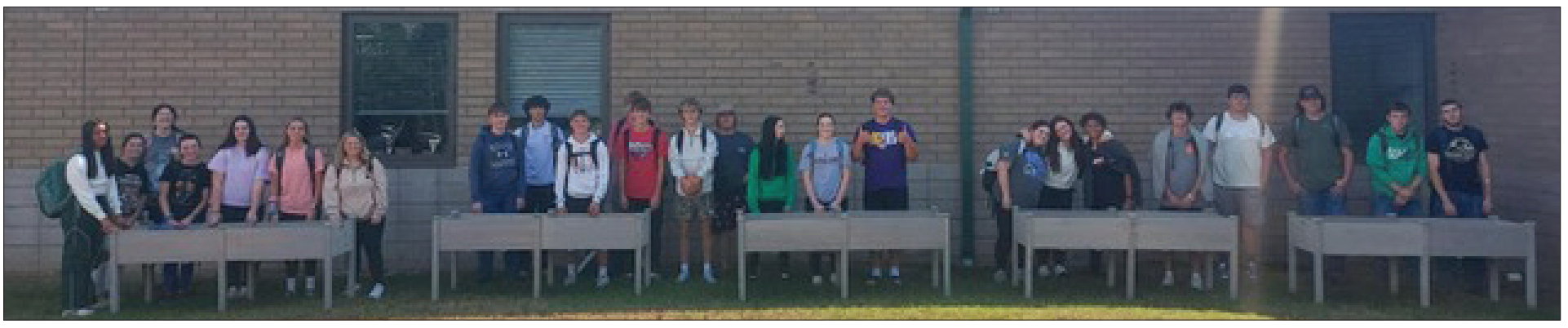
At the Ag Technology station, students caught a glimpse into the future of farming. With tools like drone systems and smart machinery, they saw how modern technology is helping farmers work more efficiently and sustainably. This station also highlighted how far agriculture has come and the promising direction it continues to move.

Ag day was more than just a celebration, it was a reminder of how deeply agriculture affects our daily lives. By blending fun, education, and hands-on experiences, the event helped students better understand the vital role agriculture plays in feeding the world and shaping the future.









Ballard Memorial FFA shines at regional and state competitions

By Laurna Todd
KPI Writer

BALLARD MEMORIAL — Students in the Ballard Memorial High School FFA chapter have had an outstanding year, showcasing their skills and leadership both in the classroom and at statewide competitions.

Recently, the school's greenhouse class completed a hands-on project building plant boxes for middle school students. The project was well-received, with finished boxes praised for their craftsmanship and creativity. These activities highlight the chapter's commitment to practical learning and community engagement.

On the competitive side, the Ballard Memorial FFA welding team, consisting of Nic Boulton, Lance Scott, Bradon McCuiston, and Miley Nichols, earned the regional championship for the 2024–2025 season. Their victory qualified them to compete at the Kentucky State Fair, where they represented the school with pride, ultimately placing sixth overall in the state competition.

The chapter also celebrated individual achievements. Several other students earned their State FFA Degree at the 2025 Kentucky FFA Convention, recognizing their leadership, dedication, and skill.

"These achievements are a testament to the hard work of our students and the guidance they receive," said FFA advisor Ryan Buchanan. "Placing at the state level is important not only for the students' personal growth but also for the reputation of Ballard Memorial High School. It shows what our students can accomplish with dedication and teamwork."

With hands-on projects, regional championships, and state recognition, the Ballard Memorial FFA chapter continues to make a strong impact in both their school and the wider agricultural community.

Graves County FFA in Action:

Competition, and Community Service

By Laurna Todd
KPI Writer

The Graves County FFA Chapter has been active over the past few weeks, participating in several leadership, educational, and competitive events across Kentucky.

Seniors Mannix Hamilton and Maddox Stamper represented the chapter at the Kentucky FFA Rising Sun Conference on September 12–13 at the Kentucky FFA Leadership Training Center in Hardinsburg. They joined chapter leaders from across the state to share strategies for "Let It Grow," focusing on engaging members at the local level.

Senior Carter Keeling competed in the Kentucky FFA State Tractor Driving Contest after earning a second-place finish at the regional competition in April. The state contest took place September 13 at the Leadership Training Center.

Graves County FFA also celebrated All in for Ag Ed Week, declared statewide by Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture Jonathan Shell. Members visited 17 classrooms across five elementary schools to read agriculture-themed children's books, helping students learn about agriculture in fun and engaging ways.

On September 17, five chapter members attended the KDA Farmer Appreciation Day at Murray State University. Students networked with industry professionals, presented on the chapter's Raising Hope Grant projects, and distributed challenge coins to local farmers promoting mental

see **ACTION,** page A6

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FFA Racer Round Up at Murray State - 37 new Graves County FFA members attended

ACTION, from page A5

health awareness in agriculture.

The chapter welcomed 37 new members at the annual FFA Racer Round Up on September 19 at Murray State University. Students participated in leadership sessions, set goals, and explored Career Development Events with peers from across Kentucky and Tennessee.

Additionally, the FFA Horsemanship team competed in the Kentucky FFA State Horsemanship Contest at Murray State on September 13, earning second place overall. Individual placings included Grace Hurley (1st), Riley Sue Smith (2nd), Averi Webb (2nd), and Callie Champion (3rd).

Looking ahead, the chapter will host 2nd Grade Cowboy Day on October 16–17 and attend the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis from October 29 to November 1.

Active FFA participation provides students with leadership skills, career preparation, and opportunities to give back to their community. The Graves County Chapter continues to demonstrate the importance of involvement—not only for personal growth but also in fostering a strong connection between the school, agriculture, and the local community.



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Fulton County FFA member take part in statewide ag events

By Laurna Todd
KPI Writer

The Fulton County FFA chapter has been on the move this September, taking part in several major events that highlight the importance of agriculture in schools and communities.

Students recently lent a hand during the Banana Festival's activities, where they helped educate the public on the vital role farming plays in everyday life. Also helped Anna Morgan with some stations she had set up- it was free for the kids. Shortly after, members attended Murray State University's Farmer Appreciation Day, an annual event that brings together producers, students, and agricultural leaders for fellowship and recognition.

The chapter also participated in Kentucky's All in for Agriculture Education Week, held September 15–19. The week features hands-on lessons, contests, and community projects that tie agriculture into core classroom subjects. From science and math to history and nutrition, agriculture is showcased as a vital part of education and daily living.

The statewide initiative is supported by Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell, Lt. Gov. Jacqueline Coleman, and Education Commissioner Robbie Fletcher. Sixteen interactive programs are scheduled to take place across Kentucky in schools, cafeterias, and community spaces.

For Fulton County FFA members, events like these highlight the value of being involved in FFA. The organization not only builds agricultural knowledge but also teaches leadership, teamwork, and responsibility—skills students will carry with them long after graduation.

"FFA gives us opportunities to grow and connect with others," one member shared. "It's about more than farming—it's about preparing for the future."

Fulton County FFA students at banana festival.



Pictured left to right, Collin DeHart, Emmarie Cermak, Kindra Louden, Cara Capps and Julia Crovetto at the Banana Festival.

Photo submitted

Workman Bins Inc. offers farmers peace of mind with GrainVue

By Laurna Todd
KPI Writer

For generations, farmers have relied on their instincts to manage stored grain—climbing bins, scooping samples, or hoping a hot spot doesn't spoil weeks of hard work. But now there's a better way to monitor and protect grain that saves time, reduces losses, and provides peace of mind.

That solution is GSI's GrainVue system, available locally through Jason Workman at Workman Bins Inc in Mayfield. GrainVue takes the guesswork out of grain management by tracking temperature, moisture, and inventory inside the bin in real time. With automated fan controls, the system can cool, dry, rehydrate, or safely store grain without constant oversight.

"GrainVue can be added to new or existing bins, which makes it a great option for any operation," said Workman. "Farmers really like being able to log in from their phone or computer to check conditions or even send instructions to the system. It's a huge benefit."

GrainVue connects to the cloud through a built-in cellular signal, delivering updates and alerts straight to the farmer's device. That means no more climbing ladders or guessing what's happening inside the bin.

The system offers big advantages:

Save time and energy: Fans run only when outside conditions are favorable, maximizing efficiency.

Protect profits: Receive alerts before spoilage spreads and grain quality is lost.

Boost yield: Rehydrate soybeans back to market standards and recover valuable bushels.

Store longer with confidence: Automated aeration prevents condensation and spoilage during warmer months.

Workman also noted the system is modular, allowing farmers to start small and expand features as they see results. "We've already sold several systems, and farmers are impressed with how easy it is to use and the difference it makes," he said.

For many, GrainVue more than pays for itself. Just by rehydrating soybeans harvested too dry, farmers can recover thousands of dollars in additional value. Add in the energy savings and reduced grain loss, and it's easy to see why growers are calling this technology a game-changer.

Farmers interested in learning more or seeing a demonstration are encouraged to contact: Jason Workman – Workman Bins Inc at 400 Opportunity Drive, Mayfield, KY or call 270-209-0259.

"Protecting your grain is protecting your investment," Workman said. "GrainVue gives farmers the tools to do that smarter, safer, and more profitably."



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2020 JOHN DEERE 6155R
$155,000

2020 JD 6155R TRACTOR, IVT TRANS, C/H/A, MFWD, 540/1000 PTO, 3 SCV, 3PT WITH TOP LINK, 683 HOURS, 420/80R46 REAR DUALS, 380/85R30 FRONT TIRES, SN 1L06155RHLP960224



2008 JOHN DEERE 9530
$140,000

2008 JOHN DEERE 9530 TRACTOR, 475 HP, 4WD, 3917 HRS, 800/70R38 DUALS, 4 SCV, 18 SPEED POWERSHIFT, S/N RW9530P004400



2012 JOHN DEERE 9460R
$139,500

2012 JOHN DEERE 9460R TRACTOR, 4WD, 4216 HRS, 800/70R38 DUALS, 5 SCV, 18 SPEED POWERSHIFT, S/N 1RW9460RKCP004029



2018 JOHN DEERE 6155R
$97,500

MFWD, C/H/A, 2748 HRS, 380/85R28 FRONT TIRES, 460/85R38 REAR TIRES, 110" AXLES, RACK & PINION REAR AXLES, 3 SCV, 540/1000 PTO, 20 SPEED POWER QUAD, LHR, 4100 PROCESSOR, ATR, S/N 1RW6155RCJA033329



2012 JOHN DEERE 7215R
$97,500

MFWD, 4528 HRS, 420/30 FRONT TIRES, 480/46 REAR DUALS, 4 SCV, 540/1000 PTO, 20 SPEED POWER QUAD, 43 GPM HYD PUMP, 15,000# HITCH, S/N 1RW7215RECA007261



2013 JOHN DEERE 7200R
$97,500

MFWD, 3398 HRS, 420/30 FRONT TIRES, 480/46 REAR DUALS, 4 SCV, 540/1000 PTO, 20 SPEED POWER QUAD, 59 GPM HYD PUMP, 15,000# HITCH, S/N 1RW7200RCDA015677



2009 JOHN DEERE 8330
$86,000

2009 JOHN DEERE 8330 TRACTOR, 7010 HRS, 480/46 REAR DUALS, 3 SCV, 1000 PTO, 18 SPEED POWERSHIFT, ATR, S/N RW8330P047376



2004 JOHN DEERE 7820
$79,500

MFWD, C/H/A, 4894 HRS, 420/85R28 FRONT TIRES, 480/80R42 REAR DUALS, 3 SCV, 540/1000 PTO, 16 SPEED POWER QUAD, LHR, 1 OWNER, S/N RW7820R016889



2015 JOHN DEERE 6125M
$59,500

MFWD, C/H/A, 4103 HRS, 14.9-24 FRONT TIRES, 18.4-34 REAR TIRES, JD H260 LOADER W/ BUCKET, 3 SCV, 540/1000 PTO, 24 SPEED POWER QUAD, LHR, S/N 1L06125MCEG815340



1994 CASE IH 7220
$54,500

2WD, C/H/A, 5467 HRS, 14L-16.1 FRONT TIRES, 460/85R42 REAR DUALS, 3 SCV, 540/1000 PTO, 19 SPEED TRANSMISSION , S/N JJA0055595



KUBOTA L6060HSTC
$45,000

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



JOHN DEERE 4960
$44,500

JOHN DEERE 4960 TRACTOR, MFWD, C/H/A, 8468 HRS, 18.4-26 FRONT TIRES, 520/42 REAR DUALS, 3 SCV, 1000 PTO, 15 SPEED POWERSHIFT

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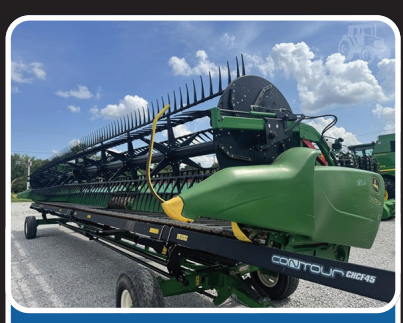
2021 JOHN DEERE 560M SILAGE $42,500

2021 JOHN DEERE 560M SILAGE BALER, 540 PTO, TWINE & NET, 7455 BALES, W/ MONITOR, S/N 1E0560MSHMM475871



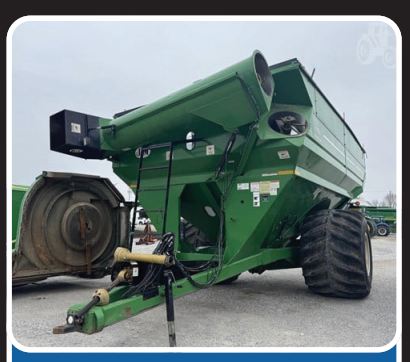
2018 JOHN DEERE 640FD $140,000

2018 JOHN DEERE 640FD FLEX DRAPER PLATFORM, FLIP OVER REEL, S/N 1H0640FDHJ0801317



2010 CASE IH FLX4520 $39,500

4607 HRS, 750/50R26 FRONT TIRES, 1050/50R32 REAR TIRES, NEW LEADER G4 BED, BELT OVER CHAIN, RAVEN CONTROLLER, LIGHT BAR, AG LEADER MONITOR, S/N YSTC24723



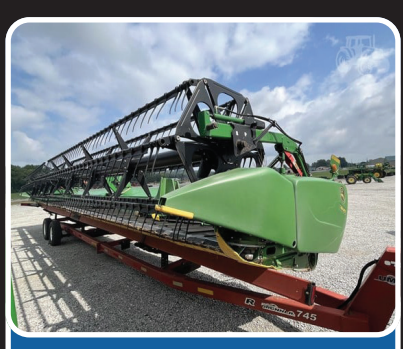
J&M 1151 GRAIN CART $32,500

J&M 1151 GRAIN CART, 1000 PTO, ROLL TARP, 68X50.00-32 TIRES, S/N 6072



1984 JOHN DEERE 4650 29,500

2WD, 8366 HRS, 14-16.1 FRONT TIRES, 20.8-38 REAR DUALS, 3 SCV, 1000 PTO, 16 SPEED QUAD RANGE, QUICK HITCH, S/N RW4650H009288



2015 JOHN DEERE 640FD $27,500

2015 JOHN DEERE 640FD FLEX DRAPER PLATFORM, FLIP OVER REEL, S/N 1H0640FDTF0775684 *WAGON NOT INCLUDED*



MCFARLANE HDL1150-16 $25,000

MCFARLANE HDL1150-16 HARROW, 50', S/N 23479



2015 JOHN DEERE 5055E $16,500

2WD, CANOPY, 456 HRS, 7.50-16 FRONT TIRES, 22.5LLX16.1 TURF TIRES (WITH 14.9-28 AG TIRES), 1 SCV, 540 PTO, 12 SPEED, S/N 1PY5055ECF3112718



1998 CASE IH 2366 $16,500

1998 CASE IH 2366 COMBINE, 4WD, 5150/4032 HRS, 30.5-32 FRONT TIRES, 18.4-26 REAR TIRES, CHOPPER W/ SPREADER, MAURER EXTENSIONS, S/N JJC0185907



1993 JOHN DEERE 6500 $14,000

1993 JOHN DEERE 6500 SPRAYER, WIDE FRONT, 60' BOOMS, 2472 HRS, 420 GAL TANK, HYDROSTAT, JD RATE CONTROLLER, S/N N06500X000613



2014 E-Z TRAIL 510 $12,500

2014 EZ TRAIL 510 GRAIN CART, ROLL TARP, 1000 PTO, LOW USE, S/N A153803



2012 JOHN DEERE 635F $12,500

2012 JOHN DEERE 635F FLEX PLATFORM HEADER, S/N 1H00635FCC0745686

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Kean Schneiber chosen as Kentucky's ASA Corteva Young Leader



2025-2026 Kentucky ASA Corteva Young Leader Kean Schnieber is pictured with Rivers Gilkison in one of Gilkison Farm's numerous soybean fields.

Kean Schnieber of Clark County has been selected as Kentucky's American Soybean Association (ASA) Corteva Agriscience Young Leader for 2025-2026. Now in its forty-second year, this national program allows young soybean farmers from around the country to gather for a challenging leadership experience. The Young Leaders program offers the opportunity for participants to enhance their leadership skills as well as meet and learn from other young leaders. This program trains leaders with the hope that they will, at some point, serve in a leadership capacity in the soybean organization.

Schnieber did not grow up on a farm, but jokingly says, "I got there as quick as I could." As a high-school sophomore growing up in the suburbs of Cincinnati, Ohio, a friend's father asked him if he'd like to help on his cow/calf operation, and young Kean was hooked. He is a graduate of the University of Kentucky's Martin-Gatton School of Agriculture (December 2022) with a degree in Agricultural Economics and currently farms with friend and mentor Brennan Gilkison.

Schnieber is ready for the challenge, and in his interview for this prestigious program he stated that he wants to give back to the industry that he loves – on that has given so much to him. His first encounter with the Kentucky Soybean Board was when he was chosen by the United Soybean Board (USB) for its See for Yourself Mission. USB says that "seeing is believing," and gives U.S. soybean farmers an inside look at the customers, facilities, and opportunities that the checkoff makes possible.

As part of his status as Kentucky's ASA Corteva Agriscience Young Leaders, Schnieber will serve as an ex-officio member on the board of the Kentucky Soybean Association. Young Leader duties begin at the beginning of December when Young Leaders from across the United States will travel to Corteva corporate headquarters in Johnston, Iowa, for part one of a two-part training session. Part two will take place in late February during Commodity Classic in San Antonio, Texas.

This program is one that the Kentucky Soybean Board invests in each year, and it has helped to fill Kentucky agriculture's leadership pipeline since 1984.

U.S. Hemp Roundtable launches National Farmer Advisory Council

Leading the charge to amplify the voices of American farmers

WASHINGTON — U.S. Hemp Roundtable has launched its "National Farmer Advisory Council," an initiative dedicated to empowering American hemp farmers and championing sensible policies that foster industry growth while safeguarding consumers.

The Farmer Council, led by hemp farmers Brian Furnish (Kentucky) and Ken Meyer (South Dakota), will serve as a resource for decision makers, federal and state, who are considering regulatory and legislative changes that impact the hemp industry. At the time of launch, the Farmer Council had 33 members from 18 states who are dedicated to sustaining and growing this uniquely American hemp market that has created opportunity and revenue for farmers.

The 2018 Farm bill, authorized by Congress, opened the door for the hemp industry, legalizing products with low levels of THC. Since its passage, hemp has grown to a more than $28.4 billion industry, with farmers making up more than 24% of the marketplace ($6.86 billion of the total economic impact). When comparing hemp to other crops, such as soybeans at 15% and corn at nearly 8%, hemp offers a unique economic model where farmers retain a higher share of profits, further building upon a more profitable market for American agriculture.

Beyond fiber and topics, hemp farmers are a key developmental component of all hemp products consumers have come to trust. Changes at any level have an impact on the entire industry, especially farmers. Without the option of grain, floral and fiber markets, farmers lose a vital risk-management tool, an avenue for profitability, and a sustainable crop choice.

"Growers have adapted over time, investing countless hours and dollars into building sustainable operations that support a diverse marketplace for hemp," said Brian Furnish, Ananda Hemp President of Global Production. "Instead of hampering these opportunities with misguided policy changes, Congress should celebrate farmers for their innovation, supporting our efforts to contribute to the future of agriculture."

Rather than adopting language that recriminalizes the hemp-derived cannabinoid market and punishes farmer innovation, Congress has an opportunity to adopt responsible, science-based consumer protections and allow sensible regulations through the FDA, USDA, and EPA. This includes mitigating inappropriate youth consumption through age restrictions as well as uniform standards for manufacturing, testing, labeling, and packaging.

"The hemp industry is still in its infancy, primed to unlock untapped potential through further research and development," said Ken Meyer, Complete Hemp Processing Co-Founder. "Together, the Farmer Advisory Council and Congress must work together to remove barriers for economic development and ensure the protection of farmers, businesses, and consumers."

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UK senior's research supports growth of health partnerships in Cooperative Extension

By Bailey Vandiver

LEXINGTON, Ky.— As a child, Maddy Barrie loved to learn about rocks, slime and human organs.

"I always had this childlike curiosity because of how my mom raised me," Barrie said.

When they weren't doing science kits together, Barrie and her mom were volunteering in the Chicago area. Those two childhood staples led Barrie to her desire to help people in her career — and public health has proven to be the right field for her.

Now a University of Kentucky senior studying health, society and populations in the College of Arts and Sciences and a member of the 2025 cohort of Students Participating as Ambassadors for Research in Kentucky (SPARK) Program, Barrie is researching how the Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service has worked to improve public health over the years.

SPARK trains undergraduate students to conduct impactful research to improve health disparities.

"Undergraduate research gives students a real-world window into the careers they're considering," said Nicole Breazeale, associate extension professor in the Department of Community and Leadership Development. "It's sparked a passion that led Maddy to consider a future in the health sciences and community-engaged research. That kind of clarity and purpose is one of the most powerful outcomes of undergraduate research."

Breazeale is Barrie's mentor for her SPARK project, which is supported by The Bill Gatton Foundation Grant Challenge Grant, titled "Synergizing Extension Health Partnerships."

"This grant project is focused on building stronger partnerships between Extension and health-related organizations," Breazeale said. "Within that effort, Maddy has been a driving force in helping us learn from the past and imagine new ways Extension can improve health in Kentucky communities—whether that's human, animal or environmental health."



As a member of the SPARK Program, Maddy Barrie is researching the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension's early health initiatives.

Photo provided by Maddy Barrie

Over the past year, Barrie has studied how Extension programs across the country partner to improve health. For her independent research project, she is interviewing Extension Agents and administrators who were involved in the rollout of HEEL (Health Education through Extension Leadership), an early-2000s initiative that brought health to the forefront of Extension work. Learning from those who did this work in the past helps inform a more sustainable model for the future.

Breazeale has a passion for qualitative data collection that draws from storytelling methods and techniques, which has expanded Barrie's research experience.

"I went from hard science in a bench lab, and now I just want to hear people's stories," Barrie said. "It's so powerful."

Maddy used photo-elicitation strategies to unlock important memories and lessons from so many years ago about Extension programming and its implementation process.

As she prepares to graduate with her bachelor's degree and move on to her master's, Barrie is confident that she will continue to do community-engaged research.

"I can't see myself doing anything else besides staying in research," she said. "I almost can't imagine a future without it."

Learn more about SPARK at https://medicine.uky.edu/centers/chet/spark-program. Learn more about The Bill Gatton Foundation at https://alumni.ca.uky.edu/bill-gatton-foundation.

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2017 MAC PINNACLE CXU613, Good southern ran truck, not rusty, runs and drives excellent! Air seat, air brakes, differential lock, dump valve, power windows, power mirrors, heated, tilt/tele! Well maintained truck!
Stk. #17DEL299CXUDC **$22,000**



2022 PETERBILT 579, Nice truck, runs great, clean, air seat, air bakes, differential lock, A/S 5th, dump valve, power windows, power mirrors, heated mirrors, fleet maintained! 430 HP, PACCA engine, 237,715 miles.
Stk. #22MX231579DC **$43,000**



2013 KENWORTH 1800, Good truck, runs great, clean, wet kit and blower, full gauge package, full locking rears, tilt/tele, air seat, power right window, power mirrors, heated mirrors! 500 HP Cummins engine. 556,871 miles.
Stk. #13ISX556T8DC **$25,000**



2014 MACK GRANITE GU713, Good truck, runs excellent, heavy duty truck, thick frame, air seat, air brakes, differential lock, dump valve, *16 ft of frame behind cab! 395 HP, 320,435 miles, manual transmission, 10 speed.
Stk. #14GU320TADC **$26,000**



2020 FREIGHTLINER CASCADIA 113, Good truck, runs excellent, well maintained! Good tires, clean cab, no rust, power windows, power mirrors, heated mirrors, differential lock, dump valve, A/S 5th!
Stk. #20DET562CASDC **$25,000**



2008 JET 40 FT HOPPER, Nice trailer, excellent shape, roll tarp, steel composition, ladder located front and rear, spring suspension, all steel wheels, tandem axles, gross vehicle weight 65,000 lbs.
Stk. #08JET220HOPPER **$17,000**



2020 TIMPTE 40 FT HOPPER, Nice trailer, good shape, dump valve, good tires, good tarp, 2 hoppers, standard hopper type, manual, roll tarp, ladder front and rear, catwalk front and rear, 40 ft length, air ride suspension, aluminum/steel wheels.
Stk. #20TIM101HOPPER **$33,000**



2012 TIMPTE 42 FT HOPPER, Good trailer, roll tarp, good doors, vibrators, aluminum composition, 2 hoppers, knock rails, ladders locaed front and rear, catwalk front and rear, front and rear chassis, all ride suspension.
Stk. #12TIM390HOPPER **$20,000**



2013 TIMPTE 42 FT X 96 IN HOPPER, Nice trailer, good shape, dump valve, roll tarp, good tires, aluminum composition, two speed landing gear, rear ladder, air ride suspension, aluminum wheels, 2 hoppers.
Stk. #13TIM240HOPPER **$27,000**



2026 WITZCO CHALLENGERS 52 FT X 102 IN, New trailer, 52 ton non-ground bearing detach, carrying capacity, 24 ft well, chain tie downs, air ride with dump valve and lift axle, Honda pony engine, chain/binder storage. Factory warranty!
Stk. #26WIT005NGB52 ..... **$65,000**



2020 TOPHAT 40 FT X 102 IN, Nice trailer, good tires, ramps, flat back, well length 25 ft., steel chassis, composition, spring suspension, wood floor, all steel wheels, fixed t andem rear axles, fixed neck.
Stk. #20THAT248LOW **$20,000**



2006 PITTS 52 FT X 102 IN, Good trailer, requires wet kit, dump valve, adjustable ride height, air lift axle, nice trailer for age!, 52 ton payload capacity, removable gooseneck, hydraulic, steel composition, swing out outrigger, swing out boom well.
Stk. #06PITT466LOW **$35,000**



2004 WALTRON 48 FT, Nice trailer, manual detach, dump valve, 28 ft well! 30 ton payload capacity, steel composition, boom well, air ride suspension, wood floor, 17.5 tires, fixed axle, mud flaps, detachable neck.
Stk. #04WAL066DETLOW **$20,000**



1970 TRANSPORT 38 FT, Heavy duty trailer, excellent shape, good tires! Rear ramps, fixed neck, steel composition, 16 ft well length, swing out outriggers, tie downs, wood floor, all steel wheels, tri rear axles.
Stk. #70TPORTLOW **$18,000**



2013 MATE 30 FT, Nice trailer, air lift axle, air gate, good tires, all tires on ground while dumping! Aluminum composition, top hinge gate, air gate, ladder, air ride suspension, fixed axle, mud flaps, tandem axles, aluminum wheels.
Stk. #13MATE781DUMP **$26,000**



1984 CMC 35 FT Good trailer, good shape, electric tarp, air gate! Trailer is in good shape for age! *No title / bill of sale only! Aluminum composition, top hinge gate, all steel wheels, fixed tandem rear axle, center point suspension.
Stk. #84CMC35DUMP **$10.000**



2025 ATRO 34 FT X 102 IN, New 34 ft dump trailer, high lift gate, built with AR hard ox steel, 13,337 empty weight, external cyliner/no doghouse for easier dumping capabilities, front ladder, led lights, *12% FET must be paid with purchase.
Stk. #25ATRO397DUMP **$35,000**



2025 ATRO 34 FTx 102 IN, New 2025 34 ft dump trailer, high lift gate, built with AR hard ox steel, 13,337 empty weight, extra cylinder / doghouse for easier dumping capabilities, front ladder, led lights, #12% FET must be paid with purchase.
Stk. #25ATRO611DUMP **$35,000**



2019 INTERNATIONAL LT, Fleet truck, smart wheel, dual air ride seats, cruise, power windows, power mirrors, heated mirrors! *New engine from International/ less than 50,000 miles!, auto transmission, 12 speed, overdrive, differential lock.
Stk. #19569LT **$24,000**



2018 INTERNATIONAL LT, Good truck, runs great, clean, smart wheel, dual air ride seats, cruise, power windows, power mirrors, heated mirrors! *Super nice truck, 450 hp, A26 engine, single exhause, auto transmission, air ride suspension.
Stk. #18HOGAN565LT **$18,000**



2011 FREIGHTLINER CASCADIA 125, Good truck, runs great, clean, fleet maintained, air seat, air brakes, differential lock, dump valve, sliding 5th wheel, 455 HP, Detroit engine, air ride suspension, Class 8: 33,001 pounds or greater GVW.
Stk. #11DET820XTCAS **$13,000**



2010 INTERNATIONAL DURASTAR 4300, Good truck, runs great, clean, air seat, air brakes, differential lock, nice bed, 230 HP, spring suspension, single rear axles, International engine, auto transmission, Class 6: 19,501-26,000 pounds GVW.
Stk. #104300266SAFLAT **$12,000**



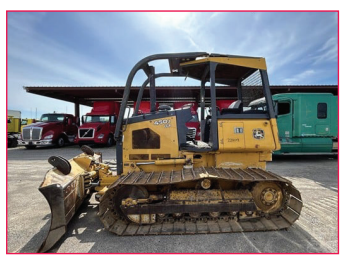
2012 FORD F550, Good truck, runs excellent, nice dump bed, Ford engine, 16 ft length, differential lock, spring suspension, Class 5: 16,001-19,500 pounds GVW, 6.7L Power Stroke, auto transmission.
Stk. #12F550277FLAT **$16,000**



2013 INTERNATIONAL DURASTAR 4300, Good truck, runs great! Hydraulic brakes, non-CDL truck! Class 6: 19,501-26,000 pounds GVW, 10,000 lb. front axle weight, 17,500 lb. rear axle weight, all steel wheels, 230 HP, auto transmission.
Stk. #134300199SAFLAT **$10,000**



2016 CATERPILLAR D5K2 XL, Nice machine, good used condition, clean cab! Tight blade, 6-way blade tilt, ROPS, enclosed interior, joystick operator controls, A/C and heat, GPS ready, Powertrain, powershift transmission.
Stk. #16CATD5DOZ **$65,000**



2012 DEERE 450J, Nice machine, runs and operates excellent! 6-way blade tilt, track type chassis, ROPS, joystick operator controls, Powertrain, powershift transmission, John Deere engine, 6,418 hours.
Stk. #12JD450DOZ **$40,000**



2010 KOMATSU PC350 LC-8, Nice machine, runs and operates excellent, nice cab, tight machine, 56 inch bucket, clean overall shape! Bolt on pads, ROPS, enclosed interior, A/C and heat, 260 HP, 11,203 hours,
Stk. #10KOM350EXC **$40,000**



2023 AGROTX NT30, New machine, runs and operates excellent, auxiliary hydraulics for extra hook ups, side swing boom, hydraulic blade, Kubota diesel engine, 4650 lbs, led light package, backfill blade, 11 hours.
Stk. #23AGNT30EXC **$20,000**



2006 CATERPILLAR D5N XL, *New set of tracks and rails included in price / see pics! Nice machine, runs and operates excellent, ROPS, 6-way blade tilt, lever operator controls, heater, cloth seat, 3 speed, powershift transmission.
Stk. #06CATD5NDOZ **$45,000**



1999 KOMATSU PC228US LC-1, Good machine, runs and operates excellent, 42 inch bucket, Cummins engine / strong hydraulics, steel track, 31.5 track shoe width, ROPS, enclosed, 130 HP, 7,847 hours, standard reach.
Stk. #99KOMPC228EXC **$20,000**

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Kentucky Farm Bureau launches rebranded podcast:

'Let's Get Rural'



LOUISVILLE, KY — Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) is proud to announce the launch of its rebranded podcast,"Let's Get Rural." The podcast, co-hosted by KFB's Renee Carrico and Matt Hilton, offers a dynamic platform for conversations with Kentucky's farmers, agricultural leaders and rural communities.

"Let's Get Rural" brings a fresh identity to the same trusted storytelling listeners have come to know from KFB Studios, the media production arm of KFB. Each episode is designed to connect listeners with the heart of Kentucky agriculture— from planting and calving season updates to philanthropic activity recaps to live recordings at local ag education events, and more.

"Farmers' stories deserve to be told in ways that are both authentic and engaging," said Carrico, who raises beef cattle and hay in Washington County and serves as KFB's Commodity Division Director. "Through 'Let's Get Rural,' Matt and I are excited to showcase the passion, resilience and innovation that define Kentucky agriculture."

Carrico brings first-hand experience as a lifelong farmer and leader in KFB's environmental and policy programs, while co-host Hilton, Manager of KFB Studios, draws on his extensive background as a producer and interviewer for the Emmy Award-winning programs "Bluegrass & Backroads" and "The KFB Show." Together, their perspectives — "the Aggie" and "the City Slicker" — create a lively mix of insights and humor.

"With Renee's deep roots in agriculture and my curiosity as an 'adopted aggie,' we want to bring listeners conversations that are both educational and entertaining," Hilton said. "We hope people will tune in to hear not only about the challenges farmers face but also how much they love their work, and the incredible ways they serve their communities."

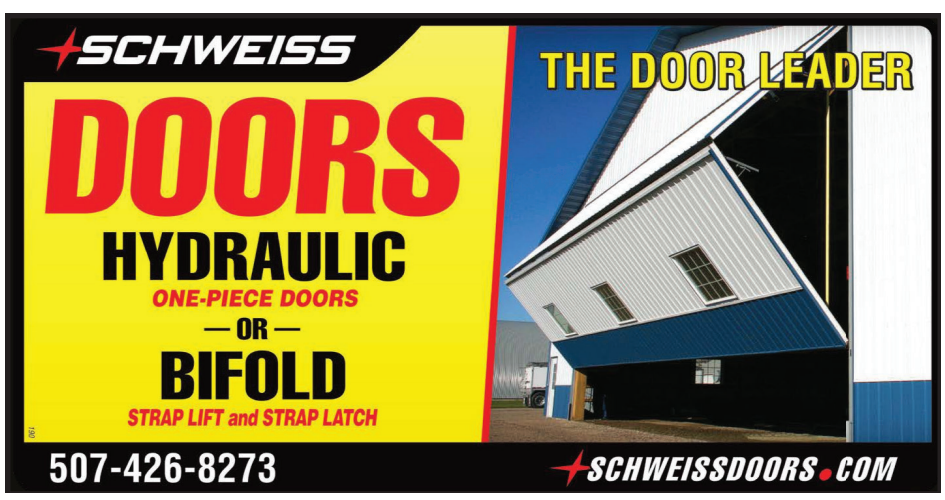
KFB launched the podcast in response to the medium's growing popularity among rural Americans of all age groups. "As we find ourselves in the truck hauling grain, in the tractor putting out hay, or as the unlucky night shift driver on a family vacation to Florida, many people have moved from a music playlist to audio books and podcasts," said Carrico. "As they get to know us, we encourage our listeners to think about sharing their own stories. We would love to sit down with them for a conversation on a future episode."

The podcast is available now, with new episodes released regularly. Listeners can find "Let's Get Rural" on major podcast platforms and through the KFB website at https://www.kyfb.com/federation/lets-get-rural-podcast/.

ABOUT KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

Kentucky Farm Bureau is the state's largest general farm organization with more than 485,000 member families.







Kentucky Agricultural Development Board approves more than $950,000 for projects across the Commonwealth

Funded projects focus on agricultural diversification, rural development

FRANKFORT — The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board approved $955,113 for agricultural diversification and rural development projects across the Commonwealth Friday at its monthly board meeting.

"Projects, like the ones approved today, serve to strengthen the agricultural framework that makes up our communities and our state," Commissioner of Agriculture and Board Chair Jonathan Shell said. "The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board is working to grow our economy by diversifying our agricultural base, benefiting all of Kentucky."

County and State Funded Projects

Joseph Dale Bentley was approved up to $51,300 in state funds for the construction and expansion of a small ruminant facility. For more information, contact Joseph D. Bentley at joebentley@hotmail.com.

Organic Association of Kentucky was approved up to $209,000 in state funds for one year to support three core OAK programs. For more information, contact Brooke D. Gentile at brooke@oak-ky.org.

County Programs

County Agricultural Incentives Program (CAIP)

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

Seven CAIPs, totaling $623,688, were approved by the board in the following counties:

Clark ($15,000)*
Edmonson ($50,000)
Fulton ($46,000)
Johnson ($32,250)*
Livingston ($71,838)
Shelby ($320,000)
Washington ($88,600)*

Deceased Farm Animal Removal (DAR)

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

One DAR was approved by the board totaling $15,000 in Washington County.

Shared-Use Equipment Program

The Shared-Use Equipment Program assists broad-based community organizations with the purchase of farm equipment. The equipment purchased is made available for producer use in a specific county on a leased basis.

Three Shared-Use Equipment Programs, totaling $31,625, were approved by the board in the following counties:

Estill ($12,000)
Washington ($8,000 and $11,625)

Youth Agricultural Incentives Program (YAIP)

YAIP encourages youth to engage in and explore agricultural opportunities.

Two YAIPs, totaling $24,500, were approved by the board in the following counties:

Edmonson ($10,000)
Washington ($14,500)*

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

* Existing programs receiving additional funding

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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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SEPTEMBER 2025 B Section
A Special Supplement to
KPI Newspaper Group

FARMERS' Quarterly

FALL HARVEST & LIVESTOCK

It's time for fall harvest and livestock care

Fall harvest and livestock" is a phrase that evokes rural life, agricultural rhythms, and traditional cycles of farming.

Fall is a critical time for farmers as it marks the culmination of the growing season. During this time, farmers gather the crops they've worked all spring and summer to grow.

Common Fall Harvest Crops:

Grains: Corn, wheat, barley, oats

Vegetables: Pumpkins, squash, potatoes, carrots, beets

Fruits: Apples, pears, grapes

Legumes: Soybeans, dry beans

Along with crop harvesting, there are a number of fall activities that take place including,

Combining or picking crops

Drying and storing grains

Sorting and packing produce for markets

Preserving (canning, freezing, fermenting)

Cultural Traditions:

Fall fairs, harvest festivals, and Thanksgiving celebrations often coincide with the harvest season, celebrating abundance and community.

Livestock in the Fall

Fall is also a strategic time for livestock farmers, as they prepare animals and facilities for winter.

There are many livestock activities that need to completed to prepare livestock for the late fall, early winter.



Weaning: Calves, lambs, and kids are often weaned in the fall.

Sales: Animals may be sold at fall livestock auctions.

Culling: Farmers may reduce herd/flock sizes before winter to manage feed costs.

Vaccinations and Deworming: Pre-winter health checks are common.

Breeding: For spring births, breeding may take place in late summer or fall.

Feeding:

Silage and hay harvested earlier are stored and rationed for winter feeding.

Grain rations may increase to help animals maintain weight and warmth.

Shelter Preparation:

Repairing barns, securing windbreaks, and bedding areas for warmth.

Grants available for high school students to focus on farm safety, rescue, health

High school FFA, 4-H, and HOSA chapters eligible for Raising Hope grants

FRANKFORT, Ky. – Raising Hope, a Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA) program focused on farm safety, farm rescue, and farmers' health, is providing grant opportunities for high school FFA, 4-H and HOSA – Future Health Professionals chapters to focus on those vital components, as well. Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell announced KDA's Raising Hope program is investing $200,000 for the grants, an increase of $75,000 over last year's funding.

"As Kentucky's Agriculture Commissioner, I am proud to support this initiative that empowers our high school student chapters to address vital issues in agriculture," Commissioner Shell said. "By focusing on farm safety, farmers' health, and farm rescue, we are investing in the well-being of our farming communities and ensuring that our next generation of leaders is well-equipped to face these challenges. These grants help with our commitment to safeguard the future of agriculture in Kentucky."

KDA's Raising Hope program raises awareness about farm safety, health risks, and farm rescue, stressing the importance of training for farm-specific rescues to enhance safety for farmers, workers, and families. With the commitment of $200,000 from Raising Hope, high school chapters for FFA, 4-H, and HOSA can apply for grants to host events dedicated to farm safety, farm rescue, and farmers' health, both mental and physical. The money will be in allotments up to $5,000 to winning chapters.

"Kentucky FFA is excited about the opportunities made possible through the Raising Hope Grant," said Kristan Wright, Agricultural Education Consultant/ State FFA Advisor. "We have witnessed the tremendous impact these grants have made across the state, whether through the Challenge Coin Program, farm safety days, or farm safety kits. This year, chapters will have the opportunity to continue saving lives. These efforts teach our members the importance of giving back to their local communities and highlight the value of our farmers and agricultural professionals. The impact of this grant will be felt throughout the broader agricultural industry and the communities we serve."

"By participating in the Raising Hope program, HOSA chapters across Kentucky are planting the seeds of innovation where agriculture and healthcare intersect," said Susan Readnower, HOSA State Advisor. "HOSA — Future Health Professionals is more than a student organization; it's a pipeline preparing the next generation of leaders in medicine, public health, and allied health careers. With this opportunity, we are empowering students to explore how rural health and sustainable agriculture directly impact community wellness — raising hope for a healthier tomorrow. We look forward to the good that will undoubtedly come from this partnership of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Kentucky FFA, Kentucky 4-H, and Kentucky HOSA."

"4-H is focused on empowering youth with the skills, resilience, and confidence to thrive in a changing world," said Carrie Derossett with Kentucky 4-H. "Kentucky 4-H is excited to partner with Raising Hope to provide grants to 4-H clubs across the state. These grants will pave the way, providing youth the opportunity to make a difference in farmer safety, health, and rescue in our communities."

Raising Hope, which began as a coalition between the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and other agriculture, education, and healthcare institutions to improve the mental and physical health of farmers, was moved fully under the KDA umbrella and joined with the Department's Farm Safety program in July 2024.

More information on the application process is found on the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's Raising Hope website page at kyagr.com/marketing/raising-hope.html. The link for the grant application is under Forms and Documents on the right-hand side.

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The importance of 4-H in local communities

Young people often are encouraged to participate in activities that can strengthen their minds and bodies and benefit their communities. Various organizations encourage children to become learners and leaders, including the youth development program 4-H.

What is 4-H?

This is America's largest youth development organization with a focus on essential life skills and leadership abilities. The four "Hs" in the program's name refer to missions involving head, heart, hands, and health.

Who started 4-H?

The organization began in Iowa, where it was founded by school superintendent Oscar Benson. Benson was a leader in teaching demonstrations, and wanted to share this method of learning with young people as much as possible. In 1909, he was using a three-leaf clover pin to represent head, heart and hands as an achievement award for farm boys and girls. Benson later worked with the Office of Farm Management in the U.S. Department of Agriculture and brought his clover. Benson ultimately engineered the first state college-federal agreement for the promotion of rural youth club work.

Is 4-H just for farming communities?

While 4-H was originally conceived to introduce youth to agricultural work, it is not exclusively an agricultural organization. 4-H continues to offer animal and plant science projects, but also has expanded to offer a wide range of programs in areas like arts and crafts, civic engagement, STEM, and healthy living. 4-H now reaches youth in urban, suburban and rural communities across the country. Through the website www.4-h.org, interested parties can find their own local 4-H offices to get started. The program is delivered by Cooperative Extension, which is a community of more than 100 public universities across the nation.

Who is eligible for 4-H?

The program is geared to youth from kindergarten to one year out of high school (K-13). Members enroll in projects that match their ages and interests. Adult mentors provide guidance and support to youth along the way.

What benefits come from 4-H participation?

The organization says their life-changing programs help kids and teens learn skills and abilities to be resilient, adaptable and ready for work and life. According to the program, 4-Hers are more likely to feel competent, make healthy choices, contribute positively to their communities, and feel positive about their well-being.

In addition to participation in youth sports, scouting and other organizations, children and teens can get involved with 4-H to learn handy skills that can benefit them throughout their lives.

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One Health coordination is key as New World screwworm remains outside U.S.; Kentucky producers urged to stay alert

While the screwworm is concerning cattle producers, human infections remain extremely rare

By Jordan Strickler and Jennifer Elwell

Lexington, Ky.— University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment specialists and state partners are asking livestock owners and veterinarians to stay alert as New World screwworm (NWS) activity continues in parts of Central America and Mexico. No animal cases have been confirmed in the United States during the current outbreak, and Kentucky herds remain unaffected. However, experts warn that cattle producers should still remain vigilant.

The NWS fly is an obligate parasite whose larvae invade living tissue, "screwing" into wounds with mouth hooks that tear through healthy flesh. Untreated animals can suffer severe lesions, secondary infections and death.

Cattle draw most of the attention; however, sheep, goats, horses, companion animals, wildlife and humans can also be affected. Even small wounds, such as tick or insect bites, ear tags, castration or dehorning sites, can attract egg-laying females. Livestock owners also need to be aware that natural openings such as the nose, eyes, ears, anus and genitalia can also be a draw. As larvae feed, wounds enlarge quickly and often carry a strong odor of decaying tissue.

NWS sits at the intersection of animal health, human health and the environment. One Health is the framework that links those pieces. In practice, this means veterinarians, physicians, epidemiologists, wildlife biologists, producers, laboratories and university researchers share information, coordinate guidance and act quickly when something suspicious, such as NWS infections, appears.

"Cattle are large animals that may go some time between health checks," said Hannah Tiffin, assistant professor in the UK Department of Entomology. "Flies have ample time to lay eggs and allow the maggots to cause gaping wounds in several animals before the infestation is noticed. This is why knowing what to look for is so important, so that infestations can be caught and treated quickly before more animals are affected."

Why One Health is front and center

In Kentucky, that work is already in motion. The Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH), Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA), Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Kentucky veterinarians from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service meet weekly with UK faculty to review new information on animal-to-human threats. These standing meetings now support screwworm monitoring, clinician alerts, laboratory routing and rapid reporting. The same playbook helps with ticks, mosquitoes and other vector-borne issues that affect people, livestock, pets and wildlife.

"Although the current risk to the general public is very low, there is the concern that people who travel to countries where this fly is either endemic or becoming more common are at increased risk," said Kathleen Winter, associate professor in the UK College of Public Health's Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health and current state epidemiologist and director for the Division of Epidemiology and Health Planning with the KDPH.

The UK Department of Entomology has an updated fact sheet to help producers and animal owners recognize NWS and distinguish it from other wound-associated flies. It can be found at https://entomology.o2.boa.ca.uky.edu/ef519.

"It's important to note that not all fly larva (maggots) are screwworms," said Jessie Lay, extension animal health veterinarian in agriculture and natural resources. "While common blow fly larvae feed on dead tissue near the skin's surface, screwworm larvae tunnel into healthy tissue, which is why they're such a concern. We have not seen an animal case in the United States yet during the current outbreak, but are closely monitoring the situation at the southern border. For consumers, it is also important to note that beef is safe to eat. Larvae do not persist on carcasses and processing facilities inspect animals at harvest."

Where NWS stands now

The United States has considered NWS eradicated since 1966 after sterile-insect releases, coined Sterile Insect Technique (SIT), collapsed wild populations. A permanent barrier zone in Panama, established in 2006, helps keep the pest to the south. When detections move north of that line, regional partners release additional sterile male flies to suppress local populations and re-establish control.

During the past year, NWS has been confirmed north of the barrier in Central America and into southern Mexico. That movement raises the chance of re-introduction via animal movement through legal and illegal trade, stray or feral animals crossing borders, wildlife dispersal and travel.

"NWS is an old foe," Tiffin said. "It used to affect animals, especially cattle in Texas and throughout the South but thanks to the advent of SIT, it was mostly eradicated from the US in the 1960s."

However, despite the human infection reported in Maryland, Tiffin says that human infections are nothing to keep one up at night.

"Human infestation is rare," Tiffin said. "You would typically know if you had maggots in a wound, in your nose, or other body part, usually prompting immediate medical attention in people who are mentally and physically capable of seeking help."

Market context

The stakes are not purely clinical. A 1976 Texas outbreak infested nearly 1.5 million cattle and more than 300,000 sheep and goats before it was contained, causing large producer and statewide costs. Now recently, live-animal import policies were adjusted as conditions changed in Mexico — first paused in late November 2024, restarted at a reduced pace this February and halted again on May 11 — tightening feeder supplies.

"Kentucky producers are watching feeder supplies and prices closely," said Kenny Burdine, extension professor in the UK Department of Agricultural Economics. "When news of a travel-associated human case in Maryland hit, futures dipped for a brief time the day of the announcement, but the response was limited because no animal cases have been confirmed in the United States. There really wasn't a supply or demand impact on the cattle market. Fundamentals still drive the market, though placements have been harder to predict since Mexican imports were first paused."

What producers, veterinarians and clinicians can do

Producers should check animals often for deep, rapidly enlarging wounds with maggots, foul odor, persistent irritation or head-shaking. Pay close attention to small wounds, the navel of newborn calves and natural openings of the head and perineum. Call a veterinarian right away if something looks unusual; early detection supports animal welfare, protects neighboring herds and wildlife, and speeds any needed response.

When transporting livestock, follow USDA requirements for livestock, equids and pets and watch for agency updates while outbreaks persist in Mexico.

If one sees a suspected animal case in Kentucky, they should contact the office of the state veterinarian at (502) 573-0282 or USDA-APHIS Veterinary Services (Kentucky) at (502) 848-2040.

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Farmers, farming honored at annual Kentucky Appreciation Day

Farm Safety and Health Week September 21-27, 2025

FRANKFORT, Ky. – Recently Commissioner of Agriculture Jonathan Shell honored Kentucky's farmers and the work they do at a Farmers' Appreciation and Awards Day at Murray State University's William "Bill" Cherry Expo Center.



Farmers' Appreciation and Awards Day, hosted by Kentucky Department of Agriculture's Raising Hope program, was at Murray State University's William "Bill" Cherry Expo Center on Wednesday. Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell, at left, honored John Croft, center, as one of three Farmers of Year. Also pictured are Croft's family, Katie Beth Croft and Kennedy Croft, Dale Dobson with Raising Hope, Miss Kentucky Ariana Rodriguez, and Joe Nichols.

Kentucky Department of Agriculture



"The number of risks farmers face every day on the farm are numerous," Commissioner Shell said. "We are taking today to show our appreciation for the work our farmers do on a daily basis and to recognize the risk they take just doing their jobs. In Kentucky, we have made great strides to mitigate those risks and make farming safer than ever before, but one farm injury is one too many. We want farmers to know we see them and we appreciate them."

The Farmer's Appreciation and Awards Day, hosted by Raising Hope — a Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA) program dedicated to supporting the physical and mental well-being of farmers — celebrated this important initiative.

For more than 25 years, KDA has encouraged safe practices on the farm through its Farm Safety and Rural Health Team, which provides educational resources and training to ensure the safety of farmers and their families. The team is always in high demand and on average appears in more than 100 events annually.

The awards program was held ahead of the National Farm and Safety and Health Week set for Sept.21-27. With a theme of "Safety First, Avoid the Worst," the week encourages farmers and farm workers to always put their health and safety first.

In addition to the awards presentation, the day offered free health screenings, educational safety, health, and rescue booths, an agricultural career fair, and free lunch for attendees.

Awards presented during the event included:

Honorary Commissioners

The recipients of this year's Honorary Commissioner awards were honored for their work to promote agriculture safety and health, as well as their work in putting together the 2025 Farmers' Appreciation Day at Murray State University.

The honorees include:

Dr. Brian Hoover – agriculture systems technology professor with Murray State University's Hutson School of Agriculture.

Dr. Kristie Guffey – professor and a graduate coordinator with Murray State University's Hutson School of Agriculture.

Connie Gray – expo director with Murray State University's Hutson School of Agriculture.

Friends of Raising Hope

Award recipients for the Friends of Raising Hope award are key partners in and behind the scenes of Raising Hope.

LaRue County FFA and LaRue County HOSA chapters - LaRue County FFA was awarded one of the Raising Hope grants last year and shared the award with the LaRue County HOSA. The teams came together to host LaRue County Farmers' Appreciation Day.

Brandon Reed, Executive Director for KDA's Office of Agricultural Policy, has worked behind the scenes since the beginning of Raising Hope. He worked to get the program's first funding and has helped build the program.

Jay Hall, Executive Director of KDA's Office of Agricultural Marketing, is one of Raising Hope's team members. His work has helped ensure Raising Hope has all the resources it needs to be as successful as possible.

Farmers of the Year

Three Kentucky farmers were honored for their work to promote safety, and mental health benefits to their communities.

Mark Luckett, who has dedicated years of service to farming, agriculture safety, and advancing agriculture.

John Croft, who has dedicated his entire life and career to farm safety at 7 Spring Farms in Cadiz.

Dr. Dwayne Driskill, a former professor of agriculture safety program at Murray State University, whose work helped build the program.

The Food Connection publishes annual UK Dining report; UK partnership is 'national model' for local purchasing

UK Dining, working in partnership with The Food Connection, remains committed to local purchasing to benefit stakeholders across campus and the Commonwealth

By Bailey Vandiver

LEXINGTON, Ky.— The Food Connection — an applied food systems center that serves farmers, food producers, students and community members — recently published its 12th annual report about UK Dining's local procurement efforts.

The report's analysis tracks local food purchasing against predetermined benchmarks set forth by the University of Kentucky in partnership with food service partner Aramark.

The local procurement initiative began in 2014 in response to feedback from stakeholders, both on and off campus, regarding UK's role in Kentucky's agriculture and food system. The contract requires that UK meet annual Kentucky Farm and Food Business Impact (KYFBBI) purchasing requirements, which means purchasing foods sourced from Kentucky farms and Kentucky-based food businesses.

The Food Connection, created as part of the Aramark contract and housed in the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, leverages local food systems expertise to support the growth of the local farm and food economies across Kentucky — in keeping with UK's land-grant mission.

"Our team works closely with UK Dining to identify new Kentucky farm impact items to bring to campus and provides tailored technical assistance to Kentucky farmers who are interested in selling to large food service operations like UK Dining," said Ashton Potter, executive director of The Food Connection.

Since 2014, the initiative has resulted in over $31 million of direct investment in Kentucky farms and food businesses and has drawn national recognition and awards.

"The Food Connection x UK Dining Partnership continues to be a national model for institutional local procurement," Potter said.

Some of the report's highlights include:

Fiscal year 2025 marks the second year that UK Dining's contractual commitment for KYFFBI purchasing be at least 20% of total food and beverage purchases. In previous years, the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) required a specific dollar amount rather than a percentage.

The actual fiscal year 2025 KYFBBI total was $7,033,290, which represents 43% of UK Dining's total food and beverage spend — more than double the contractual commitment.

UK Dining spent $1,536,258 on Kentucky Farm Impact purchases.

"UK's land-grant mission calls us to strengthen communities across the Commonwealth," said Laura Stephenson, vice president for land-grant engagement and dean of Martin-Gatton CAFE. "The Food Connection and UK Dining partnership demonstrates how we can live out that mission by connecting Kentucky farmers and food businesses with our campus community."

Access the full report at https://bit.ly/4pqA7cL. Learn more about The Food Connection at https://foodconnection.ca.uky.edu/.



POWER, The Food Connection and UK Dining hosted a cooking class on Oct. 22, 2024.

Photo by Carter Skaggs | UK Photo



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TRACTORS: Case Comfort King 841 – SN#8253560, narrow front, 3-pt., 540 PTO, propane Eng.; 1976 Case 995 – 6,815 hrs., David Brown diesel, 540/1000 PTO, dual hyd. remotes; Case 400 – SN#806372, gas, 540 PTO, dual hyd. remotes, 3-pt., seals disassembled; Case 400 – SN#8083818, gas, narrow front, 1 hyd. remote, 540 PTO; **COMBINES:** Case 660 combine – SN#8370167, gas, 2WD, with chopper; Case 660 combine – parts machine only; John Deere 244 corn head – 38-in. rows; New Idea 701 – 2-row corn picker; Case 425 – 40-in. mounted corn picker;

PLANTING & TILLAGE: John Deere FBB grain drill – 17-disc, double-disc openers, hyd. lift, grass seeds, SN#066107M; White 5100 – 4-row wide corn planter, dry fertilizer, double-disc openers, no-till coulters, liquid fertilizer setup; Hiniker Econo Till – 4-row wide row crop cultivator; Case 314 – 3-bottom plow; Clark 7-shank chisel plow – pull-type; Case 10-ft. wheel disc – good blades; Case F219-147 disc – with 3-bar coil-tine harrow, SN#625659; Rolling basket – 12-ft.; Custom-built 10-ft. 3-pt. airway tool; Yetter 15-ft. rotary hoe – 3-pt. mount; Homemade side dresser toolbar; Custom-built toolbar; **HAY EQUIPMENT:** New Holland 404 hay crusher conditioner – 7-ft., PTO driven; Hesston 1010 haybine – 9-ft., hydraulic swing, center pivot, steel bottom roll, rubber top roll; New Holland 273 Hayliner square baler – SN#206722, small square bales; New Holland 56 Roll-A-Bar rake – ground driven, SN#35765; Hay wagon – with airplane tires; Bush Hog 7-ft. 3-pt. mower; King Kutter bale spear – for bucket; **ATTACHMENTS & ACCESSORIES:** Dunham-Lear loader – for tractor, 7-ft. bucket; 13.6-38 clamp-on duals – for Case tractor, step-down rims, 34-in.; Case clamp-on axle duals – two sets; Homemade Category 2 quick hitch; **WAGONS:** Grove Economy 510 gravity wagon – approx. 90 bu.; Husky 165 gravity wagon – with John Deere gear; Hopper wagon – approx. 110 bu.; Hopper wagon – grooved chassis, 90 bu.; McCurdy hopper wagon – box; Ficklin 231 hopper wagon; **GRAIN HANDLING & AUGERS:** Coe Brothers seed swing-away auger; 4-in. grain auger; 8-in. cross auger; 8-in. grain auger; 8-in. x 50-ft. transport auger – PTO driven; Dual screen DMC grain cleaner – electric motor; Clipper seed cleaner – motor driven; Farm Fans AB8 grain dryer – 6-in. fill auger, 120 bu.; **SPREADERS & FERTILIZER:** Herd 3-pt. seed spreader; Cyclone seed spreader; Pull-type fertilizer spreader – stainless steel bed, wheel-driven; Case 125 single-axle manure spreader – rear discharge; Better Built honey wagon – 750 gal., single axle; Custom-built nitrogen trailer – 400-gal. tank, PTO, no pump; **LIVESTOCK EQUIPMENT:** Osborne 2-ton hog feeder; Osborne 1.5-ton hog feeder; Misc. rotary hog feeders; FEED & PROCESSING: Gehl 65 feed grinder – swing-away auger, SN#37221; Roller mill; Brady 206 soybean extractor – PTO driven; **3-POINT IMPLEMENTS:** 3-pt. post hole digger; Heavy-duty 3-pt. log splitter; Custom-built 3-pt. 8-row sprayer boom; 3-pt. concrete mixer; MISCELLANEOUS: Custom-built 10-ft. compost turner – PTO driven; Grass seeder; McCurdy corn drags; 500-gal. propane tank – on gear; Custom-built trailer – wooden floor & sides;

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TRACTORS: 2011 John Deere 9430 tractor-2,705 hrs, 4 remotes, cab, heat/air, radio, articulating, 2nd owner, This tractor is in excellent condition and has been very meticulously maintained, SN#1RW9430PLBP023487; 2017 8245R tractor-2,128 hrs, powershift transmission, 4 remotes, 1000 PTO, quick hitch, rear duals, front fenders, LED lights, cab, heat/air, radio, This tractor is in excellent condition and has been very well maintained, This tractor will be used this fall in harvest so hours will go up slightly. SN#1RW8245RCHP121210; 2004 John Deere 8120 tractor-4,418 hrs, powershift transmission, 4 remotes, 1000 PTO, rear duals, front fenders, quick hitch, cab, heat/air, radio, JD link, this tractor is in excellent condition and has been very well maintained, This tractor will be used this fall in harvest so hours will go up slightly. SN#RW8120P022809;

COMBINE: 2019 John Deere S760 Combine, 1,415 Engine Hours, 1,104 Separator Hours, Floater Tires, 2wd, power folding grain extensions, fore, aft, lateral tilt feeder house, single point hookup, Active Vision Camera, 4600 display center, Combine advisor package, grain and tailings cameras, Auto guidance ready, 333 Hp engine, beacon lights, Runs and Operates Well Maintained One Owner Machine, Hours will go up slightly will be used for 2025 harvest, SN#1H0S760SKK0805120;

PLATFORMS & HEADS: 2022 John Deere RD35F Draper Head, Fore/Aft Reel, hydraulic adjustable reel, poly finger reel, marker lights, single point hook up, pto, hookup, Head sells seperate from cart, Header will be used for 2025 Harvest, SN:1H0RD35FHN0820196; 2022 John Deere C8R corn head, 8 row, 30 IN. rows, single point hook up, Was purchased new and has been meticulously maintained SN#1H00C8RXLM0815279;

AIR SEEDERS: 2013 John Deere 1990CCS 40 FT. air seeder, 15 IN. rows, CCS seed metering, bulk fill, single disc openers, this planter is in excellent condition and has been very well maintained, SN#1A81990SEDM755129;

FERTILIZER APPLICATOR: 2012 Case 2800 fertilize applicator, 15 knife, 30 IN. on center, 1,500 gallon poly tank, Green Star rate controller, Excellent condition SN#YCD064133;

SPRAYERS: 2004 John Deere 4710 sprayer-2,443 hrs, 100FT. booms, 800 gallon stainless steel tank, hydrostatic transmission, side fill, SN#N04710X006367;

HEADER CARTS: 2018 J&M 4WS15 All Steer Header Cart, 38ft long lights, adjustable feet and adjustable, rail hight, SN# 1803256; J&M header cart, 21 FT. long, was used for 8 row corn head, SN#6486;

GRAIN CART: 2022 J&M X812 grain cart, 850 bushel, PTO driven auger, hydraulic folding auger, tarp, LED lights, auger camera, backup camera, ladder, **They purchased this grain cart new. It is in excellent condition and has been extremely well maintained,*SN#2210709;

SEMI TRAILER: 2019 Timpte Super Hopper 40Ft Long, 68 inch sides, 24 inch hopper clearance, aluminum wheels, power tarp, clean well maintained trailer. VIN#1TDH40027KB162160;

SEMI: 1999 Kenworth T800 614,611mi. Caterpillar Engine, 8 Speed Transmission, Heat, Air, Radio, wet kit, aluminum wheels, adjustable fifth wheel, Runs and Operates, VIN#1XKDDB9X6XJ797607;

TILLAGE EQUIPMENT: J&M TF212 rolling basket, 32 FT. working width, hydraulic raise and lower, hydraulic fold, Low use on this implement and meticulously maintained, SN#2040006; Landoll 30 foot, folding soil finisher, 3 section, hydraulic raise & lower, 3 bar spike drag, rear hitch;

GRAVITY WAGONS: Killbros 385 Gravity wagon mounted on Killbros 1386 running gear, 385 bushel, front ladder, lights, Shur Lok Roll Tarp, Rear hitch, 385/65R22.5 Tires; Killbros 385 Gravity Wagon, Side discharge, Rainbow Industries Roll Tarp, Front Ladder Rear Hitch, lights; Rotary Mowers: Bush Hog 296 Rotary Mower 3 point mount, 540 PTO, rear wheel, SN: 12-06378; GPS Receivers: Starfire 6000 Reciever with SF 1 activation; John Deere Starfire 6000 Reciver with RTK Activation;

MOWER: Husqvarna PZT60 Zero Turn Mower, Hours unverified, ROPS, 60 inch deck, Hydro trans, Runs and Operates, SN# 021315f001344;

PUMPS: Briggs and Stratton Gas Powered Pump; Rate Controllers: Raven SCS440 Rate Controler with nozzels, and plugs; Storage Tanks: 1600 Gallon Poly Tank, center top fill, 2 inch outlet;

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From concept to classroom:

UK Agricultural Education and Advocacy students gain valuable skills through statewide initiative

By Jennifer Elwell

LEXINGTON, Ky.— In support of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's (KDA) All in for Agriculture Education Week programs, students from the University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment created several lessons and activities to teach elementary students about agriculture. After a successful program run in March 2025, KDA planned a second week of activities and promotion, which takes place from Sept. 15-19.

The initiative, designed to grow agricultural literacy and connect classroom learning to real-world skills, invited students in the Agricultural Education and Advocacy degree program in the Department of Community and Leadership Development (CLD) to develop dynamic and age-appropriate explorations of food systems, livestock and plant science.

"Our students considered different learning styles, what they knew about the learners, how long they can stay entertained and what activities would be good for those age groups," said Rebekah Epps, associate professor for agricultural education and CLD director of graduate studies.

Epps said many of her students wanted to teach their lessons in an elementary classroom, such as "Let's Learn About Kentucky Agriculture" and "Let's Learn About Horses," among other farm-related subjects.

"It was a learning curve," Epps said. "Someone came back and said the activity didn't work. And I said, 'Yes! That's what I like to hear from someone becoming a teacher.' That's how we write curriculum. If it doesn't work, tweak it and make it better."

Agriculture education student at University of Kentucky.

Agricultural Education and Advocacy student Kennedy Springs said this lesson development process for transformative for her education.

For senior Kennedy Spriggs, the experience was transformative.

"This is really a full circle moment for me," Spriggs said. "Planning a lesson and executing it for All in for Agriculture Education Week has been such a great opportunity to utilize my strengths, develop vital skills and gain experience before stepping into an agriculture classroom of my own."

Epps believes the lesson creation and refining process not only sharpened teaching skills but also underscored the importance of agricultural education in shaping informed consumers.

"I taught high school in metro Atlanta, and I knew my kids were two or three generations removed from the farm," Epps said. "That was perfectly fine, but they were all going to be consumers, and I wanted them to be educated consumers."

The experiential learning also highlighted the value of working with statewide government organizations like the KDA, especially for students pursuing advocacy roles.



Associate professor for agricultural education Rebekah Epps worked with aspiring teachers to create several "Let's Learn About Kentucky Agriculture" lessons made available to volunteer agriculture educators who visit classrooms. Photo provided by UK Community and Leadership Development.



Teaching assistant Hannah Grace Childress, left, discusses the curriculum project with students Leslie Monhollen, center, and Jake Lyons, right.

"We try to push our students to take their passion and turn it into influence," said Sarah Sprayberry, assistant professor and director of undergraduate studies in agricultural education. "When you make those connections, it allows you to bridge gaps within the community. A lot of people don't actually have true agricultural literacy, so when we make those bonds, it allows our students to understand the impact of those connections and teach people about agriculture."

In late 2024, the agriculture education degree program added "advocacy" to its name to better reflect the needs of agriculture employers.

"We truly are trying to build a new pathway," Sprayberry said. "We have students going into ag law, sales and non-profits. We're offering classes on social media campaigns and policy advocacy. For students who love education but don't want to be traditional teachers, we are their home."

The ripple effect of the first All in for Agriculture Education Week extended far beyond individual classrooms. In a partnership among Commissioner of Agriculture Jonathan Shell, Lieutenant Governor Jacqueline Coleman and Commissioner of Education Robbie Fletcher, the initiative aimed to reach every public elementary school in Kentucky through lessons, field trips, contests and community engagement activities.

"As the spring All in for Ag Education Week unfolded, it became clear the support from the agriculture industry, educators from across the state at every level and the community itself was unprecedented," said Bethany Mattingly, director of KDA Agriculture Education and Outreach. "The UK Agriculture Education and Advocacy program helped lead the way in what agriculture education can look like at the elementary school level."

Educators and agriculture community stakeholders are once again focusing on the impact of farming this week and throughout the fall.

"Our college is proud to be a part of Commissioner Shell's vision for strengthening agricultural education across our state," said Laura Stephenson, vice president for land-grant engagement and dean of Martin-Gatton CAFE. "When children understand where their food comes from and the role agriculture plays in their communities, we are preparing not only future farmers, but informed citizens and leaders. This partnership reflects the heart of our land-grant commitment to Kentucky."

In addition to the student-created lessons, UK Martin-Gatton CAFE is donating a Kentucky agriculture poster to be part of "harvest crates" full of teaching resources, which will be distributed to every public elementary school in Kentucky.

Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service agents will also take part in local educational and advocacy events over the next several weeks.

To learn more about the agricultural education and advocacy program, visit https://cld.ca.uky.edu/ukaged. To learn more about the All in for Agriculture Education Week, visit https://www.kyagr.com/marketing/Ag-Education-Week.html

Kentucky horse owners urged to plan ahead as weather challenges hay supply

Equine specialists are stressing the importance of purchasing hay earlier this year.

By Jordan Strickler



Horse owners need to be ready for this winter as the state's hay supply is off from previous years. Photo by Matt Barton.

Portrait of Jordan Strickler

Lexington, Ky.— Horse owners across Kentucky should start planning now for their winter hay needs as this year's supply is shaping up to be highly variable.

Bob Coleman, equine extension associate professor with the University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment said that weather has been the driving force behind uneven conditions.

"Some areas have gotten plenty of rain, while others have been extremely dry," Coleman said. "That means the hay crop is going to look different depending on where you're buying it. To expect it to be the same as last year or years ago is not a good assumption. Where inventories are smaller, some people are keeping hay back to sell later, or they just don't have as much to begin with."

The result is a hay supply that varies not only in availability but also in quality. In some fields, hay was cut later than usual because of wet conditions. While it may be free of dust and mold, the crop is more mature and less nutrient-rich than horse owners might expect. Coleman noted that this does not make the hay unusable, it simply means horse owners need to be realistic about what they are buying.

"People may find that their hay isn't as green as they're used to, or that the nutrient profile doesn't quite match past years," Coleman said. "That doesn't mean it isn't safe to feed. It just means you need to know what you're dealing with."

To avoid guesswork, it is strongly encouraged horse owners get their hay tested. Local Cooperative Extension Service offices can provide the tools and advice for collecting a sample and will help interpret the results from the horse perspective. This allows owners to balance their animals' diets properly and make the most of the hay's nutrients.

In addition to nutrition concerns, weeds are another issue. Coleman said that foxtail has been showing up in more hay fields. This plant can cause irritation and mouth sores in horses, making it a problem in the hay. He urged horse owners to closely inspect hay before purchase.

Knowing the weight of the bales one is buying is just as important as knowing the type of hay.

"If you're purchasing 100 bales, there's a big difference between 50-pound bales and 40-pound bales," Coleman said. "That's 5,000 pounds of hay versus 4,000 pounds. If your horses require 4,500 pounds of hay, using the heavier bales would result in a slight surplus, while the lighter bales would leave you short. You really need to know what you're getting, both in quality and in weight."

Coleman also recommends more controlled feeding practices.

"Rather than offering free-choice hay, measure out what your horses need each day," he said. "That helps reduce waste and makes your supply last longer. Also remember that hay from a second or third cutting could be different than the first. This makes it important for horse owners to make gradual changes to give horses time to adapt the same as if you were switching them from hay to grain."

Due to all of these factors, Coleman advises horse owners to act early.

"If you know you're going to need hay, don't wait," he said. "Line up your supply now and be prepared to work with more than one seller if necessary."

For those who cannot secure enough hay, alternatives are available. Processed forage products such as alfalfa cubes, alfalfa-grass cubes or commercial hay pellets can help fill the gap.

For more information about hay testing and feeding strategies, contact your local county extension office.

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UK Agricultural Education and Advocacy alumni prepared to share, teach 'to anyone who will listen'

Graduates from the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment program are prepared for careers in the classroom and beyond.

By Bailey Vandiver

LEXINGTON, Ky.— Throw a dart at the map, and someone with an Agricultural Education and Advocacy degree from the University of Kentucky just might be working there.

The program, which is housed in the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Department of Community and Leadership Development, prepares students for many career paths, said Rebekah Epps, associate professor and director of graduate studies.

After first being known as career and technical education then as agricultural education, the program added advocacy to its degree name in 2024 to more accurately represent where its graduates ended up — as teachers but also beyond "the four walls of a classroom."

"Agricultural education can take place as a commodity educator for pork or tobacco or soybean. It can take place as an Extension agent or sitting on the back of a pickup truck talking with a local farmer," Epps said. "We're working on advocacy so that they learn to teach the importance of agriculture to anyone who will listen."

Teaching and training the next generation

Growing up in Taylor County, Samantha Clark Gaddie knew as a high schooler that she wanted to be an agriculture teacher. Like many others, she was influenced by her own ag teachers.

"I had two really good ag teachers, and they were both instrumental in my life," Gaddie said. "I wanted to be able to shape and give back in that same way."

Gaddie graduated from UK in 2014 and has since worked at Green County High School.

As an undergraduate, Gaddie had the chance to do research and present at a conference. She and her research partner were very excited to receive an award for innovative ideas.

"I think that's what really sparked my interest in research and was probably the first step in me considering getting a doctorate," said Gaddie, who earned her doctorate in agricultural education from Texas Tech.

Gaddie said it's very rewarding to see the impact that her classes have on her students' lives. One FFA student completed an agriscience project that fostered her interest and led to her studying food biosciences at UK. Other students are currently in college to be agriculture teachers themselves.

"It's really awesome, when a student sees you work in your job and they're like, 'I want to do that job,'" Gaddie said.

Using education as an Extension tool

Lindie Huffman's grandfather, the only other member of her family who had attended college, went to UK — so of course Huffman went to UK, too. Deciding what to study was slightly more difficult.

"I couldn't select just one area of agriculture — because my passion was for all of it and for sharing its impact with others," Huffman said. "Agriculture is rewarding in so many deep ways: It is rooted in family tradition, grounded in community and filled with the promise of tomorrow through the faith of planting seeds or tending livestock."

Huffman found the right fit in agricultural education: "the perfect opportunity to explore the breadth of agriculture while also engaging with people."

As a student in 2011, Huffman had two life-changing experiences: completing an internship with the Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service and studying abroad in Scotland.



UK agricultural education and advocacy students and professor Rebekah Epps, right, work on an assignment together.

Photo by Mark Pearson

"That experience opened my eyes to the power of community development — something I once found intimidating, but instead showed me how education can drive meaningful, lasting change," Huffman said. "When I discovered how Extension blends agriculture, education and real community impact, it felt like a natural fit."

Since graduating in 2012, Huffman has been the agriculture and natural resources agent for the Pendleton County Extension Office. The agricultural education program gave her a "strong foundation" that she uses every day, thanks to the program's flexibility that allowed her to take courses in everything from agricultural economics to forages to leadership. That broad exposure to agriculture helped her meet people where they are — a crucial part of Extension work.

"Choosing Extension allowed me to continue my passion for agriculture and education, but in a much more informal setting — where I can teach outside the classroom, connect with diverse audiences, and create programs that are practical, hands-on, and rooted in real community needs," Huffman said.

Being innovative in agricultural education

As a child, even though no one in his family was an educator, Brian Welch would put his stuffed animals in a circle, give them paper and teach them school lessons. By the time he was a high schooler involved in FFA and 4-H, Welch knew he wanted to be an ag teacher.

"I've been very goal oriented ever since then to get as much exposure and experience in ag education as I possibly could," Welch said.

Originally from Owensboro, Welch graduated from UK in 2015 — after four years in the program, even though he was so excited to get into the classroom as a teacher that he almost graduated a year early. Mentors like Epps encouraged him to stay and take advantage of more opportunities, like studying abroad in Australia.

Welch is now entering his 10th year at Madisonville North Hopkins High School, which is where he did his student teaching. He primarily teaches the school's ag power pathway, which includes small engines, construction skills and agriculture structures.

This pathway has allowed Welch to reach students whether they want to be farmers or not.

"It's all the same concepts they could then take back onto the farm if they're building their own pole barn but also reaches a kid that's maybe not going into specifically ag," Welch said. "But they're going to have that foundational work ethic that ag likes to teach people and has the ability to teach people that they can apply to whatever world they want to go into."

In his classroom, Welch emphasizes community service. One of his favorite projects was converting a shipping

see **ADVOCACY,** page B13



UK agricultural education and advocacy students share the agriculture teachers who impacted them.

Photo by Mark Pearson

ADVOCACY,
from page B12

container into a medical clinic, which is now in use in Liberia. He and his students have also framed houses for Habitat for Humanity.

Sharing his students' work with the community is a vital part of advocating for agriculture, Welch said.

"We don't necessarily go the traditional route," he said. "So part of our thing is to keep innovative and to let people know we are doing things is to tell our story."

Advocating for the agriculture industry

When Misty Bivens was a state FFA officer, people were always saying to her, "When you're an ag teacher..." even though she didn't want to be an agriculture teacher.

She's now in her 25th year in that role at LaRue County High School.

"I can't imagine doing anything else," she said. "The impact, as an ag teacher, you get to have on students is unlike most jobs."

Twenty people pose together for a group photo. All are in professional dress and hold up a white piece of paper with a name or multiple names written on them.

Studying agricultural education at UK was an important step along the way. Even as the university and the agriculture industry changes, the connections Misty made during her education remain vital.

"I tell my students that are going to college that it's as much about the connections you make as it is about what you learn," she said.

While a UK graduate assistant, Misty started dating her now husband Ryan Bivens, also a Martin-Gatton CAFE graduate. Though both had agriculture in their background — Misty in Garrard County and Ryan in Spencer County — neither had a family farm to move back to.

"I was determined: I wanted to farm the rest of my life," Ryan said.

Once they settled in LaRue County, Ryan published an ad in the paper: "Ambitious young farmer looking for a start." The first year the Bivens planted soybeans, it was on 34 rented acres. This year, they planted about 7,600 acres — 1,500 of which they own.

The family's on-farm experience is useful to Misty in the classroom and to Ryan in his role as a Kentucky state representative. Ryan said his perspective as a farmer allows him to be a voice for agriculture.

"We've stood up and we've advocated for our industry," Ryan said. "It's not just about what me and Misty are doing today. It's about the groundwork we're laying for the next generation."

High expectations

Epps said the highlight of her role as a UK professor is seeing students grow and develop, both during their time as undergraduates and beyond.

"We have high expectations of our students," Epps said. "We've learned that if you set high expectations, they will meet them."

Learn more about UK agriculture education and advocacy at https://cld.ca.uky.edu/ukaged. Learn more about Kentucky's All in for Agriculture Education Week at https://www.kyagr.com/marketing/ag-education-week.html.

# # #

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A woman in jeans and a blazer smiles while presenting at the front of a conference room. The screen to her right says "What's your why?"
Photo provided by Lindie Huffman



Kentucky Soybean Promotion Board meets, elects executive committee

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

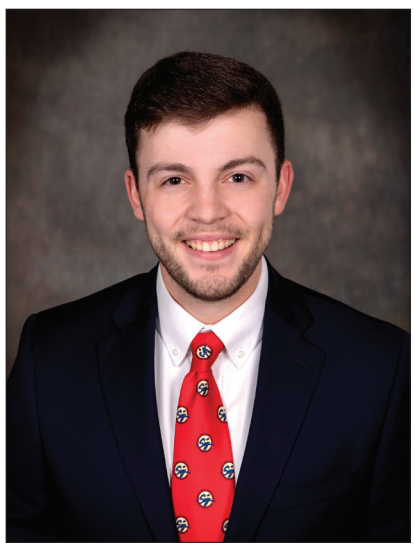
Did you know that the farmer-created soybean checkoff generates, according to a third-party study, more than $12 in added value for every dollar invested? The national soy checkoff has been hard at work, increasing inclusion rates for soy and soy components in everything from animal feed and asphalt to tires, shoe treads, firefighting foam, chainsaw oil and more. At the state level, the farmer-leaders of the Kentucky Soybean Board invest the Commonwealth's portion of the checkoff into research, education, promotion, and building demand, both domestically and internationally.



Brent Gatton



Fred L. Sipes



Johnathan Reynolds

The Kentucky Soybean Promotion Board is appointed for a two-year period, running from July 1 to June 30. Kentucky Soybean Board members for 2025-2027 include Kentucky Soybean Association appointees Jonathan Reynolds of Clinton, Clay Wells of Clay, Drew Langley of Glendale, and Adam Hendricks of Russellville. Kentucky Farm Bureau reappointed Larry Thomas of Elizabethtown and appointed Larry Clark of Greensburg. Commissioner Jonathan Shell reappointed Andrea Williford of Clinton. American Soybean Association Directors Caleb Ragland of Magnolia, Jeff King of Corydon, and Fred L. Sipes of Ekron, along with United Soybean Board Directors Barry Alexander of Cadiz, Brent Gatton of Bremen, and Keith Tapp of Sebree also hold seats on the Promotion Board by virtue of those positions.

At their meeting on August 6, the members of the board elected Fred L. Sipes as Chairman for 2025-2026. Brent Gatton was elected Vice-Chairman, and Jonathan Reynolds was elected Secretary/Treasurer. The Board thanked Barry Alexander for his two years of service as Chairman of the organization and expressed appreciation to retiring directors Glenn Howell and Allen Pace for their years of service.

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

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife fall auction set for Oct. 6

FRANKFORT, Ky. — The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources will host a live auction to sell surplus items and confiscated hunting and fishing equipment on Monday, Oct. 6, 2025.

Registration opens at 7:30 a.m. (ET), and the auction of surplus property and confiscated items will begin at 9:30 a.m. (ET). The auction will be held outdoors, rain or shine, on the department's headquarters campus at 1 Sportsman's Lane in Frankfort.

A complete list of items available for sale is on the department's Surplus and Confiscated Items Auction webpage. Items are sold as-is and will not be available for hands-on inspection prior to the sale. Under state law, only qualified Kentucky residents may bid on confiscated items. Some items will require a criminal background check.

Accepted forms of payment include cash, check, certified check, credit card or debit card. Final pricing will include a buyer's premium and surcharge for credit or debit card use. Checks over $5,000 will require a bank letter guaranteeing payment.

Under state law, Kentucky Fish and Wildlife may conduct auctions as necessary to sell surplus and confiscated property. Surplus items include equipment and materials no longer needed by the agency. All confiscated items are obtained through court order and as the result of a violation of fish and wildlife laws.

By law, proceeds from Kentucky Fish and Wildlife auctions are directed into the department's game and fish fund and subject to auditing by the state Auditor of Public Accounts. The fund is used for the department's normal operating expenses including fish and wildlife conservation and related recreation programs across the Commonwealth.

Parking will be limited to designated areas on the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife campus. Game Farm Road west of the upper and lower sportsman's lakes will be restricted to residential traffic only on the day of the auction. Portable restroom facilities will be available to the public.

For more information, visit the department's website at fw.ky.gov or call 1-800-858-1549, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (ET) weekdays, excluding holidays.

Media Note: For any media who intend to cover the event, please be prepared to show proof of employment with a media outlet to be allowed closer parking to the auction area.



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Illinois Department of Agriculture STAR Tool to advance statewide soil health initiatives

Springfield, IL — The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) has officially designated the STAR Tool as the required soil health assessment for all state-funded conservation practices, in accordance with the Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts Act (70 ILCS 405). This decision marks a significant milestone in the commitment to sustainable agriculture and environmental stewardship in Illinois.

The STAR Tool now plays a central role in supporting key conservation programs across the state, including the Partners-for-Conservation Cost-Share program (PFC), the Illinois Healthy Soils Initiative (PA 103-00494), and the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy (NLRS).

"The Illinois Department of Agriculture is proud to elevate the STAR Tool as the standard for assessing soil health across all state-funded conservation programs," said IDOA Director Jerry Costello II. "This decision reflects our deep commitment to advancing sustainable agriculture, supporting farmers with science-based tools, and protecting our state's vital natural resources for generations to come. By aligning our efforts through STAR, we're not only improving soil health and water quality—but also empowering producers with the data, resources, and support they need to thrive."

Developed with Illinois-specific science and farmer input, the STAR Tool evaluates field-level management practices—such as tillage, cover cropping, nutrient application, and crop rotation—through its STAR Field Form. Each field receives a STAR Rating from 1 to 5, with 5 STARs reflecting exemplary conservation practices that improve soil health and water quality. In Crop Year 2024 (CY24), 498 producers received STAR Ratings on 1,197 fields covering 65,698 acres, averaging a 3.45 STAR Rating. Of these, 87% of producers and 67% of fields participated in the PFC program.

"The STAR Tool is an excellent example of responsive government programs at work," said Jen Walling, Executive Director of the Illinois Environmental Council. "A program like the STAR Tool invests taxpayer dollars in an effective, science-based approach that delivers real environmental benefits for farmers and the rest of us. We all need clean water and healthy soil, and this tool is an important part of Illinois' work to reduce nutrient pollution, curtail erosion, and build resilient farm communities."

To ensure credibility, STAR conducts randomized field verifications while maintaining strict data privacy protocols. Farmers retain full ownership of their data, and only anonymized, aggregated results are shared publicly.

"The Illinois Corn Growers Association appreciates the enhanced partnership between STAR and the Illinois Department of Agriculture," said Mark Bunselmeyer, Vice President of Illinois Corn Growers Association. "Having tools that allow farmers to self-evaluate and compare conservation practices across different fields is an important step in supporting practical on-farm decision making."

Beyond assessment, the STAR Tool empowers producers with a Resource Directory and a Conservation Innovation Plan (CIP) feature, which connects farmers to financial, educational, and technical support tailored to their goals. STAR Navigators are available statewide to provide local, hands-on assistance.

The STAR Tool is free and accessible to all corn, soy and small grain producers in Illinois. Expansion efforts are underway to include urban agriculture and grazing lands. With field forms already available in eight other states—and grazing forms launching soon in three more—STAR is poised to serve producers in 11 states nationwide.

The STAR Tool is currently available for Crop Year 2025 and can be used at www.STARtool.ag.



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